

Small FAI medals

Small FAI medals in championships.

- There are two styles of FAI medal awarded at FAI championships:
 - The standard one, Gold / Silver / Bronze which is awarded to the winning pilots and team leaders.
 - A small one, Gold / Silver / Bronze, often awarded to members of winning teams.
- CIMA has never awarded the small ones.
- There is a recognized demand for them from competitors in winning teams at CIMA sanctioned championships; quite likely they all contributed to the team success but only the team leader goes away from the championship with anything to show for it.

The problem

- FAI medals must always be engraved before they are awarded.
- FAI Medals must be given out at the awards ceremony (FAI By-Laws 3.16.3.3 *All medals, diplomas and prizes, whether trophies or money, which are referred to in the Sporting Code or the Rules and Regulations of an event, shall be presented not later than at the official prizegiving.*)
- In CIMA championships there are never full teams, in fact it is not uncommon for there to be less than 50% of competitors in the three winning teams than is theoretically possible.
- Because there are three colours of medal it would be a risk to order much less than the full set in case there weren't enough for all team members in one or more colours of medal.
- Since the medals are not cheap and unawarded medals are scrap, it is uneconomic for CIMA to have small medals at all.

Example: EMC 2010, Sywell.

- 4 classes.
- Each class can have up to 6 aircraft (7 in some circumstances).
- Two of the classes are 2 seat, two are single seat.
- $12 + 12 + 6 + 6 =$ maximum possible 36 medals of each colour.
- Total = 108 medals in a full set.

Sywell actual:

- Gold: GBR WL1-3, WL2-6, AL2-4 = 23 small medals.
- Silver: CZE WL1-3, WL2-4, AL2-4 = 19 small medals.
- Bronze: FRA WL1-3, WL2-3, AL2-1 = 11 small medals.
- And AL1 was not a valid class at the last minute.

So, of the 108 medals required, only 52 would have been awarded - **less than half**.

Example: WPC 2009, Nove Mesto Nad Metuji.

- Best attended Paramotor championship ever.
- 4 classes.
- Each class can have up to 7 aircraft (but assume 6 in the 2 seat classes)
- Two of the classes are 2 seat, two are single seat.
- $12 + 12 + 7 + 7 =$ maximum possible 38 medals of each colour.
- Total = 114 medals in a full set.

Nove Mesto Nad Metuji actual

- Gold PF1: CZE 6, PF2: CZE 4, PL1: ESP 4, PL2: POL 6 = 20 small medals.
- Silver PF1: GBR 7, PF2: LTU 4, PL1: CZE 6, PL2: CZE 4 = 21 small medals.
- Bronze PF1: POL = 7, PF2: GER 2, PL1: POL 4, PL2: RUS 4 = 17 small medals.

So, of the 114 medals required, only 58 would have been awarded - **slightly more than half**.

These two examples are fairly representative of the norm.

When only about half of the medals are awarded and the rest are scrap it cannot be an economic proposition.

A possible solution

Considering:

- These medals must be handed out at the prize-giving ceremony (FAI By-Laws).

- They must be engraved.
- The required numbers of each colour are never known until the official (or final) team scores are published.

The only practical solution is for the organizer to have a full set of blank medals, engrave them as necessary, and return the balance to CIMA stock for next time.

Engraving is a skilled task and not practical on-site, especially as there are so many of them, but it may be possible to press an imprint into the medals with just as good effect.

- CIMA buys a suitable portable press.
- Someone pays for the appropriate tool(s) for that event to be made (cost offset by normal engraving fee).
- Full set of blank medals are purchased from FAI by someone, and delivered to championship together with press and tool(s).
- As soon as the correct number of medals to be issued is known, they are pressed on-site ready to be awarded at the prize-giving.
- Press, tools and remaining blank medals are returned to CIMA stock at FAI and someone is suitably credited.

Note: The someone in this is either CIMA or the organizer, whichever one is paying for them.

Where do we go from here?

- Someone will have to demonstrate the physical practicalities of this.
- FAI Secretariat would need to be convinced this is a viable solution.