

CIMA REPORT TO THE FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE 2008

Microlight flying

As in the previous years, Microlight flying is still on the increase all over the world. It is not possible to give an exact figure of how many microlight aeroplanes there are, but a fair guess would be close to 200 000. One can distinguish between pure leisure flying as with Paramotors (New Classes) that has become most popular for the younger generation and the microlight flying with either three-axis or weight-shift aeroplanes (Classic Classes), were, apart from pure leisure flying, flying as a mean of transportation also is a reality. Paramotor flying is cheap and therefore most suitable for young people. Three-axis and weight-shift are, compared to normal category aeroplanes (Cessna, Pipers etc.) much cheaper and have therefore become an alternative for already established normal category-pilots.

Among all these microlight pilots there is just a fraction that is participating in competitions and record settings and I assume this is the situation for most of the other commissions. How to increase that figure is a topic that could be worth discussing between the commissions.

CIMA Meeting

The international Microlight Commission held its annual meeting in Lausanne in November 2007.

Decisions taken by the CIMA plenum included:

The annual revision of the Sporting Code Section 10. Microlight flying is a relatively new sport and has not yet found its final form, why revisions are frequent.

The earlier bid from Poland to hold the 2008 European Microlight Championship for "Classic Classes" (weight shift controlled and three-axis controlled microlights) was confirmed. Also that Poland would hold the 2008 European Microlight Championship for "The New Classes" (paramotor and paratrikes).

2008 European Microlight Championships

The result from the European Microlight and Paramotor Championships in Poland

Gold medal WL1 Weightshift-controlled, landing gear, single - seater, Richard Rawes UK

Gold medal WL2 Weightshift-controlled, landing gear, two- seater Robert Grimwood-Christopher Saysell UK.

Gold medal AL1 Not valid, number of competitors too few

Gold medal AL2 Aerodynamically controlled, landing gear, two-seater, Paul Dewherst-David Hadley UK.

Gold medal Team prize Czech Republic.

Gold medal PF1 (para-controlled foot-launched single-seater) Juan Jose Garcia de Abajo Spain

Gold medal PL1 (para-controlled trike single seater) Alfonso Redondo Spain

Gold medal PF2 (para-controlled foot launched 2-seater) Michel Tuitou-Tristan Guillabeau

Gold medal PL2 (para-controlled, landing gear, 2-seater Bartel Gunar- Peter Shulz Germany)

Gold medal PF1 Team, Spain

Gold medal PL Team, Czech Republic

This year's competition in Poland was a success in spite of bad weather, and because of that a minimum of tasks flown for the Paramotors, the Microlights had more luck with just a few days of bad weather.

Future Championships

Czech Republic has announced that they are willing to run the World Microlight Championship 2009. The formal bid is expected at the CIMA meeting in November.

World Air Games

CIMA will contribute to the world Air Games. We have now had our qualifying contest in Turin. The WAG in itself has caused us to alter our sporting code, S10 and make room for the new tasks and a new scoring system and also to create rules for some of the tasks which have never been run before.

It will also have implications on our World and Continental Championships as with the every other year period, it will perhaps make it difficult to get competitors to both events.

Finally, I take the opportunity to thank the Secretary General Max Bishop and his staff for their splendid work and not least, that they endure our shortcomings year out and year in, my apology.

Tomas Backman
President
Microlight Commission