

AGENDA ITEM 4

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CIVA

Mike Heuer



The Year's Activities

2005 has been a busy year for CIVA officers, sub-committee members, and your various elected officials. Three FAI aerobatic championships were held this year:



XXIII. World Aerobatic Championships; Burgos, Spain
XI. World Glider Aerobatic Championships; Serpukhov, Russia
IV. Advanced European Aerobatic Championships; Hradec Králové, Czech Republic

Reports from the various Jury Presidents, Chief Judges, and Contest Directors are included with the Agenda Packages. I want to pay special tribute to Jury Chairmen Karl Berger, Osmo Jalovaara, and Jiri Kobrle; Chief Judges John Gaillard, Pavol Kavka, and Helmut Stas; and Contest Directors Antonio Quintana, Jiri Kobrle, and Pavol Kavka for their excellent work. Organizing, running, and supervising championships is a difficult task and our sport owes all of these men a debt of gratitude as well as the huge number of volunteers who make these events possible.

All three of our Championships were safely conducted and completed the necessary flights to name World and European Champions in the various disciplines. A total of **131** pilots flew in these three World or European Championships.

Our new Champions are as follows. My congratulations to all for their skills and fine airmanship!



World Aerobatic Champion
Sergey Rakhmanin (Russia)

Advanced European Aerobatic Champion
Gerard Bichet (France)



World Glider Aerobatic Champion
Georgi Kaminski (Russia)



Aresti Settlement

In May 2005, representatives of the FAI and Aresti System SL signed an agreement in Madrid ending the long-standing dispute over the FAI Aerobatic Catalogue and the Aresti copyrights.

My thanks to FAI Secretary General Max Bishop, who worked on this problem for many months, as well as FAI President Pierre Portmann, and FAI Vice Presidents Alvaro de Orleans Borbon and Antonio Quintana of Spain. These men successfully negotiated an end to the controversy.

The agreement called for FAI and CIVA to pay a total of \$50,000 to Aresti System SL. \$30,000 of these funds were provided from the CIVA sanction fees account. The balance was paid by FAI. FAI kindly agreed to let CIVA pay its portion over three years, thus making the strain more bearable.

Under the terms of the agreement, FAI and CIVA can and will continue to propose amendments to the new catalogue, now called "Aresti System (Condensed)" as in previous years. For Delegates, there will be no change. You will make proposals, these will be studied by Sub-Committees, and the plenary will act on them. They will take immediate effect.

Aresti System SL has agreed to distribute the new catalogue in a timely and appropriate manner. If for any reason it does not do so, FAI is free to continue making the catalogue available, as at present. We await the announcement of plans for its publication by the Aresti organization.

FAI and CIVA will also continue to use, for non-commercial purposes, the figures in the System for the organization of aerobatic competitions worldwide at no cost.

A joint committee, consisting of representatives of Aresti System SL and FAI has also been formed. FAI representatives are Pierre Portmann, President of FAI, and Osmo Jalovaara, 3rd Vice President of CIVA. The committee is chaired by Antonio Quintana. The committee plans to meet in Munich on Friday, 4 November in the aviation museum prior to our plenary.

CIVA previously authorized the Bureau to conduct all matters regarding the resolution of the controversy over the catalogue. I thank the Bureau for its hard work as well. The authorization for the settlement in the amount of \$30,000 from the CIVA accounts was made by a vote of the Bureau. Of course, we will discuss this matter, if you wish, during the informal and/or plenary meetings of CIVA in Munich and I invite any "minority views" on the subject to be shared. I hope we can clarify any questions you may have regarding the settlement and the future.



The New “Fair Play System” (FPS)

As you know, the report on the work of various people in the development of a replacement for TBLP has been published by Alan Cassidy and is a part of Agenda Package #1. I urge you to carefully study this report before coming to Munich.

The expenditure for the study, amounts for which will be reported in the Budget, were authorized by the Bureau. There can never be a question regarding the accuracy of our scoring system and some questions had been raised about the TBLP system this past winter. Therefore, the Bureau felt it was imperative that an independent study of the system be made by professionals and not someone involved in the sport.

The new FPS is the result and is proposed for implementation next year. A presentation on the system will be made by Dr. Derek Pike during the plenary.

Sanction Fees Account

LG Arvidsson, CIVA’s Vice President of Finance, will report on the 2005 financial results and will present a proposed budget for 2006.

CIVA’s expenses have been very high this year – the Aresti settlement, the new FPS statistical study, repairs to the HHMD and the Axiome optical reader, and stipends for Judges and Jury members for WAC and WGAC. All of this has resulted in a huge depletion of our funds. This cannot continue.

I urge adoption of the various recommendations which will be made by Mr. Arvidsson, to include reduction in stipends, in order to restore our accounts over the next few years. We will discuss CIVA’s financial position during our informal discussions as well.

Contest Organization Handbook

Some years ago, the CIVA Contest Organization Group began work on the creation of a new “CIVA Contest Organization Handbook (COH)”. We believed then that such a handbook would help improve the quality of FAI Aerobatic Championships.

Thanks to the hard work of Hans Vogtmann and many others including Chief Judges and Contest Directors, the quality of our competitions has vastly increased. Those of you who were in Slovakia for the WAC in 1998 can well remember the incredible jump in quality and sophistication of this event from past years. Ever since that year, many good events have been held.

However, this does not mean that the COH is any less important. Since the “details” of an event are what makes the difference between the best competition and one

that is only fair in quality, the COH can help organizers make sure those details are right.

At Burgos, the COH was a matter of discussion between John Gaillard, Graham Hill, Hans Vogtmann and me. We agreed that work should continue. After coming home, I contacted a number of people for their assistance, including all of the members of the CIVA Contest Organization Group. So far, the response has not been entirely satisfactory but we are making some progress. I will provide an outline of the COH for Delegates in the Agenda Package for our plenary meeting so you can see what it will contain.

I still plan to have the COH completed this winter in time for use at 2006 FAI Championships.

Awards

I just returned from the FAI General Conference in Paris a few days ago. It was a very special event, celebrating FAI's Centenary. At the opening ceremonies, I was very pleased to witness the presentation of the FAI Group Diploma to the Aerobatic Club of Finland. These Group Diplomas are awarded to outstanding air sports organizations around the world. Accepting the award on behalf of the Finnish organization was Osmo Jalovaara, CIVA Delegate of Finland and 3rd Vice President of CIVA. He is shown here with me after the presentation.



It was also very gratifying for me when three great aerobatic champions were honored at the closing ceremonies held at the Palais du Luxembourg (home of the French Senat) during the "High Flyers" night. These were Jurek Makula, Svetlana Kapanina, and Catherine Maunoury. I am delighted that aerobatics has played such an important role in FAI and that so many of the group that evening came from our sport.

We also have two fine nominees for the Leon Biancotto Diploma this year. You have previously received a message on the award from Max Bishop. A ballot will be circulated at the meeting to choose the winner for this year. The Diploma will actually be presented at the FAI General Conference in Santiago, Chile in 2006.



In the past, we have not paid sufficient attention to the proper awarding of the Biancotto Diploma. From now on, this will be a standing item on the CIVA Agenda and you can expect that nominations will be solicited for the award each year.

My thanks to the Aero Clubs of the Czech Republic and Hungary for nominating these very worthy individuals.

CIVA Informal Discussions

Regarding our Informal Discussions, I hope to cover the following subjects when we meet at the museum in Oberschleissheim at 14.00 on Friday, 4 November:

1. Rules Proposals for 2006 as acted on by Sub-Committees.
2. Urgent Proposals.
3. Discussion of our finances and budget.
4. The new height-measuring and positioning system devised by Günter Meierhofer and Dietmar Poll.
5. Discussion on reducing the complexity and expense of Championships.

As always, I hope that by informally discussing some of these issues, we can diffuse some controversies, let everyone express their views without the pressure of time, and then the plenary session will be quicker and more efficient.

Discussion of the Fair Play System, however, will be deferred to plenary as Dr. Derek Pike will be arriving on Friday evening and he will make the presentation in conjunction with the report. This will be covered under the rules changes for 2006 on the Agenda.

Point #6 above is an important one. As I have mentioned to Delegates before, we are experiencing a serious decline in Unlimited category at the World and European level. In 1998, we had 73 pilots and 19 countries represented at WAC in Slovakia. This year, participation was down to 48 pilots from 8 countries – a huge decrease.

What can we do? The only options for CIVA lie in our Sporting Code and Regulations. I believe, for example, that a reduction in Judges and Jury members will be a huge help for organizers and will lead to more reasonable entry fees. John Gaillard will be tabling proposals on this matter for the YAK 52 World Championships in South Africa next year.

To put things in perspective, we had 35 Jury members, Judges, Assistants, and Scoring people working in Burgos this year - almost as many as we had pilots. Clearly, this cannot be sustained by most organizers -- especially when you have decreasing entry fees from reduced numbers of competitors.



CIVA 2005
Oberschleissheim, Germany

How else can we help? Are there any areas of the Regulations we can change to make contests cheaper, easier, and faster and would encourage new organizers to bid for Championships and more pilots to attend?

I realize these are hard questions -- no one wants to give anything up. But yet I see all the "dead time" we have at Championships due to our wind and weather restrictions, need to notify pilots of box changes, aircraft swaps, times for Unknowns to be published, and so on. The rules, of course, have developed over the years into very complex documents over these last 45 years. It seems to me to be very important that we review those documents from time to time and from top to bottom.

We have to change with the times – organizers for Championships are always in short supply and the time that all of us have for our air sports activities is more limited.

The good news is there are positive developments in other areas of our sport. The Glider Championships are doing well and we will have two bids for the AWAC next year – from Poland and the USA. Also, new competitions like the YAK 52 WAC offer new possibilities for pilots. But we need more new ideas on how to expand, develop and grow our sport.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Germany and discussing these issues.

Mike Heuer
President of CIVA

27 October 2005