

Annual Report 2003

CIAM F5 Sub-Committee Electric Flight

In terms of international electric flight competitions, the past year has been a fairly normal one. On the other hand, the progress made in propulsion technology - in particular concerning batteries - has been exceptional. New NiMH and LiPo cells have rapidly propelled electric flight into a new era. Even in category F3A - Aerobatics, which is highly demanding in terms of propulsion, it is now possible to win a medal using an electrically powered model. Rules for the electric flight competition categories do, however, limit the use of such new technologies to ensure things don't turn into a battle of equipment. When developing competition rules, it is a challenge to not exclude technical progress while at the same time not placing too much emphasis on the equipment used as opposed to the actual flying skills.

Sadly it was again not possible to hold even a single World Cup competition in category F5D - Pylon Racing this year. The last of these World Cup competitions was held in Switzerland in 1999. It seems that too much focus on the Eurotour is preventing the big nations from holding official FAI competitions - a pity! Where business won't succeed there shall be no more FAI competitions? But to make up for it, about 40 competitors took part in the FAI World Cup events in the gliders category (F5B). Well done!

As the electric flight rules are to be revised for January 1st, 2005, our sub-committee has been very active. The 12 members have sent me a total of almost 200 e-mails. For the first time we held a vote by e-mail. The result could be viewed online on the "Voting Barometer" on the electric flight website www.silentwings.ch.

In 2004 the World Championships will be held from 6th to 15th August in York, UK. This is promising to be a pleasant and interesting event. The competing electric model pilots are looking forward to it. In Switzerland we are planning to hold a first International Electric Flight Youth Camp on behalf of the FAI. Experienced instructors will introduce between 20 and 30 young people aged 14 to 18 to the secrets of electric flight.

Pfäffikon, 19th November, 2003

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