CIAM FREE FLIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

Report by Ian Kaynes November 2008

The 2008 Subcommittee has 20 members. A major topic during the year has been the use of radio DT to bring a model down within the 20 seconds time allowed for an attempt. This has come to prominence following the removal of the qualifier that the attempt rule did not apply when a model DTed and lead to complaints that radio DT thus gave an unfair advantage, particularly for F1A. A considerable number of members consider that the 20 sec attempt rule should be scrapped, but are aware that when this was tried before it was unpopular and the rule was then restored. Suggestions included reducing the time to 10 seconds or returning to the no DT condition on the rule. None achieved majority support in the Subcommittee and no proposal has been submitted, prompted particularly by the news that there would be national proposals on the subject.

Rules for F1Q have been discussed but without conclusion for any changes at this time.

The removal of the specified order of ABC for championships was noted to have lead to no change, with organisers continuing to offer the alphabetic order schedule. The subcommittee did not approve the introduction of an enforced different order, but text will be added to the organisers guide requiring consideration to be given to the order of flying following the removal of the specified order.

Other items discussed and which lead to proposals for the 2009 Plenary meeting were of a generally small improvement nature:

- the F1E definition change which was included in the Autonomous Flight Working Group report, and a modification to the general definition of free flight made by the same report
- clarification of wording in F1P specification
- 2 minute steps for F1P flyoffs
- confirm F1P status change from provisional to official and, generally, to drop the term “provisional rules” for non-championships classes
- F1Q number of flights paragraph brought into line with other classes
- clarification on indoor model timing
- bringing duration of flights paragraph for F1G, F1H, F1J, F1K, F1P into line with F1A, F1B, F1C
- to relax jury requirement for open internationals with a single class
- standardise wording as model for model aircraft
- clarify F1E timekeeping procedure

The subcommittee was consulted for a decision on World Cup contests. Two competitions in Slovakia in April were postponed by one week, the announcement made about 2 weeks in advance after previously very poor response to communications. Postponement at such short notice penalises competitors who had planned to attend but cannot rearrange time and travel at such short notice. The majority view of the subcommittee was that the competitions remained included in the World Cup.

Calendar planning has again been hampered this year by the late announcement of championships dates for 2009. It is hoped that this will improve next year with requirement for earlier publication of dates.

Ian Kaynes, Chairman