

CIMA History Report 2018

Dateline: San Francisco Bay Area, O-Dark Thirty, Wed 21 Nov 2018

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It appears that history hasn't changed too dramatically recently, at least not outside of the United States. Microlighting continues to evolve while traditional championships bring together the best pilots and machines to compete for gold and records continue to be set.

Every year, microlight and paramotor competitions in various sub-disciplines take place in a broadening global arc achieving a fundamental CIMA goal to showcase the sport in as many venues as possible and therefore exposing microlighting to the world.

But where did this all start from? Why is this FAI discipline defined the way it is? Who were the visionaries that convinced such a staid and seemingly moribund organization like FAI to entertain a new and dynamic air sport emerging from non-traditional sources? As you may have seen in past CIMA plenary presentations, there is a wealth of history depicting the people and circumstances that have led to where we are today.

Efforts to entice previous and current participants in CIMA events to provide photos, stories and personal effects from the past 30 years of CIMA activity has fallen mostly on deaf ears. Therefore, this year, I offer two proposals that may make it easier for individuals and organizations to provide material so that the history of microlighting does not become lost in the mists of our personal recollections.

PROPOSAL 1:

Allow the CIMA Historian to set up and manage a section of the CIMA Wiki website where individuals and organizations can submit electronic documents and photos related to seminal events in CIMA history. This would require some help from a technical expert to set up.

This new section of the CIMA Wiki site would not duplicate the existing documentation of championship scores, records or CIMA work but capture the personal stories and interactions of those who have made an impact on the sport. Language is not a factor as any story is translatable in today's digital world.

PROPOSAL 2:

Allow the CIMA Historian to manage a CIMA Wiki sub-section for the preservation of documents from the formation and continued activity of the committee. Currently there are over 50 documents scanned from the FAI archives related to the first years of CIMA including correspondence, the original charter and meeting minutes.

The objective of the proposals is to have a simple process to quickly create a place where people can get a better sense of our collective incredible contributions to air sports and the human story. I hope you will look on these proposals favorably.

It has been another year of accomplishments with CIMA championships on three continents and six new world records in two different classes. And inevitably from that there are warming and inspirational stories to share. And FAI continues to explore new ways to promote air sports that can create its own share of intrigue. Let's capture some of that and share it with the world!