

Sporting Code Committee Report for 2013

The committee has had the busiest year for a long time, the “simplification” discussion paper put before the Plenary meeting last year was taken as a starting point for a wide exchange of e-mail messages regarding many of the suggestions made. Some generated a number of arguments which got quite heated, but on the other hand there were many suggestions from thoughtful pilots who wished to help us simplify the Code.

The discussion paper suggested that we should consider what rules would be made if starting from scratch. It was noticeable that very few wanted to change greatly, most were keen to see some single issue actioned, but again, some were very vocal about several issues. After a lengthy series of message trails, it was suggested that there would be so many changes in wording and concepts that it would be a good idea to put the major issues to IGC Delegates to reply on behalf of their NACs ahead of the 2014 plenary meeting. We could then take the majority views and incorporate in a draft section of the Sporting Code that could be voted on. As expected there were a few suggestions which did not get a clear majority and should be put to the meeting as individual issues. While, as far as I know, all delegates on the FAI list for IGC were sent the questionnaire but less than half delegates replied. Nevertheless many replies were clearly of a like mind, and are incorporated into the draft appended to the proposal. It should be emphasised that the draft of the operating rules is just that, a draft, and will need considerable work to be finally ready for use.

I wish to emphasise that the majority of the work on these proposals was done by Tony Burton. The rest of the committee certainly acted as proof readers and very often explored the subject as devil’s advocates to see if there would be unexpected results from the wording Tony had used. The amount of time and effort put in by Tony was extraordinary and I wish to thank him most sincerely for this. Judy Ruprecht added her usual well thought out arguments and Tor Johannessen’s suggestions were very helpful. Axel Reich was less active and has asked to retire from the committee to allow him more time to run his business. With all members being volunteers it sometimes is difficult to fit the demands of the committee with other activities. With regret and many thanks for the contributions he has made, we will miss Axel.

The remainder of the committee are still available for 2014.

Ross Macintyre
Chairman IGC Sporting Code committee.