

Special Events for 2023

Aerobatic events

A number of events of this type have been staged over the years in many countries around the world, mostly offering a mix of Aresti and Freestyle opportunities to invited top-level pilots – the World Grands Prix series by Jean Louis-Monnet being perhaps the best remembered, together with the Sky Grands Prix in South Africa and some other dedicated Freestyle events in Europe. We understand that another Sky Grand Prix is now scheduled to take place in Durban again during June 2023, for which more details will no doubt emerge in due course.

More recently the CIVA Open Tour Series concept was created and published to support category-2 events in the typical 4-programme Aresti style that would be run on a national or domestic basis, but due to the uncertain world position from the Covid pandemic and the RUS/UKR political situation this interesting new structure has not so far been successful.

The bureau is not currently aware of any special aerobatic events being planned for 2023.

CIVA involvement in Air Race ‘sport-regulation’

During recent years a series of meetings between FAI and CIVA officers with senior staff from the defunct Red Bull Air Race series have been staged to investigate the possibility of CIVA involvement in a follow-on Air Race championship series with FAI status. This would be limited to providing an experienced layer of sporting oversight to ensure competitive fairness, whereas the previous RBAR setup was operated along purely commercial lines. Through this involvement CIVA would experience at first hand the operational capabilities of the bespoke electronic equipment carried by race aircraft and its real-time linkage back to the race control centre, and in addition become familiar with commercial aspects of the series.

A stipend to cover associated costs together with a moderate sanction fee to CIVA for each race formed part of the contract that FAI established in 2020 with Hong Kong originators Adventure Air Race Ltd as the foundation for all subsequent international air-race activities.

For many reasons however this series has not so far moved forward, although a number of air race management meetings have taken place and it appears that some commercial linkages have been established. It may be that a short air race series will be possible during 2023, though at present this remains uncertain. In the event that further development occurs which could be beneficial to CIVA the bureau will ensure that delegates are kept informed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Buckenham', is written over a light blue grid background.

Nick Buckenham
CIVA President