Technical Secretary Report to Bureau Meeting – December 2020

As was the situation for all members of the CIAM Bureau, the work of the Technical Secretary was very different in 2020.

Proposals for Plenary 2020: Subcommittee and NAC proposals were received by the Technical Secretary in the week leading up to the 15th November 2019 deadline, discussed at Bureau that year and the Proposals section of the Agenda produced during January and February 2020. It proved to be a very long Agenda. After that, with the postponement of Plenary 2020, for the Technical Secretary it became a very quiet year.

Postponed e-Plenary 2020: The Sporting Code proposals for F2, F3 Pylon (an interim meeting this year), F3 Soaring, F5 and F9 were discussed at e-Technical meetings. One F1 proposal was discussed along with the General Rules proposals. F4 and Space proposals were postponed until 2021. The Minutes were prepared immediately following the voting for the above proposals, in order to produce the new 2021 Volumes.

Proposals for Plenary 2021: These were received as usual following the 15th November deadline. There are 160 Proposals at this stage for the 2021 Plenary Meeting. These include the 90 Space proposals, 3 Space Record Form proposals, 3 F4 proposals and a couple of F1 Proposals that were carried over from 2020. There were 4 proposals received from Russia, for rule changes to the F2D class which are out of the two year rule cycle and will not be accepted for the Agenda. There were also 2 F9 proposals from Russia.

2021 Editions of Sporting Code Volumes: The process of producing the 2021 Volumes went smoothly with a very tight schedule between the e-Plenary meetings and the deadline for publication. This year, because of the lack of time, all amended Volumes were prepared by the Technical Secretary from the Draft Minutes and dispatched to Subcommittee Chairmen for checking. Thank you to those Chairmen concerned for responding to the tight time frame.

All Volumes were uploaded to the website on 17th December. The F3N Helicopter manoeuvres that change every year and are traditionally agreed by Bureau were not changed in 2020.

The F9 Volume continues to be updated when necessary by the Subcommittee Chairman.

Forms and Documents: Last year I remarked on the need to amend the Record forms, particularly the Space forms which are not used very often, but are out of date with the new technology. The proposal from Serbia to update the Space Record forms, was unfortunately held over until 2021.

The Model Specification Certificate was updated in 2018, but should be checked again this year. The other form I would like Subcommittee Chairmen to check is the list of CIAM classes. I will email these two forms following the Bureau meeting. I am always pleased to be alerted to any outdated forms and documents that require changes.

The Registration of Competitions in the FAI Calendar Form has now become obsolete with all registration restricted to the online application, so this form should be removed from the website.

Records: While twenty records were homologated in 2018, just ten were homologated in 2019 and (for obvious reasons) only three were presented in 2020. One of these was a UAV record, set for both Distance and Duration by a French team who navigated an English Channel crossing in both directions.

General Work: On several occasions, I have been pleased to be able to offer editorial advice regarding correct English translation for documents that have been written or amended this year.