Report to the CIA/RAC on CIMP activity during 2021

During another year of Covid CIMP has provided guidance for pilots and organisers regarding the pandemic, and this has been used during several international competitions including the European Hot Air Balloon Championships in Szeged in September.

Over the year three webinars were organised as well as the Annual Plenary. The latter was held on 19th Sept. 2021. This was attended by 16 people including David Monks, FAI President, Markus Haggeney, FAI Secretary General and 8 delegates. Marja Osinga, President, chaired the meeting.

Marja Osinga mentioned the creation of the first FAI CIMP award: the Dr. Peter Saundby Diploma, to honour him.

There were several presentations on clinical aviation medicine, regulations and flight safety in air sports:

Gregoire Schrago (Swiss Delegate) presented new guidelines, new treatments, new investigations in cardiology supported by the Circle of Experts of ESAM. Jacques Berlo, clinical pharmacologist and Belgium delegate explained the variants and mutations in SARS-CoV-2 and the role of the host and mutations. Dr. Marelise Eekhoff, endocrinologist Amsterdam UMC and sport pilot, gave a presentation on the 2 types of DM and the different profiles of treatment and how new therapies will have to fit into medical regulation. DM is the third cause of disqualification.

Tilo Holighaus, world champion gliding, 2019, gave a presentation on psychological and physiological issues in FAI World Championships. Juergen Knueppel (Honorary President FAI CIMP), gave a talk on improving safety by implementation of the safety management system. Thomas Drekonja (EASA Medical Expert Group) related the problems due to the introduction of intensive psychological screenings in Austria including testing and evaluation by accredited psychologists (costing €400-€1,000), all contrary to guidance from the Aerospace Medical Association.

David Bareford (UK Delegate) presented evidence to lower the medical requirements without higher risks of fatalities. He gave a comparison with car traffic accidents and reviewed aviation accidents, information collated by the late Peter Saundby: more than 75% are not detectable by an AME. It was proposed to share this important initiative with AsMA, and submit it for publication to Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance.

Frank Voeten (British Gliding Association Liaison) described the consequence of Brexit in aeromedical issues. This has meant the conversion to UK National licences (AMEs and pilots) with the result of an exodus of pilots (25-30%) and AME’s (10%).

The next CIMP Annual Plenary meeting will be held in Paris 18th – 20th September where CIMP will celebrate its 100-year Anniversary.

The TUE-panel members are continuing their important activities but have handled less requests for a waiver in 2021 because of the lower number of competitions.

The International Olympic Committee has published a new document on Fairness and Non-discrimination on the basis of Gender identity and Sex variations. Sport Federations are encouraged to make their own policy. Supported by the CIMP, the FAI is working on it together with the air sport commissions.

David Bareford (UK and CIA delegate to CIMP) 21st January 2022