Strategic Working Group Report

As there has been no championship activity this year, I can report that the items summarised for the 2019 plenary from their 2018 origins were either resolved or attracted no further progress.

Of more relevant interest this year has been the question of whether CIVA could and should conceive a fall-back plan or if you like a "Plan-B" to provide suitable activities in the event that no championships can be run, as has been forced upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. This topic was discussed in-bureau and subsequently circulated to SWG members as a matter for consideration and feedback. The reality however is that this commission is totally championship oriented, and to establish any worthwhile competitive aerobatic activities of an international nature will require –

1. That the competitors involved are able to travel in their aeroplanes to a mutually convenient airfield where competitive flights can be made, without the imposition of unacceptably restrictive quarantine or social isolation demands
2. That the organising team is able to provide Covid-safe accommodation, transport, food and refreshments to all those present
3. That CIVA officials are able to travel to the site with the same freedoms as in (1) above and render appropriate services
4. That the event carries full FAI category-1 authority and value for all concerned

These requirements are currently extremely hard or impossible to meet, even though in some countries valuable national competitions have been successfully completed. Regrettably no responses have been received by the SWG that merit further evaluation in the context of CIVA's broader requirements.

It remains uncomfortably clear that the prospect for next year is still unknown, despite obvious signs of medical progress being made around the world. CIVA must therefore maintain close links with each organiser through early 2021, and take whatever steps it can to ensure that the best advantage is made of the circumstances we face.

Nick Buckenham