

Report of the CIVA Strategic Planning Group (SPG) 2015

The duty of the CIVA Strategic Planning Group (SPG) is to take an unrestricted 'blue sky' view of the commission's existing regulations and operating practices, to see whether alternative and potentially better solutions might be developed and implemented to benefit the staging of Continental and World championship aerobatic events.

The SPG offered two proposals for consideration at the 2014 plenary:

1. Form a Working Group to develop the 'Free Known' programme-1 format to replace the existing Known and Free programmes-1 and -2.
2. Consider the formation of a new "Super Advanced" level between Advanced and Unlimited.

Item-1 above received good support at the 2014 plenary, and work by the CIVA Free Known Working Group has resulted in the formal proposal that has been presented this year for the plenary to consider and vote upon.

The response to item-2 did not encourage further input, and consequently this idea has been shelved.

The SPG has not committed time to other subjects during 2015, and thus this report can offer only speculation from the chairman on other matters that could be worthy of formal review.

Flight programmes for CIVA Special Events

From time to time there is the prospect of running a Special Event within the CIVA operating regime, and these may be the only way that the commission can build its financial reserves to supplement the returns from World and Continental championships. For this we have an unpublished draft Section-6 part-4 from 2012; among other things this document suggests a number of different 'Competition Flight Formats' including programmes for classical Aresti-style figure flying, freestyle flights of similar format to the current 4-minute final freestyle at unlimited power events, and a couple of speed and timed 'voluntary' solutions.

The aerobatic programmes at this year's World Air Games are set to be substantially the same as at a normal world championship event, the new glider freestyle providing the principal unusual element. If CIVA were able to adapt some programmes from an established part-4 document however the WAG could provide a significantly different and more attractive format.

Since 2012 there have been other successful events such as the 2014 Sky Grand Prix in Durban, where some of the programmes specially created for it were extremely popular. In former years the hugely successful FAI World Grand Prix of Aerobatics events operated by Haute Voltige that ran from 1996 to 2008 were a great example of how popular and financially beneficial these series can be – the internet provides plenty of evidence here:

http://www.haute-voltige.com/wings_of_sport/grandprix/results/event.html

If CIVA is to develop in this direction and provide its own formal structure for such events then we do need a mature part-4 regulatory document to deliver the core principles for organisers to adopt. On behalf of the SPG I would like to propose that CIVA establishes a Working Group to examine how we might proceed in this matter through 2015-6 with a view to presenting an updated part-4 document for the 2016 plenary to consider.

Judge training

While CIVA maintains and makes freely available online a comprehensive set of regulatory documents that define the structure and boundaries of all aspects of aerobatic championship operations, the only way for aspiring and experienced judges to learn the CIVA way to judge Aresti sequences and/or maintain a sound knowledge of the wide range of other requirements when working in a championship panel is by reading through Section-6 parts 1 and 2 to locate and assimilate all of the material relevant to judging.

Even though judging is a major and fundamental part of aerobatic competition activities CIVA does not provide any alternative method of judge training save the aforementioned self-driven reading process, though in recent years there have been occasional CIVA Judging Seminars at various European locations. Other NAC's have tackled this subject in their own way; the extensive range of material available on the [British Aerobatic Association's judging pages](#) is a prime example, and there are moves by the IAC in the United States to implement their own set of online judge training and testing material. In recent years CIVA has moved its annual Judge Currency Test online via the Moodle "e-learning" system on the CIVA News website but, for every judge, laboriously reading through section-6 parts 1 and 2 remains virtually the only way to learn the judging process or maintain one's proficiency in "how to judge".

Away from aerobatics, there is now an increasing range of internet-based processes that take advantage of the well-established benefits that online self-training can offer. From primary school to university and well beyond, students increasingly spend their time using distributed "e-learning" systems not only to study whole processes but importantly to test their knowledge at frequent interim stages to ensure that the information is being correctly absorbed.

On behalf of the SPG I would like to propose that CIVA establishes a Working Group to examine how the commission should proceed in this matter, with the objective of working with the CIVA's nominated website design team to create and develop a high quality online aerobatic judge training and testing centre that can raise not only our own judging standards but offers



this facility to all other national organisations associated with aerobatic flying and judging. There may be cost implications to this move, but I would suggest that the importance of succeeding in this way for international aerobatics is clear and if necessary the president and the bureau can respond appropriately.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Nick Buckenham', is positioned above the printed name.

Nick Buckenham
SPG Chairman 2015