



CIMA Historian Report

Tom Gunnarson



CIMA Plenary
Kaunas, Lithuania
23-24 February 2024



What Championships? What Year?



CIMA Officer positions

Vice President 1 yr (1994)

Secretary 11 yrs (1992 – 2003)

Treasurer 6 yrs (1999 – 2003) (2022-present)

EnvC Liaison 13 yrs (2010 – present)

Historian 10 yrs (2013 – present)

CIMA Championship Official

(19 total including 7 WMC, 4 WPC, 2 WAG)

1992 WMC Matilla Steward

1994 WMC Poznan Jury

1996 WMC/WPC Cato Ridge Jury (1st WPC – not valid)

1997 WAG Aydin Jury

1999 WMC/WPC Matkopuszta Steward

2000 EMC/EPC Levroux Steward

2001 WPC/WAG Andalucia Jury

2002 EPC/EMC Nagykanizsa Jury President

2003 WMC/WPC Long Marston Jury

2004 EPC/EMC Castelo Branco Jury

2009 WMC Jihlava Jury

2010 EMC Sywell Jury



Who is this?



CIMA History on CIMA Website



- CIMA founded in 1980 to develop and manage FAI Class R contests and records for the worldwide air sport community
- History project is a work in progress
- Captures stories, information and photos (while there is still a chance) of the people and actions that have made an impact on the sport
- Submissions are welcomed (send to tomgunnarson@earthlink.net)



All CIMA spaces

- CIMA
- CIMA Competitions
- CIMA Flight Recorders
- CIMA History
- CIMA IT WG
- CIMA Microlight Committee
- CIMA Paramotor Committee
- CIMA Paramotor Endurance Championships
- CIMA Penaries
- CIMA Section 10
- CIMA WAG Microlights
- CIMA WAG Paramotors
- CIMA World League Cup
- Other CIMA events

This space

- CIMA History
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CIMA History home

Since it's founding in 1980, the FAI Microlight and Paramotor Commission (CIMA) has developed FAI Class R contests and records for the worldwide air sport community. FAI mainly provides the public with information on results, meeting minutes and the like. But those of us who have participated in CIMA activities know there are colorful and uplifting stories of people and events behind what is published.

Who remembers the infamous meeting in Rome or the "goose" championships or the first official scores for Kicking Sticks? Where was the first world microlight championships held in the southern hemisphere? What did it take to have gone the highest, fastest or longest in their respective FAI Class R record class? CIMA's rich history should be captured for future generations to learn about the character and decisions of those who have pioneered the sport as well as those who have had special experiences to share.

In 2013, CIMA created the position of Historian and asked me to take it. Reflecting back, taking over secretary duties from CIMA founder Ann Welch at the 1993 plenary in Poznan, Poland was my initiation to a long path of service to CIMA as commission bureau member and championships official. I am honored to take on this new role to help capture and preserve our history.

Much material has been collected over the years by competitors and the media on people and events. We will use this space to share some of that to preserve the spirit and heart of what makes participation in CIMA activities a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Tom Gunnarson, CIMA Historian

The Formative Years (1978 - 1984)

The first indication of activity from the FAI archives was in a [20 December 1978 FAI notice](#) of an upcoming International General Aviation Committee (CIAG) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland included an annex to the agenda titled "The ULTRALIGHT AND F.A.I." Authored by Ann Welch, it provided background on a new and exciting air sport and expressed the need for FAI to become involved. The rest, as they say, is history.

The introduction of small gas engines attached to hang gliders and lightweight fixed wing designs in the mid-1970s opened up the possibilities of sport and recreational flight to a new generation of enthusiasts. A short takeoff from a small field with sustained flight over the local countryside fulfilled many dreams of bird-like flight. Interest in this those early pioneering efforts quickly turned into an explosive growth of activity, with mass-produced microlights (also called "ultralights") populating the skies. Public interest, and concern over noise, privacy and safety warranted the need for national advocacy organizations and new sections of National Aero Clubs to educate and advocate for this new segment of aviators.

A few enlightened aviation personalities at the time could see the natural progression of the competitive spirit, from manufacturers vying for customers to adventuresome souls eager to test their new aircraft to the limits

In Memorium

List of those Shining Stars of our sport and community who have passed on

Jan Bem

(1947 – 2022)



- Czech Republic delegate to CIMA
- FAI Ann Welch Diploma, 2011 and 2017
- World record holder in Class R

