

GAC Plenary meeting Paris 10-12th Nov 2017

Report on GAC Activities during the year by Mr Rodney Blois President

Mr Blois reported that there had been two successful championships in 2017

World Precision Flying Championship Spitzerberg Austria

World Air Navigation Race Championship Castellon Spain

He did not elaborate on these as there would be following full reports from the respective Championship organisers and GAC Officials.

I attended the Commission Presidents half yearly meeting in Wroclaw Poland 17-19th June

This was to coincide with World Games 2017.

A big even with 60000 competitors from 70 sports. Everything from tug-of-war-to billiards to petanque and including 3 airports

Canopy Piloting

Glider aerobatics

And Para motoring

The airport venue was not well attended and airports did not make a huge impression.

At FAI meetings the focus was very much on World Air Games with next venue still undecided. Was expected to be between USA and Malaysia a report of a late entry from Turkey was mentioned. Also focus on Air Games Tour. A sort of travelling circus taking a selection of airports around the world to interested cities. Usual problems of who to select to compete and the costs.

I have just yesterday returned from a visit to China

I was invited there by the ASFC (The Air Sports Federation of China)

To hold meetings on general aviation and to attend the FAI FLY-IN EXPO 2017

Wuhan China

Wuhan is an enormous city of 11 million people bigger than London. Everything is built on a vast scale and is incredibly modern, 5 lane intersecting motorways criss-crossing the mighty Yangtze River. Huge skyscraper blocks of flats. Lots of traffic jams, but never saw a car older than 5 years.

The airport to host this gigantic event was constructed on farm land in 8 months. Full length runway and parking space on apron for uncountable number of executive jets

Hangars to match; FAI were the VIP guests and nothing too much trouble.

We watched from regimented aligned seat with name places and expensive binoculars to see the air show. About 150 of us VIP's on the stage and thousands of spectators. Altogether a very good airshow and an impressive performance

The scales of China's ambitions in the air are scarcely believable. The President Ji Jinping has instructed the Head of the CCAA to build 2800 new airfields by 2030.

The principal problem holding back general aviation is the reluctance of Chinese Military to give up airspace. Hence the great majority of Airports are those containable within the airfield boundary.

Thus aerobatics, model flying, drones, paramotor, and microlights are dominant. They do do Ballooning and proved the point by launching 100 balloons with a bride and groom in each as a showpiece!

Great interest was shown when I pointed out an ANR event would take up very little airspace and live tracking would show where every aircraft was!

Thus for GAC the introduction of ANR into China would be a huge leap forward.

Watch this space.