

## Strategic Planning Group Report

Nick Buckenham, Chairman

Group members:

Nick Buckenham  
Alan Cassidy  
Mike Heuer  
Elena Klimovich  
Matthieu Roulet

This working group suggested two areas of interest for collaboration and review during 2016:

1. New flight programmes for CIVA Special Events
2. Judge training

In fact work in pursuit of the above has taken place through 2016 in many areas rather than simply among the members of the group.

### Item-1

Work on this topic has proceeded in various directions this year –

- The finalisation of programmes for the power and glider WAG programmes
- Development of new flight programmes for e.g. the Sky Grand Prix event in Durban, and also for the forthcoming collaboration between CIVA and World Air Carnival Ltd (WACL) in China during 2017.

In Dubai the commission ran a series of Free Known and Free Unknown glider programmes concluding with a visually exciting Freestyle programme with pyrotechnic smoke canisters on the wingtips. This was extremely well received by the public, though operations with wingtip pyrotechnic devices may be less acceptable closer to home where the lack of appropriate airframe certification for older gliders largely prohibits their use.

For power events there have been several parallel areas of practical development that led in South Africa to the Known and Unknown programmes at Greyville Race Course being flown with ground-based 'gates' at a lower altitude than at our normal championships, with smoke-on and a rousing commentary to keep the public well informed. The instant results that the organisers intended to show on a big-screen were then not possible, but work with WACL toward establishing the regulations for their World Air Masters (WAM) and World Formation Aerobatic Championships (WFAC) events in China has created in an Instant Scoring system specification that is now being studied by several Chinese software companies. It is possible that the outcome from this move will be directly useable by other strands in CIVA's development over the next 12 months.

### Item-2

While there has been little in the way of targeted judge training from CIVA through the 2016 championship season, there is a growing realisation that –

- Some Judges are clearly not sufficiently knowledgeable regarding the CIVA regulations for judging Aresti figures
- The CIVA regulations on judging are extensive and relatively difficult to learn and remember even for natural English speakers, and for those with other native reading abilities present a demanding task
- Many of the judges we select have insufficient exposure to relevant judging work in their own countries during the year, and thus may come to CIVA championships somewhat 'out of practice'

During 2016 the 'Moodle' language-learning system that we have previously used for the online Judges Proficiency test was not available, and the Chief Judges were forced to return to paper based tests – in English of course – immediately prior to each event. These do have some value, but there is little doubt that the classroom environment does not provide a sufficiently challenging test of a judges' true ability on the judging line.

A clear intention within the development plan for the forthcoming revised CIVA News website is to add a comprehensive CIVA International Judge Training section coupled to a series of online tests. This new training material may take several months to develop and publish, but it is a firm objective to re-establish the online testing area in time for the 2017 season of events.

### Strategy Meeting

A one-off CIVA Strategy Meeting will be held in Bucharest on Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> at which the bureau will be joined by the current Strategy Planning Group plus others selected for their wide experience in world aerobatics –

Castor Fantoba	Jürgen Leukefeld	Alan Cassidy	Elena Klimovich
John Gaillard	Mady Delcroix	Manfred Echter	Mike Heuer
Matthieu Roulet	Hannah Rähä	Mikhail Mamistov	Pierre Varloteaux
Nick Buckenham	Zuzana Danihelová	Vladimir Machula	
Pik Kúchler			

The aim of this meeting is to identify and discuss areas of CIVA's possible future that may lie beyond the discipline and structure imposed during the plenary conference. It is my experience that such 'free thinking' meetings can often lead to the development of interesting and positive ideas that are outside the planned or expected progression of established subjects.

Any conclusions drawn that could lead to improvements and/or additions to current CIVA operations will be summarised and, if appropriate, included for plenary debate.



Nick Buckenham  
Chairman