## Public Letter 10/06

October 2006 www.fai.org/aeromodelling/ciamflyer Editor: emil.giezendanner@modellflugsport.ch



### We Don't Want any Models Heavier than 1.2 Grammes

### Free Flight Indoor Aeromodelling – Combining Sport and Art

ike so often in this world, it is not always the biggest, fastest and loudest that present the largest challenge to our intelligence, but again and again it is the small things, that are developed and used quietly and far from the public's eye. One of these wonders is the free flight indoor model.



#### Inside the earth

A salt mine in Slanic in Romania has been hosting national and international championships for uncontrolled indoor models for many years. Due to constant air temperature and negligible air movement, the mine has become one of the most popular locations for this extraordinarily spectacular aeromodelling discipline.

#### **Noiseless circling**

Model aircraft with a wing span of 55 cm, max. tail 45 cm and weighing min. 1.2 g circle noiselessly in the semi-darkness of this gigantic hall approximately 150 m below the earth's surface.



Frequently they can only be seen because of reflections on the slowly revolving propeller. The goal is to achieve long flight durations. The best two of six flights are added together. Flights of between 25 and 35 minutes are quite common.

# Oldest propulsion for model aircraft

The rubber motor is the oldest propulsion for model aircraft. A rubber band that is twisted by a certain number of revolutions is known to act as an energy store and can turn a propeller. Obviously the rubber motor's influence is critical for the model's performance. Accordingly a lot of effort and care goes into looking after the rubber bands and preparing them for competitions.

#### Using balloons for steering

If a model gets caught on a wall or elsewhere, the competitor can use a balloon on a line to free his model and try to direct it back to the centre of the hall – not an easy task at heights as high as a steeple.

#### Everything happens very slowly

In indoor flight nothing happens in a hurry. To carry a model to the launch site, you have to walk slowly, so that the draft won't damage the fragile aircraft. Helpers and timekeepers also have to move slowly, to avoid creating unnecessary air currents and turbulences. For the same reason, spectators watch the event from a safe distance.

#### True wonders

Indoor models are true wonders and can not be bought. Building and test flying one of these models can easily take over 100 hours -10to 15 hours of work should be allowed for the propeller alone. To have a closer look at the competition rules for this wonderful aeromodelling class, visit the

World Wide Web under

www.fai.org/aeromodelling. Good Luck!





