

# The History of CIMBA



*The People and Activities  
that have shaped the Sport*

# In the Beginning

- ❖ Power came to hang gliders in the 70's
- ❖ Airplane shapes soon followed
- ❖ Ambitious pilots wanted to test their skills and knowledge against others
- ❖ FAI was the global body to oversee this activity

# In the Beginning



- ❖ FAI establishes the Microlight Commission in 1981
- ❖ The first FAI sanctioned microlight championships takes place in Millau, France in 1985
- ❖ The first World Paramotor Championships takes place in Matkopuszta, Hungary in 1999
- ❖ The Commission is renamed Microlight & Paramotor Commission in 2010

ULTRALIGHTS AND FAI.



18 OCT. 1979

At the last General Conference I presented a short paper on this subject, to bring to the notice of FAI members the increasing activity in the building and flying of ultralight powered aircraft and lightweight gliders (not hang gliders), so that provision might be made for them within the FAI framework. The risk, if this were not done, was that other organisations would set up categories for them instead. This is now happening.

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

F.A.I. MICROLIGHT COMMITTEE (C.I.M.A.)

At the Council meeting of June 17, 1981, it was agreed to introduce an F.A.I. Committee for Microlights. It would have provisional status for one year in order to discover whether there was a real need for a separate Committee or if microlights could be combined with C.I.A.C.A., C.I.A.G. or C.I.V.L.

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

MEETING OF F.A.I. MICROLIGHT WORKING GROUP

6 RUE GALILEE, PARIS, ON TUESDAY 17th OF FEBRUARY 1981

M I N U T E S

Present :

Mrs. Ann WELCH (UNITED KINGDOM), Chairman

BELGIUM .....	Mr. Pierrangelo ME Mr. Hugo PARIDAENS
CANADA .....	Captain Ron DENNIS
FRANCE .....	Mr. R. MAGALLON
NORWAY .....	Mr. Odd JOHNSEN
SWEDEN .....	Colonel Wilhelm WAGNER Mr. Carl G. SUNDSTEDT
UNITED KINGDOM .....	Mr. Paul BAKER Mr. Stephen A. HUNT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA .....	Mr. Everett LANGWORTHY General Clifton von KANN

F.A.I. : Mr. Patrick WELSH, Technical Counsellor

In the meantime, there is a great deal of work to be done because many national aviation authorities are seeking a lead from F.A.I. In this respect, F.A.I. has confirmed its definition of a microlight as agreed in February 1981 :

a simple or two-seat aeroplane with an empty (dry) weight not exceeding 150 kgs and a wing area of not less than  $W$  (weight) divided by 10 and in no case less than 10 m<sup>2</sup>.

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE  
INTERNATIONAL MICROLIGHT COMMITTEE (C.I.M.A.)  
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MEETING AT 6 RUE GALILEE, PARIS, ON TUESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 1981

M I N U T E S  
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1. The President welcomed delegates to their first formal meeting of C.I.M.A., and reported that the committee had been approved by the recent General Conference in Japan.

In the Chair : Mrs. Ann WELCH, President (UNITED KINGDOM)

BELGIUM .....	Mr. PARIDAENS Mr. P. MEZZAPESA
CANADA .....	Captain Ron DENNIS
FRANCE .....	Mr. Alain DREYER Mr. Paul BOURLANGES
GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF) .....	Mr. F. FRIEDEL
IRELAND .....	Mr. Tom HUDSON
JAPAN .....	Mr. Asahi MIYAHARA
LUXEMBURG .....	Mr. LEESCH
NETHERLANDS .....	Mr. Ron BROERE Mr. J. TIMMER
NORWAY .....	Mr. Odd H. JOHNSEN
SOUTH AFRICA .....	Mr. Noël OTTEN
SPAIN .....	Mr. Eduardo CASTELLANOS
SWITZERLAND .....	Mr. J.P. FREIBURGHaus Mr. Gion BEZZOLA
UNITED KINGDOM .....	Mr. Steve HUNT Mr. Nick REGAN
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA .....	Mr. Paul H. POBEREZY

v) Competitions

Discussion included the need for competitions to help microlights develop well, and the undesirability of pylon and similar races at present. It was agreed that during 1982 delegates would endeavour to organise competitions in their countries. These could include precision flying, navigation and/or soaring with a limited amount of fuel. In 1983 the aim should be to have an international competition based on the experience gained in 1982.

Tom Hudson would act as competition co-ordinator, collecting information in 1982 and reporting to the next meeting of C.I.M.A.

vi) Records

The category C1A-0 for aircraft under 300 kg AWW was available for use, but some records were not suitable for microlights. It was agreed to accept records for distance in a straight line and around a closed circuit, altitude, and time to climb to 3000 and 6000 m. Other records could be added later but were not necessary at this time. There would be no records for 2-seaters nor a separate category for women's records.

place at the next meeting when delegates know each other better. This was agreed. The President also said that she would not stand for election as it was important that the Committee was run by people actively engaged in microlight flying.

F.A.I. : Mr. Bertrand LARCHER, Director General  
Mr. W.P. WELSH, Technical Counsellor

# In the Beginning



## *Ann Welch - CIMA's Matriarch*

- ❖ Managed the British Gliding Team for twenty years
- ❖ Organized competitions including the World Gliding Championships at South Cerney in 1965
- ❖ Delegate to the FAI's International Gliding Commission
- ❖ Jury member at several World Gliding Championships.
- ❖ Founder President of the FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission
- ❖ First President of the FAI Microlight Commission
- ❖ In 2006, the CIMA created the Ann Welch Diploma
- ❖ Author of gliding and microlight books and the children's book *Woolacombe Bird*

# Value of CIMMA History Project

- ❖ Protect and preserve past for future generations
- ❖ Assure accuracy of information
- ❖ Show evolution of sport and corresponding technology
- ❖ Lessons learned from the past

# History through Your Eyes

- ❖ People and events create history
- ❖ History: “the study of past events, particularly in human affairs.”
- ❖ CIMMA history rich in stories that should be shared for future generations - your stories

# The Commission at Work



Paris, France



Rome, Italy



Paris, France



Phuket, Thailand

# Purpose of Championships



- ❖ The purpose of the Championships is to provide a good and satisfying contest, to determine the World or Continental Champion in each class and to reinforce friendship amongst pilots of all nations.



# Cultural Exchange

Promotional items collected at a  
World Championships



At a CIMA plenary meeting in Lausanne, Chinese Taipei delegate Joseph Lin experiences snow for the first time in his life.

# Exotic Locales in Interesting Times

*First FAI CIMA championships in Southern Hemisphere*



Championships Director Mike Blyth introduces Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi who gives opening speech at 1996 World Microlight Championships.

# National Team Formation and Logistics



# A USA Team of One?



Some would say the colorful, verbose and prolific writer Jack McCornack could easily represent a whole group by himself!



The Thrill of Victory!



What is the story behind this winning pilot?

# Earning a Gold Colibri Badge



# Evolution of the Sport



Pre-GPS and digital recording



# Low-level Excitement



# World Air Games

*A New Concept in Air Sports*



# The Real Reason for coming to a CIMA meeting



# Please Contribute to CIMA History

- ❖ Photos
- ❖ Articles
- ❖ Links
- ❖ Personal impressions

If you know someone who may have any information, please provide a name, email address and what they may have.

Thanks!

Send to:

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