

Technical Secretary's Report For 2002

During the year 2002, further progress was made concerning the methods used in the preparation of the Sporting Code. The coordination between the Subcommittee Chairmen, Headquarters' staff and the Secretaries was improved, allowing the Sporting Code to be posted to the web site by the first of the year. One element of the Code preparation agreed to by the Bureau members, but not implemented for the 2003 version, was utilizing a schedule allowing the completed text to be made available to CIAM delegates prior to the fall Bureau meeting and its subsequent posting to the website. This is a goal for the 2004 version.

The restructuring of parts of Volume ABR and the General Rules helped to create a document which is easier to use. Similar concerns which were previously separated in the text are now placed together. Additional items of concern require further study. Among these are such things as expanding and updating the guides for event administration and preparation as well as a continuing study of various sections which may not be in agreement. Some proposals submitted for 2003 address these problems.

It is obvious that the change to the frequency of technical meetings also requires additional thought. While the concept appears simple in principle, there are elements of timing which are critical. Among these, is the need to alert NACs as early as possible regarding any extraordinary meetings planned. This is necessary to facilitate the budget process for the NACs.

Another element, in my opinion, is the term of office for Bureau members, especially the secretaries. Currently, the one year term makes coordination for the preparation of the minutes, subsequent agendas and the Sporting Code somewhat difficult when a change of personnel occurs. This is further complicated by the fact there is no specified provisions for an orderly transition period following a change.

The record homologation appears to have proceeded in a better fashion during 2002. There were fewer problems with materials being forwarded to the wrong place by NACs and little or no difficulty with postal service delays. The number of records processed was above that of 2001. A significant number of records processed were in F1 as a result of the additional classifications added in 2001.

In looking toward the future, I believe it is prudent to consider several factors. First, I would call your attention to the fact that we continue to find a proliferation of events within our categories. I believe it is important to consider the effect such expansion has on the aeromodeling community. If new events do indeed result in creating additional participants to the CIAM scene, there is logic in the additions. On the other hand, should the new events simply dilute status quo participation, then the added expense involved should be viewed as a concern.

Secondly, the times in which we are presently living suggest the possibility of problems with model transportation for events. On 1 January 2003, new regulations within the United States have created questions which the Academy of Model Aeronautics has yet to be able to answer. These center around the size of containers for shipping as well as the screening of the materials within the containers. Granted, while these regulations currently appear to only affect a single country, this may not be the case in the future. The impact on championships requiring intercontinental travel could prove critical! Discussion concerning this matter would seem prudent.

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank the Bureau, the subcommittees and especially the Headquarters' staff for their diligent and dedicated work during 2002. I trust 2003 will be an enjoyable and productive year for CIAM matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Underwood
Technical Secretary