

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL AERO CLUB OF IRELAND

Sporting aviation in Ireland is facing great challenges on several fronts. The number of pilots involved in Sporting and General Aviation has decreased over recent years. Club structures are under increasing strain mainly due to the difficult regulations and other requirements by the Irish Aviation Authority ruling of the Jars, contributing to more and more bureaucracy and ever increasing costs, not to mention inflexibility and inconvenience.

The Irish Aviation Authority avoids engaging in any practical realities in connection with some of its decisions and actions. The voice and effectiveness of recreational pilots has declined steadily and if corrective action is not now taken the future looks increasingly bleak for all but the well off amongst our sporting Aviators.

There is a growing recognition that this situation must be reversed, in particular the failure of the Authority to respond in a meaningful manner to European developments such as in the NPPL etc. This has led to widespread dismay as does its attitude towards medical examinations. Moreover the National Aero Club of Ireland having carried out a strategic review believes urgent action is now needed.

The National Aero Club of Ireland is responding to this challenge with a range of proposals including the need to prepare for the possibility for Self Administration of recreational aviation. Our objectives at this stage are to establish an appropriate and fully accountable body to look after the needs of sporting aviation and encourage the young people to engage in sporting aviation in all disciplines.

Notwithstanding The National Aero Club of Ireland has so far arranged some 54 events all over Ireland for 2006. They are mostly parachuting model aeronautics, **BALLOONING**, aerobatics, airshows and exhibitions etc. Helicopter flying has got common in Ireland but fixed wing flying has decreased because of insurance problems

Colm Killeen CIMP Lauzanne June 17th and 18th 2006