

Technical Secretary's Report
2003
March 2004

During this year, the development of the Sporting Code management continued to undergo refinement. The responsibilities of the various parties involved were further clarified as everyone settled into the new methods. Unfortunately, some proposed deadlines were not met. As Technical Secretary, I accept the responsibility for not having more aggressively monitored the activity.

I believe it is important that all parties carefully study our current course of action regarding the proliferation of events. With the electronic format now used for the Sporting Code, the growth in the number of events is not as apparent as when the printed format was used. While an argument can be made that additional events may lead to increased participation, I am not certain we have a true indication that this is occurring. From a management viewpoint, however, the creation of many new events does create additional work loads and dilutes the focus on long standing championship events. Perhaps there needs to be a study to determine whether current events, provisional or official, stand the test of continued strong participation.

Record activity was very high in 2003. We have begun to see increasing numbers of team records established in several categories. Perhaps the most significant record for the year was the trans-Atlantic crossing of the TAM 5 model aircraft developed by Maynard Hill. Incorporating state of the art technologies along with rather ingenious use of traditional materials and methods, made this a landmark flight in many respects.

The TAM 5 accomplishment also led to closer scrutiny of the Record Section, Part 7, of the Sporting Code. In an effort to gain insights into the ramifications of emerging technologies upon the more traditional wording of the Sporting Code, President Pimenoff created a Working Group to study these concerns. The group, consisting of Pierre Chaussebourg, Dr. Andras Ree and Bob Underwood welcome any input for proposed changes as we prepare for a presentation at a later date.

The Technical Secretary wishes to thank the CIAM Bureau officers and Subcommittee chairmen for their work in monitoring and preparing the material for 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Underwood
Technical Secretary