

## **CLASSIC CLASSES 2010 CIMA REPORT – SOUTH AFRICA**

DELEGATE: ROBERT GASSMANN

I am pleased to report to you, that all is well with Microlighting in sunny South Africa.

333 student pilot licenses have been issued in the past 12 months. The existing Microlight pilots have stayed stable at just over 1500, so have 2000 registered Microlight Aircraft. Once more we were fortunate in only having 3 fatalities. Better training, newer equipment, legislation and peer pressure seem to definitely work!

It has been a tragic year for me as my best friend and flying buddy, Henk Wolmarans, has been tragically killed in a motorcar accident. My flying has never been the same since then, especially as our planning for a flight from South Africa to Europe was finalized.

On a more positive note, for the first time in 12 years I was not on the Microlight committee in South Africa, neither have I pushed, competed or helped organize the South African Microlight Championship. Mervin Reynolds and his team hosted a successful South African Championship in preparation for next year's World Championship in Israel, as well as the hosting of a World Championship in South Africa.

I think we are now finally at the point where enough qualified pilots, administrators and organizers are available to put in a formal bid to host a successful World Championship in South Africa, without the constant fear of everything laying on one man's shoulders. A comprehensive formal bid will be submitted online before next year's meeting.

Blue skies and safe flying!

Robert Gassmann