

## CIMA REPORT – NOVEMBER 2009

The past year has been quiet for Microlighters in South Africa, considering the turmoil of the previous few years. The good news first! We would have to go back two decades to find a year with only 2 fatalities. This is as a result of better training, information flow, newer equipment, legislation, peer pressure and definitely also the reduction of hours flown.

The schools are definitely not as busy as they were in previous years, with many surviving on conversions from trikes to fixed wing microlights. The 1500 microlight pilot licenses have stayed stable, same as the 2000 registered microlight aircrafts. The new sports pilot license/plane category which caters for aircrafts up to 600 kg is now fully operational and attracts praises all around.

Sadly, the classic classes team did not, for various reasons, participate in either the World Air Games or the World Championships. We however have already set dates for next years various competitions and got an outstanding response. So we will definitely be back next time. At the same time, we are very proud of our powered paraglider friend on their participation and results.

We were hoping for a full World Championship bid on hosting all classes for 2011, unfortunately there are still a few loose ends in the classic classes bid and I/We are not prepared to put this bid in unless I/We are 100% satisfied that we can guarantee you a successful Championship. Because our bid will definitely be involving extensive expenses for the competitors, our main aim is to **guarantee** funds to lighten the burden and offer a touristy side as part of the package.

Whatever happens with allocations, we will carry on with our efforts, hoping for this to come together soon.

Of course this year revolved a lot around Mike Blyth and James Pitman flying their homebuilt Sling around the world in 40 days. Yes, it may not have been a microlight anymore, but it was all microlighters involved in this project and I think whatever you fly it was an unbelievable achievement.

Fly safe. Hope to see you soon