

*CIAM Flyer 4-2023*

## Today's youth Active Aeromodelling



**Recent years have seen a huge upsurge in the use of electric propulsion in aeromodelling. This technology lets model aircraft - from the smallest to the largest**

**- rise towards the sky effortlessly. Despite these developments, competition classes requiring significant physical effort in their execution have experienced**

**tremendous growth with many enthusiastic athletes, including young girls and boys, taking part.**

## Away from the smartphone

An American educator apparently once said "We have brought our children to the screens, now we have to see how we can get them away from there". This statement may be slightly provocative but is accurate in its deeper sense: According to a study by the World Health Organisation, WHO, 80% of children and young people do not exercise enough.



## A great alternative

With its Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM), the World Air Sports Federation (FAI) offers a whole range of



competition disciplines and categories that require not only technical and flying skills but also a high level of physical fitness. A wonderful fusion of body and soul which trains the ability to react as well as skills of observation and rapid decision-making. One of these classes is the free flight discipline F1A which involves very light model gliders being towed across a field on a line, not unlike a kite, until tension on the line lets the competitor know that the model has found an upwind. This is not possible without good physical stamina. I have watched a competitor at a championship pulling his model along on a line for nearly half an hour, sweeping the entire site until he found a spot with an upcurrent. The model was then released and left for the wind to play with. Slope soaring with magnet model

gliders (F1E) is a very attractive sport. After being launched from a hill, the model lands somewhere in the valley and has to be recovered, which can be a quite a strenuous undertaking. In another class, models are flung into the air and caught by hand, requiring a use of physical strength similar to discus throwing. Smaller model gliders are often regarded as novice models for children and young people. They can also be launched on a line or from a hill and it is a pleasure to see young pilots consigning their models to the air, either by launching them with great force or gently nudging them into the air. It's all down to temperament. Who will fly the furthest?

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