

# FAI / CIVA Aresti Liaison Working Group Report 2024

Jim Bourke, chair

This year I attempted to address two CIVA concerns:

1. A return of the Aresti cup to CIVA's care so that it can be properly presented in championship ceremonies.
2. A restoration of positive communications between the Aresti group and CIVA so that additions and corrections to the catalogue could be made.

Unfortunately, I have not been successful in making any sort of real contact with the Aresti family. There is a great deal of history and consequent apprehension about how Aresti may respond to even the politest request. Perhaps the lack of response indicates hostile feelings, but I can't say.

I was able to get a response from Felipe Aresti Mugica son of José Luis Aresti. He responded to say that he is not in contact with his brother, Jose Luis Aresti Mugica, who is responsible for the Aresti group. As for the location of the cup, he explained "the Cup was delivered to the Real Aero Club de España (RACE) and was for years in its offices (it seems that there was not much interest from the CIVA), until about 6 years ago when the RACE gave it to my brother."

I'm grateful for the assistance of Alejandra Moore, who helped me in contacting Felipe.

I've made several attempts at contact. I've attached the most recent letter so everyone can evaluate my approach and to guide the person who takes this on next.

As a test, I ordered a catalog and sent a note along with it. The catalog arrived with no reply to my note. Possibly, the person who mails out catalogs is not in contact with the person my note was addressed to.

This is obviously a frustrating situation for everyone who loves the sport of aerobatics. It's also a little absurd. There is no way catalog sales can be of real financial benefit to the Aresti family. Surely their purpose is to honor Jose Aresti? We want the same thing! So why not work together? I can only guess that Jose Luis Aresti Mugica is either not receiving the letters I send or is so preoccupied with other more urgent concerns that he cannot find the time to respond. There must be a reasonable explanation.

Given the impasse, I have two recommendations:

1. If we find we simply must amend the Aresti catalogue, our best option is to publish those amendments in an appendix in the Sporting Code. Expect that if Aresti

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awakens from its slumber it may demand the rights to any derivation of their copyrighted work.

2. I think it's time for CIVA to make a new cup. It's possible the historic cup will be returned to CIVA. The ownership of the cup doesn't seem to be in doubt. But we simply can't wait forever.

The bottom line as I see it is that at this point Aresti has been given ample opportunity to reestablish positive dialogue. We should never stop trying, because that's the right thing to do. That said, until proven otherwise, it is perfectly fair to perceive Aresti as hostile to CIVA and it would be reasonable to demand a return of the cup under threat of legal force, if it's truly not their property.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bourke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Bourke