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IPC PRESIDENT'S REPORT 65th IPC ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING 2014 VIENNA

2013 ACTIVITIES

2013 was another busy year for Parachuting, despite it being the 'off' year when no World Championships are conducted.

Firstly, there was the World Games in Cali, where Canopy Piloting was featured along with Paragliding Accuracy at the same location while Aeromodel Indoor musical flying was demonstrated in a wushu. Without a doubt, the CP event was highly popular and brought the event to the public in a most attractive and dynamic way. All available tickets were sold, and a very enthusiastic audience prompted by a very competent commentator clapped and cheered its way through an exciting competition that was conducted in close proximity to the grandstand. Special thanks and appreciation are due to the IPC team that worked very hard to present this event. IPC World Games liaison officer, Ronald Overdijk's report appears in the Plenary Meeting Agenda.

Secondly, just a few days later, the 2013 European Championships and World Cup in Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events were conducted in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Hercegovina where participants enjoyed friendly hospitality and a congenial atmosphere. The hosts had prepared well, bringing in expertise where needed, and with good weather the event was completed easily within time. This experience has given the club a good background for preparing for the World Championships in Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing in 2014.

Cheboksary in Russia hosted the next FCE with the 2013 European Championships and World Cup in Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing where a friendly atmosphere prevailed among the competitors. Both scoring delays, and the lack of a scoreboard to show event progress contributed to a less than optimal use of the generally good weather that prevailed. This resulted in little understanding of event progress and competitor ranking. As time for the closing ceremony passed, and results were still being compiled, competitors were transported back to the Hotel where a grand presentation night was interspersed into the evening's entertainment. During the course of the presentation, I promised that IPC would review the Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing rules and procedures so that long delays in getting results were eliminated at future events.

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The FAI Controller has chosen to report on this event to the Plenary, and I endorse his comments. If IPC is to progress it must ensure that the ideals and objectives contained in the Strategic Plan are followed. This includes having results and rankings available publicly as quickly as possible after each performance.

From Cheboksary the focus moved to Kolomna in Russia for the 2013 European Championships and World Cup in Canopy Piloting. The scoring system did not include an electronic scoreboard and official scores were slow to come out. This resulted in the use of social media by some of the participants watching the event, which meant that unofficial scores were quickly available around the world. This is not a reflection on the excellent judging team, but a pointer towards the need for IPC to ensure that scoring systems that can quickly present results to the public and competitors are in use.

I should also make a special mention of the 4th Dubai International Championships. Following the experience of the Mondial the previous year, which was probably the largest FAI Championships in history, the UAE continue to lift the bar in standards of parachuting competition. Increased use of video cameras for scoring purposes was trialled in both accuracy landing and canopy piloting. Three large screens surrounded the main palm DZ. It was unfortunate that the judging feed did not work until most jumps were made, and even then, the accuracy landing and canopy piloting rankings did not appear while the competitions were in progress.

A review of the Newsletters and the list of Bureau decisions since the last the Plenary meeting in Banja Luka is an indicator of the work done during the year by your Bureau.

IPETA

I am also pleased to include in this report that the efforts to bring organised professional parachuting tours and events has moved a step closer to reality, with the settling of a Memorandum of Understanding between FAI and IPC. The MoU provides for ownership of the International Parachuting Events and Tours Agency (IPETA) to be vested in the FAI, with control left with IPC. A power of veto remains with FAI in the unlikely event that IPETA actions could damage FAI interests. This now frees the way for IPC to make an investment in the future of international parachuting tours and events that are designed to be of long standing benefit to IPC.

Specifically, IPETA is: -

- *Fully owned by FAI;*
- *Supported entirely by FAI International Parachute Commission as an investment project designed to bring lasting benefit to FAI international parachuting; and*
- *Controlled by Directors appointed by IPC.*

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IPETA brings a number of benefits to IPC and FAI in contrast to the FAI's tour and event company, FAME. These benefits include: -

- *IPETA Board decisions are subject to veto by FAI in case of possible conflict;*
- *All dividends go direct to FAI IPC accounts (not via 3rd party as they would with FAME);*
- *All IPC sport & technical expertise available to IPETA, and*
- *No ownership by 3rd parties (FAME is owned partly by a private company, Sinergi, a Swiss sports marketing company located next door to the FAI office).*

During the course of this 2014 Plenary, delegates will have the chance to attend the Annual General Meeting of IPETA, and to appoint five Directors from IPC to its Board to join the two nominated by FAI. Nominations have been called for through the Newsletter and once again I remind delegates of this opportunity to be involved in this exciting new development stage of international parachuting competition.

FAI

This year, the FAI Secretariat issued a form to be completed by the Air Sport Commission Presidents. The form I submitted for IPC appears as Annex 3. At the FAI General Conference, each ASC President is allocated a 5-minute time slot to present their report. There were no questions on my written report so I used the time to point out the benefits to FAI of its new company, IPETA (see above), in contrast to FAME.

In comparison, according to the report to the FAI General Conference by FAME Board Chairman, Bob Henderson, FAME is yet to undertake any tour or event projects. Its only revenue activity to date has been to manage FAI's Breitling contract, at a cost to FAI.

At the time of preparing this report, official minutes of the ASC Presidents' meeting with the Executive Board and the FAI General Conference itself, both of which meetings were in October 2013, have not been distributed.

Air Sport Commission President's Meeting with FAI EB

I have reported through the Newsletter on the FAI General Conference proceedings and associated meetings. It would be fair to say that IPC is highly regarded among the other ASC's for its achievements to date and works in progress. In an informal meeting before meeting with the Board, all ASC Presidents decided that there would be more benefit to each if we could cooperate and share ideas experiences and issues.

I have been asked to co-ordinate an ASC Presidents meeting just prior to the next meeting the FAI Executive Board in May 2014. At that meeting I will discuss the benefits to each ASC developing its own Strategic Plan, with a focus on bringing all air sports events closer to the public and increase awareness and participation. Anecdotal evidence suggests that

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air sports face increasing competition from other recreational activities, such as computer games and shorter time-based activities. Efforts to increase participation are vital to all air sports so as to expand its membership base.

Anti-Doping

As the FAI anti-doping measures are being rolled out into all air sports, 2014 is the year in which parachuting is one of five air sports scheduled to participate in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) for out-of-competition testing. Another five were used in 2013. IPC followed the proposal of FAI's Anti-Doping Advisory Group (ADAG) and randomly selected four names from the top 100 athletes across all IPC disciplines. The list of 100 was compiled by IPC's ranking list working group. From this list, after current world champions were excluded on request from ADAG, four names were provided to FAI, from which two were randomly selected. FAI is working towards showing WADA that participation in the RTP is not necessary for air sports.

Competitors in IPC events will remain subject to the possibility of testing during competitions, and I am asked to remind all Delegates to make sure competitors have a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) registered with FAI (and local organisations), if they need one.

Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

I should report that once again I have been re-elected to be President of the Air Sport General Commission. I was quite honoured to accept the appointment, and I wish to thank both Buzz Bennett and Gill Rayner from IPC who have both contributed substantially to CASI work to keep the Sporting Code General Section current, and to help FAI develop other air sports. Both Buzz and Gill were also returned as 1st Vice-President and Secretary respectively.

Achievements in 2013 included the adoption of a CASI Procedure Handbook allowing mid-term Bureau action, an International Appeals Tribunal Manual, appointment of three International Appeals Tribunals, a paper on the development of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and their impact on air sports, as well as General Section maintenance matters.

CASI has established a workgroup under the chairmanship of Buzz Bennett to conduct a complete review of the Sporting Code General Section. This review will include a suggestion from the IPC Delegate for Germany, Dr Rainer Hoenle, to simplify procedures for recognising FAI records set at First Category Events.

FAI Secretariat

I wish to record my thanks to the support given to IPC activities by the FAI Secretariat, which clearly has a difficult task in supporting the Air Sport Commissions, particularly at this time of innovation in air sports and changes and in office personnel.

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Bureau work

I have already referred to the workload of the Bureau. I wish to thank all the Bureau members for their continued and untiring efforts, through the IPC, to carry out the wishes of the plenary meeting, and to make the world a better place for skydiving. There is a constant stream of communication and much robust discussion from this energetic group.

This year I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the following events:-

- World Games, Cali, Colombia;
- Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events European Championships and World Cup, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Accuracy Landing and Freefall Style European Championships, Cheboksary, Russia;
- CP European Championships and World Cup, Kolomna, Russia;
- FAI General Conference, CASI AGM and ASC Presidents meeting with FAI EB, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- 4th Dubai International Parachute Championships, Dubai; and
- Emerging Host Cities Summit, Dubai (2 day conference)

I wish to recognise and thank those that have supported my presence at these events, particularly the Aeronautical Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Parachute Federation, and the Emirates Aviation Association.

IPC Committees and Working groups continue to have plenty of issues to deal with. I wish to thank them all for their diligent efforts during 2013 in looking after the interests of IPC's various disciplines and activities and for keeping on eye on our strategic objectives as IPC continues to develop.

CONCLUSION

I would like to send a special message of thanks to all those volunteers that support the work of IPC, through participation as competitors, judges officials or in some other way, which they do willingly because of their love of this wonderful sport.

Graeme Windsor
7 December 2013