



**FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)
Report to the 105th General Conference
Belgrade, 14-15 October 2011**



DIRECTION

Last year I reported on the FAI International Parachuting Commission's mission plan and strategic objectives, which are aimed at developing sport parachuting internationally as an Attractive and Dynamic activity.

The annual review of the IPC's Strategic Plan at the last Plenary meeting in Bar, Montenegro, in January 2011, resulted in a change from three pillars to the plan to four, as follows:-

- Competition formats
- Selection process for international events
- Promotion of safety; and
- **Financing (new for 2011)**

The plan was altered to include the following statement:-

"The vision of IPC is to ensure that the financial foundation shall exist to allow IPC to maintain and develop the sport in accordance with the Strategic Plan, and on a value for money basis."

The FAI Statutes make it clear that IPC's task is to look after parachuting matters within FAI. No FAI funding is provided to IPC; it is left to its own devices to fund its development activities. The money raised from competitors is currently the only source of income IPC has to provide the development envisaged in its strategic plan – a plan that has been in concert since inception with the FAI's own strategic plan, at least until the last General Conference. IPC has built up resources over the years from funds generated from parachutists entering First Category parachuting events. These funds have long been earmarked by IPC to provide for projects that will produce lasting benefits to the sport of parachuting. It is the view of IPC that these current and future funds/reserves must remain segregated for the exclusive use of IPC.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

IPC projects currently underway include:-

1. Scoring and Presentation

This year, FAI/IPC entered into a contract with Cametrix, a company that specialises in providing electronic scoring systems for parachuting events. These are specialised scoring systems that have particular requirements for each of the 6 parachuting disciplines. Freefall disciplines rely on video images for scoring, while other disciplines require various forms of measuring equipment, relating to landing accuracy, landing speed and low level distance.

The contract took a long time to settle, and involvement by FAI office staff was dependent on availability, which was often taken up by higher priorities. The contract was mostly drafted by the IPC Bureau. A testing phase cancellation clause was allowed in the contract and this was exercised, as the systems used in two First Category Events during the test period did not meet the performance expectations and specifications called for. IPC has incurred costs in testing the Cametrix system.

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2. Tour Concept

Work has started on developing a business case for a tour series. Canopy Piloting is the first discipline to be targeted in this way. In May, 2011, IPC was advised by the FAI office that it would be working on “packaging these events from a business model, Marketing and Distribution point of view over the following few weeks/months”. In the absence of any further advice from the office, a volunteer has been found from within the parachuting community to develop the concept, technical requirements, and cost structure.

3. Asian Games

The Asia Pacific Parachute Federation requested a letter to the President of the Asian Olympic Committee during the year to assist a case for inclusion of parachuting in the Asian Games program. The matter was referred to FAI office, but delays occurred at FAI HQ, involving referral to the EB and appointment of a Regional Vice-President to handle the matter. I responded as IPC President, advising the Asian Olympic Committee President that IPC had statutory responsibility for parachuting matters within FAI, and the proposal for inclusion by the Asia Pacific Parachute Federation was fully supported by IPC.

4. Mondial 2012

Mondial is the flagship event of IPC. It is a culmination of hosting all of our separate summer sport World Championships in the one event. The last such occasion was in Gap, France in 2003. In 2012, the United Arab Emirates will host a Mondial at a purpose built, spectacular parachuting site on the Dubai coast. The event will also include parachuting's sole winter sport competition, Para-ski as a demonstration event, using an indoor ski slope for the ski race.

IPC's plans are that this event should be used to generate worldwide interest in the sport of parachuting. The existing flawed FAI contract with Flying Aces on media rights has the possibility of jeopardising all IPC's efforts to achieve these publicity goals. IPC has been advised by FAI that the contract is to be discarded, pending resolution of liability. This issue requires an early solution.

5. Media Liaison

IPC has appointed its webmaster as Media Liaison Officer. This volunteer receives a small remuneration to maintain and update IPC web pages on the FAI web site. The volunteer travels at personal expense to most First Category Events to ensure results and videos of competitor performances are posted as quickly as possible on IPC web pages, making the FAI web site the point of first choice for competition results. The volunteer is now taking responsibility for planning broader media liaison activities. The state of the FAI website has made this task extremely frustrating, to the extent that the volunteer recently resorted to establishing results pages on a private server linked to the FAI website.

MOVING FORWARD

The preceding outline demonstrates what a challenging year IPC has had. IPC is run by a Bureau of volunteers who are in contact on a daily basis. It is fortunate that only one IPC Bureau member has a full-time outside job, so that the Bureau is able to devote the time necessary to deal with the myriad of issues that arise.

It is clear that fixes are needed within FAI and between FAI and IPC in order to progress. Since proposals were mooted by the previous FAI President to use ASC reserves for other purposes, such as funding FAI office activities, IPC has seen a change of attitude and a loss of motivation by volunteers to promote IPC. IPC has a continuing deficit budget, and IPC Delegates are questioning the need for the prudent and frugal use and administration of IPC funds.

The media position is such that unless it is fixed quickly, IPC will need to propose a separate corporate identity to promote its events. In any case, this will more than likely be a required step in bringing the proposed tour concept into being.

Much closer consultation and agreement is needed between the EB and IPC on issues that are likely to affect parachuting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Windsor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Windsor
President, IPC
September 19, 2011