



CIA NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



With contributions
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Sanne Haarhuis
Katie Griggs
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Ver. 3 17/11/23

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The end of 2023 is just around the corner, it seems time does just fly by. The Ballooning Commission has had a very constructive year with all of our major events being successfully completed.

This coming March we will be heading to Lausanne for our annual meeting. This will be three straight years the Ballooning Commission has put together a face-to-face meeting. Some FAI Commissions have been struggling with logistical and issues caused by COVID and still have not been able to hold a face-to-face meeting.

After three consecutive online conferences held by the FAI the 117th General Conference was held in Dayton, Ohio, USA on October 26th and 27th. Forty-five Members were in attendance and 12 Commissions were represented. I was not able to attend because of a conflict with a balloon event I organized in Santiago Mexico. Sanne Haarhuis, our Secretary stood in for the CIA and did a fantastic job. The officers put together a slide show presentation that I understand was the hit of the General Conference. The slide show had pictures of this year's Gordon Bennett teams' tracks across the United States and landing as far as the east coast. Video clips of hot air balloons converging on targets as they do so well. Highlighting some of our technology gave delegates some very exciting stuff to see. I believe Sanne got a standing ovation from the exciting and enthusiastic way she gave the presentation. Many thanks for the Bureau for great team effort in putting the presentation package together. The 2024 General Conference will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

I would like to remind you to make nominations for our awards. Has someone in your country made an outstanding flight or major contribution to our sport? There are four categories for a Montgolfier Diploma. You may also want to look into submitting someone for an Air Sport Medal. For someone who has put in a lifetime of contributions or is always finishing at the top in balloon events we, have the FAI Hall of Fame they can be nominated for.

Obviously, Delegates are key players in your country with regards to ballooning activity. The CIA needs your help in seeking out organizers who have the capabilities of putting on major competitive events. Please help with this important issue.

As this year comes to an end, we have a lot to be proud of in the Ballooning Commission. We have such a great group of experts who keep the Ballooning Commission the best commission within the FAI. The Bureau meets every month by zoom to make sure everything keeps running in the best possible manner.

I would like to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing all of you in March.

Mark Sullivan

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1. BUREAU DECISIONS 2023

Please find the 2023 bureau decisions in the attachment or on the website.

2. CIA PLENARY MEETING 13-16 MARCH 2024 – LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

The bureau would like to invite you to join the plenary.

13-16 March 2024

The next FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) Plenary Meeting as well as Sub-Committees and Working Group Meetings will take place in Maison du Sport International (MSI), Avenue de Rhodanie 54, 1007- Lausanne.

Agenda Items:

All items for inclusion in the agenda for the 2024 Plenary Meeting must reach the CIA President and the CIA Secretary:

NO LATER THAN 31st December 2023.

These will then be included in the agenda, which will be mailed late January 2024. Agenda items should include any supporting documentation and position papers, all of which will be included with the agenda.

Remember that the CIA Plenary Meeting cannot make final decisions on items that do not appear on the agenda.

Hotel Booking

We have made arrangements with Hotel Ibis Lausanne Centre, Rue de Maupas 20 in Lausanne at an FAI rate of CHF 166.00 single room/per night, breakfast and city tax included.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel by email (H6772@accor.com) or phone (+41 (0) 21 340 07 07) and mention CODE: FAI . Please ensure that this is done before February 29th, 2024, to guarantee the above preferential rate and availability.

Please request your free “Lausanne Travel Card” from the hotel when you register. This card will allow you to use all public transport and more in Lausanne and surrounding area during your stay.

Meeting materials

All meeting materials will be published in the FAI cloud:


- <https://cloud.fai.org/s/wZZEPqzkZM4eA7B>

Open Forum and Opening Cocktail

Thursday afternoon is reserved as time for open discussion. If you have any topic you would like to be discussed, or have something to present, please get in contact with the secretary to see what arrangements can be made.

Afterwards the bureau would like to invite everyone to an opening cocktail in Maison du Sport.

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

<div></div>	<div>CIA PLENARY MEETING 2024 15-16 March Maison du Sport Interantional (MSI), Lausanne</div>																																																												
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<div>CONFERENCE DETAILS</div> <div>DATES</div> <div>13 & 14 March SC and WG Meetings 15 & 16 March Plenary Meeting</div> <div>MEETING LOCATION</div> <div>Maison du Sport International (MSI) Av. De Rhodanie 54 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland</div> <div>LUNCH:</div> <div>Lunch breaks will be 1.5 hours, and lunch is not provided by CIA. There are restaurants and shops close by.</div> <div>REGISTRATION</div> <div>Please register by ?lling the online form: https://surveys.fai.org/index.php/236113?lang=en</div> <div>ACCOMMODATION</div> <div>Ibis Lausanne Centre Rue de Maupas 20, 1004 Lausanne 0041 – 21 340 07 07</div> <div>Hotel rate:</div> <div>CHF 166.00 single room/per night CHF 186.00 double room/per night Breakfast, transport card in Lausanne area and city tax included in above price.</div> <div>Hotel reservations:</div> <div>Via H6772@accor.com or by phone +41 21 340 07 07 by mentioning CODE: FAI. Please ensure that this is done before 29th February 2024, to guarantee the above preference rate and availability.</div>	<div>(Preliminary) TIMETABLE</div> <div>Tuesday 12th March 2024 – evening Bureau meeting (Yellow meeting room)</div> <table><tr><td>ROOMS</td><td>Yellow</td><td>Olympic</td><td>Blue + Green</td></tr></table> <div>Wednesday 13th March 2024</div> <table><tr><td>08:30-10:15</td><td>BA/BX WG</td><td>Records SC</td><td>AX WG</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Co?ee Break: 10:15 – 10:45</td></tr><tr><td>10:45 -12:30</td><td>AA/AM WG</td><td>S & SC WG</td><td>AX WG</td></tr></table> <div>LUNCH BREAK 12.30 – 14.00</div> <table><tr><td>14:00-15:45</td><td>Jury Board</td><td>PMR</td><td>Event Development</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Co?ee Break: 15:45 – 16:15</td></tr><tr><td>16:15-18:00</td><td>Scoring WG</td><td>PMR</td><td>Event Development</td></tr></table> <div>Thursday 14th March 2024</div> <table><tr><td>08:30-10:15</td><td>Rules SC</td><td>Safety & Education</td><td>Competitors</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Co?ee Break: 10:15 – 10:45</td></tr><tr><td>10:45 -12:30</td><td>O? cials SC</td><td>Safety & Education</td><td>Competitors</td></tr></table> <div>LUNCH BREAK 12.30 - 1400</div> <table><tr><td>14:00-15:45</td><td>Hall of Fame</td><td></td><td>New Technology</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Co?ee Break: 15:45 – 16:15</td></tr><tr><td>16:15-17:45</td><td colspan="3">Open Forum (Blue + Green)</td></tr></table> <div>18h00 Opening cocktail (in Maison du Sport International)</div> <div>Friday 15th March 2024</div> <table><tr><td>ROOM</td><td>Blue + Green room</td></tr><tr><td>09.00-18:00</td><td>PLENARY MEETING</td></tr></table> <div>19:30 Dinner at own costs</div> <div>Saturday 16th March 2024</div> <table><tr><td>ROOM</td><td>Blue + Green room</td></tr><tr><td>09.00-18:00</td><td>PLENARY MEETING</td></tr></table>	ROOMS	Yellow	Olympic	Blue + Green	08:30-10:15	BA/BX WG	Records SC	AX WG	Co?ee Break: 10:15 – 10:45				10:45 -12:30	AA/AM WG	S & SC WG	AX WG	14:00-15:45	Jury Board	PMR	Event Development	Co?ee Break: 15:45 – 16:15				16:15-18:00	Scoring WG	PMR	Event Development	08:30-10:15	Rules SC	Safety & Education	Competitors	Co?ee Break: 10:15 – 10:45				10:45 -12:30	O? cials SC	Safety & Education	Competitors	14:00-15:45	Hall of Fame		New Technology	Co?ee Break: 15:45 – 16:15				16:15-17:45	Open Forum (Blue + Green)			ROOM	Blue + Green room	09.00-18:00	PLENARY MEETING	ROOM	Blue + Green room	09.00-18:00	PLENARY MEETING
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3. SUB-COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP E-MEETINGS

3.1. INTRODUCTION

Like last year we have given all subcommittees and working groups the opportunity to hold one or more working sessions online prior to the plenary week.

These online e-meetings are NOT intended to replace the meetings scheduled the 2 days before the plenary, but they are additional sessions to prepare and start the work in the subcommittees or working groups. The weeks up to the plenary can then be used to do some homework and prepare for shorter and more efficient on-site meetings just before the plenary.

3.2. REGISTRATION AND LINK DISTRIBUTION

To attend the online meetings, you must register using the registration link below before the day before the date of the meeting you want to attend. This registration is only for the online meetings, not the face-to-face meetings nor the plenary in March 2024.

[Link to the registration form](#)

You will receive a link to the zoom meeting the day before the meeting is held.

Once you received the link, do not share the link with others. For reasons of security the Zoom session login details MUST NOT be communicated, distributed or published in any way at any time, especially via social media. This is essential to prevent unauthorised persons from joining and potentially disrupting the session. If this does occur the chairpersons will abandon the session immediately and circulate fresh details to people who have registered to initiate a new session.

3.3. PROCEDURES FOR THE SESSIONS - ZOOM

i) Connecting

Please connect to the meetings 5-10 minutes beforehand so that any technical issues (on your side or the organiser's) can be identified and resolved.

The meeting will start strictly at the identified start times.

You can join the Zoom meeting via computer, tablet or mobile phone, using the link sent to you.

To better understand who is presenting or speaking, please change your name in your profile settings on the Zoom website (not the application itself) to the following scheme:

- IOC country code (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_IOC_country_codes) followed by
- DEL (for delegates), ALT (for alternates), MEM (for other WG or SC memberships) or OBS (for observer) followed by
- your SURNAME and name

Example: LUX DEL WEBER Claude or GER OBS SURNAME name

ii) Audio

It is essential that unless you are given approval to speak you should **keep your microphone muted**. Speakers will be organised to speak in an orderly manner.

Depending on the number of participants, the transmission of unexpected comments and/or background noise can seriously interrupt proceedings, so, if necessary, all participants will have their audio stream muted by the chairperson or moderator.

Use a headset (e.g. your mobile phone ear buds/headset) to secure the clearest voice quality and the least noise (if this is not possible, please check your phone setup to ensure minimal disruption). Conduct a sound check prior to the meeting.

Please remain on mute unless invited to talk (regardless of whether you're using a laptop, smartphone, direct dial-in via phone, etc). When unmuted, please avoid activities that may create background noise (e.g. typing on a keyboard, moving a chair etc).

3.4. SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Session details
Working groups (WG) Subcommittees (SC) and other groups Dates might change if the commission wishes to meet at another moment. Updates will be in the registration link and will be sent to people who registered for that meeting.		
Tuesday 05 Dec 2023	13:00-15:30 UTC	Event Development Service
Thursday 07 Dec 2023	13:00-15:30 UTC	Hall of Fame
Tuesday 12 Dec 2023	13:00-15:30 UTC	Records
Thursday 14 Dec 2023	13:00-15:30 UTC	Safety and education SC
Tuesday 19 Dec 2023	13:00-15:30 UTC	Competitors SC
Thursday 21 Dec 2023	13:00-15:30 UTC	AX WG
Tuesday 09 Jan 2024	13:00-15:30 UTC	AA/AM WG
Tuesday 16 Jan 2024	13:00-15:30 UTC	Statutes, By-Laws & Sporting Code WG
Tuesday 16 Jan 2024	12:00-14:00 UTC	PMR
Thursday 18 Jan 2024	13:00-15:30 UTC	BA/BX WG
Tuesday 23 Jan 2024	13:00-15:30 UTC	Scoring WG
Thursday 25 Jan 2024	13:00-15:30 UTC	New Technology SC
Tuesday 30 Jan 2024	13:00-15:30 UTC	Officials

4. FAI/CIA CATEGORY ONE COMPETITIONS 2023

4.1. 66TH COUPE AERONAUTIQUE GORDON BENNETT IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM (USA)

The 66th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett was hosted in Albuquerque, NM (USA) this year. Thanks to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta for delivering the winning bid (the other bid came from Poland) to organize this event earlier this year in 2023.



17 teams from 9 different countries took off, on the night of October 7th. This year's race was an absolutely thrilling competition with a breathtaking final duel resulting in the triumph of Eric Decellières & Benoit Havret of France (Team FRA-2)

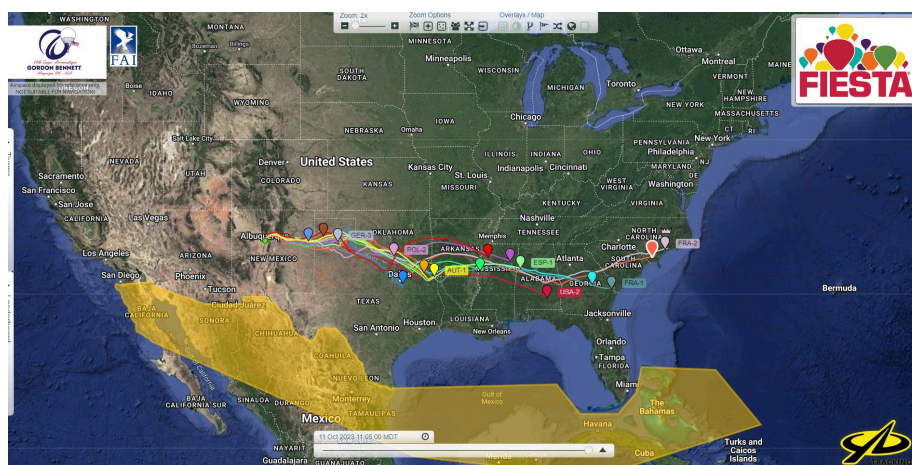
Results;

1. Decellières / Havret (FRA 2)
2. Eimers / Eimers (GER 1)
3. Pelard / Peterle (FRA 1)

It is the French pair's first win in aviation's oldest competition. They flew a remarkable distance of 2661.40 km during an 85h 49m flight after launching alongside 16 other balloons from Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA on Saturday 7 October and eventually landing near Jacksonville, North Carolina, very near the Atlantic Coast on Wednesday morning.

The FRA-2 victory does not come as a surprise. In just a few short years, Decellières and Havret have established themselves as an important presence in the world of gas ballooning. They finished second in the 2021 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, and previously attained impressive Gordon Bennett results with two top-five finishes and an additional four top-tens. Moreover, Eric Decellières came in second in the America's Challenge in 2019 alongside the great Gordon Bennett champion Vincent Lèys.

Their reputation precedes them as tough and gutsy competitors who always give their utmost effort. Outside of competition, Decellières is a businessman and entrepreneur, and Havret works in real estate.



THE DREAM COMES TRUE - BY ERIC DECELLIÈRES

After the step back of Switzerland from organizing the 66th Gordon Bennett, we were pleased to hear that the GB will be hold in ALBUQUERQUE this year ! Most of the European pilots dream of flying hot air in ABQ, but getting the chance to fly gas there is more than a dream ! The continent is so wide that you may hope to make a great and long flight through USA (and maybe Canada), and of course perform very well ! More than that, everyone knows the usually perfect organization of the ABQ Balloon fiesta team !

Benoit Havret and myself and our team made a 6 months preparation, based on our last 4 Gordon Bennett experiences, building on what was good but also learning from bad stories of the past, especially that famous 2nd place in 2021 where SUI1 overtook us by 3km just at the end of the race, after 85hours flight.....We thought : « never again ! ».

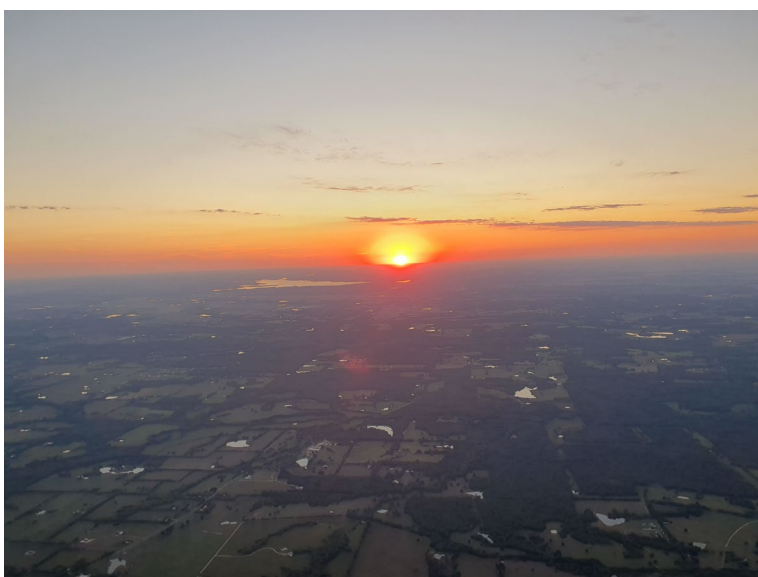
As per the last 10 years, the common command center of the 3 French Teams performed well this year with 2 balloons on the podium. This choice has been also adopted by Germany last year (2 balloons on the podium) and also 2 USA teams this year (finishing in 4th and 5th place as well).



As it is very difficult to fly hydrogen in France (very expensive and shortage problems), we try to do like other countries (Poland, Spain, USA, Lithuania, etc...), i.e. going to fly in Gladbeck in Germany, where facilities and price are so convenient ! And the Eimers family so welcoming to the world gas community ! Thanks to them ! But unfortunately with Benoit, we did not have chance (nor time) to fly together since 4 years ! Even if it seems completely unbelievable, we only flew gas 4 times together....in 4 Gordon Bennett races ! (ending 16th, 2nd, 5th and 1st place).

Knowing perfectly well the super potential of our balloon « The Little Prince » that Vincent Leys lent us once again with confidence (this balloon already won 6 times the GB before that race), we knew that a very very long race will be a kind of an advantage for us if everything went well !

And everything went well !



All American air traffic controllers were admirably cooperative, thanks to the good preparation of the event director and his ATC team! Thanks to them! And we had 4 days of perfect weather !

Several teams were expected to perform well and be able to fly 4 nights, especially the favorite team of Willie and Benni Eimers, current world champions ! Everyone admires Willie and his 5 gold medals, 9 silver medals and 1 bronze medal in 29 Gordon Bennett races ! This year would be his 30th Gordon Bennett and he has more than 9000 flight hours !

And another point, despite our «little experience» in front of many others, I was in my 7th race (6GB and 1 America's Challenge) and Benoit in his 4th GB race and we could better perceive the performance of the balloon, the course of things, the self-confidence, the zen attitude that we acquired, even with the worry that "it sucks"..... and you really feel like you're one with the balloon, you feel it live, move, almost even "breathe".



Before taking-off, our command center told us that it would be a very long flight, probably four nights, and that we'll have to be very precise/cautious with the ballast. The typical exit of Albuquerque would be to the north-north east in order to turn around Sandia peak. Then, it was important to stay in the wind flow, but not too early in order to follow the leaders....like GER1.....Always much better to be behind and adapt the race if needed...After 2 days, 6 balloons had already landed. The flight was very stable and quite easy for everyone due to the very good weather.

The last night was very difficult, we flew quickly at 26-27 knots at very low altitude (between 120 m and 200m) and this required a very high vigilance to stay in the low level jet without using any ballast for almost 7 hours ! Experience was important here !

We went right on GER1 path by foxing on them with 3 hours of lag....GER1 attempted a manoeuvre to quickly slow down and expecting that we will overtake them, but we did exactly the same to go on flying parallel to them....and behind them !

Finally, we managed to go more north-east than the German team, and quicker so that we got a safe distance margin. The 4th day, we climbed up to 6000ft, thinking that we'll have to fly until the evening and close to 88-90 hours flight, thinking that GER1 would do the same.....but when our command center called us to say « GER1 has landed !!! ».....we had a strange mixed feeling of surprise and joy ! Then, preparing the landing with low speed wind was not as easy as expected since there was 1-2 kt only with variable directions.....and flying over a large housing subdivision, there were about 10 police cars following us and shouting with a loudspeaker « Be carefull with powerlines ! Don't land here ».....and we were answering « No worries, everything is fine.....we have time » a kind of a bit surreal discussion ! 😊)))

For the landing, Benoit then managed to find a very nice and large grass spot in a private property after 85h43 min in the basket! We didn't even have time to hug warmly because the NCIS agent was there immediately to interview us with the flying procedures and ATC logs! As we got contact and clearance, everything went fine with him in less than half an hour, especially after giving a call to the ABQ race command center to confirm everything about the race ! In fact, the military air base was a bit stressed

by seeing a white balloon (fortunately a manned balloon !) because they were the ones that faced the chinese spy-balloon a few months ago (February) near Myrtle beach in South Carolina !



What a great human adventure between 2 pilots, but especially with all the command center friends with us, the 2 other French teams in ABQ, and our 4 super friends to retrieve (Bernard Bonnel, Alain Fabre, Philippe Elizabeth and Babeth Ferreira) who will have driven about 4000 miles (6500kms) by van in 6 days!

What a privilege to be 2 French teams on the podium, especially with Benoit Pelard and Benoit Peterlé for their last Gordon Bennett race, and with the national anthem for the winner (La Marseillaise !). The emotion is difficult to describe, so deep, so intense..... you just think about almost 15 years of work, all the friends that helped you, all your loved ones that supported and encouraged you !

2661,4km in 85h43min, what a flight! And a new french distance record ! (I was already holding it with Vincent Leys and our 2136km flight in 2019 during the America's challenge ! Now, the record is more than 500km higher ! Well' need to come back to North America to try to beat it as I'm afraid Europe is too small now.... 😊)))

And thank you my friend Benoit Havret for this confidence and pleasure of flight that we shared! It took a lot of self-sacrifice, resistance, motivation, a desire to win, a fusion between the pilots to achieve such a result..... I re-read with astonishment the 22 pages of logs we took (Time, altitude, Direction, speed, waypoints, ATC contacts, and others).. during these 86h that finally seemed to pass very quickly.... It makes us laugh when people say that spending 8 hours on a plane to go to the USA is a long time! 😊))))

We want to compete again, and with the next 2 editions taking place in Germany and France, we will be ready to fight again, while being very humble that the race is still very difficult, and that we can also finish last next year! But the important thing is to participate and have fun safely!

4.2. 6TH FAI JUNIOR WORLD HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPIONSHIP IN GRUDZIADZ (POL)

A total of 45 junior pilots from 17 countries were represented in this event and competed for the title of Junior World Champion.



After 9 flights and 40 tasks the winners were declared as follows :

4. Jakub Dziedzic (POL)
5. Paul Cuenot (FRA)
6. Daniel Gregory (UK)



Previous Junior World Champion and previous World Champion were at the event on behalf of the CIA to present this event to the world. Together with Thomas Hook he made videos and Live streams. Click on the video below to watch one of their daily compilation videos.



FROM PRESSURE TO FUN - BY JAKUB DZIEDZIAK

6th FAI Junior World was my second championship of FAI event. The plan for this competition was simple, have a lot of fun flying and don't make stupid mistakes.

In 2021 in Leszno I put a lot of pressure on myself while flying and this translated into a poor result. In Grudziadz it was completely different. We gave 100% at every competition, but we didn't break down when the result was poor, we forgot about it and flew on. A calm approach allowed us to make 9 equal flights without making more mistakes.

At the end of the competition when our score was good and we were trying to keep it, I had to fight not only with other competitors but also with myself because there was a lot of nerves and stress, which did not help in making good decisions during the flight.



Thanks to my crew and the entire Polish team we managed to win the gold and fulfill one of the balloon dreams. Grudziadz was and will be a special place for me because this is where I took my first steps and where I managed to win such an important competition for me. This was my last competition in the junior category, now we are focusing on competing with older collegians.



4.3. 5TH FAI WOMEN'S WORLD HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPIONSHIP IN NORTHAM (AUS)

30 pilots from 11 countries had been looking forward to this event for a long time. This event had been postponed during Covid and everyone was happy to meet after such a long time. The organizing committee from the Northam Aeroclub did a great job in putting together this Cat 1 event. With coffee before the briefings and many social gatherings after flights.

After 8 flights and 20 tasks the winners were declared as follows :

7. Nicola Scaife (AUS)
8. Stephanie Hemmings (UK)
9. Sanne Haarhuis (NED)



5. FAI / CIA CATEGORY ONE COMPETITION 2024

5.1. 67TH COUPE AERONAUTIQUE GORDON BENNETT 2024

The bureau accepted the Sanction Application from Germany for the 67th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett 2024 to be held in Munster, Germany.

The event will be held from 12 September until 16 September 2024.



67th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett

12th – 21st September 2024

Münster / Germany



Official schedule

Thursday, 12th September 2024

0800 - 2200	Filling of sand bags	Launch Site Schloss Münster
0900 - 1400	Registration for teams	Mövenpick Hotel Münster
1500 - 1700	General briefing	Mövenpick Hotel Münster
1800 - 1930	Opening ceremony	Schloss Münster, Auditorium
2000 - 2200	Dinner	Mövenpick Hotel Münster

Friday, 13th September 2024

0800 - 1200	Filling of sand bags	Launch Site Schloss Münster
1200 - 1300	Briefing	Launch Site, field office
1000	Opening of launch site / Preparation of balloons	
1300	Ready for inflation	
1400	Lunch for teams and officials	Launch Site, VIP Catering
1800	Take off Gordon Bennett 2024	
1900	Display of Hot Air balloons	
2030 - 2100	Night glow of hot air balloons	Launch Site Schloss Münster

Saturday, 14th - Monday, 16th September 2024

Alternative date for GB take off

Hot air take off Saturday and Sunday morning and evening at the launch site. Briefing at 0630 and 1700 at the launch site

Night glow Saturday at 2030-2100.

Friday, 20th September 2024

1800	Welcome back party
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Saturday, 21st September 2024

1800	Closing ceremony and Awards banquet	Mövenpick Hotel Münster
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All times are local. Addresses and routes are published separately.

Schedule is subject to changes.

Sebastian Eimers s.eimers@gordonbennett2024.de

5.2. 25TH FAI WORLD HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPIONSHIP 2024



The 25th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championships 2024 will be held in Szeged Hungary.

A new website should be launched soon, and the new logo and schedule can already be found on www.worlds2024.eu

The event will take place from 8 -14 September. With practice flight opportunities and the Szeged International Airshow on 6-7 September.



6. FAI/CIA EVENT CALENDAR

The Event Development Service (EDS) invites and encourages all NAC's and Delegates to review the Championship Calendar to determine what competitions they might consider hosting in their country. If your country has never run a major International event, you may consider that a smaller event such as a CIA Sporting Event or a Junior or Women's championship would be a good entry level. If you would like further advice on what is required to host an event or on completing the sanction application form, please e-mail Lindsay Muir (CIA Event Development Subcommittee Chairman) for assistance – lindsay@plasmadoc.co.uk

CIA CATEGORY 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS CALENDAR AND EVENTS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

At this moment the following events are not sanctioned because there was no application within the timeframe of the CIA.

- Junior World Championship 2025
- Womens World Championship 2025

The following events are open for sanctioning during the coming plenary meeting in Lausanne in March of 2024. We have not received any intentions to bid for organizing this event. If you have any interest, please reach out to the Event Development Subcommittee. The Sanction Application and related documents have to be sent in before 15 January 2024.

- World Championship 2026 (NO BIDS have been sent in so far)

If you are considering a bid for events beyond 2026. This would be the year to send in an intention to bid and start working on the sanction application together with the Event Development Subcommittee.

- European Championship 2027
- Junior World Championship 2027
- Womens World Championship 2027

Section 1 of the FAI Sporting Code states that "World Championships in the same sub-class, age or gender category shall not be held closer to each other than approximately two years" and "Continental Regional Championships in the same sub-class, age or gender category shall not be held more than once a year on the same continent".

The FAI World Air Games is the premier, international, multi-discipline air sports event conducted under FAI rules but is included in the table for completeness.

This following calendar does not show CIA Sporting Events. The objectives of Sporting Events include: encouraging participation in international events in which pilots of all abilities can take part and facilitating fair "entry level" competition using simplified rules that apply equally to all CIA Sporting Events and participants

EVENT	CATEGORY	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
WORLD AIR GAMES – NONE SCHEDULED						
HOT AIR BALLOONS (AX)						
General	World		Bids from Mallorca & Hungary		OPEN	
	Continental	Bid from Canada (withdrawn). No European Championship		Austria		Open bids by 2025
Women's	World	Australia		X		Open bids by 2025
	Continental		OPEN Bids by 2022		OPEN Bids by 2024	
Junior	World	Poland		X		Open bids by 2025
	Continental		OPEN Bids by 2022		OPEN Bids by 2024	
GAS BALLOONS (AA)						
General	World	No Event				
	Continental	No Event				
Women's	World	No Event				
	Continental	No Event				
Junior	World	No Event				
	Continental	No Event				
GORDON BENNETT RACE						
		USA (Switzerland withdrawn)	Germany Winner 2022	France Winner 2023		
HOT AIR AIRSHIPS (BX)						
General	World	No Event				
	Continental	No Event				
Women's	World	No Event				
	Continental	No Event				
Junior	World	No Event				
	Continental	No Event				
1 Grey background indicates NOT open for bidding in that year.						

Further information can be found in Section 1 of the Sporting Code particularly Section 5 and Annex - <https://www.fai.org/cia-documents>.

7. CIA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BALLOON YOUTH CAMPS

Applications due Friday, 15th December 2023

At the 2021 FAI Ballooning Commission/CIA ePlenary meeting, the delegates approved reinstatement of the CIA funding of the Balloon Youth Camp (BYC) scholarships. Balloon Youth Camps are an important part of the future of ballooning. From past camps, an impressive number of pilots and P.U.T. have been camp attendees.

The 2024 CIA budget for BYC scholarships will be determined at the 2024 CIA plenary meeting in Switzerland.

Available funds will be distributed as follows:

- 1) Maximum one (1) BYC scholarship per country per year.
- 2) Approved CIA Budget of CHF (TBD) to be shared across approved BYC applicants with a maximum payment of CHF1000 per country.

The application for CIA Scholarship for BYC, as well as the CIA BYC Guidelines, can be found on the CIA documents page. <https://www.fai.org/cia-documents>

NOTE: On **Documents** Main Menu, Scroll down to **Balloon Youth Camp** and click on it.

DEADLINE FOR 2024 APPLICATION SUBMISSION : Friday, 15th December 2023.

Any questions, please contact Debbie Spaeth, CIA PMR Chair, email: CIA-media@fai.org.

7.1. REPORT FROM BFA YOUTH CAMPS – 3 SLEEPOVER AND 2 EVENT CAMPS

Summary

We had a total of 60 young people attending the camps in 2023. All camps were successful, in that the campers could learn from experienced pilots and get hands-on experiences with the balloons.

Since 2014, there have been over 37 campers who have become pilots.

By Katie Griggs, Chair BFA Youth Programs (USA)



iii) Southeast Balloon Camp in Georgia

Our first camp was the Southeast Balloon Camp held in Cordele, Georgia on June 20-25. This was a 5-day traditional sleepover type of camp. There were 21 campers.

The facility was a large church camp property in the Georgia countryside. It had ample accommodations with extensive fields, a large kitchen, dining hall, command center, dorms, and a swimming pool.

Duncan Dunavent was the director. Duncan was once a camper himself in many camps. He became a pilot and then become a staff member in the Georgia camp, and now has taken the leadership role for the camp.



The weather made things difficult with heavy rains before camp, leaving the area deep with mud. Tethering and flying came late in the week, but all campers got a chance for hands-on experience with the equipment.

Classroom discussions included Powerline/Crew Resource Management, Charts/Airspace, Knots/tethering/types of Ballooning, Fire Extinguishers, Flight Ops, Refueling, Regulations, and more.

Activities included Tye Dye, model balloon building, trip to the Museum, flight operations, and tethering.

iv) Rio Grande Balloon Camp in Albuquerque

Our second camp was the Rio Grande Balloon Camp held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on July 8-13. This was another 5-day traditional sleep over type of camp. There were 15 campers.

The facility was a combination of the University of New Mexico for dorm rooms and some meals, the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum for classroom activities, and the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Park for flight and tether activities.

Neida Courtney Bueno is the director. Neida has directed multiple camps and is a long-time pilot and staff member for AIBF.

Campers gained hands-on experience with two morning flights. They could inflate, deflate, and get tether experience. They built and flew tissue paper balloons. Then also rode the tram and hiked the crest trail of the Sandia Mountains. They discovered they could stuff 11 campers into an old-fashioned phone booth.

Classroom topics covered various subjects such as weather, aeronautical decision making, balloon safety, knot tying, propane safety, commercial operations, balloon repairs, wildfire prevention, and more.



v) [High Sierra Balloon Camp in Nevada](#)

Our third camp was the High Sierra Balloon Camp held at Lake Tahoe, near Reno, Nevada on July 16-21. This was also a 5-day traditional sleepover type of camp.

The facility was a 4-H camp on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Flying operations were a 45-minute drive down the mountain in the Carson Valley.

Karalyn Mumm served as director for many years and has been active in the camps for even longer.

They got in 3 flight operations where all campers gained hands-on experience. The campers participated in tethered flight operations that involved the 4-H campers from a separate camp at the same facility.

The activities include building airspace models, competition flying discussion, balloon walk, candlestick operation, crown line tug-of-war, and an equilibrium game.

vi) [DinahSoar Youth Camp in Utah](#)



Our first event camp was the DinahSoar BFA Youth Camp. This camp was in Vernal, Utah during the DinahSoar Balloon Event.

There were 9 campers at this event.

Kent Barnes has directed this camp for the last three years. Kent also serves on the BFA Youth Program committee.

Subjects covered in the classroom session: weather, ballooning safety, special shape flying, airport operations, basket dive/system comparisons, knots and rope handling, crew roles and responsibilities, and ballooning history.

We selected 3 commercial-rated pilots to provide the flights for the campers. The pilots taught their 3 campers about all aspects of flying, including weather, balloon setup, launching, maneuvers, landings, and post flight procedures.

8. FAI / CIA DOCUMENT CLOUD

As discussed, and approved in the last Plenary, the bureau has worked on setting up the FAI cloud to be available for all working groups and subcommittees.

The goal of the transition to the FAI cloud is to ensure longevity and access in case of change of control in subcommittees.



As a minimum we would like the following files to be managed in the FAI cloud:

- Any source documents and files for rules and other published documents.
- Documents used to ratify records.
- Documents related to the sanction of events.
- Documents of historic interest.



Access is available via the web browser. We have also purchased licenses of Mountain Duck for each WG/Sc member which can be used on Mac or Windows to synchronize local files with the FAI cloud. This will make the use of the cloud as easy as any other collaboration platforms such as Dropbox.

We will roll out soon. The WG/Sc chairs will receive the login for the folders which they can share with their group. Along with the login, we will also distribute a guideline document which explains the cloud access and the setup of Mountain Duck.

We will also provide support during the CIA plenary in March.

Marc André

9. CIA HALL OF FAME AND MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMAS

Our sport depends a lot on the enthusiasm, work and devotion to our sport by many individuals and groups of persons. They spend a lot of time to spread and develop the sport through education, instruction, event organization or technical development.

What can we do to recognize their work and to reward them?

One way is to nominate them for an award.

The two ways to award within the CIA is through a Montgolfier diploma or nominating someone for the CIA Hall of Fame.

This year's awardees were:

Montgolfier Contribution to the sport: Peter Blaser

Montgolfier Best Performance Hot Air: Henk Broeder

Montgolfier Best Performance Gas: Benjamin Eimers



Inducted in the Hall of Fame:

Alive: Dewey Reinhard

Posthumous: Phil Dunnington



In order to get inducted into the Hall of Fame someone needs to be accepted into the pool of nominees. The nomination for the pool and the nomination for the induction has to come from the NAC.

Every year the Albuquerque Balloon Museum hosts an induction ceremony for that year's nominees. The inductees or family members are invited to come join this special ceremony where we show our gratitude for everything they have done for our sport.

Nominations shall be made by NAC's to FAI office, so the trick is to make the NAC's aware of possible candidates.

We would like to encourage all balloon federations and balloon clubs to make use of this way of recognizing the hard-working volunteers in our community. Think of people you know who are giving a contribution to the sport and how you can award them. Make your proposals to your national FAI members.

If you know someone you believe should be rewarded for their time and efforts but don't know what award to nominate them for. Please reach out to the CIA bureau to see how we can support you.



9.1. THE MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMA

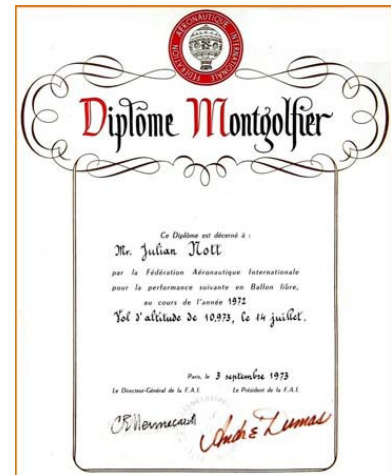
One of the awards within the CIA is **The MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMA**. (FAI By-Laws, chapter 7.2)

Awarded for :

- Best performance during the previous Montgolfier year
 - Gas Balloons
 - Hot Air Balloons
 - Rozière Balloons
- For a major contribution to the development of ballooning in general.

Nomination forms need to be send by NAC's to FAI office latest 60 days before the CIA plenary meeting. This year de deadline for nominations is

16 January, 2024



Note: The Montgolfier year starts on November 21st and ends on November 20th the following year.

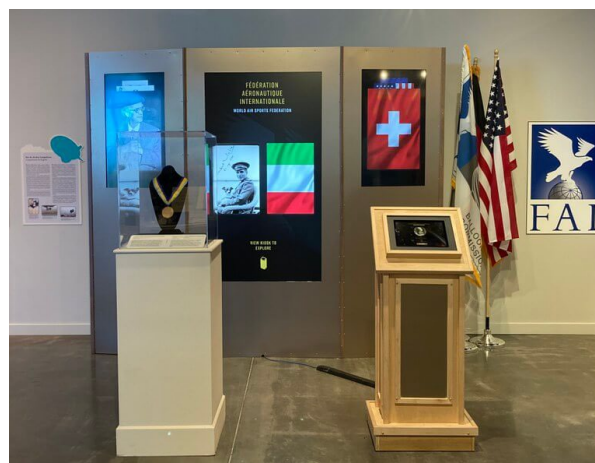
9.2. HALL OF FAME

Another way to recognize someone within the CIA is nominating them for the **HALL OF FAME**.

The Hall of Fame recognizes those who have made significant contributions to Aerostation, including those who have excelled in business, history, design and engineering, in addition to those better known for their contributions in flying balloons or airships of any category, in competition or records.

Inductees are elected into the CIA International Hall of Fame by the Selection Committee. Each year they will normally elect one living and one posthumous inductee from the list of nominated candidates.

To nominate someone for the Hall of Fame you need to fill out the nomination form and send it to the CIA secretary sanne@sannehaarhus.nl



9.3. FAI AIR SPORT MEDAL

Within the FAI there are many awards one is the **FAI AIR SPORT MEDAL**. FAI Statutes 10.7

Awarded for:

- For outstanding services in air sport activities, training or education.

This medal was established by the FAI Council for the 100th anniversary of Lilienthal's first flights. It may be awarded, at any time, to individuals or groups for outstanding services in connection with air sport activities like work in FAI commissions, organising World and Continental Championships, training and educating new pilots, or for promoting aviation in general, especially with regard to young people.

Order forms are available at the FAI office, email: members@fai.org

Invoice for CHF 100 will be sent from FAI office.

There are many more awards and Air Sport Medals within the FAI and CIA. Hans Åkerstedt has created an overview of these. This document can be found as an appendix to this newsletter.



10. CIA JUROR'S LIST 2023

The 2023 list of approved Jurors below is to be used when making nominations for Juries for 2024 Sanctioned Events. You can find the list on the documents section of the FAI/CIA website.

<https://fai.org/cia-documents> [under *Officials* line/tab]

SENIOR LEVEL JURORS	BX	WMF	NAC	INTERMEDIATE LEVEL JURORS	BX	WMF	NAC	ENTRY LEVEL JURORS	BX	WMF	NAC
LOCKYER Garry	X		CAN	HEIRMAN Gerrit	X		BEL	BARROW Adam			AUS
CAMERON Don	X		GBR	PAENEN Rudy	X	X	BEL	LACEY Gary			AUS
MUIR Lindsay			GBR	VAN GEYTE Luc	X	X	BEL	PUTLAND Gren			AUS
FINK Thomas		X	GER	VAN Hu?el Nancy			BEL	WILSON Ruth		X	AUS
WEBER Claude		X	LUX	VAN DE VELDE Moniek		X	BEL	DOBBELAERE Marnix		X	BEL
WEBER Jean Claude	X		LUX	HAIM Salvator			BRA	GLEED David			CAN
BURKARD Jakob	X		SUI	STEVENS Mary Anne	X		CAN	KNUCHEL Cathy			CAN
AKERSTEDT Hans	X		SWE	MORGAN Dave	X		GBR	LI Tong			CHN
GRUBBSTRÖM John			SWE	HAGGENEY Dominik	X		GER	HANSEN Torben			DEN
STENER Bengt		X	SWE	PETERSEN Brita	X		GER	GRANGÉ Gérard			FRA
BRITTON Gary			USA	HIDAS Sandor	X		HUN	JONES Stephen		X	GBR
SPAETH Debbie	X	X	USA	PÁLHEGYI Zoltán	X		HUN	KEARLEY Patrick	X		GBR
SULLIVAN Mark			USA	OGGIONI Paolo		X	ITA	HANDL Stefan	X		GER
				ICHIYOSHI Sabu	X		JPN	MEINL Mike	X	X	GER
				SOEJIMA Hiromori		X	JPN	MEINL Sylvia	X	X	GER
				KAVOLIUS Linas	X		LTU	MÉSZÁROS László		X	HUN
				KOMAS Eugenijus	X	X	LTU	PAÁL Dávid			HUN
				PINKEVICIUS Deividas	X		LTU	FURUKAWA Hiromi		X	JPN
				VAN HELDEN Cees			NED	KOMZA Robertas			LTU
				KARNAUKOV Vladimir			RUS	KUCHCINSKI Tomasz			POL
				BARAN Jaroslav			SVK	BURANTSEV Aleksandr			RUS
				DAVIS John			USA	GIZATULINA Ilona	X		RUS
				MAGEE Kim			USA	MAVRIN Alexander			RUS
				SHERRILL Danny			USA	MENYAYLO Ivan			RUS
				SULLIVAN Maury			USA	MITYAGIN Yuri			RUS
								STARKOV Igor			RUS
								ANDRE Marc	X		SUI
								LOBASHOV Igor			UKR
								CAYTON Andy			USA
								CLIVER Harold			USA
								GILLIGAN Mike		X	USA
								JONES Jason			USA
								MAGEE Adam			USA
								PETREHN Paul		X	USA
								RAPP David	X		USA
								WALLACE Mike			USA
								WHITE Cheri			USA
13	6	4		25	13	6		37	6	10	
The above are qualified to serve as Jury President or Member at any type of event				The above are qualified to serve as Jury President at any type of event except World Championships, and as Jury Member at any type of event				The above are qualified to serve as Jury Member at any type of event.			

Total Jurors	75
Total Jurors BX	25
Total Jurors Watchmen?y Certified	20

CIA JURY BOARD 2023-05-11 JC Weber

11. THE CIA BALLOONING COMMISSION 2023/2024

The most current list of the delegates of the FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) is available online <http://www.fai.org/page/cia-delegates>

Country	Title	Name	Email
USA	President	Mr. Mark SULLIVAN	marksullivansr@gmail.com
France	President of Honour	Mr. André de SAINT SAUVEUR	
Germany	President of Honour	Mr. Horst HASSOLD	
UK	President of Honour	Mr. Jacques W. SOUKUP	
Luxembourg	President of Honour	Mr. Jean Claude WEBER	jwe@pt.lu
Luxembourg	1st Vice-President	Mr. Claude WEBER	claudeweber@mac.com
Germany	2nd Vice-President	Mr. Uwe SCHNEIDER	uwe.cia@dfsv.de
Switzerland	3rd Vice-President	Mr. Marc Andre	marc.andre@netline.ch
The Netherlands	Secretary	Ms. Sanne Haarhuis	sanne@sannehaarhuis.nl

Representative to	CASI	Mr. Mark Sullivan (USA)
Representative to	EnvC	Mr. Steve Ireland (AUS)
Representative to	CIEA	No representative
Representative to	CIMP	Dr. David Bareford (GBR)
Europe Air Sports		Bureau will appoint if necessary

12. CIA STATISTICS AND DELEGATE REPORTS

Last year in the Plenary, it was decided that as not enough countries reported their statistics back it took more effort to gather than it gave us information.

However we feel it is interesting to have some statistics about ballooning all over the world. We are working on a way to gather useful information in a user-friendly way.

I would like to encourage everyone to send in a delegate report of ballooning activity in your country before February 29 2024. Please attach photos to your report to show during the meeting or during coffee breaks.

13. CIA DONATIONS SCHEME

It used to be possible to make donations to the FAI/CIA by Credit Card. The FAI has moved away from this option. It is still possible to make a donation by anyone who wishes to do so by transferring it to the FAI bank account and mentioning CIA donation in the information line.

The account number is:

Beneficiary: Fédération Aéronautique Internationale
Address: Av. de Rhodanie 54, 1007 Lausanne, Switzerland
Bank: CREDIT SUISSE Ltd (Switzerland)
Bank Address: Rue du Lion d'Or 5/7, 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland
IBAN: CH65 0483 5045 7968 3100 0
Account Number: 457968-31
BIC/SWIFT: CRESCHZZ80A
Clearing Number: 4835

14. NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Thank you to those who submitted articles and photos.

Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the CIA Secretary at the email address below.

Sanne Haarhuis, CIA Secretary	Email: sanne@sannehaarhuis.nl
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Information Published

The CIA Newsletter is published by the CIA Secretary on behalf of the CIA Bureau. All information is believed to be correct at the time of publication, but no responsibility can be taken for any errors, omissions etc.



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info@fai.org

APPENDIX 1: FAI AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

by Hans Åkerstedt

Below is a summary of CIA/FAI awards and a short description of the nomination procedure.

CIA Sporting Badges, Sporting Code, section 1, chapter 8.

These are available in silver, gold, and gold with one-, two-, or three- diamonds. Each require recognized performance in distance, duration, altitude, and precision. Detailed requirements are found in the Sporting Code. Application form is available on the CIA web site, documents section. Send application to FAI office.

The MONTGOLFIER DIPLOMA. FAI By-Laws, chapter 7.2

Awarded for best performance during the previous Montgolfier year in gas, hot air or Rozière balloons and for a major contribution to the development of ballooning in general. Nominations by NAC's to FAI office latest 60 days before the CIA plenary meeting. Note: The Montgolfier year starts on November 21st and ends on November 20th the following year.

The SANTOS-DUMONT GOLD AIRSHIP MEDAL. FAI By-Laws, chapter 7.3

Equivalent for airship pilots of the Montgolfier diploma awarded for best sporting performance during the previous Montgolfier year in airships or for a major contribution to the development of airship flying in general. Nominations by NAC's to FAI office latest 60 days before the CIA plenary meeting.

The FAI AIR SPORT MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.7

For outstanding services in air sport activities, training or education. Any number may be awarded to individuals or groups. Order forms are available at the FAI web site, documents page. Invoice for CHF 100 will be sent from FAI office.

The following are FAI General awards available for ballooning. Applications to FAI office before 31 May and shall cover performances until 31 December the preceding year or contributions over a longer period. Citations shall not exceed 250 words. Other supporting documents may be attached. The awards will be given at the FAI General Conference to recipients present.

The FAI GOLD AIR MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.2

One of the FAI's two highest awards. Given to those who have contributed greatly to the development of aeronautics by their activities, work or achievements. Since 1925, 76 Gold Medals have been awarded including 7 for ballooning and 1 for airship achievement.

The FAI SILVER MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.9

For persons having occupied high office in FAI or in a national organisation and have shown exceptional leadership and influence to the benefit of the whole air sport community.

The FAI BRONZE MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.3

Only the FAI Secretary General may make nomination for this award. The Medal is reserved for persons who have rendered eminent services to the FAI in administrative work, in Commissions, or in the organisation of FAI sporting events.

The DE LA VAULX MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.5

This medal is given automatically to all holders of recognized absolute world records established during the previous year. Count Henry de la Vaulx was founder and past president of the FAI. He flew Gordon Bennett 1906.

The SABIHA GÖKCEN MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.8

The Medal is reserved for the woman who performs the most outstanding achievement in any air sport in the previous year. Sabiha Götzen was Turkey's first woman pilot and in 1937 became the world's first female military pilot.

The NILE GOLD MEDAL. FAI Statutes 10.10

This medal may be awarded to a person, group of persons or organization to reward distinguished work in the field of aviation and space education, particularly during the year preceding its award. The medal is donated annually by the Aero Club of Egypt.

The OUTSTANDING AIRMANSHIP DIPLOMA. FAI Statutes 10.11

It shall be awarded to a person or a group of persons for a feat of outstanding airman-ship in sub-orbital flight during one of the previous two years which resulted in the saving of life of others or was carried out with that objective.

The PAUL TISSANDIER DIPLOMA. FAI Statutes 10.12

May be awarded to those who have served the cause of aviation in general and sporting aviation in particular, up to three diplomas per FAI Member, depending on their class of membership, may be awarded. Paul Tissandier was a balloonist and Secretary General of FAI from 1919 to 1945.

The FAI GROUP DIPLOMA of HONOUR. FAI Statutes 10.14

A FAI Group Diploma of Honour may be awarded to a group (design offices, scientific bodies, aeronautical publications, etc.) that has contributed significantly to the progress of Aeronautics or Astronautics during the previous year or years.

The H.R.H. PRINCE ALVARO de ORLEANS-BORBON GRANT.

To Persons or institutions who have devoted themselves to create and/or promote technical developments and innovation in sport aviation. Additional consideration will be given to projects. Nominations should be received in writing by the FAI Head Office latest 30 June (using the Prince Alvaro de Orleans-Borbon Grant Nomination Form available on FAI website) (members@fai.org)

The IOC Women and Sport trophies.

Awarded annually to promote the advancement of women in sport. They recognize outstanding achievement and contributions made to develop encourage and strengthen the participation of women and girls at all levels in the sports world. There is annually one trophy worldwide and one each for the continents.

Nomination forms will be posted to national Olympic committees.

FAI RECOMMENDED MUSEUM recognition. FAI By-Laws 10.1

The FAI may give recognition to deserving venues such as museum collections, special exhibitions, etc, which educate the public, particularly children and young people, in the history and practice of air sport, aeronautics (including commercial and military aviation) and astronautics.