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IPC PRESIDENT'S REPORT 62nd IPC ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING 2011 BAR, MONTENEGRO

2010 ACTIVITIES

A review of the Newsletters and the list of Bureau decisions since the last Plenary meeting in Lausanne indicates another hard working year by your Bureau. I trust that delegates find the Newsletters informative.

Perhaps the most significant event for the Bureau was a mid-year Bureau meeting held in Dublin immediately following the FAI General Conference. The meeting was scheduled when it became apparent that the issues to be dealt with were too many, too varied and too complex to conduct via other means. Advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by the planned presence of three Bureau members at the FAI GC, and a fourth who was a local resident, thus maximising opportunity for cost savings and availability. The decisions emanating from the many issues that were dealt with were distributed to all Delegates.

I would repeat a comment I made in my report last year, in which I reminded all Delegates that they should feel comfortable in contacting relevant Committee Chairs or Bureau members should they have cause for concern on any relevant matter.

COMPETITIONS

The following is a summary of the First Category Events held in 2010.

LOCATION & DATE	FAI FIRST CATEGORY EVENT
Predazzo Bellamonte, Italy, Mar	Para-Ski World Cup & European Championships
Menzelinsk, Russia , Aug	WPC FF, CF and AE
Kolomna, Russia, Aug	WPC Canopy Piloting
Niksic, Montenegro, Aug/Sep	WPC Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing (Ope Juniors)

I attended every First category event for the year, in one capacity or another. It is clear IPC still has quite some way to go to implement objectives in the Strategic Plan, particularly in regard to presentation.

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This was addressed in the review of the plan at the mid-year meeting of the Bureau. It was pleasing to see the Request for Proposal project for use of a dedicated IPC approved scoring system come in on time and results are to be presented at this coming Plenary meeting.

In addition to the events above, I managed to also attend the Plenary meeting of the Commission on Airspace and Navigation Systems in Frankfurt, February 2010 and the China International Air Fiesta in Laiwu, September 2010.

FAI

My report to the FAI General Conference appears separately in the agenda.

I would draw your attention to my comments in that report about proposals from FAI to levy IPC and other Air Sport Commissions to address the shortfall in funding of the FAI office. This shortfall occurred through loss of sponsorship and a failure to raise NAC subscriptions over the past 6 or 7 years.

Immediately prior to the FAI General Conference in October 2010, at the regular meeting of the FAI Executive Board and the ASC Presidents, a proposal was put by the then President to establish a Working Group to consider an “agreement to accept a resource sharing process to be discussed w/ the WG”. The WG proposed would comprise 6 persons, with 2 ASC Presidents, 2 NAC Presidents and 2 Executive Board members, chaired by the FAI Finance Director. No terms of reference were proposed during the meeting and on behalf of IPC, I, like all the other ASC Presidents, provided a qualified agreement, depending on the Terms of Reference. The draft Terms of Reference at the time of writing this report I found were unacceptable because of a confidentiality clause, a 30 June completion date (next GC was discussed), and President's power to fill vacancies on the WG unilaterally. The Secretary General also referred to a “bilateral profit sharing process”, which was not part of the proposal presented.

The financial circumstances of FAI have been the cause of a very time consuming and worrying time for ASCs and their Presidents because the ASCs are being seen as the saviour, with their ability to raise sanction fees to meet FAI operational needs. At the 2011 meeting in Bar, I intend to ask the Plenary what IPC's stance should be in regard to the Working Group and the possibility of ASCs being taxed to support other FAI activities.

IPC continues to be well represented on the Air Sports General Commission (CASI), with Gillian Winter as Secretary and Richard ‘Buzz’ Bennett as CASI Delegate for Canada. As an ASC President, I remain an ex-officio CASI member and was appointed as 1st Vice President in October. Whenever possible, IPC has been represented at CANS meetings, primarily to contribute as much as possible to the preservation of airspace for parachuting in an increasingly regulated and busy commercial aviation environment. I attended the last CANS Plenary meeting in February 2010 in Frankfurt immediately following the completion of the 2010 Plenary in Lausanne. It seems to me that this Commission is yet to have any significant effects on Air Space and Navigation Systems issues on behalf of FAI.

Despite my comments on FAI finances, I wish to record my thanks to the Secretary General and FAI office staff for their continued support for the work of the IPC during the year. I wish the new President, Dr John Grubbström all the best in his new role, and trust that he is able to lead FAI forward in difficult times, while allowing Commission Presidents to get on with

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their jobs as defined in the Statutes, without having to be concerned too much about the rest of the FAI family.

BUREAU WORK

I commenced this report by referring to the workload of the Bureau.

I wish to thank all the Bureau members for their continued untiring efforts, through the IPC, to make the world a better place for skydiving. The Bureau has worked well as a team and all members have participated keenly throughout the year with enthusiasm and often robust debate.

I hesitate to mention individual efforts on the Bureau, as each member is diligent and works hard as part of the Bureau team. From the high workload of the Treasurer in ensuring the travel reimbursement claims are dealt with in accordance with IPC policy, a Secretary who does an enormous amount of work in the background, particularly for the Plenary meeting, and two Vice-Presidents who have during the year taken up other roles as required, with John Smyth as the Media Liaison Officer, and Marylou Laughlin as Sporting Code Working Group Chair, when Gillian Winter became disenfranchised by her country for a while. Despite this setback, Gill Winter agreed to see through the electronic scoring system project as a volunteer specialist and she was welcomed back into the 1st Vice-President role following her reinstatement by her country in September 2010.

IPC Committees and their Chairs continue to have plenty to do and I wish to thank them also for their diligent efforts looking after the interests of their various disciplines, and keeping on eye on the strategic objectives of the IPC as we move forward.

CONCLUSION

The contribution of all Delegates is important to the work of the IPC, and on behalf of the Bureau, I wish to thank all Delegates, advisors and others who have contributed to the work of the IPC during the year. I would also like to send a special message of thanks to all those volunteers that support the work of IPC, through participation as judges, officials etc. in competitions. Without these valuable people, IPC would not be able to achieve its objectives and our competitors would not have the valuable arenas they now have to perform in at the world level.



Graeme Windsor
President, IPC