



FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA)
Report to the 111th FAI General Conference
Lausanne, 26-27 October 2017

Reported by : Mark Sullivan, President

1. Important activities, projects or events since last FAI General Conference:

August 2017 we held the FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship in Brissac, France with 82 competitors. After 23 tasks Stefan Zeberli went home with the gold!

August 2017 FAI Women's European Hot Air Balloon Championship in Leszno, Poland is in progress as of this writing.

September 2017 we are preparing to launch 22 gas balloons with teams from 13 countries in the 61 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett out of Gruyere, Switzerland.

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2. Positive and negative results:

None

3. Main problem(s) encountered and solutions adopted :

One of the major problems we face in the CIA is our process for bidding 1st Category Events. Delegates continue to submit incomplete and late applications. When our Event Development Working Group rejects applications with the result being no event, delegates and pilots complain.

We have managed to put together several events by a lot of unnecessary work by our WG and Bureau but this process is disturbing.

4. Planned activities and projects for next year :

Our technology WG is working on new logging and tracker methods. Hopefully they will be able to develop new and creative way to make our sport more exciting to the public both on the field and in cyber space.

I have read JC Weber's document on the new World Air Games Series and applaud his efforts and vision in advancing FAI sports in the future.

Of course we agree balloons will be a positive addition to any venue as their size and color are very appealing to the public.

The fast and easy scoring will be one of the important aspects of this proposal to make ballooning understandable to the media and public.

5. Proposals (if any) to FAI Executive Board, FAI Head Office or for the next General Conference :

None

6. Free reporting:

The large sanction fee will be very challenging to achieve at least in America. When I was President of the competition division in the U.S. I put together a team to

seek out events. They put out RFP to every Visitors and Conventions Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, and city/town in the U.S. We had one person dealing with each inquiry to make sure their location and organization was on the correct path. We had ninety serious inquires with five of these sites deemed reasonable to host our National Hot Air Championship. This process gave our Nationals three sites for a period of three years each. Two of these sites had prize money of over \$100,000.

I mention this only because in order to make this plan work someone is going to have to put a lot of thought into how we find sites willing to make the investment necessary for this plan to work. I don't believe ASC are the answer as we are all Volunteers so this leaves the FAI or a professional firm. My experience with professional firms is they want up front money instead of a percentage of profits made. To me it would be better to give such a firm a greater percentage of any sanction fee they secure rather than paying them for no positive results.