

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>IPC WEBMASTER &amp; MEDIA LIAISON OFFICER REPORT FOR 2015</b>	<b>Annex No. -</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Susan Dixon, IPC Media Liaison Officer</b>	<b>Agenda ref. -</b>	<b>5.2</b>
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## IPC Media Liaison Officer Report 2015

This has been a busy year which at the end will have had 7 First Category Events. A first I am sure.

Either I or my colleague and friend, Fay Kimble, will have attended them all (with the WAG still to come as I write). The level of support for us and understanding of our requirements for a space to work and a good internet connection has been outstanding. Not many people realise that in order to report on these meets we need to be connected to the internet at all times – that is the reality of the IPC website. It's not a case of writing something in a word processor type application offline then uploading it when it needs to be published. I really feel that, at last, organisers understand and appreciate what we are trying to do for them and the sport. The only competition where things, at first, were more difficult was Teuge, but with Fay's knowledge and determination and the help of their IT people she was able to keep reporting.

I would like to personally thank, Helmet Bastuck and Germany for the ParaSki World Championships; Martin Lemy and Canada, for the Canopy Piloting World Cup, and Sarka Blaskova and the Czech Republic for the 1st WISC. I asked Fay to add her bit to this report.

*Susan first asked me to step into her shoes by reporting on the World Championships back in 2008 at Maubeuge, as she was also tasked to run an FS Judges Course at the same time and location. Over the years I have assisted Susan at most World meets either because she has had a dual role as a Judge/Jury member or there have been clashes with dates of competitions. We have developed a joint and mutual role to report fairly on the IPC website and in addition, to provide the results, in collaboration with the various scoring system providers, where they remain clearly accessible at all times.*

*On occasions when I have tackled the task on my own it was often an uphill struggle for me, for I wasn't known within the world of competitive skydiving. "There's some woman asking for a table and chair and even wants an internet connection!" was not an unknown comment to be overheard. A muffled, "Now she's asking for the results!", didn't escape my acute hearing either.*

*Susan kindly invited me to attend the Plenary in Varshets with her, as a way to meet some of the 'movers and shakers' within the upper echelons of the sport. This proved to be a*

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*real benefit, for when I arrived at Netheravon, UK for the 1<sup>st</sup> World Cup in Wingsuit Performance Flying and at Erden, Bulgaria for the European Style & Accuracy*

*Championships, I was welcomed almost as an old friend. At both venues I was accommodated with a smile and assisted at every turn.*

*At the Plenary I had been able to introduce myself to Jackie Harper (Secretary of the APA and driving force behind the bid to host the Wingsuit Performance World Cup) as well as Angel Stamenov (Meet Director) and his wife Ani Stamenova (IPC Delegate for Bulgaria) who were the hosts/organisers of the European Championships. I too wish to offer my personal thanks to these individuals in making my job so much easier. It goes to prove that no matter what business you're in or where your interests lie, it's not what you know – but who you know.*

*In closing I wish to sincerely thank Susan not only for the invitation but for sponsoring my attendance too.*

It is still frustrating to know that everyone on the DZ (and Tunnel) is looking at Facebook, Twitter and the like on their smartphones to get the latest update but cannot access the FAI/IPC web site. We are currently looking at a work-around for this on-going niggle and hope to report something positive by the time of the Plenary 2016. In addition I still get "where can I find" questions from all sorts trying to make sense of the complexity of our current site.

At the last Plenary I was really pleased at the thought of the solution provided by Visa-Matti, FAI IT manager, to utilise the "off the peg" web sites provided with the FAI Virtual Server. Closer inspection and investigation showed they would be fine if I wanted a web site to promote my new Hairdressing Salon, or other small business - they certainly were not flexible or manageable enough to meet our needs.

I wish to ask the Plenary to authorise a budget for the creation of our own Website designed to meet today's user expectations and needs. I believe we need to employ a designer that understands Parachuting. I have a couple of people I have spoken to in terms of "would they be prepared to" and had a good response, but it is a question of funding and I don't believe there is a cheap solution.

This year the FAI have insisted that they be responsible for uploading all Documents, many of which I uploaded in the past (under instruction of the Reporting Secretary on behalf of the Bureau). Sometimes this has led to delays in uploading, as I can work for IPC at

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weekends, late in the evening etc. where staff with many other calls of their time cannot react quite so promptly. I personally cannot understand why as an "official" with a specific role I cannot continue to serve FAI/IPC as I have in the past.

I end with thanks to everyone who has assisted me over the year, and for those that comment on what I am doing, so that I know some are still using "steam" IT and looking at our pages and reports.

Susan Dixon

October 2015