

Subject:	Proposal to Award the Leonardo de Vinci Diploma to John Hitchen	Annex No.:	64
Author:	British Parachute Association, presented by John Smyth, IPC Delegate for Great Britain	Agenda Ref:	24.2
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Nomination of John Hitchen for the FAI Leonardo da Vinci Parachuting Diploma

The British Parachute Association (BPA) wish to nominate John Hitchen to receive the FAI Leonardo da Vinci Parachuting Diploma for services to the IPC and FAI over a 38 year period. I realise that this award is very specific and this nomination will concentrate on the criteria to receive the Diploma. However, it would be remiss of me not to give a very brief outline of John's skydiving career before going into the specifics.

A former Paratrooper in the British Army, John started Sport Skydiving in the 1970s. He soon became an Instructor and Judge. It is not part of this nomination to go into great detail about his skydiving career, as this is not the part of the criteria required for this award. However, mention must be made of one incident that I believe demonstrates his strong sense of duty and dedication that is also reflected in his IPC/FAI career. In 1977, at his home Drop Zone, Grindale in Yorkshire, England, he had a malfunction and then a main/reserve entanglement. Ground Impact was severe. His Club Chief Instructor (CCI) at the time told me that as he ran towards him he expected the worst. John had broken every major bone in his body (except his skull) - and survived. This massive injury would have ended the skydiving ambitions of most; but he fought back to fitness, became a CCI himself and then a full-time employee of the BPA, in 1983, as National Coach and Safety Officer.

1983 was also the year he first attended an IPC Plenary in Copenhagen. The BPA used to require that one of its two Delegates must also be a full-time member of staff. We acknowledge that this is why he first went to IPC but hope to demonstrate his service to IPC went above and beyond simply 'doing his job'. However, 1983 was not the first time he served IPC, within the guidelines of this award. In 1979, he was an FAI Judge at the 3rd WPC in FS (RW) in Chateauroux, France. He was FAI Judge again at the 4th WPC in FS in Z Hills and the 16th Style and Accuracy WPC in Czechoslovakia; all before becoming GB Alternate Delegate to IPC.

John continued Judging and has been either the Delegate or Alternate Delegate to IPC for 34 years, retiring after Faro in 2017. He has also served as FAI Controller and Jury Member or Jury President at numerous FCEs and was a member of the S & A, IPC Committee for 30 years, including 16 as Chair or Vice Chair. I will not list them all here but please see the chronological CV attached. The left-hand column shows IPC Plenaries he attended. The 2nd column lists his years on committee and position. The 3rd column shows the number of FCEs attended and its what capacity. The 4th column shows the number of FCEs attended as a Jury Member or Jury President.

In summary: 34 Plenaries as Delegate or Alternate Delegate: 30 years as S&A Committee Member, Chair or Vice Chair: 7 FCEs as a Judge, 2 as Chief Judge: 10 FCEs as FAI Controller: 6 FCEs as a Jury Member, 3 as Jury President.

I know that for many of these FCEs he used his own personal annual leave. Also, when I became Alternate Delegate and eventually Delegate, his support for me was and remains superb and

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unquestionable. Why? He believes in IPC. It was always more than just a job, it was a vocation and with an immense sense of duty he dedicated himself to IPC. I also know he misses you all greatly but age creeps up on us all. So, reading the criteria for the Leonardo da Vinci Diploma, I can think of no better candidate than John Hitchen. I hope you all agree.

John Smyth MVO
GB Delegate to IPC

20 November 2017

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John's IPC History

Year	IPC Plenary Venue	Position	S & A Committee	Competition	Position
1979				3rd WPC FS - Châteauroux, France	FAI Judge
1980					
1981				4th WPC FS - Z Hills, FL, USA	FAI Judge
1982				16th Style & Accuracy WPC - Lucenec , Czechoslovakia	FAI Judge
1983	Copenhagen, Denmark	Observer			
1984	Paris, France	Alternate Delegate		World Cup of FS - Claresholm. Alberta, Canada	FAI Judge
1985	Gratz, Austria	Alternate Delegate			
1986	Ankara, Turkey	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member		
1987	Dublin, Ireland	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member		
1988	Stockholm, Sweden	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member	HOD for UK at 19th S & A WPC, Nykoping, Sweden	
1989	Beijing, China	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member		
1990	Rome, Italy	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member	HOD for UK at 3rd WPC in CF, Chang Mai. Thailand	
1991	Wengen, Switzerland	Delegate	Voting Member	9th WPC FS - Lucenec, Czechoslovakia	FAI Judge
1992	Paris, France	Delegate	Voting Member	HOD for UK at 21st WPC S & A Trieben, Austria	
1993	Washington DC, USA	Delegate	Voting Member		
1994	Agra, India	Delegate	Voting Member	Chengdhu, China - 22nd S & A WPC	FAI Controller
1995	Oslo, Norway	Delegate	Voting Member	World Cup of Champions Style & Accuracy, Varadero, Cuba	Chief Judge
1996	Paris, France	Delegate	Vice Chair	Bekescaba, Hungary - 23rd S & A WPC	FAI Controller
1997	Nairobi, Kenya	Delegate	Vice Chair	HOD for UK at 1st WAG, Efes, Turkey	
1998	Vilamoura, Portugal	Delegate	Vice Chair	Vrsar, Croatia - 24th S & A WPC	FAI Controller
1999	Dubrovnik, Croatia	Delegate	Vice Chair	HOD for UK at 13th WPC FS, Corowa, Australia	Chief Judge
2000	Canberra, Australia	Delegate	Vice Chair	Ise-Shima, Japan - 25th S & A WPC	FAI Controller
2001	San Diego, USA	Delegate	Committee Chair	HOD for UK at 2nd WAG, Granada, Spain	
2002	Lausanne, Switzerland	Delegate	Committee Chair		
2003	Forteleza, Brazil	Delegate	Committee Chair	1st Anton Malevsky FS & Accuracy - Stupino, Russia	FAI Controller
2004	Lisbon, Portugal	Delegate	Committee Chair	Rijeka, Croatia WPC - 28th S & A, 16th FS & 11th CF	FAI Controller
2004				Kaluga, Russia - 12th World Cup of Champions	FAI Controller
2005	Jachranka, Poland	Delegate	Committee Chair	3rd AMM Int. Cup FS & Accuracy - Stupino, Russia	FAI Controller
2006	Stockholm, Sweden	Delegate	Committee Chair	HOD for UK at 29th S & A WPC & 4th AMM - Stupino, Russia	Jury President at 2nd Acc & FS AMM World Cup Stupino
2007	Florence, Italy	Delegate	Committee Chair	Osiek, Croatia - 5th European Champs S & A and 8th WC CF	FAI Controller
2008	Paris, France	Alternate Delegate	Committee Chair		Jury President at 30th S & A WPC, Lucenec
2009	Vasteras, Sweden	Alternate Delegate	Committee Chair		
2010	Lausanne, Switzerland	Alternate Delegate	Committee Chair	Niksic, Montenegro - 31st WPC S & A	FAI Controller
2011	Bar, Montenegro	Alternate Delegate	Committee Chair		
2012	Buenos Aries, Argentina	Not present			
2013	Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herz	Alternate Delegate			
2014	Vienna, Austria	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member		Jury Member at 33rd S & A WPC, Banja Luka
2015	Varshets, Bulgaria	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member	HOD for UK at 1st WC of Wingsuit Performance, Netheravon	Jury Member at 20th WC FS, 11th WC Artistic & Speed, Teuge
2016	Frankfurt, Germany	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member		
2017	Faro, Portugal	Alternate Delegate	Voting Member		

FAI judge at **7** WPC's and Chief Judge at **2** of those 1st Category events

FAI Controller on **10** occasions

IPC delegate/alternate delegate **1984 - 2017**

6 Jury appointments from memory plus several more when it used to be a Jury of HOD's