68th Meeting of the International Parachute Commission

Sofia, Bulgaria

Records Officer 2017 Annual Report

Throughout 2017 there were a total of 120 International Records claimed with FAI Head Office. This represents an increase of almost 66% over 2016, and nearly half of all claims for the year. As of this writing, 48 have been fully ratified and three have been canceled. I expect that at least 44 more will be ratified by the end of the calendar year. The majority of these have been sub-class G-1 (Competition) records. To be precise, 95 of the 120 have been Competition records. This is the direct result of Interim Bureau Decision of 2016 which streamlined the filing process and the filing costs associated with records. However, all is not well with respect to the process.

The launch of the long-awaited FAI website has created new hurdles. Within days of the launch of the new site, I was in touch with Head Office with some requests for new filters and sorting capability. One of these requests was fulfilled with hours (the ability to sort by Sport). The ability to sort by Status was also requested and implemented. I have also requested the ability to expand the number of displayed results. The current display limits to 4 results on screen at one time, making it very tedious to look for a record that you do not have a dossier number. With the high number of records that Class G is filing, this makes keeping up with the status of our claims difficult and time-consuming. I am still waiting on this change, which is non-trivial. One major improvement has been the separation of Type/Category/Group into separately sortable items and improved reliability of the sort. However, many people continue to contact me for assistance and trust in the database remains low.

My major frustration for the year lies in the fact that Head Office does not appear to understand the changes to my role the Plenary implemented last year. I am not being copied on dossiers and I am not usually informed when there are questions or problems. Since the changes to the role were requested by the Secretary General, I am at a loss as to how to solve the problem.

I am submitting to the Rules & Regulations Committee a recommended major change to SC5, Chapter 3. There are details still be improved and worked out, but I expect the changes to be presented to the Plenary.

Randy Connell
IPC Record Officer