

Minutes of BA/BX Working Group Meeting

March 21,2012 - Birstonas Lithuania

1. Roll call and apologies for absence

- Attendance : Jerzy Czerniawski, Eugenjus Komars, Stanislaw Fuodoroff, Paolo Oggioni, Pit Thibo (chairman)
- Apologies: Rick Wallace, Patrick Kearley, Markus Haggenev, Risto Jalava,
- Observers: Olegsandra Seminishima, Sabu Ichyoshi (Delegate Japan),
- Rimas Kostecivicius (Comp. Pilot), Wojtek Bamberski (Comp. Pilot)

2. Business additions to agenda :

- Summary of activities during past year

3. Summary of activities during year and further actions

- Pilot Ranking List completed
- CIA Newsletter with Ranking List in cooperation with PMR
- All Time Best List completed
- Airship Activity Survey with replies received Germany, Russia, Ireland ,Czech Rep. Japan, Finland, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Poland, Sweden and Mexico. Several countries with known activities have not responded. Thus the information gathered is not sufficient to be meaningful. One more attempt will be started after the 2012 Plenary Meeting.
- PT to suggest to all delegates to collect Information about airship pilots in their countries.
- EK takes responsibility for creating an electronic archive accessible to WG members and consultants containing activity survey reports and airship pilot lists.
- Working Group Meeting in Birstonas on June 9, 2011 focusing on Airship Grand Prix definitions and on finalizing BX MER.
- Airship Grand Prix Invitation flyer designed
- Test competition held in Elk, Poland in August 2011

4. Airship Grand Prix

New ideas on where a Grand Prix could take place for maximum visibility :

- Berlin from Tempelhof Airport (MH)
- New York City Central Park (MH)
- San Francisco Bay (RW)
- Los Angeles from Catalina Island to Long Beach (RW)
- Rome Coliseo (PK)
- Elk, Poland (JC, RK) possibly World Championship
- Birstonas (SF)

PO informs that, for airships, even short term notice for requesting a Worlds is acceptable if addressed directly to the CIA Bureau.

In the past 4 months several inquiries about organizing events like a Grand Prix (or alternatively a Worlds) have been received by PT (2 from Italy, 1 from Germany). Requested info was supplied. PO reports that one of the Italian projects lacks of funding, but that Italy maintains a general interest in organising an important event.

Grand Prix Promotion :

An invitation to potential organizers has been prepared (Airship Grand Prix flyer), highlighting opportunities to attract and to entertain large crowds and permitting extensive media coverage .

The target group of the flyer is defined as event organizers, municipalities and communication companies.

It is agreed that other FAI sports commissions will be informed.

SI suggests to plan for remote viewing of competition via monitoring system such as successfully used for Gordon Bennett Cup.

Previously approved event description, marketing suggestions and logistical information are confirmed and will be updated and formatted by PT.

Grand Prix Definition details

- Duration to be proposed as 3 to 4 days with 4 to 5 overnight accommodation
- Training flights before start of competition to be at the expense of competitors, but organizers to provide flying area ,met service, refuelling possibility and safety arrangements.
- Competition Rules to be selected from BX MER version 15. (note: distance between airships at the starting line to be 20 meters, inflations being done in separate field with airships being pulled by crew up to the starting line according to a pre-arranged timetable.
- Financial arrangements for competitors :
Free accommodation, food, propane, engine gasoline, maps. No registration fee, but cash deposit by competitor as a guarantee of his participation to be returned after the event.
Contribution to travel expenses by the organizer Prize money for the top three placed competitors: min. 10000 euro

Annual Grand Prix Champion: a point system will be applied to individual race results. The highest aggregate score determines the Champion.

5. BX MER

Version 15 April 2012 is approved and will be submitted to Rules Subcommittee, and approved. Subject to approval by Plenary.

6. Status of BA / BX WG within of CIA.

PT reported about info received from JCW as follows: FAI is considering some structural changes to extent action of present WGs and Subs., mandating them to develop own marketing dynamics and liaison channels between each other. The purpose of this action is to lay a base for future FAI involvement in marketing activities. This subject will be explained during the 2012 CIA Plenary

7. Officials Subcommittee.

Eugenijus Komars is designated as the WG's delegate to this committee.

8. WG designation.

The members accept the suggestion by SF to refer in the future to this WG as the Airship WG rather than BA/BX WG.

9. Airship definition and Classification

Definitions were not discussed and are subject to agenda of next meeting. It is understood that work on the subject will start right after the Plenary.

A proposal by SF to modify Class B subclasses was approved, but needs cross checking with the Records Subcommittee before a recommendation to the Rules Subcommittee and to the Bureau can be made. SF is mandated to submit the proposal to the Records Subcommittee.

10. Election of WG members and consultants for 2012.

Members elected :

J.Czerniawski - S.Fuodoroff - E.Komars - P. Oggioni - P.Thibo (chairman)

Official consultants :

P.Contegiacomo - R.Jalava - M-Haggeney- P.Kearley- R.Wallace,

11. Motion to approve version 15 of BX MER

P.Thibo 24.03.2012