



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Minutes

of

FAI Commission Presidents' Group with FAI Executive Board

**held in Kuala Lumpur (MAS)
at the Royal Chulan Hotel**

on Wednesday 2nd October 2013

starting at 09h00

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1. FAI President's Introduction

The FAI President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Roll Call

President :

- John GRUBBSTRÖM FAI President (JG)

Executive Board Members :

- Alvaro de ORLEANS-BORBON FAI Executive Director & Deputy President (AOB)
 - Frits BRINK FAI Executive Director (RC)
 - Robert CLIPSHAM FAI Executive Director Finance (RC)
 - Robert HENDERSON FAI Executive Director (RH)
 - Otto LAGARHUS FAI Executive Director (OL)
 - Beat NEUENSCHWANDER FAI Executive Director (BN)
 - Jean-Marc BADAN FAI Secretary General (JMB)

Air Sport Commissions (ASC)

- Agust GUDMUNDSSON FAI Hang Gliding & Paragliding Commission (AG)
 - Jean-Pierre DELMAS FAI General Aviation Commission (JPD)
 - David HAMILTON FAI Rotorcraft Commission (DH)
 - LG ARVIDSSON FAI Aerobatics Commission (LG)
 - Richard MEREDITH-HARDY FAI Microlight & Paramotor Commission (RMH)
 - Eric MOZER FAI Gliding Commission (EM)
 - Antonis PAPAPOULOS FAI Aeromodelling Commission (AP)
 - Jean-Claude WEBER FAI Ballooning & Aerostation Commission (JCW)
 - Graeme WINDSOR FAI Parachuting Commission (GW)
 - Alfons HUBMANN FAI Amateur-Built & Exp. Aircraft Comm. (AH)
 - Richard 'Buzz' BENNETT FAI General Air Sports Commission (RB)

Technical Commissions (TC)

- Michiel KASTELEIJN FAI Aviation & Space Education Commission (MK)
 - Jürgen KNÜPPEL FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (JK)
 - Pierre DUVAL FAI Environmental Commission (PD)

Apologies for absence :

- Segismundo S. F. de CORDOBA FAI Astronautic Records Commission

In Attendance :

- Rob HUGHES FAI Sports Director (RHU)
 - Visa-Matti LEINIKKI FAI IT Manager (VML)

3. Approval of Agenda

GW asked for an additional item to be added under AOB: SportAccord and the situation regarding IPETA. With this addition, the agenda was approved.

Commission Presidents asked for future agendas to be sent in Word format to facilitate note-taking.

4. Events

1. **IWGA World Games 2013, Cali (COL)** (R. Hughes)
 - a) Report on TWG2013

Despite many organisational problems, in particular communication with the local organisers during the preparation phase, the event was a success for the three air sports involved (Canopy Piloting, Paragliding Accuracy, Indoor Aeromusicals). Each competition attracted a high level of media attention and FAI air sports featured in local, national and international media coverage, including ESPN South America.

The official feedback from the IWGA evaluation was due in November. Media statistics from the event had not been supplied and AG asked if the FAI Communication Officer could contact the IWGA press officer to obtain them.

b) Outlook for TWG2017, Wroclaw, POL

RHU was preparing an initial 'Expression of Interest' document to be submitted to IWGA in which several FAI air sports were proposed for inclusion in the programme.

2. **Asian Beach Games 2014**

a) Status update

Preparations were continuing, including test events in November 2013. RMH had visited the competition site the previous week and was satisfied with progress to date.

b) Selection of ASC Liaison Officers: CIVL, CIMA, CIAM

CIMA: RMH

CIAM: Rob METKEMEIJER

CIVL: To be confirmed

3. **World Air Games 2015**

(R. Hughes)

Status report

Two options were discussed and opinions were noted.

RMH underlined the need for a professional (paid) staff from FAI to have responsibility for the different events and not to rely on local organisers. The Local Organiser must be contracted by FAI and in post at least 9 months before the start of the event. PD agreed and suggested that FAI should offer a 'competition in a box' format, organised by FAI staff and paid for by the hosts.

GW questioned the aim of the event. It was originally promoted by FAI as the flagship event, an 'Olympic Games' of air sports, but he was no longer sure what it stood for. AOB referred to its original concept; a circus of different attractions with something for everyone but instead the World Air Games had become a complex series of world championship events. PD added that the precise mix of the events needed for the WAG depended on local conditions and infrastructure.

JG asked for ASCP's opinions:

IGC saw no benefit to gliding but would lend moral support.

CIG pointed out that sand and helicopters were not a good mix

CIACA had no existing competition but could create local interest.

CIA were generally in favour but would need more details and discussion with their commission.

CIVL would be glad to bring Accuracy and Acro.

CIMA would present paramotor slalom in front of an audience

IPC; GW described his experience of the 1982 Commonwealth Games when he was employed for 10 months. Not all IPC events could be covered in the WAG so IPC would have to select from its range of disciplines.

CIAM would be glad to be involved.

CIVA were carefully positive. It was already late to plan for 2015 and there was an absolute need for a professional and dedicated FAI organiser.

GAC were interested, but the organiser would have to provide the aircraft and competitors reimbursed for all expenses.

AG questioned how the WAG fitted into the overall strategy of the FAI. Which stage of FAI's strategy did the WAG represent? He suggested that the emphasis should be less on competition and more on exhibition, showcasing the different events. AOB agreed that first there needed to be a decent product that people wanted to watch and then the WAG could be considered a sellable event.

5. Sports Matters

1. Anti-Doping

(R. Henderson, S. Rouillon)

References : [FAI Website](#) / [ADAG ToR](#) / [DRP ToR](#)

Report by ADAG Chairman and FAI Anti-Doping Manager:

- a) Update and current status
- b) FAI Registered Testing Pool 2014

SRO thanked ASCPs for their cooperation and help in 2012. WADA had given feedback for the 2013 RTP members; they should not necessarily be the very top performers as these would probably form part of the in-competition testing programme.

SRO continued a close working relationship with the WADA European Director, Frédérique DONZE and stressed the need to maintain a flexible and appropriate approach to testing in air sports. Her aim was to take a 100% clean record to WADA as an argument to reduce or remove the need for out-of-competition testing.

Members of the RTP should be selected by the ASC Bureau and at random, though an initial control should be done by the commission to eliminate those with inappropriate work patterns, such as airline pilots and members of military services.

Update by CIMP President:

- c) Recommendation to delete alcohol from WADA Prohibited List.

CIMP had discussed this at their 2013 Plenary. One member had found research evidence that alcohol, taken in a controlled and measured manner and at a low dosage, could indeed be beneficial to pilots and therefore they felt they had no choice but to include alcohol for air sports.

RMH raised the issue of a double penalty; by WADA and also by the civil aviation authority. RH responded that this had been discussed with WADA who agreed that they would take FAI's counsel and not automatically impose penalties if any civil penalty rendered it unnecessary.

2. Revision of Organiser Agreement

(R. Hughes)

Status report

Progress was slow due to excessive workload and the organisation of the World Games taking up a great deal of time. It was likely that this rate of progress would continue as JMB was due to leave the FAI office in a few days and therefore RHU's workload would increase. The World Air Games organiser agreement had to be updated in June as part of the bidding process; this document would form the basis of the general FAI Organiser Agreement.

Several ASCPs expressed dismay. JCW stated that it should be a priority; JMB confirmed it had priority status but it would be a question of resources for the next few months.

3. **FAME**

(R. Henderson)

Report by FAME Chairman:

- a) Feedback on Breitling’s presence at FAI World & Continental Championships in 2013
- b) Breitling events schedule 2014
- c) FAI Sponsorship Activation Guide

The work towards improving the professional presentation of FAI sports needed to continue, focussing on excitement, impact and the audience reaction. This was a tough and competitive environment to break into; when Larry Ellison had to pay US TV networks to televise the final of the Americas Cup, FAI air sports had to be spectacular and unique.

The Breitling contract terms were being fulfilled though the company had expressed reservations about the development of the connection between Breitling and FAI air sport events. Breitling were a highly professional marketing organisation and had not sponsored similar events in the past; they looked for personalities – or heroes – and ASCs would do well to identify their most suitable candidates.

AG was concerned at the lack of advice and guidance from FAME regarding the sponsorship programme; CIVL were ready to support the programme but needed more instruction. LG and JCW agreed; more feedback was required. RH responded that this was a learning curve for all involved. JG lamented the lack of developed air sport ‘products’ and noted that the FAME CEO’s low level of awareness of air sport activity was an obstacle to success.

RH agreed to take back a message to the FAME CEO that there needed to be more interaction with ASCs, more feedback and more communication regarding Breitling’s intentions and expectations.

6. ASC Administration & Procedures

1. **Finance**

(R. Clipsham)

ED (Finance) Robert Clipsham reported on the following items:

- a) Follow-up of ASC Presidents’ letter to EB re: assets, accounting procedures
- b) Feedback from CIVL regarding experience with separate bank account

The work to consolidate the FAI accounts was started in 2011 and was nearing completion. This included compiling ASC accounts in collaboration with the auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

ASCs would be given access to read their separate bank accounts and to generate payments for expense claims and other expenditures. This was in test phase with CIVL.

The new accounting software, ABACUS, was being used with all 2013 transactions being recorded with the system. Transferring to this new system had caused a backlog which was being reduced.

AG questioned the ASC bank access system and pointed to problems with CIVL’s access. He asked for transparent access to all transactions, which would enable the ASC to accurately calculate its financial position as well as bring greater efficiencies to the Head Office. AG asked for separate Paypal accounts instead of the one account CIVL currently used. He also asked for all sanction fees to be paid into the new ASC bank account rather than EB approving credit transfers on request.

JMB pointed to available staff resources, that Cosette MAST had been absent for 4 months and the work done to consolidate the accounts. It was not possible to do everything requested by ASCs with current resources.

2. **ASC Procedures**

(J. Grubbström)

- a) Discussion and feedback on proposals from NAC FRA:
i. Duration of mandates

The Presidents agreed that the current arrangement of 1 or 2 year terms did not need to be changed.

- ii. NAC approval of Delegates and Commission officials

The proposal was not supported by ASC Presidents.

- iii. Commission internal regulations

Internal regulations could be useful documents if they were maintained and updated. CASI had recently issued a handbook which referred to the FAI constitution without copying text. The ASC Presidents preferred to have ASC internal regulations as an option rather than obligatory.

- b) NAC Presidents’ attendance at ASCP meetings

NAC Presidents were welcome to attend as Observers.

3. **Future Strategy**

(J. Grubbström)

Discussion and feedback on the following topics:

- a) “Meeting the Challenges” strategic paper

OL presented the paper and explained that it was a starting point for further discussion and development.

RMH noted that the paper was focussed on NACs and the structure was itself a problem; many national associations were self-organised and either outside the NAC or else having very little to do with the NAC. NACs were losing importance and he called for FAI to allow any national organisation to become a member. OL replied that this was not the aim of the paper.

- b) ASC Autonomy

GW asked for a progress report. OL and AOB agreed that the recent IPETA Task Force which had been tasked with this question had been focussed on the IPETA issues and there was little surplus energy to consider ASC autonomy. JG took on board the message and would refer the issue back to the EB.

7. Information from FAI Head Office
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1. **FAI IT Systems**

(V.-M. Leinikki)

FAI IT Manager reported on the following projects :

- a) IT Service Centre & opportunities for ASCs

ASCs could make use of an upgraded server to house, free of charge, their online facilities such as ranking lists or other websites.

b) FAI database project

This major project was progressing well. The FAI database structure had evolved into 5 separate databases and did not suit current needs. The new structure would allow new services to members in the future as well as greatly improving the quality and quantity of information available.

c) Update on video conferencing systems

Tests had been carried out on alternatives to Skype, which could only accommodate a maximum of 8 video connections at once. This was still work in progress.

2. **FAI Head Office situation**

(J. Grubbström / B. Neuenschwander)

Information on the following items:

a) Selection procedure for new FAI Secretary General

The selection committee had received 22 candidatures and would filter those to approximately 6 before inviting to first interview. It was hoped that the new Secretary General would be selected in early December to start work soon after.

b) Interim organisational structure of FAI Head Office from mid-October 2013

There would be no significant change; RHU would become temporary acting Secretary General for specific issues when requested by the FAI President.

8. Any Other Business

BSm reported on the International Committee on GNSS; The Chinese GNSS system was well advanced though the problems of compatibility, interoperability and interchangeability remained with all systems.

GW gave an update on the IPETA situation. IPETA had signed an MOU with FAI and was now an FAI-owned company, run by IPC members. The Directors would be a mixture of 2 nominated by the FAI EB and 5 nominated by IPC, the latter being decided at the IPC Plenary in January 2014.

GW asked for IPETA to be represented at the Sportaccord convention in April 2014 by reserving an exhibition stand. JMB would ask FB as this issue was part of his portfolio.

GW asked for a meeting of ASC Presidents immediately before the meeting of ASCP with the Executive Board; he proposed that ASCPs meet on Thursday 8 May in Lausanne to discuss issues that were common to all commissions.

DECISION: The EB and ASCPs agreed to reserve a meeting room for ASCPs on the day of the FAI EB for a Commission Presidents’ workshop.

9. Date and Place of next Meeting
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The next meeting of the FAI Commission Presidents with the FAI Executive Board would take place on Friday 9 May 2014, 09h.00, Lausanne (SUI).

GW was tasked with organising the ASCP workshop on Thursday 8 May in collaboration with Annick HAUSER in the FAI HO.

10. FAI President's Closing Statement

The FAI President took note of the positive atmosphere in which the meeting had been conducted. He was very grateful for the crucial feedback regarding the Breitling sponsorship and promised to improve communication between the Executive Board and Air Sport Commission Presidents in the future.

The FAI President took a moment to thank Jean-Marc BADAN for his work in the name of the FAI.