



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Minutes
of the
Plenary Meeting 2014
of the
FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC)

Held in Lausanne, Switzerland,
on 15 November 2014
at the Maison du Sport International

*Maison du Sport International
Av. de Rhodanie 54
CH-1007 Lausanne
Switzerland
Tél. +41 (0)21 345 10 70
Fax +41 (0)21 345 10 77
E-mail: info@fai.org
Web: www.fai.org*

1. Welcome and Roll Call of the Delegates

The meeting of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) was called to order on Saturday, 15 November, at 09:15, by the GAC President Mr. Jean-Pierre Delmas.

He welcomed all the delegates and observers, Mrs. Susanne Schödel and Markus Haggene, newly appointed respectively FAI Secretary General and FAI Sport & Marketing Director, and Mr. Alfons Hubmann, President of the FAI Amateur-Built and Experimental Commission (CIACA) and wished all a successful meeting.

A roll call of the delegates was taken by Mrs. Susanne Schödel:

- There were no proxies.
- For the records, it was noted that there were 20 votes present.
- This means for the voting the absolute majority is 11 votes and 2/3 majority is 14 votes.
- Apologies received from the GAC Honorary President, Sven Hugosson.

Mr. Delmas asked if anyone wished to make a declaration of a conflict of interests: no conflict of interests was noted.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in Cordoba, Spain, on the 2nd of November 2013, were unanimously accepted as written.

4. Report on GAC activities during the year

President Jean-Pierre Delmas reported on the GAC activities over the past year and on coming challenges. (Annex 04).

He thanked Poland and congratulated them on a very well organized and successful 19th FAI World Rally Flying Championship, 17-22 August 2014, in Torun (POL).

He noted the wise idea of German NAC to organise its national championship the week before the WRFC, in a venue close to Polish border, and to make it open to foreign competitors. So competitors could have an extended time of international competition without additional ferry flight.

He also spoke about the great opportunity for ANR to be part of FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015, which is to be confirmed in beginning of December.

He expressed two personal wishes:

- To boost the presence of women in the GAC competitions and organisation;
- To promote world records towards the community of private pilots.

5. Report on FAI activities during the year

Mrs. Susanne Schödel, newly appointed as FAI General Secretary, introduced herself and gave the delegates some information about her background and flying career and her involvement in aviation sports.

She also reported about the FAI conference held in Thailand. She mentioned that 114 members are registered with FAI.

She also reported about women in sport and the efforts that should be made to get more women to participate in aviation sports.

She spoke about sport activities and development and said there should be definite strategies put into place: namely: high profile events, increased spectator interest, media coverage and sponsorship. She also mentioned the good relationship with the FAI sponsor BREITLING. She also hi-lighted the WAG that will be held in Dubai, in 2015, and that the ANR will be part of it. (Annex 05)

6. Past International Competitions

19th FAI World Rally Flying Championship, held in Torun, Poland, 17-22 August 2014

Mr. Jiri Dodal, President of the Jury, tabled his report on a very successful Championship held in Torun, Poland. (Annex 06-a)

Mr. Paul Szameitat, International Chief Judge, tabled his report. (Annex 06-b)

Mr. Marian Wieczorek, on behalf of the championship Director Jerzy Wisniewski, tabled the report. (Annex 06-c)

From 2014 and for the 3 coming years, there will be only one championship, a world one, per year for GAC competitors.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Rally Flying Subcommittee

Mr. Paul Szameitat, Chairman of the Rally Flying Subcommittee, presented his report. (Annex 07-a).

The two divisions, 1-Unlimited and 2-Advanced, were successful at the last WRFC. Some changes were proposed to the Rules and Regulations for Air Rally Flying in the future FAI World and European Rally Flying Championships. There will be in future 4 navigation tests.

➔ Proposed changes were voted and version 2015 of rules is approved. (Annex 07-b)

Precision Flying Subcommittee

Mr. Rodney Blois, Chairman of the Precision Flying Subcommittee, proposed small changes to the Rules and Regulations for Precision Flying.

➔ Proposed changes were adopted and version 2015 of rules is approved. (Annex 07-c)

Air Navigation Race Subcommittee

Mr. Maurice Ducret, Chairman of the Air Navigation Race Subcommittee, reported on the activities during the past year. (Annex 07-d and Annex 07-e)

He mentioned that the Handbook for the ANR is on the website and user-friendly software was created.

➔ Maurice Ducret requested that all countries that would like to participate in WAG 2015 must have national championships to qualify crews.

Records Subcommittee

Mr. Art Greenfield (USA) noted that the Records Subcommittee was not proposing any changes to Section 2 of the Sporting Code.

However, he expects that next year the committee will propose changes to the forms for documenting records by use of auto-fill template in Excel.

This would make it simpler to complete the repetitive information contained on the forms.

He also noted that the subcommittee would need to check to see if any changes would be needed to Section 2 as a result of the recent re-write of the General Section.

The President expressed concern that the process for setting records was too complicated and that the subcommittee should make an effort to simplify the process. However, the Secretary General cautioned that the requirements should not be smoothed just to make it easier to set records.

Mr. Art Greenfield thanked Marcel Myer (SUI) and Chris Booyen (RSA) for their continued support as members of the subcommittee.

8. Technical Matters Reports

Technical Adviser GNSS

Mr. Ralf Grunwald GAC, Technical Advisor, tabled his report. (Annex 08-a).

GAC has to prepare the introduction of Glass Cockpit fitted planes in its competitions. For decades, the simple rule has been that every electronic navigation aid is prohibited. But the legacy fleet of 2-seat planes is diminishing rapidly, because these planes are aging and new planes bold for flying school are mainly glass cockpit equipped.

- ➔ GAC Delegates, who are already integrating glass cockpit planes in their domestic competitions, are invited to report to Ralf and to the Bureau.

Webmaster

Mr. Philippe Muller tabled the Webmaster Report, on behalf of Mr. Michel Frere. (Annex 08-b)

Environmental issues

No report was received from Mr. Lindholm.

JP Delmas summarized the presentation made by the chairman of the FAI Environmental Commission, during General Conference in Thailand, in October 2014.

To fly planes for recreational and sports purpose is gradually less compatible with environmental issues about noise, about usage of leaded gas and so on.

On the same time, air shows still attract hundreds of thousands of spectators and each year young people enter flying schools by thousands.

The future of GA is largely in the hands of the pilots who must consider these challenges with new mindset.

FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015 (WAG) Mr. Heini Schawalder announced that the ANR has been invited to take part at the next WAG 2015, in Dubai.

He will be in Dubai end November 2014 to check the location for the ANR. (Annexes 08-c & 8-d).

Long Range Air Racing

Mr. Jean Birgen reported on the LRAR. (Annex 08-e)

In 2014, ten days before departure, the flight was cancelled due to a small accident grounding Jean.

The lesson of year 2014 is that GAC should not rely on one person only, whatever the high level of commitment of that person. It would be fair to share the workload and wise to have a real team in place to absorb any unexpected absence.

NAC delegates are invited to volunteer to support and assist Jean.

9. Future International Competitions

22nd FAI World Precision Flying Championship, 19-25 July 2015, in Skive, Denmark

The final bid for the WPFC 2015, was tabled by the Danish delegate and the final bid was approved. (Annex 09-a)

4th FAI World Air Games, 1-12 December 2015, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Markus Haggene, FAI Sport & Marketing Director, gave a presentation. (Annex 09-b)

Heini Schawalder insisted on the explicit requirement of Dubai to have the best competitors of each country:

Each NAC, desiring to have a national team participating to WAG 2015, in ANR competitions, has to organize a National Championship to select its 2 best crews.

20th FAI World Rally Flying Championship, in 2016, in Santa Cruz, Portugal

The bid for the WRFC was updated by the Portuguese delegates, the bid was approved. (Annex 09-c).

23rd FAI World Precision Flying Championship, in 2017, in Spitzerberg, Austria

The confirmed bid and documentation was tabled by the Austrian delegate, Manfred Kunschitz. (Annex 09-d).

➔ The Austrian NAC is awarded the organisation of the 23rd FAI WPFC.

21st FAI World Rally Flying Championship, in 2018

Spain and Slovakia declared to be interested to host this sport event.

Long Range Air Race

Jean Birgen is proposing a new design for 2015, with reduced distances to fly and reduced costs by visiting low fee airfields. (Annex 9-e)

The Chairman, JP Delmas, suggested the introduction of Human Factors matters in the organisation of GAC competitions, for the following reasons.

As pilots, all of us have been warned that under increasing stress we are subject to more inappropriate behaviour and worst decision making process.

In high level competitions, all participants, Organisers, Officials, Pilots, Team Captains, Helpers, etc., are, all week long, at increasing stress. Errors and/or inappropriate behaviours, light or strong, can happen from almost all quarters.

No human activity can be error free as taught to pilots in Human Factors training syllabus. Air competitions cannot be exemptions.

It is vital for all competitors to understand that, like them, officials are for the most part volunteers, sacrificing their valuable holiday time to help others fly. Any hostility needs therefore to be nipped in the bud.

Equally, officials must recognise that competitors have only one goal in mind to win, or at least do as well as possible, and that they too have often given up holidays and family life to compete. It is only natural, therefore, that they will expect high standards of organisation.

Occurrences to have to recover self-control and/or to be error-tolerant are not rare, in a long lasting competition.

To be error-tolerant does not mean to accept errors without reaction, but to be ready to recognise arising errors and to cooperate to error-correction process.

The suggestion is:

- ➔ Plan for every championship a suitable speech, during the General Briefing, along the lines described, made by a person with the necessary independence, gravitas and authority.

10. Creation of Formula One Air Races Subcommittee

By FAI Statutes, GAC is assigned to rule air races.

FAI Head Office requested GAC and CIACA to work in close cooperation on that subject, because air races are mainly done with experimental airplanes. For that reason Mr. Alfons Hubmann, President of CIACA, attended our GAC meetings.

The day before the Plenary Meeting, two main actors of the Formula One air races were invited to an information meeting:

- Mr Jeff Zaltman, CEO of Air Races 1 company, organizer of the first international Formula One air race, in Spain, in June 2014;
- Mr Andrew Chadwick, UK Federation of Air Races Association, former racer pilot and air races organiser.

Mr. Jeff Zaltman presented the achievements in 2014 and the plans for 2015. (Annex 10 and link to the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yfOIGb5D-A&feature=em-upload_owner#action=share).

The model of these competitions is quite different than the one of GAC legacy disciplines: Rally, Precision and ANR.

Formula One Air races gathered spectators by thousands, racer pilots' expenses are paid by the organiser, and there is no entry fee. High level of coverage by TV and media is achieved in order to attract and retain sponsors.

The plan for next year includes organisation of series, in more and more countries, and a final competition aimed to award the winner with the title of F1 Air Race World Champion. An agreement with FAI is a prerequisite to deliver a world champion title.

Mr. Andrew Chadwick presented the point of view of racer pilots and racer builders, who are very interested in the renewal of international competitions and in FAI recognition which is the way forward to have a world title to award. Safety is a key issue for pilots and public. An appropriate level of safety seems to be achieved in national competitions and in the international competition held in Spain.

He insisted on the key point of regulation amendments.

At the present time, there are only national regulations, derived from a 20 year old FAI regulation, but they remain close to each other. Andrew Chadwick expressed strong wish that getting back to a common unique FAI regulation would be done preferably with marginal amendments to the existing texts than with new rules.

In fact, it seems important to keep the existing fleet of racers alive and to keep low cost of construction and operation in the lowest end of Formula planes.

Participants got all answers to all questions they raised to Jeff and Andrew.

During Plenary Meeting, few GAC delegates felt competent to volunteer to contribute to the rule making task. Business and financial matters will be dealt directly by FAI Head Office with Air Race organisers.

The CIACA President offered full contribution of his staff on regulation matters.

After a long discussion, it was decided that Rodney Blois will collect information about availability of experts nominated by NACs. (Annex 10a)

NACs pass the names of nominees to Rodney Blois.

11. Finance

Treasurer's report

Mr. Jiří Dodal, GAC Treasurer, reviewed the income and expenditures during 2013-2014 The report was approved.

Budget for 2015

After a long discussion about recurrent planned deficit, the budget is approved. (Annex 11).

12. Awards

Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma

Mr. Jesus Mas Menargues (Spain) received his Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma during the Opening Ceremony of the annual FAI General Conference 2014, in Thailand.

Two NACs submitted nominations:

- Mr. Vagn JENSEN, by Denmark;
- Mr. Ian KIRKPATRICK, by New Zealand.

The Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma is awarded to Mr. Vagn JENSEN (Denmark). Congratulations to Vagn.

13. Other Business

Anti-Doping

The heavy requirement of an FAI Registered Testing Pool with among others, athletes obliged to give their localisation every day, has been removed. A pool will be selected and tests conducted out of competition but on a simpler basis. Tests during FAI competitions still to be carried as usual.

14. Elections & Appointments

Mr. Markus Haggney assisted with the election.
The Commission held elections with the results as follows.

Election of Bureau

President..... Mr. Jean-Pierre DELMAS
1st Vice President/Secretary Mr. Hans SCHWEBEL
2nd Vice President/Treasurer..... Mr. Jiri DODAL

Election of Subcommittee Chairmen

Precision Flying Subcommittee Mr. Rodney BLOIS
Rally Flying Subcommittee Mr. Paul SZAMEITAT
Air Nav Race Subcommittee Mr. Maurice DUCRET
Records Subcommittee Mr. Art GREENFIELD

Election of Technical Representatives

CASI Mr. Jean-Pierre DELMAS
World Air Games Liaison Officer Mr. Heini SCHAWALDER

Webmaster..... Mr. Michel FRERE
Technical Advisor, GNSS..... Mr. Ralf GRUNWALD
Technical Advisor, Long Range Air Racing ... Mr. Jean BIRGEN

Appointment of International Jury Members and Judges

The Jury and Judge lists were updated and approved. (Annexes 14-a & 14-b)

14. Date and time of the next GAC Plenary Meeting

Two bids were received from Slovakia and Portugal. (Annexes 15-a & 15-b)

GAC delegates voted twice:

- for having GAC meeting out of Lausanne;
- for Portugal bid.

→ The **next meeting** will be held:

- in **Ponta Delgada**, San Miguel, **Azores Island**, Portugal,
- **5 - 7 November 2015**.

15. Adjournment

The President Jean-Pierre Delmas thanked the FAI for organizing the meeting, as well as all the delegates for their input.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Delmas adjourned the meeting at 18:45.

Prepared by Mr. Hans Schwebel
FAI - GAC Secretary
Hans.s@britsgranite.co.za
06.12.2014