



FAI Name of the Commission (abbreviation of the Commission)
Report to the 112th FAI General Conference
Luxor, 26-27 October 2018

Reported by : *Name of the person and position*
Gillian RAYNER – IPC President

1. Important activities, projects or events since last FAI General Conference:

Elections at the last IPC Plenary lead to the first ever all female bureau of a Commission since the founding of FAI. It is perhaps proof that more and more women are participating in air sports and contributing to their governance. This is a step in the right direction to achieve the IOC policy of improving gender equality in sport.

At the IPC Plenary, the French Parachute Federation presented a project to introduce Indoor Skydiving as a new sport at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The project was fully supported by all the delegates. Work has been done with the FAI during the course of the summer to further this project and a test event will be held in Paris in November. An impact study is being carried out to determine how to move forwards in the case of a successful bid.

2018 is a World Championship year for our outdoor disciplines. The Canopy Piloting WPC were held in Wroclaw, Poland, site of the last World Games and we benefitted from all the experience and interest generated from that. Media coverage was excellent including live transmission on one of the main Polish television stations one day and shorter reports on the other days. The Style and Accuracy WPC were held in Montana, Bulgaria and had very good attendance. This is our classic event being the oldest discipline and it still draws a number of competitors. The 2nd World Wingsuit Flying Championships were held in Prostějov, Czech. Again the media coverage was good and the event was live streamed with excellent commentating.

It is interesting to note that the newer disciplines (Wingsuit Flying and Canopy Piloting) have drawn competitors from NACs that do not usually participate in our events and in particular from South America. This is partly due to the excellent work of our recognized organization "Colpar".

Finally the other disciplines (Formation Skydiving, Canopy Formation, Artistic Events and Speed Skydiving) are being held together in a fantastic venue on the Gold Coast of Australia. Although as I write this report the event has not yet taken place, it promises to be a great success with high media coverage and, in spite of the distance for most, to have a good turnout.

The Indoor World Championships are held on odd years so as not to clash with the outdoor activities but we did hold our 1st European Championships this year. They took place in Voss, Norway and got excellent coverage partly thanks to one of the Norwegian FS team members being a television presenter himself. Breakfast TV was run from the tunnel on one day and there was live coverage at different moments. Live streaming of the competition was visible on internet with professional commentators making it exciting viewing.

A World Cup is to be held in Bahrain in October, unfortunately at the same time as the General Conference. It will also be live streamed and I encourage delegates to watch it if they get the time.

The 1st Asia Indoor Skydiving Championships (Asiana is an FAI Recognised organisation) were held in Chongqing, China together with the Chinese International Open event. This is the first time China has held an Indoor competition and it was very successful. The most junior competitor was only 6 years old and did an amazing performance. This event was also covered live by the major CCTV station and a documentary was made for future distribution.

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

too. The mother of one of the junior flyers is also a TV presenter which helps maintain the interest.

Our relationship with CISM continues to be strong and the CISM Parachuting World Championships held in Hungary were very successful. The next CISM competition will be held in Wuhan, China and IPC representation will be present.

AB Sport with whom we have signed an MoU held the FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships, this year in two stages, Copenhagen and San Diego, USA. Both were extremely successful and IPC contributed by supplying a Controller. This event, lasts over 2 days and combines the sporting activity with side shows including live music and air sport demonstrations. It is live streamed and has built up a very large on-line audience. It also has some television presence and the public on-site was impressive too. We certainly hope that this relationship will continue as it is beneficial to both parties.

2. Positive and negative results:

An extremely positive year for media coverage. As mentioned above, multiple live TV programmes and documentaries made for the future. Live streaming of our events is also very positive with a high number of hits. We need to continue to work on this.

On the downside, there are some disciplines that do not draw sufficient attention and participation is down to three or four NACs only. A decision will have to be made at some point as to what we can do with these disciplines. Should we remove them from our catalogue of events or should we be doing something to increase participation. A difficult decision.

The competition record process, initiated in 2016 is finally showing that it works and records are being handled more or less within 24/48 hrs thanks to the cooperation of the FAI staff and IPC Jury members.

3. Main problem(s) encountered and solutions adopted :

One problem is linked to our budget. All our expenses are covered by the sanction fee levied from our competitors. Each Commission does things a little differently but in IPC we cover the costs of Judge travel, all Jury expenses, all Bureau expenses including travel to different FAI events, our Communications and Web maintenance, etc... from this levy. For several years we have been running at a loss, dipping into our reserves. We need to find another source of income or a different way of covering our expenses. We do not yet have a solution for this.

The IPC Bureau has decided to run a strategy workshop prior to the IPC Plenary next January, we hope that this initiative will bring us some solutions or at least a common understanding of the problems and ideas on how to move forwards.

One concern that will be addressed in the workshop is our competition disciplines and where they fit into the Air Games Series project. The strategy for this project has evolved and we need to be able to adapt to the new circumstances.

When looking at the One FAI initiative, which is a positive step, we believe it is important to look not only at the situation from the top down but also from the bottom up. The concerns of the Commissions and how they are able to operate is important as is the fact that we are volunteers with limited financial resource. Without functioning Commissions, the FAI does not have a product so it is important to ensure that the Commissions can fulfill the role expected of them.

4. Planned activities and projects for next year :

A Strategy Workshop in January.

Competitions in different continents: South America, North America, South Africa and Europe.

Exciting to see organisers from so far afield proposing to host our events.

2019 is a World Championship year for Indoor Skydiving and the competition will be held in Lille, France which will be an occasion to give visibility to the event in line with our Olympic project.

For the following year, the 2020 World Air Games will take place just one month after our key event, a Parachuting Mondial which can be considered as the Olympics of Parachuting. It is a going to be a challenge to encourage competitors to participate in both so we will be working during 2019 to think of special events to make the WAG as attractive as possible.

5. Proposals (if any) to FAI Executive Board, FAI Head Office or for the next General Conference :

IPC would like the Executive Board to consider the overall FAI Calendar when making decisions about multi-discipline events at which Commissions are expected to contribute.

Each Commission has it's own bidding process and commitments to Organisers are not to be taken lightly even for a bigger cause. .

6. Free reporting:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAI Head Office staff for their excellent collaboration with us and in particular the staff who work on records. It has been a challenge to set up our Competition Record process but I am happy to report that it is now running smoothly with only minor hiccups.

I would also like to thank the FAI President and Executive Board for kicking off the One FAI initiative. We have high hopes for an outcome whereby Commissions will be more involved in major decision making and consequently better able to contribute to a broader FAI. This was a major point that came out of the Workshop which also highlighted the differences of perception at the various levels of governance. We now await to see how it can be implemented and what contribution IPC can make to its success. .

.....

Date: September 25, 2018

Signature : Gillian Rayner