

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	ISC President Report 2021	<i>AGENDA #</i>	4.1
<i>AUTHOR:</i>	Gillian Rayner, ISC President		
<i>DATE:</i>	December, 2021	<i>PAGES:</i>	4

ISC PRESIDENT REPORT 2021

2021 was the fourth year that I have had the honour of being your President and although I thought 2020 was unusual, this year was even more so being full of surprises and unexpected challenges.

I would like to thank all my fellow bureau members Elisabet, Rina, Aliya and Gail for their work and assistance during the year. We all have different skills and together we make a solid team. Vera Asquith joined us at the end of the last Plenary, and she has been a very supportive and active member of our small group.

The year started with our e-Plenary meeting. A first in ISC history and, with little experience, it required a lot of preparation and was a steep learning curve for us all. We also found ourselves without a secretary which didn't make things easier. I am grateful to the help provided by the FAI office and my fellow bureau members. It was difficult being in separate countries with only WhatsApp as a communication tool during the meeting, but we managed. The experience should serve us well for the 2022 Plenary meeting which is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting with some people physically present together and a majority remaining in their own country. For the actual Plenary, everyone will be on Zoom.

During the 2021 Plenary, following all the disruption caused by Covid, we approved a new event calendar for the coming three years which enabled us to retain our Indoor/Outdoor World Championship cycle.

As you all know, only one competition was scheduled for 2021, the 2020 Mondial in Tanay, Russia. Since all the preparation work had been done for 2020, this should have been something relatively easy to roll out. Unfortunately, however, between the fallout from Covid and the consequences of the CAS ruling of December 17th, 2020, this was not the case.

The CAS ruling following the Russian appeal against the previous WADA decision, prevented Russia from hosting any World Championships until December 16th, 2022 and obliged International Federations to re-assign any previously awarded event to another country unless it was "legally or practically impossible" to do so.

Our first action was to appeal to WADA that it was impossible to reassign SEVEN World Championships anywhere else at such short notice. We thought this was a solid argument but unfortunately it took four months and multiple exchanges between WADA, the Organiser and FAI to obtain the much-awaited approval. I would very much like to thank both Ségolène Rouillon and Markus Haggenev of FAI for their assistance in this matter.

That solved, we were still faced with the on-going COVID situation that we had hoped would have gone away by then. Discussions between the Bureau, the Organiser and the Meet Director led us to change the planned competition schedule significantly, splitting the events into two separate weeks thus reducing the number of people on site at any one time. The Organiser also

72nd FAI/ISC PLENARY MEETING, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, 28-30 JANUARY 2022

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established a strict Covid protocol to be applied and arranged for regular PCR tests for all during the time of the competition. With all of this in place, the Bureau finally unanimously agreed that the event could go ahead. It was the right decision and I believe that all those able to attend were glad we made it.

I would like to thank our Russian hosts for their extreme generosity in hosting this event. Not only did they cover all the covid related costs, but they also paid for the Jury expenses and Event Judge travel. Due to the smaller number of competitors, the sanction fees would not have been enough to cover all ISCs obligations. It was mostly a successful competition even though the weather was not always kind to us and did not allow all events to be completed or even to start as unfortunately was the case for Canopy Piloting Freestyle.

During the first week we struggled to make competitors understand the seriousness of applying both the CAS ruling and the Covid protocol. It was also a challenge to ensure that both the Opening Ceremony and the Award Ceremonies were carried out in respect of these constraints. All pulling together, we made it even though the necessary policing was not always appreciated or easy to apply.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the competition and following it, several unfortunate and exceptional situations occurred that the Bureau had to deal with. In the second week, the Meet Director resigned from his role. Dieter Kirsch invested a lot of energy but was constantly undermined by the local technical staff for various reasons, perhaps communication difficulties being one of them. I would publicly like to thank Dieter for his dedication, perseverance and support.

After the competition was over, we were faced with the delayed payment of several equipment providers. Following discussions with the Organiser, the Bureau took the decision to withhold the reimbursement of the Deposit beyond the 30 days that our rules allow. It has taken several months but as I write, we are finally at the point of settling all the outstanding payments. This situation has caused us to give thought to the responsibility ISC has towards the providers we recommend. We will need to discuss this, including with our Providers, to ensure their protection and consequently our own.

Next year we will again be holding a major multi discipline event, even though it is not rated as a Mondial. I hope that Covid will be less of an issue and am confident that the competitions will be successful as the organiser is very experienced having been a First Category Event host on many occasions. I would like to thank Larry Hill for all the support he has given to ISC over the years and look forward to being in Eloy again.

In the last few years, I have reported on the unhealthy situation within FAI. Both Buzz in the past and now Gail have also called out the financial risks that FAI was taking. I am really pleased to report that the new FAI President. David Monks, together with his Executive Board and the support of the FAI staff have completely turned things around although finances are still a major concern. FAI membership is a potential problem; late payments affect cash flow, countries lowering their Membership level affects income. It is as important now as it was in the last few years, that as delegates you are in close contact with your NAC to ensure on-going NAC support of FAI.

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The overall situation of FAI is now very encouraging and the Air Sport Commissions have really regained their place within FAI. We now have monthly Commission President meetings with David, sharing concerns, ideas and supporting each other. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone. Gail has contributed strongly to the education of other Commissions in the new accounting system. Our sound processes and efficient accounting conducted for many years by our successive Finance Secretaries have led ISC to be considered as a model for other Commissions. Something we can be proud of.

ISC continues to be well represented in FAI activities: in addition to the work carried out by Gail this year, Elisabet and I continue to contribute to the CASI bureau. In addition, for the last year I have been acting Chair of the Statutes Working Group of which Gail is a member. I was officially confirmed into the role at the last General Conference.

A new FAI initiative, following a request by the ASCs, is to extend the insurance already existing for FAI elected officers, to all Commission nominated competition officials. This includes Judges, Jury members, FAI Controllers, etc. who will be covered for travel, medical and repatriation. This should be in place by April 2022 (for our first FCE of 2022). Markus will give more specific details during his report to the Plenary.

On a very different note, I am very pleased to report that the Agreement between Air Sports Group, FAI and ISC has finally been signed. Covid has prevented the FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships from restarting but has not prevented ASG from growing and diversifying and it is now based in the UK. The World Championships are expected to restart in 2023.

Records have been a subject in my report for the last few years. Paying for competition records has had a negative impact on our finances and overall, the number of records has increased considerably. The temporary Working Group set up after the last Plenary came up with several proposals which will lead to some proposed changes that will be presented during the Plenary. After the Working Group had completed its work, an Appeal was made against the non-ratification of a record. This appeal has highlighted other weaknesses in our rules and without pre-empting any outcome of the appeal, I will make some proposals for discussion on the subject.

The recommendations of the Discussion Group set up in 2020 to look at our Jury process require further examination when we can all be together to discuss the issues. Gail did conduct a survey with 2021 Jury members for feedback on the changes introduced this year and we need to determine whether we wish to pursue this subject not. Gail will be invited to give some feedback on the results of her survey during an Open Meeting (General Matters).

A key aspect of this year's Plenary will be elections. The Bureau and the Committee Chairs are to be renewed.

I will stand for election for another term as your President and I very much hope that you will support me and give me the opportunity to continue serving you for the coming two years. If you do elect me to continue, I intend for it to be my last term and to retire in 2024. During that time I would like to prepare the passage of the "baton" to ensure a smooth transition and share

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the knowledge I have acquired over the last 33 years contributing to the sport we all love and have the pleasure to serve.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Plenary either in person or via Zoom. In the meantime, I wish you all the best for the Festive Season and hope that you all stay safe and covid free.

Gillian Rayner
ISC President
December 2021.