

Subject:	IPC PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2015 PLENARY MEETING	Annex No. -	2
Author:	Graeme Windsor, President, IPC	Agenda ref. -	4.1
Date:	01 December 2014	Page -	1 of 5



IPC PRESIDENT'S REPORT 65th IPC ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING 2015 VARSHETS, BULGARIA

2014 ACTIVITIES

2014 was another busy year for Parachuting, with all IPC disciplines conducting First Category Events, including the first World Cups of Speed Skydiving in Prostejov, Czech Republic and Indoor Skydiving in Austin Texas, USA. In fact the year is not complete at the time of writing, as I return home from the USA to prepare for a journey to Dubai to attend the 5th Dubai International Parachute Cup and to participate in planning meetings for World Air Games 2015. In fact, I do not recall a year when I have travelled so extensively serving IPC. In accordance with Plenary wishes, I managed to attend every IPC First Category Event in 2014 and added some significant others for which invitations were received.

Following last years Plenary in Vienna my schedule has been as follows:-

Event	Venue	Dates 2014
5th Arab C'ship, and 1st African C'ships	Touradant, Morocco	6 – 9 March
14 th Paraski WPC	Tanai, Siberia	10 – 16 March
ASCP/FAI EB meeting	Lausanne	10 – 12 May
33 rd WPC 7 th Juniors WPC in S&A, 16 th WPC in CF	Banja Luka, BiH	14 – 23 August
21 st WPC in FS, 10 th WPC in AE and 1 st WC in Speed	Prostejov, CZ	24 – 30 August
16 th Asiana C'ships	Bandung, Indonesia	9 – 14 Sep
38 th CISM C'ships	Solo, Indonesia	16–20 Sep
FAI EB/ASCP meeting and FAI General Conference	Thailand	11 – 20 Oct
5 th WPC in CP	Z'hills, Fl, USA	2 – 11 Nov
1 st WC in Indoor Skydiving	Austin, Texas, USA	12 – 17 Nov
5 th DIPC and WAG LO	Dubai	28 Nov – 6 Dec

A review of the five Newsletters and the list of Bureau decisions since the last Plenary meeting in Vienna is an indicator of the work done during the year by your Bureau.

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Date:	01 December 2014	Page -	2 of 5

FAI

The appointment of Ms Susanne Schodel has been greeted with much approval by the FAI Airport Commission Presidents. Susanne has brought a new era to FAI, whereby it now has a Secretary-General with first hand knowledge and experience of air sport operations.

The appointment of Markus Hagganay as FAI's Sports and Marketing Director has also been a welcome initiative and with these people in the FAI office, and new faces on the Executive Board, I hold positive expectations for the future of international air sports.

Issues remain with finance operations at the FAI office. IPC now has its own account, but is unable to operate it and very little has been achieved with efficiencies in this regard. The appointment of a new Finance Director and a Finance Advisory Group as decided by the last General Conference should provide the opportunity for reform in this vital area of FAI operations.

Records and Awards

One of the initiatives of the new FAI Secretary-General was to appoint an external consultant from USPA to assist in dealing with a large backlog of record claims in the FAI office. This was a very welcome and productive exercise.

There were many wonderful achievements by the world's skydivers this past year as new records were set regularly. There is one performance that stands out. The new high altitude record set by Alan Eustace in the USA of 135,000 feet sets a new bar, eclipsing Felix Baumgartner's record set just two years previously.

Presentation

This remains a challenging issue for IPC First Category Events. Most disciplines need to work on bringing results to the competitors as well as the viewing public, which mostly comprise people with keen skydiving interests. In today's world of advanced communication technology, the publication of results and video performances is a goal that IPC should focus more energy on. The posting of scores on A4 sheets of paper on DZ notice boards is a practice that belongs well in the past. It was pleasing to see the results system being used for the WPC in CP provided results as soon as they had been assessed over the DZ wifi to mobile devices and stationary TV screens.

Subject:	IPC PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2015 PLENARY MEETING	Annex No. -	2
Author:	Graeme Windsor, President, IPC	Agenda ref. -	4.1
Date:	01 December 2014	Page -	3 of 5

The development of an IPC competitions web site that will allow direct hosting of scores and videos by operators of scoring systems will also enhance the availability world wide of competition results. IPC would do well to adopt this as a project going forward, now that the 2014 competition season draws to a close.

One very interesting development towards the end of 2014 was the engagement at late notice of Skydive TV to cover the 5th WPC in CP at Zhills, FL. Despite the late engagement the statistics presented by Skydive TV show outstanding coverage. The company has since upgraded its server for faster downloading, which was necessary because of the demand. I would like to record my thanks to Susanne and Markus at FAI for all their assistance with this initiative, including dealing with the formalities of media rights and for sharing the cost, which amounted to reimbursements only for travel accommodation and incidentals.

IPETA

I am also pleased to include in this report that the efforts to bring organised professional parachuting tours and events has moved a step closer to reality.

The year started slowly when efforts to have a presence at the annual SportAccord Convention failed to materialise. The FAI Executive Board was unable to agree to sharing a presence for FAI, FAME and IPETA until it was too late to take advantage of reasonable registration costs. It also meant that IPETA was unable to produce the necessary materials and marketing representative in time. Efforts have already started to be included in the 2015 Convention, and it is to be hoped that the new FAI EB and Secretariat will be able to facilitate this presence.

Work has commenced on an IPETA web site and brochures in readiness for 2015 SportAccord and any other opportunity with a reasonable chance of success, as it occurs. A competitors' meeting at the 5th World Canopy Piting Championships endorsed the continuation of these efforts, and I trust the CP committee will assist as required.

I would like to again summarise some of the unique characteristics of IPETA, and FAI owned company operated by IPC for the purpose of establishing professional international tours and events. IPETA is :-

- *Supported entirely by FAI International Parachute Commission as an investment project designed to bring lasting benefit to FAI international parachuting; and*
- *Controlled by Directors appointed by IPC.*

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<i>Date:</i>	01 December 2014	<i>Page -</i>	4 of 5

During the course of this 2015 Plenary, Delegates will have the chance to attend the Annual General Meeting of IPETA, and to appoint five Directors from IPC to its Board to join the two nominated by FAI. Nominations have been called for through the Newsletter and once again I remind Delegates of this opportunity to be involved in this exciting new development stage of international parachuting competition.

ASC Presidents' Meeting

At the time of preparing this report, official minutes of the ASC Presidents' meeting with the Executive Board and the FAI General Conference itself, both of which meetings were in October 2013, have not been distributed. I have circulated my unofficial account of the meeting with the Newsletter.

Anti Doping

Competitors in IPC events will remain subject to the possibility of testing during competitions, and I am asked to remind all Delegates to make sure competitors have a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) certificate registered with FAI (and local organisations), if they need one. Testing was quite visible at selected 2014 events.

Air Sport General Commission (CASI)

I should report that once again I have been re-elected to be President of the Air Sport General Commission. I was quite honoured to accept the appointment, and I wish to thank both Buzz Bennett and Gill Rayner from IPC who have both contributed substantially to CASI work to keep the Sporting Code General Section current, and to help FAI develop other air sports. Buzz was returned as 1st Vice-President while Gillian relinquished her post following her election to the FAI Executive Board.

A CASI workgroup headed by Buzz Bennett reported to the recent CASI meeting in October, and a number of amendments to the SC General Section have been made. Many of the decisions at the CASI meeting will require action by IPC along with other airsports, as some responsibilities have been devolved back to the sports themselves.

Bureau work

I have already referred to the workload of the Bureau. I wish to thank all the Bureau members for their continued and untiring efforts, through the IPC, to carry out the wishes of the Plenary meeting, and to make the world a better place for skydiving. There is a constant stream of communication and much robust discussion from this energetic group. Losing both 1st Vice President Gillian Rayner and Vice President Niels-Christian Levin Hansen to the FAI Executive Board, is a loss for the existing Bureau, but I am sure they will bring wisdom and experience to their new role, which can only enhance IPC efforts to achieve its strategic plan objectives.

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<i>Date:</i>	01 December 2014	<i>Page -</i>	5 of 5

IPC Committees and Working groups

These continue to have plenty of issues to deal with. I wish to thank them all for their diligent efforts during 2014 in looking after the interests of IPC's various disciplines and activities and for keeping an eye on our strategic objectives as IPC continues to develop with emerging challenges of new disciplines and improvements in presentation of existing ones. IPC is very fortunate to have so many enthusiastic people ready to roll their sleeves up and work voluntarily for the benefit of international skydiving.

Conclusion

I would like to send a special message of thanks to all those volunteers who support the work of IPC, through participation as competitors, judges, officials or in some other way, which they do willingly because of their love of this wonderful sport.

Graeme Windsor

1 December 2014