



CIA President's Annual Report to the 104th FAI General Conference Dublin (Ireland) October 8-9, 2010

Highlights 2010

1. CIA Annual Meeting

The CIA's 2010 Plenary meeting was held in Lausanne from March 12 to 13, 2010. Delegates from 28 NACs were present or represented. The FAI was represented by the Secretary General Stéphane Desprez and Sports & Development Director Jean-Marc Badan. The meeting successfully dealt with its agenda and among the items discussed the following are noteworthy:

- CIA delegates reported on ballooning activities in their respective countries (statistics are available from the CIA secretary).
- The delegates appointed and approved the FAI International Juries and key officials for the 2010-09-17 sanctioned events.
- The delegates regretted once again that two outstanding issues with FAI Members could not yet be resolved. The UAE and Russian NACs failed to abide by their obligations and were not responsive to the FAI and CIA requests to help settle the outstanding issues. The CIA therefore decided to retain the event deposit of 10.000.- CHF for the 2008 BX Championship in St. Petersburg/Russia, and to continue its efforts to recover the cost for the organisation of the failed 2007 CIA Conference in Abu Dhabi..
- The delegates passed a motion to accept a document presented by the CIA Event Development Service and dealing with a new "Event Performance Bond" structure and a new event "marketing" philosophy based on IPC's experience. The delegates tabled discussion on the proposed performance bonds and sanction fees until the 2011 Plenary Meeting.
- The delegates decided to approve procedures regarding the technical requirements for CIA approved balloon competition loggers and procedures for CIA approved loggers developed by the CIA New Technologies Subcommittee (NTS) and built to their specifications.
- The delegates decided that the CIA Bureau members shall be elected for a one-year term.
- The delegates approved the new CIA Events Calendar, the 2010-2011 budget and the 2009 accounts.
- The delegates decided that the 2011 CIA Plenary Meeting will be held in Tokyo/Japan from March 9-12.
- The delegates re-elected the CIA Bureau for one more one-year term.

President:	Jean-Claude Weber (LUX)
1st Vice President:	Hans Åkerstedt (SWE)
2nd Vice President:	Uwe Schneider (GER)
3rd Vice President:	Mark Sullivan (USA)
Secretary:	Alex Nagorski (CAN)

2. Major 2010 CIA Events

19th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship (AX) (<http://www.deballoons.com>)

The Event is hosted by the Hungarian NAC and organised by local Balloon Association "Fly Vegh" in Debrecen/Hungary from October 2nd to 10th 2010. The event will have 125 participants and will be directed by Event Director Mathijs Debruijn (NED) and Deputy Event Director David Levin (USA).

The winning results are not known as the competition had not yet started at the time of writing this report

54th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (AA) (<http://www.gordonbennett2010.com/>)

The event is hosted by the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom, organized by the Gordon Bennett 2010 Ltd. with the help of the British Balloon & Airship Club, and takes place in Bristol from September 24th to October 2nd 2010. The 19 balloons from 10 countries are planning to take off from Bristol on Saturday night (Sept. 25). The entire competition will be tracked by satellite and the public can follow the developments over 4 days on the dedicated internet site.

The winning results are not known as the competition had not yet started at the time of writing this report.

1st FAI European Women Hot Air Balloon Championship (AX) (<http://www.euowomen2010hab.org/>)

The event was hosted by the Lithuanian NAC and organised by the local Ballooning Federation in Alytus (Lithuania) from June 15th to 20th 2010. The event was directed by Event Director Mathijs Debruijn (NED) and Deputy Event Director Robertas Komza (LTU). 27 women competitors from 13 NACs took part in the competition with 15 tasks flown.

The winning results are as follows:

1. Gabriela Slavec	Slovenia	11.488 points
2. Lindsay Muir	UK	10.778 points
3. Jolanta Matejczuk	Poland	10.701 points

9th FAI World Hot Air Airship Championship (BX) (<http://www.worldairship2010.fr/en/>)

The event was hosted by the French NAC, the French Ballooning Federation, and was organised by the local Ballooning Association in Dole (France) from July 13th to 17th 2010. The event was directed by Pit Thibo (LUX) and Deputy Event Director Michel Leblanc (FRA). 11 competitors from 7 NACs took part in the competition with 10 tasks flown.

The winning results are as follows:

1. Besnard J.A.	Switzerland	13.025 points
2. Kostiuskevicius R.	Lithuania	11.660 points
3. Contegiacomo P.	Italy	10.730 points

3. Other CAT1 events staged in 2010:

LUXGSM World Balloon Trophy	AX	Echternach/Luxembourg	21 st July to 25 th
Tochigi HAB International Balloon Championship	AX	Tochigi/Japan	18th to 23rd November

4. FAI Championships to come:

1 st Women's World HAB Championship	AX	Valmiera/Latvia	21 st to 29 th May 2011
17 th European Hot Air Balloon Championship	AX	Lleda/Spain	15 th to 23 rd September 2011
54 th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett	AA	Barcelonnette/France	10 th to 17 th September 2011
20 th FAI World Hot Air Championship	AX	Battle Creek, Michigan/USA	17 th to 25 th August 2012

5. FAI Class A and B World Records in 2009

CIA has processed 2 BX-Airship and 12 AA-Gas Balloon World Records during 2009. Details of these records are available on the FAI webpage at http://records.fai.org/balloons/#history_A

6. FAI / CIA Awards

Montgolfier Diploma-Best performance Gas Balloon	Cheri White (USA)
Montgolfier Diploma-Best performance Hot Air Balloon	Sven Goehler (GER)
Montgolfier Diploma-Contribution to the Sport	David Levin (USA)
Santos Dumont Gold Airship Medal	Leonid Tyukhtyaev (RUS)
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (posthumous)	Michio Kanda (Japan)
CIA Hall of Fame Inductees (living)	Sid Cutter (USA)

7. General considerations

Although Ballooning is, apparently, by far the most sponsor attractive air sport, and ballooning events being generally very well accepted by the public and media, we find it difficult to attract enough organisers to stage and run all of our sporting events on the calendar. More and more organisers prefer to have "non-sanctioned" events, giving them freedom from strict rules and procedures and allowing for more public- and media friendly events. The CIA is making efforts to counter-act this tendency and will adopt in the near future a new bidding and sanctioning process based on the "direct marketing" efforts adopted by the IPC. The CIA is continuing its efforts regarding Safety issues at our events, modernisation of our existing competition formats, communication with the grass roots balloonists, rapid aging of our pilot population and the difficulties to recruit new pilots, and poor representation of female pilots at our competitions. In this respect, we are pleased to announce that in 2010 we staged the first ever highly successful Women Continental Hot Air Balloon Championship and that we will have the Women World Hot Air Balloon Championship in 2011. We are moving along smoothly in developing a simple and effective competition-logger system, ultimately leading to improved and less complex scoring systems at our CAT1 events.

Following a decision of the International Jury at the ballooning event of the WAGs in Turin in 2009, the FAI was faced with an Appeal by the Brazilian NAC. This Appeal, quite legitimately presented but mishandled with total disregard of any due-process by the FAI Appeals Tribunal, ended up with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne and could happily be settled by a face-saving out-of-court agreement. Although the relevant statutory and Sporting Code regulations seem to be clear and have served the FAI very well in the past, it is now felt that the Appeals procedures should be revised.

The CIA is very much concerned about the FAI EB planned strategy regarding the ASCs financial contribution to the resources needed to run an efficient and modern administration in an International Sports Federation. It is felt that the ASCs, being at the exclusive service of the FAI Members and taking on their delegated responsibilities, should not be used as "easy" money-raising instruments to cover missed or unused opportunities. Competition revenue raised by ASCs should be used exclusively for the direct benefit of those participating in our sports, and not to supplement the budget of the FAI administration. The FAI (not the ASCs) already retains the exclusive media rights to all FAI air sports events and could make these rights their top priority to raise the necessary finances to fund their ambitious administration efforts. Grass roots air sports people in aerostation are not prepared to fund these efforts without seeing direct and noticeable improvements for their activity, and the CIA is afraid that, if implemented, this strategy will be to the detriment of the air sport in general and that many, if not most, participants will turn their back on the FAI and look for other avenues to participate in their preferred air sport. Balloonists sincerely hope that NACs will not be blinded by grand strategic plans and that common sense will prevail when deciding this issue. The CIA is aware of its responsibilities and believes that it has never failed the principles of FAI. Therefore the CIA believes that loosing the NACs' vital support would be understood as a "non-confidence" vote with dire consequences for our sport.

Concluding, I would like to acknowledge the support received from the NACs and the FAI Staff in Lausanne, and to sincerely thank them for their efforts on behalf of the CIA. It has been ma pleasure and honour to serve FAI and ballooning with your help for more than 30 years, and I hope that your continuing support will make it possible for ballooning to strive and to remain one of the FAI's show-case activities.

J.C. Weber, President,
FAI Ballooning Commission