



*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

Minutes

of the
**Meeting of
FAI Commission Presidents' Group
with FAI Executive Board**

**held in Lausanne (SUI)
at the Hotel Mirabeau**
Avenue de la Gare 31
on Friday 11th May 2012

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1. FAI President's Introduction

The President extended a warm welcome to all, including the two newest members of the FAI Head Office staff.

2. Roll Call

President :

- John GRUBBSTRÖM FAI President (JG)

Executive Board Members :

- Alvaro de ORLEANS-BORBON FAI Executive Director (AOB)
 - Robert CLIPSHAM FAI Executive Director Finance (RC)
 - Robert HENDERSON FAI Executive Director (RH)
 - Otto LAGARHUS FAI Executive Director (OL)
 - Beat NEUENSCHWANDER FAI Executive Director (BN)
 - Jean-Marc BADAN FAI Secretary General (JMB)

Air Sport Commissions (ASC)

- Agust GUDMUNDSSON FAI Hang Gliding & Paragliding Commission (AG)
 - Jean-Pierre DELMAS FAI General Aviation Commission (JPD)
 - David HAMILTON FAI Rotorcraft Commission (DH)
 - Matthieu ROUET FAI Aerobatics Commission (MR)
 - Richard MEREDITH-HARDY FAI Microlight Commission (RMH)
 - Eric MOZER FAI Gliding Commission (EM)
 - Antonis PAPADOPOULOS FAI Aeromodelling Commission (AP)
 - Jean-Claude WEBER FAI Ballooning Commission (JCW)
 - Graeme WINDSOR FAI Parachuting Commission (GW)
 - Alfons HUBMANN FAI Amateur-Built & Exp. Aircraft Comm. (AH)

Technical Commissions (TC)

- Michiel KASTELEIJN FAI Aviation & Space Education Commission (MK)
 - Jürgen KNÜPPEL FAI Medico-Physiological Commission (JK)

Apologies for absence :

- Mike HEUER FAI Aerobatics Commission
 - Lars HOLMSTRÖM FAI Airspace & Navigation Commission
 - LEE Jonghoon FAI Executive Director
 - Bernald SMITH FAI Environmental Commission
 - Segismundo S. F. de CORDOBA FAI Astronautic Records Commission

In Attendance :

- Rob HUGHES FAI Senior Sports Manager (RHU)
 - Visa-Matti LEINIKKI FAI IT Manager (VML)

The President welcomed the new faces around the table; the Presidents of CIACA, CIAM, GAC and IGC as well as the Vice-President of CIVA.

The President started the meeting with a major announcement; the FAI had entered into a global partnership with Breitling. He encouraged those present to visit the FAI homepage to read the press release which had just been published. This was tremendous news and the President recognised the Secretary General's hard work in recent weeks.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved without modification.

4. FAI Sports Strategy

4.1. Sports Strategy

(R. Henderson, R. Hughes)

RH distributed a working paper on the Sports Strategy for discussion and feedback.

Working paper item 3.1 - That the FAI Sports Principles be adopted.

The wording of several of the paragraphs was brought into question, though many had been copied from the FAI Statutes.

Generally: Too flowery and lengthy with unenforceable principles.

Para 3.2: Too political and could take S10 as an alternative model.

Para 3.3 ‘conduct’ : If ASCs were tasked with running championships directly, there would be no need for NACs.

Para 3.4: Do ASCs have the ability to confer rights to others?

Para 3.5: Does this preclude Open nationals, which are not necessarily CAT2 and may not oblige foreign pilots to hold an FAI Sporting Licence?

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group agreed that RH and RHU re-work the principles and present the revised principles at the October meeting.

Working paper item 4 - That the 4-tier/level model be accepted as a good way to describe the different air sports products

The Secretary General explained that this concept was primarily to explain to external bodies how FAI structures its competitions and the third tier would allow FAI to be more creative in the future.

The importance of CAT2 sanction fees to CIVL’s revenues was underlined and that any change of name would lead to confusion.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group agreed to instruct CASI to consider the matter with a view to adopting it.

Working paper item 5.1 - To maintain and grow, if possible, the FAI involvement in multi-sport events.

The participation in multi-sport events was very appealing and an excellent promotion opportunity. It encouraged professionalism while at the same time provided the ability to learn and to gain experience.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 5.2 - That we plan to solicit “expressions of interest” and enter into bilateral discussions with potential hosts for a 2015 WAG

The formal bid process created a lot of work for the FAI HO. It was also considered more effective to encourage potential bidders through bi-lateral discussions.

These discussions needed to be transparent and in accordance with clearly defined procedures. This was FAI’s most prominent event and should not be watered down.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 5.3 - That all air sports should be involved in the World Air Games assuming facilities, location, airspace and events are suitable.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 5.4 - That the World Air Games be a combination of competition and air show to enable all air sport disciplines to participate.

There was clearly a need to provide entertainment during breaks between competitions and this could be in the form of non-competitive demonstrations.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 5.5 - For multi-sport events, the HO be the central coordinator for the air sports input and the ASC(s) nominate a technical expert to assist and provide guidance.
This was the format used for the World Air Games 2009.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 5.6 - For the World Air Games, the FAI have a specialist working conjoint with the head of the LOC; the individual ASCs appoint specialist to work with appropriate persons in the LOC; and, the FAI specialist be responsible, in conjunction with the ASC specialists, for the production of the rules for the WAG

It was suggested that the triangle of responsibilities between the HO, the ASC and the LOC did not work successfully in 2009 and that there was a need for one person with overall responsibility for each sport. This person did not necessarily need to be part of the LOC.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 5.7 - That the Director of Operations for the WAG be directly responsible to the FAI during the actual running of the World Air Games

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the proposal.

Working paper item 6 - That ownership of each of these activities [as listed in the working paper] (and others that may be also identified) be clarified and incorporated into an FAI event management document.

This initiative had been started by former Executive Director Bengt-Eric FONSELL.

Some Commission Presidents questioned its relevance since many Commissions already had such documents. There would be several areas of overlap and the FAI document would not be able to encompass all of the peculiarities of each Commission.

This was, however, an opportunity to bring together the different practices of Commissions and to learn from each other. There may be duplication between Commissions which reduced the efficiency of volunteers' efforts.

RH explained that, as with the anti-doping plan, the aim was to produce a short document which could be of benefit to all.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group approved the continuation of work in this area.

Working paper item 7 - The Organiser Agreement.

7.1 That ASC representatives be identified to facilitate this drafting.

7.2 That the purpose and content of the OA be clarified to enable drafting of a new OA.

There was agreement from all sides that the Organiser Agreement was in need of updating.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents group agreed to collaborate on the re-drafting of the Organiser Agreement.

Working paper item 8 - The Promotional / Marketing of Air Sports Products.

IPC were working on an internal strategy paper and did not require FAI's assistance, though GW congratulated the Executive Board for its initiative.

GAC had considered more marketable events and were ready to work with other ASCs to create multi-discipline championships.

CIA had devised a marketable sports event and asked what support they could expect from the FAI agency. AOB replied that the agency could provide common services such as promotion, legal advice and sponsor recruitment.

CONCLUSIONS: The Commission Presidents group agreed that:

8.1 The AiSTS recommendation was no longer appropriate

8.2 The process of integrating the efforts between ASCs and FAME be identified.

8.3 ASCs identify the level and type of support from FAME.

8.4 Sponsorship opportunities should be copied to the HO.

Working paper item 9.1 - That we maintain, and grow if possible, the FAI involvement at the Cat 2 level and in air sport festivals

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group was not in favour of increasing efforts in this area.

Working paper item 9.2 - That CAT 2 events be managed by ASCs in conjunction with the host / NAC

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group was in favour of increasing efforts in this area.

Working paper item 9.3 - That we develop FAI GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE branding for these events

This could lead to confusion with the medals being awarded at events, especially when the label "CAT2" was well understood.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group agreed to develop the branding.

Working paper item 9.4 - That "organiser agreements", or a similar document, be developed for these events to ensure maximal freedom and minimal bureaucratic requirements while identifying any not-negotiable elements

This was not considered a priority for the FAI HO. CIVL used a document which determined CAT2 event organisers' responsibilities which worked well.

CONCLUSION: The Commission Presidents Group did not regard this as a priority for the FAI HO.

4.2. Sports Marketing Agency

(R. Henderson, R. Clipsham, J.-M. Badan)

The President gave details on the creation the FAI Agency. The Executive Board had taken the decision to create the agency in the form of a Swiss *Société Anonyme* (SA) and to name it "FAI Air Sports Marketing & Events S.A. (FAME). The initial Board of Directors would comprise:

- Robert Henderson, Chairman (with an ASC background)
- Robert Clipsham, Director (with financial expertise)
- Jean-Marc Badan, Director (a legal requirement that one of the directors be established in Switzerland)
- Robert Hughes, Secretary (non-voting member of the Board)

FAME would be able to sign contracts with host cities or event organisers with less risk to the FAI. Its main purpose was to generate new income, though it would have many other beneficial effects, such as increasing awareness of air sports and involving the young.

Initially, FAI would retain full ownership of FAME but would consider inviting other investors, who could bring additional expertise to the company. The Statutes had been finalised and sent to a notary for approval and other documents such as the precise business plan were in progress. The FAME Board

of Directors were to have their first meeting on Sunday afternoon, after which more details would become available.

ASCs were now able to create subsidiary companies in order to further promote the commercial aspects of their air sport. FAME would aim to provide a rapid response to ASC along with marketing, sponsorship and promotional support. ASCs would manage the accounts of the subsidiary with reporting responsibilities through FAME to the General Conference.

In order to comply with Swiss law, FAME would become a shareholder of each ASC entity; The ASC would elect its own Board of Directors.

The President introduced Giancarlo SERGI of Sinergi S.A.R.L. as a sports marketing and sponsorship specialist. Mr. Sergi addressed the Group : There was a trend among sports to outsource commercial activities in order to separate this activity from the political governance of the International Federations. Such companies could employ commercially minded people with a sales spirit and experience in dealing with sponsors and host cities.

Mr. Sergi was working with the UCI (International Cycling Federation); they had set up a commercial entity in the last 6 months to create new events within cycling. Once the event had been established, it was then passed to the Federation since it was they who possessed the technical expertise in delivering the sport.

It was vital that FAI retained control of its rights when dealing with service partners. Experience with other International Federations showed that the retention of rights was of primary importance.

The President clarified that Mr. Sergi was FAI's neighbour and that he was being considered as a future partner to FAME. Sinergi could provide expertise and operational support to ASC commercial entities, particularly when dealing with host cities and sponsors.

This initiative was warmly welcomed by the Group. It would not conflict with the current structure or the relationship with NACs; this was primarily about creating new event formats and to help ASCs develop existing ideas.

4.3. Revision of Organiser Agreement (R. Henderson, R. Hughes)

There was general consensus that the current Organiser Agreement was outdated and needed revision. RHU had been tasked with the project and asked for its deadline to be brought forward to the General Conference 2012 for adoption.

ASCs would be contacted to provide one contact person per Commission to work on the project and to provide initial feedback. This would be used as the basis for the new Agreement and a first draft would be circulated to ASCs and also to NACs for comment before a final version would be adopted by the Executive Board and presented at the General Conference in October.

4.4. FAI Medals (J. Grubbström, Huguenin Repres.)

Joris van DRUNEN, Sales Manager of Huguenin S.A. (medals manufacturer) reported on options for reducing the costs of FAI Medals. Mr. van DRUNEN had supplied 4 different medal options and a blind survey was conducted. The production process was described and Mr. van DRUNEN fielded questions from the floor.

The survey results would be collected and used by the Executive Board to decide on the future supply of FAI medals.

4.5. Anti-Doping (R. Henderson)

A recent meeting with Frederic DONZE, Director of the WADA European Office confirmed that the FAI anti-doping plan was on track. The results of the risk analysis survey indicated that the main causes of adverse analytical findings (AAF) were recreational drugs and medications for which a TUE should have been sought. The FAI Anti-Doping panel could not overturn an AAF based on a lack of a TUE and it was the competitor's responsibility to obtain one before competing.

The question of why FAI was implementing the plan was raised. RH likened it to airport security; every traveller had to submit to security searches because of the very few who intended to break the rules. Sport should be fair to all and anti-doping was a necessary element to ensure this fairness.

Some AAFs pointed to the use of drugs which were illegal in aviation. WADA was prepared to work with FAI should a competitor be prosecuted by aviation regulators as a result of an AAF, so that the competitor was not punished twice for the same offence.

The introduction of the anti-doping plan was on schedule and good progress had been made. The previous plan had quoted parts of the WADA code whereas the updated version made reference to it, creating a smaller document.

The FAI website was an excellent resource for information on anti-doping and RH encouraged the Group to promote it to their Commissions :
<http://www.fai.org/cimp-projects/cimp-fai-anti-doping-programme>

4.6. Update on the FAI Sporting Licence Database

(J.-M. Badan, V.-M. Leinikki)

The Sporting Licence Database software had been improved and the 2011 data had been uploaded into the system. The next steps were the test phase and an update to the user guidelines in accordance with the new software. The system would be introduced in 2012 for formal adoption as the unique system for checking the validity of licences in 2013.

4.7. Naming of Competitions

(R. Hughes)

The current version 2.1 was outdated and version 2.2 had been drafted in May 2011 but not put forward for publication.

Following feedback in the meeting, the document would be presented to the Executive Board for adoption and subsequent publication.

5. Multi-Sport Events

5.1. World Air Games 2015

(R. Henderson, R. Hughes)

There had been interest from several potential host cities. It was likely that the FAI HO would make direct contact with interested parties instead of a formal bid process which was time-consuming and potentially less effective.

5.2. Update on the IWGA World Games 2013, Cali (COL)

(R. Hughes)

RHU gave a presentation on the current situation. There had been significant communication problems with the Cali Local Organising Committee (CLOC) but recent developments pointed towards a successful test event in August 2012.

5.3. Asian Beach Games 2012, Haiyang (CHN)

(R. Hughes, R. Meredith-Hardy)

The President and RHU would travel to China along with RMH who was acting as Technical Delegate. Coordination with the Local Organising Committee had proved complicated due to liaison with National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and not FAI NACs, since the Games were organised by The Olympic Council of Asia.

This was a significant opportunity to gain experience, not least with Swiss Timing who were responsible for an instant scoring and results system.

5.4. Asian Beach Games 2014, Phuket (THA)

(R. Henderson, R. Hughes)

Three Commissions had shown interest in taking part in the Games in 2014 : CIVL (Paragliding Accuracy Landing), CIMA (Paramotoring) and CIAM (Pylon Racing). The Commissions agreed to appoint Liaison Officers following confirmation of their inclusion in the programme.

6. ASC Proposals

6.1. GAC – Inter-plenary voting by correspondence

(J.-P. Delmas)

A proposal had been submitted by GAC to allow e-mail voting by ASC Delegates between annual meetings in order to accelerate decision processes.

There was doubt regarding the relevance of this proposal. Commission Bureaux were already able to make inter-plenary decisions, particularly if they had been specifically empowered to do so by the Plenary. Some Commissions' Internal Regulations considered this matter and JPD was encouraged to investigate how other Bureaux conducted Commission business.

CONCLUSION: There was no vote and therefore the proposal was not approved.

6.2. CIG – Special Exhibition

(D. Hamilton)

DH presented his ideas for an FAI Special Exhibition. The President thanked him for his work and agreed to put the issue on EB agenda for consideration.

6.3. IPC – Medals Policy

(G. Windsor)

The IPC had submitted a proposal that would empower each ASC to decide whether medals awarded at FAI World and Continental Championships would be supplied by the FAI or, as an alternative, by the organisers in accordance with the medal policy each ASC would be allowed to establish.

There was no problem with the current FAI medal, though some championship organisers preferred to strike their own design, much like the Olympic Games. Any medal produced by championship organisers would have to conform to FAI standards of quality. This proposal would not obligate ASCs to provide their own medals and others could continue to supply the FAI medal.

The IPC Plenary had agreed that championship organisers should be able to provide their own medal in addition to the FAI medals for variety. The quality of the non-FAI medal would be approved by the FAI/IPC controller of the championship.

There was concern for the FAI brand, the quality of any non-FAI medals, the guarantee of supply and the impact on other FAI air sports. There would be a need for a minimum quality specification to be drawn up though it would simply describe the current FAI medal.

Generally there was satisfaction with the current medal, which gave a strong impression of value and worth.

The Secretary General explained that FAI was entering a new era with sponsors and a commercial company to promote air sports. Commissions should take care to protect their image. The options presented by Huguenin that morning were at greatly reduced prices to the current supply and there were advantages to FAI's system of medal supply where championship organisers had been rescued at short notice when mistakes had been made in the past. FAI was the International Federation for air sports and should continue to supply the official FAI medal to FAI championships.

GW signalled his intention to take the proposal to CASI. The President asked if there was a conflict of interests given the current CASI Bureau : The CASI President was also the IPC President, a CASI first Vice-President was the IPC Treasurer and the CASI Secretary was another IPC Bureau member. GW assured the President that the CASI Bureau worked for all of its members.

7. ASC Reports – “State of your Commission”

Reports by FAI Commission Presidents :

CIMP

There were 15 people active in the Commission, of which 5 were involved in the approval of anti-doping TUEs. There was an initiative to investigate accidents in air sports

CIVA

The Aresti Cup awarded to the world champion in the unlimited class was now in Madrid undergoing full restoration and before a display tour around the world. A small replica would be presented to future world champions. Thanks were expressed to the Royal Aero Club of Spain for undertaking the renovation and also to AOB for his superb diplomacy when representing CIVA in discussions with the Aresti family.

The CIVA Contest Organisation Handbook would be finalised before the summer break and would describe organisers’ duties and responsibilities.

CIVL

The 2012 CIVL Meeting had taken place in Chinese Taipei with the election of many new Bureau members. It was common to have up to 150 pilots per championship.

There had been a concern in 2011 with non-certified competition paragliders. These were now being certified by manufacturers, creating two very different types of glider.

There had been some difficulties with championship organisers; a few days previously, the championship in Malaysia had been cancelled due to a change in government.

CIMA

Both the World Paramotor and World Microlight championships were due to be held in Spain later in the year. Paramotoring was on the Asian Beach Games programme and RMH was acting as Technical Delegate for the competition. The future competition calendar was now more heavily populated than in recent times.

The Paramotor World League Cup was due to start in 2 weeks. These were CAT2 events with a small sanction fee and there was a pressing need to create an online payment system modeled on the CIVL system.

IPC

NAC Russia had welcomed JG and GW recently to Russia and GW thanked the FAI President for attending the 2012 IPC Plenary.

IPC’s strategic plan was simple and based on 4 pillars : Attractive and dynamic presentation of the sport of parachuting, careful selection of events, ongoing emphasis on safety and strong financial management.

GW congratulated the Executive Board on their decision to create FAME. He also welcomed VML to the FAI staff.

The United States Parachuting Association (USPA) had started to develop a Hall of Fame and had inducted two members of IPC : Eilif NESS and Claude GILLARD.

IPC’s Mondial, the largest parachuting event of its kind, was due to take place in Dubai later in the year. It was a collection of all parachuting world championships as well as a demonstration paraski event (indoor sky resort) and the new discipline of speed skydiving. The prize fund for the test event amounted to USD 775,000 and the fund for the Mondial was expected to exceed that figure. There were problems obtaining visas for some competitors and GW asked if the Executive Board was able to help.

There had been two bids for the 2013 FAI World Style & Accuracy Championship; one had been received in a correct manner from Slovenia and a second had been tabled at the last minute from Grozny (Chechnya). The Plenary did not follow the Style & Accuracy Sub-committee’s recommendation and

awarded the championship to Grozny. GW had received assurance from the Sports Minister for Russia that the championship would receive full support from the highest level of government in Russia.

GAC

There were few competitions. 2012 would see one world championship and the first international air navigation race, which was designed to be more public and media friendly, including a knock-out format, live tracking and a landing contest.

IGC

RH had stepped aside as IGC President at the March 2012 IGC Meeting to concentrate on his Executive Board portfolio, and EM had agreed to become acting President until IGC elections in 2013.

The Commission had launched a safety initiative, particularly at CAT1 & 2 events. This included featured speakers and experts giving talks to participants on technical and psychological topics. 2011 'Safety Pays' working group had focused on rewarding safety through bonus points at championships as well as improving flight safety techniques and the security of aeroplanes.

IGC had been approached by a private company to promote the Sailplane Grand Prix series, though discussions were not concluded. This led the Commission to consider a separate entity to better handle future such approaches and to set aside €5,000 to form a commercial company for the purpose.

The FLARM unit had been maliciously hacked in recent days. IGC had taken steps to ensure FLARM's security in championships while working on a solution.

CIAM

The recent CIAM Meeting in Lausanne had welcomed 33 delegates and 35 countries represented, in total 80 people. CIAM would hold sixteen world and 300 CAT2 championships in 2012.

The CIAM President aimed for increased emphasis on communication between the Bureau, Delegates and Members in the future. Work was being done on standard procedures for the benefit of CIAM and also others within FAI. The Commission planned a World Aeromodelling day – not a competition but a celebration and promotion of the sport.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (USA) President Mr. Bob Brown expressed his concerns regarding AMA's subscription fee to the NAA versus the benefits they gain from participating in FAI / CIAM.

Eurotour: Not all of the Eurotour series of events are sanctioned by FAI and this is causing problems, for instance in Germany. FAI is also cited as an "idealistic sponsor" along with other FAI member organisations, which is not the case.

The Commission welcomed the idea of multi-discipline air sport events with other FAI commissions.

CIACA

There were ten delegates at the recent plenary held in Friedrichshafen (GER). The Commission targeted the doubling of the number of its Delegates and an increase in active participation at annual meetings. Working groups had been set up to concentrate on education and social initiatives as well as the Sporting Codes.

CIG

The FAI online helicopter competition had been launched shortly after the CIG Meeting in April. The Commission was designing challenges suitable for microlight helicopters as well as more media-friendly formats for rotorcraft events.

The World Helicopter Championships were due to take place in Russia later in the year. Anti-doping testing would be carried out by the Russian authorities.

CIEA

The results of the 2012 Young Artists Contest were on the FAI website. The theme for the 2013 contest had been determined as “My favourite air sports”.

CIA

The Bureau had been re-elected at the CIA Meeting in Lithuania. During the meeting, the first World Junior and second European Women's Championships had been approved. The system of deposit and performance bonds had been simplified.

CIA had now invested in 120 championship loggers : This should not be shown as an expense but instead as an asset in the CIA accounts and depreciated accordingly.

The Commission was seeking guidance as to how to better involve manufacturers; there was goodwill and expertise on offer and JCW asked how other Commissions work with manufacturers.

JCW thanked the FAI Head Office staff for all their help and support and was pleased to hear of the project to update the Organiser Agreement; CIA had several issues with the current document which had created problems with event organisers.

8. Sponsorship

Following the announcement at the beginning of the meeting, the President explained the current situation. The Global Partnership contract with Breitling was due to be signed that evening. FAI was at day zero of its relationship with Breitling and needed to work on the details of the implementation of the agreement.

Breitling had exclusivity in the “Watches” category which must be respected.

** AFTERNOTE: In the final contract, Breitling were allocated exclusivity in the category “Watches and Jewellery”*

There were suggestions as to how to create a Breitling presence at CAT1 events, including the provision of competition numbers or uniforms for officials. Breitling may also choose to send delegates to FAI events and this would require hospitality infrastructure.

There were definite advantages to the sponsorship for local organising committees, who would benefit from the association with such a prestige brand and may well encourage other sponsors to become involved.

9. Information from FAI Head Office

9.1. Situation of FAI Staff

(J.-M. Badan)

Jean-Marc BADAN, Secretary General since October 2011 and in FAI employment for the last 10.5 years, had seen great change in his time with FAI and thanked the whole team at the FAI HO for their support and the considerable number of extra hours they work. Communication and cooperation between the Head Office and members was key to the smooth running of the FAI.

The Secretary General introduced the members of the FAI Head Office :

Faustine CARRERA: Communication Manager and in post for 1.5 years. Primary duties included press releases, event news, the FAI website and collaboration with Commission webmasters, social networks, TV and media rights and communication with event organisers.

Visa-Matti LEINIKKI: IT Manager since 1 May 2012. Primary duties were management of the IT systems with his first task being an audit of current problems and provision of solutions. His next step would be to ascertain ASCs' needs and improvements for the future.

Cosette MAST: Office and Accounting Manager. Primary duties included keeping the FAI accounts, financial transactions, expenditure and expense claims, human resources, office administration, the relationship with the Maison du Sport International as well as with other service providers.

Ségolène ROUILLON: Members and Services Manager and in post for 1.5 years. Ségolène's list of functions was long and included : Point of contact for FAI Members, membership administration, FAI medals and awards, the Regional Vice-Presidents network, anti-doping, coordination of Technical Commissions and Expert Groups, and collaboration with General Conference organisers.

Sports Department

Rob HUGHES: Senior Sports Manager. He took over the Secretary General's previous role. Primary duties included coordination with ASCs, oversight of the Sports Department, multi-sport events, the sports strategy and development of FAI air sports.

Christine ROUSSON: Competition Manager. Christine has been working with the FAI for the past 11 years. Primary duties included competition administration of the 40 to 50 World & Continental Championships per year, organiser agreements, medal supply, competition diplomas, the FAI event calendar and championship details, results and world records (the latter with the support of VML).

Marcel MEYER (absent) had joined the FAI 8 years ago, initially as Record Manager, but later also as IT Officer in a 50% position. He would retire from the FAI at the end of June 2012.

The position of Assistant Sports Manager was vacant following the recent departure of Mrs Françoise GYPS and FAI was recruiting a replacement.

9.2. Finance : Budgeting Process 2013 / PayPal (R. Clipsham, J.-M. Badan)

The 2010 FAI General Conference had approved consolidated financial statements and the first set of consolidated ASC budgets had been presented at the 2011 FAI General Conference.

The Guidelines for ASC Budget Submission and Expense Approval had been revised to include comments received from ASC Financial Secretaries. The previously discussed 'resource sharing mechanism', as revised in the General Conference in Belgrade, had been incorporated into the document.

The deadline for ASC budget submissions had been brought forward to 30 June in order to enable the FAI Head Office to prepare a consolidated budget in time for the Executive Board meeting in August and then to the General Conference.

Expense approval: The ASC budget allocated funds for expense items. Budgeted items for less than CHF 4,000 did not require approval prior to the expense being committed. Budgeted items above CHF 4,000 required approval before expense commitment.

The ASC 'Guidelines for Expense Reimbursement' had been updated with clarifications. They were previously updated in January 2010.

CIVL had adopted a system of payment for some Commission fees through Paypal. CIMA had requested a similar facility which was in progress.

9.3. Update on Expert Groups (B. Neuenschwander, J.-M. Badan)

BN gave a presentation on the current situation regarding the realisation of the FAI Expert-system with the creation of new Expert Groups, the on-going conversion from CANS into an Expert Group and with the integration of Technical Commissions in the same working- and coordination-processes.

9.4. Update on TV Production

(J.-M. Badan)

Flying Aces CEO Jeff ZALTMANN had not accepted the termination of their contract with FAI and had resorted to legal advice. The Secretary General was dealing with the situation in close cooperation with the Executive Board and FAI lawyer.

The situation regarding television production in 2012 was poor with no budget for internal production. The Secretary General asked event organisers to liaise with Mrs CARRERA if they were to produce television images in order to further promote such footage through FAI communication channels, in particular through the FAI Air Sports Channel on the Sportaccord SportsHub.
(<http://www.youtube.com/airsportschannel>)

9.5. Update on FAI Website & Collaborative Tools

(V.-M. Leinikki)

VML had been in the Head Office for ten days and was conducting an audit of current systems. His aim was to gain an understanding of current issues and then prioritise in order of importance. The FAI lacked a development and testing environment which would improve the introduction of new initiatives in the future. Recent adjustments to the FAI website server had yielded improvements and a new email server was due to be introduced soon.

9.6. General Conference 2012, Antalya (TUR)

(J.-M. Badan)

The General Conference was due to take place in Antalya (TUR) and preparations were progressing. The registration website would be published soon.

10. Any Other Business

FAI Sporting licences

Several Commission Presidents reported difficulties in obtaining FAI Sporting Licences in some countries. Some NACs charged significant sums of money for their supply.

The Secretary General agreed that a survey of NACs’ procedures would be of benefit and would include the matter in the agenda of the next Executive Board meeting.

11. Date and Place of next Meeting

The next Meeting of the FAI Commission Presidents’ Group with the FAI Executive Board would take place on Wednesday 17 October 2012 at 09h.00 in Antalya (TUR).

12. FAI President’s Closing Statement

The President thanked everyone for taking part in a very productive meeting and invited them all to a cocktail reception that evening to celebrate the new partnership with Breitling.

The meeting closed at 18h30.