



Pedro Cabañero
President of General Aviation Commission
Padilla 336, 1º 1ª 08025
BARCELONA (Spain)
Tel. + 34 93 280 18 34
Mvl. + 34 630 930 590
e-mails: perecab@wanadoo.es pedro.perecab@gmail.com

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GAC PRESIDENT REPORT TO THE FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE

October 2009, Incheon (Korea)

The year 2009 starts officially at the end of 2008 with the GAC Plenary Meeting, held in Prague, Czech Republik, from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th, October 2008.

Members of the FAI General Aviation Commission (GAC) were welcomed to Prague by Mr. Lukas Popelka, Chief Executive Officer of the Aero Club of Czech Republic.

The meeting was called to order October 18th 2008 at 09:00 by Mr. Pedro Cabañero, GAC President. He welcomed all persons in attendance, and offered a special welcome to Mr. Jean Marc Badan, Sports & Development Director FAI. He thanked Mr. Jiri Dodal, Czech Republic Delegate, for organizing this year's meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved, with the addition of two new items: the approval of international jury members & judges and the approval of new GNSS dataloggers. The minutes of the meeting held in Gordon's Bay, South Africa, November 3-4, 2007, were unanimously approved.

I myself reported on commission-related activities during the year. I congratulated the organizers for a very successful combined Precision Flying and Rally Flying World Championships that were held in Ried, Austria, in July. The GAC Bureau held a meeting during the championships.

I also informed the delegates that FAI had signed a contract with Red Bull earlier this year. The contract allows Red Bull to use the title "Red Bull Air Race World Championship" and to declare a World Champion each year. Known formerly as the Red Bull Air Races, the championships are now purely racing and do not include aerobatics. Sanction fees for the event will go directly to FAI, since GAC did not play any role in securing the contract. The Secretary General of FAI has forwarded an amendment to Section 2 of the FAI Sporting Code which would give the FAI General Conference responsibility for the Red Bull competition rules. This amendment will be considered later in the agenda.

About next World Air Games (WAG), I informed the meeting that the next World Air Games will take place in 2009, in Turin. Mr. Badan showed a short video of the test events that took place earlier this year and the virtual tracking being used for ballooning and gliding. Some of the biggest challenges facing the 2009 WAG will be conducting six air sport events at one venue and providing continuous entertainment for spectators. No GAC events will take place during the 2009 WAG. However, the Aero Club of Greece has proposed carrying a flame from Icarlada to Turin. The GAC Air Navigation Race has been added to the list of air sports to take place during the 2011 WAG. GAC will be invited to appoint a liaison officer as soon as the 2011

organizer is selected. Now, we are ready to confirm that our ANR project is completely ready for an eventual WAG 2011, and our liaison officer Mr Heini Schawalder is ready for it.

Talking about the competitions during the year I remit myself to the official information sent to GAC by the International Chief Judge, Mr Paul Szameitat from Austria, to whom I liked to thank from here his perfect job.

*** (copy lit. and resumed)

Participants

61 competitors from 16 countries participated in these the 19th World Precision Flying Championship held between 19th and 26th July 2009 at Torun Airfield in Poland.

Teams from 10 countries were eligible for the Team Trophy.

General Comments

Championship Director Jerzy Wisniewski and especially Route Planner and Organisation Deputy Director Andrzej Orsowski and her team of volunteers from the Aeroclub Torun and elsewhere in Poland had prepared excellent all about this championship.

17 years ago I attended my first International Championship, held at Deblin/Poland, and over the years I have been a competitor at nearly all international events.

In my opinion this Championship was on the top of the list for professional and perfect organisation.

Competition Routes

Route Planner Andrzej Osowsky prepared one Official Training Route, two routes for the Navigation Flights and one Reserve Route.

I checked the two Navigation Routes fully, also by plane, and parts of the Official Training and the Reserve Route. All routes were in a very high level - adequate for a world championship - and excellent prepared. I could not find any mistake, it was all according to the Rules and Regulations Precision Flying, 2009 Edition.

There were good weather conditions during both Navigation Flights at 22nd and 23th July and nearly the same meteorological conditions for all pilots.

For all departures we could use concrete runway 11/29 and for all landings grass runway 11/29. Afterwards the debriefing each competitor got a preliminary result for his flight.

Conclusion

In my opinion was this championship in the highest level of Precision Flying but still it was one of the best event.

The competitors were satisfied and happy. This is also a good advertising for the future of Flying Competitions.

One key for this successful event was the good cooperation between Championship Director, Route Planner, Jury, International and Local Chief Judge and Team Managers.

The contribution of all named people to run the logistic around the event must also be highlighted

Paul Szameitat, Austria

Int. Chief Judge of the 19th WPFC

28. July 2009 ****

Unfortunately, I can talk here about the other First Class event this year, which will be the 7th European Rally Flying Championship to be held in Castellón, Spain, from 6th to 13th September 2009, because when writing this information the event is not done yet. But I'll have the pleasure to comment it in the next GC 2009 if necessary.

17th World Rally Flying Championship

Mr. Milan Mazanovský, presented the final bid for the 17th World Rally Flying Championship to be held 9-15 August 2010, in Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovak Republic. The final bid was unanimously approved.

World Precision Flying Championship and World Rally Flying Championship in 2012.

It was noted that Hungary expressed an interest in organizing world championships for both Precision Flying and Rally Flying in 2012.

Subcommittee Reports

Air Navigation Race Subcommittee

Mr. Heini Schawalter, Chairman of the Air Navigation Race Subcommittee, reported on the development of ANR as a new GAC competition. He announced that the first test competition was planned for 2009 in Switzerland, and that he believed ANR holds great potential for GAC.

Precision Flying Subcommittee

Mr. Johann Gutmann, Chairman of the Precision Flying Subcommittee, proposed several changes to the Rules and Regulations for Precision Flying (see excerpts in Annex 6). The proposed changes to paragraphs A.0.2, A.1.1.4, A.1.2.1.2, A.3.10, and A.9.1.3 were approved, with one abstention.

Mr. Gutmann also proposed that additional medals be awarded at Precision Flying Championships to the best individuals (top three) for the Navigation tests and also for the Landing tests. This would allow for a total of six additional medals to be awarded at each championship. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Rally Flying Subcommittee.

Mr. Andrzej Osowski, Chairman of the Rally Flying Subcommittee, proposed several changes to the Rally Flying rules (see Annex 7). The proposed changes to paragraphs A 3.1.1, A 3.2.6, A 4.5, and A 4.6 were unanimously approved.

Records Subcommittee

Mr. Art Greenfield, Chairman of the Records Subcommittee, proposed changes to Section 2 of the Sporting Code, Annex 2, and Annex 3. He noted that perhaps the most significant proposed change was to require that all records for Speed Over a Recognized Course be a minimum distance of 400 kilometers (regardless of where the start and finish points are located), and that all current records not meeting this requirement be retired on January 1, 2009. The proposed changes to paragraphs 3.1.3, 3.1.7.1, 3.1.9, 4.6.11.2, 4.6.12.2, Annex 2, and Annex 3 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report.

Mr. Jiří Dodal, Treasurer, reviewed the income and expenditures during 2007-2008, and presented the proposed budget for 2008-2009. The budget was unanimously approved.

Awards

Charles Lindbergh General Aviation Diploma

I noted that no country had made a nomination for the Charles Lindbergh Diploma. However, the Bureau wished to nominate Mr. Krzysztof Lenartowicz for the award, and he made a motion for the commission to approve the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved, subject to approval by the NAC of Poland. Unfortunately, this approval didn't arrive on time, so that, this award should be delayed up to the next GC, in order to be delivered in Dublin 2010.

FAI Air Sport Medal

I noted that another award available to the commission is the FAI Air Sport Medal, and that the Bureau wished to nominate Mr. Jiří Dodal, and I made a motion for the commission to approve the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Cabañero then presented the Air Sport Medal to Mr. Vagn Jensen, who had been nominated during

the last meeting for his outstanding services to the commission. Mr. Jensen thanked the commission for the honor.

About Red Bull Air Races, Mr Art Greenfield noted that delegates were sent a message from Max Bishop, FAI Secretary General, proposing an amendment to Section 2, paragraph 7.1, as follows:

“The regulations summarize the general contents of the rules for competitions under GAC responsibility. The detailed Competition Rules for these competitions shall be approved by GAC. Rules for Red Bull Air Races are under the responsibility of the FAI General Conference.”

The proposal was unanimously approved.

About the election of Bureau and Technical Representatives, it was as follows:

Bureau:

President	Mr Pedro Cabañero.
Vice President/Secretary	Mr Art Greenfield.
Vice President/Treasurer	Mr Jiri Dodal.
Precision Flying Subc.Chairman	Mr Johann Gutmann.
Rally Flying Subc. Chairman	Mr Andrzej Osowski.
Air Nav Race Subc. Chairman	Mr Heinrich Schawalder.
Records Subc. Chairman	Mr Art Greenfield.

Technical representatives:

CASI representative	Mr Pedro Cabañero.
FAI Environmental Comm.rep.	Mr Henry Lindholm.
WAG's liaison officer	Mr Heinrich Schawalder.
Webmaster	Mr Chris Booysen.
Technical adviser, GNSS	Mr Jan Hanekom.
Technical adviser Long range	Mr Johann Gutmann.

I'm sorry that I can not inform you about this year GAC meeting, because it will be held next November, two weeks after the general Conference in Korea. As far as the plenary decided it will be held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 6th to 8th November 2009. The information about it will come next year.

Finally, it is a pleasure and a honour for me, to acknowledge the excellent support provided by our Secretary General Mr Max Bishop and all his staff in FAI Office in Lausanne, and to thank them all for their big job on behalf of the GAC. Thank you very much.



Pedro Cabañero
FAI GAC President.