

CIVL President's Report to the 2014 CIVL Plenary

Sporting Activity and Competition Review

In 2013 both hang gliding and paragliding, international competition activity within the FAI continues to grow, with a total of 383 competitions across all disciplines.

There were four 1st Category Continental Championships, one in each of Paragliding cross country, Hang gliding Class 1 cross country and two in Paragliding accuracy. The number of Category 2 competitions increased for all disciplines except Paragliding Aerobatics. Notably the Hang gliding Sports class almost doubled from 16 in 2012 to 29 in 2013.

By far the most active discipline is Paragliding cross country competitions with 173 events sanctioned; the next discipline is Hang gliding cross country with 78 events, as detailed in the table.

Civil Sanctioned Competition	2013	2012	2011
Category 1 Competitions	4	5	3
Hang Gliding Class 1 XC	1	1	1
Paragliding Accuracy	2	2	1
Paragliding XC	1	2	1
Category 2 Competitions	379	323	322
Hang Gliding Class 1 Sports Class	29	16	12
Hang Gliding Class 1 XC	77	61	58
Hang Gliding Class 2 XC	7	3	3
Hang Gliding Class 5 XC	34	26	20
Paragliding Accuracy	55	49	43
Paragliding Aerobatics	5	8	11
Paragliding XC	172	160	175
Total number of competitions	383	328	325

This table shows sanctioned competitions. Some of them were not valid; actually 77 of the 383 did not have results, most often because of unsuitable weather. There is an increase in HG of all disciplines and PG XC competitions are back up again. The PG Accuracy continues to increase and PG Aerobatics has few competitions. PG Aerobatics competition scene is developing and work being done by the Aerobatics committee, we will see if it results in more competitions in next years.



Future Championships

In 2014 we have following Continental Championships:

- 2nd FAI Pan-American Paragliding Championship (Argentina)
- 4th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy Championship (Serbia)
- 13th FAI European Paragliding Championship (Serbia)
- 2nd FAI Asian Paragliding Accuracy Championship (Malaysia)

In 2014 we also have the following World Championships in Hang gliding in Annecy, France. This is one event hosting following disciplines:

- World Hang gliding Women, Class 2, Class 5 and HG Sports Class (France)

This is also the first Category 1 HG Sports Class event to be held.

Cancellation of HG Europeans

There was no bid received before the bid deadline for the 2014 HG Europeans. CIVL was approached in late 2012 with a proposal for the competition. It was an unusual bid, with a budget providing for all costs to be covered by pilot entry fees alone. Because of the lack of bids for hang gliding events in recent times and because the CIVL knows and has seen this bidders excellent organizational skills in past competitions, the bid was accepted. Although there was some reluctance in light of the limited budget, we were hopeful that a Category 1 event could be pulled off with low budget. CIVL was ready to see if it was possible to make a good Category 1 competition with limited funding. In order to make it more feasible, CIVL accepted also to have the Jury members remote so only officials from FAI/CIVL were the Steward and Jury President.

The remote Jury was first tested in the HG competition in the Worlds Forbes in January 2013, with mixed results as no HG competition has had as many protests in many years.

Unfortunately, after the HG Europeans test event last summer, it became apparent there were many issues.

There were two main factors relating to this cancellation.

One is the limited budget for the competition. With limited budget the organizer cannot have the staff and facilities needed for safe and smooth running of the organization.

The other was difficulties in cooperation with the organizer, who felt he knew better than the sporting code rules and was not ready to do what is required. Part of that is for sure related to the limited budget, where the organizer understandably is reluctant to add staff when funds are not available.

The final conclusion was the test event was not acceptable, safety was compromised and the organizer was not willing to make the necessary changes needed. In the sporting code the organizer is obligated to implement all safety recommendations of the officials.

Cancelling an event is a decision everyone is unhappy about. CIVL is not happy having to cancel an event, the organizer is not happy personally or professionally and the pilots are not happy. But sometimes it is necessary to take the right decisions even it is not popular.

Championships bids

Even as the number of sanctioned competitions are increasing, the bids for Category 1 competitions have been declining for HG and PG XC.

CIVL has decided to form a WG specifically addressing this issue. The task of the WG is to identify the issues which are obstacles or hindrances for organizers to bid. The task is also to review the



bid process, if it can be improved and make it easier to do bids. And finally to review how CIVL should encourage bids, if CIVL should be proactive seeking bids, including contacting/encouraging known organizers directly.

CIVL is also reviewing how to support competition organizers more. Trials with remote jury have been conducted in last two years. There are issues to resolve but it seems to work for some competitions and will for sure lower the cost for the organizers and pilots. The cost of the officials could also be made more predictable for organizers.

Records

Since introduction of Continental Records it has been a slow start. But now there are number of Continental record attempts, some have been successful. There are number of records made in 2013 and we already have seen new record claims in 2014.

For records to be valid a confirmation from the pilots NAC must be received with satisfactory details and within time limits. Sadly, some records are rejected as sufficient confirmation is not received for ratification of an achievement of a pilot.

Records have been defined for Paragliding Accuracy and will be in competitions only. Paragliding Aerobatics Committee is still working on defining Aerobatic records looking into the records area.

Safety

Hang gliding:

CIVL and FAI received a number of comments and suggestions from Mr. Max Bishop, former FAI Secretary General. The Hang gliding and Paragliding committees are reviewing them and some proposals to the Plenary are related to the points raised.

The initiative of control and adjust the pitch stability settings has worked well as a project, mainly to motivate pilots and educate them on the importance of correct setting. Now checking of the settings is integral part of Category 1 competitions.

Paragliding:

The Paragliding Committee has been working hard this year to finalize the definition of CIVL Competition Class Paragliders (CCC).

During the definition phase of the CCC the PG Committee sent information out to delegates, manufacturers and others to get feedback and constructive comments.

EHPU supports the CCC and confirmed that in a letter to CIVL. In that letter it was also noted that in some European countries there are regulations that might limit those nations to have category 1 competitions with CCC Paragliders because the certification does not adhere to the EN standard.

The final result of this big project is what will be put up for voting at the Plenary.

It is in order to thank the PG committee members for their constant drive and motivation to make the CCC definitions of the details and quality you see in the resulting document.

To name some of the other work towards improved safety in Paragliding competitions, we have introduced changes to the End of Speed Section including the conical form and altitude bonus. This is to encourage pilots to cross the ESS line at higher altitude and reduce speed in the final glide.



Finance

The CIVL finances remain in good standing because of the number of sanctioned competitions and sale of IPPI cards. This is a direct result of the integration of our World Pilot Ranking System with our core competition activities and is dependent upon a continuation of that.

The CIVL finances have been healthiest of all the FAI Commissions for some time, but the current situation is not clear.

CIVL has been adding cost by enumerating Jury and Stewards. Also CIVL has paid expenses of technical persons for Sprog measurement in Hang gliding competitions while that project was in place. Expenses will occur for glider measurements in Paragliding competitions, which will be budgeted for.

All adds up to CIVL expenses are getting higher than before and we must be very careful in expenses to keep CIVL finances healthy as they are now.

The FAI office handles the accounting of all the commissions and manages the accounting system. The accounting service from FAI office for CIVL is unsatisfactory as it has been for 2012 and 2013. Despite many detailed requests of some transactions and request of corrections, this is still not clarified.

This is the second year in row where CIVL only have preliminary accounts available to the CIVL Plenary. This is not acceptable but we cannot do more without further work with and by the FAI office.

FAI has recruited new Secretary General and I am sure that will move the accounting problems away within this year.

But it has not been helpful for FAI in any matter, including the accounting to see the fourth Secretary General of FAI in four years.

On the positive side CIVL has now its own bank account. All expenses are to be paid from the CIVL account. With that the CIVL treasurer can see all payment at any time, a great improvement from current state.

The next step is to make all payments of CIVL come directly into the CIVL account. This is starting, as now the CIVL account is listed in the sporting code and all bank transfers are to that account. The other income is not transferred directly to the CIVL account, for example example all Paypal payments (sanction fee and more).

CIVL Organisation

CIVL changed its voting procedures to two year appointments of Bureau and other officials. So at this Plenary there will be no voting of officials.

The Competition Coordinator is the only paid position in CIVL. As Brian Harris resigned CIVL hired Nicky Moss to hold the Competition Coordinator position.

We thank Brian for his service in past years. And we welcome Nicky, who has proven to be very capable to take on this position. Already we have added more responsibilities to the position, to include Jury/Steward coordinator tasks.

FAME

Last year I reported the creation of FAME a marketing initiative of FAI I also reported the enthusiasm of CIVL towards the opportunities that it could open for our sport, with focus on Paragliding Aerobatics and Paragliding Accuracy. To ensure it even further an agreement between CIVL and FAME was signed.

The CIVL-FAME cooperation progressed to define Paragliding Aerobic “product” to promote for



international events.

I am sorry to report the FAME project of FAI has failed to deliver what was expected and has come to a halt. At this moment it is not clear if or how the FAME projects might continue.

Other Activity

The CIVL President has many duties and there is a lot of work needed for CIVL. Having good people contributing in the Bureau is mandatory for CIVL to handle the tasks at hand. This Bureau has good people and they devote a lot of time to CIVL matters. Some of the Bureau activity is listed in Annex of the Plenary documents.

As a CIVL President I attended a number of meetings. In May, FAI hosts an annual Commission Presidents meeting in Lausanne. Before that meeting CIVL sent the Executive Board of FAI number of suggestions on improvements in accounting for CIVL. It included suggestion for separate Bank Account for Commission. This and some other CIVL suggestions were well received and some of the items have already been implemented, namely the CIVL Bank account.

In October the FAI General Conference meeting was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During that meeting sessions, an Airsport Commissions Presidents meeting, CASI meeting (which handles the General Section of the Sporting Code among other tasks) and then the main General Conference meeting. Details of those meetings are available at the FAI website.

The annual autumn CIVL Bureau meeting was in beginning of November in Grenoble, France. A great work was conducted during the meeting in a good environment hosted by Stéphane Malbos, who we thank for enormous hospitality.

Preparation for the Plenary meetings is always much work for the Bureau with good support from the FAI office, this Plenary has been prepared well.

CIVL is working hard with good support of volunteers all around the world for the benefit of our sport. I thank you all on behalf of FAI and CIVL for your contribution.

I also thank my Bureau and the CIVL Committees for their work during the year.

I also want to thank Indonesia for their work and contribution to host the Plenary in the beautiful place of Bali.

Agust Gudmundsson
CIVL President