

FAI International Hang Gliding Commission (CIVL)

Annual Meeting, Sintra, Portugal. March 20-22 1998

Secretary's note: *proposers and seconders of non-controversial motions have been omitted in the interests of brevity. Papers which accompany these minutes as annexes carry the same number as the related minute. Abbreviations: HG = hang gliding, PG = paragliding, IOC = International Olympic Committee, NAC= National Aero Club, PWC = Paragliding World Cup, WHGS = World Hang Gliding Series.*

For simplicity these minutes are recorded here in agenda order, which occasionally differed from the order of business.

The meeting was opened by the President, Per Christian Dæhlin, at 10.15 hrs.

1 Welcome and roll-call, proxies and apologies for absence

Delegates, Alternates and Observers were welcomed to the meeting and all credentials approved. Twenty seven votes were verified. Iceland had elected Finland to carry the Icelandic proxy. Countries represented were:

Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA.

The FAI was represented by Max Bishop (Secretary General) and Srecko Medven (WAG Air Sports Co-ordinator)

Not all of these attended throughout, and some countries were represented only by Observers.

Apologies were received from Jean Solon (Belgium), Per Jutemar (Sweden), Thomas Bosshard (Switzerland)

See attached list (**Annex 1**) for full list of attendance.

2 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved: unanimously

3 Minutes of last meeting (Slovenia, 1997)

The minutes were approved: unanimously

4 FAI activity report

Max Bishop presented a brief report on the FAI's activities during 1997:

- The first World Air Games were a success, thanks to the initiative of the Turkish Aero Club (THK).
- There is now increased interest in air sports by TV companies. Therefore FAI has now taken steps to ensure that the advertising and distribution rights to sporting events are tightly protected. A document on matters of rights is now available from FAI.
- Electronic methods (e-mail, WWW) are being used increasingly to disseminate information from Paris, but even so, almost a million sheets of paper were sent out from the office in 1997.
- *Airsports International*, the FAI magazine, is now published only on the Internet. All members are invited to contribute, and manufacturers are encouraged to advertise in it.
- A second World Air Games will be run in 2001 (see Item 13). There will also be opportunity for airsports to participate in the World Games, to be held at Akita, Japan, in 2001. This event is for all sports which are recognized by the IOC but do not participate in the Olympic Games. We must start to prepare for these events now.
- Eilif Ness (Norway) had been elected President for the fourth time — very unusual in FAI. He is strongly directing the recently developed 5-year plan.
- Simulator flying is now recognized by FAI. It is seen as an important entry-level activity. Kite flying is under consideration due to its great support in many countries and lack of any consistent rules.
- FAI continues to grow, with several countries joining in 1997. An inexpensive membership scheme has been introduced to help small countries.

5 Report on CIVL activity during the past year

Dæhlin opened by appealing for any reports that had not been included with the agenda and stated that all reports would be dealt with under the appropriate agenda item. He reported that his activity had necessarily been at a lower level than in previous years and much of the work had been undertaken by Bureau and the Public Relations Coordinator. He had attended the Bureau meeting held in London in November, while Olivier Burghelle had represented CIVL's interests at all levels within FAI, having attended Council and General Conference meetings.

6 Reports from Subcommittee Chairmen etc.

6a World Hang Gliding Series. Dennis Pagen (USA)

Pagen displayed the latest promotional material for Speed Gliding. Reported increasing interest from TV. A winter series is being organized and three venues have been agreed for this already.

6b.1 Sporting Code Section 7. Noel Whittall (UK)

Whittall was sorry that the draft revision of Section 7 which was circulated with the agenda had been printed without the attendant annotations. This made identification of changes difficult to find. However, work was continuing, and the Working Group would do as much as possible in the time available.

6b.2 Paragliding competition Howard Travers (UK)

Travers reported that competition was increasing in many countries. The situation is healthy, but the calendar is now very full.

6b.3 Hang gliding competition: No formal report: covered under item 9 and elsewhere.

6b.4 Safety and training Klaus Tänzler

Tänzler presented his report (**Annex 6b.4** to these minutes). There has been good progress in HG and PG and the report covers the practical aspects of this. The report also focuses on the high number of accidents and incidents in PG competitions and suggests solutions.

Martin Jursa presented an update on the progress being made in developing CEN standards for PGs and their equipment. (**Annex 6b.4, part 2**).

Stewart Midwinter advised that the SafePro and ParaPro training programmes are now available on the WWW.

6b.5 Records and badges Stewart Midwinter (Canada)

Midwinter was pleased with the ever-increasing use of the Internet for the dissemination of records information. He was impressed by the speeds of some recent HG records, such as a 100km out-and-return in excess of 50 kmh.

6b.6 Flight verification — barographs and instrumentation Per Arne Soldal (Norway)

Soldal's report is Annex 6b.6. Five instruments were added to the list in 1997, representing a considerable workload.

For many practical reasons there had been little progress with the investigation of GPS for flight verification. However, Soldal reported that instruments are now commercially available. He is arranging for them to be systematically tested in the Pre-World Competitions in Austria and Italy. The schedule is

tight, and success depends on the cooperation of manufacturers. He is collaborating with the Gliding Commission on this.

6b.7 Business Sepp Himberger (Austria)

Himberger indicated that all the elements of his report would appear in other agenda items and presentations.

6c CIVL Public Relations Sarah Fenwick, Coordinator (CIVL)

Fenwick reported that *CIVL Info* would now be published after the annual meeting so that its content would remain current for longer.

She requested suggestions for names for the pilot ranking schemes.

More effort is being put into promoting the IPPI cards.

A letter has been sent to all NACs expressing concern about the pilot-skill level of some competitors at Category 1 events and requesting cooperation in ensuring that sub-standard entries are not made.

The handbooks for Stewards and Jury Members have been published.

7 PWC information Olivier Burghelle (France)

The meeting welcomed Xavier Murillo who was present as PWC Technical Officer. He will liaise with CIVL committees.

Burghelle reported that PWC has produced a set of guidelines for competition organizers. This is in French, but it is proposed that an English translation should be prepared and published as a joint CIVL/PWC document.

PWC had had a full and satisfying season in 1997.

8 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

Any matters arising are dealt with under relevant agenda items.

9 Review of 1997 Championships

9a World Paragliding Championships, Spain

Fenwick gave a brief report followed by a question session. She explained that the GAP system had not been used because the Local regulations became final before GAP was approved by CIVL. Much disappointment was expressed by the very low levels of publicity and public relations surrounding the event.

9b World Air Games Paragliding (see Annex 9b)

Whittall presented his report. Himberger asked whether the local hospital was satisfactory and suggested that a survey of the local medical facilities should always be a part of CIVL's pre-championship reviews.

9b World Air Games Hang Gliding

Pagen reported a satisfactory competition, but expressed concern about the low skill levels of some of the pilots. There were too many bad take-offs and landings, although there was only one serious hospitalization. He regretted the withdrawal of the German team as a protest against a Jury decision. Controversial decisions are an inevitable feature of the sport. Pagen expressed his thanks to the officials who had worked very hard and with good humour.

9c Overall World Air Games Review Srecko Medven (New item)

Medven Showed a short video featuring the WAG highlights, which was followed by a brief report and discussion. Nine airsports participated. All Commissions worked together well. There had been two fatalities (1 PG, 1 Microlight). The public relations effort had been insufficient. The PR company retained by the organizers had not 'delivered the goods'. However, NACs could also have done more, and should have!

Comments:

Bishop: FAI will have to retain more control over PR and promotion in future.

Dæhlin: Many lessons have been learned.

Himberger: TV coverage of PG/HG on Eurosport was very good.

Heinrichs: Fresh camera angles are needed.

Midwinter: Can we use more flying reporters? (*one or two did cover the PG event, apparently successfully* — NW).

The item closed with a big round of applause to thank THK for taking the initiative to run the first-ever WAGs.

9d World Hang Gliding Championships, Australia Zlato Vanic

Vanic reported that the competition had been good. Tasks had been flown for 12 consecutive days.

Unfortunately there was one fatality, resulting from a mid-air collision. The reason and source of responsibility for this were still unclear. The Jury were critical of the conduct of the Swiss Team Leader and one of the team pilots.

Zupanic (for the Organizer) announced that a TV documentary had been filmed during the Championship; it is now being edited and will be shown later in the year.

Heinrich presented an unofficial report from the viewpoint of a competing pilot:

He felt that the Meet Director was excessively authoritarian. Pilots were not allowed to input safety or task-setting suggestions. There tended to be congestion above the start gate, yet no uniform direction of turn was

announced. The PR and sponsorship were not as good as originally promised, so the cost of competing was even higher than expected. No lunches, no retrieves, but a very good back-pack for each pilot. Penalties for technical infringements were high and inconsistently applied. Heinrich suggested that future events should have a Safety Committee and a fixed-tariff system of penalties.

Vanic was satisfied that the rules were interpreted according to Section 7. There were some problems originating from the need to use databack cameras. On some days it had been difficult to set tasks which would challenge the top pilots and yet not be too strong for the lesser ones.

Pagen asked why turn direction had not been specified. The response was that pilots were required to turn in the same way as those already in the thermal.

10 Accounts and balance sheet Jim Bowyer (UK)

The revised accounts were presented and accepted unaltered. Treasurer Bowyer (UK) reported that both income and expenditure were satisfactory. The revised balance sheet is **Annex 10** to these minutes.

11 Appointment of Chairmen of Working Groups

11a Bid evaluation

Hang Gliding Europeans (2000): Jim Bowyer

Paragliding Europeans (2000): Zlato Vanic

WAG Hang Gliding (2001): Flip Koetsier

WAG Paragliding (2001): Howard Travers

Hang Gliding Women's Worlds (2000): Dennis Pagen

11b Local regulations, 1999 events

World Hang Gliding (Italy): Dennis Pagen

World Paragliding (Austria): Urs Dubach

11c Technical working groups

Rules and Advertising: Sepp Himberger

Safety and Training (Including ParaPro/SafePro): Klaus Tänzler (Germany)

Scoring Systems: Howard Travers

Section 7: Noel Whittall

12 Presentation of bids for year-2000 Championships

Secretary's note: in all cases where there were multiple bids, the order of presentation was decided by ballot.

2000 Hang Gliding European Championships (Classes 1 & 2)

Bid in this order:

Hungary (Marton Ordody)

Austria, Innsbruck (Markus Villinger)

Slovenia (Zlato Vanic)

2000 Women's World Hang Gliding (Class 1)

Greece, Plataies (Mike Theocharis & party)

2000 Paragliding European Championships

Germany, Garmisch Partenkirchen (Charlie Joast)

Spain, Piedrahita (Steve Ham)

2000 First Speed Gliding World Championships

Greece, Mt Olympus (Dimitris Ganotis)

2000 First Pan-American Hang Gliding Championships

USA, Dinosaur (Dennis Pagen)

2000 World Paragliding Accuracy Championships

United Kingdom (Howard Travers)

After the bids were presented, they were scrutinized by working parties before being admitted to the voting process. For decisions, see *Item 31* of these Minutes.

13 Second World Air Games, 2001

Commissions are invited to express a preference for the country to host WAGs, although each has only one FAI-Council vote (out of approximately 60) when the decision is taken by FAI. Medevin explained how WAG is the most important showcase for promoting airports, and stressed that the potential for good promotion and PR should be a vital consideration when considering the bids. The WAG period will be June.

Bids were presented by Spain, Austria and Turkey

14 Competition Schedule

Burghelle took the chair while Dæhlin outlined the complications created in the usual bi-annual Championship schedule by the introduction of World Air Games. The question of whether WAGs should automatically include World

Championships was widely discussed. There were some fears that this would compromise the standard of competition, although media exposure would probably be good. Eventually the proposal was put that: *'World Air Games will incorporate World Championships when possible.'*

CIVL must be given full information of forthcoming WAGs in good time for a decision to be made. In return we will remain flexible and will adjust the Championship schedule as necessary. The proposal was accepted. All in favour

As a supplementary matter, Dubach requested that we evaluate whether to continue to alternate World Championships with Continental Championships. Perhaps we should consider making World Championships annual events. See **Annex 14** for proposed competition schedules to year 2010.

15 Sporting Code, Section 7 Noel Whittall (UK)

Whittall indicated that there had been insufficient time for the Working Group to complete its reviews thoroughly. Also, some matters, such as the overhaul of the badge requirements required broader discussion. The missing annotations on the revised draft circulated with the agenda made it difficult to assimilate all the changes. However, the main matter of Class Definitions (Sect 7, 1.4) had been suitably reviewed, and the proposal was made to adopt the form of words provided with the agenda. The suggestions previously circulated by Ann Welch had been discussed at length, but were not adopted.

It was proposed to remove the word 'aircraft' where possible, by substituting 'hang glider', because in some countries 'aircraft' was automatically assumed by the authorities to be a powered aircraft.

There were also several points of unsatisfactory grammar which required attention to ensure clarity of interpretation.

The meeting authorized Whittall to make these changes. The Revision will be circulated in good time and will be adopted in October 1997.

Voting: 23 for; 0 against

16 New competition formats Howard Travers (UK)

Travers reminded organisers not to overlook the promotional opportunities of Speed Gliding, match racing and aerobatics and appealed for other ideas.

Casten Søndergaard gave a presentation of the 'Beach Air Sports' to be held in Denmark, 12-15 August 1998.

Zupanc reported an Australian TV program which he had helped devise, which was an artificial competition, which nevertheless gave a positive image of the sport.

17 Scoring Systems. Howard Travers (UK)

The Working Group felt that the GAP system had been introduced to paragliding too soon. It is being changed in some elements and the revision will be available in April.

It is felt that the existing guidelines are not clear. Zupanc will produce new ones and will chair the Working Party in 1999. Heinrichs is producing a new guide for competitors, and Crapanzano a new one for organizers. For working notes from this Group, see **Annex 17**.

18 Pilot Ranking System. Sarah Fenwick (CIVL)

Fenwick was happy to announce that the system was now running and the first results were available (see **Annex 18** to these minutes).

The system is a rolling one, drawing results from the previous eighteen months, and its object is not to produce a 'winner'. There are already 800 pilots listed. She repeated the need for the FAI Sporting Licence number of all pilots to be quoted, because there were already difficulties with identification.

Results of Open National Championship standard are computed, and the results must be stamped for approval by the relevant NAC. The current ranking is accessible on website or automatic e-mail.

19 New CIVL Logo

Bureau felt that a CIVL logo would be helpful in raising our profile. Travers and Fenwick displayed a selection of drafts, but the general feeling was that more work was needed. Fenwick promised to re-brief one of the artists and obtain further ideas.

20 Gary Osoba's record claims. Stewart Midwinter (Canada)

This item concerned record claims for flights in a glider (Carbon Dragon) which was not considered to conform with the definition of a hang glider which prevailed at the time. Subsequently, Class 4 was introduced to accommodate such gliders, but Osoba's flights could not be listed retrospectively for this. Midwinter requested that CIVL try to find a way of getting the flights recognized. It appeared that it may be possible within the Gliding Commission's class for ultralight gliders. Bishop suggested the claims be re-submitted via the IGC, whereupon FAI would scrutinize them as sympathetically as possible. It was pointed out that now that Class 4 is available, it is hoped that Osoba will repeat or exceed his earlier achievements.

21 FAI/CIVL Rules on Advertising. Sepp Himberger (Austria)

Himberger was pleased that at this, his 22nd consecutive CIVL Meeting, there was at last a greater awareness of the PR and business as essential elements in

the health of our sport. Rules of advertising had been drawn up for the World Air Games. They cover clothing, at the events and on promotional material. He suggested that these rules be adopted for all Category 1 events.

Pagen observed that it would be necessary to ensure that the requirements for Speed Gliding harmonize with the WAG rules.

Voting for the proposal to adopt WAG advertising rules: 23 for, 0 against

22 Paragliding safety — microlines. Klaus Tänzler (Germany)

Outcome of Working Group: CIVL had been actively seeking a way of eliminating the risk of line failure in competition paragliders. Jursa introduced a simple scheme which would require that all gliders in competition would have basic documentation of their line schemes and related load-test evidence. During the year Whittall had sought comments via e-mail about an even simpler system which would simply have specified a minimum line diameter. Response had shown that there was more support for the Jursa proposal. (See Annex 22 for details and samples of the Strength Certificate).

Voting for the proposal to adopt the Working Group's proposal: 23 for, 0 against

23 Recruiting, Budgeting and Bidding. Marton Ordody (Hungary)

Ordody presented an overview of the challenges to be met by organisers — especially the financial considerations. He then circulated his carefully-prepared booklet which covers the subject in considerable detail. The President thanked him for his efforts.

See **Annex 23** to these Minutes.

24 Revision of ParaPro and SafePro Training systems. Klaus Tänzler (Germany)

The revised version of ParaPro had been circulated with the agenda and was accepted unanimously. It was also accepted that SafePro will be similarly revised without requiring further formal approval.

25 Improving the learning process in CIVL competitions. Thomas Mächtel (Liechtenstein)

Mächtel outlined the existing system and suggested that it could be improved in several ways:

- Use same Jury/Steward personnel as often as possible
- Require more-detailed reports
- Integrate required changes quickly
- Disseminate information via websites.

Proposal: 'We attempt to circulate post-competition information rapidly, using electronic media when possible, to build up a dossier.

Accepted unanimously

26 CIVL Awards procedures. Jim Bowyer (UK)

Bowyer introduced discussion paper prepared by Bureau (Annex 26 to these Minutes). The existing procedure was felt to be embarrassing. However, Bishop pointed out that the suggestions were in conflict with procedures detailed in the FAI By-laws. Dæhlin proposed that they should be put to FAI with a view to changing the By-laws, although it was accepted that this would be unlikely.

For: 20

Against: 1

27 CIVL information to organizers. Howard Travers (UK)

Travers gave information on a forthcoming publication which will be based on PWC information.

28 CIVL Long-term Plan. Olivier Burghelle (France)

Burghelle will work on this. Firm proposals will be submitted in 1999.

29 Future Championships: final arrangements

29a: HG, Italy, Monte Cucco. Dennis Pagen (USA)

Regulations approved with small alterations. Team size will be no more than 6 in Class 1 and 4 in Class 2. Temporary membership of the Italian Club will be required for legal purposes, but this will be available at a special price. Protest fee I-Lire 100,000 (approx \$60). There will be no re-flights. Radio frequencies will be allocated. Pilots will be required to photograph the number on the wing.

29b: PG, Austria, Zillertal. Urs Dubach (Switzerland)

Regulations approved with small alterations. The 30kg weight allowance for all equipment will be used.

29c: (Extra item). European PG, Spain, Piedrahita 1998. Sarah Fenwick (CIVL)

Fenwick confirmed that the final version of the Local Regulations is satisfactory and the final adjustments were approved by the meeting.

30 Preliminary bids for 2001-onwards

France declared an interest in the PG World Championships. Chamonix area.

Italy declared an interest in the PG European Championships.

These will be in 2002 or 2003, depending on previous WAG decisions.

31 Evaluating and Awarding Championships, 2000

(For details of bids, see Minute 12)

Secretary's note: Unless otherwise stated, the bids were considered to meet the required standards. Voting was by secret ballot.

31a: European HG, Classes 1 and 2

Austria 19; Slovenia 5; Hungary 2. Austria was awarded the Championships

31b: Women's World Championships HG Class 1

The Championship was awarded to Greece by unanimous vote

31c: European PG

Spain 6; Germany 22. Germany was awarded the Championship

31c: World Speed Gliding Championships, Class 1

The Championship was awarded to Greece by unanimous vote

31e: Paragliding Accuracy World Championship

The UK bid was incomplete. Chair of the Working Group, Vilkuna, required further information and a detailed set of rules. These have been promised and will be evaluated and submitted to Bureau for provisional acceptance before the next plenary meeting.

Bishop reminded all CIVL to ensure that full information on the events is sent to FAI Office, and that the Form of Agreement with organizers is used.

See **Annex 31**: 1998-2000 Championship Schedule

32 World Air games 2001

CIVL's recommendation to FAI Council is for the Games to be held in Austria.

Voting: Austria 18; Spain 6; Turkey 1

33 FAI Sporting Calendar, HG and PG

PG Spanish Open 1998: week preceding European PG Championships

British Open HG: to be held at Monte Cucco, Italy: week preceding European HG Championships

Open Paragliding Accuracy Championships 1998. In UK, site and date to be announced

34 CIVL/FAI Awards

There were two candidates for the Hang Gliding Diploma: Paul Mollison, Australia; Steve Pearson, USA. For citations see **Annex 34** to these Minutes.

The Diploma was awarded to Paul Mollison, by a large majority.

35 Budget for 1998 (revised) and 1999

Bowyer reported that the situation is healthy. See Annex 35 to these minutes.

The budgets were approved: all in favour

Statement by the President

Before the elections, President Dæhlin went on record to state that he was aware that one of our press releases had not reflected well on some CIVL Jury members. He greatly regretted this and has to accept responsibility for it. He wished publicly to state that he has complete confidence in the work and judgement of Thomas Mächtel, Stewart Midwinter and Jorge Oliviera. He hopes that they can find it in their hearts to support CIVL's work with the same enthusiasm that they have shown in previous years.

36 Elections of CIVL Bureau

President: Olivier Burghelle was the only candidate and was elected by acclimation.

President d'Honneur: Per Christian Dæhlin, the retiring President was approved as President d'Honneur, by acclimation.

Vice Presidents: there were five candidates for four positions:

Urs Dubach (Switz.) 14 votes; Dennis Pagen (USA) 22 votes; Vasco Raposo (Portugal) 16 votes; Howard Travers (UK) 20 votes; Riikka Vilkuna (Finland) 21 votes. Therefore, Pagen, Raposo, Travers and Vilkuna became Vice Presidents.

Treasurer: Jim Bowyer was elected unopposed

Secretary: Noel Whittall was elected unopposed

37 Date and venue of next meeting

An invitation was received from Denmark (near Copenhagen), and from the Czech Republic Prague area), alternatives to Paris.

The Meeting voted first not to go to Paris, (for, 7; against, 20). Then voted in favour of Copenhagen. Copenhagen 13; Prague, 10.

The exact dates of the meeting will be decided by Bureau and announced shortly.

*** Please note: dates later confirmed as 05-06-07 March 1999 ***

38 Any other business

There was no other business.

Close

The President closed the meeting at lunchtime on Sunday 22 March and thanked Portuguese Aero Club and the Portuguese Hang Gliding and Paragliding Federation for the excellent arrangements and hospitality. He welcomed Olivier Burghell to the Presidency and thanked all his friends and colleagues for the support they had given during his six years of office.

These minutes recorded by Noel Whittall, Secretary, and approved by Olivier Burghelle, President and Per Christian Dæhlin, retiring President

3.05.98

List of Annexes

Annex 1: List of attendance
Annex 6b.4: Safety and Training reports,
Annex 6b.6: Flight Verification: instrument approval
Annex 10: Finances
Annex 14: Competition Schedules
Annex 17: Scoring System Working Party notes
Annex 18: Ranking Systems
Annex 22: Paraglider Safety/line strength
Annex 23: Recruiting Organizers for Championships
Annex 26: Proposed revision to awards procedure
Annex 31: Championship schedule
Annex 34: Citations, Paul Mollison and Steve Pearson