

2004 President Report to the PWCA General Assembly

Tapalpa, 2004 Oct 28th

Dear Friends

The sportive aspect :

The 2004 competition season has been rather good with more than 50% of the potential tasks flown. The podium is not yet defined and we still have some excitements.

Safety aspects :

Last General assembly in reunion Island, you accepted reluctantly a possible increase in the entry fee to pay the extra costs of a World Cup doctor attending all the events. Your vote was not unanimous and some of you were not supporting the idea of paying for an extra service that the organiser ought to provide according to our rules.

The Committee has heard your objection and decided :

To put in the organiser rules book a detailed set of safety requirements.

To appoint Dr Hubert Bigot who was volunteering to contact beforehand the organiser to draw his attention on the new safety requirements and to propose 2 solutions.

- * Either the organiser guarantees that he will fulfil the requirements
 - * Or if he could not, the World Cup to provide him a qualified doctor with the proper equipment for a certain amount of money.
- If the organiser declined the second solution and doesn't fulfil his obligation a dissuasive penalty system has been defined, and the entry fee portion kept by the World Cup until the final settlements of the event accounts has been increased to guarantee enough funds to cover this possible penalty.

Film Production:

The budget accepted in Reunion Island was not including any film production and I told you that we would not produce any film unless we have enough funds from our customers and sponsors to cover the expenses. The pilots will not support the film production.

After the general assembly, we had a concrete proposal of sponsoring by Bigstar and we had various proposals to produce the images ranging from one operator alone to two operators and a paramotor. We contracted with Bigstar for 20000 euro to produce a clip after each event and a DVD at the end of the season plus the usual advertising. After investigating the potential customers we choose pragmatically the cheapest offer proposed by Marc, the aim being to make some profit to invest in the film production the following years.

During the 2004 spring, we heard about Bigstar being bankrupt and Talloires committee meeting after having assets the finances decided to take the risk to continue the film production, the assessments showing maximum negative results of 4500 euros.

This solution gave us first the opportunity to claim for the money after having fulfilling our part of the contract and seconds to produce the DVD and getting back some money from its sells. Stopping the film production will have mean abandoning the film production in the future.

After all, as you will see in the financial results, we will end up in 2004 with a balance budget thanks to the cheap contract signed with Marc, the good number of partners we had this year and an unexpected increase in our members who need images.

For the next year, we have not yet any sponsor, so we will present you a budget without film production and we will produce images only if we can finance them.

There are 2 possibilities :

Either we find sponsors and take some guarantee to be paid in time

Or we will leave all the rights to the producer to cover the events and him to sell the products.

My replacement :

As announced last year, I'm resigning after 11 years of service. I didn't want to leave before having found a reliable successor.

I finally ask Christian who accepted. The only difficulty was his part time job paid by the World Cup Association as a Technical Advisor. But the French law allows an elected volunteer officer, to be paid for another work in the association with limited wages, which is the case.

Recently, Urs Dubach phoned me to let me know that he has been asked by some pilots to apply for being President. I told him that for me he was a good candidate and I give him my positive opinion on Christian candidacy. Since he was a bit reluctant, as it came out suddenly, I recommended him to have a talk to Christian to clarify the situation. He called me back a couple of days later to announce me that he finally decided not to apply.

So we have now only one candidate for the President position up to now and Urs asked me to tell you that he is confident in the Christian's capacity to be a good President.

Relationship with FAI :

In 1995 a conflict arose between the 2 Presidents of the World Cup and the CIVL. I have been tasked by the General Assembly to solve the problem and avoid fighting. We came to an agreement to draft a Memorandum Of Understanding between both organisations, stating in essence :

World Cup events are FAI Category II events

Pilots need to carry and FAI Sportive Licence

The President of the World Cup or his depute participates to the CIVL plenary and bureau meetings

The CIVL president or his depute participates to the World Cup committee meetings.

I urge you not to forget this MOU which is a good tool to avoid conflicts and a unnecessary differences between the competition rules.

Conclusion :

I have been very pleased to serve the World Cup Association and free flying sports in general. I leave the World Cup situation in good order, operationally and financially speaking and I wish to my successor a successful carrier.

Thank you.