



General Assembly – President Report – Réunion Island – Nov. 8th 2006

Dear pilots, dear members,

Last competition for 2006 and it's time for our General Assembly to look back at what has been done and what will be done for next year. I know you prefer short speeches so don't worry about this one.

Members

We are an association, an association of pilots where each pilot is a member... and this year there was 230 members in our association.

Organizers

Our association cannot organize alone the competition events and we all depend on organizers for this task. We had new ones this year, organizing pre World Cup events on new flying sites like Tanba in Japan, Ager in Spain and Montana in Bulgaria.

Partners

Our association also need some external incomes. Last year we started to offer 3 years partnerships and this is now becoming successful. We got 4 new long-term partners. We had 17 partners in 2006 and for 2007, we already have 10 partners.

Finances

As we increased the partnership fee over the last 3 years, the has roughly doubled our incomes from partners compared to 2004. This is why we have not increased the entryfee or the membership fee and do not plan to do it for next year.

Our 2005 financial result is higher than expected. This means we have the possibility to improve the World Cup. Our 2006 finances also looks good.

As our finances are good, the committee already decided to make a 2006 DVD and invested some money in filming in order to have more interesting pictures to put on this DVD.

Secretariat

Laura is doing a great job. Pilot registration, result collection, qualification, entry fee payments, partners chasing, all accounting and bookkeeping work.

Last year I had to complain about late cancellations of several pilots that was causing a lot of unnecessary work. This is going much better so I have to thank you for this in the name of Laura.

Safety

We had very little incidents or accidents this year in the World Cup events.

In 2005 we introduced the “permit to fly” and we will simplify this paperwork for the future especially for gliders that are not certified but that are not prototypes. The main goal of this paperwork is to be sure the equipment you’re using is safe and remains safe over the time by checking the lines and gliders as required.

We still have some problem related to radios. I remind all of you that it is mandatory to fly with your radio tuned on the safety frequency. This is an important point for the safety of each of you as it is the basic communication mean we have in case of emergency. You can save your life or someone else life using it, so please, have it, charged and tuned on the safety frequency.

As we saw yesterday and today again, few pilots are taking part in this safety procedure.

Late on many improvements planned

There are several points where we have not improved as we wanted.

Web site and newsletter, media work, merchandising, World Cup pilot card, GPS real-time tracking...

I’d like to have all the committee members more involved in all these topics. Last year, working groups have been created in the committee on my proposal in order to have dedicated people taking care of the above topics. I’m sorry to note that almost no work has been done by most of these working groups and had to be done, when possible, by the same active members.

I expect we will be able to rely more on ALL committee members in the coming year.

New tour concept

Let’s move forward and look a bit ahead.

Last year we proposed to work on a new tour concept. The principle in this new concept design is to be as fair as possible. This means fair for all pilots all over the world reducing the required travels and money. Of course, we will keep our pilots selection based only on results to have the best ones.

The committee decided to make a survey to have the point of view of as many international competition pilot as possible and not only the current World Cup pilots.

This survey will be conducted on our web site before we start the 2007 Tour.

Nothing is decided yet. The current work is based on a big final event. To enter this final, only one very good result in only one event will be needed. This big final will not replace tour rankings and we may have more than one tour ranking.

The final concept will be based on the survey result, so please, take some time to answer this survey. If we have time at the end of this assembly, we should talk again about this topic.

Thanks for your patience... let’s move to the next turnpoint... our financial report.