



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

This is the first of a blog-style newsletter that I intend to share regularly with you all. I want to use this time now to reflect on all that has happened since the General Conference in Luxor. The outcome of the conference was not foreseen by anyone. I guess that it goes to prove the only constant is change. Now, two-months on, what has been achieved?

Our two new members of the Executive Board have settled into their roles quickly and a productive board meeting was held in Ankara in late November. Before the board meeting there were a number of other meetings. One with the new European Director of WADA, where the FAI's initiative to target in-competition testing was again discussed. WADA is, in my opinion, moving inexorably towards adopting pragmatic solutions to anti-doping activities based on the risk profile of the organisation and the capability and capacity to manage testing. This can only be good for all the participants in our events.

Another meeting was with the President of the French Parachute Federation (FFP) where we worked through a number of ways that FAI and IPC can support the FFP in their bid to get indoor skydiving included in the Paris 2024 Olympics (<https://www.flyin2024.com/en/>). A third meeting was with the Head of Recognised Sports at the IOC to discuss the FAI in general and to specifically talk about how to manage an upcoming championship where the right for participants to carry their national flag, at an FAI World Championships, is being disputed.

The first meeting of the Coordination Committee for the next FAI World Air Games was hosted in Ankara by THK. This was an open, honest and respectful meeting where a lot of issues were aired. The outcome of the meeting you know – the FAI World Air Games in Turkey will now be held in 2022.

The EB meeting achieved a number of milestone decisions:

- to ensure the premier FAI event in 2022 is the World Air Games
- the FAI budget was updated and significant focus was put on the tracking of expenditures and income for the upcoming year
- negotiations are to continue with Kosmos as a potential partner in the presentation of air sports
- a new board was established for FAME- this being a requirement even though the company is in hibernation at present
- the Education Commission will be re-established
- the continuing development of multi-sport events and the opportunity for drone sports and indoor skydiving to project air sports into the centre of cities is supported

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And a full session was devoted to a discussion on the One FAI project, including membership of the Working Group, the next steps expected for this project and what success will look like.

This past week saw two-days of discussions with the Air Sports Federation of China, the City of Shenzhen and KAISA, the event organiser, about the World Drone Racing Championships (WDRC) held recently in Shenzhen. Everyone agreed that this event was a success and the focus was on learning from the championships this year and preparing for a WDRC in 2019. My thanks to Antonis Papadopoulos and Bruno Delore, especially, for their enthusiasm and energy in helping to develop the sport of drone racing.

New portfolios have now been established for the board members, with clear guidelines as to what each portfolio entails and the outcomes expected. The list of portfolios will be posted on the website for your information. You can anticipate the board members playing more active roles in the next general conference.

So, as my wife and I look back on our 43-years of being involved in air sports, we realize how fortunate we are to have friends all around the world who all share the same passion for air sports. This love of flying transcends language and political barriers and truly brings people from all corners of the world together.

Finally, as we now come to the festive season, celebrated in different ways around the globe, may I take this chance to wish you all enjoyable celebrations and best wishes for an enlightening and successful 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Henderson
FAI President

19th December 2018