

REPORT FROM THE 2022 PLENARY OF THE FAI BALLOONING COMMISSION

Held from 16th to 19th of March 2022 in Rome, Italy.

The 2022 meeting of the [FAI Ballooning Commission \(CIA\)](#) was held in Rome, Italy in March. It was a very successful in-person meeting after 2 years of virtual meetings.

The last physical meeting for CIA was in Istanbul in 2019. The 2020 was cancelled and the 2021 meeting was organised online.

1. LOCATION AND PARTICIPATION

All participants were welcomed to the Aero Club of Italy, a fantastic roman villa near the centre of Rome.



The first and the second day were reserved for subcommittee and working group meetings. A special CIA Event Organizer Seminar was organized on the afternoon of the second day.

19 (with 4 proxies) delegates from the following countries attended in-person:

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA,

About 15-20 observers were also present. The entire meetings and plenary was streamed live via Zoom. A number of participants were present online.

2. REPORT OF FAI ACTIVITIES

Markus Haggenev gave more insight in the FAI finances from the past up till now and how FAI has worked to cut overspending and get back into a positive financial situation.

3. RECORDS SUBCOMMITTEE

Troy Bradley, chair of the Records subcommittee reported that Kim Magee (USA) has applied and been accepted for her Silver Badge.

Record in RUS: The file for a record flown in Russia has been reviewed but is kept on file to ratify when Russia is back in good standings with FAI.

4. SAFETY AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Long standing chair of the subcommittee Bengt Stener is stepping down. His position will be taken by Benoit Pelard.

5. COMPETITORS SUBCOMMITTEE

It was felt that given the reduced number of quality bids, delegates often vote to approve events that are not of sufficient quality to achieve the goals of world-class competition. The SC asked that if the bids being presented are not of sufficient quality that delegates discuss with their competitors in advance and be prepared to vote for quality even if that means there will be no championship in a given year.

2 changes were voted on and accepted:

- The organising NAC shall issue an invitation for an equal number of two competitors to each eligible NAC.
- The host NAC of a General AX World Championship shall be granted one additional 'wild card' invitation to use for their NAC.

These changes must now be integrated in the Sporting code.

6. AA WORKING GROUP

A self-funded media coverage program for Gordon Bennett was created with a 25000CHF startup budget over 3 years.

The request from Luxembourg to make changes to the entry conditions of the 2022 Gordon Bennett was, after lengthy discussions, not accepted. Therefore the nominated pilot Claude Sauber will not be able to participate in this year's edition.

7. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMPS

CIA will fund 5 International Balloon Youth Camps, organized in the following 5 countries. Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, USA.

8. EVENT ORGANISER SUBCOMMITTEE AND SEMINAR

The Event organiser subcommittee, created in 2019, organised its first seminar with the following topics and speakers:

- CAT1 Organisation from the ground up – Sam Parks
- CIA Support from Events Development Subcommittee (EDS) – Lindsay Muir
- Running a successful competition with a good team of Officials – Claude Weber
- Marketing your event through all media platforms – Marc André/Debbie Spaeth
- Financial planning and budget development – Maury Sullivan

9. EVENTS

2 events were sanctioned during the 2022 plenary:

The **8th North American Hot Air Balloon Championship** was granted to Saint Jean sur Richelieu, Québec, Canada from 5th to 11th of June 2023. There has been no such continental championship since 1994.

The **25th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship** received 2 bids: Szeged, Hungary and Mallorca, Spain. The event was finally granted to Szeged, Hungary and will be held from 8th to 14th of September 2024.

10. AWARDS

The following awards were voted and accepted:

- Montgolfier Diploma for Contribution to the development of the Sport was awarded to Garry Lockyer (CAN).
- Montgolfier Best Performance Gas was awarded to Eric Decellieres and Benoît Havret (FRA)
- Montgolfier Best Performance Hot Air was awarded to David Spildoorn (BEL)

11. CIA HALL OF FAME

The following persons were inducted in the CIA Hall of Fame:

- Vincent Leys (FRA)
- Carol Rymer Davis (USA) – posthumous

The following persons were added to the pool :

- Neil Robertson (GBR)
- Phillip Dunnington (GBR) – posthumous

12. UKRAINE

During the meeting, the participants were very happy to have an opportunity to hear from the Ukrainian delegate. He managed to connect via Zoom and spoke to the meeting for a few minutes. He expressed hope to be back flying in balloons by summer.

Pilots from the USA offered to pay the entry fee for the Worlds for the first Ukrainian pilot. And very nice news was brought by Slovenian Delegate, Mr. Branko Ambrožič at the beginning of the second day of the plenary. Mr. Matjaž Pavlinjek, the president

of the organizer of the Worlds in Slovenia will pay the entry fee for the second Ukrainian pilot. If the third Ukrainian pilot will be invited and has difficulty, then Poland will pay the entry fee for this pilot.

13. PLENARY 2023

CIA will have next year's meeting in Switzerland, but not in Lausanne. It will be held in Burgdorf, where the Blaser Swisslube company is located. Blaser offered to their company headquarters as the place for the 2023 CIA meeting.



Altrier, April 30th 2022

Claude WEBER

FAI Ballooning Commission - 1st Vice President
Delegate Luxembourg