

# REPORT FROM THE 2023 PLENARY OF THE FAI BALLOONING COMMISSION

*Held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 in Hasle, Switzerland.*

The 2023 meeting of the [FAI Ballooning Commission \(CIA\)](#) was held at the headquarter of the Blaser company in Hasle bei Burgdorf, Switzerland

## 1. LOCATION AND PARTICIPATION

David Strasmann from the Blaser company welcomed all participants to the headquarters of the company.



The first and the second day were reserved for subcommittee and working group meetings. A special session was reserved on the second day to present and discuss the flagship project of the FAI Ballooning commission: FAI Balloon Live ([balloonlive.org](http://balloonlive.org)).

23 delegates from the following countries attended the plenary meeting:

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

The total number of votes was 27 (23 delegates and 4 proxies). Luxembourg received a proxy from Turkey.

About 15-20 observers were also present. The entire plenary meeting was streamed live via Zoom. Only a small number of participants were following it online.

## 2. REPORT OF FAI ACTIVITIES

The CIA President Mark Sullivan, reported on FAI activities and stressed out the a lot of time is spend in the commission presidents group on finance discussions. FAI is still experiencing financial strain.

Markus Haggenev, the FAI Secretary General, 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. JURY BOARD

2 jurors have been upgraded on the list of international jurors:

Maury Sullivan (USA) to Intermediate level and  
Lindsay Muir (GBR) to Senior level.

The jury board also received resignations from Alex Nagorski (CAN), Les Purfield (GBR), both after 30 years of service, and Johan Fürstner (AUT), after 22 years of service.

### 4. OFFICIALS SUBCOMMITTEE

A mailing list for chief officials has been created. As Paul Federmeier did not wish to remain on the this list for Luxembourg, Claude Weber was added temporarily, waiting for any other interested official to take this role.

### 5. EVENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Event Organiser Subcommittee has been created in 2019 and has now been merged into the Event Development Service as the management of one single subcommittee is easier. The missions of both subcommittees have also been merged.

### 6. NEW TECHNOLOGIES SUBCOMMITTEE

After a strong demand of many countries towards the organizer of the 2024 WHABC, the event director confirmed that the event will use Balloon Live as main system for scoring.

Further investments in the FAI Balloon Live system have been voted on. In the coming year, a pilot registration system will be integrated in watchmefly.net.

### 7. EVENTS

Only 1 event were sanctioned during the 2023 plenary:

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

### 8. 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)

## 9. CIA HALL OF FAME

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

- Dewey Reinhard (USA)
- Philip Dunnington (GBR) – posthumous

The following persons were added to the pool :

- Stefan Zeberli (SUI)
- David Bareford (GBR)
- David Hempleman-Adams (GBR)

## 10. ELECTIONS

The actual members of the CIA bureau have all been reconfirmed in their positions.



## 11. PLENARY 2024

No final offers by any other NAC have been made to host the 2024 CIA plenary. Czech Republic has though expressed an interest to work on a bid. The delegates agreed to empower the CIA bureau to take a decision at a later point in time once the details of the Czech bid are available.

The detailed minutes of the meeting will be available on [fai.org](http://fai.org) in the coming weeks.

Altrier, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023

Claude WEBER

FAI Ballooning Commission - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Delegate Luxembourg