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Webmaster's Report 2014

An interesting year with three World Championships and the 1st World Cup of our latest discipline, Indoor Skydiving. I was looking forward to a busy time when unfortunately I had an accident and during routine investigations a subsequent illness was identified, which meant I was unable to travel and attend the various World Championships. I was fortunate in the support I (and IPC) received from my friend Fay Kimble, who was able to attend both the championships in Banja Luka (Style and Accuracy and Canopy Formations) and Prostejov (Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events). I worked from home to aid and support her as much as was possible.

From the outset in Banja Luka Fay struggled to obtain the Style & Accuracy results for posting to the IPC results pages. Continuing difficulties, including errors in the actual results, exacerbated the difficulties in verifying the results, up to and including the prize-giving ceremony.

I believe that the comment made by Graeme in the latest Bureau Newsletter "*The scoring and presentation of classic events needs more work to bring about the ability of spectators to follow competition progression as competitors land*", should be the aim of all Chief Judges, Event Judges and organisers, whichever scoring and results sequence provider is utilised. To that end it is very important that organisers understand that they have to use scoring systems that have been proved to be effective and accurate.

The relationship with OmniSkoreHD! continues to be good and so the provision of the results for Canopy Formation in Banja Luka and Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events in Prostejov worked well and smoothly (providing the internet and power were working!).

During these two competitions Fay also covered the daily reports and provision of photographs for which I am very grateful.

The Canopy Piloting world championships in Zephyrhills had an organiser who was confident in their provision of whatever we needed. Unfortunately this did not prove to be the case – the scoring system provider did not appreciate her responsibility to provide us with the results, even though we had e-mailed her directly.

Despite lengthy correspondence on the matter, our protestations fell on deaf ears and the live unofficial results never reached our site. Instead they provided us with a link to the website of the provider of the scores. There were long delays in providing the actual results at the end of each round and I am sure this was a problem suffered on site for the competitors as well. Alberto Paracuellos sent me daily reports on the progress of the competition and some photographs. Although we were promised pictures from the organisation, these we never received.

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This was the first time IPC used an on-line live TV company – skydive-TV.com - to which we had a link on our site. I could not access these transmissions due to the slow broadband speed in my home area, but I would be very interested to hear from the skydiving community that did access it, what they thought and if it provided the type of footage they would like to receive.

The final FCE of the year was Austin and the 1st World Cup in Indoor Skydiving. Gillian Rayner, IPC Controller, was my link and provided daily reports and photographs. Again although promised photos by the organisers, these were slow to appear. We were fortunate in being able to work with and alongside InTime who not only provided us with "live" results, having worked closely with Fay before the event to ensure the correct interlinking files and protocols worked, but also Claire King spent early mornings uploading the judged videos as part of the results site.

During the year I continued to work well with the staff at the FAI, particularly with Faustine Carrera, who provided additional support due to my illness this year.

It is important to understand the demarcation lines between what the FAI staff must post on the website and what I am able to post directly. Any official FAI document (meeting agendas, minutes etc., competition bulletins) can only be posted by FAI staff. However if everything is sent to me first I will forward it to the relevant staff member, or deal with it directly, that way there is no confusion.

With the influence of the Bureau the FAI agreed to post information/bulletins on all approved 2nd category events and I was therefore able to post results and other information received from the organisers, particularly this year from ASIANIA, COLPAR, and CISM.

We have now been given our own space on the FAI virtual server and we are currently looking at how that will benefit IPC.

Unfortunately the FAI website continues to be a source of irritation for users of both android and iOS operating systems who are unable to gain full access to the site. In this day and age such compatibility issues should be a thing of the past and I would like to see this aspect addressed by the IT personnel as a matter of some importance.

Susan Dixon

27th November 2014