

The WAG was the dominant topic in the past 12 month. Before I did not think that they will cause such a workload for me personally and for some other people. About this Joel Amiable and Rob Grimwood can tell you more later. You will remember, that Richard has participated in one of the first meetings in Dubai and come back unenthusiastic. He had referred to the lack of local contacts and also criticized the lack of understanding of our sporting needs. He was right in his criticism. After these 12 months, it can be said that our world of classic competitions, simple accommodation and kind of tasks is a far away from what will happen at the World Air Games.

The WAG are mainly a big show, but a show with our athletes as the actors. Please have in mind: Without our athletes - no show. I can understand that there was at various occasions expressed fundamental criticism of our involvement, but I do not share this type of opposition. But instead I have very much to criticize the execution.

One or the other will have thought at the beginning: There is the big money and Dubai will throw it over us. This is false. And it is not as simple. Also in Dubai there are people who can count money and this money must be earned before it can be used to pay.

Unfortunately, errors or miscalculations have been made. The FAI has largely left aside at the beginning, the consequences of the great cultural differences. By saying: "we have the clock, but in Dubai they have the time", this is an insufficient description. Unclear explanations and many open issues in the first documents have led to great uncertainty and ambiguity. That resulted in endless email exchanges of emails and caused too much frustration for all involved.

On the other hand, the already mentioned inflated expectations were added. "I'm invited going to Dubai - the care and pay for everything". This attitude I met quite often.

Some commissions in the FAI have decided to select their participants according to existing international ranking lists.

That does not exist at the CIMA. The League Cup Ranking for PPG would have made little sense, concerned a very specific discipline. And to use the 2nd WPSC as qualifying round, was as well not suitable, as the Bureau's opinion. Because it would have forced participants from non-European countries to travel to Poland. In addition, the selection criteria are not only to send the best pilots, but also pilots from as many countries as possible. Therefore, the Bureau decided, together with the two Liaison Officers Joel and Rob, the PPG Event Director Jose and Wojtek as an PPG-Expert to form a selection committee. All CIMA delegates were asked to propose their two or three best pilots and give reasons for their selection. They were also asked to give a ranking of their pilots.

We, the selection committee have, put our heads together to find out after which key we want to assign the first 24 positions for PPG: To assign one pilot for every nation and then fill the open spots with pilots from those nations that, according to expert opinion, have the best slalom pilots. Thanks to the insistence of Joel, we got initially further four places for female pilots and then, because the hosts themselves claimed more than the one intended place, at the end we end up with ??? participants. This decision is of course not met with enthusiasm of all concerned. There have been some ugly confrontations. We have not found an equitable solution for all. But

I am sure that the current selection is the best thing we could do in this situation. But we have learned some lessons for the future. I would like to ask once again all those concerned to understand that not all of their wishes could be considered.

At the end we must also remember, that we are represented as a single Commission in Dubai with three disciplines, and - next to the parachutists - CIMA has the largest number of athletes. For Trikes and the Microlight Autogyros the choice was much easier, because there were not so many interested Pilots, as places were awarded to. For a long time it was unclear, if Dubai would make Gyrocopter and Trikes available and if not, how the transport to Dubai would be carried out - at the expense of Dubai.

I want to waste our time with details. At the end four or five Gyrocopter are available at the venue and a fully paid transport from door to door are available for Trikes. For those who can not shipping there Trikes to Dubai for technical or time reasons, a trike is provided by the WAG organizers. This was a decision at last minute.

At the end of this report I would like to take the opportunity to express again my thanks to Joel, Rob and Jose, who took care of this event until today and still have to take care. Joel's work is done at the beginning of the WAG. But Jose and Rob are as competition directors for PPG and Trike, together with Kevin Robinson for Gyrocopter will then have exciting 14 days.