

ASAC President Report 2020 AGM

What a year it has been both locally and internationally. The world appears to be on the road to economic recovery but the COVID-19 virus is still alive and kicking in a lot of areas.

It would appear regional and world competitions will not return to pre-pandemic levels for some time yet and may be on a continent-by-continent basis to begin with.

Australians' participation will be dictated by the government decisions on opening international borders and what quarantine measures are in place once the promised vaccine is broadly rolled out.

There has not been a lot of international air sport activity since the beginning of 2020. The last major event being the Women's World Gliding Championships at Lake Keepit in NSW.

There is an ongoing appeal from Australia regarding the event with a decision on the appeal in the near future.

Some local competition has commenced in some air sports. The overall activity of air sports has ramped up in recent months with a lot of sectors reporting booming activity as restrictions have been lifted. The full potential will not be realised until all borders are open and freedom to travel resumes.

I did attend an aerobatic event at Narromine in October to present the ASAC Gold Medal to Matt Hall. The event was well attended and Matt put on a good show in the air and at the bar. There are still a few FAI awards waiting for the right event for a presentation, once the borders are open.

There has been regular meetings of consultative groups and the ministerial General Aviation Advisory Network. All the meetings have been online events, and I do feel a lot more will be done once we move back to some face-to-face meetings and develop personal contacts again.

We did have a lot of savings in the budget this year with limited travel both here and overseas, and I think we will have ongoing savings, but we will need to engage on a personal level again, in order to build relations to maintain influence and get things done.

Overseas meetings have also been via zoom. The two main groups I regularly deal with are the Airsport of Asia Federation (AFA) with whom we are affiliated, and the FAI as we know it.

The AFA has been a worthwhile organization to belong to, as it promotes regional cooperation and development and is recognised by FAI. The AFA worked to promote candidates for FAI election including our treasurer Graeme Windsor. Graeme was elected to the Executive Board (EB) of FAI. FAI activity has been busy, as myself and others believe, due to past management issues and ongoing financial uncertainty, change was needed. I

can report that change has happened and we can only hope that the new leaders will set about sorting out the issues at FAI.

I am hopeful the zoom format for the FAI General Conference (GC), if ever held by zoom again is more delegate friendly and one can feel included. The meetings over the GC began at 11pm and concluded between 1am and 3.45am, four days in a row. The timezone price for being in this part of the world.

Notable outcomes from the GC were:-

1. Changing of President and EB. The new President is David Monks from the UK.
2. Australia went down a tier in subscriptions to the FAI.
3. FAI subscriptions per tier to remain unchanged.....a saving to Aust.
4. The FAI is negotiating with an organization which is taking over the Red Bull Air Races. The financial benefits and exposure to FAI should be substantial over time.
5. I was elected as an active member of the Air Sport General Commission (CASI) for 2 years.
6. The FAI Budget was well received and approved. The FAI Secretary General (SG) and staff have done a very good job in getting the finances sorted out and a new accounting system in place. The SG had responded to decisions made at last year's GC to slash the FAI budget. The old accounting system simply did not provide transparency to members and raised a lot of questions from the various FAI commissions regarding the spending of commission reserves.

ASAC needs to, as a project, write to FAI and point out our difficulties with subscriptions given the 10% rise in subscriptions in 2019, the drop in the Aust \$ and the currency fluctuations between the Euro and the CHF. Those three variables have led to a very high increase in our subscriptions to FAI, in just a few years.

I am optimistic of recovery in the coming year or so. I have enjoyed my role as President, keeping the ASAC profile with airport regulator and other stakeholders of importance.

Grahame Hill

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President
Air Sport Australia Confederation