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| CIA (4) | **FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE** **Ballooning Commission  Hall of Fame Nomination** |

**John Grubbström**

John Grubbström competing in Japan November 2010 as newly elected FAI President

Nationality: Swedish

Date and place of Birth: (Year/Month/Day): Norrköping January 13, 1948

John started ballooning in the early 1970-ies. In 1974 he acquired his hot air balloon pilot license. Very soon he proved to be a leader. He became president of the local balloon club, then president of the Swedish Balloon Federation. For six years he was president of the Swedish Air sport Federation and from 2010 to 2016, John Grubbström was President of FAI.

John organised the first European Championship in Sweden 1976 and was the event director. In 1979, John was in the organising committee of the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Sweden and was also the event director. He was in the organising committee at the European Championship in 1998.

John Grubbström has represented Sweden 9 times in European championships, 4 times in World championships and 3 times in the World Air Games.

He has been an official at many international events including World and European championships.

John Grubbström is a doctor of medicine and was for many years in charge of the emergency room at two major hospitals in Stockholm.

For six years, John Grubbström was president of the Swedish Air Sport Federation and FAI vice president.

In 2010, John was elected FAI President and held this position for the maximum of 6 years.

Some of John’s achievements during his time as FAI President:

* FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015
* Sponsor acquisition (Breitling and DHL
* development of FAI involvement in multi-sports events like World Games and Asian Beach Games
* development of FAI's Red Bull Air Race involvement
* development of FAI Mission Statement: "FAI - the global organisation for the promotion of air sports and recreational flying"
* development of FAI Vision Statement: "A world where safe participation in air sports and recreational flying is available to everyone at reasonable cost"

Comment by FAI Executive Board deputy president:

“John Grubbström has been one of the most productive and outstanding FAI Presidents I was privileged to serve.

So many times I admired his rare talent to orchestrate a team of FAI officers into an efficient and cheerful unit; he has the knack to never impose himself on anybody, even when he clearly knows the issue better, and when the discussion needs to be finalized, sometimes forcefully, he does so while leaving all convinced that the issue had been well debated.

His secret? I can only offer my best understanding: John practices an increasingly rare art, that of simply respecting anybody that engages him. You can thoroughly disagree with John, but you will never feel that he did not consider your position.

This art is infectious to a large degree: I believe that John has contributed to a lasting change -- for the better -- of FAI's corporate culture, allowing it to function ever more as a "happy place to be" -- and I often reflected how much this atmosphere boosts the productivity of its team.

And if any disagreement becomes a major one -- it happens -- it is invariably defused with a final argument: between serious air sport persons there is an inherent brother and sister ship that will always emerge -- and John occasionally reminded us that he is a serious balloonist, telling us delightful anecdotes that left no doubt about his intense air sports experience.

It's a pity one cannot always have one's way, because otherwise I would sit John on a photocopier, push the green button and populate our planet with more good persons…”

Alvaro de Orleans-Borbon

Achievements, honours and awards:

* FAI President of Honour 2016
* Swedish Royal Gold medal 2014
* Yuri Gagarin Gold medal 2011
* Air sport Sweden Gold medal 2011
* Royal Swedish Aero Club Gold medal 2005
* FAI Air Sport medal 1998
* Air sport Sweden balloon achievement award 2003