



FAI International Gliding Commission (IGC) Presidents Report to the IGC Plenary 1st and 2nd March 2024

At the successful IGC Plenary in Copenhagen, a new IGC Bureau was elected.

President Mr. Peter Eriksen, DEN

1st Vice-president Mr. Rick Sheppe, USA

Vice-president Mr. Angel Casado, ESP

Vice-president Mr. Christof Geissler, GER

Vice-president Mrs. Frouwke Kuijpers, NED

Vice-president Mrs. Mandy Temple, AUS

Vice-president Mr. Brian Spreckley, GBR

Secretary Mr. Vladimir Foltin, SVK

Treasurer Mr. Patrick Pauwels, BEL

The day after the Plenary, a **Safety Workshop** was conducted in cooperation with OSTIV and EASA. The objectives of the workshop were to get a better understanding of current safety risks in competition gliding and to create a safety mitigation action list. Amongst the participants were active competition pilots, competition directors, stewards and safety experts. The output of the workshop is a prioritized list of mitigations that will be implemented in the coming years.

The **12th FAI Women's World Gliding Championships** in Garay, Spain, took place in July. 47 participants flew up to 10 days in conditions that often were challenging with distances up to 500 km and winning speeds as high as 143 km/h.

The World Champions are:

Club Class – Louise Rodriguez, FRA

Standard Class - Barbora Moravcova, CZE

18 Meter Class – Alena Netusilova, CZE

Winner of the Team Cup is the Czech Republic

Grand Prix Final took place in Pavullo, ITA, in August-September. 20 pre-qualified pilots flew for a week during sometimes difficult conditions.

World Champion is Stefan Langer GER

The **38th FAI World Gliding Championships** were organized in Narromine, AUS, in December. 79 pilots competed in three classes in good weather conditions and flew 10 days with winning speeds up to 150 km/h.

The World Champions are:

Club Class – James Nugent, AUS

Standard Class - Tom Arscott, GBR

15 Meter Class – Sebastian Kawa, POL



Winner of the Team Cup is Germany

Two **Continental Championships** were conducted, the 21st European Gliding Championships in Leszno, POL and the 6th Junior European Gliding Championships in Arnborg, DEN.

The IGC Champion Pilot of the Year 2023 is Alena Netusilova, CZE. The IGC Champion Pilot of the Year is the World Champion who gains most of the points available in the class. Alena achieved 96.04% of the available points in the class. The trophy will be awarded at the 2024 FAI General Conference.

In June, FAI published the International Appeals Tribunal (**IAT**) Report and Decisions concerning the appeals from the 4th World Gliding Championships in the 13,5m Class. The report included a number of recommendations to IGC. The Bureau has implemented these recommendations.

The establishment of the **Championship Management Working Group** has resulted in an improved organization of the work around the championships. The Bureau proposes to reformulate the Working Group to a Standing Committee.

Related to this and to continue to improve the **quality of events**, mandatory training of Jury members has started as an addition to the informal training of Stewards that has been conducted for some years. It is the intention of the Bureau to implement mandatory training of Championship Sporting Directors as well. Consequently, future Championship Sporting Directors, starting from 2025, but recommended with immediate effect, must be qualified by having completed a training course recently. These training activities are also part of the IAT recommendations.

Virtual Gliding continues to be developed successfully. We are gaining experience and learning from previous years. In the future you will not see a strong coupling between physical events and Virtual Gliding events. Too many physical gliding competitions are not suited for Virtual Gliding, being either too long or too boring for the virtual pilot.

In my last report, I expressed the hope that the **Electric Gliding Working Group** could start in 2023 and address not only competition flying, but also create a thematic network around low emission gliding, to facilitate development of new technologies. This has not been possible. We have not been able to find the drivers of this initiative. Consequently, we will have to drop this vision and focus on only one new competition format: e-glide.

The **IGC Bureau** has met 8 times in 2022, 7 online meetings and one face-to-face, hosted by the Spanish Aero Club in Madrid.

As in previous years, the FAI Office in Lausanne headed by the Secretary General, provides good support to IGC.

Finally, I would like to thank the IGC Bureau, the IGC Commissions, Working Groups, Experts, Stewards and Jurors for your good work and support to IGC in 2023.

It has been a pleasure working with you all. Looking forward to another year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter Eriksen'.

Peter Eriksen
IGC President