

## **FAI International Gliding Commission (IGC)**

### **Presidents Report to the IGC Plenary 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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For the first time since 2019, IGC could run the full scheduled program of CAT-1 events in 2022 including 4 World Gliding Championships.

The **37th FAI World Gliding Championships in Szeged, Hungary**, were blessed with fantastic soaring conditions. 83 participants in three classes flew 11 days with average speeds exceeding 150km/h many days, and with task distances up to 750km.

The World Champions are:

Open Class – Felipe Levin, Germany

18 Meter Class – Christophe Abadie, France

20 Meter Multi-set Class - Ivan Novak and Petr Krejcirik, Czech Republic

Winner of the Team Cup is France

The **12th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships** were organized in Tabor, Czech Republic. 74 young pilots competed in two classes during two weeks in generous weather and had an unforgettable time.

The World Champions are:

Standard Class – Simon Briel, Germany

Club Class – Finn Sleight, UK

Winner of the Team Cup is Germany

At the **11th FAI Women's World Gliding Championships in Husbands Bosworth, UK**, 43 pilots encountered Texas-like conditions on the first competition day, changing to a more typical UK weather situation during the Championships. The organizers did a lot to focus on women in aviation, reaching out to the community with involvement of potential commercial and educational partners under the umbrella of the UK STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) programme.

The World Champions are:

Club Class - Petra Piskata, Czech Republic

Standard Class - Cornelia Schaich, Germany

18 Meter Class - Anne Ducarouge, France

Winner of the Team Cup is Germany

Finally 11 pilots participated in the **4th FAI 13.5 Meter World Championship in Pociunai, Lithuania**.

The 13.5 Meter World Champion is Nick Hanenburg, The Netherlands

**The IGC Champion Pilot of the Year 2022 is Cornelia Schaich, Germany.** The IGC Champion Pilot of the Year is the World Champion that gains most of the points available in the class. Cornelia achieved 96.82% of the available points.



The **IGC trackers** have proven to be a valuable tool to give the public possibility to follow gliding competitions almost real-time. We are now ready to build more services on top of the pure tracking capability. An additional objective is to introduce live scoring based on the tracking information, to make it easier for the public to follow the development during a competition day. The formal scoring will still be based on Flight Recorders and files delivered after landing.

We also must realize that flying incognito in airspace shared with a lot of other airspace users becomes more and more difficult. The WGC in Szeged was a clear example of this. Together with the Hungarian organizers we had to adapt the way we intended to use the tracking system to get access to airspace also used by military and drone operators. This calls for a review of competition rules and the way we intend to use tracking systems in the future. It was however also interesting to see that most pilots flew with a trackable identity, even if this was not required.

An MoU has been signed with an external provider, SkyRace eSports Ltd, to organize **Virtual Gliding competition**. The plans for 2023 are ready. In addition to the 3 Grand Prix, there will be a series of Virtual Gliding events leading up to a final in December. A Competitors Handbook for virtual events is being finalized. Despite many hours spent on a proposed agreement, it has still not been possible to sign a full contract with SkyRace. I will have to express some disappointment with the FAI Executive Board on this matter, that has taken too long.

A new **Electric Gliding Working Group** was not started in 2022, hopefully the new E-Glide WG will become active before the 2023 Plenary Meeting.

Italy has lodged an appeal to FAI concerning the disqualification of one Italian pilot for the full competition and another pilot for one competition day. CASI has formed an International Appeal Tribunal that has started working on the appeal.

There is still a good and fruitful cooperation amongst Air Sports Commission (ASC) presidents facilitated by the FAI President that allows for the ASC President to comment and influence decisions taken by the FAI Executive Board on relevant subjects.

The IGC Bureau has met 6 times in 2022. Five online meetings and one very successful physical meeting in October hosted by Aero Club Pavullo, where the full Bureau was gathered for the first time since the last election took place.

Despite a reduction in size, the FAI Office in Lausanne headed by the Secretary General, provides good support to IGC.

Finally, I will thank the IGC Bureau, the IGC Commissions, Working Groups, Experts, Stewards and Juro for your good work and support to IGC in 2022. The success of international gliding is strongly depending on all you that provide a dedicated support of very high quality on a voluntary basis.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Peter Eriksen', is positioned above the printed name.

Peter Eriksen  
IGC President