



## International Gliding Commission 2010 Plenum

### President's Report

The past year has seen significant developments and changes in the FAI. The retirement of our long-serving Secretary General, Max Bishop, is perhaps the most significant change, especially as far as the Air Sports Commissions are concerned. The IGC has benefitted immensely from Max's dedication, knowledge, integrity and constant enduring support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Max for his years of support for IGC and to wish him and Angela safe journeys and fair thermals for their future.

Last year I spent some time talking about safety. This year I want to focus on Volunteers.

It seems that we always talk about the value of volunteers. IGC could certainly not exist as a sporting organisation without their selfless dedication and enthusiasm. But there are increasing demands and expectations that a high level of "service" be provided by those who undertake the responsibility to help make it all happen, whether at the IGC level or out on the airfield. This situation also creates a lot of pressure and tension between us, as a "voluntary" organisation and external, commercial bodies, especially when we are looking at opportunities for the joint development of products. I believe that this level of support needs to be provided by the FAI central body to assist all the Commissions to manage and develop their sports.

We also need to all recognise the quality of our volunteer workforce and I am very pleased to see a number of high-quality nominations for awards for this year.

#### Pilot Rankings

The top three pilots on the IGC Ranking List (at time of writing of this report) are:



1<sup>st</sup>

György Gulyás  
(Hungary)



2<sup>nd</sup>

Sebastian Kawa  
(Poland)



3<sup>rd</sup>

Olivier Darroze  
(France)

#### IGC Sanctioned Championships

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the winners of the 2009 Championships, the World Air Games 2009 and the IGC-OLC World League. 2009 was a financially difficult year for many and I thank the hosts of these Championships for their tremendous efforts in presenting very successful events.

### *6<sup>th</sup> FAI Junior World Gliding Championships 2009*

The 6<sup>th</sup> FAI Junior World Gliding Championships was held in June in Räyskälä, Finland. 82 competitors representing 20 NACs competed in the Standard and Club classes; achieving nine flying days. The World Champions are Felipe Levin (GER) – Standard, and Volker Sailer (GER) - Club.

### *5<sup>th</sup> FAI Women's World Gliding Championships 2009*

The 5<sup>th</sup> FAI Women's World Gliding Championships was held in July in Szeged, Hungary. 49 competitors representing 11 NACs competed in the 15M, Standard and Club classes; achieving nine flying days. The World Champions are Susanne Schoedel (GER) – 15M, Sue Kussbach (GER) – Standard, and Nathalie Hurlin (FRA) – Club.

### *FAI World Sailplane GP Series 2008-2009*

The qualifying races for the 2008-2009 FAI World Sailplane GP series were held in Australia (Narromine), Austria (Feldkirchen), Chile (Santiago), England (Lasham), France (Saint Auban), Italy (Turin), Poland (Zar) and Slovakia (Nitra). A total of 126 pilots competed in these eight qualifying events.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> FAI World Sailplane GP Final was held in Santiago, Chile, in January 2010. The world economic situation created significant concerns from potential hosts for the GP Final as to whether they would be able to provide the necessary coverage of this event. We are very grateful to our colleagues in Santiago who stepped up with a firm offer to run the GP Final.

It is worthy of note that, despite the fact that the qualified pilots had to fund their own expenses to get to Santiago, 15 pilots representing eight nations competed in this event. The 2009 FAI GP World Champion, after eight flying days, is Sebastian Kawa (POL).

### *15<sup>th</sup> FAI European Continental Gliding Championships*

The 15<sup>th</sup> FAI European Continental Gliding Championships were held in two locations: Nitra, Slovakia at the end of June; and, Pociunai, Lithuania, at the end of July. Nitra hosted 84 competitors from 22 NACs flying in the Open, 18M and 15M classes. Nine flying days were achieved. Pociunai hosted 79 competitors from 18 NACs flying in the Standard, Club, World and 20M two-seater classes. 13 flying days were achieved at Pociunai.

The European Champions for 2009 are:

- Open Class Peter Harvey (GBR)
- 18M Class Russell Cheetham (GBR)
- 15M Class Louis Boudierlique (FRA)
- Standard Class Mario Kiessling (GER)
- Club Class Rene de Dreu (NED)
- World Class Jędrzej Skłodowski (POL)
- 20M Two-Seater Class Janusz Centka and Marek Szumski (POL)

It is worth noting a couple of facts about the Championships held in 2009. The first is that, while these Championships could generally be called Eurocentric, it was pleasing to see pilots from Argentina, Australia, Chile, Japan and the USA competing in various classes.

The second is the success of the German team, with five Champions out of a possible 13. Our congratulations to the Germans; they have certainly created a standard for other NACs to emulate.

### **The FAI World Air Games 2009**

In our opinion the World Air Games represents a major advance in the ability of the “FAI” to promote airsports internally – so that we all learn from each other – and also externally – to the wider public and media. Eleven competitors, all World Champions in their own right, competed in the GP racing at Turin in the FAI World Air Games. Five days out of five were achieved in difficult, relatively stable conditions, in a narrow corridor between commercial airspace and the mountains. Despite this the pilots flew well and achieved good tasks while fitting in with the need to integrate with other users on the airfield. The FAI World Air Games Champion is Sebastian Kawa (POL) in a nail biting finish with Giorgio Galetto (ITA) and Giancarlo Grinzo (ITA).

We recognise that gliding is a potentially difficult sport to fit into the World Air Games format, both because of the reliance on good soaring weather and the inherent limitations available to “manage” the departure and arrival of the gliders. Modifications to the GP for future World Air Games will include a greater use of tracking, the possible use of 18M motor-gliders and the further development of remote start and finish lines.

### **The IGC-OLC World League 2009**

The 4<sup>th</sup> season of the IGC-OLC World League has seen the continued growth in this contest with recorded entries from 1067 Clubs and gliding organisations (up from 1050 in 2008). The top three placed clubs for 2009 were all from the USA with Albuquerque Soaring 1<sup>st</sup>, Warner Springs Gliders, 2<sup>nd</sup> (also 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2008) and the Tucson Soaring Club 3<sup>rd</sup>. Total activity for the OLC for the past year saw 13,287 individual competitors flying 103,801 flights and achieving a total distance of over 28 million kilometers. This shows us that there is a tremendous level of activity in our sport world-wide.

### **World Records**

Despite the economic recession, we have seen eight World Record flights achieved this year, six in the Ultralight Class (five for distance flights and one for speed), one in 15M (speed) and one in the World Class (distance). My congratulations go to all those who continue to strive for excellence in setting record performances. The table below records the World Records claimed in the months of November and December 2009.

<b>Sub-class</b>	<b>Type of Record</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Claimant</b>
15 Meter	Distance over a triangular course	1394.3 km	30 Nov	MEMMERT (GER)
15 Meter	Free triangle distance	1410.1 km	30 Nov	MEMMERT (GER)
15 Meter	Speed over a triangular course of 1 250 km	118.75 km/h	30 Nov	MEMMERT (GER)
Open	Speed over an O&R course of 1 500 km	180.3 km/h	30 Nov	WILLIAMS (GBR)
Open	Distance using up to 3 turn points	2499.2 km	13 Dec	DELORE (NZL)
Open	Distance using up to 3 turn points	2511.1 km	13 Dec	OHLMANN (GER)
Open	Speed over an O&R course of 1 500 km	198.31 km/h	13 Dec	OHLMANN (GER)
15 Meter	Speed over a triangular course of 500 km	163.23 km/h	14 Dec	LUYCKX (BEL)
Open	Speed over an O&R course of 1 000 km	213.26 km/h	26 Dec	OHLMANN (GER)
Open	Speed over an O&R course of 1 000 km	208.19 km/h	26 Dec	CLEMENT (FRA)
Open	Distance using up to 3 turn points	2643.2 km	28 Dec	OHLMANN (GER)

### **Public Presentation of Gliding**

The GP race at the World Air Games was streamed live on the internet using tracking provided by the Italian organisers and supplemented by live commentary. Feedback was given from those viewing the racing via a live Skype feed. There were between 3,500 and 5,000 people on line for each GP race during the World Air Games, from Europe to USA to Argentina, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand and Japan. The success of this format for the coverage of the GP race in Turin has led the Bureau to decide to require live streaming on the internet of tracking data to be mandatory for all IGC World Championships and Grand Prix Finals.

In Santiago the internet streaming, combined with live commentary and Skype feedback, was very successful with 13,500 viewers logged on to follow the GP Final. This validates, I believe, our decision to invest in the internet coverage of our events, which for Chile meant we supported the attendance of the commentator, Shaun Lapworth.

The lead-up to the GP Final in Santiago has also made us very aware that we need to have a much more robust process in place for managing relationships with potential external partners for the presentation of, not only the GP, but all IGC events. This is an initiative that is being taken up with some urgency by the FAI Board.

### **Grand Prix Series 2010 – 2011**

The Bureau has received and approved bids from five sites to host Qualifying Grand Prix races in 2010. Additionally we have received notification of an intent to bid for the 2011 World Grand Prix Final from the historic and beautiful Wasserkuppe in Germany.

### **FAI General Conference**

The FAI General Conference for 2009 was held in Incheon, Korea, in October. A full agenda included an Air Sports Commission President's meeting. The Conference was notable for the number of decisions taken that involve a review and rewrite of the Statutes and By Laws for the FAI especially now after some nine years of experience with the new structure with the Executive Board having replaced the Council.

Concern continues to be expressed about the relationship between the "FAI central" and the Air Sport Commissions and the powers and responsibilities of the Commissions and the funds at their disposal. This needs to be resolved and I look forward to us being able to do so over the next 12 months.

Considerable time was spent at both the General Conference and the Commission Presidents meeting reviewing and discussing the World Air Games and the desired management process and outcomes for the next Games, hopefully in 2011. Brian Spreckley has been retained as the FAI Sports Co-ordinator for the World Air Games, a very positive step in my opinion.

You may also be aware that a significant percentage of the fees payable for the rights to host the World Air Games in 2009 has yet to be paid. This has highlighted a need for us all to be rigorous about the payment of sanction fees for our events.

Roland Stuck attended the Conference as the acting IGC President and Eric Mozer continues to serve the FAI on the Statues Working Group.

## **Bureau Meetings**

A mid-year Bureau meeting was held in Lausanne in August, 2009. These meetings are extremely valuable because they allow us to focus on key issues. This year significant time was spent on the questions of pilot selection and safety. I would like to acknowledge the assistance provided to the Bureau by Werner “micro” Scholz who devoted a lot of his personal time to discussing options for improving safety for our competition pilots.

## **2010 Plenary**

From this year onwards you will see some additional items in our expenditure in our annual accounts:

- The “free ride” we have enjoyed from the IOC for the use of the auditorium in the Olympic Museum has ended. The FAI, like all sports federations, is entitled to only four days per annum free of charge for the use of the Museum meeting rooms. Unfortunately these four days have to be spread across 10 Commissions! So we will be paying a pro-rate rate for our two days from now on. However, the new FAI facilities at the Masion du Sport International (MSI) have free meeting rooms included, so our smaller meetings will be held either there or in the Hotel Au Lac, which now routinely also provides meeting rooms free of charge.
- We are going to provide our Stewards and Jury member with FAI uniforms as part of our improvement in quality management and also to recognise their status.
- We are setting aside funds on an annual basis to allow for in-competition drug testing, a requirement that the FAI must comply with to retain IOC support.

I am very pleased to see that we have multiple bids for the 2013 Women’s and Juniors WGC events.

We have a number of key Proposals for voting. These include:

- The adoption of the new Annex A with a revised publication date to align it with the northern hemisphere competition season
- The adoption of a 13.5M class
- The formal establishment of Continental Records
- The acceptance of an IGC Safety Strategy
- The decision on the Pilot Selection Process
- The inclusion of a 20M two-seater class in the World Championship calendar
- A Proposal to host the 2011 IGC Plenum meeting in Dayton, OHIO - USA

Finally, the adoption of GPS Position Recorders in the last year for silver and gold badge flights has created a lot of debate about what level of supervision and / or approval of these devices is appropriate and you will be asked to make a decision on IGCs responsibilities in this area.

## *Voting*

We have all “assumed” the voting protocols that are used at our meetings but the Statutes and By Laws lack clarity in this area. To avoid any confusion at our meetings, we will adopt the following procedure:

- The Roll Call will determine the number of votes held in the room
- Any calculations about the number of votes required for a majority (ie 50% or 67%) will be done using the numbers recorded at the Roll Call

- The Roll Call count will be adjusted only if Delegates formally notify the Secretary that they are leaving the meeting (or joining the meeting)
- Any votes “missing” after a count is taken will be treated as Abstentions (for example, total votes is 40; votes counted is 38; the 2 missing votes will be recorded as abstentions)

2010 promises to be an interesting year. We are pleased to welcome M. Stephane Desprez as the new FAI Secretary General. He comes to the FAI with exciting experience at sports management at a level where there are highly professional individuals involved and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers.

For me, my responsibilities as a member of the FAI Executive Board have meant that I have had to ask the Bureau members to take more responsibility for day-to-day IGC activities and I am pleased to be able to commend them for accepting that challenge, especially Eric Mozer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Head". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

President, IGC