

FAI Sailplane Grand Prix report 2014.

Summary

2014 has been a very busy year for the SGP management team (SGPT), it was the first operation of the SGP web site at an SGP final and for a complete SGP series.

The 6th SGP series started in June 2014 with a very successful event at Rennes in France followed by events in Italy, Spain and Australia. The remaining four qualifying events for the 6th series will be held in 2015.

Whilst considerable progress has been made in achieving a common branding there remains a great scope for improvement of the media output at some events.

The SGP team have provided the event organisers with considerable guidance on how to present the races and contests. Nevertheless it is still a problem with some organisers not providing sufficient resources to create a satisfactory media output.

In 2014 we introduced an FAI SGP Facebook page, an FAI SGP Twitter feed and an FAI SGP Youtube channel.

During December 2014 we made an appeal for help to improve the SGP media team, this received a reasonable response and three people have been added to our team to improve the media output. There will be more information on this at the Plenum meeting.

5th SGP Final 2014 Sisteron.

The 6th SGP final was very successfully held at Sisteron in France, the event was well attended by local spectators and the internet audience grew significantly during the event. There were 8 competition days and the new World sailplane Grand Prix champion is Didier Hausse from France.

Audience

The web site was visited by 29,850 users during the event and on the last competition days the audience was around 12,000 viewers.

More information will be given during the Plenum on the social media audience for the final and qualifying events.

Update on 6th series.

France	Rennes	7 Jun-14 Jun, 2014	Completed
Italy	Varese	15 Jun-23 Jun, 2014	Completed
Spain	Cerdanya	7 Sep-13 Sep, 2014	Completed
Australia	Lake Keepit	12-18 th Dec 2014	Completed
South Africa	Worcester	3 Jan-15 Jan, 2015	Completed
Chile	Santiago	24 Jan-31 Jan, 2015	Completed
Czech Republic	Frydland	May 2015	
Poland	Zar	25 Jul-1 Aug, 2015	

6th Sailplane Grand Prix world final

World Final Varese 5 Sep-12 Sep, 2015

The preparations for this final are well advanced. The SGPT will provide the core of the media team for this event and the local organisers at Varese are very co-operative to ensure the best possible media output with the available resources. The final will be linked to the EXPO 2015 taking place in Milan during 2015 and we anticipate this will broaden our audience for the final.

7th FAI Sailplane Grand Prix series

The closing dates for bids for the 7th series is the 31st January 2015, the successful bidders will be announced during the 2015 Plenum meeting. The series qualifying events will take place in 2016 and the final in early 2017.

Co-operation with FAME.

As FAME the FAI company is no longer operating it has become a priority to find our own way to attract partners and sponsors.

Sailplane Grand Prix web site.

From the experience gained in 2013 and during the final at Sisteron several fundamental changes were made to the SGP web site to improve the way we present the races. It has proved to be a great deal of work to support each event especially if the event organiser has no skilled IT help. It is a long term goal of the SGPT that we provide a media and web person for each event to ensure satisfactory media output.

Tracker System

During 2014 we made a number of experiments with streaming the tracker output as video which has a number of very significant advantages. We are currently negotiating with a provider of a "studio" for presenting the tracker data in 3d with commentary. If this system proves successful we should be able to provide all the SGP events with a standard race presentation output at a very low cost. This output will be streamed live by video removing all the bandwidth problems we have previously encountered and proving us with the possibility to create race highlight videos.

Negotiations are currently taking place between Flarm and FAI to allow the use of Flarm data for tracker presentation programmes. If successful this will make a significant difference to our ability to produce a universal high quality tracker system.

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Sailplane Grand Prix management team.