



FAI Sailplane Grand Prix report for IGC Plenary Meeting 2017.

Summary

2016 was another very busy year for the SGP management team (SGPT), in 2016 we held 9 National SGP events and the FAI/SGP world Final at Potchefstroom in South Africa.

The SGP team continued to update the guidance and media support provided to the contest organisers.

7th Series

176 pilots participated in FAI/SGP events during 2016 with no significant accidents or protests. One complaint was received during a National FAI/SGP event and this was dealt with by the event referee and SGP management team.



ABOVE & BEYOND

7th FAI/SGP Final 2016 Potchefstroom South Africa

Holding the final so soon after the last qualifying national event and in the same southern hemisphere season as the WGC in Australia presented some significant challenges. With the excellent support of Jonkers sailplanes in South Africa sufficient suitable sailplanes were made available to the pilots. The contest was successfully run by the SGP team with all the local facilities provided by the local organising club. Local organisation was led by Oscar Goudriaan and assisted by the staff of Jonkers Sailplanes and the local gliding club. Angel Casado did a great job in installing and commissioning 6 farm receivers in the last three days before the event. The event was well supported by Land Rover in SA and several local sponsors.

7th SGP Series (2016)

	Chile	Vitacura	23 Jan-30 Jan, 2016
	Spain	Cerdanya	17 Apr-24 Apr, 2016
	Russia	Usman	1 May-8 May, 2016
	Italy	Varese	14 May-21 May, 2016
	France	Rennes	4 Jun-11 Jun, 2016
	Austria	Niederöblarn	18 Jun-25 Jun, 2016
	UK	Bicester	9 Jul-17 Jul, 2016
	USA	Ionia	24 Jul-31 Jul, 2016
	Germany	Musbach	6 Aug-13 Aug, 2016
	World Final	Potchefstroom	5 Nov-12 Nov, 2016

SGP media audience.

The following of the FAI/SGP events continues to grow with the outreach on social media growing significantly to 83,000 people reached during the period of the SGP final. During the 7th series the SGPT started collecting statistics for the media coverage of all the National events, a presentation will show the results during the 2017 IGC plenum.

<https://www.facebook.com/faisgp/>

FAI/SGP 8th series.

The call for bids for the 8th series was very well supported with 9 bids for national SGP events and two bids for the final. The SGPT allocated the events according to the schedule below.

8th FAI/SGP Series 2017

 Australia	Horsham	14 Dec-20 Dec, 2016
 USA	Orlando	26 Mar-1 Apr, 2017
 South Africa	Magaliesburg	17 Apr-22 Apr, 2017
 Spain	Santa Cilia	7 May-14 May, 2017
 Poland	Wrocław Szymanów	27 May-3 Jun, 2017
 Italy	Varese	10 Jun-17 Jun, 2017
 France	Buno	25 Jun-1 Jul, 2017
 Slovakia	Partizánske	29 Jul-5 Aug, 2017
 Slovenia	Celje	19 Aug-26 Aug, 2017
 World Final	Vitacura	1 Jan-31 Jan, 2018

9th series FAI/SGP.

Procedure for bids for the 9th series of FAI/SGP events (2018) has been published and the closing date for bids is the 31st of March 2017. For bid information go to <http://www.sgp.aero/about-sgp-racing/bid-for-future-events>

Tracker and presentation system.

During the 7th series considerable work has been undertaken to integrate the Flam data as the main source of tracking data for FAI/SGP events. This has proved very successful and the experience gained from the FAI/SGP events will enable improved tracking for all IGC competitions. The SGPT are currently negotiating with Livetrack 24 to provide a service to all the SGP events providing the followers with consistency in the presentation of the races. Silent wings studio will still be used for the FAI/SGP final and for events providing live commentary.

Scoring system.

The dedicated SGP scoring system developed by Cross Country soaring was used for all the 7th series events and proved to be accurate, reliable and easy to use. During 2016 the system was integrated with the IGC RL database to allow sharing of pilot data. This system will be developed further for the next series with the intention of providing real time scoring for the final in 2018.

FAI/SGP branded clothing.

In the continuing quest to improve the image of our sport and its participants, the SGPT have negotiated an arrangement with SoaringXX to provide a range of SGP branded clothing to be used at all events. The local event organiser will provide a items from this range for all participating pilots and key organisers. There will be a presentation of this project during the FAI/SGP discussion at the IGC plenum.

The SGP management team is.

Brian Spreckley
Roland Stuck
Alexander Georgas
Terry Cubley
Rene Vidal

They are assisted with the development of some of the FAI/SGP projects by:-

Iain Baker.
Angel Casado.
Marilyn Hood.