

IGC Web Management Report to the 2013 Plenary Meeting

Peter Ryder, January 2013

With the installation of the new FAI server, the work of the IGC “web master” has become increasingly less important, because many people now have direct access to the site, and, in addition, several important web activities of the IGC now reside, or are intended soon to be installed, on external servers. For example:

- For several years a restricted section of the IGC site has been available to the Bureau and has been used extensively for the preparation of IGC meetings, mainly through the IGC Secretary.
- The GNSS and flight recorder documents are now managed directly by the GFAC Chairman.
- Other committee chairmen (e.g. Sporting Code) could easily be given access for uploading their own documents. Failing that, the documents can be uploaded by the FAI office personnel. The need for an intermediate person external to the FAI office to upload documents is questionable.
- The pilot ranking system has, from the start, always been outside the FAI server. Apart from its primary function, the pilot ranking list has become the best available archive of information on past championships.
- It is planned to create a new site for the Sailplane Grand Prix and eventually to move all FAI gliding championships to that site.

The FAI office is open to suggestions from the IGC for changes in the structure and content of the IGC web pages, but this work, especially if involving design changes, has to be done by the staff members who have the necessary qualifications. There is also an urgent need for input to the site from people with journalistic talents, because there is a lack of up-to-date news items.

In view of these developments I would question the need for an IGC “expert” responsible for aspects of the web site. A better model would be for the IGC to designate persons to work with the FAI staff on specific projects, as needed. For this reason, and also because I have been doing this job for very many years, I would like to resign as IGC web manager, not without thanking the FAI staff – in particular Thierry Montigneux and Faustine Carrera – for their continued advice and support.