



President's Letter to Delegates and Committee Chairmen

22nd July 2010

Mid-Summer Update

Barron Hilton awarded the FAI Gold Medal

Dear Friends

A number of things have happened in the last couple of months and a newsletter from me is (over)due.

The IGC is pleased to record the honour that has been given to two of our colleagues in the latest round of FAI Awards. The FAI Silver Medal has been awarded to Henk Meertens of Australia and the prestigious FAI Gold Medal has been awarded to Barron Hilton of the USA.

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I know that we all congratulate these two gentlemen on the recognition bestowed on them, by their peers, for their services to the FAI and to air sports.

I attended an FAI Executive Board meeting at the end of May and Roland Stuck attended the ASC Presidents meeting held at the same time as acting IGC President. Stephane Desprez presented his plans for the FAI office and staffing and these plans were accepted by the Board. They include:

- Employing 3 staff (to replace Thierry Montigneaux and Rob Hughes plus adding an extra person, working under Jean-Marc Badan, to provide direct support to the 10 ASCs).
- Outsourcing the day-to-day support of the FAI IT requirements to allow the office to focus on news creation rather than software updating.

At the same meeting the FAI EB agreed to proceed with the creation of a formal contact between the FAI and Mario Hytten, following on from the concept that Mario presented at the IGC Plenary meeting. Stephane and Brian Spreckley are in negotiation with Mario at present to make this happen.

The FAI World Air Games scheduled for 2011 has been cancelled due to a number of factors including the timescale and the potential financial and organisational risks that would have faced both the FAI and the host city. The focus is now on creating the World Air Games for 2013.

The working groups considering the integration of the 13.5M and 20M classes into the World Gliding Championships calendar have completed their work and are compiling their recommendations for the Bureau. The Bureau decision will be made available as soon as possible so that bidders for the 2014 WGC will know what classes they are expected to support.

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The QGP held in Zar, Poland, at the beginning of May, was affected by adverse weather conditions with only 2 tasks completed and only one finisher on both tasks! The organisers have requested that they be able to hold another QGP, in the Club Class, and this has been approved for the dates 30 April to 7 May 2011.

The 31st FAI WGC in Standard, Club and World Classes in Prievidza, Slovakia, has just finished. This event was very well organised and my congratulations to Jozef Snirc and his team for creating a great event.

Congratulations also to our new World Champions:

- Standard Class - Sebastian Kawa, POL
- Club Class - Arndt Hovestadt, GER
- World Class - Laurent Couture, FRA

Turning to safety, there are a couple of items that I wish to share with you all.

Firstly, the OSTIV SDP meets this weekend in Szeged, Hungary, at the WGC being held there and included on their agenda is the creation of a safety prize in memory of Piero Morelli. As soon as I have more information on this prize I will send it out to you.

Secondly, it is my sad duty to report that the 31st WGC in Prievidza was marred by an unfortunate accident in which Alexander Martynov (RUS), who was participating in the Standard Class, was fatally injured. Our sympathies are extended to Alexander's family and friends.

This WGC also saw a mid-air occur at the last turn point on task. While both gliders were damaged the pilots were able to land safely.

As well, there were multiple complaints about dangerous flying at Prievidza and the Stewards and Jury were working overtime dealing with these complaints and protests. This is not the spirit in which I expect our Championships to be flown.

Safety and concern for fellow competitors must always be foremost in the thoughts of the competitors and the glory of competition is forever darkened if we have aggressive flying, even if it is only perceived as "aggressive", occurring.

Stephane Desprez will be representing the FAI at the Opening Ceremony of the 31st WGC in Open, 18M and 15M classes at Szeged, Hungary, this weekend and he will be presenting a letter from me to all participants at the opening ceremony reminding them of their personal responsibility for safety.

Best regards



Bob Henderson
President, IGC
22nd July 2010