1000 Brussels, 21st of December 2011.

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE
Maison du Sport International
avenue de Rhodanie 54
CH-1007 LAUSANNE
(Suisse)

By TELEFAX on nr 00-41-21-345-10-77

Re: The Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal
Nomination of Mrs Gill Van den Broeck

Dear Mr BADAN, Secretary General,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the "Aéro-Club Royal de Belgique" (ACRB) (Royal Belgian Aero Club) we have the honour in presenting the nomination of Mrs Gill Van den Broeck for the Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal.

Attached you will find the letter (and his annexes) prepared in September 2011 by the "Fédération des Clubs Francophones de Vol à Voile" (Federation of Gliding Clubs in the French-speaking part of Belgium) but transmitted to our Aero Club from the moment the Federation realized that such nomination has to be presented by the NAC of Belgium. We confirm the terms of this letter and its annexes dated from the 21st of September 2011.

We hope that the nominee could obtain in this way the acknowledgement of her large merits.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

V. WIEME, President ACRB
Re: The Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal
Nomination of Mrs Gill Van den Broeck

CITATION

Gill Van den Broeck is one of the most well known and influential women in the European and international gliding community, especially in European and World Female gliding championships.

She began making a name for herself and breaking Belgian records as early as May 1964 with a solo flight for 7h29 and in 1965 with altitude gains.

Her involvement with gliding goes beyond the pure joy of flying. She directed and organized 30 times the annual international "Concours des Ardennes", 5 of which were official Belgian Championships. She was Secretary General of "Aero Club des Ardennes" for 36 years.

In 1985 she received the FAI Paul Tissandier Diploma and in 2005 the "Golden Witch"-award from the German Aero Club.

She joined Women Soaring Pilots Association in 2005 and is currently still very active in the official publication of WSPA as well as in different aeronautical magazines and Belgian newspapers, causing many aeronautical vocations.

She wrote a book entitled: "History of International Gliding Contests, European and World Championships for Women" in which she painstakingly reports about the progression of women international contests, their obstacles and final triumph having the contest recognized by the FAI as Women’s World Championship.

She has been representative for Belgium in IGC from 1987 till 1991.

* * *
Spy, 21 september 2011

Mr. Stephane Desprez
Secretary General
Fédération Aéronautique Internationale
Avenue Mon Repos, 24
CH – 1005 Lausanne

N/Réf.: CR/ac/11/022

The Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal

Dear Mr. Desprez,

With this letter, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Soaring Federation of Belgium, we wish to nominate Ms. Gill Van den Broeck for the Pelagia Majewska Gliding Medal.

Gill Van den Broeck-Gabhard is one of the most known and influential women in the European and international gliding community, especially in European and World Female Gliding Championships. Not only has she been team member and team leader for Belgium but also, and perhaps more importantly organiser and judge.

Gill got her A license in 1954, her B in 1956, C in 1991, D in 1964, aerobatics and E (altitude) in 1966. She began making a name for herself and breaking records as early as May 1964 in Belgium, with a solo flight in a Mucha, flying for 7 hours and 29 minutes. December of 1965 she achieved the most altitude gain (4050m) to an absolute altitude of 4850m this time in a Kaé. On the same day in the tandem glider Bijave WA30 with Mme G. Delfosse as co-pilot she gained 3080m to an absolute altitude of 4080m, again a record. Gill continued her record flights between 1969 to 1994 in duration, speed triangle over 100km, speed triangle over 300km and free distance in various gliders K7, Twin Astir and Janus B. Gill’s environment with gliding goes beyond the pure joy of flying. She directed and organized 30 times the annual International «Concours des Ardennes», 5 of which were official Belgian Championships, she was secretary general of Aero Club des Ardennes for 38 years, organised many outreach sessions to future women glider pilots and school children, she has written many articles and is also an Interpreter. In 2005 she received the « Golden Witch » Award from the German Aero Club.

Gill joined WSPA (Women Soaring Pilots Assoc.) during the 2005 Women’s World Championships in Germany. She is currently still very active assistance in "Hangar Soaring" (the official publication of WSPA). Gill was the reporter gliding in one of our major newspapers for years, causing many aeronautical vocations.

In 2007, Gill wrote a book entitled: "History of International Gliding Contests, European and World Championships for Women". In this small book, Gill painstakingly reports about the progression of women international contests, their obstacles and final triumph having the contest recognized by the FAI as Women’s World Championships.
Gill has been representative of Belgium in IGC from 1987 till 1991.

She currently holds the record for Belgium (with Georgette Litt) of the Out-and-retour distance – 321km, the 05.07.1984.

The medal “Pelagia Majewska (who was a friend of Gill and she greatly admired) would surely great pleasure and great honor. Thank you for this opportunity to provide a nomination for this important award.

With kind regards,

Philippa HONORE,
President.
AERONAUTICAL CURRICULUM VITAE

GLIDING

GILL VAN DEN BROECK-GBEHARD

Belgian Records Flights:

**Female Single:**
- **Duration:** May 9, 1964, 7h29
- **Altitude Gain:** December 31, 1965
- **Absolute Altitude:** December 31, 1965
- **Type:** Mucha Std
- **Records:** 4050 m, Ka-6b

**Female Double Seat as Pilot:**
- **Altitude Gain:** Dec. 31, 1965
- **Absolute Altitude:** December 31, 1965
- **Type:** with Mrs. G. Dehoux as passenger: 3080 m Bijave
- **Records:** 4080 m Bijave

**All Categories Dual Seat as Passenger of Baudouin Litt:**
- **Speed on 300 Km FA! Triangle:** June 26, 1976
- **Records:** 68.2 Km/h, Ka7

**Female Double Seat as Passenger of Jeanteau Litt:**
- **Duration:** June 14, 1969
- **Distance on Out & Return:** June 15, 1969
- **Speed on 100 Km FA! Triangle:** April 22, 1982
- **Speed on 200 Km FA! Triangle:** June 28, 1984
- **Speed on 300 Km FA! Triangle:** June 29, 1984
- **Speed on 500 Km FA! Triangle:** July 2, 1984
- **Speed on 100 Km FA! Triangle:** July 3, 1984
- **Speed on 200 Km FA! Triangle:** July 5, 1984
- **Speed on 300 Km Out & Return:** January 20, 1993
- **Free Distance:** July 17, 1994
- **Records:** 514, Ka7
- **Records:** 132 Km, Ka7
- **Records:** 43.9 Km/h, Ka7
- **Records:** 78.37 Km/h Twin Astir
- **Records:** 78.06 Km/h Twin Astir
- **Records:** 103.54 Km/h Twin Astir
- **Records:** 74.85 Km/h Twin Astir
- **Records:** 273.39 Km, Janus C
- **Records:** 509.11 Km, Janus B

**Record for Acrobatics 16/6/65 Lasham (GB) on Blanik - Instr. Roy Smith**

**International Activities:**

- **Management:**
  - 1970: Deputy Team Manager Belgian Soaring Team at the World Soaring Championships in Marfa Texas (US)
  - 1989: Co-editor with Ann Welch of the Journal “On the Grid” during the World Soaring Championships in Wiesn Neustadt (Austria)
  - 1992: Official Steward at the European Soaring Championships in Bledesbo (HU)
  - 1997: Assistant Chief Soarer at the World Soaring Championships in Saint Auban (Fr)

For which she received the French Soaring Federation recognition diploma

**Representatives:**

Of the Belgian Soaring Federation at the annual meeting of the CIVV (Commission International de Vol à Volé) and IOC (International Gliding Commission): 1987 at Frankfurt (D), 1988 at Vienne (Austria), 1989 at Paris, 1990 at Paris, 1991 at Queenstown (NZ) and at Berlin-Schönhagen (D)

**Female European Soaring Championships (1979 till 1999) and Female World Soaring Championships (2001 and up):**

- 1979 at Dunaujvaros (HU) as Team Chief of the Belgian Team
- 1981 at Cherence (FR) as Team Chief of the Belgian Team
- 1983 at St-Hubert (Be) as Competition Director and Organizer

For which she received FAI Diploma

- 1985 at Subotica (Yu) as Team Chief of the Belgian Team and elected President of the Jury
- 1987 at Sunen (Bu) as Team Chief of the Belgian Team
1989 at Orel (URSS) as Team Chief of the Belgian Team
1991 at Husabande-Bosworth (UK) as steward
1993 at Ceska-Budajeva (Cz) as steward
1995 at Marpingen (Ge) as steward
1997 at Prievdiza (Slovakia) as steward
1999 at Lestno (Poli) as jury member

Women's World Championships
2001 at Pocunai Kaunas (Lit) as steward
2003 at Jihlava (Cz) as chief steward
2005 at Klik (Dc) member of the Jury

Awards:

International Award (FAI):
1984 Paul Tissandier Diploma
2005 Golden Witch Award of the German Aero Club

National Awards, Belgian Kingdom:
State Secretary Flemish Culture: Bronze Medal Sport Department March 2, 1966.
French Speaking Community: Gold Medal Physical Education & Sport November 14, 1996.
Belgian Royal Aero Club: Performance Certificate April 22, 1984
Diploma of Honor March 29, 1984
"Soering" Prize from the Belgian Sport Press Association 1965

National Activities:
Organizer and Contest Manager of the 30 "International Competition of the Ardennes" until 1997.
At numerous occasions this competition also constituted the Belgian National Championship.
Organization, with Mrs. G. Litt, of several Soering Meetings at Louvain La Neuve University Campus to encourage young Belgian feminine pilots.

Remarks:
General Secretary of the Aero Club of the Ardennes from 1965 until 2001
Numerous Soering articles in different aeronautical magazines and in general public Belgian journals such as "Le Libre Belge", "Nieuwblad", "Gazet van Antwerpen" and "Libelle".
Gill is by trade an interpreter and Journalist
It was in Klix 2005 that together with Angelika Machinek, regrettfully disappeared in 2006 after a deadly flight accident, we asked Gill Van den Broeck to translate the book she had written in German about the History of Women Gliding Competitions and to publish it. Gill was conscious that it would have been hard, but she finally agreed and it is for this reason that I really want to thank her.

"You've been Great!, Gill"

And now plenty of people will be able to know, see and understand through the words of an eyewitness, the way women gliding competitions were born and developed.

Thank you Gill!
Margot 57

www.voloavela.it
Meet a WSPA member
Gill Van den Broeck, Belgium

Gill Van den Broeck-Gebhard is one of the most well known and influential women in the European and international gliding community, especially in European and World Female Gliding Championships. Not only has she been a team member and team leader for Belgium but also, and perhaps more importantly, organizer and judge. Gill joined WSPA during the 21005 Women's World Championships in Germany.

Belgian Records Flights:

**Femaline Singles:**
- **Duration:** May 9, 1964, 7h29
- **Altitude Gain:** December 31, 1965
  - 4050 m, Ka-6b
- **Absolute Altitude:** December 31, 1965
  - 4830 m, Ka-6b

**Femaline, double seater as pilot:**
- **Altitude gain:** Dec. 31, 1965
- **with Mrs. G. Defrance as passenger:** 3080 m, Bijlave
- **Absolute Altitude:** December 31, 1965
  - 4080 m, Bijlave

**All categories Double Seater as passenger of Baudouin Luit:**
- **Speed on 300 Km FAI Triangle:**
  - June 26, 1976
  - 68.2 Km/h, Ka7

**Femaline Double Seater as passenger of Georges Luit:**
- **Duration:** June 14, 1969
- **Distance on Out & Return:** June 15, 1969
  - 132 Km, Ka-7
- **Speed on 100 Km FAI Triangle:** April 22, 1982
  - 43.9 Km/h, Ka-7
- **Speed on 100 Km FAI Triangle:** June 28, 1984
  - 76.06 Km/h, Twin Astir
- **Speed on 300 Km FAI Triangle:**
  - June 29, 1984
  - 49.1 Km/h, Twin Astir
- **Speed on 100 Km FAI Triangle:** July 2, 1984
  - 78.37 Km/h, Twin Astir
- **Speed on 100 Km FAI Triangle:** July 3, 1984
  - 105.5 km/h
- **Speed on 300 Km Out & Return:** July 5, 1984
  - 74.65 Km/h, Twin Astir
- **Free Distance:** January 20, 1993
  - 279.39 Km, Janus C
- **Free Distance:**
  - July 17, 1994
  - 599.11 Km, Janus B

Safe For Aerobatics 16/6/85 Lasham (GB) on Blanik - Instr. Roy Smith

International Activities:
- Management
Wispering palm-trees... by Gill Van den Broeck

High, higher, highest in Bitterwasser - Namibia

Booee-bopp-boop-blop - the sound of the audio-varionmesser in our glider rises regularly and slowly reaches the extreme limit of the round instrument at 5 meters/second to move no more. When we decide to bring some variation in the regular thrusting of our Nimbus 3DM, the glider, apparently without any effort turns the splitting into an nice straight dolphin-flight over the red Kalahari desert and its wild beauty. Its red carpet displays the ever changing shadows of the cumulus clouds which are slowly getting smaller and smaller. And look at that Hendapsam balloon...to must have been quite whimsical, the artist who imagined these bizarre outlines of the dam!

The fantastic visibility allowed a clear view of a narrow grey wall quite far in the distance: a heavy shower no doubt more than welcomed by the grateful Namibian farmers unfortunately the rain these last months has not succeeded in releasing enough of this life-bringing heavenly water, gift of heaven on the dried out Elephant river, wriggling its way through the landscape like a nervous eel.

Somewhere more to the south...shouldn't we find some traces of the old melon shower pouring down on earth thousands and thousands of years ago? More than 20 tons of ferrous stones, rock and stone blocks must have created quite a crater in these surroundings. Or has this rock shower created on earth too long ago? Or maybe we have been climbing too high? Altimeter 4000 m - time for oxygen, no, no longer use the old fashioned oxygen mask but the new-fitted cannula in both nostrils. When I take out the cannula because I have to blow my nose (air conditioning inside and tropical heat outside!) a short alarm signal immediately passes the warning and so does the pilot: OXYGEN!

The varionmesser has stopped its beep-bop song, probably it was too dull or too monotonous. But do I really see what I see? Can this be right? The altimeter has by far exceeded its limits... This cannot be real, this is really not possible: the clouds are being pulled together, getting darker and darker... and then they disappear. Suddenly only stars lighten the sky. Look there, I discover the Southern Cross. Its upper star on the right even white at us. And now the moon joins in, turning on its round back so to be able to directly look up into space. But what is really happening, climbing cannot possibly go on forever.

AND THEN I woke up...

Was this really a dream? Without making noise or flapping I slip out of the Bitterwasser number 25 bungalow. Quietly strolling along the palm-tree walk with its feet of pigeons, carefully covered by their protective "pyjamas": I am scrutinizing the dark blue starry sky. Yes, the Southern Cross is still there; but it does not wink at me any more.

A dream, this time real, for registration in the flight book reads: 1/6/2004 - Nimbus 3 DMAS-3AH - Departure time 14.09.07 - Tempo 40°C - Altitude 5200 m - Landing 17.25.38 - temp 30°C - Pilot Hansjoerg Schweitzer (with many heartful thanks from your co-pilot Gill Van den Broeck-Gelbrand)

What a way to celebrate New Year!
Wispering palm-trees... by Gill Van den Broeck

High, higher, highest in Bitterwasser – Namibia

Beep-beep-beep-beep – the sound of the audio-variometer in our glider rises regularly and slowly reaches the extreme limit of the round instrument at 5 meter/second to move no more. When we decide to bring some variation in the regular thermal circling of our Nimbus 3DM, the glider, apparently without any effort turns the spiraling into a nice straight dolphin-flight over the red Kalahari desert and its wild beauty. Its red carpet displays the ever changing shadows of the cumulus clouds which are slowly getting smaller and smaller. And look at that Hartkopf below... he must have been quite whimsical, the artist who imagined these bizarre outlines of the dam!

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