Report from Web Management Specialist to the IGC 2012 Plenary

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In 2011 the FAI, with the aid of an external IT company, completely re-designed their web site. The new site has not just a different appearance, but a completely different menu structure and a different content management system. This made it very difficult to transfer all the data from the old IGC site to the new one in such a way that they were all readily available to the general user. Particular problems were encountered in the "meetings" and "GNSS" sections, because the navigation structure of the old site, consiting of HTML pages (e.g. meeting agendas) with links to the associated documents, was lost and will now have to be painstakingly reconstructed page for page. This will take some time, and it would have been much better for the readablilty of the IGC site if the process could have been completed before the new site went on line, but it was decided at the FAI office that the new site had to be published in time for the 2011 FAI General Conference, and this resulted in the situation where the former IGC site was no longer accessible, whilst the new site was (and still is) in a far from satisfactory state.

Unfortunately, much valuable archive material, including minutes of previous IGC meetings, was lost, before the migration to the new site, due to a server crash. Obviously there had been no automatic back-up system in operation. I have been assured that the new system make regular backups of all files, so that the can be restored in the event of a crash.

With the help of the FAI staff (Faustine Carrera), the agenda structure has been re-created for the 2011 meeting (see http://www.fai.org/igc-about-us/igc-meetings/171-igc/34903-igc-meeting-4-5-march-2011) and for this meeting. In addition, the Bureau has had a limited-access section, where documents could be uploaded in preparation of the IGC plenary meeting as in previous years.

The gliding section has the URL http://www.fai.org/gliding as before, and can be accessed from the FAI home page by selecting "Sports" and "Gliding" from the top menu. All documents can now be found und the menu point "documents". In addition, the documents accompanying the agenda can be accessed via links in the on-line version of the agenda.

At present, the GNSS files are not up to date and difficult to find (e.g. the approval documents). I will be working on this when the preparations for the plenary meeting are finished. Suggestions from delegates for the design and content of the site are welcome.