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**History of the FAI Open Class Challenge Cup**

1937 The 1st World Gliding Championship took place at the Wasserkuppe in Germany. Glider pilots of 6 nations participated: Great Britain, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Czech-Slovakia and Germany. The winner was Heini Dittmar, Germany with a 19 m Fafnir Sao Paulo.

1948 The 2nd World Gliding Championship was organised in Samedan, Switzerland. The champion of the Open Class, Per-Axel Persson from Sweden, was awarded the FAI Open Class Challenge Cup. The Challenge Cup was donated from Switzerland.

1952 until 1956 the World Gliding Championships were organised in 2 classes, the Open Class (Single Seater Class) and the Two Seater Class. The FAI Open Class Challenge Cup was awarded to the winner of the single seater “Open Class”.

1958 The World Gliding Championships took place at Leszno/Poland for the first time in the Open Class and Standard Class. The competition in the Two Seater Class was discontinued. Since 1948 the FAI Open Class Challenge Cup has been awarded to 34 champions of the Open Class of 11 nations so far.

Description of the Cup: The FAI Challenge Cup Open Class is a 32 cm high silver cup mounted upon a green marble foot forming a two-layer octagon. Engraving: Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, Championnat du Monde de Vole à Voile. Rules and Regulations see page 1 – IGC FAI Challenge Cups 1.1 – 1.1.4 List of the Open Class Champions and events

* 1948 2nd WGC Per-Axel Persson, Sweden Samedan/Switzerland
* 1950 3rd WGC Billy Nilsson, Sweden Örebro/Sweden
* 1952 4th WGC Philip Wills, Great Britain Madrid/Spain
* 1954 5th  WGC Gérard Pierre, France Camphill/Great Britain
* 1956 6th WGC Paul McCready, USA Saint Yan/France
* 1958 7th WGC Ernst Haase, Germany Leszno/Poland
* 1960 8th WGC Rudolfo Hossinger, Argentina Colonge/Germany
* 1963 9th WGC Eduard Makula,Poland Junin/Argentina
* 1965 10th WGC Jan Wroblewski, Poland South Cerney/Great Britain
* 1968 11th WGC Harro Wödl, Austria Leszno/Poland
* 1970 12th WGC George Moffat, USA Marfa/USA
* 1972 13th WGC Göran Ax, Sweden Vrsac/Yugoslavia
* 1974 14th WGC George Moffat, USA Waikerie/Australia
* 1976 15th WGC George Lee, Great Britain Räyskälä/Finland
* 1978 16th WGC George Lee, Great Britain Chateauroux/France
* 1981 17th WGC George Lee, Great Britain Paderborn/Germany
* 1983 18th WGC Ingo Renner, Australia Hobbs/USA
* 1985 19th WGC Ingo Renner, Australia Rieti/Italy
* 1987 20th WGC Ingo Renner, Australia Benalla, Australia
* 1989 21st WGC Jean-Claude Lopitaux, France Wiener Neustadt/Austria
* 1991 22ndWGC Janusz Centka, Poland Uvalde/USA
* 1993 23rd WGC Janusz Centka, Poland Borlänge/Sweden
* 1995 24th WGC Ray Lynskey, New Zealand Omarama/New Zealand
* 1997 25th WGC Gérard Lherm, France Saint Auban/France

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List of the Open Class World Champions and events

* 1999 26th WGC Holger Karow, Germany Bayreuth/Germany
* 2001 27th WGC Oscar Goudriaan, South Africa Mafikeng/South Africa
* 2003 28th WGC Holger Karow, Germany Leszno/Poland
* 2006 29th WGC Michael Sommer, Germany Eskilstuna/Sweden
* 2008 30th WGC Michael Sommer, Germany Lüsse/Germany
* 2010 31st WGC Michael Sommer, Germany Szeged/Hungary
* 2012 32nd WGC Laurent Abulin, France Uvalde/USA
* 2014 33rd WGC Michael Sommer, Germany Leszno, Poland
* 2017 34rd WGC Russell Cheetham, Great Britain Benalla/Australia
* 2018 35th WGC Michael Sommer, Germany Hosin / Czech Republic

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