



IGC NEWS

23 September 2011

SPRING UPDATE

FAI General Conference

The General Conference for 2011 will be held shortly in Belgrade over the week of the 11th to 15th of October. Jean-Marc Badan will be in the chair as the new FAI Secretary General at this Conference.

There are few formal changes proposed but I hope that significant and productive discussions will be held about the various proposals that the Executive Board have developed in consultation with the NACs and the Commission Presidents.

IGC Bureau Meeting

Our Bureau will hold its mid-year meeting in Paris over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of October. My thanks to the FFVV for the generous loan of their offices for this meeting.

We have a very full agenda and, of course, will be reviewing the reports from our Stewards and Jurors at the 2011 Championships and the work done so far this year by our various Working Groups.

We will also be reviewing bids for hosting the SGP 2012-2013 series and for the World Championships in 2014, so if you have not yet lodged a bid please get it in now. And we will be reviewing any proposals for voting for the Plenary meeting in March 2012. So if you have a draft proposal that you want the Plenum to consider please get it to our Secretary promptly (and it only needs to be a draft at this stage so that we can see what you are thinking and can then assist you with formatting the proposal).

IGC Plenary 2012

As you will recall, we decided to hold the next IGC Plenary meeting in the city of Potchefstroom, South Africa. The meeting will take place the 2nd and 3rd of March 2012. Information on flights and accommodation will be coming out shortly from our South African hosts. This promises to be a great meeting and a unique opportunity to also take in some of the sights and experiences of South Africa.

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WADA Out-of-Competition Doping Testing

A few weeks ago a number of FAI air sports persons were advised that they are now on a list for “out-of-competition” drug testing. Quite a few of those on that list are glider pilots, and, without exception, those pilots are currently our World Champions.

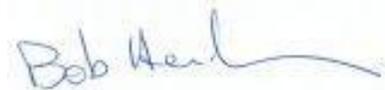
WADA is the World Anti-Doping Agency (<http://www.wada-ama.org/en/>), funded by the IOC and responsible for all rules and regulations about anti—doping practices. Their primary aim is to eliminate the practice of doping from competitive sport.

Some of you have received emails from the pilots on the list expressing concerns about this whole “out-of-competition” testing process.

The FAI Executive Board has discussed this situation and I am pleased to be able to report that, yesterday, our President decided to put the “out-of-competition testing” on hold until after the General Conference. This is to give us time to consult further with the NACs, Commissions and the individuals affected about what this all means, why FAI is doing it, how it will be administered and the effect on the individuals.

I applaud this decision to put the testing on hold; for me this is the correct course of action in light of the obvious concerns that had been raised by many people.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Henderson
President, FAI Gliding
23rd September 2011