



President's Letter to Delegates and Committee Chairmen

12th January 2011

January 2011

Dear Friends

I trust that you have all had a good break although I appreciate that some of you may have suffered more of a "white Christmas" than desirable and others have been adversely affected by rain and storms rather than snow.

This first newsletter for 2011 is a chance for me to bring you up to date on things that have been happening lately.

*Fédération
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Ian Strachan and the GAFC team have completed an extensive review of the Flight Recorder Technical Specifications. This review was designed to tidy up the text, remove duplications and errors and generally rewrite areas of the specifications that had been "patched". The amended FR Tech Specs became effective on the 20th of December, 2010, after they were reviewed and subsequently approved by the Bureau.

The 2010-2011 GP Series has completed 2 rounds of qualifying and 2 rounds planned for 2010 have been re-scheduled to 2011.

- The Zar QGP (Poland), scheduled for May 2010, will now be flown from 30 April to 7 May 2011 because the original competition was badly affected by weather
- The Boonah QGP (Australia) scheduled for September 2010, will now be flown in mid-March 2011 in the 18m class
- Results from the St Moritz QGP (Switzerland) – August 2010:

1 st	Mario Kiessling	GER	Ventus 2ax	39
2 nd	Uli Schwenk	GER	Ventus	33
3 rd	Eduard Supersperger	AUT	Ventus 2	32
- Results from the Pribina Qualifying Grand Prix (Slovakia) – September 2010:

1 st	Matkowski Christoph	POL	ASG 29/18m	20
2 nd	Novak Ivan	CZE	Ventus 2C/18m	12
3 rd	Netusilova Alena	CZE	ASG 29/18m	11

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Negotiations on the SGP+ project have continued during December. The FAI Executive Board, in its meeting of December 2010, unanimously confirmed that they fully support the development of the SGP+ competition format; that Planetaire's proposal with regards to the marketing concept held a significant interest; and, that they were in favour of continuing discussions to achieve a successful implementation of this project.

The one specific issue the Board wanted resolved was the appropriate recognition of the FAI by the inclusion of "FAI" in the event description and the drafting of a Branding Guide. The date of the next Executive Board meeting (14 January) was set as the deadline for a draft Branding Guide to be provided by Planetaire. To the best of my knowledge it seems unlikely that Planetaire will provide the information requested. This is frustrating as the idea to provide this guide came from Planetaire!

It therefore seems unlikely that we will enter into any agreement with Planetaire regarding the future promotion of the Sailplane Grand Prix. This is a regrettable situation and one that we need to learn from for the future.

Looking forward to the plenary meeting in Lausanne in March :

FAI President John Grubbström has confirmed that he will join us and speak at the meeting.

Helmut Fendt, Chairman of the OSTIV SDP, will make a presentation on "Safety Pays" and also lead a discussion on the question of CofA versus Permit-to-Fly approvals for gliders competing in world championships.

We are also including time for a discussion about the future management of our world championships.

Thinking of safety and management of championships, John Cochrane (Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a noted USA soaring pilot) recently gave a speech in the USA with some thought provoking ideas about the overall philosophy, management and safety at soaring competitions. While the speech has a distinct USA flavour, John also offers opinions on the wider IGC scene. I recommend that you take the time to read his speech. The link is:

<http://faculty.chicagobooth.edu/john.cochrane/research/Papers/barnaby.html>

Best regards



Bob Henderson
President, IGC
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