



IGC – FAI Challenge Cups

Part 16 – History of the Robert Kronfeld Challenge Cup

Author : Gisela Weinreich

Editor : Peter Purdie

History of the Robert Kronfeld Cup

1989 The Robert-Kronfeld-Cup was donated by the Austrian Federal Government on the occasion of the 21st FAI World Gliding Championships 1989 in Wiener Neustadt, which at the time was held in three classes: Open Class, 15 m Class and Standard Class, to commemorate the great exceptional pioneer and glider pilot Robert Kronfeld.

Rules

The CUP is to be presented to a pilot flying at the World Gliding Championships competing in the Open, 18 m and (since 2018) 20m Multi Seat classes.

1. The winner of the CUP will have flown the longest Marking Distance during the WGC, regardless of type of task.(It does not require a special calculation, but can be taken from the table of results).
2. If there is a tie for the longest Marking Distance flown, the winner of the CUP will be the pilot that attained the longest Marking Distance (task) at the highest SPEED.
3. If there is a tie between pilots in the longest Marking Distance flown and no highest SPEED is achieved, the tie will be broken and the CUP will be won by the pilot having the earliest out landing time.

Description of the cup: The Cup is a crystal globe with a drafted glider mounted upon a round crystal pillar showing the portrait of Robert Kronfeld. The pillar is connected to a heavy metal base.

The original Robert Kronfeld Cup unfortunately fell during its presentation in Wiener Neustadt and was broken. A replacement immediately was ordered and arrived just in time to be awarded to the winner, Gérard Lherm, France, Open Class



Robert Kronfeld

- 1904 Robert Kronfeld was born 5th May 1904 in Vienna. The boy was an excellent skier and in the years of his studies in Vienna he was also a well known alpinist and he did white-water rafting as well.
- 1927 the Austrian Aero Club set up an aviator youth group. Robert was the best one of this group and was sent to the gliding school at Rositten / East Prussia. 1928 he participated in a gliding course at the Wasserkuppe. Robert Kronfeld set milestones in History of Gliding. He was in 1929 the first one to use a variometer, the first one to fly more than 100 km distance, the first one to use thermals of cumulus clouds in the course of a distance flight, the first one who flew over the mountain massif Rax of the Alps. 1931 he flew a glider across the Channel and returned next day and was the winner of the £1000 pound award donated by "Daily Mail".
- 1938 He left Germany and Austria because of anti-semitic politics and became british citizen and served as a Squadron Leader of the Royal Airforce in the 2nd World War and was awarded the Air Force Cross.
- 1948 February 12th Robert Kronfeld, famed holder of gliding records was killed when an experimental engineless and tailless flying wing he was piloting in spin tests crashed in a field near Lasham.

List of Robert Kronfeld Cup Winners winners according to the engravings on the Cup

1989	Gérard Lherm, France	Open Class	713 km	Wiener Neustadt /Austria
1991	Tom Knauff, USA	Open Class	767 km	Uvalde/USA
1993	Jan W. Anderson, Denmark	Open Class	454 km	Borlänge/Sweden
1995	Ray Linskey, New Zealand	Open Class	674 km	Omarama/New Zealand
1997	Sebastian Kawa, Poland	Open Class	533 km	Saint Auban/France
1999	Jan W. Anderson, Denmark	Open Class	638 km	Bayreuth/Germany
2001	Holger Karow, Germany	Open Class	660 km	Mafikeng/South Africa
2003	Laurens Goudriaan, RSA	Open Class	725 km	Leszno/Poland
2006	Tomasz Rubaj, Poland	Open Class	543 km	Eskilstuna/Sweden
2008	Holger Karow, Germany	Open Class	507 km	Lüsse/ Germany
2010	Stephan Beck & H. Karow	Open Class	428 km	Szeged/Hungary
2012	Peter Harvey, Great Britain	Open Class	700 km	Uvalde/USA
2014	Laurent Aboulin, France	Open Class	484 km	Leszno/Poland
2017	Michael Sommer, Germany	Open Class	747 km	Benalla/Australia
2018	Adam Woolley, Australia	18 m Class	541 km	Hosin / Czech Republic
2020	<i>Postponed to 2021</i>	-	-	Stendal-Borstel / GER
2021	<i>Cancelled</i>	-	-	Stendal-Borstel / GER
2022	Peter Szabo, Hungary	18 m Class	972 km	Szeged / Hungary
2024	Simon Schröder	18 m Class	681 km	Uvalde / USA