



IGC – FAI Challenge Cups

Part 9 – History of the FAI World Soaring Challenge Cup Team Competition and Champion Pilot of the Year

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History

1995 The FAI World Soaring Challenge Cup was originally (from 1995) awarded to the best team from an NAC in a World championships. It was donated by 9 families from New Zealand.

John and Chris Roake

Dick and Helen Georgeson

Tom and Audrey

Richardson

Ari and Cor Van Dyke

Geoff and Anne White

Shirley and Ian

Finlayson

Margaret and Gordon

Hookings

Judy and Peter Lyons

Tom Davies

The Cup was awarded for the first time at the 24th FAI World Gliding Championships in Omarama/New Zealand to the best Team of a participating country / NAC. The 24th WGC was organised in 3 classes: Open Class, Standard Class and 15 m Class.

Description of the Cup: The World Soaring Cup has a wooden base and a bronze globe inside a bronze “thermal” spiralling up and around the globe, which shows New Zealand at a prominent position.

In 2018 some damage was noticed. Thanks to a donor from the German gliding community, a thorough repair was carried out.



2008 The World Gliding Championships were split into two events within the same calendar year due to the 6 classes. In addition, the 13.5m class were added as a new World Championship class, the WGC 13.5m class will now be held in the even-numbered calendar year. Scoring the best team in so many classes and competitions makes it difficult to differentiate. Each WGC, except the 13.5m class, will have a Team Cup competition and will be scored according to Appendix A. The winners will be awarded the title of Team Champion. The Team Captain of the Team Champion will receive the FAI Gold Medal. The FAI Silver and Bronze Medal will be awarded as appropriate. Only at WWGCs and JWGCs were the Team Champions awarded the FAI Team Challenge Cup in addition to the FAI Medals.

2014 The World Soaring Cup retained by the Team winner Great Britain at Lasham until further instructions.

2018 The World Soaring Cup would in future be awarded to the IGC Champion Pilot of the Year. (Decision from IGC Plenary Meeting – Freudenstadt, 2 and 3 March 2018). The Team award became a separate award. In 2019 the IGC expressed its gratitude to John Roake for agreeing to rededicate the World Soaring Cup trophy for the IGC Champion Pilot of the Year

List of Team Champions and events

1995	24 th WGC	Std./15m/Open	Omarama / NZ	WSC France
1997	25 th WGC	Std./15m/Open	Saint Auban / France	WSC France
1999	26 th WGC	Std./15m/Open	Bayreuth / Germany	WSC Germany
2001	27 th WGC	Std.15m/Open	Mafikeng/ ZA	WSC New Zealand
2003	28 th WGC	Std./15m/18m/Open	Leszno / Poland	WSC New Zealand
2006	29 th WGC	Std./15m/18m/Open	Eskilstuna / Sweden	WSC Great Britain
2008	30 th WGC	15m/18m/Open	Lüsse / Germany	WSC France
2008	30 th WGC	Std./Club/World	Rieti / Italy	Medal/Team winner Germany
2010	31 st WGC	15m/18m/Open	Szeged / Hungary	WSC Poland
2010	31 st WGC	Std./Club/World	Prievidza / Slovakia	Medal/Team winner Poland
2012	32 nd WGC	15m/18m/Open	Uvalde / USA	WSC Poland

List of Team Champions and events

2013	32 nd	WGC	Std./Club/World	Gonzalez Chavez / ARG	Team winner ?
2014	33 rd	WGC	Std./Club/Multi Seat	Räyskälä / Finland	Team Gold Medal GBR
2014	33 rd	WGC	15m/18m/Open	Leszno / Poland	WSC Great Britain
2016	34 th	WGC	Std./Club/Multi Seat	Pociunai / Lithuania	Gold Medal Team France
2017	34 th	WGC	15m/18m/Open	Benalla / Australia	Gold Medal Team GBR
2018	35 th	WGC	Std./15m/Club	Ostrow/Poland	Gold Medal Team Poland
2018	35 th	WGC	18m/Multi Seat/Open	Hosin/Czech Republic	Gold Medal Team Germany
2020	36 th	WGC	Open/18m/ 20m	Stendal Borstel/GER 2021	Postponed to 2021
2021	36 th	WGC	Open/18m/20m	Stendal Borstel /GER	Cancelled due to Covid 19
2020	36 th	WGC	Std./15 m/ Club	Châlons-en-Champagne/FRA	Postponed to 2021
2021	36 th	WGC	Std./15 m/ Club	Montlucons-Gueret / France	Gold Medal Team Germany
2022	37 th	WGC	Open/18m/20m	Szeged / Hungary	Gold Medal Team France
2023	37 th	WGC	Std / 15 m / Club	Narromine / AUS	Gold Medal Team Germany
2024	38 th	WGC	Open/18 m/20 m	Uvalde / USA	Gold Medal Team Germany

IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR

Rules: F.A.I. Bye Laws 7.4.4. The IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR will be selected from the Champions in all the classes across all Qualifying Competitions. (A Qualifying Competition is any FAI-sanctioned World Gliding Championship that becomes valid in a given Championship calendar year). The selection will be made after the the Closing Ceremony of the final Qualifying Competition of the Championship calendar year. This evaluation applies to each class in every Qualifying Competition.

- *The World Champion's Final Score (FS) is the conclusive score of the World Champion.*
- *The Maximum Possible Score (MPS) is the sum of the winning scores of every valid competition day.*
- *The World Champion's World Soaring Cup Score (CS) is : $CS = 100 \times FS / MPS$*

In each Championship Calendar Year, the World Champion with the highest WSC Score will be given the title of the **IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR** and awarded the World Soaring Cup. Ties will result in Co-Champions.

The **WSC** will be awarded to the new **IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR** as soon as practical at the conclusion of the final WGC of the Championship Calendar Year. The winner has the option of having the WSC shipped to him/her by FAI or receiving the WSC at the IGC Plenary meeting normally held in February/March. The Champion Pilot of the Year will receive a **World Soaring Cup Diploma** issued by the FAI and signed by the International Gliding Commission President. (See Note 1)

Note 1: From the minutes of the IGC Bureau meeting October 2024, Agenda Item 9.b.

Process for the IGC Champion Pilot of the Year The Bureau decided to investigate the creation of a smaller version of the trophy, which would be easier to transport and could be kept by the winning pilots. The aim is to bring the award ceremony back to the plenary session of the IGC, as this would be the optimum solution in terms of logistics and timing

A historical record of the **WORLD SOARING CUP** will be kept in the FAI/IGC archives and every current and former **IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR** will be chronicled on the FAI/IGC website. As used above, a Championship Calendar Year is the year for which the World Gliding Championship was awarded by the Plenary.

List of IGC CHAMPION PILOTS OF THE YEAR

2018	Michael Sommer / Germany	35 th WGC Open Class	Hosin/Czech Republic
2019	Melanie Gadoulet / France	10 th WWGC 18 m Class	Lake Keepit / Australia
2020	WGCs postponed to 2021	-	-
2021	Simon Schröder / Germany	36 th WGC Standard Class	Montlucons-Guéret / France
2022	Cornelia Schaich / Germany	11 th WWGC Standard Class	Husbands Bosworth / GBR
2023	Alena Netusilava / CZE	12 th WWGC 18 m class	Garray / Spain
2024	Stefan Langer / GER	38 th WGC 18 m class	Uvalde / USA