

Report of the Web Specialist to the March 2000 IGC Meeting

Site statistics The FAI web site continues to improve, thanks to the good work of the FAI office and in particular Thierry Montigneaux. Details of the FAI web statistics can be found under <http://www.fai.org/stats.html>. Over the past year the traffic on the IGC pages has been more or less constant with about 7000 “requests” (hits on a page) and about 1700 visitors per month. Half of the visits come from the USA. The most popular pages are those concerned with world records and GNSS.

Data bases The FAI has created a number of data bases, e.g. for world records, badges, FAI awards, events etc., which are accessed dynamically when a user requests the corresponding information from one of the FAI pages. For example, when you look at the gliding world records on the IGC pages, you automatically get the up-to-date lists as they are stored in the data base. Direct access to the awards and competition data bases is planned for the near future.

Web documents Documents published on the web include new versions of the Sporting Code or Annexes and the agendas and minutes of IGC meetings. In most cases, the documents are provided for browsing (PDF or HTML) and in a form suitable for downloading and printing (PDF or Word). A frequent user of the site is GFAC: information on the IGC-approved flight recorders and on analysis software is updated continually, and the latest versions of the manufacturers’ transfer, conversion and validating programs are available for downloading via FTP. The usefulness of this information is reflected in the above-mentioned statistics.

Submission of information I feel that more use could be made of the web by IGC and would encourage any delegates who have news or information of interest to the gliding world to use one of the following possibilities:

- Send me an e-mail (ryder@physik.uni-bremen.de). I can then put the information on the web pages as required.
- Send a message to igc-info-l@fai.org. This information will, however, be received only by subscribers to the list.
- Use the FAI news submission form (<http://www.fai.org/submit-news.asp>, see also link from the IGC page). This another of Thierry’s useful innovations. The information you submit on the form is fed into a data base and published on the appropriate FAI page(s).

Discussion boards We also have the possibility of creating one or more discussion boards. These are like electronic notice boards, where everyone can read the messages and post their own. See <http://board.fai.org> for examples. We just have to tell Thierry what subjects we would like to discuss, and he can set up the appropriate forums. Of course these boards, being wide open, have to be moderated to keep out the garbage. We can nominate someone to do this or leave it to Thierry. I suggest we discuss this at the meeting.

Feed-back One final remark: I am quite astonished that, although my e-mail is given on the IGC home page, with a link, I get almost no feed-back. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for improving the service.

Peter Ryder.