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## FAI GENERAL AWARDS FOR 2024

### THE FAI GOLD AIR MEDAL (STATUTES 10.2)

*Eligibility: The Medal is reserved for those who have contributed greatly to the development of aeronautics by their activities, work, achievements, initiative or devotion to the cause of Aviation.*

#### [Sebastian KAWA \(POL\)](#)

Sebastian Kawa is a double victor of the World Air Games and boasts an impressive collection of accolades. His triumphs include securing 23 medals in the World Championships and an additional 16 medals in the European Championships. Together with the National Championships, he has earned over 100, predominantly gold medals throughout his gliding career. Sebastian set numerous gliding-related records and he has been a leader of the FAI world ranking for several years. Beyond his participation in various competitions, Sebastian has succeeded in challenging flights over the Himalayas and blazed the gliding trails across the Caucasus. His active promotion of aviation is evidenced by his authorship of numerous publications, his engagements in televised programs, and his presence in social events. He willingly shares his knowledge and experience with the aviation community and actively conducts training sessions for young pilots. Apart from his competitive and ambitious nature, Sebastian is an empathetic person, always striving to help those in need. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided medical care to the local community and personally vaccinated over 6,000 people. Furthermore, he engaged in humanitarian aid when the war in Ukraine broke out, organizing collections and participating in the delivery convoys. He opened his own home to accommodate a refugee family. Notably, he also mobilized the aviation community to contribute to the collections related to the impact of the war. He eagerly engages in various charity actions, inviting the winners of auctions aboard his glider. His presence always increases the amounts collected for those in need.

### THE FAI GOLD SPACE MEDAL (STATUTES 10.3)

*Eligibility: The FAI Gold Space Medal is reserved for those who have contributed greatly to the development of Astronautics by their activities, work, achievements, initiative or devotion to the cause of Space.*

**Not Awarded**

### THE FAI BRONZE MEDAL (STATUES 10.4)

*Eligibility: The Medal is reserved for persons who have rendered eminent services to the FAI in administrative work, in Commissions, or in the organisation of FAI sporting events.*

#### [Mohammed Yousuf Abdul Rahman \(UAE\)](#)

Mohammed Yousuf Abdul Rahman has demonstrated outstanding commitment and leadership as the driving force behind the organization of the Dubai International Parachuting Championships and FAI World Air Games. His tireless efforts from 2010 to 2023 have not only elevated the profile of skydiving events but has also significantly contributed to the global promotion of air sports. His pivotal roles in overseeing seven (7) Dubai International Parachuting Championships, including the prestigious FAI

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World Air Games 2015, exemplify his dedication to advancing the mission and objectives of the FAI. Furthermore, his involvement in the successful execution of the "Mondial 2012" with all skydiving disciplines, including ParaSki underscore his unwavering commitment to promoting excellence in air sports. Mohammed Yousuf Abdul Rahman's leadership, organizational prowess, and unwavering dedication epitomize the spirit of the FAI Bronze Medal. His eminent services in the organization of FAI sporting events have significantly enriched the air sports community and inspired countless individuals worldwide. Therefore, FAI wholeheartedly endorses Mohammed Yousuf Abdul Rahman as deserving recipients of the FAI Bronze Medal, recognizing his remarkable contributions to the FAI and the broader air sports community.

### **The DE LA VAULX MEDAL (STATUTES 10.5)**

*Eligibility: De La Vaulx Medals are awarded to all holders of recognised absolute world records established during the previous year.*

**Not Awarded**

### **THE LOUIS BLERIOT MEDAL (STATUES 10.6)**

*Eligibility: Blériot Medals are awarded to holders of the highest records for speed (i.e., Speed over a 3 Kilometre Course, Speed Over a 15 Kilometer Course, Speed Over a Closed Course), altitude and distance in a straight line established in the previous year by light aircraft of the first three sub-classes, as defined in Section 2 of the Sporting Code*

[Miguel A. ITURMENDI COPADO \(USA\)](#)

FAI Record file 19969: Altitude, C-1a Group 6 (electric), 4 959 m

### **THE SABIHA GÖKCEN MEDAL (STATUTES 10.8)**

*Eligibility: The Medal is reserved for the woman who performs the most outstanding achievement in any FAI air sport activity in the previous year.*

**Not Awarded**

### **THE FAI SILVER MEDAL (STATUTES 10.9)**

*Eligibility: The Medal is reserved for persons who have occupied high office in FAI or in an aeronautical organisation in one of its member countries, and in the discharge of their duties have shown exceptional powers of leadership and influence, to the benefit of the whole international air sport community.*

[Stephane MALBOS \(FRA\)](#)

Stephane Malbos, CIVL President of Honor, served as a CIVL Bureau member for 15 years, 8 of those as President. His tenure makes him the longest serving President CIVL has ever had. The sports of Hang Gliding and Paragliding grew significantly during his tenure and his strong leadership helped CIVL through some very difficult times. He was instrumental in the creation of the new CCC standard for competition paragliders following the World Championship that was stopped in 2011 due to safety concerns. This standard is widely viewed as a successful step forward in improving both safety and competitiveness in cross country paragliding.

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## THE DIPLOMA FOR OUTSTANDING AIRMANSHIP (STATUTES 10.10)

*Eligibility: It shall be awarded to a person or a group of persons for a feat of outstanding airmanship in sub-orbital flight during one of the previous two years which resulted in the saving of life of others or was carried out with that objective.*

**Not Awarded**

## THE PAUL TISSANDIER DIPLOMA (STATUTES 10.11)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to individual persons only who have served the cause of aviation in general and sporting aviation in particular, by their work, initiative, devotion or in other ways.*

### Martin TREGALE (AUS)

Mr. Martin Tregale has been involved with the sport of ballooning for 20 years. He has served on the committee of the Australian Ballooning Federation, initially, five years at committee level followed by six years as Secretary/Treasurer and from 2016 as ABF President, a position he held until 2024. In addition, Martin Tregale held the position of President of the Ballooning Association of Victoria (BAV) where under his guidance the BAV purchased a brand-new Kavanagh 77 balloon in 2013 to be used as a training balloon for student pilots. The FAI Paul Tissandier Diploma calls for acknowledgment of a person who has served the cause of Aviation in general and Sporting Aviation in particular, by their work, initiative, devotion or in other ways. Mr. Tregale has demonstrated his capacity and effort with his commitment to the sport of hot air ballooning with his administrative leadership as ABF President, his role as both an official at FAI competition events and as a driving force to set up Training Camps for student pilots to promote ballooning in Australia. The Board & Committee of the Australian Ballooning Federation wholly supports the above nomination of Mr. Martin Tregale for consideration as a worthy recipient of the FAI Paul Tissandier Diploma.

### Stephane CANTIN (CAN)

It is an honour to nominate posthumously Stephane Cantin for the Paul Tissandier Diploma in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Ultralight aviation in Canada. Stephane's passion for flight transcended the bounds of the sky, and his remarkable career spanning over 35 years is evidence of his unwavering commitment to the craft. Stephane has distinguished himself not only as a seasoned pilot but also as a paragon of expertise and mentorship. As a paragliding and paramotor flight instructor, he generously shared his wealth of knowledge and skill with aspiring aviators, shaping the next generation of pilots with his dedication to education and safety. Stephane profoundly impacted the aviation community during his tenure as Les Caribous Volants flight school in Bethanie, QC. His tireless pursuit for excellence left an indelible mark on all those who had the privilege of learning under his guidance. Furthermore, his active participation in international competitions since 2008 is a testament to his competitive spirit - he brought pride and recognition to our nation on the global stage. The Ultralight Pilots Association of Canada stands behind Stephane in celebration of his remarkable achievements; his legacy of passion, kindness, and camaraderie will continue inspiring pilots to soar to new heights.

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### [Robin TEN PAS \(CAN\)](#)

It is an honour to nominate Robin ten Pas for the Paul Tissandier Diploma. Born in 1965, Robin committed to a life of exploration and growth. Following in the footsteps of Mr. Tissandier - a journalist, inventor, and pilot of various forms - Robin was a man of all trades. From his Roping Championship win on the Texan rodeo circuit to his passion for cooking, riding motorcycles, and flying fixed-wing ultralights, powered paraglider trikes, and foot-launched paragliders, Robin was a beacon of light to all who knew him. Robin was a longstanding member of the board of directors at UPAC where he diligently shared his unbounded passion for aviation with fellow adrenaline junkies. He guided himself in principle by the motto, "Live like you are dying." Consequently, his love for flying transcended a recreational activity as he worked tirelessly to support local businesses, instructors, and organizations such as UPAC and the Aero Club of Canada. His advocacy resulted in the assembly of like-minded individuals who came together as a family to support each other in times of need. His legacy as a Canadian pilot will undoubtedly fly high for many years to come. Robin most notably left his mark at Lubitz Airfield where Saturday morning breakfasts quickly became a tradition for friends, pilots, and aviation enthusiasts alike. His infectious joy inspired those around the table who watched in awe as he worked tirelessly to rebuild his airplane; many shared their time, knowledge, and resources to get Robin back in the air where he belonged. There is no describing how Robin's love for his paramotor, plane, and community profoundly impacted the field of aviation. Robin ten Pas has the unwavering endorsement of the Ultralight Pilots Association of Canada.

### [Antonín TEICHMANN \(CZE\)](#)

Mr. Antonín Teichmann started flying gliders in 1980 and obtained his glider pilot's license in 1982. In 1990, he earned his Private Pilot's License. To date, he has flown 475 hours in airplanes during 3,150 launches (mostly aero-tows) and 1,830 hours in gliders, covering 82,000 km in 1,255 launches. In 1988, he became the Junior Champion of the Czech Republic in gliding, and in 2008, he met the conditions for obtaining the FAI Gold Gliding Badge with three diamonds. In 1992, he contributed to the restoration of air traffic at Hronov Airfield after 28 years of closure since 1964. This also led to the renewal of the Aero Club Hronov's activities. As an experienced pilot and judge, he has been organizing the Veteran Glider Races at Hronov Airport every year since 2002. He also participates in the training of junior glider pilots. He is nominated for his lifelong contributions to gliding.

### [Christian AMARA \(FRA\)](#)

Christian Amara is a well-known figure in the French aviation community, renowned for his extensive collection of warbirds celebrated across France and Europe. Through the display of his aircraft, he plays a vital role in promoting and preserving the aeronautical heritage of France and Europe. His passion for aviation, evident from a young age, led him to obtain his glider pilot's license in 1953. In 1996, he founded the Société de Développement et de Promotion pour l'Aéronautique, dedicated to maintaining and flying vintage aircraft, showcasing them at airshows. Located at the Melun-Villaroche airfield, his collection boasts notable aircraft such as the Mitchell B-25, Douglas A4 Skyraider, Curtiss P-40, North American P-51 Mustang, Catalina PBY, Douglas DC-3, T-6 Texan, Stearman, and Yak-11. As a philanthropist, Mr. Amara generously provides his collection to the Fondation des OEuvres Sociales of the French Air and Space Army. Driven by a desire to share his passion with the public, Christian Amara founded the Melun-Villaroche airshow, Air Legend, which has garnered widespread popularity. With over 50 years of dedicated service to aviation, Mr. Amara has earned respect and recognition within the French aviation community. He has also served as President of the Amicale Jean-Baptiste Salis, organizers of the La Ferté-Alais airshow. In recognition of his contributions, he was honored this year with the state distinction of the Médaille Aéronautique, and his candidacy has been submitted for the FAI Tissandier diploma.

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### [Suzannah BRYANT \(GBR\)](#)

Suzannah (Zuz) first became involved in ballooning in the late 1990\u2019s when she started crewing for a local pilot. After a handful of years her focus turned to being an observer in balloon competitions both in the UK and Internationally. During this period, she was invited to be an observer at many championships around the world. Much more recently and as a consequence of the decline and now cessation of events running with observers, she has become a scorer.

### [Peter HARSFALVI \(HUN\)](#)

Since 2018, Peter has significantly contributed to Hungarian aviation as the Vice President of the Hungarian Gliding Association. He is responsible for the financial and economic management of the organization, which he has successfully put in order and operated efficiently in recent years. Peter supports youth competitors and national clubs. He is the sponsor of the domestic Rally Cup competition and puts a lot of energy into it, enabling 6-7 small clubs to organize a weekend competition every year.

### [Mayank NAGPAL \(IND\)](#)

Mayank Nagpal is one of the most experienced Safety & Training Advisors, Instructors, and National Judges for skydiving in India. He holds the FAI International Parachutist Certificate with all (A, B, C, and D) certificates of proficiency. He started his aero sports journey in 2006 and has personally performed over 2,000 skydives and more than 25 international and national skydiving demonstrations to date. Mayank was a member of the committee that drafted the National Air Sports Guidelines 2023 for the Aero Club of India (NAC) and regulators in India, with an emphasis on validating the technical aspects of skydiving and parachuting. Mayank has also provided expert advice to the Aero Club of India in conducting surveys of over 50 airstrips in the country for their revival and utilization for sports aviation. He has worked relentlessly to standardize skydiving training manuals in India to improve overall safety, translating the manuals into Hindi, which are now used by the majority of individuals in the country. The Aero Club of India has appointed him as Safety Advisor for conducting all national skydiving demonstrations. Additionally, he has voluntarily performed duties as a skydiving judge for national and regional competitions. Mayank has been mentoring and motivating Indians to learn skydiving globally and has instructed 700 new skydivers by conducting 25 courses with over 6,500 incident-free jumps. He has been educating and guiding the skydiving community in India on current and best safe international practices, thereby playing a key role as an ambassador of Indian parachuting and skydiving.

### [Urbano FLOREANI \(ITA\)](#)

General Floreani has distinguished himself on several occasions as an organiser of aeronautical events in Italy, participating himself as an aerobatic pilot. Among various assignments, from 2000 to 2005 he served at the 313th Acrobatic Training Group “Frecce Tricolori”, from 2013 to 2018 “Head” of the PressOffice of the Air Force, then “Commander” of the 4th Fighter Wing of Grosseto. More recently, he was commander of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences of Florence, contributing with his attitude for teaching and his great love for flying to spread aeronautical culture among the new generations of pilots. The Aeroclub of Italy believes that Brigadier General Urbano Floreani is a worthy recipient of this prestigious award, as he embodies the FAI values of inclusion and dedication, common to all the great men and women of aeronautical sport.

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### [Yoshiteru NAKAMORI \(JPN\)](#)

He has served in key positions as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Japan Microlight Aeronautic League for 25 years since its establishment as a non-profit organization and has made great achievements in building the foundation of the current League, including organization and conduct of organizing competitions. He has contributed to the spread and promotion of microlight aviation in Japan by providing flight instruction and serving as a Lecture at safety seminars, in addition to his ongoing efforts to manage the League as an advisor.

- 2000 – 2008 Vice Chairman, Japan Microlight Aeronautic League
- 2008 – 2014 Chairman, Japan Microlight Aeronautic League
- 2014 - present Advisor, Japan Microlight Aeronautic League
- 2019 - present Safety Seminar Lecture, Japan Microlight Aeronautic League

### [Injae CHUNG \(KOR\)](#)

He has enjoyed model aviation since childhood, which influenced his decision to major in aeronautical engineering. Over a career spanning 35 years as an aviation-related researcher at a research institute, he integrated model aviation into his research. As a member of the Korea Model Aviation Association, he not only indulged in radio control flying but also engaged in knowledge-sharing activities and served as a judge for various model aviation competitions. Additionally, he contributed to the association's pilot meetings as an instructor, delivering lectures on model airplane design and history. Since retiring from the research institute, he has shifted his focus to drone-related aerospace engineering education at the university level. Throughout his career, he has remained dedicated to model aviation activities.

### [Ayed ALKASME \(KSA\)](#)

We are honored to nominate Ayed AlKasme, former Executive Director of the Saudi Aviation Club (2017-2022), for the Paul Tissandier Diploma due to his extraordinary contributions to aviation.

#### Achievements and Contributions:

- Transforming the Saudi Aviation Club: Ayed AlKasme combined his love for aviation with strong project management skills to transform the Saudi Aviation Club. Under his leadership, the club expanded its services for general and sports aviation, significantly increasing the number of enthusiasts frequenting Thumama Airport.
- Launching the Saudi International Airshow: In 2019, Ayed AlKasme successfully launched the first Saudi International Airshow, which featured over 80 aircraft and 180 companies, drawing more than 40,000 attendees. This event put Saudi Arabia on the global aviation map and showcased the nation's growing aviation capabilities.
- Hosting the Sand & Fun Airshow: In 2020, he hosted the fifth Sand & Fun Airshow, which showcased over 100 aircraft and seven international demonstration teams, attracting over 20,000 visitors. His efforts in organizing this event demonstrated his exceptional ability to bring together aviation enthusiasts and professionals from around the world.
- Advocating for Aviation Education and Culture: Ayed AlKasme is a staunch advocate for aviation education and culture. He played a pivotal role in the creation of the National Aviation Academy (TAYARAN) in collaboration with both government and private sectors. Additionally, he partnered with the University of North Dakota on curriculum development, ensuring that the academy provides top-tier aviation education.

### [Ahmed DABNUN \(LBA\)](#)

He was the one who established the Libyan Federation and served as its first president. He introduced air sports in Libya and became well-known for it. He continued to do everything he could to promote this sport until he died in 2011.

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### [Jean POECKES \(LUX\)](#)

Jean Poeckes was born on February 20, 1945. As a student, aged 19, he started his aviation career within Luxembourg's sports aviation community. He trained to become a PPL Flight instructor and in 1968 he started his career as professional pilot with Luxembourg's airline LUXAIR. In 1979 he became an ATPL Flight Instructor and LUXAIR's Chief Pilot and Flight Operations director in 1982. In 1990 he was promoted to LUXAIR's Board of Directors. Flight examiner since 1975, he was also retained by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Ministry of Transport as a leading expert in writing regulations where he maintained a special focus on preserving the interests of sports aviation. Glider pilot and hang-glider, Jean created in 1975 together with a group of aviation enthusiasts the PIPER CLUB, of which he is still the president, to preserve the national aviation heritage with their efforts to restore and maintain Luxembourg's Army PIPER CUBs. For more than 50 years Jean not only contributed to train and educate young pilots and to safeguard the national aviation heritage, he also relentlessly encouraged young people to take up an aviation career. For his commitment and dedication for Luxembourg's national aviation, Jean is nominated for the FAI Diplôme Tissandier.

### [Ilija TRAJKOV \(MKD\)](#)

Ilija Trajkov entered the world of sports aviation at the end of the sixties of the twentieth century. From the very beginning he was an active participant in all the events of Macedonian sport aviation, during which he went through all the stages of he went through all stages of development, from trainee to top pilot. Already in the seventies he became a gliding and general aviation instructor. For more than three decades, he was the manager of the Aviation School Centre in Bitola and for several years in Prilep. Ilija TRAJKOV is a professional pilot, instructor, coach and referee in aviation sports. TRAJKOV participates in a large number of air shows and precision flying competitions in Macedonia and the territory of the former Yugoslavia. For more than a decade he was the director of gliding and general aviation competitions. In addition to his professional training, he proved to be an excellent educator and favourite teacher of more than thirty generations of pilots and gliders. TRAJKOV was appointed an expert in general aviation and gliding in the Macedonian Civil Aviation Agency. He has dedicated his entire working life to the top training and education of pilots, the organisation of top competitions in and gliding competitions, as well as maintaining the high quality of aviation schools. schools, of which he was the head.

### [Scott CURSONS \(NZL\)](#)

Scott Cursons has been a member of BAANZ (Balloon Aviation Association of NZ) for better than 15 years, progressing to serve on the committee before taking a Vice President and then President role. He devoted three years as President and remains a committee member to this day. As with so many organisations, a person's involvement and commitment often is at the detriment of family activities, I know Scott faced these challenges. The knowledge Scott brings to the committee is second to none. His work as a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (LAME) ensures a well-rounded understanding of the aviation sector, and the committee is kept well up to date with any developments. Scott conducts annual inspections on a large number of hot air balloons across the country, ensuring our aircraft are safe to fly. He has played a significant role in the development of our operations and safety manual, and regularly runs training sessions for our members. More recently, Scott has started working on updating our constitution in line with the new societies act. Scott embodies everything our organisation is about and is an outstanding candidate for the Paul Tissandier Diploma.

### [Ross SPARKS \(NZL\)](#)

Like many people in the general aviation scene Ross gives back to the community many many hours of volunteer time training and educating pilots and promoting aviation in general. With his rich experience (over 50 years full time flying, clocking up over 28,000 hours), Ross is the Head of Training at IAANZ (International Aviation Academy of New Zealand) (his "retirement project"). Despite the fact Ross is only employed to work part time, he can be found at IANNZ most days of the year, and if he's not, he will be at a local airfield mentoring and offering support or on the phone giving his time to educate

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pilots. It cannot be emphasised enough, the amount of time and effort he puts in to all, being well known and well respected for his contributions to aviation. For example:

- When at IAANZ, he is instrumental in focusing on the safety and training of IANNZ pilots and instructors, overseeing training and standards, as well as the day-to-day running of the organisation.
- When he is at local airfields (likely West Melton or Rangiora), he will be supporting anyone who wants to understand why they are doing something and giving pilots free instruction. When there's time to put it to the test, he is there making sure you're having fun, dedicated to the running and judging of club competitions, as well as Flying NZ Regional & National Competitions.
- When he's on the phone, he will be mentoring young and upcoming instructors, club members and students, being motivated to inspire young people to pursue their dreams and graduate as 'leaders' with a pilot licence.
- Outside of this, he volunteers his time with the New Zealand Association of Women in Aviation, currently assisting with the drafting of their safety management plan.
- He has also volunteered his time with instructing at the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School and with Youth Glide NZ in the past.

Ross will credit his mentor Charlie Elliot, for getting him to the position where he can give back in this way. Ross was given some free flying from Charlie while at school to help him get his hours up after his mum passed away. In order to pay it forward, Ross gained his instructors rating back with Charlie after finishing at Air New Zealand, almost 45 years after they first met.

### [Stanisław KUBIT \(POL\)](#)

Stanisław KUBIT completed glider training at 16 but couldn't become a licensed pilot due to health reasons. He then focused on his scientific career and aeromodelling. Obtaining a Doctor of Engineering degree in 1974, he worked at Silesian University of Technology for years. Aeromodelling fascinated him since age 10, competing in F1A and F1E classes. From 1968 to 2014, he chaired the Aeromodelling Division of Gliwice's Aero Club, initiating the Aeromodelling Association of Gliwice in 1990, serving as its president for 24 years. The association aims to provide technical education for youth and promote aeromodelling as a sport, earning Stanisław the CZESŁAW TAŃSKI DIPLOMA. His achievements include twice winning the F1E class World Championship (2005, 2019) and twice being World Vice-Champion (2007, 2011). He's also been European Vice-Champion (2006) and World 2nd Vice-Champion (2017) in F1E, and has won multiple European and World Team Championships. He's a two-time F1A class Champion of Socialist Countries and an 18-time Polish National Champion in various classes. Stanisław coached the Polish Junior National Team to a Team World Championship (1988) and his grandson, Mikołaj STRYJA, won the Junior World Champion title (2015) in F1E. At the 2023 FAI F1E World Championship, Stanisław's students won 5 of 6 possible medals, affirming the effectiveness of his training system. A 1st Class Sports Coach, he coached the Aero Club of Poland's Aeromodelling team (2006-2010) and authored numerous publications in Polish aeromodelling magazines, along with 4 books on glider models and flying

### [Franc KRALJ \(SLO\)](#)

Franc Kralj dedicated his life to the development of sports aviation in Maribor and Slovenia. Even as a boy, he watched birds in flight with curiosity and dreamed of joining them. This year marks the 75th anniversary of his first flight at Maribor airport, piloting the Vrabc airplane with the task of a three-second "jump". It was a baptism of real and independent aircraft control, as the aircraft was of an open design, lacking a cabin and instruments. Over the decades, both Franc and the aviation center in Maribor have evolved and grown. Today, the center stands as one of the most successful in the country, thanks in no small part to Franc's dedicated work. His efforts have helped the club achieve exceptional results, stabilize financially, build infrastructure, and expand its activities. Franc was also the driving force behind the establishment of anti-flow defense, a measure still implemented by the Maribor aviation



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center. Despite being 91 years old, Franc remains an active pilot, serving as a role model for future generations.

### [Božo GRUBIĆ \(SRB\)](#)

Božo Grubić from Aero Club "Nova Pazova" clinched the world champion title in aeromodeling in the F1B category. This remarkable achievement was attained at the World Championship in Aviation Modeling, held in Montcontour de Poitou, France, from August 11 to 20, 2023. Competing against 109 participants from 38 countries, Grubić demonstrated exceptional skill, securing maximum results with his competitive model in all seven flying series, where the duration of flight is measured. Following the initial seven series, 50 contestants achieved maximum results, leading to a final round to determine the top performer. In the first final flight, Grubić emerged as the standout, achieving the maximum flight duration of eight minutes, surpassing all 50 competitors. This victory marks a pinnacle in Grubić's extensive career at the age of 70, characterized by unwavering dedication and continuous efforts in aeromodeling. Grubić, born in 1953 in Nova Pazova, embarked on his modeling journey in 1969 as a member of the "Nova Pazova" Aero Club. Initially involved in spacemodeling (class S3) and aeromodeling (class F1A), he transitioned to the F1B category in 1976. Over the years, he became an integral part of the national team in rocket modeling and contributed significantly to the organization of European and world championships in aeromodeling. Grubić's contributions extend beyond his competitive success. He played a pivotal role in organizing the "Koplas Pro Cup" competition in Nova Pazova from 2010 to 2020, introducing the F1N class into official FAI disciplines. Additionally, he held leadership positions in various aero aeromodeling associations, serving as president of the Commission for Aeromodeling of NAC Serbia from 2017 to 2021 and currently serving as president of the Aviation Association of Vojvodina since 2021. With over 50 years of experience in the national team, Grubić continues to inspire generations in the field of aeromodeling.

### [Rebecca GIMMI \(SUI\)](#)

Rebecca Gimmi started skydiving in 2000 and has consistently served the Sittertal Parachute Group for countless years. Her dedication is evidenced by her over 20 years as a board member. Her passion and commitment to the association, and consequently to active club life, are evident in various areas. Listing all her contributions would exceed the bounds of this text, so here are just a few examples. Rebecca has organized events such as the legendary Dropzone 33, the 2-Way Challenge, and the parachute camp in Saanenland numerous times. She also served twice on the organizing committee for the elaborately planned Swiss Parachuting Championships in Ebnat-Kappel, where she handled administration, press, and guest relations, among other responsibilities. Each parachuting season, Rebecca undertakes countless assignments as a skydive supervisor, sacrificing numerous summer holidays over many years to manage skydive operations. This includes overseeing basic courses, SPHAIR courses, training formations, and more. Rebecca Gimmi is quite simply the heart and soul of the Sittertal Parachute Group, always stepping in wherever help is needed. She is the passionate "manager" at the Sitterdorf aviation and skydiving base, showing great perseverance despite the adverse circumstances posed by the skydiving bans imposed by air navigation services on short notice.

### [Patrick HOFER \(SUI\)](#)

Patrick Hofer completed various basic flying courses in his spare time. He obtained his gliding license, PPL license, and Delta hang glider license, and expanded his aviation portfolio with TMG extension, glider-towing, glider aerobatics, night flying PPL, and glider-towing aerobatics. With his extensive experience in aviation, he worked at the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) from 1992 to 2017 as a technical inspector for glider and powered flight, experimental aircraft, helicopters, and balloons. He trained technical maintenance personnel, issued licenses for maintenance companies, and was the project manager for the outsourcing of technical inspections in the gliding segment. Since 2008, he has supported many pilots with the Flytop flight safety training project. The UL extension project for electric and gyrocopters also bears Patrick's signature. In addition to his numerous continuing flight and further training courses as a gliding instructor, PPL H, CPL, Mountain Rating, powered flight instructor, and in the field of UL and gyrocopters, Patrick has also worked as a gliding instructor FI I, gliding examiner

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FE, and gliding instructor examiner FI E. From 2018, Patrick moved from FOCA to the external certification body QCM, where he set the standards for CH-DTO flight schools and created a simple, cost-effective procedure for the conversion from JAR-RF to EASA-DTO. Patrick Hofer is a highly committed and knowledgeable personality who has worked hard to promote the development of aviation in Switzerland. He has also campaigned for improvements and the sustainability of aviation wherever possible. He was particularly dedicated to the survival of the San Vittore gliding field.

### [Rolf KESSER \(SUI\)](#)

For many decades, Rolf Kessler has served the Swiss aeromodelling community with dedication. He was a member of various working groups and committees, contributing significantly to the association, the clubs, and all our members. His extensive experience and expertise were always well received and greatly appreciated. During the era of megahertz transmission, Rolf was a key figure in securing additional frequencies for our Radio Control systems and enhancing the electronic monitoring of different transmission channels. He also contributed to developing noise calculation schemes to visualize noise propagation in relation to existing legal regulations. Rolf conducted thorough experiments in noise reduction and provided numerous practical training sessions to help clubs and their members fly as quietly as possible. He also assisted clubs in improving flying safety at the operational level through seminars and individual consulting. This effort culminated in the creation of the renowned and widely-used SMV Safety Compendium, which later became the foundation of the association's authorization by our federal office for civil aviation. Last but not least, Rolf has been instrumental in supporting our clubs in defending their airfields, and in some cases, finding, legalizing, and establishing new sites.

### [Torleif HIORT \(SWE\)](#)

Torleif is a revered legend within the Swedish gliding community. His tireless efforts behind the scenes ensure the seamless operation of training programs and competitions. As an active instructor at his gliding club in Uppsala, Torleif imparts his expertise to aspiring gliders. However, his impact extends beyond local clubs.

### [Gunilla Lundström Lindell \(SWE\)](#)

Gunilla is an outstanding figure in the world of gliding. As one of the most active female airport enthusiasts, she has achieved remarkable feats. Gunilla has not only secured victory in the Swedish nationals for both men and women but has also earned medals at the Women's World Gliding Championships (WGC). Her impressive track record includes several national records, and she continues to set her sights on breaking new ones.

### [Ömer ERDEM \(TUR\)](#)

Born in 1951 in Ankara, his passion for aviation ignited during his primary school years. Constantly fascinated by aircraft, he spent his time building model airplanes, which intensified when a friend's father introduced him to a 25cc engine. His excitement soared when his father took him on a journey from Ankara to Istanbul in a 4-engine plane. After graduating high school, he joined the Turkish Aeronautical Association and embarked on a parachuting adventure. Completing his training course, he amassed 50 jumps by May, leading to a third-place finish in Turkey. His dedication earned him a Private Pilot License in 1989. Life took him away from parachuting until his son's innocent question reignited his passion. Inspired to reconnect with his past, he reunited with his former team, achieving first place in Turkey in 2014. In 2023, they passed the torch to younger generations at the Sivrihsar Aviation Center, witnessed by 60,000 people. Currently, he plays a crucial role in supporting aviation at Karain and Selçuk airfields, from ground maintenance to overseeing electronic equipment in the tower. Additionally, he proudly sponsors the parachute team. Aviation isn't just a hobby for him; it's a lifestyle, an integral part of his identity.

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## THE FAI GROUP DIPLOMA OF HONOUR (STATUTES 10.13)

*Eligibility: An FAI Group Diploma of Honour may be awarded to a group (design offices, scientific bodies, aeronautical publications, etc.) that has contributed significantly to the progress of Aeronautics or Astronautics during the previous year or years.*

### [Historical Aircraft Restoration Society \(AUS\)](#)

The Historical Aircraft Restoration Society Inc (HARS) is a not-for-profit organisation and was formed in 1979 by a group of aviation enthusiasts interested in the preservation of Australian aviation history. The HARS Aviation Museum is an all volunteer group of aviation professionals and enthusiasts. Whilst many are active and retired aircraft engineers and pilots, recent years have seen more and more people contributing their diverse skills. The outstanding skill of the HARS members was exemplified when they took a derelict Lockheed Super Constellation from the Davis Montham aircraft graveyard and restored it from almost nothing to beautiful flying condition and flew it across the Pacific to Australia. Whilst the collection centres around a parade of airliners, the museum also has a number of historic military and civil aircraft types. The HARS Museum objective is to recover, and where possible, restore to flying condition, aircraft or types of aircraft that have played a significant part in Australian aviation history, both in the Civil and Military arenas. In 1997 the International Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators awarded the Grand Master's Australian Award to HARS in recognition of the outstanding restoration of the Lockheed Super Constellation. The award was presented on behalf of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. Though their dedication and enthusiasm, the HARS members have played a key role and made a significant contribution toward the restoration and preservation of Australian aviation history. The Group Diploma for Aeronautics would be a most worthy recognition of their commitment.

### [Aero Club Jeseník and Aero Club Krnov \(CZE\)](#)

Gliding in wave conditions behind the Jeseníky and Krkonoše mountains in the Czech Republic has been practiced since the 1950s. Since 2005, the Jeseník and Krnov Aero Clubs have organized wave camps in this area, initially for pilots from the Czech Republic and later for pilots from other European countries. Every year, at the turn of October and November, pilots come to these wave camps (240 registered in 2023) to experience gliding at high altitudes, in the cold, and with oxygen support. These wave conditions are ideal for meeting the requirements for FAI gliding badges in altitude and long-distance flights. The essence of the camps is to educate a new generation of pilots, enabling them to achieve gliding performances according to the FAI Sporting Code and to extend the gliding season beyond the thermal part of the year.

### [Aeroclub of Heraklion \(GRE\)](#)

Aeroclub of Heraklion founded on 1974 with General Aviation and aeromodelling sports. It operated a General Aviation school, and on 1990 added paragliding in their existing sports. Aeroclub of Heraklion pioneered several activities for the first time in Crete: First General Aviation pilots graduated in Crete, first Aeroclub including aeromodelling, first Aeroclub including paragliding. Every year is participating without interruption in Aerial Forest Fire Patrol program with volunteer members.

### [Aero Club "Zrenjanin" \(SRB\)](#)

Aero Club "Zrenjanin," led by President Mr. Pavle Markovic, boasts a rich heritage dating back to its establishment in 1929, accumulating over 90 years of tradition. Functioning as a flight academy, it provides comprehensive practical and theoretical training essential for obtaining a private pilot license, a significant milestone for aspiring pilots. The club's mission revolves around personalized guidance for students, ensuring they receive top-notch training. Additionally, they offer a time-building program, enabling students to amass flight hours using the club's fleet. Under the leadership of a dynamic young team, Aero Club "Zrenjanin" continues to excel in the aviation domain, upholding the legacy established by its esteemed predecessors. Their narrative draws inspiration from pioneers and pivotal moments

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that pushed the boundaries of aviation, embodying the spirit of adventure and exploration. The club hosts the annual national championship in general aviation in Serbia, with its pilots clinching titles in general aviation at the national, European, and global levels in aeromodelling. The club boasts thriving sections dedicated to aeromodelling, parachuting, and gliding. Situated at its own airport, "Ečka," the facility traces its origins to 1942 when it served as the largest military airport in the Balkans during the German occupation. Renovation and construction efforts began in the nineties, transforming it into the modern airport it is today. The airport's strategic location, coupled with favorable geological and meteorological conditions, underscores its significance.

### [Modellfluggruppe Affoltern am Albis \(SUI\)](#)

For over 40 years, the Model Flying Club Affoltern has organized the largest model flying airshow in Switzerland, attracting thousands of spectators during the first weekend in October. The event is a must-see for enthusiastic modelists, suppliers, vendors, and the general public. It takes place at a general aviation airbase rented exclusively for the airshow, providing superb infrastructure including runways, aprons, hangars, and more, meeting all the needs of the event. The Hausen Model Airshow has been a fixture in the calendars of show pilots from Switzerland and neighboring countries for many years, ensuring a diverse and excellent lineup of show acts. The organizers consistently showcase the latest developments in model aviation and present a first-class airshow, all while maintaining high safety standards. The event is organized by members of the Model Flying Club Affoltern, with the club's general assembly electing the core members of the organizing team each year. The club also bears the full financial risk. In years with favorable conditions, the event generates savings that can be used in years when adverse weather affects the event. This exceptional event serves as a perfect platform to bring together model enthusiasts and the general public, greatly benefiting the Swiss model flying community, including the Swiss Model Flying Association. It truly deserves to be honored.

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# FAI AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINES

## AWARDS FOR BALLOONING (BY LAWS 7.2)

### THE MONTGOLFIER BALLOONING DIPLOMAS (BY LAWS 7.2.1)

*Eligibility, Frequency and Number: Four Montgolfier Diplomas may be awarded annually, one to recognise each of the following:*

the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in [Gas Ballooning](#)

**Not Awarded**

the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in [Hot Air Ballooning](#)

#### [Alicia HEMPLEMAN-ADAMS \(GBR\)](#)

Alicia Hempleman-Adams is an outstanding young female aviator who, on Tuesday 22nd November 2022, after several years of planning, training and fine tuning, set a new FAI AX4 Female Duration record of 7 hrs 40 mins and 30 secs. This was previously held by Canadian Sandra Wolfe since 13/11/2015 with 7 hrs 24m 35s. On the same flight Alicia set a new FAI AX4 Female Distance record of 301.9 km. This was also held by Canadian Sandra Wolfe since 30/1/2012 with 118 km. Alicia took off from High River, Alberta, Canada. The weather conditions were particularly tricky with a strong warm Chinook wind. This made temperatures higher than average for this time of year, but still -1C at ground level on take-off. Alicia flew in these cold temperatures for the rest of the day, with the temperatures around -4C at ground level on landing, with significant wind chill and around 10 to 15cm snow on the ground. Alicia already held the FAI AX4 Altitude record but, working closely with Ultramagic, refined the equipment for a completely different type of flight. She also consulted with Canadian meteorological experts. Through her outstanding courage, drive and skill, she achieved this notable record breaking World Record flight, massively increasing the distance record and breaking the duration record. She is a fantastic ambassador for female pilots and ballooning, gaining huge respect from everyone who worked with her, and winning the hearts of the Canadian support team. Alicia is a delight to be with and her demeanour and good grace captured the World media's attention, promoting female ballooning Internationally.

the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in [Roziere Ballooning](#)

**Not Awarded**

a major contribution to the development of the sport of [Ballooning in general](#)

#### [Klaus HARTMANN \(GER\)](#)

Klaus Hartmann is proposed for the award for his outstanding commitment related to instruction, examination and for raising the level of flight safety in ballooning, his tremendous work with regulators, in which he defended the ballooning community's interest in the best possible way, and officiating in many national and international events. After getting his balloon licence in 1988 and the instructor rating in 1991, Klaus soon started to instruct not only students in flying balloons but also supported the aviation administration on how to interpret the rulebooks. He discussed with the 20+ different aviation authorities

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within Germany to streamline their rules for instruction, examination and the operational rules. When EASA was founded, Klaus was one of the key people to give input for the development of the balloon FCL and OPS rules. In 2003 he was nominated as investigator for balloon accidents by the German AIB. In 2015 he founded the German ATO for examiners and in 2020 the ATO for instructors. From 1997 onwards, Klaus supported several competitions and flying events as Safety Officer and provided a high number of workshops and lectures related to flight safety in ballooning. By now Klaus logged 1200+ hours on balloons whereof 1/3 is instruction and exams.

### THE SANTOS-DUMONT GOLD AIRSHIP MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.2.2)

*Eligibility, Frequency and Number: One Santos-Dumont Gold Airship Medal may be awarded annually to recognise:*

- the best sporting performance in the previous Montgolfier year in airships,
- or
- a major contribution to the development of the sport of Airship flying in general.

**Not Awarded**

## AWARDS FOR GENERAL AVIATION (BY LAWS 7.3)

### THE CHARLES LINDBERGH GENERAL AVIATION DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.3.1)

*Eligibility: The Lindbergh Diploma may be awarded annually to:*

- *individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly over a period of not less than ten years to the progress and success of General Aviation in either air sport or transportation, or in the work of international bodies concerned with General Aviation; or*
- *to recognise technical breakthroughs in the field of General Aviation as an incentive toward general progress, and for the purpose of stimulating research and development of new concepts and equipment contributing to operational efficiency and flight safety.*

### Martin HŘIVNA (CZE)

Martin Hřivna obtained the PPL qualification in 1975 and in 1978 he began to devote himself to competitions in Precision and Rally flying. First as an active competitor (World Air Rally Championships 1995 Herning, DEN, European Air Rally Championships 1996 Vrchlabí, CZE, World Air Games 1997 Antalya, TUR), then as an International Judge and Chief Scorer. He is the author of computer programs for precision and rally flying competitions, which are approved for use in World and European Championships and international competitions. To this day, he works as the Chief Judge, jury member and Chief Scorer. The award is proposed for his whole life work for the benefit of world sport aviation.

## AWARDS FOR GLIDING (BY LAWS 7.4)

### THE LILIENTHAL GLIDING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.4.1)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded for a particularly remarkable gliding performance, or eminent services to gliding, to a currently active glider pilot who has:*

- *established an international record during the past year; or*
- *made a pioneer flight (defined as a flight which has opened new possibilities for gliding and/or gliding techniques) ; or*
- *rendered eminent service to the sport of gliding over a significant period of time*

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### [Tadeas WALA \(SVK\)](#)

Tadeas is a highly acclaimed Slovak glider pilot, long-time national team member, lifelong aeroplane and glider designer and IGC delegate/alternate since 1993, when Slovakia joined the IGC as an independent country. He started flying gliders at the age of 14 and soon became a competitive glider pilot. He joined the national team in 1959 and achieved a number of victories in national competitions or broke several national gliding records. He also took part in various international championships, including the WGC. Since the early days of flying he was interested in aircraft design. Initially he was interested in glider design and became deeply involved in an early 15 metre laminar profile glider. Later he was involved in the design of a new composite WK-1 glider prototype which did well in some national and international competitions. When he retired, he invested his time in the IGC and, using his contacts, was instrumental in establishing Slovakia as a recognised member of the international gliding community. At that time he also started to design a very modern and efficient ultralight aircraft, the WT-9 Dynamic, which later became a popular tow plane in many clubs around the world. This design brought him national recognition. He has received several national awards as a designer and entrepreneur. Despite his age, Tadeas is still an active pilot and a valued mentor. His life's journey has inspired many. Including the current IGC Secretary, whom he introduced to international gliding.

### THE PELAGIA MAJEWSKA GLIDING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.4.2)

*Eligibility: The Pelagia Majewska Medal may be awarded annually to a female glider pilot to reward:*

- *a particularly remarkable performance in gliding during the past year, or*
- *eminent services to gliding over a long period of time.*

**Not Awarded**

### THE PIRAT GEHRIGER DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.4.3)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded annually for eminent services to international gliding*

### [John WHARIGTON \(AUS\)](#)

Ko John started gliding in 1988. His PhD was in Algorithms for Soaring of uninhabited air vehicles. This work has formed the basis of soaring in all modern UAVs. John went on to develop XC Soar and build variometers for gliders. He assisted with the introduction and implementation of Flarm units across Australia. In 2016 John created the Proximity Analysis Tool (PAT). The PAT was developed using GPS Flight Recorder data to analyse glider flights and detect when pilots fly in a way that is potentially dangerous. The aim of PAT is to improve operational safety, club culture and competition safety. The PAT allows us to educate pilots and to uncover unsafe situations during flights. This is done in a quantitative and objective way. The PAT system was launched at Benalla World Gliding Championships in 2017 and John has continued to refine it each year since then. He is currently working to identify patterns of the most dangerous phases of flight. There is no doubt that the PAT has improved pilot awareness particularly at competitions and has increased safety overall as a result. John continues as a member of the IGC GFAC committee where he provides valuable insight into technical matters.

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## THE IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR / GLIDING CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.4.4)

*Eligibility: The IGC CHAMPION PILOT OF THE YEAR will be selected from the champions in all classes across all Qualifying Competitions. The selection process will take place after the Closing Ceremony of the final Qualifying Competition in 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 achieved by the World Champion.*
- *The Maximum Possible Score (MPS) is the sum of the winning scores from each valid competition day.*
- *The World Champion's World Soaring Cup Score (CS) is calculated as follows:  $CS = 100 \times FS / MPS$ .*

### Alena NETUSILOVA (CZE)

The winner of the WSC Competition 2023 according to the rules stated in the Chronicle IGC Champion Pilot of the Year – World Soaring Cup is: Alena Netusilova / CZE gained 96,04.

## AWARDS FOR ROTORCRAFT (BY LAWS 7.5)

### THE FAI GOLD ROTORCRAFT MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.5.1)

*Eligibility: The medal is to reward a particularly remarkable achievement in rotorcraft including use as a sporting vehicle, or eminent services to the development of rotorcraft over an extended period of time.*

**Not Awarded**

## AWARDS FOR PARACHUTING (BY LAWS 7.6)

### THE FAI GOLD PARACHUTING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.6.1)

*Eligibility: The Medal may be awarded annually for an outstanding accomplishment in connection with parachuting. This may be in the realm of sport, safety, or, at the option of the Commission, an invention. It cannot be awarded to delegates to the FAI Parachuting Commission.*

### Igor TIORLO (UKR)

Igor Tiorlo is a Skydiving Legend's Extraordinary Journey Since his first leap in May 1964, Igor Tiorlo has soared to incredible heights in the world of parachuting. With over 9,200 jumps under his belt, including daring experimental tests and a landing on the North Pole, Tiorlo's career is nothing short of extraordinary. His competitive prowess reached its zenith in 1978 when he clinched the "Overall World Champion" title in Zagreb. Two years later, he secured the "Overall World Vice-Champion" position in Bulgaria, making history as the first parachutist to achieve such consistent excellence across two World Championships. Tiorlo's legacy includes four World Records in Accuracy Landing and an impressive medal haul of two golds, four silvers, and a bronze from these championships. Post-competition, he continued to elevate the sport as the Chief Coach of Ukraine's National Team, guiding them to multiple medals and records. As an FAI Parachuting Judge since 1989, Tiorlo has officiated at the highest levels, serving as Chief Judge for three World Championships. At 75, he remains actively involved as the Executive Committee Chairman of the Ukrainian Parachuting Federation, embodying the spirit of lifelong dedication to skydiving.



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### THE LEONARDO DA VINCI PARACHUTING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.6.2)

*Eligibility: One Diploma may be awarded each year to a person who has achieved one of the following criteria: Been at least twice an Individual Champion or a Member of a Champion Team at a First Category Event*

- *Established at least three World Parachuting Records;*
- *Have been at least three times an FAI/IPC Official at a First Category Event (Chief Judge, FAI Parachuting Judge, FAI Controller, International Jury Member or any combination thereof)*
- *Have been at least three times a Competition Director at a First Category Event*
- *Have been for at least six years the Chair of an IPC Committee (IPC Internal Regulations 6.7) or an IPC Bureau Member or any combination thereof.*

**Not Awarded**

### FAUST VRANCIC MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.6.3)

*Eligibility: The Medal may be awarded, on the decision of the FAI Parachuting Commission, for technical innovation or achievement in parachuting. It cannot be awarded to Delegates to the FAI Parachuting Commission.*

**Not Awarded**

## AWARDS FOR AEROMODELLING (BY LAWS 7.7)

### THE FAI AEROMODELLING GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.7.1)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded annually to an aeromodeller of an FAI Member for outstanding merit in organisation activities. The recipient shall have:*

- *fulfilled at least twice the function of Competition Director or a similar function at World or Continental Championships ; or*
- *fulfilled at least three times the function of an FAI jury member at World or Continental Championships ; or*
- *fulfilled at least five times the function of a judge or a similar function at World or Continental Championships ; or*
- *served at least three years as a delegate to the FAI Aeromodelling Commission, or served another function therein; or*
- *shown outstanding merits in developing aeromodelling by organizational activities.*

**Not Awarded**

### THE ANDREI TUPOLEV AEROMODELLING MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.7.2)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to any aeromodeller who in the same year wins the World and National Aeromodelling Championships in the same class of models.*

**Not Awarded**

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### THE ALPHONSE PENAUD AEROMODELLING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.7.3)

*Eligibility: The Diploma may be awarded to an aeromodeller of a FAI Member who has:*

- *obtained at least three times consecutively the title of national champion; or*
- *obtained at least once the title of world champion; or*
- *established at least three world records; or*
- *other outstanding sporting achievements*

#### Jan van VILET (NED)

Jan van Vliet is a pioneer in the class F3a Model Aerobatics, almost from the start he has competed in countless World and European Championships. He was a driving factor in the Netherlands and internationally to promote the sport and a contributor to the technologic advancement of f3a models in his Career. His palmaris contains a total of 19 National Titles and he competed in World and European Championships for close to 40 years. At 88 years of age, he is no longer flying himself but still is enthusiastically involved in F3a and F3p; where he is judging and an active member of these communities. Still building F3a models and coaching f3a.

#### Krzysztof PRZYBYTEK (POL)

- 3x World Vice Champion
- 3x European Champion
- 6x Overall World Cup medallist (2nd place :2001-SBE/P, 2002-S98, 3rd place: 2001-S9B, 2003-S9B, 2012-S9A, 2016-S4A)
- 7x Team World Champion (different classes)
- 7x Team World Vice-Champion (different classes)
- 7x Team World Champion (different classes)

### THE ANTONOV AEROMODELLING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.7.4)

*Eligibility: This Diploma may be awarded to an aeromodeller of an FAI Member for technical innovations in aeromodelling. The Antonov Diploma may be granted more than once to the same person for different technical innovations made in different years.*

#### Vladimir HORVAT (CRO)

HORVAT Vladimir, a retired engineer, expert and manufacturer of antihail rocket systems, has devoted his whole life to Aeromodelling and Space Models. Starting in F1A, he moved to Space Models, where he became a known personality and expert in the field of gliders and motors. To his biggest technical innovations count:

- Introduction and basic concepts of advanced construction wings, improved airfoil design in Boost-Gliders (S4), many times copied and winning many medals at World and International Championships. - Improvement and descriptions of mechanical behaviour of pods (several his improvements were used for many decades in class S4)
- Design of long-burn motors (specialisation on the motor casing and propellant) which together with his advanced aerodynamic design gave the Yugoslav team the first three individual and team gold in S1 Altitude at the 1987 World Spacemodelling Championships.
- Many internationally recognized papers and books on the design of boost gliders and model rockets.
- Teaching programs for starters and young people, in several levels.
- As long – time Space Subcommittee member, Vladimir is helping to improve the sporting code and the level of safety overall. Many of his ideas are implemented and have largely contributed to the improvement of the sport.

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### THE ANDREI TUPOLEV AEROMODELLING DIPLOMA (7.7.5)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded annually to an aeromodeller of an FAI Member for an outstanding record performance in aeromodelling.*

#### Leszek MALMYGA (POL)

MALMYGA, Leszek (56) by profession a school teacher, has a remarkable modelling career and became one of the biggest personalities in both - Spacemodelling and Aeromodelling as a sportsman. Starting in 1999, Leszek won several national and international Championships before winning his first individual European Champion titles in 2001. As only one of two Spacemodellers, Leszek won the twice the "triple crown" (that he has won in one class the World Champion/ European Champion and World Cup). Under his guidance, several of his students became World and European Champions -his student Michal Kumor became a CIAM Legend this year. Not only an individual personality, but a great team chief, Leszek has proven during the years as the Polish team, with his help, largely improved and is now one of the best teams in history. Leszek as well moved the technical boundaries with many of his technical innovations, mainly in classes S4A and S9A, which are used by today.

### THE FRANK EHLING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.7.6)

*Eligibility: The Diploma may be awarded annually for outstanding accomplishment, by an organisation or individual, in connection with the promotion of aviation through the use of flying models.*

#### Arpad CSONTOS (SVK)

CSONTOS Arpad (82), devoted his whole life with young people and aeromodelling. By profession a school teacher, he started at young age to build models. After finishing school, he work as a sport referent at the technical high school in Humenne. In 1968 Arpad established and led the modelling club Humenne at this school. From the start, Arpad's students were finished at high ranking at national and international competitions in whole Czechoslovakia. Beside this activity, Arpad started to teach students at the local technical houses around Humenne. Until the mid 80's he taught several dozens of aeromodelling and spacemodelling youngsters, which list of won international competitions is very long. Since 2014 he led the aeromodelling section at the local elementary school. Arpad's big devotion and passion passed to his pupils made them several times to get the full podium at national championships. His student, Patrik Dolobac won the F2B junior World Cup in 2019, placed 1st and 2nd at the 2023 resp. 2019 European Controlline Championships (junior) and came 4th at the World Control line Championships in 2018. Under his guidance, at the 2023 European Control line championships the "whole junior" team won the bronze team medal and won as well first three places in individual junior ranking! Beside training and building models (mostly focused on F2B class), Arpad Csontos has for many years held many important functions at competitions – range officer, through judge on national to international level, to organizer, sports director of dozens of international events. Due his activity and "gift" to bring people of several generations together, the Humenne aeromodelling club counts more than 54 active members – one of the largest in Slovakia. For his lifelong commitment to aeromodelling, the Slovak aeromodelling federation awarded Arpad the title "merited modeller", which is one of highest recognitions for a modeller in Slovakia. All of his three sons were or still are active in both aeromodelling and spacemodelling and are devoting a big part of their life to this sport and to young people. (Only one person from a country may be nominated annually by that candidate's National Airsport Control.) SC4\_Vol\_CGR\_18 Effective 1st August 2018 Page 8 Beside active in his hometown, Arpad has established close cooperation and international exchanges all around Europe, especially with Hungary, Poland, Czech rep., and other neighbouring countries. As Arpad currently moved to Hidasnemeti (Hungary), he directly started privately an aeromodelling club in his new hometown with the local juniors.

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### THE CIAM LEGENDS MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.7.7)

*Eligibility: The medal is reserved for those who have, in the past, obtained at least three (3) times the title of FAI World Champion in any Aeromodelling or Space Models class. The World Champion title may be gained in different classes. This medal is for individuals only. Proposals may cover any period of time up to 31st December of the preceding year.*

#### Wanraya WANNAPONG (THA)

World Champion 3x:

- Class: F9U
- Years: 2018,2019, 2023

#### Yuan Kang LEE (USA)

World Champion 3x:

- Class: F1D
- Years: 2014, 2016, 2024

## AWARDS FOR AEROBATICS (BY LAWS 7.8)

### THE LEON BIANCOTTO AEROBATICS DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.8.1)

*Eligibility: The Diploma may be awarded to individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly to the sport of aerobatics.*

**Not Awarded**

## AWARDS FOR ASTRONAUTICS (BY LAWS 7.9)

### THE Yu. A. GAGARIN GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.9.1)

*Eligibility: The Yu. A. Gagarin Gold Medal may be awarded to an astronaut who, in the previous year, is considered to have made the greatest achievement in Man's conquest of Space.*

**Not Awarded**

### THE V. M. KOMAROV DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.9.2)

*Eligibility: This Diploma may be awarded to astronauts, members of multi-seater crews, for outstanding achievements in the field of exploration of outer space in the previous year.*

**Not Awarded**

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### THE KOROLEV DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.9.3)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to technicians or engineers having worked in orbit or on a celestial body in building structures and/or their equipment, or in a non-planned restoration or repair of a broken device to make possible the continuation of a mission, and, on this occasion, having demonstrated human work in space.*

**Not Awarded**

### THE ODYSSEY DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.9.4)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to a person or a group of persons whose actions, achievements, or works on earth, in space, or on a celestial body have safeguarded or may safeguard human life in space.*

**Not Awarded**

### THE DIPLOMA FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN ASTRONAUTICS (BY LAWS 7.9.5)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to astronauts working as professionals (i.e. Government funded or perhaps as crew members of companies such as SpaceX) for their outstanding performance in exceeding the Karman Line. Whatever their role, they would have undergone a rigorous selection and training process after many years in prior fields of work and so their achievement would be among the high points of their career.*

**Not Awarded**

## AWARDS FOR HANG-GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING (BY LAWS 7.10)

### THE PEPE LOPES MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.10.1)

*Eligibility: The medal may be awarded for outstanding contributions to sportsmanship or international understanding in the sport of hang-gliding and paragliding. The medal will only be awarded for truly significant acts or services and will not necessarily be awarded every year.*

### THE FAI HANG-GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.10.2)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to an individual who is considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the development of hang-gliding and/or paragliding by his or her initiative, work or leadership in flight achievement.*

### Sándor KASZÁS (HUN)

Hungary is nominating Sándor Kaszás for the Paragliding and Hangliding Diploma. He had organized many Hungarian paragliding accuracy competition and as a Hungarian CIVL delegate and head of the Hungarian paragliding committee he built significant relationships on the international scene of paragliding. He is an activist of the sport of paragliding accuracy landing in Hungary and neighboring countries.

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## AWARDS FOR MICROLIGHT AND PARAMOTOR AVIATION (BY LAWS 7.11)

### THE COLIBRI DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.11.1)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of microlight or paramotor aircraft.*

#### [Niklas ANDERBERG \(SWE\)](#)

Niklas has turned a life-long dream into reality by creating his own aircraft and making a business of it. After venturing into industrial aircraft design he turned his eyes to private aviation to develop the best possible private aircraft. After many years of building, testing and re-designing he presented BlackWing, a extraordinary microlight sport aircraft. Niklas and Blackwing has pioneered modern aircraft manufacturing in Europe and have really made microlight aviation a viable option to traditonal private airplanes. Niklas have set microlight world records in his Blackwing and continues to push the limits of aviation and aircraft when innovating solutions for a state-of-the-art aircraft. He remains a champion for microlight aviation and never misses an opportunity to take people to the skies.

### THE ANN WELCH DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.11.2)

*Eligibility: Diplomas may be awarded each year to the pilot or crew of a Microlight or Paramotor who, in the opinion of CIMA, made the most meritorious flight which resulted in a Microlight or Paramotor World record claim ratified in the year in question.*

#### Paramotor

#### [Dariusz BRZOSTOWICZ \(POL\)](#)

For a world record of distance in a straight line without landing of 620,28km in RPL2T.

#### [Krzysztof ROMICKI \(POL\)](#)

For a world record of distance in a straight line without landing of 620,28km in RPL2T.

#### Microlight

#### [Jiří PRUŠA \(CZE\)](#)

Pilot Jiri Prusa and co-pilot Eliska Kudejova has achieved great performance in category Distance in closed circuit without landing and had been ratified as World Record in class RAL2T. Their flight with microlight Shark 600 took place 19/08/2023 at Pribram airport in the Czech Republic. They flew over three foreign countries with total distance of 1912,12km in 10 hours and 24 minutes. Jiri Prusa has been promoting light sport flying for a long time, creating documents, films and clips which are broadcasted in th TV. Thanks to his promotion the sport flying is becoming more popular.

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## AWARDS FOR AMATEUR-BUILT AIRCRAFT (BY LAWS 7.12)

### THE PHOENIX DIPLOMA AND GROUP DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.12.1)

*Eligibility: They may each be awarded for the best reconstruction or restoration of a vintage (more than 30-year-old) aircraft achieved by an individual amateur in the case of the Phoenix Diploma and by a group of any size or description (e.g. museum, sponsored group, society, company) in the case of the Phoenix Group Diploma.*

#### Phoenix Diploma

##### Benvenutas IVANAUSKAS (LTU)

Benvenutas Ivanauskas, an independent old aircraft enthusiast, during 2010 s and 2020 s has restored over a dozen of vintage glider aircraft or built their replicas. The most notable reconstructions are the replicas of Lithuanian-designed trainer gliders Technikas T-1 (BrO) (1932) and Bro-9 Žiogas (1952). Mr. Ivanauskas is engaged into aircraft restoration activities since mid-2000 s, when he was working as a technician at the Lithuanian Museum of Aviation. There he was in charge in restoring Museum s exhibits. Having quit his work at the Museum Mr. Ivanauskas continued as independent aircraft technician, with the hobby of vintage aircraft restoration. Working independently Mr. Ivanauskas has done major repairs to over a dozen of vintage gliders like Schleicher K 8, Schleicher Ka 6, Schleicher K-6E, three B Scheibe Bergfalke III, Oškinis Bro 11M Zyl , JR-1 etc. Further to the restoration of vintage aircraft, Mr. Ivanauskas is an active promoter of gliding, aviation sports and aviation-based community building. He is the core organizer of community aviation events, where restored BrO-1/T-1, BrO-9 are used to promote aviation, gather community of interest, engage children into aviation. He was an organizer of the 40th Vintage Glider Rally of 2012, which took place in Prienai, Lithuania (ICAO: EYPR) and has gathered more than hundred vintage aircrafts and their pilots.

#### Phoenix Group Diploma

**Not Awarded**

### THE HENRI MIGNET DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.12.2)

*Eligibility: This diploma may be awarded to an amateur aircraft builder or a group of builders, who have developed an aircraft of any category (including microlights) which has one or more of the following characteristics:*

- *Low cost of operation and of building,*
- *Simple design (use of non-sophisticated design practices and techniques),*
- *Ease of construction and maintenance,*
- *Outstanding flying characteristics,*
- *Special features and innovative concept.*

##### Frédéric MARON (BEL)

Starting from scratch on a napkin, the aircraft is a new type of gas balloon (hydrogen certified). It is the lightest one of its kind offering consequently a greater flight range. The whole aircraft has been fully designed in detail and custom made. No major parts are standard except some nuts and bolts. The envelope has a natural teardrop shape to reduce strain on it. The fabric is specially developed for the balloon and is 3 times lighter than current materials. The metallic layer offers better protection against overheating from the sun's rays. At the top of the envelope, the valve is made entirely of carbon fiber for lightness. The gondola is a carbon floor strapped by high strength webbings sewn on ultra-light fabric and protective foam panels. At the end of the high modulus fiber lines, the gondola is attached to

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the envelope by the single suspension point consisting of the aircraft grade aluminium load circle. The accessories are made with the lightness in mind. The seat and the sand shovels are in carbon fiber and the sandbags are sew in an ultra-light fabric. The guide rope is a very large strap increasing the braking resistance thanks to the much larger friction surface than the traditional round hemp ropes.

#### THE DAVID FAULKNER BRYANT DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.12.3)

*Eligibility: This diploma may be awarded to an amateur aircraft builder or a group of amateur aircraft builders who have built a plan-built or a kit-built aircraft of any category. It does not apply to new design. The aircraft shall have received its certificate of airworthiness or equivalent and the builder(s) shall have been recognised in the applicant's country for best craftsmanship in the year before the award.*

**Not Awarded**

### AWARDS FOR ENVIROMENT (BY LAWS 7.13)

#### THE ANGELO D'ARRIGO DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.13.1)

*Eligibility: It may be awarded to individuals or organisations that have contributed significantly to the defence of and respect for the environment affected by air sports. The activities may include scientific research, private, public or commercial events or activities, developed or promoted directly by Pilots, sport flying Clubs, NACs or Public or Private bodies as Small and Medium Enterprises.*

**Not Awarded**

### AWARDS FOR EDUCATION (BY LAWS 7.14)

#### THE NILE GOLD MEDAL (BY LAWS 7.14.1)

*Eligibility: This medal may be awarded to a person, group of persons or organization to reward distinguished work in the field of aviation and space education, particularly during the year preceding its award.*

**Not Awarded**

### AWARDS FOR MEDICO- PHYSIOLOGICAL (BY LAWS 7.15)

#### DR. PETER SAUNDBY DIPLOMA (BY LAWS 7.15.1)

*Eligibility: This FAI Diploma may be awarded annually, on the recommendation of the FAI CIMP sub-committee, to individuals, groups or organisations that have contributed significantly to flight safety and sport pilot performance in a broad sense. For example, but not limited to: human factors concepts, training facilities, scientific research, medical fitness and assessments, limited capabilities at air sport pilots, anti-doping, air sport rulemaking, work in FAI Commissions and related activities.*

**Not Awarded**

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