



## Newsletter

### Sailplane Grand Prix Race

8<sup>th</sup> March 2009

<http://www.fai.org/gliding/sgp>

## 2008 – 2009 GP Final

Dear Friends

Two weeks ago I wrote to you about the GP. I said that we intended to announce the venue and dates of the 2009 final at the IGC plenary meeting held in Lausanne on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

This letter is to bring you up to date with the situation.

Prior to the plenary meeting we had three candidates to host the GP Final – Rieti in Italy, St Auban in France, and Santiago in Chile.

- The offer of Rieti as a host was withdrawn recently by the FIVV.
- Alain Eyrier made the offer of St Auban as the host for the final while he was President of the FFVV. Since then elections have been held at the FFVV and, last week, the new President advised us that the FFVV wished to withdraw their offer to host the GP Final.
- The Club de Planeadores de Santiago delegate confirmed, at the plenary meeting, that they would be willing to host the GP Final, but they do not yet have any sponsorship.

### **So, where are we at now?**

The Bureau and the Delegates are determined to complete the GP Final. We accept that the event will not be as grand as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Final held in Omarama in 2007 because of the current economic situation.

However, we do want to have internet tracking available so that glider pilots world-wide can follow the races at the final and are looking at ways that the IGC could assist in providing the tracker units.

*Check out dates and results of the events, list of qualified pilots, rules etc at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/sgp>*

The qualifying GP run by the Club de Planeadores was a very successful event and we are confident that they will be able to create a memorable GP Final.

In our opinion, our best option is to hold the GP Final in Santiago in Chile.

Our Chilean friends have accepted the challenge of organising the event, but they need another few weeks to look for sponsorship.

This would mean that the GP Final would be held at the Club de Planeadores de Santiago in January 2010.

### **What does this mean for the pilots?**

In December 2007 in New Zealand the pilots received very generous financial support from the sponsor, Air Sports Live. This level of sponsorship is not available this year.

It is our long-term aim that those who fly the GP Final will have their expenses covered but, right now we are not able to provide this level of financial support for the event.

Taking the final to Chile means that there are potentially significant costs for them – travel, accommodation and shipping of gliders. Our colleagues in Chile are working on options to minimize these costs.

However, the estimated costs they may have to pay to participate in the GP Final in Chile are:

- Entry fee: EUR 315
- Aerotow: EUR 55
- Hotels: EUR 40 / day (or more)
- Meals: EUR 10 - 15 / day
- Car Rental: EUR 45 / day (compact)
- Freight costs to take gliders back and forth to Germany - EUR 8,000 total for each container, or EUR 1,333 each glider of with 6 gliders in a container. Costs from Australia will be similar. This should include:
  - Customs
  - Loading
  - Transport to port
  - Trucks port to site and return
  - Crane at site, etc., etc.

Chile owns a six-glider container frame (which would be available at no cost). More frames or suitable containers will be needed, which they expect to rent. Two more six-glider frames will be required for all qualified pilot gliders coming to Chile.

*Check out dates and results of the events, list of qualified pilots, rules etc at <http://www.fai.org/gliding/sgp>*

### **What is Chilean Grand Prix team doing today?**

They are looking at reducing the costs by assuring sponsorships as soon as possible.

There is no formal commitment yet from sponsors because it is the summer holidays in Chile right now.

They hope to have a better figure of the actual costs in the next months.

### **What do I need from the pilots?**

We have identified the costs that they may be expected to pay, if the Chileans are not able to obtain any sponsorship for the final. So this is a worse-case scenario.

We are trying to reduce these costs, but cannot give any guarantees at this time.

We are all partners in this situation – the pilots who have qualified for the final have unfinished business with the 3<sup>rd</sup> FAI Sailplane GP Champion yet to be found, and we are determined to ensure that we can complete this round of the GP.

I have asked the pilots, therefore, if they will support our plan of action to host the GP Final at the Club de Planeadores de Santiago in January 2010.

Best regards



Bob Henderson  
*President, IGC*  
*March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009*