**History of the Robert-Kronfeld-Challenge Cup**

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

1904 Robert Kronfeld was born 5th May 1904 in Vienna. The boy was an excellent skier and in the years of his studies in Vienna he was also a well known alpinist and he did white-water rafting as well.

1927 the Austrian Aero Club set up an aviator youth group. Robert was the best one of this group and was sent to the gliding school at Rositten / East Prussia. 1928 he participated in a gliding course at the Wasserkuppe. Robert Kronfeld set milestones in History of Gliding. He was the 1929 first one to use a variometer, the first one to fly more than 100 km distance,the first one to use thermals of cumulus clouds in the course of a distance flight, the first one who flew over the mountain massif Rax of the Alps. 1931 he flew a glider across the Channel and returned next day and was the winner of the 1000 pound stirling award donated by “Daily Mail”.

1938 He left Germany and Austria because of anti-semitic politics and became british citizen and served as major of the Royal Airforce in the 2nd World War.

1948 February 12th Robert Kronfeld, famed holder of gliding records was killed when an experimental engineless and tailless flying wing he was piloting in spin tests crashed in a field near Lasham.

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

**Rules**: The rules have not changed since the 21st FAI World Gliding Championships in 1989, but more classes have been added, so that now several FAI World Gliding Championships are held in different classes.

1. *The CUP will be presented to a pilot flying at the World Gliding Championships that is competed in the Open, 18 m and 20m multi seat classes since 2018.*
2. *The winner of the CUP will have flown the* ***longest Marking Distance*** *during the WGC, regardless of type of task****.(It does not necessitate a special calculation, just take it from the table of results).***
3. *If there is a tie for the* ***longest Marking Distance*** *flown, the winner of the CUP will be the pilot that attained the* ***longest Marking Distance (task)***  *at the highest SPEED.*
4. *If there is a tie between pilots in the* ***longest Marking Distance*** *flown and no highest SPEED is achieved, the tie will be broken and the CUP will be won by the pilot having the earliest out landing time.*

1989 The original Robert Kronfeld Cup unfortunately fell down during presentation in Wiener Neustadt and burst. A replacement immediately was ordered and arrived just in time.The Robert-Kronfeld-Cup has been awarded to the winner Gérard Lherm, France, Open Class



**History of the Robert-Kronfeld- Challenge Cup Page 2**



List of winners according to the engravings on the Cup

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

FAI Challenge Cups Manager’s report to IGC Plenary 2024

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