**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 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:

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.*
2. *The winner of the CUP will have flown the ABSOLUTE longest distance during the WGC, regardless of type of task.*
3. *If there is a tie for the longest ABSOLUTE distance flown, the winner of the CUP will be the pilot that attained the longest ABSOLUTE distance at the highest SPEED.*
4. *If there is a tie between pilots in the longest ABSOLUTE 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, on occasion of the 21st FAI World Gliding Championshps in Wiener Neustadt.

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List of winners according to the engravings on the Cup

1. Gérard Lherm, France 713 km Wiener Neustadt/Austria

1991 Tom Knauff, USA 767 km Uvalde/USA

1993 Jan W. Anderson, Denmark 454 km Borlänge/Sweden

1995 Ray Linskey, New Zealand 674 km Omarama/New Zealand

1997 Sebastian Kawa, Poland 533 km Saint Auban/France

1999 Jan W. Anderson, Denmark 638 km Bayreuth/Germany

2001 Holger Karow, Germany 660 km Mafikeng/South Africa

2003 Laurens Goudriaan, RSA 725 km Leszno/Poland

2006 Tomasz Rubaj 543 km Eskilstuna/Sweden

2008 Holger Karow 507 km Lüsse/Germany

2010 Stephan Beck & H. Karow 428 km Szeged/Hungary

2012 Peter Harvey, Great Britain 700 km Uvalde/USA

2014 Laurent Aboulin, France 484 km Leszno/Poland

2017 Michael Sommer, Germany 747 km Benalla/Australia 2017

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