



l.dz.: 24/Serw/ 2017

FAI Awards for Ballooning 2017

Nomination Form

(one form per nomination)

Name of the Award:

- ☐ Montgolfier Diploma / best sporting performance in Gas Ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.1)
- ☐ Montgolfier Diploma / best sporting performance in Hot Air Ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.2)
- ☐ Montgolfier Diploma / best sporting performance in Roziere Ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.3)
- X Montgolfier Diploma / contribution to development of ballooning (By-Law 7.2.1.2.4)
- ☐ Santos-Dumont Gold Airship Medal (By-Law 7.2.2)

Submitted by:

NAC :Aero Club of Poland

Name :Ryszard MICHALSKI

Position / Function :Secretary General

Date :16.01.2017 r.

Signature and stamp :

SEKRETARZ GENERALNY
AEROKLUBU POLSKIEGO

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Nomination for:

Name : Ireneusz CIEŚLAK

Birthdate: 12.02.1932

E-mail address : witfilus@gmail.com

Reasons for nomination (maximum 250 words, English only): Balloon pilot, instructor
Ireneusz Cieślak was born on 12th February 1932 in Szamotuły.

Educated to be an automation engineer. Graduated from his engineering studies in 1957 at the Machine Building Faculty at Technical University of Poznań. After graduation, he worked at Cooperative Design Studio (Spółdzielcze Biuro Projektów) in Poznań in a position of a constructor and expert.

He has been interested in aeronautics since his early years. Since 1950 he has been a member of Poznań Aero Club, where he obtained his first glider licence in the same year. In the following years he obtained a glider pilot gold badge.

In 1953 he obtained an aeroplane pilot licence. At the time, he also took some interest in motor sports – he participated in bicycle races and car rallies. In the early 1970s, thanks to his colleague Stefan Makné, he took an interest in ballooning in his original Flying Club. In 1972, he took his first balloon flight and embarked on a balloon training. In 1975 he obtained



a balloon pilot licence and was awarded a glider pilot golden badge. After a course for pilots and a practice he completed, he obtained a licence of a ballooning mechanic in 1978. Thanks to intensive ballooning activity and training Polish pilots, he obtained a licence of a 2nd class ballooning instructor in 1978, which was followed by a 1st class licence in the following years. He was a co-author of a new training programme for balloon pilots and mechanics in Poland.

In his diverse sporting career, he participated in numerous ballooning events, alongside both domestic and foreign competition. In 1976 he began participating in serious international events, with the 1st Gas Balloon World Championships in Augsburg. The team of Ireneusz Cieślak and Franciszek Gralewicz came in 8th. In the next edition of the event, in 1980, he was 10th (in a team with Stefan Makné).

It has to be mentioned that he performed first ever show flights in Cuba. On 30th July and 2nd August 1978, as a part of the International Youth and Students Festival, he performed two interesting flights: taking off from the very centre of Havana (Cuba), he landed in the Caribbean Sea twice, some 25 km away from the shore.

As a co-pilot, with Stefan Makné, he won the most prestigious ballooning event, the **Gordon Bennett Cup in Paris in 1983**. It was the first Gordon Bennett event since 1938, resumed after the break brought about by World War Two. It was his greatest sporting achievement. In the consecutive Gordon Bennett events, he came 1st in 1983, 7th in 1984, 8th in 1985 and 7th in 1986.

Apart from flying sports activities, Ireneusz Cieślak was actively involved in popularising the ballooning sport. Thanks to his social skills, he was often invited to various events to make speeches about the ballooning sport. He also had successes as an educator, training new balloon pilots in the years 1976-2011. He trained pilots from Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Russia. Until 1994, he supervised or personally trained approx. 85% pilots. It can be said that thanks to his activity, the ballooning sports came into being in those countries in the first place. For instance, Ireneusz Cieślak and Stefan Makné trained the first Hungarian pilot (Geza Guliasz) – until then ballooning was non-existent in Hungary.

For many years, he was also an examiner on the State Examination Commission for the licence, and a technical ballooning consultant. Altogether he performed 714 flights, spending 700 hours as a balloon pilot and 600 hours in gliders.

Please provide at least one high resolution picture of the nominated person, if possible taken while practicing his/her sport or beside his/her (model) aircraft.

All nominations must be received at the FAI Head Office by **16 January 2017** at the latest in electronic format (to members@fai.org) **preferably** or by fax or post.