

Minutes of the Comps Committee Meeting 21 October 2017 - Lasham

Present: Brian Spreckley, Alan Langlands, Matt Davis, Liz Sparrow, Rich Hood, Justin Craig, Graham Garnett, Jon Gatfield

Apologies: Iain Baker, Paul Crabb, Andrew Mugleston, Russell Cheetham

1. CC admin

- Plan to alternate between Skype calls and face to face meetings for these meetings
- Where we have single issues these will be dealt with by conference call
- Planned agendas:
 - November – Directors Reports, Rule Changes, what we should be doing this year
 - December – British Team budget
 - January – Awards
 - February – Nationals bids for 2019

2. Aims/objectives/focus items for this winter's CC meetings

- Alan suggested the CC should be monitoring stats around field-landing safety following the initiatives on this topic in 2016. In addition, further work could be done to compare competition stats vs normal flying stats.
 - Rich suggested just highlighting general overarching safety campaign to include this
 - Alan to chase up with safety committee to get latest stats
 - Liz to speak to Mike Fox and get an update on field landings
- Justin talking to John Bridge on awards regarding turbos and pure gliders having a separate ladder
 - Also possible to separate wave and thermal flights? Suggested that the wave flights are putting off thermal pilots
 - Incorporate Tim's racing ladder idea
- Engravings for trophies awarded at Conference should be done by the BGA, or at least make it so that people can take the trophies home and engrave themselves
- There should be a chat about the awards process to see if all trophies are all still relevant, and discuss the engraving process etc. Awards Review to be covered in one of the post-Christmas agendas
- Liz would like to sort out the Tech Group
- To discuss the Media Manager feedback that comes from tomorrow's meeting

21 Oct	Contact the Safety Committee to get the latest statistics on field landing accidents	AL
21 Oct	Speak to Mike Fox about the Field Landing safety work he was doing to see how this can be promoted	LS
21 Oct	Talk to John Bridge and team about Ladder and Awards developments	JC
21 Oct	Add Awards Review to agenda of a post-Christmas meeting	LS
21 Oct	Chase up the Tech Group	LS
21 Oct	Collate and add Media Manager feedback to agenda of future meeting	GG/LS

3. 2018/19 Competition Calendar

- Calendar agreed to be updated on BGA website with Regionals and Nationals dates on Monday 23rd October. Will also be supplied to S&G on this date.
- S&G already have Regionals and Nationals result spreadsheets for publication.
- Paul has same results spreadsheets with FAI licence numbers and is churning out a rating list also supposedly for Monday print deadline.
- Still missing some Directors Reports. Jeremy is pulling together a consolidated Directors Report with all of the results for us - if we're happy with the format then can make the directors reports automated for next year to help with response rate.
- Discussed the 2018 comps calendar
 - Discussing the potential to switch the Lasham (Juniors) and Aston Down (Standards/15s) comps
 - Benefit for the comps situation as a whole as there will be more gliders flying
 - Don't think this will create a lack of entries in the Juniors
 - However this will affect the finances for the Juniors as we have planned for a cheap Juniors and the AD comp would cost more in entry fees
 - Haven't had a firm proposal from AD
 - As such, think we'll stick with what we have, next year declash the Standards/Clubs/Juniors if possible. Prioritise Clubs/Juniors declash
 - Amalgamate some task groups e.g. Standards and 15m and then the highest place Standard glider is the Champion
 - Discussed Tim's suggestion about DHT's and don't feel it's worth the extra admin for the slight differences in handicap
- Discussed Aston Down's supposed grievances as they feel we do not prioritise their bids. They are essentially a victim of their own flexibility.
- There is a Comps Organisers Facebook group so we can see when everything is and try to declash regionals etc through that.
- 2019 bids, Russell proposes to prepare a draft calendar and document for the next meeting I can attend with options for consideration. I further propose to keep to last year's schedule which gave clubs from early December to early February to submit bids allowing consideration by the group before BGA conference.
- Overseas Nationals
 - Will there be an appetite for it? Why don't people fly the current comps that are going on?
 - Brian says we can do something alongside the International at Issoudun. First 2 weeks in July. However they have Club Class nationals and don't want over 75 pilots total. Therefore limit the numbers for Overseas to 15 people. 2019 Brian can organise a proper sized comp with 50+ (up to 75 in theory). 2018 we won't run it officially but test the water. Before we advertise sort out if Junior Squad needs places. If we can get a UK towplane down we can have 10 more entries in 2018.
- Interclub league was running this year again. There was a final. Andrew to provide update
- Juniors update – Steve Pozerskis is director, Colin Watt deputy, Matt to check to see if there is organisation etc

21 Oct	Speak to Matt Page / Brian Birlison to acknowledge they haven't had their first choice bids and we will prioritise them in 2019	LS
21 Oct	Liaise with Issoudun to hold Overseas Nationals there this year unofficially	BS
21 Oct	Provide an update on Interclub league at next meeting	AM
21 Oct	Talk to Poz about Junior Nationals organisation	MD

4. General IGC Update

- Proposal from Germany that consider allowing current world champions to compete in World Championships. Do we support this?
 - We have the rule stating we don't support World Champs so should we change this? Agreed that we don't feel our thinking has changed since this rule was implemented so don't want Brian to support this.
- Americans are going to make a proposal to make a change to the scoring on landout days. This will change the relationship between points awarded on mass landout days. Proposal will be with Brian in 6 weeks or so, read and discuss.
- Lots of little proposals coming through about FLARM. Nothing fundamental so far.
- 13.5m class has been earmarked as needing a revolution. Proposal to make it an e-concept competition. Proposal to scrap 13.5m title and make it competition in 2 classes - microlight class and any glider up to 15m. Proposals such as being able to use some electric power during flight. Concept would be just elapsed time like Tour de France. Will be administered outside of IGC as per Grand Prix
 - Do we want to promote and support this class when it exists?
- Made an initial proposal to IGC over Womens World's at Hus Bos. Need to get some extra details to IGC. Completed bid to be drafted by end of November.

21 Oct	Do not support proposal to allow current World Champions an extra space in next event	BS
21 Oct	Liz to get completed proposal for Womens Worlds to IGC by end of December	LS

5. Our 3-year WGC cycle proposal

- Brian is busy undermining the proposal to combine the Standard/Club/13.5 etc and limiting to one person per class.
- Putting forward a counter proposal which addresses the issue of having too many comps to administer
 - Issue is the Junior Worlds. Less comps mean less Juniors will be eligible. However if we try to make an exception for the Juniors then this may cause issues with the overall proposal.
 - Eventually there was general agreement to include JWGC in 3 year cycle proposal. Brian has some stats produced which show it doesn't make too much difference to the amount of

JWGCs that people can fly. 3 years gives more opportunities as we can have more people in Squad training etc and don't have to narrow down to Team.

- We'll do some analysis to understand how many UK pilots this might affect.
- Is it worth changing the eligibility DOBs slightly? Incorporate this into analysis above.
- Gather opinions from Juniors cohort.

21 Oct	Analyse how the 3-year cycle would affect Juniors eligibility for JWGC	MD
21 Oct	Speak to Juniors cohort to get opinions on 3-year cycle	MD

6. Designated Starts

- Draft feedback circulated by Liz from EGC. Survey completed by all pilots. Varied feedback. Bottom line is that people think it makes the start more dangerous. People think it increases size and likelihood of gaggles. Does however seem to stop leeching advantage. Pilots are split between wanting normal starts and DS. Seems to be an agreement amongst pilots that it makes it fairer but doesn't make it safer. Event marker could be a better way of achieving the same thing.
- Voted to support a proposal to reinstate the event marker into the IGC rules

21 Oct	Put forward a proposal to get Event Markers as a start option in the IGC rules	BS
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7. FLARM

- Collective view of the British Team members who attended debrief meeting last weekend is that they don't like the way it's heading. Perhaps the solution is to have a stealth mode so you can't see climb rates etc. Would like to ban communications to the air from the ground by monitoring stations.
- Issue of policing the radio transmissions could be a stumbling block. Open this up to more people to try and find a good suggestion.
- Germans are in support of embracing it into the rules as it's now part of the sport
- In general we are in agreement with British Team view but we're not sure how best to propose it. May be worth waiting for Germans to put a proposal in.
- Agreed to raise it as an issue with IGC. We can consider a late proposal. Do we need a dedicated session on FLARM to go towards making a proposal?

21 Oct	Contact current and ex British Team pilots to see if anyone has a solution to the FLARM data sharing issue which could be enforced by IGC	GG/RH
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8. British Team Results

- Discussed a summary of competition results from 2017. Generally disappointing results this year. Exception was the Lasham Europeans where we won 6 of 7 medals.

- Our performance in Standards and Clubs has been disappointing for a while.
- Should seriously consider ever sending 3 people in a Team again as there were issues at Womens.
- Media Manager discussions will be covered tomorrow. Clearly there was some room for improvement.
- Coaching. Noted that there is little appetite for Seniors coaching at the moment. A lot of appetite from Juniors. Need commitment now, especially as we have the Easter squad selection weekend. Need to refresh the coaches. Agreed that some keen younger coaches (e.g. ex-JWGC team members) could be brought on board, especially for Junior Squad coaching.
- Rich to organise the Juniors Squad Selection Weekend on behalf of the coaches. Matt to send everything over. Graham to help.
- There will be a British Team get together over May Day bank holiday to get all the teams together and discuss the season
- Pick up Jon's work on the future of British Team in November
- Discussed the team for next year :
 - Andy Davis and Pete Harvey in Open
 - Russell Cheetham and Mike Young in 18m
 - Tim Scott and Derren Francis in 15m
 - Steve Jones and Gary Coppin in 20m
 - Tim Fletcher and G Dale in Club
 - Dave Bromley and Howard Jones in Standard
- Sponsorship working group. Nothing has really happened. Liz and Matt to put together Womens brochure based on the Juniors one.

21 Oct	Refresh the list of Coaches, especially for Juniors events.	GG/MD
21 Oct	Organise Junior Squad Selection Weekend	RH/MD/GG
21 Oct	Organise British Team get together	GG
21 Oct	Put together marketing material for Women's Worlds bid	LS/MD

9. Transforming UK comps

- UK glider racing website. Mel was leading a tech group to sort this. She's now left to go to Sweden so not sure on latest status.
 - Not sure if Mel will now have the time so is it worth getting someone else on board. Brian Birlison has volunteered.
 - Do we really have the resource to be doing this? It's a lot of work to keep it maintained.
 - Tech group will be set up outside comps committee

21 Oct	Follow up status of Tech Group and potentially reassign Chair	LS
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10. BGA Management Conference

- We have a slot booked. Andrew will be talking about interclub. Liz to give a quick 2 minute update on what we're doing.
 - Use Shenington as a financial model to try and encourage clubs to run competitions - they fund their tug by running comps.
- Comp directors forum to do at some point. Can we do this at the sporting conference?
- Will be something to say at the sporting conference, need to get something prepared

21 Oct	Arrange a time for Comp Directors Forum	LS
21 Oct	Begin collecting ideas for content at BGA Sporting Conference	LS

11. Awards

- Most awards are awarded on the back of Ladder scores so need to wait for that to close
- Need to solicit for some awards:
 - John Hands – Justin to advertise
 - Most Promising Junior – Matt to get nominations
 - Alex Ward (Services to Junior Gliding) – Matt to get nominations

21 Oct	Get nominations for John Hands trophy	JC
21 Oct	Get nominations for Most Promising Junior and Alex Ward trophies	MD

12. AOB

- We will look to source a proper conference call box for the next meeting so those that are joining by Skype can actually hear the full conversation

21 Oct	Source a conference call box for next meeting	RH
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Next Meeting

Currently Saturday 4 November but to be rearranged for a weekday evening via Skype.

Action Tracker

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