

## Minutes of Meetings of BGA Competitions and Awards Committee

21 Mar 2018 & 24 April by telephone conference

**Meeting 21 Mar** present: Liz Sparrow, Matt Page, Matt Davis, Iain Baker, Russell Cheetham, Alan Langlands

### 1 Directors' Seminar and Organisers' Guide

- Agreed instead of Conference to do an expanded Organisers' Briefing Notes for publication along with the Organisers' Guide end April focussing on:
  - Rule changes
  - Daventry Box
  - Nuclear sites
  - Comp airspace files
  - RAC centenary
  - FAI licence validation
  - 8.33 radio
  - Directors' reports
  - New Showtask
  - Forum seed topics
- We noted that several directors had written after the conference was cancelled to say they were intending to come but just hadn't told us in spite of being chased for numbers – too late! We agreed to take feedback from organisers as to when best to schedule the next session
- Competition improvement opportunity to discuss with organisers at next seminar – how about having a Regional competition as a regional thing with clubs jointly running and sharing revenues and costs?
- There's been a long thread on Gliderpilot.net about comp improvement – anything useful / new being said in it? If yes, add to Seminar agenda or Comp Forum topics.

21 Mar	Review feedback as to when to schedule the 2018/19 Seminar	ES	24 Apr
21 Mar	Regional regionals - with clubs jointly running and sharing revenues and costs – add to agenda at next Seminar	ES	30 Oct
21 Mar	Review thread on comp improvement for new / useful ideas	AL	24 Apr

### 2 Comp Calendar

- Matt reported he's talking to Nympsfield plus other clubs who have not bid for 2019 Nationals.

21 Mar	Pursue 2019 Juniors host clubs	MD	24 Apr
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### 3 BGA Strategy

- We reviewed the strategy document and template circulated by George Metcalfe; we are covering the areas most directly relevant to CC.
- Additional areas to respond:
  - Performance side – liaise with Rachel re marketing/publicising performance in general and in particular increasing clubs' publicity for comps
  - Electronic conspicuity – remind Exec of our position re FLARM
  - Badge structure – we didn't push this, was there a particular driver?

21 Mar	Liaise with Rachel on use of comps for marketing	ES	24 Apr
21 Mar	Write up current initiatives for Exec	IB/ES	15 Apr
21 Mar	Submit revised return to the Exec and speak to George re other items	ES	15 Apr

**Meeting 24 April** present: Liz Sparrow, Iain Baker, Matt Page, Matt Davis, Alan Langlands, Rich Hood.

### 1 Comp Calendar

- MattD had previously circulated the bid he's received for the 2019 Juniors from Nympsfield; he advised an intention to bid from Keevil – they have until end April to submit a bid. Matt noted he's been in discussion with Nympsfield about costs, budget approach etc and is confident of a successful outcome – CC agreed they are content with Nympsfield bid; Matt's decision as to whether the Keevil one, if received, is better!

24 Apr	Advise outcome of Juniors 2019 bidding	MD	1 May
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### 2 Interclub League update

- Last update we have from Andrew was awaiting date and location for final and whether we had a replacement volunteer for ICL lead. No recent update, or changes to Facebook or BGA site.
- CC agreed this can't be left any longer – action now by other CC members is needed.

24 Apr	Check with Henry and Chris as to whether they will take this on	ES/IB	
24 Apr	Speak to Western and Midland league organisers for latest known position	AL	

### 3 Competition Organisers' Seminar

- We agreed we'd schedule the 2018/19 Seminar alongside the Management Conference in November; this means we'll need to be quick off the mark collating reports (no bad thing!)
- We suggested a few final amendments to OBNs particularly the early Seminar & need to get Directors' reports in ASAP with.

24 Apr	Final changes to OBNs ready for publication	AL	30 Apr
24 Apr	Chase Directors for reports if not already received	ES	15 Sept

### 4 Strategy / Funding

- Liz noted that we'd sent in our strategy update and she'd spoken to both George Metcalfe and Andy Perkins to update them on some of the detail.
- Discussion around British Team funding concluded that we should at this point advise the Exec of the problem – viz insufficient funds flow which we characterised as serious but not a cause of immediate panic – and that next step is to create a costed business plan showing funding gap.
- Noted that activity is under way – particularly sponsorship – to close gap, but that this may take some time to bear fruit.
- We agreed a subgroup to pick this up for delivery early in the next CC season – target November meeting. Subgroup to consist of Rich, Iain, and – in his absence we volunteered - Jon.
- Liz noted that the stats work Rich did in previous years needs to be updated and possibly added to if not comprehensive

24 Apr	Produce business plan showing funding gap and current activity to close	RH/IB/JG	?? Nov
24 Apr	Draft note to Exec advising position for CC consideration	ES	30 May
24 Apr	Refresh, and if appropriate add to, comp participation stats	RH	30 Sept

### 5 Tech Group – way forward

- We've made some progress but it's lacking leadership - Brian remains wanting to get involved but has been unable to commit the time. Actions agreed at the BGA conference workshop have progressed, but we want to make better progress.
- Iain has made good progress talking to Naviter who are interested in adding to Soaring Spot functionality particularly around the internal organisation side of competitions – specifically entry forms but also potentially other areas.
  - Naviter are not interested in the external-facing side of things at this point
  - Naviter would want to monetise future developments but are not clear how
  - Naviter are keen to work with us on this to our mutual benefit
  - Intention to have a discussion with Pete Stratten and then Naviter to explore what this might mean
  - There are potential advantages in using a commercial system
- We noted that if clubs have to pay [/pay too much] for it, they won't use it and this will mean we don't get the benefits of profile, marketing, sponsorship etc we would expect from a single universally-used comp portal – so this is a key point.
  - Ideally cost should be covered by a sponsor and so free-to-use for the comp organisation.
- MattP noted his own conflict of interest on this – he is committed to getting the right solution for UK Glider Racing but does not have time to lead the workstream. Liz pointed out that although there was a potential conflict, this was because he had the skills, knowledge and experience to be authoritative on the matter.
- We noted that Robocontrol already has very significant functionality towards our requirements and is widely in use this year.
- Liz has one further possible candidate for chairing a Tech Group. In the absence of a chair for the tech group, Matt & Iain agreed to work together to progress things during the summer.

24 Apr	Matt and Iain to progress position	AL	30 Sept
24 Apr	Speak to Pete S and Naviter re potential partnership	ES/IB	30 May
24 Apr	Speak to remaining possible candidate for leading Tech group	ES	asap

## 5 Sponsorship Matters

- Liz reported that Ben (unable to join us on the call) would take over chairing the Sponsorship Working Group and that progress had been made with Juniors and Women's team sponsorship search.
  - Ben will give us a report of the overall position on sponsorship
  - Juniors are in receipt of sponsorship from more than one source – a draft agreement has just gone to the SWG re the offer from Sydney Charles.
  - Women are in process of seeking sponsors for the 2019 Worlds in Australia and the Women Participation project – based on a joint 'ask' of money to support the elite end ie internationals and the grass-roots end ie wider women participation in gliding and encouragement of STEM/aviation subjects in young women
- Liz reported that there had been discussion arising among 2018 team members after Naviter renewed its sponsorship of SeeYou licences and Graham had asked recipients to promote them via eg a photo of stickers on trailers. The debate had been about value versus effort for team members – one team member had been vocal that he didn't feel that a small sponsorship amount was worth the effort of doing this, and that it wasn't to his advantage to help hunt or support sponsors as he could afford a place without additional funding. CC debated this and in summary agreed the following position:

- We fund the British team in order to win medals to inspire other pilots and raise the profile of the sport – so a lack of willingness to help in the search for sponsorship, whilst extremely disappointing, shouldn't impact on selection for the team
- Funding is currently only a small percentage of the cost of international competition, so it's difficult to *enforce* team behaviour – instead, the recently instituted pilot contracts and other activity are all about *encouraging* a culture change within the squad; we reminded ourselves that it's only in the last couple of years that any 'whole team' activity has taken place.
- If we can get significant sponsorship to cover full costs of competing, we will be better able to mandate activity supporting sponsors; having said that, having sponsors (no matter how small) increases the chance of getting bigger sponsors
- Juniors and Women's team are generally those putting 'team effort' in to sponsorship hunts, wider sport support etc; senior team have proved more difficult to engage in these activities; however there was good representation at the BGA Conference in Feb.
- In the light of the wider discussions with Naviter as above, individual SeeYou licences are just a small part of the potential relationship

24 Apr	Ben to convene SWG and report to CC on sponsorship progress	BS	?
24 Apr	Speak to Pete S and Naviter re potential partnership	ES/IB	30 May
24 Apr	Speak to remaining possible candidate for leading Tech group	ES	asap

## 6 Actions Washup

24 Apr	Liz to circulate consolidated end-of-year actions list	ES	30 May
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## 7 Thanks

- This being the last formal Comps Committee meeting of the season, Liz thanked the committee for their hard work during the year in support of UK glider racing, and wished them all great fun and good results in actually doing some of it during the summer. Any further actions to be dealt with by email; we will reconvene in the autumn.