

## Notes from the Comps Committee meeting 15 December 2018

Present: Liz Sparrow – ES, Graham Garnett – GG, Alan Langlands – AL, Matt Page – MP, Russell Cheetham, Justin Craig

On Skype: Paul Crabb – PC, Brian Spreckley – BSp, Iain Baker - IB

Apologies: Benedict Smith – BSm, Richard Hood RH, Matt Davis MD

### 1. Meeting Admin

ES thanked Lasham for hosting. No further comments being received, all previous minutes are now final for issue **action ES** to send to Pete Stratten

### 2. Awards Nominations

- **Action JC** who is liaising with Debbie re notifying those who we already know have won awards so they can be notified asap and invited to the BGA Dinner
- Confirmed Russell as fastest 1000km, Jones & Coppin as highest international result
- Awaiting notification of JCG recommendation for Phil Lever Trophy – Graham/Liz nominated Simon Brown who has impressed with a mature approach and getting involved with wider Brit team activity; Brian concurred from the coaching perspective.
- John Hands trophy – nominations received for
  - Mike Whyment Deeside
  - Andy Melville, Derby & Lancs and then Wolds (deceased since nomination)
  - Sid Gilmore, The Gliding Centre
  - Bob Pursey, Cambridge
  - Brian Birlison & Matt Page, Cotswold
    - After much debate since all were considered worthy winners, agreed to award to Andy Melville and **action JC** to speak to Steve Wilkinson and ask who to invite to the BGA dinner.
- **Post meeting note** – discussions earlier in the year were on how best to recognise the outstanding contributions of John Bridge for the National Ladder and Ian Strachan for the TP list **action ES** to speak to Strats re other BGA awards options.
- **Action ES** to speak to Chris Fox to add a note that flights must be posted by midnight on 2 Jan for awards recognition.

### 3. IGC Proposals



BGA proposal 2019  
draft.docx

- See draft proposals here  and **action BSp** to reflect the following:
- **FLARM/tracking proposal:**
- it is difficult to write a sensible proposal – but unless we try, we simply don't address the recognised problems
- it would not be hard to cheat – tech is easily available

- it would be difficult to police but not impossible – penalties would need to be stiff enough to discourage any behaviour that looks as if it is a result of prohibited info received in cockpit
- significant concern about head-down time using mobile phones etc impacting on safety
- external data can become a competitive issue as well as a safety issue depending on team facilities – not a level playing field
- after much discussion we agreed to offer a choice of wording
  - receipt of tracking data into cockpit via any medium
  - total ban on mobile info or any external aid via any medium into cockpit
- **post meeting discussion** – noted that selecting no-track mode makes glider invisible to other air users and this is not good practice and counterproductive to wider attempts to share airspace. Competition mode which leaves glider visible to all ‘outside’ users should be used.
- **Earlybird proposal** - all prefer the event marker solution, so this is ok but to be conditional on the event marker proposal from another nation not being passed.
- Brian advised he hopes to have the other IGC proposals for the January meeting.

#### 4. British team activity and funding

- Graham advised that 2019 teams were largely confirmed – Standard and 15m awaiting final decisions.
- **Budget and funding**
- Budget currently funds British team – circa £10-12K per comp and the Junior Nationals single-seat entries - £7K. Southern hemisphere comps carry an additional £12K shipping cost. Juniors 2-seat coaching comes out of the instructing budget.
  - Comp costs include a Media Manager (additional for last 2 years) but do not include additional ground team member(s) to manage tracking comms to competitors which under current IGC rules may be considered a requirement (see our proposal in item 3.)
- Current funding costs are running £5-10K above receipts. With present levels of budgeted spend and receipts, funds run out in 2023.
- Work is in progress to try to increase receipts via sponsorship and increasing comp participation but this has yet to come through into cash.
- **In principle CC want to continue to fund team places at the existing levels or better** – but we recognise that, in the absence of sponsorship money, if the Exec are not prepared to increase funding we will need to either reduce funding to competitors or cease supporting some competitions.
- If there were no additional funding, we might:
  - Stop funding Europeans other than paying the entry fee – note that Europeans is seen as a key route into internationals by up-and-coming pilots
  - Stop funding Europeans other than as a development opportunity – ie one or two shots only, not repeated attendance
  - Stop funding the less well represented classes at Europeans and Worlds
  - Reduce funding for Junior Nationals – see below for debate
  - Stop funding Media Managers – and see below for debate re sponsorship

- Matt advised that the Juniors group was debating whether to continue funding Juniors regardless, or whether to charge an entry fee which could be applied for through the Hardship fund. CC perspectives were:
  - Free entry has made the Junior Nationals successful and we don't want to risk this as it's key to encouraging more gliding, however charging for entry might make people value that entry more.
  - CC are in favour of making Juniors 'earn' their funding by engaging in organising activity – currently it's mostly former Juniors still running everything with current Juniors not getting involved. CC support what gets more people helping.
- There was a long and wide-ranging discussion with the following points agreed
  - Rich has an outstanding action to revisit comp participation stats. Meanwhile comp entry levels– entries, people entering, comp days flown - to be refreshed **action RC**
  - Team members and Juniors funding recipients should in principle 'earn' their funding – not in cash terms, but in terms of promoting the sport and encouraging other pilots to do more. Noted that all are busy and a framework to allow contribution is needed, although difficult to manage on a voluntary basis.
  - Should Media Manager funding continue to come out of this budget? It is to drive social media stats etc to increase profile and support the acquisition of sponsorship funds so **action ES/IB/BSm** to speak to Strategic Sponsorship Group about this and consider when sponsorship funding should be reflected in team budget
  - Revise budget for training to reflect actual training spend in recent years rather than potential spend **action GG/RH**
  - Liaise with / reboot Media Group to refresh stats on reach achieved using Media Managers **action GG/ES**
  - **Action ES** to report back to the Exec on this basis.

## 5. Rulebook changes

- CC were happy with the Rules Subgroup's proposals for change to
  - PSC
  - Daily Briefing including new minimum requirement for airspace briefing (note typo)
  - Time to first launch
- On 5.12 Communications - CC confirmed they had agreed to ban data into the cockpit but not agreed to ban team flying / comms between pilots
  - **action ??** to consult on team flying during 2019
  - Remove 'or between'
  - Pete Stratten had circulated an Airprox finding that glider pilots may be discouraged from talking on the radio – CC do not agree that this is the case, the advice is clear to pilots and organisers that they should talk in appropriate circumstances and this is strengthened by the requirement for frequencies on the task sheet. Nevertheless, we agreed to remove the word 'Exceptionally' from the rulebook. Guidance will be reiterated in the Organisers' Briefing Notes.
- Penalties – once data is banned CC considered 100pt penalty insufficient and recommended 250pts then disqualification - tbc

- **Action Rules subgroup** to finalise wording accordingly.
- 6. Airspace matters - S&G article - CC focus/ airspace committee rep and Overseas entries into Nationals**
- Not covered due to time restrictions **Action ES** to cover by email / agenda with Nationals review
- 7. AOB**
- Brian asked what the 'Overseas Nationals' planned to run alongside the Issoudun comp should be called – it will run to French rulebook with AAT and DHTs available so it's not a UK Nationals as previously. CC agreed to call in a Joint Championship.
  - Liz advised that Susan had received a letter for S&G publication about ICL rules and had passed this to ICL coordinator Chris Luton for reply; CC agreed with process and that they wanted oversight before publication.
  - Liz ended by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a fun and successful Soaring Year.