

## Notes from the Comps Committee meeting 10 April 2019 by GotoMeeting

Present: RC – Russell Cheetham; ES – Liz Sparrow; AL – Alan Langlands; IB- Iain Baker; MP- Matt Page; PC – Paul Crabb. Apologies: BS – Benedict Smith, GG- Graham Garnett.

### 1 Meeting Admin

Minutes from previous meeting approved. Thanks to Paul for setting up the GotoMeeting.

### 2 Handicap setting/change process

- RC had asked ES to hold writing to Matt Cook as per action from last meeting pending a further discussion on this as on reflection he wanted us to review the decision regarding the Ventus 3 handicap
- Points made in discussion:
  - The root cause of the issue is the lack of objective data and thus handicaps are necessarily set on a subjective basis – ‘best endeavours’
  - There was no new data available to support or reject the changes
  - MP/BS have proposed analysis of mass trace data to see if this can help produce data – although RC is sceptical as to whether this will provide a solution
  - RC noted that he had personally taken into account weaker conditions and the heavier wing-loading of unballasted V3 and JS3 in making his own recommendation last time, but that this approach was not, in retrospect, consistent with normal process where we do not favour/disfavour gliders based on wing-loading. ie turbo and pure glider have same handicap based on MC theory and set intermediate climb rates and wing loadings rather than extremes.
  - Comps Committee agreed that the process for setting handicaps is not adequately defined and understood by others on the CC; it’s also not transparent to the wider sport
  - To remedy this, RC proposed a Handicap panel of 3 CC members – not necessarily same as Rules sub-group – who will clarify the handicap process
    - the methodology by which handicaps are set
    - the timing & frequency by which requests for change will be considered
- **Action AL** will convene the Rules subgroup to establish the panel and process — this will be early in the 2019/20 CC meetings series
- No further changes to the 2019 handicaps – **action ES** to write to MC accordingly **post meeting note:** done.

### 3 Transforming UK Competitions and UK glider racing platform - what next

- ES noted that the wider project viz transforming UK competitions was making good progress via director communications etc but that there remained an issue with the UK glider racing platform – how to make progress? AL noted that he’d lost visibility of this. ES/IB had discussed it and suggested using the run up to the WWGC2021 as a ‘longitudinal’ pilot over the next 3 years

- **Action ES** as director of these comps to maintain a log of what we do /what's needed with a particular focus on the outward-facing and relationship-building side as that's the side we are least experienced with. The HusBos team are up for this.
- Meanwhile **action MP and BS** who have outstanding actions to produce Director and Scorer stories for the spec
- Funding for the UKGRP doesn't exist and there isn't a volunteer team sat waiting to produce this, but we reminded ourselves that it's a virtuous circle: visibility makes funding more likely and vice versa so we aim to pilot something to show people the art of the possible and the results arising. ES noted a link to the Strategic Sponsorship Working Group.

#### 4 British Team and Development business case - update



British Gliding Team  
- future funding BC v1

- RH had circulated the draft document as here:
- Bill Brittain from the Exec has circulated a draft strategy model which we can develop for this
  - ES noted the focus is currently rather wider than just British team and that the discussion in the Exec meeting at the conference was that it should be focussed on British team, not a review of all CC operations **action ES** to develop next iteration with Bill and hand over to RH
- RH aims to develop this into a complete document asap with the aim of bringing it to the CC then Exec early in the 19/20 season **action RH**

#### 5 Ways of working for 2019/20

- ES had circulated a discussion document containing a draft 'JD' along with the TOR and timetable of CC operations through the year. Discussion broadly agreed with the content and suggested some changes to simplify & remove some of the 'discussion-starter' items
  - **Action ES** to revise and add the CC's elements of BGA strategy into the pack.
- Nobody currently on the committee wants to take over long-term as Chairman but AL is prepared to be the Exec's point of contact and to manage the CC's meetings and activity for the 2019/20 season; AL noted that he would agenda each subgroup and other key items for each meeting; **action ES/AL** to arrange a handover
- CC agreed now was the time to recruit new members to start in the autumn
  - Agreed that a minutes secretary would be a useful addition
  - **Action ES** to find the previous CC recruitment ad
  - **Action all** to consider key areas of interest

#### 6 NOTAM trial - progress update and agree review process

- We will be trialling the issue of daily task NOTAMs at the Club Class; the process is agreed with CAA and MP is working on making it simple to produce the daily NOTAMs.
- MP noted that he has someone as Airspace Officer who has not done the job before so this will be a good trial of the process.

- MP noted that the key point for directors is to NOTAM not what the task is, but where the gliders will be – might be the task, but with AATs will need to pick representative points.
- CC reinforced that this is not a ‘done deal’ – it is a trial and we will only implement in subsequent comps IF it is successful and we are sure that subsequent comp directors will be able to do it successfully - it will probably be fine, but it's a fairly major change at fairly short notice with an output very much in the public domain. First two comps after Club Class are Bidford, 2-week gap, and Shenington, 3wks.
- CC will review the process after Club Class and make a go/no-go decision. Process for this:
  - MP will circulate process and success criteria by mid-May
  - MP to ensure Bidford’s Roger Wilson and Shenington’s John Whiting are kept abreast of progress during trial
  - MP to write up trial ASAP after Club Class
  - CC will review outcome w/c 8 Jun **action AL** to set meeting date
  - Communicate ‘go’ or ‘no-go’ to all directors and CAA
  - Set up appropriate training if implementing the new process
  - CC will review implementation after Bidford and again after Shenington to identify any further training needs or issues to be addressed

## 7 Ratings list - via IGC or not?

- Agreed to retain a separate UK ratings list and post Nationals only ie no change to existing process **action ES** to contact IGC accordingly **post meeting note:** done.
- RC noted that Directors are still not presenting the data correctly and this is what takes the time in creating the ratings list – and would give problems in trying to do it via IGC **action ES?** In a farewell note to directors to re-emphasise requirement

## 8 Outstanding actions - reminder and final deadline

- ES had circulated the outstanding actions, **action all** to clear asap.
- ES will get minutes out ASAP with an aim to review and issue to Exec by Easter

## 9 AOB

- Organisers’ Guide – AL was still waiting for the Scorers’ Guide - agreed to reference the guide and **action AL** to publish; **action BS** to get Scorers’ Guide out at the double
- MP asked how previous Club Class had handled handicapping and weighing; ES said she thought it would be appropriate to check all handicap calculations as some people had got theirs wrong last time; probably want to be able to check-weigh gliders but this doesn’t have to be done pre-Day 1 – suggested check with Bill Craig for his strategy from 2018.
- AL and all thanked Liz for her time as Chair and wished her well for her other initiatives.

## 10 Next CC meeting – will be first of 2019/20 season, tbc