

Minutes of a Meeting of the BGA Competitions and Awards Committee

Date: 18th October 2022

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Alan Langlands - AL, Ben Hughes - BH, Brian Spreckley - BS, Chris Luton - CL, Fran Roberts – FR, Graham Garnett - GG, Jim White - JW, Max Lazenby - ML, Paul Crabb - PC, Russell Cheetham - RC

Update on Recent Team Vote

AL updated the committee on the conduct of the WGC23 Team Vote which had recently taken place over a two-week period from 10th to 24th September using the Canadian Votingplace.net website. More pilots than expected had failed to vote; 5 in 15m Class, 3 in Standard Class and 2 in Club Class. Investigation showed that this was mainly due to voters forgetting or choosing not to vote. Only two had failed to receive invitations to vote from the website. One of these was due to a faulty email address having been provided by the voter (which was not discovered by the checking mechanism prior to the vote), the other was due to the voter's email provider rejecting emails from the website as Spam. Voters had been told that the vote was happening and had been invited to make contact if they did not receive an invitation email. No such contacts had been received. The vote result that has been published stands. Modifications to the voting process and checking mechanisms will be implemented to ensure that the vote for WGC24 does not suffer from similar issues.

Team Manager Post Recruitment AL

AL reported that the BGA News item advertising the Team Manager position would be re-run.

There has been 1 reply so far and this person has spoken to GG and they are interested. GG said that the really important part of the job is knowing the people you are dealing with, and GG is happy to shadow whoever is selected for a year or so.

FR suggested we advertise the role on social media. BS suggested put it on gliderpilot.net

It was also suggested that we could specifically target individuals who have had experience as Team Captains in the past years as this approach is often better at eliciting volunteers.

ACTION – FR to advertise the post on social media and to target ex team captains to try and find more candidates.

Nationals Pricing

RC explained that he needs to finalise the bid documents for 2024, and part of this is a need to agree on the price for this year. The current fee structure is as follows::

1. £20 priority entry fee paid by the pilot through the BGA web site
2. £275 maximum entry fee to be charged to the pilot by the organising club
3. £20 rating fee paid out of the £275 by the organising club to the BGA

It was agreed that these sums should be increased broadly in line with inflation. The following fee structure was agreed for 2023:

4. £20 pilot priority entry fee paid through the BGA web site
5. £300 maximum entry fee to be charged to the pilot by the organising club
6. £25 rating fee paid out of the £300 by the organising club to the BGA

Pilots will thus see an increase of approx. 8.5% and clubs will receive approx. 8% additional income per entry.

Awards. Invite Nominations

The following awards are decided by the committee each year and require nominations for this year:

Phil Lever	Most promising Junior pilot.
John Hands	For outstanding support for the organising or running of competitions.

Last year, it was agreed that nominations for these awards should be canvassed in advance. It was agreed that an invite for nominations for the Phil Hands should to be sent to all club secretaries by email. Historically, the committee contacts the Junior committee for their recommendation for the Phil Lever award.

ACTION – ML to email Pete Stratten and Matt Davis regarding the awards nominations.

Rules Review. Outline way forward

The committee have received a number of rule changes for reviews for this winter season. AL gave a brief outline of some of them:-

- ATZ prohibited airspace
- Consider pilot event starts
- Direct landing option
- Flight Level Infringements with high cloud bases
- Large AAT tasks taking a while to process in see you
- A few smaller issues

It was agreed that these issues will be looked at initially by the Rules Sub-Committee, who will put forward recommendations to the full committee, with the ATZ rule in particular to be discussed by the whole committee.

ACTION – AL to arrange the necessary meetings of the Rules Sub-Committee.

IGC Delegate Succession

BS explained that the committee have a succession plan for the IGC delegate. RC has been the reserve delegate for some time and at some point in the near future, BS would like to stand down and become the reserve delegate, with RC as the delegate. RC and BS will discuss between themselves out of meetings to find a suitable timescale, but require agreement from the committee for RC to be the next IGC delegate. It was agreed by the committee that RC is approved as the next IGC delegate, and RC and BS will agree between them of the timing for the change.

BS updated the committee on other IGC news. There is likely to be an appeal to wipe the result of latest 13.5m international competition. There is also going to be a recommendation that gliders should be fitted with strobe lights, and a proposal will be coming to make them compulsory within 2 years. It was discussed that the committee should be recommending strobe lights for UK competitions.

WGC23 Team Funding

GG went through the funding for the 2023 WGC. Historically, when a 7th pilot has attended a competition, the funding that was allocated for 6 pilots has been split between the 7 pilots. GG is

being asked what our funding is going to be and if the spreadsheet that he has is accurate. AL and RC confirmed that the spreadsheet that GG is using is the latest, with a total funding of £23,500 for the 2023 WGC.

GG stated that some pilots may want to hire aircraft instead of ship aircraft to Australia and has asked if it would be possible to reduce the shipping cap and increase that pilots allowance to hire a glider in Australia. It was pointed out that the shipping container can only fit 6 aircraft so there will be a need for at least 1 hire.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting will be a physical meeting on the 5th of November.

AOB

JW brought up that on the competitions section of the BGA website, the Organisers guide is missing showing as page not found, and the guidance on defensive task setting is also missing.

It was requested that we revert to using groups.io for our email threads for ease of use.

The Committee is saddened to hear of the tragic loss of Oliver Summerell in a gliding accident during September. Oliver was an outstanding Junior pilot and had recently won a top-six place in the Club Class vote for the WGC23 as well as setting a new 500km out and return speed record in August.

With no other business, the meeting was concluded.