

## **BGA Comps Committee Zoom Meeting, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2022**

**Purpose: To discuss a proposal from Fran Roberts re team selection for future WWGC events including WWGC 2023 (proposal appended on pages 2 & 3)**

### **Present:**

Alan Langlands, Max Lazenby, Russell Cheetham, Brian Spreckley, Fran Roberts, Graham Garnett.

### **Summary of discussion:**

The principle that using the WWGC team as a development opportunity was a change in previous CC team selection objective to send the strongest team capable of winning medals.

There was complete agreement that whatever the number in a team they were the British team and any BGA funding should be spread equally.

There was concern that if the team was ultimately 9 pilots the funding would be significantly diluted to prevent one of the medal possibilities from participating.

The outcome of the discussion was.

- To accept that the goal should still be to send a strong team, but that additional places should be made available to pilots who meet the selection criteria for development purposes.
- To accept selection of up to 6 pilots for the 2023 WWGC with no stipulation as to number per class.
- Any funding to be spread equally amongst the selected pilots.
- Each pilot must have competition experience in the class they are selected. This should be at least one national or international championship in that class.
- To revisit the Women's team selection criteria for future versions of the BGA competition rules

## **Proposed changes to the number of female pilots sent to Women's World Gliding Championships going forwards.**

I would like to submit some changes to the number of women pilots sent to World Championships in the future. It is currently my understanding that 4 are sent despite there being 3 classes, and each country can send up to 3 entries per class (plus current champions).

From talking with Alan it seems the limit was set to 4 because there was only funding for 4 pilots. As the World Championship was held in the UK this year, an easier to reach and more affordable location, we expanded the team to 7 (2 places couldn't be filled in the 18-metre class).

Due to the work that I myself and a handful of others at Women Gliding have been doing over the past 3 years in the lead up to the championships, we are heavily showcasing women in gliding throughout the country and world, to bring together women from all over, show them that there is a community we are building, and that even in cases where there may only 1-2 female members at some clubs, there are more of us out there. You need to see what you can be, so you need to know that there are others like you out there.

We now have a Facebook community of 225 members and growing, our newsletter subscriber list is now 170+. We have over 50 actively paying members who subscribe to our website and online portal of learning materials.

Our squad holds 23 women and produced 7 British Team members for WWGC 2022. For WWGC 2023 it currently looks like 9 pilots fulfil the current qualification criteria.

This year women made up a whopping 37% of the Club Class Nationals entries, which has never been heard of before.

Most of our community are saying that they are inspired by how we are showcasing women within the sport, and that being a part of the squad has given them confidence to enter Nationals, which they didn't have before.

My goal is simple. We have gained huge momentum in increasing the number of women taking part in competition gliding, and after the end of the World Championships in the UK, I would like to keep up that momentum.

I would like to propose that we continue to send 9 pilots (provided they comply with the qualification criteria as per BGA Rules For Rated Competitions 2022, Version 1.3, section 6.2.6) to each Women's World Championship.

I understand that there are no more funds, and I assume that each year the funds will become more limited, and I am under no illusion that this is the case. I do fear that limiting the entrants to only 4 participants in total at Women's World Championships will act as a major barrier to what we are trying to achieve: Most women I talk to say their goal is to get a place in the World Championships and on the team, and if there are only 4 sent then that feels very limiting for them to have that opportunity.

I feel that the qualification criteria at the moment are adequate, though going forward (after Spain) I would personally prefer to remove regional competitions from the list of eligible competitions for

achieving the required number of BGA ranking points – simply because unlike in Nationals, standards in Regionals vary significantly, and the pundit scoring system doesn't address this issue sufficiently.

I feel that the funding should not be changed, and funding 4 pilots if possible is adequate.

I feel that allowing up to 9 WWGC pilots – who comply with the relevant qualification criteria – (5 non-funded pilots, who would need to raise their own funds) will inspire more women to try and reach the standard to qualify for the team, keeping the momentum, and ultimately leading to more women within our sport.

**NB:** The Women's World Championships in my opinion is there to help inspire Women to reach a necessary standard to participate at a World Championship event. It's an event to create a community of Women who enjoy XC gliding as a sport so they can meet like-minded individuals and participate within that community. As I have mentioned Women thrive by being in community and being able to share their experiences with other Women. The Women's Worlds really does provide that driving force, and community.