

Minutes of a Meeting of the BGA Competitions and Awards Committee

Date: 14th February 2024

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Chris Luton – CL, Jim White (Chair) – JW, Russell Cheetham – RC, Paul Crabb – PC, Brian Spreckley - BS, Werner Stroud – WS, Max Lazenby - ML

Apologies Ben Hughes, Fran Roberts

Declaration of Interest

As RC has been selected for the WGC Uvalde JW asked that he excuse himself from discussion on the 2024 budget.

Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the meeting on the 24th of January 2024 were approved by the committee.

IGC Plenary Agenda and Voting

BS led a discussion on the topics before the IGC Plenary in Toulouse on 2nd March. JW asked the committee to vote on each topic:

6.1.1 Year 2 proposal to mandate strobes submitted by IGC Bureau

It is proposed to mandate strobe lights. Unanimously Supported by CC

6.1.2 Year 1 proposal to adopt new PEV start procedure (Poland)

This was supported in principal by the CC however there are several concerns that need to be addressed:

- How it will be scored
- Penalties when second logger is used as evidence
- Energy control procedures when a start line is used

It was agreed that if BS cannot satisfactorily resolve these concerns we should vote against

6.1.3 Year 2 proposal to modify PEV penalties (IGC)

It is proposed to change penalties to graduated form. Supported by CC

6.2.1 Use of GNSS Logger ID from Evidence (Germany)

Proposal to use first line of evidence instead of file name to identify logger. Supported by CC

6.2.2 Year 1 proposal to change compression ratio for club class handicaps (Denmark)

The way the handicaps are current compressed favours high handicap gliders. RC explained that this issue was being discussed by the handicap committee which generally agrees. It is expected that an alternate proposal will come forward from them. It was agreed that BS should use his discretion as the proposal may change before our next meeting.

6.2.3 Change of earth model to WGS84 for scoring (IGC)

As we use this in the UK this was supported by CC

6.3.1 Change to way sanction fees are charged (IGC)

Supported by CC

6.3.2 Change to the way competitions are managed by the IGC (IGC)

Supported by CC

6.3.3 Accreditation of Directors (IGC)

The CC discussed a proposal to require directors to be accredited by the IGC. The CC supported this, but the proposal has been removed from the agenda since.

6.3.6/7/8 Changes to procedures for competitions outside of Europe (IGC)

These changes affect the rota for competitions outside of Europe and preference given to those bids. 6.3.6 proposed a 4 year cycle for WGCs and a five year cycle for Juniors and Womens' Worlds. 6.3.7 and 6.3.8 propose to drop the rota for Juniors and Womens'.

The CC support the latter two proposals because of the high cost of sending teams to competitions in the S Hemisphere. JW stated that there was unlikely to be funding for these because of budget constraints. BS stated that it was likely that these proposals would be decided before 6.3.6. If they were supported, 6.3.6 would be irrelevant. If 6.3.6 comes up first BS will vote against on behalf of the UK.

6.3.9 Authorisation to change alternate rules (USA)

Supported by CC subject to ratification after the event

7.1.1 Venue for JWGC in 2026

Bids received from Australia, Germany, and Slovakia. Agreed that we would vote against Australia and give BS authority to use his discretion on the others.

7.1.2 Venue for EGC 2026

Bid from Poland only – no vote required

7.1.3 Venue for WGC 2027

Bids received from France and Italy

CC has no preference

7.1.4 Venue for WWGC 2027

Bids received from Germany and Slovenia. It was agreed to support Germany if Slovakia is selected under 7.1.1 and Slovenia if Germany is selected under 7.1.1

Team Budget

JW reported that he had had conversations with the BGA Treasurer and Andy Perkins (AP) about the budget. It was revealed that our reserves are higher than we thought. The constraints on our budget were discussed and a request for additional support was put forward. AP explained that the BGA Exec was unlikely to support an increase in the per capita levy as the clubs do not see any value in supporting the team through the levy. Whilst some team members make an effort in this, it is far from universal. JW asked WS to review the budget for 2024 and stated that the team manager should not be expected to dig into his own pocket in order to attend the WGC2024 competition.

WS presented the team re-budget. The 2024 budget was agreed. JW, BS, and WS will meet at the BGA conference to discuss how the team may be able to increase their value to the funding clubs with an objective of getting agreement to an increase in precept.

Organisers Guidance

CL reported that there has been progress on the OGNs and, with help from RS, they should be finished by the end of February. JW agreed to draft the OBNs for 2024.

Awards

ML informed the meeting that the Phil Lever trophy will be awarded to Oliver Ramsey

Rules Feedback

Following publication of the draft rules for 2024, we have received two responses: One thanking the CC for their work on the rules, and one pointing out that we have left the penalties for incorrect start calls in! JW will amend the final rules accordingly.

With no other business, the meeting was concluded.