

Minutes of a Meeting of the BGA Competitions and Awards Committee

Date: 27th February 2025

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting

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

Apologies: Matt Davis

Declaration of Interest

CL declared an interest in the topic on handicaps as he is a part owner of an Arcus

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th December were approved by the committee.

IGC Plenary Proposals

There are a number of proposals to be decided at the IGC Plenary to be held on 7th and 8th March in Celje, Slovenia. As IGC representative BS presented each for consideration and direction. The decisions, either support, oppose, or BS to use his discretion following plenary discussion, were as follows:

6.1 Year-2 Proposals

6.1.1 Change the Earth Model used in Scoring (IGC)	Support
6.1.2 GNSS Flight Recorder ID check (DEU)	Support

6.2 Year-1 Proposals

6.2.1 Mixed crew and rotation of crew in 20m two-seat class (HUN)	Oppose
6.2.2 Change of 25th birthday date (IGC)	Support
6.2.3 Requirement proximity awareness transceivers in tow planes (IGC)	BS discretion
6.2.4 Mandatory computer-based exam for Team Captain and Pilot (HUN)	Oppose
6.2.5 Allowing 2 entries with mixed crew at WGC in 20m Two-Seat class (HUN)	Oppose
6.2.6 Pilot's responsibility to ensure compliance with MTOM (HUN)	Not supported
6.2.7 External Antenna Requirement (IGC)	BS discretion
6.2.8 Maximum AAT time (HUN)	Oppose
6.2.9 Removal of Energy Control at the Start. <i>Supported with reservations</i>	BS Discretion
6.2.10 Disallowing use of stealth mode before start (HUN)	Oppose
6.2.11 Turn point geometry (R500m + 90Deg, 20km) for Racing Task (FRA, DEU)	Support
6.2.12 Virtual outlanding using event marker (HUN)	BS discretion
6.2.13 Contest sunset (USA)	BS Discretion
6.2.14 Adjustment of calculation of Cumulative and Final Scores (HUN)	Oppose
6.2.15 Club Class - No impact of winglets on handicap (FRA)	Oppose
6.2.16 20m Two-Seat class ranking for Cat 1 events (FRA)	BS discretion
6.2.17 Consistency of rounding of results in IGC Ranking List (IGC)	Support
6.2.18 Method of breaking ties in IGC Ranking List (IGC)	BS discretion

6.3 Other Proposals

6.3.1 Increase of max number of entries at WGC 2025, Tabor, (CZE)	Oppose
6.3.2 Change of Bid Schedule (IGC)	Support

7.1 Presentation of bids for future Championships.

7.1.1 24th FAI World Gliding Championship 2028 (18m, 20m and Open)	Coulommiers France
7.1.2 25th FAI EGC 2027 (18m, 20m and Open)	Vinon France
7.1.3 8th FAI Junior European Gliding Championship 2027 (Club, Std.)	Szatymaz Hungary

Feedback on proposed rules

JW reported that there had been feedback on the draft rules published 1st February on two topics:

- 1) Change to the responsibilities of the PSC. One director thought that the requirement to consult the PSC on tasking and finishing procedures was onerous for the organisation. JW had a long discussion with the director and gave advice on how this might be achieved. He was persuaded to implement the rule as written.
- 2) Change of handicap for the Arcus. One pilot / owner was quite aggrieved by this change and has received support from a few other owners and pilots. The correspondent made the following inputs:
 - a. That the data used to determine the handicap was invalid
 - b. That the spread of handicap between the Arcus and the Duo was disproportionate
 - c. That the handicap didn't take account of the differences in MAUW
 - d. That peer group gliders had not also been increased
 - e. That the Arcus should be compared to the LS8 not the ASG29
 - f. That the new handicap did not correlate to the IGC handicap list
 - g. That the German handicap list was irrelevant, and
 - h. That he would be unable to compete at this handicap with a World Champion pilot flying a Ventus 2a.

The correspondent presented no measured data to support his complaint.

RC presented the process by which handicaps are determined, the measured evidence that we have, and the reasoning behind the change. Each of the above inputs were considered by the meeting and the following was decided:

- 1) That the new handicap of 109 for the Arcus should stand
- 2) That the handicaps of the ASG32 and HPH304TS would also be increased to 109
- 3) That JW and the handicap group members would write an explanatory document on the process by which handicaps are determined and the evidence that resulted in this change. This to be published at the same time as the rules.
- 4) That this decision, and the explanatory document, be sent to the BGA Exec for their prior approval.

The draft rules were approved by the meeting to go final and be published.

European 20M 2025 entries

WS reported that the organisation of the competition had offered a second place to each country. Using rule 6.2.4.1 WS has offered the second place to Pete Harvey who has accepted. WS asked if

the CC would cover the entry cost. WS also told the meeting that following discussions with the BGA treasurer and accountant there was now more money available in the budget. The meeting decided to pay the second entry fee (there is no provision for pilot expenses at EGCs) subject to JW having sight of the revised budget first. WS will forward the documents to JW after the meeting.

Any other business

- It was intended that Tim Jenkinson would direct the 2025 Club Class Nationals to be held at Dunstable. The club has advised that he is no longer available and asked for approval for a change of director to Phil Warner. This has CC support.
- Following the decision by a number of pilots not to attend the 2025 20M Nationals at Husbands Bosworth, the preliminary entry is very low even before deposits are requested. This was discussed and it was confirmed that the winner would be declared National Champion even if there are only one or two entries on the day. It was also decided to consider the future viability of holding National Championships in this class if pilots do not support it in any significant numbers each year and any possible knock on effect for UK entry into FAI Cat 1 events. It was decided to put this topic on the agenda for consideration in the Autumn.
- A correspondent asked if we could change the criteria for the Chris Wills Trophy. ML agreed to liaise with the correspondent to establish exactly what has been suggested and, if necessary, consult the family, the Gliding Heritage Centre, and the Vintage Gliding Club at Lasham and report back by email.

With no other business, the meeting was concluded.

Note: The minutes of the IGC Plenary and all decisions can be found here:

https://www.fai.org/sites/default/files/2025_igc_plenary_-_decisions_final.pdf