

Minutes of a Meeting of the BGA Competitions and Awards Committee

Date: 6th November 2025

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Jim White (Chair) – JW, Russell Cheetham – RC, Max Lazenby – ML, Werner Stroud – WS, Paul Kaye – PK, Paul Crabb – PC, and Alistair Emson - AE

Apologies: Matt Davis, Fran Roberts, Chris Luton, Brian Spreckley

Declarations of Interest

None

New members

JW welcomed our two new members, Paul Kaye and Alistair Emson, to the committee and wished them a successful and enjoyable tenure.

Business conducted since last meeting

- The minutes from the meeting on the 11th September 2025 were approved.
- Alistair Emson has agreed to join the CC and has been appointed Team Manager.
- An application as IGC Steward on behalf of Liz Sparrow has been approved.
- An application to run Qualifying Sailplane Grand Prix by Lasham was approved and forwarded to the IGC.

Budget

WS presented the draft budget for the next 5 years. Assuming that receipts stay the same and we spend according to our existing rules the budget balances with a reserve of c. £40k at the end of 2030 despite the huge cost of sending the Juniors to Australia in 2028. There remain issues regarding missing payments and refunds which are due amounting to c. £10k. WS will pursue these with the BGA accountant. The budget will be discussed again in December.

2026 Team selection

WS reported that the teams for most classes have been selected but there remains two issues: One of those eligible for the WGC 18s has not yet decided to compete and the pilot who was offered a place at the EGC 15s has yet to decide. It was agreed that there should be a deadline for acceptance of these offers at the end of the month.

Data Transmission Rules

JW reported that the rules sub group had discussed relaxing the rules on data transmission to the cockpit. The IGC rules now allow this. There is pressure to change our rules as the march of the technology is inexorable, however the rules sub group felt strongly that it would encourage more head down behaviour by pilots and this would have a serious impact on safety, particularly in Regional competition. PC stated that internationals would become more like F1 where each team would have a tactician on the ground to analyse the data and advise pilots on their best course of action. In Nationals and Regionals, however, the pilots are unlikely to have a ground based team and will have to rely upon their own analysis, in cockpit, whilst also conducting the flight.

It was decided to leave the current rule in place for 2026 and conduct a survey of competition pilots and the Safety Committee in the 2026 season to elicit their views.

Junior Coaches and Squad

The Junior Coaches have presented the CC with draft Terms of Reference and a contract that they wish to use with squad members. The CC members present have reviewed these documents and feel that the contract is excellent as is, but that the ToRs need a little revision to make clearer the relationship between the CC and the Coaches. JW will draft a change and circulate before discussing with the head coach.

Team Selection Process

The low number of entries in 20M Nationals over the last two seasons had been discussed with the BGA Exec. One issue arising particular to the 20M class is that the voting pool for WGC is very small. In all other classes we were still able to establish a pool of at least 20 pilots but in the 20s we had only 12. It was considered that this small number makes the outcome more vulnerable to tactical voting. Two strategies for solving this were discussed: a reversion to the previous method where the voting pool was enlarged to the 20 minima by including the top performers in each of the other National classes; and, to select the pilot for the WGC on merit alone. This latter method works well for the Europeans and is completely objective. The CC sent this back to the rules sub group for consideration.

Progress on Rules

JW presented a document listing all the rules submissions that we had received from pilots and the progress made so far by the rules sub group. It was decided to address the remainder in week beginning 10/11.

Progress on Handicaps

RC presented the results so far of analysis by the Handicap Sub Group of measured data that had become available. This affects mostly the newer 18M gliders and the Duo Discus. The Handicap Sub Group will conclude this work in November.

Ratings

PC reported that the ratings for 2025 have been finished and submitted both to the IGC and the BGA. After they have been published in S&G they will be placed on the web site.

Awards

ML reported that he will consult the Junior section regarding the Phil Lever trophy and asked all to consider candidates for the John Hands trophy.

Application for Qualifying Sailplane Grand Prix

JW reported that Lasham had asked the CC to approve their application to run a QSGP in 2026. JW had conducted a very friendly and positive discussion with Piers Rex-Murray about the competition and expressed our full support for the application. This had been forwarded to the IGC and would be discussed this week. JW will seek feedback from Brian Spreckley.

CC Tasks 2025

JW presented a tasks spreadsheet with timeframes for the work that the CC needs to deliver in the 2025/26 round of meetings. Good progress was being made and it was decided to hold a further meeting in December to take the remaining issues forward.

With no other business, the meeting was concluded.