

The authors would again like to thank the referees and editor for their careful review of this paper. Requested technical corrections raised during the review process have been made.

Referee #1:

One additional point should be addressed: the current analysis covers 1993 to 2017, whose endpoint is almost a decade behind the present. We suggest the authors extend the analysis to 2025. Such an extension would enable a more comprehensive assessment of how well the proposed forecasting system performs.

We acknowledge that our analysis period is relatively old and agree that a more recent period would be preferable. Unfortunately, we are not able to extend the hindcasting period within this work because the 1993-2017 period is the current international standard for seasonal climate forecast verification, agreed within the Copernicus Climate Change Service: “*For products issued from November 2018, the reference (hindcast) period for all providers is 1993-2016*”.¹ This reference period has been adopted by all participating forecasting models, which includes the Met Office’s GloSea6 used in this work. When the standard hindcasting period changes in the future, the Met Office will produce new GloSea hindcasts and it will be possible for us to reassess our forecasting scheme; this is not expected imminently.

A minor change has been made to the manuscript to note that this period is an international standard, it is not a choice made by the authors (lines 210-212).

¹ Note that January 1993 is not included in the Met Office GloSea hindcasts, with January 2017 produced instead, as described in the main text of the paper.
https://climate.copernicus.eu/charts/packages/c3s_seasonal/products/c3s_seasonal_spatial_egrr_rain_3m?area=area08&base_time=202609010000&type=tsum&valid_time=202610010000