

British Parachute Association

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COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2000 at 1830
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth Tim Andrewes Paul Applegate Chris Clements	-	Competitions Chairman
In attendance:	John Hitchen Martin Shuttleworth Glen Turnbull	- - -	NCSO National Administrator Development Officer
Observers:	Nicky Johnston Noel Purcell		
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters Dona Crum Mick Danby Ian Marshall	-	Judges Liaison

ITEM MINUTE

- 1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2000**
Tim Andrewes proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2000 be approved as a true record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

2 **Matters arising**

Page 1, item 2 – Bob Card's article for Skydive magazine The Chairman reported that there had been a delay in Bob Card writing this article, which he still hoped to prepare in due course.

No further action

Page 1, item 2 – Review of the Combined Nationals The Chairman said that there was no need to pursue a written report on the Combined Nationals 2000 as the format of the Nationals in 2001 had been decided at the last meeting.

No further action

Page 2, item 2 – Letter from Jeff Chandler A further letter had been received dated 9 November from Jeff Chandler concerning his entry to the style competition at the Combined Nationals 2000, from which he had withdrawn because he had been suffering from a cold. Jeff Chandler's entry had been scored unofficially but this could not stand as an official score for selection for the World Air Games in 2001 as he was requesting. The unofficial nature of the score had been made clear at the time. The Chairman said he would speak to Jeff Chandler to advise him that the matter was now closed and any appeal had to be to the Council.

Action: Chairman

Page 2, item 2 - Classics Overall Champions Cup Tim Andrewes had obtained a quotation of £100 for refurbishment of this cup, but the jeweller was not keen to undertake the work because of the age of the trophy. It was agreed to hold over the item until the next meeting with a view to obtaining another quotation from a specialist refurbisher.

Action: Ongoing

Page 5, item 7 – Coaching Chris Clements said she wished it to be recorded that Mick Danby had originally been actioned to co-ordinate the coaching roadshow, and that she had been invited to become involved only at the next meeting, to which Mick Danby had tendered his apologies for absence.

The Chairman reported that plans for the coaching roadshow were proceeding well. The intention was to build up momentum over time. CF coaching by Ian Marshall was due to start at Headcorn in April. V Max planned FS coaching at Langar and another venue after the World Air Games 2001, and XL had also agreed to coach when they returned to the UK next year. Tim Andrewes would be coaching next year in the Classics. It was the aim to publish coaching dates in the diary of the February 2001 issue of Skydive Magazine.

Action: Ongoing

Page 6, item 9.2 – Wild Geese 'Five Nations' Competition 2001 Wild Geese had now set the dates as Friday 8 to Monday 10 September 2001.

Completed

Page 6 – Replies to correspondence Chris Clements said that at the last meeting she had raised the issue of members not receiving replies to their correspondence to the Competitions Committee. As it had not been minuted, she raised it again. The Chairman assured the Committee that all correspondence received had been replied to, whether by telephone, e-mail or personal visit.

3 Competition bids 2001

Nicky Johnston (British Skysports, Bridlington) and Noel Purcell (Target Skysports, Hibaldstow) were attending as observers to clarify points about bids from their centres. The Chairman reported that Dave Hickling (BPS, Langar) and Ronnie O'Brien (Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson) had both sent apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but they or their nominee were available for telephone consultation if necessary.

The observers left the meeting before comparative discussions and votes, which were held in camera.

3.1 Nationals 2001

3.1.1 Formation Skydiving Nationals 2001

Four bids had been received, from Target Skysports at Hibaldstow, British Parachute Schools at Langar, Peterborough Parachute Centre at Sibson and Wild Geese in Northern Ireland.

The Committee carefully considered each bid against the following criteria:

- 1 Value for money for competitors
- 2 Aircraft capacity
- 3 Geographical accessibility
- 4 Track record of organising similar events
- 5 Encouragement to participate (low late entry fees, etc)
- 6 The desirability of allocating different competitions to different Drop Zones.

After considerable discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to hold the FS Nationals 2001 at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow. The bid had been won by a combination of the lowest overall charges to competitors, appropriate facilities and no late entry fee. Also, Target had agreed to pay up to £1000 towards the cost of Omniskore at this meet.

Unanimous: FS Nationals 2001 at Target Skysports

The dates were set as Friday to Sunday 20-22 and 27-29 July 2001.

3.1.2 New Age Nationals 2001

Four bids had been received, from the same centres as for the FS Nationals (minute 3.1.1).

The Committee carefully considered each bid against the five criteria set out in minute 3.1.1. After considerable discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to hold the New Age Nationals at the Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson. The Committee believed that this centre had appropriate facilities and had put forward a bid with reasonable charges for the three entry fees, and a modest late entry fee.

Unanimous: New Age Nationals 2001 at Peterborough Parachute Centre

The dates were set as Friday to Sunday 17-19 (if necessary continuing to 24-26) August 2001.

3.1.3 Classics/CF Nationals 2001

Two bids had been received, from British Skysports at Bridlington and Wild Geese in Northern Ireland.

The Committee carefully considered each bid against the criteria set out in minute 3.1.1. After thorough discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to hold the Classics/CF Nationals 2001 at British Skysports, Bridlington. This centre had appropriate facilities and an entry fee of £20 for one event plus £10 for a second event (maximum total entry fee £30) was agreed with Nicky Johnston.

Unanimous: Classics/CF Nationals 2001 at British Skysports, Bridlington

The dates were set as Friday to Sunday 3-5 and 10-12 August 2001.

3.2 Regionals 2001

Three bids for the Regional FS competitions in 2001 had been received, from Target Skysports at Hibaldstow, British Parachute Schools at Langar, and Wild Geese in Northern Ireland.

Two bids for the Regional Classics/CF competitions in 2001 had been received, from Border Parachute Centre at Brunton and Wild Geese in Northern Ireland. Nicky Johnston indicated that British Skysports, Bridlington, would also be willing to host a Classics/CF competition if required.

The geographical distribution of the bids made it unrealistic to seek to allocate a northern, central and southern competition in each case. Even with flexible regional boundaries, no centres in the south had made a bid and therefore it was impossible realistically to allocate Southern Regionals on bids received.

Chris Clements suggested that bid forms for the Southern Regionals should be re-issued. Tim Andrewes suggested that allocations should be made on the basis of the bids on the table. The Committee decided on a show of hands to allocate the bids available and not to re-issue the bid form.

As the decision had been taken to go with the centres that had taken the time and trouble to bid for a competition, the Chairman said it would be misleading to call a competition in the central or northern part of the UK a 'Southern Regional'. Chris Clements therefore proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the title of these competitions should be changed from 'Regionals' to 'Grand Prix'. This carried unanimously.

Carried unanimously

The Committee considered it to be important to seek to spread the Grand Prix as widely across the UK as bids allowed so as to maintain, as far as possible, the ethos of the Regionals. It was for members in the south of the UK to lobby their local Drop Zones to put in bids if they wished to see Grand Prix competitions taking place in their part of the country. The Competitions Committee would especially welcome such bids as, once again, none had been forthcoming this year. Centres that had not made a bid had been invited to give the reason why, but none had done so. The Committee was however grateful to those centres that had put in a bid.

The Committee unanimously decided to place a leg of the Grand Prix competition with each centre that had made a bid, ie Target, BPS Langar and Wild Geese for FS and Border, British Skysports and Wild Geese for Classics/CF.

The dates were set as follows:

FS Grand Prix 2001

Wild Geese leg	-	Sat/Sun 19-20 May 2001
Hibaldstow leg	-	Sat/Sun 16-17 June 2001
Langar leg	-	Sat/Sun 1-2 September 2001

Classics/CF Grand Prix 2001

Bridlington leg	-	Sat/Mon 5-7 May 2001
Brunton leg	-	Sat/Sun 14-15 July 2001
Wild Geese leg	-	Sat/Sun 15-16 September 2001

4 **World Classics Championships, Japan, 6-16 October 2000**

John Hitchen reported that this had been the first world championship held under the match play system. The match play system had been received by competitors with mixed feelings. There appeared, on balance, to be a general consensus in favour although some competitors were opposed to it. In the women's team, Esther Reynolds had got through to the first round of the match play and was then eliminated by a competitor with a total score over the previous rounds three times that of Esther's. None of the men's team had qualified for the match play rounds. The event had been well organised and Nicky Johnston, who had competed, said that the commentator and big TV screen had added atmosphere. The cost of holding the event had been about £1.5m.

5 **Team MIG**

Ian Matthews had written to the Chairman about team MIG and his letter had been circulated. The letter set out a particular set of circumstances involving injury and sickness and asked whether medals could be awarded to 7 rather than the normal 6 members of this team. Kate Charters had responded to this in a letter that had also been circulated.

The Committee noted that the team had needed two alternates to complete all events as for one event, the alternate had been committed to another team. With this event discounted, the team had still won the overall Regional FS 4-way event. After discussion, the Committee believed that in order to avoid creating a precedent, its only option was to adhere to the rules. Therefore, Chris Clements proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the normal 6 and not 7 medals should be awarded to team MIG.

Carried unanimously

(Note: Additional information has been received since the Competitions Committee meeting, which the Chairman will raise at the Council meeting on Tuesday 12 December.)

6 **Judging matters**

Kate Charters could not attend the meeting but had sent a letter, which had been circulated, to update the Committee on judging matters. In this, she had said that there would be no course for trainee judges at the World Air Games in Spain in 2001, although such a course may be held elsewhere in Europe. Reductions by the IPC in the number of judges at international events would reduce the opportunity for trainee judges to gain international ratings and for existing FAI judges to keep their ratings current. One judge, Dr Roger Flynn, was now believed to be judging for the Irish Association rather than the BPA - the Competitions Committee considered that clarification of this was a matter for the Council.

Kate Charters had called in judges' logbooks and, in response to a question she had raised, the Chairman confirmed that there were no proposals to change the criteria for free Associate Membership of the BPA for judges.

The Committee then confirmed the list of **Regional Overall Winners 2000** based on a list kindly supplied by Kate Charters. These were:

FS 4-way senior

Team MIG comprising Rod Fairweather, Roger Ward, Ian Stevens, Tom Scanlon, Eddie Colman and Kev Sargent.

FS 4-way intermediate

Team Angels comprising Sarah-Jane Walker, Andy Ibbetson, Regan Tetlow, Chris Peacock and John Goodyear.

FS 4-way junior

Team Carpet Eaters comprising Eno Van der Post, Phil Chapman, Jo Cleaves and Suzy Brown.

Accuracy senior
Glenn Stephenson

Accuracy intermediate
Roger Flavell

Style
Katherine Andrewes

Canopy Formation
Team Focus comprising Pete Thornton, Steve Tawse, Clive Bennett and Iain MacDonald.

7 **Competitions Action Plan Matrix 2001-2**

The Chairman called for ideas for the action plan matrix for competitions for the year 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. This had to be ready in February 2001 for submission as a bid for funding to the UK Sports Council. He asked for ideas on all areas of competitions to be sent to him, to include training and judges. There was no world championship in 2002 but there funding might be sought, for example, for a 2-year plan to build a national squad but even this would have inherent problems. The Chairman was to seek the advice of Chris Allen on how best to approach this.

A meeting of the new year 2001 Competitions Committee would be scheduled immediately to follow the inaugural meeting of the full Council on the AGM day (Saturday 20 January 2001) to plan the matrix. There would also be a Judges' Meeting and a Competitions Committee Open Forum later that day.

Action: Chairman

8 **Sponsorship**

Glen Turnbull reported that he was negotiating sponsorship for the GB team at WAG 2001 with Freefall Adventures in the USA. He tabled draft documents relating to this. The Committee advised that the next stage was to invite the sponsor to set out a benchmark figure, and then draft a specification based on a costing of various items such as tracksuits and jump suits, etc, according to the amount offered. Adding sponsors' branding to canopies was considered to be too expensive. The relationship between overall team sponsors and individual team sponsors had to be borne in mind and agreed with all parties, especially if a term like 'title sponsorship' was being considered for any overall GB team sponsor. Glen Turnbull was advised that many of the individual teams already had well-established sponsors. Any negotiations **must** respect this and nothing done to upset any such long-standing relationships.

The Chairman said it was essential for Glen Turnbull to refer to Chris Allen and the Development Committee before making any proposals to sponsors on possible benefits that might have an impact on the BPA as a whole, such as for example any idea that sponsors' names/logos might be added to BPA letter paper.

Glen Turnbull also tabled documents relating to World Class Performance bids. The Chairman advised him that this was a matter he should refer to Chris Allen.

9 **Correspondence from Jeff Chandler**

The Committee had received several recent letters on a variety of subjects from Jeff Chandler, who regretted that he could not be present to discuss them. Some of the ideas he had proposed had been fully discussed by the Committee before and there had been no changes since then that would be likely to lead to different decisions. The Chairman said he would speak to Jeff Chandler about the issues he had raised.

Action: Chairman

10 Extra man at WAG 2001

One issue raised by Jeff Chandler was that of an extra man in the GB accuracy team at WAG 2001, in order to field a 5-man team now that one qualifying invitee had declined. Unfortunately, this was not possible under current rules as only those who met the attendance criteria written into the rules of the Nationals were eligible for selection for WAG 2001.

No further action

11 Training for WAG 2001

11.1 Classics The Chairman reported that Jeff Chandler, Carl Williams, Ester Reynolds and Tim and Katherine Andrewes were planning to have a training camp in April at Empuriabrava, which had offered a special jump rate. There would also be a second training camp at the WAG site prior to the start of the WAG.

11.2 4-way FS: VMax The Committee noted the training plan of VMax, which had been circulated.

12 Fast/swooping canopy in accuracy competitions

Chris Clements referred to a paper by Jimmy Hayhurst on the USPA website about the use of fast canopies in accuracy competitions. John Hitchen said he was in discussion with him. Swooping canopies had originally been written into the Australian rules and a competition had been run by Steve Apps at Netheravon. The use of this type of canopy would be discussed at the next IPC meeting, which the Chairman was planning to attend as an observer.

Action: Await IPC discussions

13 European Championships at Eloy

Chris Clements reported that team 4-Pack had raised 13.5 in the 4 way and had brought home a bronze medal in the 8-way at the European Championship held earlier this month at Eloy.

14 Date of next meeting

This had been the final meeting of the year 2000 Competitions Committee and the Chairman thanked the Members for their service on the Committee. The next meeting would be the first of the year 2001 Committee and would be held on the day of the AGM, Saturday 20 January, at the Hanover Hotel, Hinckley, immediately after the inaugural meeting of the year 2001 Council. This would be to draft the action plan matrix (minute 7).

The meeting closed at 2255.

Distributon

Competitions Committee and other Members of Council, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Kate Charters – Judges Co-ordinator, Ian Marshall – Co-opted CF Adviser, Technical Officer, NCSO, National Administrator, Financial Administrator, Development Officer, Editor – Skydive Magazine