

British Parachute Association

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COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2001 at 1910
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Chris Clements		
	Dona Crum		(from item 3)
	Ian Marshall		
In attendance:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Craig Poxon		
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Apologies for absence:	Tim Andrewes		
	Kate Charters	-	Judges Liaison
	Carl Williams		

ITEM MINUTE

01/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2000

Paul Applegate proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2000 be approved as a true record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

02/01 Matters arising

Page 2, item 2 – Letters from Jeff Chandler The Chairman had visited Jeff Chandler to discuss the various items of correspondence that he had sent, and to explain the position.

No further action

Page 2, item 2 - Classics Overall Champions Cup This would be considered at the next meeting, when Tim Andrewes, who had been unable to be present today because of bad weather in the north, would be present.

Action: Ongoing

Page 4, item 3.2 - Regionals 2001 A discussion took place about the mechanism of the Committee's decision to allocate the Regionals (now called Grand Prix) 2001 on the basis of the bids received, rather than to re-issue the bid forms to try to encourage centres in the south to bid for the Southern Regionals, as Chris Clements had suggested. This had been done on a show of hands rather than a formal vote with a proposer and a seconder.

However, the decision to avoid naming regions by re-titling the competitions as Grand Prix had been formally taken by unanimous vote, and subsequently ratified by the Council. As this second decision subsumed the first, there was no real anomaly. Chris Clements pointed out that it had been the stated intention at the Committee's September 2000 meeting, and on the bid form, to call the competitions 'Regionals'. The Chairman agreed, but said that the change of name had been publicised and appeared to have been well received.

Page 6, item 8 - Sponsorship There was presently no sponsor for the GB delegation to WAG 2001.

03/01 Election of Competitions Vice Chairman and Discipline Representatives

Paul Applegate proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, a motion that the following should be elected to the office stated:

Vice Chairman, Competitions Committee	Tim Andrewes
Classics Representative	Chris Clements
CF Representative	Ian Marshall
FS Representative	Dona Crum
New Age Representative	Paul Applegate
Judges Co-ordinator – co-opted to Committee	Kate Charters.

04/01 Competitions Action Plan Matrix: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

The Chairman tabled the matrix he had developed from the informal meeting of the Committee on the day of the AGM, Saturday 21 January. This had been approved by the Council on 20 February for inclusion in the bid for funding to UK Sport. A copy is appended to these minutes. The Chairman hoped that UK Sport would provide funding for competitions. The matrix would need to go for further consideration of the budgeted expenditure by the Council once the UK Sport decision on funding was known, which would probably be during May.

05/01 IPC meeting - San Diego, January 2001

John Hitchen had attended this meeting as the BPA's IPC Delegate, and the Chairman had attended as an observer at his own expense. A report by John Hitchen summarising the main points of the meeting had been circulated. He highlighted the following issues.

- FAI/IPC were continuing to put significant funding into paying the media to cover the sport, for example at the World Air Games (WAG).
- There were few rule changes, other than in Style and Accuracy. The Matchplay system had been dropped other than at the World Games in Japan (minute 7).
- The women's 4-way FS was going ahead as at WAG as a World Championship rather than a World Cup.
- There would be no training seminars for judges at WAG in Spain.
- The IPC had agreed to a request by the WAG organisers to increase the entry fee by 100 Euros (about £64) from 750 to 850 Euros (from about £480 to about £540).
- An invitation competition would be held in Portugal with free jumps to test the location of the World Cup 2002.

The Chairman congratulated John Hitchen who was now Chairman of the Style and Accuracy Subcommittee of IPC, and Tony Butler who had been invited to be an Adviser to IPC's Technical Subcommittee. This was excellent news for the BPA. The Chairman had observed at first hand how hard John Hitchen had worked at the IPC. With his efforts over the years, John Hitchen had earned a position of considerable respect and influence within the IPC, and a deep understanding of its often complex and intricate workings, and this should be recognised within the BPA.

The Chairman also reported that Dr Roger Flinn, who had not been present at the IPC meeting because he had been in hospital, was also held in high esteem at the IPC, and had been invited to be Chief Judge in CF at WAG 2001 as well as an Adviser to the Judges, Technical, and Style and Accuracy Subcommittees of IPC. There remained an issue to be resolved over the evidence submitted by Dr Flinn to the BPA maintain his ratings as a national judge, and the Chairman would discuss this with Kate Charters, Judges Co-ordinator.

Action: Chairman / Kate Charters

Bob Card was the BPA's Alternate Delegate to IPC but had been unable to attend this year's meeting because he had been in hospital for an operation at the time. The Chairman would invite him to a future meeting of the Competitions Committee because he believed it to be essential that the Alternate Delegate should be fully briefed on current issues so that a clear strategy could be developed for next year's IPC Meeting.

Action: Chairman

John Hitchen said that among the strategic issues within IPC at present was a move to have a national and individual ranking system. This might mean that some national competitions – including Great Britain's – might not qualify for the World Championships in some disciplines. This, in turn, might reduce the possibility of funding by UK Sport. Introduction of such a ranking system was therefore to be resisted. Also to be resisted was a move to reduce representation from the 30 or so European nations to 10 at world meets.

Dona Crum asked Craig Poxon, as a member of the Communications Committee, how the BPA could help to realise IPC's ambition of turning skydiving into a media sport. One step was to put a photograph and profile of international competitors on the BPA's website. For WAG 2001 competitors, these would be obtained by the office as part of the entry documentation and a copy would be passed to Lucie Wood for the Communications Committee to arrange to put on the website (with due regard to securing the competitors' personal permission, and data protection requirements).

Action: Communications Committee / BPA Office (Lucie Wood)

06/01 World Air Games (WAG) 2001

A number of self-funded competitors had advised that they would no longer be part of the GB delegation to WAG 2001. These were Tim Andrewes and Carl Williams (Style and Accuracy), and the Freely team *Playboys*.

The Freestyle team of Roddy Mackay and Tim Porter and the Freely team *Clockwork Orange* had expressed concern over costs, especially the recent increase in the entry fee. They would need finally to decide on whether or not to participate by later in the month when payment for official entry became due.

John Smyth announced that he would find it difficult to go as unfunded team manager but believed it was essential that a manager should be in place to carry out an administrative/logistics role, starting a few days before the teams arrived. John Hitchen said it would not be possible for him to combine such a role with that of Head of Delegation (for which he was funded) because the two were entirely different and incompatible with each other – for instance, a manager was not allowed to sit on a jury. He did, however, believe that it was essential to have a team manager to organise the 30-40 strong delegation on the ground, otherwise the situation would be likely to become little short of chaotic.

After discussion, Paul Applegate agreed to ask Graham Liggins whether he might be prepared to be the Team Manager on an unfunded basis.

Action: Paul Applegate

If Graham Liggins declined, the matter would be further considered at the next meeting.

Preliminary entry was due tomorrow, 28 February. However Bulletin 2, which was due to contain the preliminary registration form, had not yet been published, although publication was understood to be imminent. The office would liaise with the competitors to complete the

preliminary entry forms and subsequently the training accommodation and official entry forms and submit these to Spain with the fees due. Unfunded competitors would be asked to submit payment in advance to enable the BPA to meet the organisers' deadlines although a certain amount of flexibility might be required in view of the lateness of key information from the organisers.

Action: BPA Office

In response to a point made by Ian Marshall, the Chairman asked Discipline Representatives to consider competitors' agreements (contracts) for unfunded teams / individuals. A previous version was on file at the office and would be circulated to all Members of the Committee for information.

Action: BPA Office / Discipline Representatives

The Committee asked Lucie Wood, Development Officer, to find out in time for the next meeting about the cost of a customised GB delegation uniform for the opening and closing ceremonies. Because of the heat, this would comprise a light-coloured loose-fitting long-sleeved T-shirt and shorts. It was often possible to obtain such clothing at cost price and to help to offset the cost by sponsorship of companies such as Sky Science, Thomas Sports, Airtec (Cyprus) etc, who should be approached. The sponsors' names or logos would be displayed for example on the sleeves of the T-shirt, providing the organisers of WAG 2001 were advised in advance of the sponsors' identities.

Action : BPA Office (Lucie Wood)

FS teams XL and VMax had updated the Committee on the progress of their training programme, which was going to plan for both teams. On this basis, the Committee was content that the second of the three tranches of £10,000 of the BPA grant payable to each team should be released.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

The Committee asked Jon Gretton to provide a statement of the current amount in the British Team Fund for each discipline.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

07/01 World Games, Akita, Japan: 14-22 August 2001

Team XL's performance had qualified for the only invitation of a British team to this important IOC-sponsored event, which was to be held a few weeks after the World Air Games, so the team should already be at their peak. The Games were a test-bed for sports for possible inclusion in future Olympic Games and this had been included as a target in the Action Plan Matrix. The Chairman had approached the British Olympic Association for funding but they had declined.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, a motion that a recommendation should be made to the Council that John Hitchen be funded by the BPA as nominal Head of Delegation to support the interests of the BPA and XL. (John Hitchen would find out the fee for this.)

Carried unanimously

08/01 Rules etc for National Championships 2001 and Grand Prix 2001

The Chairman asked all discipline representatives to update the rules for the Nationals 2001 and Grand Prix 2001 by annotating a copy of last year's rules and bringing them to the next meeting for confirmation.

Action: Discipline Representatives

In discussion, the following points were recorded.

- As this was not a selection year, references to British Team Funding should be removed from the rules for the Nationals in all disciplines.
- There was now no limit to the number of jumps per day – following an IPC decision, this was now at the discretion of the Meet Director.

- Style and Accuracy - this year's updated IPC rules for this discipline should be reflected in the National and Grand Prix rules. For the Grand Prix, Wild Geese Leg, the cost of transporting camera equipment to Northern Ireland was likely to be high – Chris Clements agreed to explore this with John Hitchen. If the cost was found to be prohibitive, it should be written into the rules that the Northern Ireland leg would be judged by telemeters rather than cameras.
- FS - National rules need revision to take account of the competitions being run over two weekends, for example the draw for the 4-way FS would take place on Thursday night and if not all rounds had been completed by close on Sunday, the Meet Director had discretion to continue with the 4-way on the Friday of the next weekend, with the remaining rounds being re-drawn on the preceding Thursday. The start day and time for the 8-way FS would be at the discretion of the Meet Director.
- FS – Both the Dornier and SMG aircraft had port-side exits, but it should be written into the rules that whereas the integrity of each round would be maintained (ie, the same aircraft would be used within each round), different aircraft may be used in different rounds. (There were understood to be problems with the possible second Dornier that had been mentioned on the bid form.)
- FS – various changes to the administration rules had been suggested by the host DZ and the Chairman passed these to Dona Crum as the Discipline Representative.

Other issues were then discussed as follows.

- Bob Charters was understood not to be available for the FS Nationals at Hibaldstow in July. He was the only judge who could work Omniskore. Hibaldstow had agreed to meet costs of up to £1K for Omniskore, but if an operator had to be flown in from outside the UK the cost would be far greater. Costs would be considered at the next meeting if it was confirmed as definite that Bob Charters would not be available. If a judge from outside the UK had to be flown in to operate Omniskore, s/he would be asked to train national judges in its use.

Action: Kate Charters / Next Meeting

- Publicity for and at the Nationals:
 1. The Chairman would ask Lesley Gale about the possibility of running a colourful eye-catching piece or an advertorial (editorial with supporting advertising) in *Skydive Mag* to promote the Nationals.

Action: Chairman
 2. The Office would put out a promotional A4 leaflet / small poster to DZs to promote the Nationals.

Action: BPA Office
 3. The Committee decided to suggest to the Development Committee that they might consider setting up a BPA stall at each of the National competitions to liaise with Members and help promote the BPA and its activities.

Action: Chairman to propose to Development Committee

09/01 Coaching roadshow

The coaching roadshow was a series of opportunities, at different Drop Zones, for competitors and potential competitors to be coached by national and former national champions and senior competitors in all recognised disciplines of the sport. The Chairman had co-ordinated the first events with the help and support of other Members of the Committee and the Committee agreed that from now on, each Discipline Representative would take responsibility for co-ordinating the coaching roadshow in their own discipline. One of the targets in the Action Plan for Competitions was to hold more coaching roadshow events during the period 1

July 2001 to 30 June 2002, but the immediate priority was to arrange the first such event in each discipline.

The first CF event was already scheduled to take place at Headcorn on 31 March and 1 April, and the Chairman thanked Ian Marshall for his hard work in arranging this. It looked as if it would be well-attended, and would be followed by a second CF coaching roadshow event at Netheravon in May. Plans were in hand for the Classics coaching roadshow to kick off at Bridlington in May involving Katherine Andrewes, Nicky Johnston and Cheryl Smyth.

The Chairman invited Dona Crum (FS Representative) and Paul Applegate (New Age Representative) to investigate likely venues and coaches for the first roadshow event in their disciplines. It was noted that the dates for coaching by FS teams *VMax* and *XL* would be limited as neither team would be available for coaching until after they had competed in the World Air Games during the summer. *XL* would also be away competing at the World Games in Japan in mid-August (minute 7).

Action: Dona Crum and Paul Applegate

Chris Clements proposed, and Dona Crum seconded, a motion that coaches on roadshow events should be paid expenses at the normal BPA car mileage rate (currently 33p/mile) and daily subsistence rate (currently £25 for 24 hours, to include bed and breakfast and subsistence during the day), which was the same rate as for examiners and judges. The vote was For – 3, Abstention - 1.

Carried

In discussion, Chris Clements noted that DZs would benefit from the coaching roadshow visiting them, and suggested that they might recognise this by means of some benefit being returned to the BPA. Ian Marshall said that part of the planning for any stage of the roadshow involved negotiation with the DZ operator on jump prices and it might be possible to secure reduced prices or even a free slot as he had done. The Committee hoped that, once the roadshow had geared up, DZs might be offering to host it, possibly as a loss leader. The Chairman reported that Strathallan had already approached him for the coaching roadshow to be part of their coaching extravaganza in August and asked all Discipline Representatives to liaise with Kieran Brady about this, as part of their wider liaison that gave all DZs an opportunity to host the roadshow at some time.

Action: Discipline Representatives

A coaching roadshow for camera persons was part of the Action Plan Matrix and it might be possible to start that at the Strathallan event with coaching by a cameraman to be identified, possibly at Langar.

Action: Chairman

Strathallan had also offered to host an IPC judges' seminar, and the Chairman had advised them to contact John Hitchen.

10/01 Judging matters

Kate Charters had a family wedding to attend on the first weekend of the FS Nationals at Hibaldstow and it looked as though Karla Cole would be the only qualified judge available, possibly assisted by Karen Hickmott, a trainee FS judge. As Karla Cole lived in Germany, her air fare would need to be covered. The Committee asked Kate Charters to liaise with Helen Swallow at Hibaldstow to ensure that Karla Cole was not out of pocket for judging.

Action: Kate Charters

Dona Crum noted that *VMax* were due to do a display at the Royal International Air Tattoo on the second week of the Nationals. The Chairman said that the clash of date was unfortunate but the Air Tattoo was a prestige event that it was important for *VMax* to attend.

11/01 Correspondence

1. Derek Thomas had put together a team that had won a Bronze Medal in the FS 8-way European Championship held at Eloy, USA, last November. He had written to ask whether the BPA would be prepared to refund the entry fee of £3086. The Chairman had spoken with Derek Thomas during his recent visit to the USA and had advised that funding would be unlikely, as it would have had to come from the BPA reserves as all UK Sport competition funds for the year had already been allocated. The office had already congratulated the team on its achievement and would write again to confirm that unfortunately BPA funding would not be available. The team's medal should, however, be referred to in the annual monitoring report to UK Sport.

Action: BPA Office

2. Paul French had written to seek clarification of the rules for the FS Nationals. His letter was passed to Dona Crum, Discipline Representative, for attention.

Action: Dona Crum

3. Adrian Bartby had written to the Chairman complain about competitor funding. The Chairman read the letter aloud. The Committee recognised that the views expressed – total opposition to competitions funding – were genuinely held and not atypical of a section of the Membership. However, the Membership Survey last year had revealed 81% of respondents in favour of continuing with competitions funding with only 14% against. Craig Poxon suggested that the letter implied that the Competitions Committee might not always be communicating its message well to the wider Membership. The Committee noted that there was an open invitation for Members to attend the coaching roadshow and to come to observe at meetings of the Committee. A detailed reply to the points raised by Adrian Bartby that had already been drafted would be finalised in the light of this discussion, issued and circulated for information.

Action: BPA Office

12/01 Fast / swooping canopies

In response to a question from Dona Crum, John Hitchen said that several sets of rules for fast / swooping canopy competitions were available to IPC, which had not yet settled on any for formal adoption. Paul Applegate said that STC had considered the safety aspect and the risk was reduced over water.

Ongoing

13/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 27 March 2001 at 1830 at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester. A main item on the agenda would be to finalise the rules for the Nationals and Grand Prix 2001.

The meeting closed at 2215.

Attachment:

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, approved by the Council on 20 February 2001 for submission to UK Sport.

Distribution:

Competitions Committee and other Members of Council, Vice Presidents, Staff, Editor.

Competitions Targets: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

Summary Matrix

TARGET	FROM	TO	BY	HOW	BUDGET
Olympic representation	No Olympic representation	Olympic representation	August 2001	Enter qualifying GB team to Olympic test-bed event	£5,000
Enhance coaching for junior and intermediate athletes	First, limited, run of coaching roadshow	Coaching roadshow to visit more Drop Zones	June 2002	Fund more coaching roadshow events to cope with demand	£20,000
More air-to-air team camera persons	Dwindling number of qualified camera persons to provide the only record for judging	10% increase in number of skilled camera persons	June 2002	Facilitate 3 camera flying seminars around the UK	£5,000
Enhance coaching for senior teams	No organised coaching	Provision of organised coaching for senior teams for the first time	June 2002	Identify and fund international coaches to run training camps	£20,000
Further increase pool of qualified international judges	Loss of 1 International Judge by retirement	Increase of 3 new International Judges	June 2002	Sponsor National Judges to attend international training seminars	£15,000

Detail

Olympic Representation - £5K

The World (Athletic) Games will be held in Akita, Japan, from 14-21 August 2001. These Games are considered a test-bed to view sports currently outside the Olympic spectrum for possible inclusion in future Olympic Games. As such, the World Games are sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) so the entry fees are minimal. However, IOC sponsorship does not extend to travel costs. The International Parachuting Commission was invited by the IOC to send only 6 teams in each skydiving discipline. The top 6 teams or individuals from the last World Championships in each discipline were therefore invited. 4-way Formation Skydiving Team XL are the only British Skydivers to qualify for an invitation by virtue of coming in fourth place at the last World Championships. This is an extremely important competition in the light of the potential gains to skydiving if we finally get full admission to the Olympic Family. It is important to the BPA that Team XL should be given every support to attend to capitalise on the investment of £30K already made in training this team for the World Air Games in Spain in June 2001. If they cannot attend, the invitation would automatically go to the nation that came seventh, so the opportunity for Great Britain to be at the forefront of this important international development in skydiving competition would be lost.

Enhance coaching for junior and intermediate Athletes - £20K

The concept of a coaching roadshow, introduced during the period of the last operational plan, has already proven to be extremely successful. It involves current and former National Champions touring UK Drop Zones with the objective of improving the standards of our junior and intermediate Athletes. We have identified a core pool of coaches and there is an intense desire among junior and intermediate Athletes throughout the UK to take part in these roadshows. The will and ambition is there to improve, however last year the funds made available were insufficient to meet the demand. We feel that it is now our duty, having whetted the appetites of our junior and intermediate Athletes, to respond by extending the roadshow! This can be achieved only if more funds are made available.

More air-to-air camera people - £5K

Our strategies over the last two years have been successful in that we are seeing more and more teams enter our National Competitions in Formation Skydiving. The top senior teams already have their own camera person. However, more and more senior teams, and most intermediate and junior teams, have to depend on the camera pool at National Competitions to provide a camera person. Without these air-to-air camera people, the competition simply *cannot take place*. We do not have a sufficient number of skilled camera people to meet the demand. It is our intention, therefore, to extend the successful roadshow concept to a 'Camera Skills Roadshow' by identifying a top air-to-air camera person to tour UK Drop Zones to coach skydivers in this essential skill.

Enhance coaching for senior teams - £20K

We believe that it is important to put in place a long-term strategy to assist those senior teams that have achieved a high level of performance, but need more expert coaching if they are to succeed on the world stage and, in the long-term, win medals at World Championships. To that end, it is our objective to identify international coaches in all skydiving disciplines and invite them to run training camps for our top senior teams who have demonstrated a commitment to the pursuit of excellence by investing their time and personal finances in recent years.

Further increase the British pool of qualified International Judges - £15K

In the year 2000 we were very successful in achieving our targets of newly-qualified National Judges. However, as the amount of funding obtained from the UK Sports Council for judges was less than requested, we put on ice our plans to increase the number of international judges so that the limited funding could be applied to training more National Judges. Also in 2000, one of our top International Judges retired. We now have a shortfall in this area which has not been helped by the cancellation of judges' seminars that were planned to take place at the World Air Games in June 2001. We therefore plan to identify international competitions and seminars to which we can send our National Judges. This will recognise and reward their commitment and dedication by allowing them the opportunity to qualify for international ratings, so giving Great Britain more opportunity to be represented by British Judges at World Championships in future.