

British Parachute Association

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COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 15 MAY 2001 at 1830
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Tim Andrewes	-	Competitions Vice Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: New Age
	Chris Clements	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Dona Crum	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Carl Williams		
In attendance:	Bob Card		
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Observer:	Bob Charters		
Apologies for absence:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO (away instructing)

ITEM MINUTE

23/01 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Bob Card (Vice President and Alternate Delegate to IPC) to the meeting.

24/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2001

Paul Applegate proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2001 be approved as a true record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

25/01 Matters arising

Page 1, item 15 - Trophies Lucie Wood had obtained a quotation of £170 from a local jeweller for refurbishment of the Overall Champions' Cup. The Ladies' Overall Cup was in good condition. Tim Andrewes proposed, and Carl Williams seconded, a motion that the Overall Champions' Cup should be refurbished for £170.

Action: BPA Office (Lucie Wood)

Page 2, item 15 – Report on IPC meeting An extensive report had been published in *Skydive Magazine* for April.

Page 2, item 15 – Correspondence Dona Crum had responded to the letter from Paul French concerning nationality requirements for FS competitors, the wording of which would remain unchanged in this year's National rules, as it was a non-selection year.

Page 2, item 15 – Fast / swooping canopies Three versions of rules had been forwarded to John Saunders, STC Chairman, for comment on safety aspects before consideration by the Competitions Committee. It was already clear that, for safety reasons, such descents were made over water, which would require a location with appropriate facilities if a competition was to be held.

26/01 UK Sport exchequer grant: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

The Chairman reported that news had just been received that UK Sport had given the BPA an exchequer grant of £45,000 for the year 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, of which it had been specified that £25K should be spent on competitions. This funding was most welcome. However, as £25K was less than the full amount required to carry out the Competitions Action Plan for the year from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002, the Chairman said that it would be necessary for the Committee to prioritise objectives for the coming year. This would be a main agenda item for the next meeting.

Action: Prioritise objectives at next meeting

27/01 Coaching Roadshows

The Chairman asked all discipline representatives to start with the availability of coaches (present or past members of the national team), then to check the availability of host Drop Zones, and finally to check for any clashes with other events in the diary, including BPA National and Grand Prix competitions. Once dates and locations had been settled, Lesley Gale should immediately be advised so that the event could be publicised in the Magazine. Anything for publication in the June issue needed to be advised to her very quickly.

Chris Clements suggested that it would be helpful for those planning to attend a Coaching Roadshow to pre-register with the Drop Zone or the nominated coach to help them gauge the level of demand. The Chairman thought this to be a good idea which should certainly be included in the Magazine, although he advised against making pre-registration mandatory in case it discouraged impromptu decisions to attend.

Action: All Discipline Representatives

The Chairman reported that funding was available for Coaching Roadshows. This was in the light of UK Sport's exchequer grant (minute 26) and also funding that still remained in the current year's budget because most of the Roadshow programme to date had been delayed by the foot and mouth epidemic. Therefore, providing costs were not unreasonable, there were sufficient funds to go ahead and organise events in the different disciplines. Coaches would be entitled to claim for travel, subsistence and overnight accommodation, where required, at the normal BPA rates.

The Chairman asked the discipline representatives to ensure that Coaching Roadshow events were held throughout the UK at Drop Zones willing to host them. Coaches based nearest to host Drop Zones should naturally be considered first to avoid unnecessary expenditure, but travel would sometimes be essential and had been provided for in the budget.

Dona Crum (FS Representative) would contact teams VMax and XL to get dates from them (for after the World Air Games), and arrange host Drop Zones which might, for example, include or start with their home Drop Zones. Dona Crum had also spoken to Skydive St Andrews, which was interested in hosting an event, as was Skydive Strathallan, in September.

Action: Dona Crum

Chris Clements (Classics Representative) had identified five Drop Zones interested in hosting a Classics Coaching Roadshow, giving a good geographical spread across the UK. The Chairman said this was excellent and asked for dates to be given to the Magazine as soon as they were arranged.

Action: Chris Clements

Ian Marshall (CF Representative) had been liaising with five Drop Zones for CF Coaching Roadshow events to be held after the World Air Games, including Headcorn at which the first event had had to be postponed from late March because of the foot and mouth situation. The first was now expected to be at Langar. The Red Devils had recently held a coaching event which was well supported and Ian Marshall expected there would be considerable interest in the BPA events and believed pre-registration to be important to ensure that everyone could be accommodated. As specialist equipment was required, it may be helpful for jumpers to have their own kit, especially if numbers built up. The Chairman asked Ian Marshall to include these issues in his piece for the Magazine.

Action: Ian Marshall

A camera operators' roadshow was also planned, and both Tony Danbury (Langar) and Brian Vacher (Weston) were potential coaches. The Chairman asked for a co-ordinator for coaching weekends for camera operators, and Carl Williams volunteered to do this. The Chairman thanked Carl Williams and asked him to liaise with the coaches and DZs to get publicity and dates in the Magazine as soon as possible, and for the office to identify Carl Williams through the Magazine as the co-ordinator of Coaching Roadshows for camera operators.

Action: Carl Williams

28/01 Nationals 2001

Rules for all disciplines except FS had been issued. The FS rules had now been finalised and would be issued shortly.

28.1 FS Nationals

The Chairman reported on a request from 8-way FS team VNE. The team had been training so hard for WAG 2001 as National Champions that several members had used up their annual leave. This would make it difficult for the team to jump at the 8-way event of the FS Nationals if it began on the second Friday, although they very much wanted to support the event. Team leader Andy Pook had therefore requested that the following be considered. At least one member of the team would attend for the 8-way draw on the evening of the second Thursday. Those team members who were able to be there on the Friday would coach during that day, and the rest of the team would arrive after work on Friday, ready to jump on Saturday. If jumping had started on the Friday, they would try to catch up, but if this was not possible, the team would drop out.

After discussion, the Committee decided that VNE's request would have to be put to the 8-way team leaders' briefing on the evening of the second Thursday of the FS Nationals. However, so that the request did not come as a surprise, it should be publicised in advance in the Magazine, making reference to the exceptional commitment of VNE and how much the team wanted to support the Nationals, at which they were keen to offer coaching.

The Chairman asked Dona Crum to liaise with Andy Pook and Lesley Gale over a suitable note in the June issue of the magazine.

Action: Dona Crum

Not for publication, but as advice to Andy Pook, the Committee noted that any objection at the team leaders' briefing would have to be accepted by VNE; and that if the team did compete but could not catch up, rounds not jumped would have to be forfeited with no refund of fee.

28.2 Classics Nationals

Tim Andrewes reported that when Dave Johnston had put in his bid at £8 per jump for Bridlington to host this event, he had done so for 5-man not 4-man teams. The published team jump prices appeared still to have been calculated on the basis of 5 man not 4 man teams. He was therefore concerned about unused aircraft capacity and also the possibility of high costs for little activity if judges had to return on the second weekend for just a few jumps to be completed.

In discussion, the Committee believed that it should be possible to fill vacant slots with intermediate or fun jumpers to avoid wasting aircraft capacity. The Meet Director could be

relied upon to make a common sense decision, in consultation with competitors, about whether to call the result with fewer rounds if say all but a last round had been completed at the end of the first weekend.

Tim Andrewes was going to see Dave Johnston next week, and would seek to re-assure him on these issues.

Action: Tim Andrewes

29/01 Judging matters

29.1 FS Nationals

Bob Charters said that he had not spoken with Helen Swallow of Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, about setting up Omniskore for the FS Nationals. He thought that perhaps she had made other arrangements as Omniskore was relatively easy to set up for someone familiar with computers. The Chairman asked that Bob Charters should phone Helen Swallow to ensure that everything was covered, and Bob Charters agreed to do this.

Action: Bob Charters

Kate Charters reported that finding judges was still a problem for the first weekend of the FS Nationals, with only Karla Cole confirmed and John Hitchen probable. Again the Committee confirmed that Karla Cole would not be left out-of-pocket for judging. Dona Crum would ask Helen Swallow to liaise with Kate Charters to finalise the arrangements for judges at this event.

Action: Dona Crum / Kate Charters

Kate Charters said she had noted from previous minutes suggestions of other judges to be considered. All national judges had received the same letter asking for details of their availability and all current judges who responded were considered. She said that the fees for bringing over an international judge from another country would be prohibitive.

29.2 Dr Roger Flinn's judge's logbook

The issue about the currency of Dr Roger Flinn's judges' BPA logbook was again discussed. There was no doubt about his experience and the esteem in which he was held by IPC, but the documentation he had submitted to Kate Charters as Judges Co-ordinator had not been fully completed. The Chairman agreed to speak to Dr Flinn to ask him to contact Kate Charters and resolve the issue.

Action: Chairman

29.3 Scottish Nationals

Kate Charters reported that the Scottish Nationals were due to take place at Strathallan from 26-28 May. About 90% of judges planned to go, as all disciplines would be covered. This would be good for judges' training, and the Committee confirmed that Kate Charters may use some of her judges' budget to cover judges' expenses in attending training seminars in parallel with the Scottish Nationals. He asked her to report back on the seminars.

Dona Crum had been asked by Brian Dyas why the Scottish Nationals were always held at Strathallan. The Chairman said that the Scottish Nationals were not a BPA meet, but organised by the SSPA to whom the enquiry should properly be addressed.

29.4 Judges' training

The Chairman confirmed that a target in the Competitions Action Plan Matrix for the year from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 was to qualify three new international judges from current national judges. Details of suitable international judges' training seminars on which appropriate national judges could be sponsored were now awaited because, surprisingly, none was due to take place at WAG 2001. The Chairman attached high priority to judges' training and saw this as a key objective in the coming year.

30/01 Report on the Classics Grand Prix at Bridlington, 5-6 May 2001

Bob Charters tabled a report on the above. The competition had been quite poorly attended with 4 Senior Accuracy, 6 Intermediate Accuracy, 3 Intermediate Style, no Senior Style and no Canopy Formation. All jumping had been completed on the Saturday because the weather on the Sunday had been poor.

Chris Clements said that some of the potential senior competitors may have been unhappy at travelling so far north. She suggested that they might be encouraged to attend by hosting a Classics Roadshow at the same time as the competition, and proposed that this should be tried out on the next leg of the Classics Grand Prix to be held on 14-15 July at the Border Parachute Centre, Brunton.

There followed a discussion about the factors involved in holding a Classics Coaching Roadshow at the same time as a Grand Prix competition. Tim Andrewes believed it to be inappropriate for coaches to paid expenses when they were also attending, as competitors, what would effectively be the same event. Chris Clements therefore revised her proposal to state that coaches would not be allowed to compete. However, Tim Andrewes said that he would not be competing, but even so would not have time to fit in training seminars which were an integral part of a Coaching Roadshow. He did not therefore consider that there would be time to include both a competition and a proper Coaching Roadshow at the same event, although some informal coaching would take place.

The Chairman said that this was a strategic matter, which might also have implications for Coaching Roadshows in other disciplines, to which it was unlikely that full justice could be done tonight. It warranted further discussion under a specific agenda item at a future meeting. However, a decision on whether or not to hold a Coaching Roadshow specifically at the Brunton leg of the Classics Grand Prix had to be made now, so he re-stated Chris Clements' proposal that the two should be held together, which was seconded by Ian Marshall. The vote was For: 2 Against: 4.

Not carried

31/01 World Air Games (WAG) Parachuting: Armilla Air Force Base, Granada, Spain, 22 June to 2 July 2001

31.1 Update on preparations

The Chairman reported on the training programmes of the teams in the GB delegation to WAG. XL were doing quite well, although they had suffered from 'flu and their averages at one competition had been down to 16. They had now increased to 21 / 22, having been 22 / 23 in April. It looked as if they were going to peak at the right time for WAG, and they were taking their Peak Performance Coach – a sports psychologist – with them to the world meet.

VMax had been doing well, achieving high averages. They had attracted exceptional media interest, such that they would be accompanied throughout the WAG training camp and competition by a producer and cameraman from BBC Sport who were making a programme for a series on 'People in Sport'. The programme outline had already been circulated, and John Smyth had been in touch with the producer and would help to facilitate their planning and filming at the meet. The level of co-operation was such that the two BBC staff had been included [at the BBC's expense] as press/media members of the official GB Parachuting delegation.

8-way FS team VNE had put in great effort and were achieving averages of 15 / 16, they too were expected to peak well. John Smyth was going to see CF *Team X* the weekend after next. Ian Marshall reported that *Team X's* cameraman, Paul Denis-Smith, had sustained a broken fibula whilst training and it was uncertain whether he would recover from his injury in time to compete. As the cameraman was now officially part of the team, the nationality rules applied and he had to be British. Ian Marshall said the team had managed to find an alternative cameraman, Lee Andrews, who was in the military and would require permission for leave to compete. John Smyth said he would be happy to sign any request that such leave should be granted. The WAG organisers had agreed to transfer a registration without charge, or exceptionally to accept an additional entry without surcharge providing it was made quickly in view of the now extreme pressure on hotel accommodation.

In Classics, Katherine Andrewes had completed 130 training jumps in Arizona and Nicky Johnston was due to go to train at Gap in France tomorrow. Esther Reynolds' training had been limited by her recent ankle injury, from which it was good to note that she had now recovered.

The Committee confirmed that the final instalment of the BPA grant should now be paid to teams *XL* and *VMax*, less the amounts paid direct to WAG on behalf of each team.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

The Committee recorded its thanks to all teams for the hard work and dedication they were putting into training, and recognised the expenditure this involved, all the more so for the unfunded competitors.

31.2 Delegation uniform

50 sets of the delegation uniform of customised T-shirts had now been purchased, with options on more, and were being sold on to competitors. Dona Crum thought that the price (set out in the previous minutes) was expensive, but the Chairman noted that the higher quality option had been preferred and time had been of the essence to ensure the garments were printed and distributed ahead of the meet.

31.3 Any other WAG matters

The Chairman asked whether there were any other issues related to WAG 2001 that needed to be discussed as this was the last meeting before the event, and no further issues were raised.

32/01 World Games, Akita, Japan: 16 - 26 August 2001

XL were competing by invitation in this IOC-sponsored meet. The Chairman said that, in the light of the £25K grant for Competitions by UK Sport, he would be asking the BPA Council for the BPA itself to fund the £5K in the action plan matrix for this important event (for which funding from the British Olympic Association had twice been declined, despite IPC requesting the support of National Olympic Associations).

Action: Chairman

After discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and Dona Crum seconded, a motion that circular BPA cloth sew-on badges of a similar design and colour scheme to the current BPA car window stickers should be purchased (subject to agreement of the price by the Chairman).

Carried – Action: BPA Office

UK Sport sew-on badges would also be requested and these – together with the BPA badges – should be supplied, if possible in time for WAG Spain, to both funded teams (*XL* and *VMax*).

Slides of *XL* had been requested for the World Games brochure. Tim Andrewes proposed, and Dona Crum seconded, a motion that the cost of producing these from the available computer image files, which could be up to £100, should be met from the funding already allocated to this event.

Carried

33/01 World Cup Test event, Portugal: 4 - 7 October 2001

The Chairman reported that this was a free-of-charge test event for all disciplines, by invitation only, to be held on an island off Portugal. *XL*, *VMax* and the men's skysurfing team *Clockwork Orange* were already aware of it. Any competitor who had represented GB would have the full support of the Competitions Committee in seeking an invitation from the IPC representative from Portugal, who was the organiser, for an invitation to attend.

34/01 CF 2-way Competition

The Chairman passed to Ian Marshall a letter he had received from Alan Johnson about holding a CF 2-way competition. Ian Marshall said that such a competition had been held last year on the Continent, and would be repeated this year. He would endeavour to attend if he could, and bring back the rules for consideration by the Committee for a possible BPA competition next year.

Action: Ian Marshall

35/01 Possible new BPA Certificate

At the suggestion of Ian Marshall, the Chairman asked for an item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting about a possible new BPA Certificate, for presentation at the AGM, to recognise exceptional spirit or achievement by teams or individuals.

36/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10 July 2001 at 1830, at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2130.

Distribution:

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