

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 2 October 2001 at 1840**  
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: New Age
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
<b>In attendance:</b>	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
<b>Observers:</b>	Rosalind Ayling	Philippa Dean	Ian Matthews
	Marcus Beck	Liz Groucott	Vicki Priest
	Sally Beck	Aron Jones	Kev Sargent
	Helen Crowther	Alex Lewis	
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Tim Andrewes	-	Competitions Vice Chairman
	Chris Clements	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Dona Crum	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO (away instructing)
	Carl Williams	-	Co-ordinator, Camera Roadshow

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### Item Minute

#### 56/01 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present, including the competitors who were observing, who he invited to contribute to the meeting if they wished to do so. The Chairman was delighted to see so many competitors, the most he could ever recall attending a meeting of the Competitions Committee. He was sorry that, for various reasons, there was an unusually high number of apologies from Committee members. This meant that the meeting was inquorate, as it had only two voting members whereas three were required for a quorum (constitutional minimum for voting). However, Chris Clements had sent a number of written proxy votes and therefore on such votes, the quorum had been reached. Other votes would not be valid, and would need to be ratified first by Competitions Committee Members at the next Council meeting, and then by the full Council.

#### 57/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2001

Chris Clements had written to request a variation to the final sentence of the third paragraph in minute 49.1.1 in the item Classics/CF Nationals, as follows. Delete 'Off-year selection therefore remained the only practicable approach.' Replace by 'The issue of on-year/off-year selection for Classics would be further discussed, and a vote taken, once the views of more competitors were known.'

With this variation, there were insufficient voting Members who had been present at the last meeting to approve the minutes, and therefore this was held over until the next Council Meeting.

**Action: Subject to approval and ratification by the Council**

**58/01 Matters arising**

**58.1 Page 7, item 52.1 IPC New Age Judges' Seminar**

Kate Charters reported that, subsequent to the last meeting, she had agreed with Dona Crum that the new New Age judge Sue Skull should obtain her national ratings before being sponsored on the IPC international judges' seminar. Therefore, only Dona Crum would be sponsored by the BPA attend the IPC New Age Judges' seminar this year. This experience would put Dona Crum in an even better position to help to train new judges such as Sue Skull to gain their national ratings. The Committee fully supported the wisdom of this progressive approach.

**58.2 Page 7, item 53 Classics World Cup of Champions**

A letter of invitation had been sent to Esther Reynolds to represent the UK, and there were as yet no details of her reply. Jeff Chandler had already accepted.

**59/01 Eligibility of a team for FS 4-way Junior Competitions**

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, reported that the FS 4-way team *UBI Body Flight* had won the Hibaldstow and Langar legs of the FS Junior Grand Prix Competition. They had also won the Junior event at the FS Nationals. However, apparent anomalies over the team's eligibility to enter as Juniors had now come to light. These centred on the jump numbers of three members of the team.

The rule was that the composition of a Junior team must be as follows. One team member may have any number of jumps. The jump total of the remaining 3 team members combined must not exceed 900 at the start of the first Grand Prix or National competition they enter that year. This rule still applies if the alternate is used in the competition.

According to their entry forms for the Langar leg of the Grand Prix in September, where the team had used an alternate, the jump numbers of the three team members with the lowest number of jumps had totalled 1,386. Kate Charters had asked to see the team's logbooks, but the team had said that these were not to hand. She had wanted to see how many jumps had been made at the time of the first competition of the season that the team had entered. At the earlier Hibaldstow leg in June, the three team members with the lowest number of jumps had totalled 1057 or 851, according to their completed forms 131 and 131a respectively. There was a discrepancy between the jump numbers entered on these twin forms for the same team members at the same meet. However, all hinged on the team's jump numbers at the first competition of the season they had entered, wherein lay another issue. The team had apparently claimed that it had 'back registered', through either of two judges it had mentioned by name, for the Wild Geese leg in May. This had been the opening meet of the FS Grand Prix season. However, back registration was not allowed and Kate Charters had spoken to the two judges that the team had mentioned. Both had told her that they had no knowledge of any arrangement for back registration of the team, and that they would not have countenanced any such arrangement. No entry forms had been found to support the suggestion that back registration for the Wild Geese meet had taken place.

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her report. He said that the team now needed to be given a full right of reply, and asked to submit proof of their eligibility to enter as Juniors this season. He would therefore write to all six team members, including the captain (who may have any number of jumps), the alternate and the videographer, to set out the above issues. The team would be asked to submit their log books as evidence of their jump numbers, and asked for any evidence to support any claim they may make about having 'back registered' for the Wild Geese leg of the FS Grand Prix. The Committee would consider the matter further at its next meeting, once the team had had an opportunity to reply.

**Action: Chairman / Next Meeting**

Some of the FS competitors present as observers who had been eligible to enter this season's competitions as Juniors reported that their and other teams had entered as Seniors in protest at what they had perceived as an irregularity in *UBI Body Flight's* jump numbers. They regarded it as a matter of principle. The Chairman assured them that there would be a fair and full investigation into the alleged irregularity.

**60/01 Bid form for National and Regional/Grand Prix Competitions 2002**

The Chairman had written to all UK Clubs and Centres to consult on the arrangements for the above, as agreed at the last meeting. Copies of replies from Langar and Hibaldstow had been circulated, and a reply from Sibson was read aloud and passed to Paul Applegate as some of it concerned New Age. The Chairman summarised feedback from other Clubs and Centres that he had received by telephone. The outcome of the feedback was that Clubs and Centres appeared to be generally content with the arrangements that were being proposed for domestic competitions in 2002, including long weekends (Saturday to Monday) for the Nationals. However, one centre had already said that it wished to bid for the Classics Nationals, and this therefore precluded the option of offering that meet to the Army Parachute Association, which had been discussed as an option at the last meeting. Also, some Centres had indicated that they might wish to consider putting in a bid to host competitions in different disciplines to run at the same time, though not necessarily Classics and CF combined.

The draft bid form for domestic competitions in 2002 had been circulated in advance. It was now revised to take full account of the feedback from Clubs and Centres. Each of the four disciplines would now be listed separately and centres would be invited to bid to host a competition in one or more disciplines, in any combination, at the same or different dates. This would give maximum flexibility for centres to put forward their preferred options. In particular, it meant that Classics and CF would no longer be listed as a combined meet - though it would not preclude this combination if Centres wished to bid for these two disciplines together. Whether to call the regional competitions 'Regionals' or 'Grand Prix' would be decided on the basis of bids received, and the Chairman had made a special call on Centres in the south to make bids so that Southern Regionals could be held. In response to a suggestion from Ian Matthews, the Chairman said that if no civilian Centres in the south made a bid, Southern Regional competitions would be offered to military centres. The Committee decided to include New Age as a discipline in the invitation for Regional/Grand Prix bids, to see what the response would be.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the bid form should now be issued. Chris Clements had voted in favour by written proxy. The deadline for the receipt of bids would be 1200 noon on Tuesday 4 December 2001, as the bids would be considered by a meeting of the Competitions Committee at 1830 that evening.

**Carried: issue bid form**

The Chairman said that the Committee's decision of which bids were successful would need to be ratified by Council on 11 December 2001, as explained in the introductory note to the bid form.

**61/01 Selection for the Classics**

An e-mail from Chris Clements had been circulated which listed 17 current and previous Classics competitors who had told her they preferred on-year to off-year selection for the National team, compared with only one competitor who had preferred off-year selection. That competitor had been named by Chris Clements as Cheryl Smyth. The Chairman said that, in his view, on-year selection was a mistake because off-year selection gave a year to train and hone performance and more time to attract sponsorship. Furthermore, on-year selection would effectively eradicate the Classics competitors from any of next year's funding. This was because they could not be included in the bid matrix, which had to be formulated in January 2002, for funding from the UK Sports Council for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. However, the BPA was a democracy and therefore the Chairman was happy to put to the vote the issue of on-year/off-year selection for Classics.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that, as required by the competitors, on-year selection should be adopted for Classics only in the 2003 World

Championship [selection for other disciplines remaining as off-year]. Chris Clements had voted in favour by written proxy.

**Carried**

However, the Chairman wished it to be recorded that, in his personal view, the vote that had just been carried in favour of on-year selection for the Classics was a grave mistake. He considered that it would do nothing to help revive the Classics in the UK - indeed, he believed that it would have the opposite effect.

There would be no need to include reference to selection criteria in the domestic competitions bid form as this was a matter for the rules. Also, a suggestion for variations to the arrangements for Accuracy scoring in domestic competitions from John Hitchen and supported by Chris Clements had been circulated, which was another matter for the rules, which would be drawn up early next year.

## **62/01 New competition events**

### **62.1 CF 2-way**

Encouraged by three well-attended CF coaching sessions held recently, Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that a CF 2-way competition should be offered at a Regional and/or National meet next year to see what the take up would be. Chris Clements had voted in favour by written proxy.

**Carried**

Ian Marshall tabled a copy of the rules from a European competition, the CRW Europa 2-way European Cup, which appeared to contain the key features but would need to be Anglicised when the BPA CF competition rules were drawn up early next year. As CF Discipline Rep, he would liaise with Kate Charters and the CF judges on the rules and logistics for this new event.

**Action: Ian Marshall**

### **62.2 Swoop Canopies**

This was held over until the next meeting when Carl Williams, who was investigating the idea, would be present.

**Action: Carl Williams / Next Meeting**

## **63/01 Skills Coaching Roadshows**

### **63.1 FS**

The Chairman was delighted to report that the FS Skills Coaching Roadshows had been an enormous success. He had received letters of appreciation from Dave Hickling of Langar and Brian Dyas at Skydive St Andrews as hosts, which he read aloud, and mails from participants who had praised the hard work of the coaches and had thanked the BPA for arranging and sponsoring this coaching. One competitor had said in a mail that she had got more out of it than she could ever have imagined possible. At the same time, the coaches had enjoyed helping to bring on the next generation of competitors. These lively and vibrant practical sessions had shown the BPA at its best, actively taking forward the sport. The Chairman thanked all involved for their excellent contribution and reminded everyone that the present programme of Coaching Roadshows would continue to run until the end of the current financial year on 30 June 2002.

### **63.2 CF**

Ian Marshall reported that a CF Skills Coaching Roadshow weekend had been held at Langar from 28 September to 1 October 2001. The attendance had been 45, including 4 females, 3 people from the Netherlands, 2 from Sweden and 1 from New Zealand. 261 descents had been made. Five members of the Red Devils had been of tremendous help by providing 20 sets of equipment and 2 videographers, and Mark Weaver, Iain Markham, Ian MacDonald, Ray Armstrong, Bob Little and Ian Marshall himself had all given their time and expertise to make the event a resounding success. 4 CF 1's had been issued, a 14 stack had been built with a female closing 13th, and some 8-way formations had also been built. Langar had kindly provided their Cessna 208b for the event.

The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved for their help and support. He would write to the Red Devils to thank them for their encouragement and assistance, and for providing the equipment without which the event could not have taken place.

**Action: Chairman**

It was clear that the high level of support for skills training sessions such as this, and others that had been organised independently, were helping to refresh and renew interest in CF as a competitive discipline. This had been a success in which all involved could take pride. Again, the present CF Skills Coaching Roadshow programme would roll on until 30 June 2002 and the Chairman hoped that the next BPA event could soon be put in the diary for next spring.

### **63.3 Classics**

The Chairman said that a review of Classics Skills Coaching Roadshows to date would be conducted at the next meeting, when Chris Clements, Discipline Rep, would be present.

**Action: Next Meeting**

### **63.4 New Age**

Sibson had indicated that they were keen to host a New Age Skills Coaching Roadshow and this, together with feedback from at least one other Centre, was passed to Paul Applegate, Discipline Rep, who was co-ordinating the New Age roadshow sessions.

**Action: Paul Applegate**

### **63.5 Initiating a Skills Coaching Roadshow**

The Chairman confirmed that he had written to all Clubs and Centres to clarify that the normal way of initiating a Skills Coaching Roadshow was for a Club or Centre that believed it could attract a viable number of jumpers to contact the appropriate Discipline Rep direct.

## **64/01 Coaching and Sponsorship for Senior Teams**

The Chairman was delighted to report that all three senior FS teams, *XL*, *VMax* and *VNE*, had told him they would remain together for the World Championships in 2003 (*VMax* with Sarah Laughton returning to replace Kate Stephens). *XL* were going full-time, and Liz Groucott said that *VMax* planned to do the same next year, depending on how much funding could be raised. All three teams had provided the Chairman with a written outline of their training plans. Ian Marshall reported that CF *Team X* would continue, although it would need one new member. The position with Classics was that, consequent on the vote carried earlier in the meeting for on-year selection, international Classics competitors were effectively taking a year off. This meant that they could not benefit from any formal coaching that would be eligible for financial support from the BPA. The Classics competitors had therefore, in opting for on-year selection, effectively voted to exclude themselves from the element of the current 2001/2 UK Sports Council matrix which made reference to coaching senior athletes.

The Chairman said that having the two 4-way and one 8-way FS teams in place so far ahead of the 2003 World Championships presented a unique opportunity with just the right timing to seek sponsorship. Lucie Wood, Development Officer, would help to seek sponsors for the national team as a whole and she said she would require cv's and other relevant information - such as about the BBC television programme on *VMax*, to help to put together an attractive package for a sponsor. There followed a general discussion about what sponsors would want in return, and the consensus was that any reasonable request to promote the sponsor would be considered with the proviso that requests for too many display jumps had in the past proved highly disruptive to training. Regular display jumps for sponsors should therefore be avoided. The Chairman said that the quest for corporate sponsorship for skydiving had the positives that it was a glamorous, exciting and photogenic sport. On the flip side, there were two negatives to be overcome. Firstly, major sponsors tended to support only Olympic Sports, and secondly, there was a risk - although often much exaggerated in public perception - of adverse publicity arising from a skydiver suffering a serious accident.

**Action: BPA Office (Lucie Wood)**

In addition, teams would continue to seek their own sponsorship, and the Chairman would keep ever alert to any opportunity for the engagement of an outside specialist company or individual to find sponsors. In the past, specialists in finding sponsors had demanded an up front payment of typically £40K or £50K, without any guarantee of securing a penny in sponsorship. The Council had understandably turned this down. The idea of allowing a sponsorship-finder to charge an undisclosed commission on a sponsorship deal had also been declined by the Council.

UK Sports Council and further BPA funding for senior teams was, as always, unpredictable but the Chairman would continue to press the strongest possible case for both.

Funding for coaching for senior teams had been included in the current year's Competitions Action Plan Matrix and therefore Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that teams *XL*, *VMax*, *VNE* and *Team X* should each be authorised to arrange for their coaches to submit invoices direct to the BPA for payment up to the value of £2K per team for team training.

**Subject to ratification by the Council**

A training schedule from team *4-Pack* had not yet been received. The Chairman said that funding arrangements for this team might need to be considered once they had submitted their schedule.

**65/01 Judging matters**

**65.1 Grand Prix 2002 Overall Champions**

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, reported that the Overall Champions of the Grand Prix 2002 were as follows.

FS	Senior Intermediate Junior	Handbags at Dawn Team Quest No Illusion
CF	Intermediate	Take Me
Style	Senior	Glenn Stevenson
Accuracy	Senior Intermediate	Katherine Andrewes David Lace

Kate Charters reported that the above-named Classics competitors had been the only entrants for their events. Other jumpers had entered the Style events to make up jump numbers, for which the Committee was grateful. The Committee endorsed the award of medals to the above-named Classics competitors notwithstanding the absence of other competitors, which was no basis on which to decline to award a medal.

**65.2 Dr Roger Flinn's Judges' Logbook**

With regard to Dr Roger Flinn's logbooks, Kate Charters said that all she was asking for was that every judge should submit their properly completed and signed judges' logbook for validation. The Chairman said that Dr Flinn had promised him that he would do so this year and Kate Charters agreed to await his logbook and then report back to the Committee on her findings.

**65.3 IPC International Judges' Seminars**

Kate Charters confirmed that Karla Cole would attend the IPC FS judges' seminar, and that Dona Crum would attend the New Age seminar, both to be held in Germany later this month (Dona Crum would unfortunately not be free to attend the FS seminar). Their seminar fees and expenses would be met by the BPA as previously agreed by this Committee.

#### **65.4 Judges' Training Tapes**

The Chairman confirmed that FS judges' training tapes from WAG 2001 were not yet available as they had yet to be received from Spain, dubbed and approved by IPC. They were expected to be issued in a few weeks' time. The Committee asked that the BPA office, as part of its judges' liaison activity, should record the loan of training tapes to judges and give a date for their return. John Hitchen would be able to advise on the whereabouts of the BPA's present tapes to enable this system to be established.

**Action: BPA Office (John Hitchen / Sue Waterfield)**

#### **65.5 Electronic draws of FS dive pool**

Kate Charters confirmed that Omniskore were happy for the BPA to use their electronic random number generator. Competitors present confirmed that they would be content with an electronic random draw to be made beforehand, and this would be written into next year's rules.

**Action: Dona Crum / Kate Charters**

The Chairman passed to Kate Charters the latest information about changes to the FS dive pool that were to be proposed to IPC.

#### **65.6 New Trainee Judges**

Kate Charters was pleased to report interest from two new trainee male judges, Dave McLagan from Scotland and Tony Emmerson (identified by Dona Crum) from Sheffield.

#### **65.7 Thanks to judges from the Committee**

On behalf of the whole Committee, and the competitors, the Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her work as Judges' Co-ordinator, and all Judges for their difficult yet often unsung work, without which there would simply be no competitions be they Nationals, Regionals or fun meets. He congratulated Kate and Bob Charters and Dona Crum on the appreciation of their judging skills in a letter from Langar, and to Dona Crum and Sue Skull whose work had been praised by Sibson.

#### **66/01 New BPA Certificates - Achievement and Appreciation**

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that two new framed BPA Certificates should be introduced for presentation at the AGM each year, as follows:

##### **BPA Certificate of Achievement**

for outstanding sportsmanship or outstanding achievement (ie, recovery from serious injury or illness, etc).

##### **BPA Certificate of Appreciation**

for those who have made a significant contribution to the activities of the BPA (both members and non-members are eligible).

**Action: Subject to ratification by the Council /  
BPA Office to prepare mock-up of Certificates if ratified**

If ratified, the Committee would consider nominations for the award of the new Certificates.

#### **67/01 Short competitions video for AGM**

The Chairman reported that the Chairman of Council had asked all Committee Chairmen to present a short (2 or 3 minute) video at the AGM to highlight the work of their Committee during the preceding year. He asked competitors and committee members to help by providing exit shots and video expertise to enable such a video to be prepared.

**Action: All who can contribute exit shots and/or video editing expertise**

#### **68/01 Date of next meeting**

**Tuesday 4 December 2001 at 1830**, at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2050

Distribution: Committee/ Council, Vice Presidents, Staff and Editor.