

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 4 December 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
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Carl Williams	-	Co-ordinator, Camera Roadshow
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Observers:	Craig Bailey	David Grzeskowiak	Andy Pook
	Marcus Beck	Liz Groucott	Vicki Priest
	Sally Beck	Ian Matthews	Noel Purcell
	Bob Charters	Steve Mursell	Ben Wood
Apology for absence:	Dona Crum	-	Discipline Rep: FS

Item Minute

69/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2001

Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2001 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

70/01 Matters arising

70.1 Page 2, item 58.2 Classics World Cup of Champions

Tim Andrewes noted that Jeff Chandler and Esther Reynolds had already been invited by the Committee to represent the UK in this event, to be held in late August 2002. He pointed out that if on-year selection were applied, the British Nationals 2002 would be the appropriate selection nationals. The Chairman said this was a valid point, which would be further considered at the end of the next item.

70.2 Page 3, item 61 Selection for the Classics

Tim Andrewes said he had not been satisfied with the evidence that Chris Clements had put forward to the last meeting in support of on-year selection for Style and Accuracy, which had led to the Committee voting in favour of it, and ratification of that decision by the Council. He said he believed the material put forward to have been an 'abuse of process' because some of the competitors cited were not current or active, and some others had expressed a different view when he had more recently contacted them. Chris Clements said that the information

she had supplied to the last meeting had been prepared in good faith and that she had done her utmost as Classics Discipline Rep to represent the views of as many competitors she could contact as fairly as she could. She noted that the minutes had recorded the Chairman's personal view against on-year selection but considered that the Chairman should remain impartial, or at least that the case in favour of on-year selection should have been given equal weighting at the meeting, and therefore in the minutes. The Chairman emphasised he had expressed a personal opinion, which he was entitled to do as a competitor, but had also sought to action the wishes of the majority as we are a democracy.

After considerable discussion, the Chairman said he knew from his own contacts with Classics competitors that some had changed their minds when they had heard of the relative merits and drawbacks of the two options. However, others had re-stated their views and taken the trouble to set them out in writing. He said that, in retrospect, there had been an unintentional error in process in that, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, it had unfortunately not been possible to consult all interested parties. The debate about on-year versus off-year selection around the table reflected passionate debate among competitors themselves, as reflected by much e-mailed and faxed correspondence, and the Committee had to listen.

The Chairman suggested that the issue should be discussed with Classics competitors in person at the Competitions Open Forum at the AGM. Both Chris Clements and Tim Andrewes agreed with the Chairman that it was essential to take full account of the views of current champions, and that a pre-publicised discussion at the Open Forum would be an appropriate way to achieve this. The Chairman said that it was up to Tim Andrewes and Chris Clements, and others who were interested, to lobby competitors to attend the Open Forum or, if they would be unable to attend, make their individual views known in writing, if they had not already done so.

Carl Williams proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that this Committee should recommend to the Council that the decision on whether to adopt on-year or off-year selection for the Classics disciplines of Style and Accuracy should be held in abeyance pending a full discussion with competitors at the Competitions Open Forum at the AGM.

Carried unanimously

The Committee recognised that if it was eventually decided to opt for on-year selection, it was incumbent on the committee further to consider the selection arrangements for the 2002 Classics World Cup - either to change this to whoever won the British Nationals, or to honour the existing invitations. The Chairman said that he would find it difficult to justify revoking the existing invitations in the light of any decision taken subsequent to those invitations being issued.

Action: Next meeting

70.3 Page 4, item 63.2 CF Roadshow at Langar

The Chairman had written to thank the Red Devils.

Completed

70.4 Page 7, item 66 New BPA Certificates - Achievement and Appreciation

The Council had ratified the introduction of these new Certificates.

Completed

70.5 Page 7, item 67 Short competitions video to show at the AGM

This was discussed and no-one on the Committee was in favour of proceeding with it.

No further action

70.6 Classics scoring

The Chairman confirmed to Chris Clements that a paper on this had not been taken at the last meeting but held over until early next year when the rules would be prepared.

Action: Next meeting

71/01 **Eligibility of a team for FS 4-way Junior Competitions**

Further to minute 59, Ben Wood, Team Captain of *UBI Body Flight*, was attending tonight's meeting to clarify the issue raised at the last meeting about his team's eligibility to enter FS 4-way competitions as a junior team. Ben Wood confirmed that he was content for the matter to be discussed in an open meeting.

The Chairman invited Kate Charters to summarise the situation. This was that, at their first competition of the season, 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 had therefore been a discrepancy between the jump numbers entered on these two forms for the same team members at the same meet.

Ben Wood explained that the lower of the two jump numbers had been entered on the form that he personally had filled in. This had been the correct total for post-FS1 jumps, in accordance with the rules. The team had therefore correctly entered in the junior category. The higher jump total had been filled in on another form by different member of the team, who had not completed such a form before and had mistakenly, but in good faith, given the total for *all* jumps, not just post-FS1. Ben Wood had brought the relevant logbooks with him as proof of the jump numbers, and he left the room with Kate and Bob Charters in order that they could check the logbooks. After several minutes, they all returned to the meeting and Kate Charters reported her findings that the lower total had been correct, which meant that *UBI Body Flight* had been fully eligible under the BPA's rules to enter junior 4-way FS competitions in the 2001 season.

The Chairman expressed the Committee's sincere appreciation to Ben Wood for coming to tonight's meeting to represent the team, and his regret that the team had had to be put through this inquiry. A point for judges and others collecting such forms at competitions was to offer help to juniors on how to complete the relevant paperwork when it was new to the team member filling it in. Ben Wood said that he had heard comments about the team's body positions being too good for a Junior team. This was attributable to the time and money spent on high quality coaching. The Chairman heartily congratulated the team on their achievement and confirmed that they were worthy National Junior Champions in 4-way FS.

72/01 **National and Regional/Grand Prix Competitions 2002**

Copies of the bid forms that had been received were tabled. The Chairman outlined the factors to be taken into account in considering the bids. These were: bid price, aircraft, Drop Zone facilities and geographical location. The bids for each Competition were then carefully considered for all of the above factors. The outcome was as follows.

72.1 British Open Nationals 2002

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Bids received</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Venue selected</i>	<i>Dates in 2002</i>
FS	Strathallan Target, H'stow Wild Geese	0 5 unanimous 0	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sats to Mons 27, 28, 29 July (4-way) 3,4,5 August (8-way) plus following w/end in reserve
Classics/ CF combined event	Hinton Strathallan Wild Geese	4 0 0 1 abstention (Ian Marshall)	Hinton Skydiving Centre	Sats to Mons 7, 8, 9 September* 14, 15, 16 September* * dates subject to confirmation with Hinton <i>Action: Ian Marshall</i>
New Age	Target, H'stow P'boro, Sibson Wild Geese	1 4 0	Peterborough Parachute Centre	Sat to Mon 10,11,12 August plus following w/end in reserve

The FS competitors present asked the Committee to try to arrange aircraft for the FS Nationals with the same type of exits as those to be used for the World Championships. The Committee believed this would be a perfect solution in an ideal world. In the real world the furthest it could reasonably go would be to write into the rules that seniors must jump from the

same type of aircraft throughout the competition, and where possible this should apply to juniors and intermediates too.

72.2 Regional/Grand Prix Competitions 2002

The Committee was disappointed to note that only one bid, for CF, had been received from a Club or Centre south of Langar.

After full consideration of several different options, Tim Andrewes proposed, and Carl Williams seconded, a motion that in the absence of bids in other disciplines for Southern Regionals, competitions should be allocated to the bids received as legs of a Grand Prix in each discipline. The vote was For - 2, Against - 2, Abstention - 1. As the vote was tied, the Chairman said his casting vote would be for the status quo. Chris Clements referred to minute 2 of the meeting on 27 February which she believed, and the Chairman agreed, showed that Regional competitions rather than a Grand Prix was technically the status quo.

Not carried

In 2002, the name of these competitions would therefore revert to 'Regionals'.

As no bids for Southern Regionals in FS, Classics or New Age had been received, and no bid for Central Regionals in Classics, a second request for bids would be issued by post to Clubs and Centres in the relevant Regions only. Such bids would have a deadline for receipt of noon on Friday 18 January 2002.

Action: BPA Office

<i>Regional Comp</i>	<i>Bids received</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Venue selected</i>	<i>Dates</i>
FS Northern	Strathallan Wild Geese	0 5 unanimous	Wild Geese	Sat-Sun 14-15 September 2002
FS Central	BPS Langar Target H'stow	3 2	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 6-7 July 2002
FS Southern	none - invite new bids			
Classics/CF Northern	Strathallan Wild Geese	5 unanimous 0	Strathallan	Sat-Mon 1, 2, 3 June 2002
CF Central	BPS Langar		BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 18-19 May 2002
CF Southern	Cornwall		Cornwall	Sat-Sun 5-6 October 2002
Classics Central	none - invite new bids			
Classics Southern	none - invite new bids			
New Age Northern	Wild Geese		Wild Geese	Sat-Sun 22-23 June 2002
New Age Central	Target H'stow		Target Hibaldstow	Sat-Sun 25-26 May 2002
New Age Southern	none - invite new bids			

73/01 Proposed new Swoop Canopies competition

Due to pressure of time, consideration of this item was held over until the next meeting.

Action: Next Meeting

74/01 Judging matters

74.1 Judges' logbooks

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, reported that she had received judges' logbooks from Roger Flinn, Jack and Anne Fowler, Gail Stephenson, Karla Cole and herself. She had yet to receive logbooks from Dona Crum, John Hitchen and Bob King, but expected no problems with these. Paul Applegate proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that all of the above-named judges above should be entitled to free Associate Membership for 2002/3.

Carried unanimously

74.2 New International Judges

Kate Charters confirmed that Karla Cole had qualified as an FAI international judge in FS 4-way and FS 8-way, coming top in the training seminar. Dona Crum had qualified as an FAI international judge in Freestyle, Freely and Skysurf. The Chairman had already written, on behalf of the Committee, to congratulate them both on these achievements.

74.3 Trainee judges

Kate Charters reported that seminars for trainee judges would be held next year, outside the Nationals, in each discipline. It was planned that the seminars would be organised by Dona Crum for New Age, Bob and Kate Charters for FS, Roger Flinn for Style & Accuracy, and Bob Charters and Ian Marshall for CF. There were presently three trainee judges. A full page spread in the Magazine was planned to publicise the judges' seminars, with details of who to contact for further information.

74.4 Grand Prix 2001 Overall Champions

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, confirmed that the Overall Champions of the Grand Prix 2002 were as follows (the Style and Accuracy headings had been transposed in item 65 of the last minutes).

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

74.5 Chairman's thanks to the Judges

The Chairman said this had been a most successful year for the judges, whom he thanked. He also thanked Kate Charters for her excellent work throughout the year as Judges' Co-ordinator.

75/01 Skills Coaching Roadshows

The Chairman reported that expenditure on competitions to date was well within budget. He noted that some FS coaches had not claimed expenses for their attendance at Coaching Roadshows. The Coaching Roadshow programme had therefore sufficient funding to continue in all disciplines including Classics, and dates would be arranged for next season. The Committee agreed that experience had shown that FS Coaching Roadshows worked best when held concurrently with Camera Coaching Roadshows. Tim Andrewes reported that Julian Spence had offered his services as a coach in the Classics at Hinton for the four weeks prior to the Nationals. Roadshows in all disciplines would, wherever possible, be scheduled for the weekend ahead of the Nationals at the same Drop Zone that was hosting the Nationals.

Action: Next Meeting

76/01 Coaching for Senior Teams

There was further discussion about the Competitions Committee budget in which it was noted that the budget was well underspent.

Carl Williams therefore proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the senior teams *XL*, *VMax*, *VNE*, *Team X* and *4-Pack* (all of whom had provided coaches for the Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates), should each arrange for their coaches to invoice the BPA direct, where appropriate in instalments, for coaching fees up to a maximum of £2K per team.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman stated that the cost of the services of a sports psychologist, as was used by team *XL*, was not eligible to be charged to the BPA as part of the team's coaching fees.

The question of the BPA providing any financial support to senior Classics competitors could be considered only after a decision on on-year or off-year selection had been taken (minute 70.2 refers).

77/01 Briefing for IPC meeting, January 2002

The Chairman said that John Hitchen (Delegate) and Bob Card (Alternate Delegate) were due to represent the UK at the IPC meeting to be held in Switzerland in January 2002, and that he may himself also attend as an Observer.

There followed a discussion about current IPC issues which involved input from the competitors present. It was agreed that the UK should:

- oppose proposals to shorten competitions by reducing the number of rounds and/or reducing the number of nations taking part
- oppose proposals to reduce the number of FAI judges at international meets to 3
- support making eligible CF 8-way teams comprising two 4-way teams from different nations
- urge IPC to review and improve its media strategy.

Ian Matthews said that, on behalf of VNE, he would send John Hitchen a note on FS 8-way issues ahead of the IPC meeting, and said that the 4-way team would do the same. There would be further discussion at the Competitions Open Forum at the AGM.

78/01 Expenses

Chris Clements asked for clarification that Tim Andrewes had correctly claimed for expenses at a Coaching Roadshow when he had also been involved in attending a fatality during the same weekend. Tim Andrewes confirmed that the claim had been correct as he had attended both.

Ian Marshall asked whether an expenses claim by Ian Midgley, who he understood may have attended the FS Nationals for discussions about RAPS Safety, may have inappropriately been allocated to the competitions budget.

Action: Refer to Jon Gretton, Financial Administrator

79/01 Chairman's thanks to the Committee and Competitors

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Committee for their hard work during the year. He also thanked the competitors for attending meetings. On behalf of the competitors, Ian Matthews thanked the Committee for listening to their views and taking them into account.

80/01 Date of next meeting

A short meeting to discuss the Competitions Action Plan for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 would be held immediately after the inaugural meeting of the Council at the Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, on Saturday 19 January 2002.

The meeting closed at 2230

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