

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 20 August 2002 at 1520**

at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic Disciplines
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
<b>In attendance:</b>	John Hitchen	-	NCSO (for part of meeting only)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Sue Waterfield	-	Admin Secretary / Trainee Judge
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Nigel Holland	-	Asst to Discipline Rep, Artistic Disciplines
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer

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## Item Minute

### 54/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2002

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2002 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

### 55/02 Matters arising

#### 55.1 Page 1, item 43.1, Classics Central Regionals

The Chairman reported that Silver Stars would unfortunately be unable to host this meet. However, John Hitchen had spoken with British Skysports at Bridlington, who were willing to host the competition over the weekend of 28 -29 September 2002. The Committee was grateful to Bridlington for this, and asked that the dates should be publicised on the BPA website and by the issue of a flyer to all Clubs and Centres.

**Action: BPA Office**

#### 55.2 Page 1, item 43.2, Accommodation for the UK team at Gap, France, for the WPC, 7-14 September 2003

300 Euros, being 10% of the deposit of 3000 Euros, had now been paid to the Hotel Carina in Gap, which was to be the British Team Hotel during the WPC 2003. The balance of 2,700 Euros was due to be paid in February 2003.

**Action: Bring forward in February 2003**

#### 55.3 Page 2, item 43.3, Swoop Canopies competition

The Chairman reported that this had now been postponed for the time being, although it was still likely to go ahead at a later date, to be arranged. The contact for further information was Helen Swallow at Target Skysports.

**Ongoing**

#### **55.4 Page 4, item 45.3, FS Northern Regionals**

The Chairman reported that Ben Wood of the 4-way FS team *UBI Bodyflight* had yet to come back to him in relation to the issue discussed at the last meeting. This concerned the team being unable to obtain clearance from the Royal Air Force to travel to Wild Geese to compete in the FS Northern Regionals. The Chairman noted that, although the Committee had sympathy with the team, the consensus of the Committee was that the 'video plan' for them to jump at another DZ and have their performance credited to the competition at Wild Geese, would not be fair to themselves or others, and it would not work. The Chairman said he would be willing to speak to the team's Commanding Officer if they considered this might help.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **55.5 Page 4, item 45.3, FS Regionals 2003**

At the last meeting, the Chairman asked Committee Members to give consideration to VNE's request that an 8-way event should be included in the FS Regionals in 2003. Jim White now proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that an 8-way event should be added to the FS Regionals 2003.

**Carried unanimously**

The Committee noted that the 4-way and 8-way events would need to take place on different - probably consecutive - weekends. They may or may not be at the same Drop Zone. This would be considered further when drawing up the Regional bid forms for 2003, and subsequently early next year when preparing the rules.

**Action: Bring forward when 2003 bid forms and rules are being drafted**

#### **55.6 Page 6, minute 47.3, Coaching Roadshows in the Artistic Disciplines**

The Chairman said he had personally briefed the coaches in the BPA Coaching Roadshow to be held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, over the weekend 7-8 September 2002. The briefing had covered the financial arrangements, specifically that the BPA would pay only non-taxable travel and subsistence expenses, in accordance with the established policy of the Skills Coaching Roadshows. One coach had asked whether additional funding, to bring the existing expenses payments of £25 per 24-hour period up to £100, equivalent to a coaching fee, could be found from the BPA's safety and training budget. The Committee considered that if the Artistic Disciplines coaches had a proposal to make for funding on safety grounds, such as for example the development of a manual for the Artistic Disciplines, they should make this to the STC through John Hitchen, or to the Development Committee through Ian Midgley. Although the Competitions Committee was fully supportive of initiatives to improve safety within the sport, safety *per se* was not a competitions or competitions coaching issue, and it would therefore be inappropriate to discuss it in any detail here, when it came within the terms of reference of other Subcommittees of the BPA Council.

**Action: Refer to STC / Development Committee**

#### **55.7 Page 6, minute 47.4 Classics Coaching Roadshow at Hinton, 31 August to 1 September 2002**

Jim White kindly offered to liaise with Dave Ballard about the supply of a tuffet for this Coaching Roadshow weekend, and for it to remain at Hinton for the Style and Accuracy Nationals from 7 - 11 September 2002.

**Action: Jim White**

The Chairman said that Dave Ballard would be the only coach needed, with the support of Frank Mallabone to operate the ground-to-air video system for the Style jumpers.

#### **55.8 Page 7, minute 49, Insurance cover for the BPA's ground-to-air video system**

Martin Shuttleworth reported that he had been in touch with the BPA's equipment insurers who had advised that the BPA's ground-to-air video system had all risks cover anywhere within the UK. However, this applied only when the BPA had established a proper *line of control*.

After discussion with the insurers, he had therefore drafted a role description (circulated) for the honorary office of 'BPA Ground to Air Video System Kit Co-ordinator'. The role description included transporting the kit to and from official BPA domestic competitions, and stowing and maintaining it between competitions. The Committee was content with the draft, and asked Martin Shuttleworth to circulate it to Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) and Frank Mallabone (postholder) to confirm whether they too were content with it.

**Action: BPA Office**

The Chairman said he understood that Frank Mallabone had found that some cables were missing from the kit. He said he would be happy for Frank Mallabone to purchase any missing cables, and send the invoice to the BPA Office for payment. However, Jim White, who had recently used the Army's ground-to-air video kit, said he had found spare cables that did not belong to that kit, and he would therefore contact Frank Mallabone to see whether they were in fact the missing cables that had found their way into the wrong kit.

**55.9 Page 7, minute 49, New format judges' logbooks**

Printing of the judges' logbooks in the new format of a ring binder was being progressed by Sue Waterfield at the BPA Office.

**Ongoing**

**55.10 Page 7, minute 50, Use of AADs at WPC 2003, Gap**

The Office had enquired of FAI about the possible mandatory use of AADs at WPC 2003 in Gap. The FAI had referred the enquiry to Patrice Girardin, IPC Delegate for France, whose reply was awaited.

**Ongoing**

**56/02 Nationals 2002 - update**

**56.1 FS Nationals: Target Skysports, Hibaldstow: 27-29 July and 3-5 August 2002**

Kate Charters' chief judge's report on the FS nationals had been circulated. This had been the best Nationals ever, with a massive 42 teams entering in the 4-way. The weather had been excellent. A team from the USA, *Golden Knights*, had entered and would have been in the medals, except that they had unfortunately been unable to accept because of a USPA rule stating that if they accepted medals overseas, they would unfortunately not be eligible for medals in their own nationals

Gold medal winners and National Champions 2002 were: *XL* in the 4-way; *VMax* in the women's 4-way; and *VNE* in the 8-way. The Committee congratulated Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, on their superb organisation of the meet. Trainee Judge Ruth Cooper had qualified as a National FS Judge at this meet.

Sadly, there had been a fatality early in the competition. A minute's silence had been held in respect. The spirit of mutual support between competitors following the fatal accident had been quite moving, especially when the team that was lacking the deceased member had had to jump with an alternate. Ian Marshall suggested that it might be appropriate to consider proposing that the team concerned might be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for exceptional sportsmanship at the AGM, once the period of mourning had been completed.

**Action: Next meeting**

**56.2 Artistic Disciplines Nationals: Peterborough Parachute Centre: 10-12 August 2002**

A report from Sue Meacock (DZO, Peterborough) was tabled. The turnout had been low and this had probably been due to a particularly poor weather forecast. Three teams entered in Freely A, three in Freely B, two in Freestyle A and three in Skysurf - a total of 24 competitors. The Freestyle event had continued on to the Tuesday at the request of the competitors, with the video being sent to Dona Crum to be judged at the Army Championships. Having two continental judges Daniel Alonso and Andrea Spielnogel along with UK judge Dona Crum had given the competitors an excellent judging team. The bad weather had allowed plenty of time for them to run seminars for the two trainee judges, Sue Skull and Ruth Cooper, and the competitors. Sue Meacock had noted that Omniskore had

arrived from Hibaldstow although Peterborough had not been expecting it, but it appeared that it would only work with five judges scoring and there appeared to have been no provision for trainees.

Gold Medal winners and National Champions 2002 were: Skysurf: *Clockwork Orange*; Freely A : *Sebastian Freely*; Freely B: *Ejects*; Freestyle - three rounds still to be judged.

The Omniskore system had now been sent from Peterborough to the BPA Office, but it was needed in Holland by Friday of this week. The Chairman asked the Office to arrange its transport there, with the cost to be re-charged to Target Skysports (as part of the cost of the FS Nationals, for which Omniskore had been supplied).

**Action: BPA Office**

Paul Applegate said he would be interested to know if Kate Charters could kindly clarify through Dona Crum why the Freestyle event had been allowed to continue on to the Tuesday, after the judges had gone. Whilst there might be very specific reasons in this case, he was concerned that it might create an unfortunate precedent.

Finally, Paul Applegate thanked the Office for preparing a 'safe custody form' for winning teams to sign for their trophies. This was intended to help to avoid any future loss of trophies, as had happened occasionally in the past.

### **56.3 CF/Classics Nationals: Hinton Skydiving Centre, 7-11 September 2002**

Ian Marshall reported that Jason Bruce, son of the late Nish Bruce, had kindly offered to donate a trophy in memory of his father - the Nish Bruce Memorial Shield - for the new CF 2-way event. Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that this new trophy should be accepted with grateful thanks.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairman would write a letter of thanks to Jason Bruce to say that the trophy would form a very appropriate tribute, both now and for years to come, to his father's contribution to the sport.

**Action: Chairman**

With regard to the Classics Nationals, plans were fully in hand. Frank Mallabone, Video Co-ordinator, was due to arrive the day before the start of the competition to set up the ground-to-air video system. The tuffet should already be in place following the Classics Skills Coaching Roadshow (minute 55.7 refers).

### **57/02 Selection to represent the UK at WPC 2003, Gap, France**

The Chairman said that, with only the final results of the Freestyle event at the Artistic Disciplines still awaited (minute 56.2 refers), teams *XL* (in FS 4-way open) and *VMax* (in women's 4-way FS) had successfully met the performance criteria of achieving a score equivalent to fourth place or better at their last world meet, and had thereby qualified for funding.

A total budget of £65K had been approved by the Council to fund teams with a real prospect of bringing home medals from the World Championships. The Chairman said he would be proposing to the Council that a sum of up to £30K each should be provided to *XL* and *VMax* under strict controls. Funding would be released only when a contract had been signed by the teams, which would require the funds to be repaid to the BPA in the event of a default of contract, such as non-attendance at WPC 2003. Further, the funding would be paid in tranches, and subject to satisfactory progress monitoring reports to account for the spend to date, before the next tranche would be released. The Chairman said he believed that both *XL* and *VMax* had a real chance of winning a medal at next year's WPC.

The above would leave a sum of at least £5K in reserve in the budget for the pursuit of medals at WPC 2003. This was prudent, not least in the light of two appeals for funding that the Chairman had received, and on which he now reported.

The first appeal was from 8-way FS team *VNE* which had asked that, if it could be proven at the World Cup in October 2002 that the draws were slower, meaning that the dive pool had slowed down since the performance criteria scores were established at WAG 2001, would the Committee be prepared to re-consider the team's eligibility for funding? The Chairman said he would refer this to the Council meeting tonight, although he noted that *VNE* would have to achieve quite dramatic scores at the World Cup for funding to become a realistic possibility, even were the Council to agree in principle to consider *VNE's* request.

The second appeal for funding had come from Chris Lynch of the Freestyle team *Freestyle Sebastian* that had just missed out on reaching the performance criteria for funding by a margin of 0.2 (7.4 scored compared with 7.6 required for funding). The team had put forward a case that one of the three judges had left before the end of the event, which they had pointed out was in contravention of the rule that specified there would be a minimum of three judges. Moreover, the team contended that the judge who had left had been the most generous scoring judge of the three.

The Committee heard this case with some sympathy, but pointed out that no-one could say for sure whether or not the team would have got a higher score had the third judge remained until the end. The consensus of the Committee was that the team should attend the European Championship self-funded and come back to the Committee if they achieved an impressive score.

## **58/02 Regionals 2002**

### **58.1 Artistic Disciplines Southern Regionals: APA Netheravon, 20-21 July 2002**

Paul Applegate (Artistic Disciplines Discipline Rep) reported that there had been few competitors, and A's had had to join B's to make up sufficient teams for the event to take place. He had not yet seen any formal feedback, but understood that two people had expressed an interest in becoming judges. The Chairman asked that the future of Regionals in Artistic Disciplines - which had been offered this year for the first time - should be an item for the agenda of the next meeting.

**Action: Next meeting**

### **58.2 CF Southern Regionals: Cornwall Parachute Centre**

Ian Marshall (CF Discipline Rep) reported that this competition had not taken place as scheduled, over the weekend of 10-11 August 2002, because of washout weather. The DZ could not see that they could run it again, and the cost to the BPA of a re-run would be too high. Therefore, there seemed to be no realistic option for a resumption of this event in Cornwall.

Ian Marshall therefore put forward three suggestions on possible ways forward. Suggestion (i) was to run the Southern CF Regionals concurrently with the CF Nationals to be held at Hinton, starting on Saturday 7 September. It would be run as two quite separate events, and would allow people to compete in the Southern Regionals, whilst at the same time making optimal use of resources. Ian Marshall's other two suggestions were (ii) to see whether APA Netheravon would be prepared to host the CF Southern Regionals; or (iii) to call the CF Regionals on the two competitions (Northern and Central) that had already taken place.

After discussion, the Committee believed that Ian Marshall's first suggestion was the most practicable. Ian Marshall therefore proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Southern CF Regionals should be held at Hinton concurrently with the CF Nationals, as a quite separate event with the Regionals being called on the Sunday after 6 rounds.

**Carried unanimously**

Ian Marshall kindly agreed to brief all stakeholders, including the DZ, the teams and the judges.

**Action: Ian Marshall**

## **59/02 World Cup/European Championships, Empuriabrava, Spain: 4-13 October 2002**

The Chairman said that, in his capacity as Delegation Manager, he planned to arrive at Empuriabrava on Thursday 26 September, two days ahead of the first teams of the UK

delegation to arrive, who would be *VMax* and *Quicksilva*. He had arranged with the DZ Operators that all the training jumps for the whole UK delegation could be paid for together in one lump sum. This would qualify for a discount per jump.

An Opening Ceremony would be held, and the organisers had requested that athletes should wear a delegation uniform for this. The Chairman reported that T-shirts, similar to those that had been successfully used by the UK delegation to WAG 2001, were available from Sarah-jayne Thomas. The design would be based on the Union Flag, as it had been for the T-shirts for WAG 2001, but with 'World Cup 2002' lettering. After discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the BPA should purchase 50 such T-shirts at a cost of £400, to be charged to the British Team Fund. The T-shirts would be given to Members of the delegation without charge as a small token of the BPA's appreciation of their participation on a self-funded basis.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairman said he would place the order for the T-shirts with Sarah-jayne Thomas. Based on the experience of WAG 2001, the sizes to order were: 10 medium, 30 large and 10 extra large.

The Chairman reported that team *XL* had not, to date, entered for the 4-way open FS event in the World Cup, and it was not at this stage clear whether or not they would do so. Team members had personal matters that may or may not make it difficult for them to go. The Chairman had flagged this up with the competition organisers, who had guaranteed that they would reserve a place for *XL* in case they wished to make a late registration, for which a late entry fee would be payable. The Office would let *XL* know of this guarantee.

**Action: BPA Office**

Ian Marshall reported that the French National Squad for WC2002 was now at a compulsory training camp. They had been unable to complete the French Nationals for the first time in 30 years because of heavy storms, so all their competitors had been 'called up' to train for the WC 2002.

#### **60/02 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Junior and Intermediate Athletes**

An FS Skills Coaching Roadshow, to be coached by *XL*, was to take place at Peterborough Parachute Centre over the weekend of 31 August - 1 September. However, only Rob Stevenson and John McIver were available to act as coaches. The DZ was disappointed that Pete Allum's attendance was now uncertain. 30 juniors and intermediates had already pre-registered. Other potential coaches, from teams *VMax*, *VNE* and *Quicksilva* were unavailable on that weekend because of prior commitments elsewhere.

Pete Allum was now back in the USA for personal reasons, which cast some doubt on his availability for the coaching weekend. After discussion, Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the BPA should offer to pay for a low-cost return flight to the UK for Pete Allum to seek to encourage him, if at all possible, to honour this coaching commitment.

**Carried unanimously - Action: Jim White**

If Pete Allum was not available, other possible coaches who might be approached included Rob Colpus and Chris Lynch.

#### **61/02 Coaching for senior teams**

The Chairman was pleased to report that this Action Plan target had been successfully achieved during the Action Plan year that finished on 30 June 2002. The standard of the senior teams that had benefited from this coaching had been exceptional at this year's Nationals. They had achieved better scores and had had a positive knock-on effect on other teams. Junior and Intermediate teams had learnt from the senior teams, most especially through the structured Skills Coaching Roadshow programme, the success of which had surpassed everyone's expectations.

**62/02 Judging matters**

The Committee noted with regret that the International Judges' Seminar that had been planned to be held at the World Cup 2002 in Empuriabrava from 4-13 October, had been cancelled. The Committee had intended to sponsor Dona Crum on this seminar. John Hitchen said he would speak to the IPC Judges' Representative about this, and the more general point that opportunities for international judges, once qualified, appeared to be diminishing consequent on the judging arrangements that IPC now had in place.

**Action: John Hitchen**

*Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Empuriabrava confirmed that Dona Crum had been the only trainee judge to register for the Judges' Seminar at the World Cup 2002. The seminar had therefore been cancelled because the organisers had always stated (in Bulletin 2) that a minimum of 5 trainee judges was required for it to run.*

There was also reference to a point made by Jules Ballard concerning new rules for Style when running into wind or down wind. John Hitchen (who had just left the meeting) would be invited to comment on this.

**Action: Next meeting**

**63/02 Army Parachute Championships**

Jim White reported that at the recent Army Parachute Championships, a total of 38 4-way teams had taken part, comprising 7 senior teams, 8 intermediates and 23 juniors. Most of the teams had not taken part in the BPA Nationals. There had been 5 teams in CF, 21 jumpers in style and a staggering 123 in accuracy, albeit that most were FS jumpers jumping high performance canopies.

**64/02 WPC 2003 Gap, France**

Paul Applegate asked the Office to see if it could find out anything official about (i) repack cycles, and (ii) the aircraft to be used, for the next World Championships, in September 2003 at Gap, France.

**Action: BPA Office**

**65/02 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 18 September 2002 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1715.

The Chairman noted that he would be unable to be present for the next Council meeting, to be held on Tuesday 22 October, and therefore asked Ian Marshall (Competitions Vice Chairman) kindly to report on the Committee's activities in his stead.