

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 18 September 2002 at 1810

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic Disciplines
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Nigel Holland		Asst to Discipline Rep, Artistic Disciplines
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO

Item Minute

66/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2002

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2002 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

67/02 Matters arising

67.1 Page 1, minute 55.3, Swoop Canopies competition

The Chairman confirmed that Target Skysports was still planning to run an event related to swoop canopies, possibly with the use of windblades. Helen Swallow would be the contact for further information in due course, which would also be posted on the Target Skysports website. The Chairman also reported that Sue Meacock of Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson, was considering the possibility of hosting a coaching Roadshow on Swoop Canopies. If it were to be held this year, it would need to take place before the end of October when the cloud base tended to come down. As always, safety remained the primary consideration in the planning of swoop canopy events of any kind. As the Chairman would be out of the UK during October, he asked Jim White kindly to progress the possibility of a Swoop Canopies Roadshow with Sibson and, if a date could be arranged in time, for it to be included in the October issue of *Skydive Magazine*. The original intention had been to host a test competition on swoop canopies this season. It was now too late in the year to do that - the idea of a competition would be put on hold now until next season - but the Committee agreed it would be good if a swoop canopy coaching event could be fitted in during the autumn before winter set in.

Action: Jim White

67.2 Page 2, minute 55.4 Travel restrictions affecting team UBI Bodyflight

The Chairman reported that the 4-way FS team *UBI Bodyflight* had not come back to him in relation to the issue of Royal Air Force travel restrictions preventing the team from competing in the FS Northern Regionals at Wild Geese. This had first been discussed at the meeting on 17 July 2002 (minute 45).

No further action

67.3 Page 2, minute 55.8, Insurance cover for the BPA's ground-to-air video system

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the Committee should accept with thanks Frank Mallabone's kind offer to be the custodian of the BPA's Classics equipment Including an accuracy landing pad, printout, competition windsock, etc. Further, Frank Mallabone's suggestion to Kate Charters that he should purchase a tent in which to keep the equipment when in use should be approved as expenditure from the competitions budget, to be paid in the normal manner on submission of a receipt.

Carried unanimously

The Committee asked the Office to broaden Frank Mallabone's role specification as Camera Equipment Co-ordinator to include the Classics equipment above.

Action: BPA Office

Ian Marshall said that some of the kit required servicing, and that Frank Mallabone was aware of this.

67.4 Page 3, minute 49, New format judges' logbooks

The Chairman reported that Kate Charters was planning to issue the new format judges' logbooks at the Judges' Seminar at the AGM in January 2003. The Office was currently arranging to have these printed.

Ongoing

67.5 Page 3, minute 56.1, FS Nationals

On reflection, the Committee decided that the condolences already expressed upon the fatal accident to Oliver Reynolds at the FS Nationals would be sufficient, and that to award Certificates of Sportsmanship to his team mates might be interpreted as insensitive.

No further action

67.6 Page 4, minute 56.2, Forwarding Omniskore to Holland

The Chairman expressed the Committee's most grateful thanks to Sue Waterfield at the BPA Office for her diligence in getting the Omniskore kit from the BPA Office to Holland where it had urgently been needed for another competition. It had arrived in the nick of time! The Chairman said the lesson to be learned from this was always to check with a DZ that it wanted Omniskore for the competition it was hosting *before* sending it. Instead of being sent from Hibaldstow to Sibson, Omniskore should really have been sent from Hibaldstow to Holland.

67.7 Page 4, minute 57, Contracts for Athletes in the UK National Skydiving Delegation to WPC Gap 2003

With the acceptance of some improvements to the wording that had been helpfully suggested by Chris Allen, Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the draft contract for funded athletes (circulated) be adopted.

Carried unanimously

Ian Marshall suggested, and the Committee agreed, that a parallel contract, without any references to BPA funding or the fiscal obligations on the team arising therefrom, should be prepared for unfunded athletes and issued with their letters of invitation to join the UK delegation to WPC 2003.

Action: BPA Office

67.8 Page 5, minute 59, World Cup/European Championships - Empuriabrava, Spain: 4-18 October 2002

The Committee had been disappointed to learn that the Army 4-way FS team *Quiksilver* had had to withdraw from this competition because of military commitments. Empuriabrava had offered to refund 50% of the team's entry fee, as per their published refund policy, and had offered to consider a higher rate of refund in the (possibly unlikely) event that the meet made a profit. It was also sad to report to the organisers that 4-way FS team *XL* had been unable to attend because of personal commitments elsewhere, even though the organisers had kindly offered to keep a place open for *XL* until the last minute. UK 4-way FS would, however, be represented by team *4Pak*, women's 4-way FS by team *VMax*, and 8-way FS by team *VNE*.

Turning to CF, Ian Marshall was pleased to report that *Team Focus* would be competing in 4-way rotations, and team *Hinton-8* in the 8-way speed. The Chairman offered his congratulations to *Team Focus* on reaching the levels they had recently achieved, and said he was delighted to see both them and *Hinton-8* representing the UK in the World Cup/European Championships.

The Committee asked the Office to prepare a single competitors' agreement in the form of a contract to be signed by all competitors in the UK delegation.

Action: BPA Office

The Chairman reported that unfortunately, the order of 50 T-shirts from Sarahjayne Thomas for the UK delegation to the World Cup, were not yet ready. He had hoped they would have been delivered in time for today's meeting so Members of the Committee could hand them direct to competitors. The Office would liaise with Sarahjayne Thomas for her to try to find another way to get the T-shirts to Empuriabrava in time. (*Note: This was successfully achieved.*)

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

An e-mail had now been received from Patrice Girardin, IPC Delegate for France. In this, he confirmed that it would be compulsory for all competitors at WPC 2003 in Gap to wear AADs. He had specified the repack cycle as 6 months, and had indicated the likely aircraft to be used pending final confirmation in Bulletin 1 that was due for publication on 27 September. The Committee believed that the mandatory use of AADs in particular needed to be discussed with the UK Accuracy and CF teams, and their views taken forward to IPC through the good offices of John Hitchen, our IPC Delegate, with whom this and any other competitions issues for IPC would be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

68/02 CF/Classics Nationals: Hinton Skydiving Centre, 7-11 September 2002

68.1 Classics (Style and Accuracy)

The Chief Judges' report from Kate Charters was tabled. The Committee thanked Kate Charters for her excellent, prompt report. The Committee had been extremely impressed by Douglas Peacock, at the age of 70, being in the team that had won Gold in the team accuracy event. This made him the oldest competitor ever to have taken a Gold at the Nationals. It had also been good to see the return of Julian Spencer to the Nationals after an absence of 14 years. The Chairman said he had been pleased to see Dave Howerski jumping a high performance canopy. It had been especially encouraging to have such a strong turnout for the Classics Nationals in a non-selection year.

The Chairman said that, as Committee Members would already know, there had been a number of areas on which Hinton had requested clarification shortly before the meet. These had stemmed from genuine misunderstandings, and an particular a confusion between the arrangements for a Regional competition - which Hinton had run last year - and a National competition, which Hinton had never run before as they were a fairly new centre. Through plenty of goodwill on all sides, these problems had been resolved and the scene had therefore been set for the excellent event that it turned out to have been. The Chairman had agreed that, because of earlier misunderstandings on this occasion, the BPA would pay for some things (such as the hire of the tuffet) that the DZ would normally pay for. The DZ had not charged an entry fee, and Geoff Wood had received nothing but praise from the competitors at the way the competition had been run.

The Chairman thanked Geoff Wood and Mike Brown, Hinton's DZOs, for their help and understanding and would write to thank them, and also to record the Committee's appreciation of the sterling work during the meet of Dave Emerson, CCI.

Action: Chairman

The competitions bid form for next year (minute 72) had already been updated and expanded so as more clearly to communicate points that had proven to be a source of different interpretations this year.

At a meeting during the Nationals, Classics competitors had expressed their concern over the lack of publicity given to the Classics Coaching Roadshow held ahead of the meet. There had also been a demand for seminars and practice weekends. The Chairman apologised for problems in publicising the Classics Coaching Roadshow, but said that competitors had to bear in mind that the Roadshows were specifically intended for juniors and intermediates, and *not* for the experienced jumpers who tended to go to Classics Roadshows, not to coach others but to hone their own performance. The idea of practice weekends for all, including seniors, was good. Frank Mallabone would, subject to his availability, take the BPA equipment to wherever it was needed, and he was entitled to claim expenses from the Coaching Roadshow budget (for camera training).

A petition signed by Accuracy jumpers was tabled. This called for broader scoring for Accuracy. The Chairman also read aloud an e-mail from Alastair Macartney - who he noted had demonstrated great natural talent and had much potential in the sport, especially in Style - that presented a cogent argument for increasing the distances to which competitors were measured in Accuracy and for giving more credit to Style jumpers when selecting the British team. Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that a review of the scoring for seniors, possibly to a new distance of 2m, and reviewing the Style emphasis, should be considered when the rules for next year's Nationals were being drawn up.

Carried unanimously

Action: Bring forward when Classics rules for 2003 are being drawn up

One possibility might be for a swoop accuracy event to be held as part of the Classics Nationals next year. A note would be put in *Skydive Magazine* calling for any other comments on Style & Accuracy rule adjustments for 2003.

Action: BPA Office

68.2 Canopy Formation

In her report, Kate Charters had expressed concern that CF *Team X* had attended for the weekend only and completed only three rounds of sequential. This had been the minimum attendance criteria for selection for the World Championships. Replying, Ian Marshall said that the team had left because they had had no-one to compete against, and it would not have been effective for the team members to take time off work during the week to do just a few jumps for the sake of it. The essence of competition was challenge, and *Team X* had found itself without any challenge. Indeed, members of *Team X* had entered the CF 2-way rotations purely to give *Team Focus* some competition. The Chairman accepted this explanation in the light of the difficult circumstances at the time.

Further to this, Ian Marshall reported that the Belgian 4-way sequential CF team was facing a similar problem to *Team X* - no other team to compete against at its own Nationals. The Belgian National Team, who were roughly at the same level as *Team X*, were therefore putting forward a proposal to their own National Governing Body, for them to attend the *British Open Nationals* and for their scores here to count for selection for the Belgian team in the World Championships. The Chairman said that he could see no reason why this should not be allowed from the BPA's standpoint, but clearly the main decision lay with the Belgian NGB.

The Committee congratulated the British National CF Champions, who would be invited to join the UK delegation to WPC 2003 in Gap, on a self-funded basis. The Committee then congratulated the British National Classics Champions, noting that the selection year for Classics would be next year.

The Chairman then went on to thank Ian Marshall for his innovative approach to the new CF 2-way competition.

69/02 Regional competitions

69.1 CF Southern Regionals (re-scheduled): Hinton, 7-9 September 2002

Consequent on bad weather earlier in the season at the original venue of Cornwall Parachute Club, the CF Southern Regionals had been held concurrently with the Nationals at Hinton over the weekend of 7-9 September 2002. The Chairman thanked Hinton and the judges for their kind co-operation in running this rescheduled event.

69.2 FS Northern Regionals: Wild Geese, 14-15 September 2002

Unfortunately, the number of entries for this meet had been extremely disappointing. Only 4 junior, 1 intermediate and 1 (local) senior team had entered. The Committee thanked Wild Geese for hosting the event with their characteristic high standard of hospitality.

69.3 Classics Central Regionals: Bridlington, 28-29 September 2002

Everything was now in place for this final Regional competition of the year, following which the overall Regional placings for 2002 would be calculated by Kate Charters (although Kate Charters was understood not yet to have received the entry forms and scores for Artistic Disciplines).

70/02 Regionals 2003

71.1 Disciplines

In view of the lack of entries in the Artistic Disciplines Regionals in this, the first year they had been offered, no proposal was forthcoming that they should be repeated next year. The Committee would publicise this decision through *Skydive Magazine* and point out that it will stand subject to there being no strong demand from competitors for such competitions.

Action: BPA Office

The following disciplines would therefore constitute the Regional circuit for 2003: FS 4-way, FS 8-way, CF, Classics (Style & Accuracy), Swoop (in some form, yet to be decided). Classics/CF may be run as a combined event.

71.2 FS Regional rules 2003

Jim White reported that competitors had asked that bonus points should be discontinued next year, because they were irrelevant in the light of current standards. The Chairman said that he wished the Committee to debate the idea of including the British Nationals, and possibly also the APA Championships and/or the Scottish Nationals, in the scoring system for next year's Regionals in all disciplines. However, this was subject to further discussion and research, especially in relation to the status of the Scottish Nationals. The aim would be to encourage participation in the Nationals and other championship/s by having parallel scoring. He was aware that raising this idea would bring up a plethora of issues, so he was flagging it up in advance to give time for contemplation and consultation.

Action: Next meeting

71/02 Competitor registration for 2003

After discussion, Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the following competitor registration arrangements should be published to apply for the 2003 season:

*In response to requests from competitors, Junior and Intermediate teams will be able to register with the BPA Office on or after 1 March 2003, ahead of the first competition of the season in 2003. This new facility may be useful if subsequent training might take a team's jump numbers over the limit before the first competition of the season. However, there will be strictly **no** retrospective registration - ie, it will not be possible to backdate a registration say at the first competition of the season to what a team's jump numbers would have been had they registered on 1 March. Details will be given in the February 2003 issue of the Mag and posted on the BPA website.*

Carried unanimously

72/02 Bid forms 2003

A draft of the domestic competitions bid form for 2003 had been circulated with the agenda. Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that it should be approved as a final draft subject to minor variations, including (i) the addition of the statement that 2003 was a selection year only for the Classics disciplines of Style & Accuracy: and (ii) replacement of a reference to CF 4-way speed with one to CF 2-way sequential.

Carried unanimously

The form would now be circulated to the full Council as a final draft for any comments before issue to all UK clubs and Centres. The deadline for bids was noon on Wednesday 27

November 2002, this being the date of the next meeting of the Competitions Committee, at which successful bids would be selected.

Action: BPA Office

73/02 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Junior and Intermediate Athletes

Pete Allum had after all been able to coach at the FS Coaching Roadshow held at Sibson on 31 August and 1 September. Due to exceptional circumstances - the premature birth of his daughter in the USA - the Committee had agreed to pay his air fare on a low-cost flight (minute 60). John McIver and Rob Stevenson (camera) of XL had also coached the 27 juniors and intermediates who had attended this successful weekend.

Nigel Holland reported that 10 juniors and intermediates had made 19 coached jumps during the Artistic Disciplines Coaching Roadshow held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, over the weekend of 7-8 September 2002. 26 had attended a safety briefing during a weather hold. 20 people had attended the Artistic Disciplines Coaching Roadshow at NWPC Cark over the weekend of 14-15 September 2002. This had included a seminar on canopy control by Chris Lynch. Both these DZs were keen to host more Coaching Roadshows in the Artistic Disciplines next year, and Nigel Holland was pleased that these Roadshows were now starting to buzz. The Chairman confirmed that the Artistic Disciplines would certainly be included in the Roadshow programme for the 2003 season when that came to be planned early next year.

74/02 Judging matters

The Committee was concerned to note that the National Champions in Freestyle - a competition that had finished on 13 August - were still undeclared because Chief Judge Dona Crum had not yet filed the results. There was a lack of clarity about quite why a competition that should have finished on Monday 12 August had been allowed to continue on to the next day, based apparently on an agreement between the two teams in contention and the judges that the jumping on Tuesday would be judged by video at a later date. Three rounds remained to be judged. The situation had become further confused by a telephone call that had allegedly been made to one of the teams to announce them as the National Champions, only to be retracted as a mistake by a second telephone call about an hour later. The situation was now very confused, and the Committee sought the assistance of Kate Charters to clarify it as soon as possible. (*Note: Further information has come to light subsequent to the meeting that the alleged contact with one of the teams was by text message rather than telephone.*)

The Committee therefore asked Kate Charters to use her good offices as Judges Co-ordinator to seek to:

- 1 Advise the BPA Office as soon as possible of the final standings in the Freestyle Nationals, in order that they may be posted on the BPA website.
- 2 Find out if any telephone call/s to announce the National Champions in Freestyle were in fact made, and if so when, by whom and to whom.
- 3 Establish whether - and if so when - the tapes were viewed for judging, and if possible whether the conditions of any such judging were appropriate.
- 4 Recover the tapes for review, and for use for training purposes.

The Committee considered the present impasse to be totally unacceptable. It was vital to establish the facts so they could be considered fairly and lessons learned for the future.

Action: Kate Charters

Ian Marshall asked whether Frank Mallabone could kindly supply him with the original or a copy of the tape from the CF Nationals to use as a training tape, as it had sometimes proved difficult to get a CF 4-stack in shot. Ian Marshall said he would be able to get the tape transferred to DVD so that it could be played at the AGM.

Action: BPA Office

Ian Marshall reported that, in his capacity as CF Rep, he had written to thank the CF judges at the Nationals.

75/02 Funding

75.1 Freely team *Sebastian Freejive*

Nigel Holland appealed to the Committee to fund Freely team *Sebastian Freejive* and advocated their case for such funding. The Chairman applauded the enthusiasm of Nigel Holland's efforts but said that, unfortunately, the team had not met the BPA's published criteria for funding. Even though they had not fallen short of the criteria by a big margin, the team's score at the Nationals had contained some very high scores for the free rounds whereas their compulsories had unfortunately been of a significantly lower standard.

Unfortunately for the team, there was no rationale or perspective that could squeeze BPA funding out of their performance in this year's Nationals. The only possibility had to be for the team to generate new evidence of the standard of their performance - such as from the European Championships 2002 that were to be held in Spain next month, or the Artistic Disciplines World Cup 2002 that was to be held in Vienna. The Chairman emphasised that the position the Committee was taking should not in any way, shape or form be perceived as being against the team or its discipline - it was purely in the interests of equity and fairness to the BPA's athletes across all skydiving disciplines, in distributing the limited funding available in accordance with the BPA's strict, published performance criteria. If Nigel Holland wished to pursue the case, as was his prerogative, the Chairman said he would encourage him to take it, with Chris Lynch of the team, to the full Council.

Nigel Holland said that Freelyers did not feel they were supported by the BPA, and he was trying to help them to obtain external sponsorship. Committee Members from other disciplines immediately confirmed that athletes in their disciplines felt just the same way. It was tough to get BPA funding, very tough indeed. It had to be, because the funding available was so limited. But a disinterested person would see the funding allocation as fair, and it was this fairness that the Committee had to uphold, however unpopular it may be for those who had not quite reached the deliberately exacting performance standard.

75.2 FS 8-way team *VNE*

The Chairman reported that FS 8-way team *VNE*, National Champions for the last 3 or 4 years, had just missed out on the performance criteria for funding at this year's Nationals. They had invested tens of thousands of pounds in their sport, four team members had prejudiced their full-time careers through their sheer commitment to skydiving, they had coached juniors and intermediates for two seasons at the BPA's Skills Coaching Roadshows (for which they had claimed minimal expenses), and they had been a stalwart of Nationals and Regionals. *VNE* had now asked if a sum of approximately £500 unspent from their budget of £2K allocated by the BPA during the 2001/2 financial year could be carried forward into the current, 2002/3, financial year. Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to agree to *VNE*'s request.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman hoped that *VNE* would be able to generate fresh performance evidence at the World Cup in Spain next month that would help them to find a way of securing some funding. He had no intention that this would lead the Committee to go over budget. However, any unspent funds remaining under other competitions budget heads - such as Coaching Roadshows, the possibility of drawing on the British Team Fund, or even appealing on their behalf to DZs to support them, were all possibilities that might be considered. This was because *VNE* had demonstrated a level of personal sacrifice, motivation and sheer slog that had set them apart, and put them on a pedestal as a shining example of sustained and deep commitment to the sport.

The Chairman reported that he was continuing his pursuit of external sponsorship for the whole UK delegation to the World Championships 2003, in all disciplines.

76/02 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 27 November 2002 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.
The meeting closed at 2120.