

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 11 February 2003 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Paul Applegate		
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Teams VMax and VNE		

Item Minute

01/03 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the first Competitions Committee meeting of the year.

02/03 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2002

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2002 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

03/03 Matters arising

3.1 Page 2, minute 78.3, New format judges' logbooks

The Chairman reported that these had been issued at the AGM.

Completed

3.2 Page 2, minute 78.5, Pre-registration for junior and intermediate teams with the BPA Office from 1 March 2003

The Chairman reported that arrangements for this were progressing satisfactorily.

Ongoing

3.3 Page 2, minute 78.6, Freestyle National Champions 2002

The Chairman reported that Dona Crum was unhappy with the wording of this minute, as she believed it criticised her role as Chief Judge at the Artistic Nationals 2002. The Committee re-read the minute and confirmed that the discussion at the last meeting that it had reported had not criticised Dona Crum personally, but the system generally - ie the Committee saw that it had mismanaged the judging, was satisfied that the Committee had learned from the experience, and it resolved that such a situation must not be allowed to happen again. The committee had cast no doubt, nor had it ever intend to cast doubt, on the personal integrity of Dona Crum. The Committee was satisfied that all decisions that Dona Crum had taken had been in good faith and what she had genuinely believed to have been the best and fairest decisions in circumstances that had, unfortunately, got a little out of control.

The Chairman said he would contact Dona Crum to re-iterate the Committee's above sentiments.

Action: Chairman

3.4 Page 7, minute 83.3, Apology to Judge Karla Cole

The Chairman confirmed that, pursuant to minute 83.3, he had written a letter of apology to Karla Cole. He was pleased to report that this had been accepted.

04/03 Election of Competitions Vice Chairman, Discipline Reps, etc

Jim White proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that Ian Marshall be elected Competitions Vice Chairman for 2003.

Carried unanimously

Discipline Representatives and the Judges' Co-ordinator were then elected as follows, with no contention for the posts:

FS - Jim White; CF - Ian Marshall; Artistic - Nigel Holland (who reported that Paul Applegate wished to hand on this role); Classics - John Smyth; Judges' Co-ordinator (co-opted onto Committee, ex officio) Kate Charters.

The Chairman said that he wished to appoint a Discipline Rep for Swoop Canopies, which was now termed 'Canopy Piloting' by IPC; and he asked the Committee to use this new term.

05/03 Canopy piloting (swoop canopies) competition 2003

The Chairman said that now Canopy Piloting (swoop canopies) had been recognised as a new IPC event, he was keen to move forward with plans that had originally been discussed last year, for a UK competition. However, rules for a competition in this discipline were complex, and it was essential to have full regard to safety matters. As such, it was in his view desirable to hold such a competition as a separate, stand-alone, event. The first task was to appoint someone as a Discipline Rep for Canopy Piloting who could obtain a copy of the IPC rules and distil them into a format suitable for a trial Regional competition in the UK. Sue Meacock of Sibson, and Weston, had both expressed an interest in hosting such a competition. The Chairman said that an appropriate slot in the calendar might be found in mid to late September 2003, after the World Meet. An experienced jumper from Lippespringe was understood to have offered to help in the planning. Kate Charters suggested that BPA judge Jack Fowler might be an appropriate person to invite to become the Discipline Rep for Canopy Piloting. She said he was an ex-CCI who was experienced in swoop canopies. The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her suggestion, said he would write to Jack Fowler to ask whether or not he would be willing to take on the role.

Action: Chairman

The Chairman confirmed that the appointed Discipline Rep for Canopy Piloting would be the Meet Director for the BPA trial Regional competition, for which he would have his travel expenses and subsistence reimbursed at normal BPA rates. Nigel Holland reported that Chris Lynch, who was already organising swoop meets as Club events on 13-15 June at Headcorn and 23-25 August at Netheravon, had kindly offered to assist with competitor training. He also had good international contacts in the discipline and had himself taken part in a competition in Miami. Alastair Macartney had also kindly e-mailed the Chairman with news of Chris Lynch's "wing tip" seminars and other activities associated with canopy piloting.

06/03 Domestic competition dates and venues 2003

The Chairman confirmed the following competitions dates that had been arranged since the last meeting, as follows.

- **Classics Selection Nationals : Tuesday 17 to Sunday 22 June 2003 at Hinton Skydiving Centre.**
- **CF Nationals: Friday 20 to Sunday 22 June 2003 at Hinton Skydiving Centre.**
- **Classics Central Regionals: Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 August 2003 at BPS Langar.**

These dates had been publicised on the BPA website and would feature in the February issue of *Skydive Magazine*. The Chairman thanked Geoff Wood (Hinton) and David Hickling (Langar) for kindly agreeing to host these meets. The Langar bid form had already been circulated, and the Hinton bid form was tabled.

The office would publicise the dates in a flyer to all Clubs and Centres.

Action: BPA Office

The only regular domestic competition that remained unallocated for 2003 was the Classics Southern Regionals. A second bid form had been issued shortly before Christmas to all Clubs and Centres in the geographical region (broadly interpreted), but no bids had been received. The Chairman said, civilian Clubs having shown no interest after two invitations, he would therefore approach the APA at Netheravon to ask whether they would be kind enough to host this competition after the World Meet, during the second half of September 2003.

Action: Chairman

There was also, in prospect, the trial Regional competition for Canopy Piloting (minute 5), provisionally to be scheduled for mid to late September 2003.

The Committee noted that Cornwall Parachute Club, host to the CF Southern Regionals from 3 to 5 May 2003, was currently not operational. The Committee hoped that the Club would again be in operation in time for the competition. Should this appear nearer the time not to be the case, the Committee would then have to make a contingency plan.

07/03 Domestic competition rules 2003

The Chairman asked each of the Discipline Reps to draft the competition rules for National and, where applicable, Regional competitions for 2003, and have them available on disc as a completed draft for the Committee to consider at its next meeting. The rules would, as usual, be based on last year's rules, taking into account any changes invoked by IPC.

Action: All Discipline Reps, for the next meeting

The 2003 Nationals, in all disciplines except Classics, would be the selection nationals for WPC 2004. (Classics competitors, at their request, had on-year selection, so the Classics Nationals were the selection Nationals for this year's WPC Mondial in Gap.) There followed a discussion about the criteria for funding for the British team at WPC 2004. The Chairman reported that it was unlikely that the BPA could fund the 2004 UK delegation, so - unless the continuing efforts to secure sponsorship yielded fruit - it was probable that the 2004 delegation would have to be self-funding. It therefore appeared perverse to the Committee to set out in the rules criteria for funding when, in all probability, there would be no funding to allocate. However, the Committee was at pains to emphasise that the proposed omission of criteria for funding should in no way be taken to imply that the Committee was condoning any reduction whatsoever in the required standard. The default criteria were, as always, performance equal to fourth place or better at the last world meet. If funding criteria were, for whatever reason, required for the UK delegation to the 2004 world meet, this is what would apply. But in reality, any funding there might be would be likely to come from external sponsorship, the sponsor would be likely to set their own terms, rendering any BPA criteria superfluous.

08/03 WPC Mondial - Gap, France: Sunday 7 to Sunday 14 September 2003

The Chairman was delighted to report that he was expecting the largest UK delegation to date to compete in the WPC Mondial in Gap from 7-14 September 2003. Confirmed teams included *Team Focus*, *Team X* and *Hinton-8* in CF; *VMax*, *XL* and *VNE* in FS, and *Freejive* and *Clockwork Orange* in the Artistic Disciplines. Turning to the accommodation arrangements, the remaining 90% of the deposit to secure accommodation at the Hotel Carina in Gap, which was to be the British delegation headquarters, would be paid this month.

The Chairman reported that BPA-funded coaching for senior teams *VMax*, *XL* and *VNE* was progressing well. He knew that some people thought he tended to be over-optimistic, but he

was convinced that this really was the best opportunity for years for the top UK teams to bring home medals. XL were now free from the personal issues that had interfered with their training last year. XL had, because of the quality of the team's performance at the World Games 2001 in Akita, been invited by the Japanese to take part in the Japanese Nationals. The Japanese had described Pete Allum as "skydiving's David Beckham". The Chairman reflected that the BPA's £5K of sponsorship for XL to attend the Akita World Games was, in his view, probably the best £5K the BPA had ever spent.

Ian Marshall believed it to be essential for there to be a Delegation Manager to support the competitors and he proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that John Smyth should be appointed as Delegation Manager for the UK Delegation to WPC Mondial 2003 in Gap.

Carried unanimously

John Smyth said he would be honoured to accept, subject to ratification by the Council. He suggested that, from his experience as Delegation Manager at the World Air Games in Granada in 2001, the post of Delegation Manager should be funded up to a maximum of £1.5K. It was essential for the Delegation Manager to arrive at the meet 2 to 3 days ahead of the first members of the delegation, to sort things out ahead of their arrival. He then went on to outline some initiatives for sponsorship in kind that he was personally pursuing, one of which he had today learned had been successful and which would be the subject of a meeting tomorrow to sort out the detail. These sponsorship deals were likely to make a significant reduction in the overall cost, and thereby result in lowering the call on BPA funds to considerably below the maximum of £1.5K. The Chairman suggested that the Delegation Manager's funding should come out of the British Team Fund.

09/03 IPC update

John Hitchen (UK Delegate to IPC) had e-mailed a summary report (tabled) on the IPC meeting in Brazil that he had attended from 1-4 February 2003. This was an informal document, compiled ahead of the formal report. It confirmed that, in addition to the WPC Mondial 2003, there would be a World Championships in all disciplines in 2004 in Croatia; followed by a World Air Games in 2005 and a World Championships again in 2006.

Other matters of interest in the report were that Patrice Girardin had succeeded B J Worth as IPC President; IPC rules for Canopy Piloting would be out soon; and John Hitchen had been appointed IPC Controller for all international events in Russia and Croatia in 2004/5 - for which the Competitions Committee asked that their congratulations be passed on to him. The report on the IPC meeting also referred to summer 2003's Anton Malevsky Cup, which was a money meet, starting the Tuesday after completion of the after the Sunday completion of the UK FS Nationals. The Chairman said he hoped that it might be possible for team XL to commit to both, but this had yet to be discussed with the team.

10/03 Competitions Open Forum on AGM Day

The Chairman reported that a useful Competitions Open Forum had been held on AGM Day, Saturday 18 January 2003. Discussion had covered a wide range of topics including selection for the World Championships in 2004, rule changes in FS, doing away with bonus points at the Regionals, and accuracy scoring.

On the matter of accuracy scoring, the Chairman said that the senior event needed to remain scored to 16cms, but that he believed that a more flexible approach should be introduced for intermediates and juniors who should be scored to 25m. He believed that this would help to cut down on accidents.

Robert Frost, an 8-way FS Regional competitor in team *Box of Frogs* had asked that some of the blocks from the IPC 8-way intermediate dive pool be removed. The Chairman ruled that the blocks had to stand in the Nationals as it would be a selection event. This constraint did not of course apply to the Regionals, for which Kate Charters confirmed that the blocks considered to be most difficult would be removed. The Chairman was pleased to report that team *VNE* had indicated they would split up for coaching at the 8-way Regionals to jump as the eighth member of Junior and Intermediate teams. The Committee decided that both the 4-way and 8-way Regionals would be called "Regional / Grand Prix" events.

The possible participation of the UK in the Bendelux League had been discussed at the Open Forum. Three senior teams from each participating nation had been invited to take part. It might be possible to try something out this year, although there appeared to be a problem with a clash of dates between events in the UK and USA. The Committee hoped to be able to say more in an item in the April issue of *Skydive Magazine*.

Also in the April Magazine, there needed to be a reminder that there would be dual scoring in the 2003 Regionals - ie, the Nationals would count as a fourth competition to determine the overall Regional champions.

Action: Next meeting, for April Magazine

11/03 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The relevant Discipline Representatives reported first Skills Coaching Roadshows of the 2003 season had now been arranged as follows.

FS: 17-18 May at Netheravon, with *VNE*
7-8 June at St Andrews, with *VMax*
21-22 June at Target Hibaldstow, with *VNE*

Artistic: 7-8 June at Target Hibaldstow, with Chris Lynch & Tim Porter

Classics: 7-8 June and 14-15 June (the two weekends ahead of the Nationals) at Hinton, coached by Julian Spencer

Other venues and dates, including those for CF, were being arranged by the Discipline Reps at present and would be confirmed as soon as possible. The Chairman advised Nigel Holland that Sibson had expressed an interest in hosting an Artistic Coaching Roadshow and asked him kindly to contact Sue Meacock to liaise with her and the coaches to arrange a date.

Action: Discipline Reps

The Chairman reminded Discipline Reps please to advise the BPA Office and the magazine once a date had been finalised, to help with promulgation of the dates.

12/03 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

The Chairman thanked Committee Members for their valuable help and assistance at the informal meeting convened immediately after the inaugural Council meeting on Saturday 18 January to consider the Action Plan for 2003/4. This had enabled the Chairman to draft a plan comprising an action matrix and accompanying text, which he tabled.

The plan was discussed, and minor refinements made. The Chairman called attention to the overall budget allocation of £25K, this being considerably less than for competitions action plans in recent years. He said that, in drafting the plan, he had deliberately set out a prudent budget. The plan, with the agreed variations included, is set out as an appendix to these minutes.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the draft plan should be recommended to the Council for formal approval.

Carried unanimously

13/03 Judging matters

Kate Charters reported on a misunderstanding that had arisen between Dona Crum and Sue Skull that had resulted in Sue Skull being prematurely advised that she had secured her National Judges' ratings in the Artistic Disciplines. Unfortunately, Sue Skull's completed event sheets, that were necessary for confirmation, had never been received by Kate Charters. It was Kate Charters' role, in her capacity as Judges' Co-ordinator, to confirm when the criteria for the award of National Judges' ratings had been met. Kate Charters said she would write to Sue Skull to explain the position, and would discuss the position with Dona Crum by telephone. Kate Charters hoped that this would enable all parties to continue with their work.

Kate Charters emphasised that Dona Crum was a skilled judge of considerable ability, especially in FS, and also in Artistic Disciplines, for which she held International ratings but had suffered from a bad experience at the 2002 Nationals (minute 3.3 refers). Sometimes the support structures in place for Dona Crum had, in Kate Charters' opinion, proved to be insufficient. In view of this, Kate Charters planned to seek an international Artistic Disciplines judge from another country to support Dona Crum, whom she hoped would agree to judge the Artistic Nationals this year, so that the confidence of all parties could be restored.

Action: Kate Charters

Kate Charters reported that FS judge Sue Dixon, who lived in France, had indicated that she would be willing to be a judge at this year's FS Nationals. Kate Charters confirmed that she would be content with this, with the BPA paying travel expenses between the host Centre to and from her point of entry to the UK.

Nigel Holland said he believed that Steve Swallow of Target, Hibaldstow, may be planning to invite a former World Champion to the Artistic Nationals.

The Chairman then called attention to a reply dated 16 December (circulated) that he had received to his letter of 4 December to Roger Flinn. Dr Flinn's letter had, sadly, not been at all conciliatory in tone and in it Dr Flinn had shown no intention of being prepared to comply with the established system of the validation, listing of availability, selection and deployment of BPA judges. The Chairman said this was a matter of enormous regret to him, as Dr Flinn was a talented and highly competent judge. But a system that worked so well for everyone else could not simply be turned on its head for one individual, however able he was. Dr Flinn appeared to have taken such umbrage at the Chairman's direct but, in the view of the Committee, entirely reasonable, letter that it appeared Dr Flinn was planning not to continue as a BPA judge. The Chairman wished the Committee's respect for Dr Flinn's abilities to be put on record, with a note that should this very talented individual ever wish to participate as a BPA judge in the same manner as all other judges, he would be more than welcome.

14/03 British Para-ski team

The Chairman was pleased to report that Ian Anderson, a BPA Member who ran the Territorial Army 4th Battalion Parachute Display Team, was part of the first-ever British team to compete in a world Para-ski championship. The British Para-ski team was self-funded, possibly with some support from the TA. The Chairman had been informed about the team over Christmas, and had given the team the BPA's blessing.

15/03 Letter of thanks for FS Overall Regional Silver and Bronze categories

The Chairman was pleased to read aloud a letter of appreciation from Stuart Brown of the junior team *Chaos* to the Council for awarding Silver and Bronze medals in FS in the Overall Regional awards for 2002.

16/03 Para Youth proposal

A proposal was tabled from Rob Ames for ground training for young people under the age of 16. The Chairman said that this was properly a matter for the full Council rather than this Committee.

17/03 Competitor enquiry: Artistic Nationals 2003

Chris Guntrip of Freely team *Euphoria* had written to say that his sister's marriage was to be on 2 August, the weekend of the competition. He wanted to attend both, and had put forward a plan involving a period of absence from the competition for him to attend the wedding, which he had asked the Committee to consider. The Chairman said that this was not a matter for this Committee to decide. Instead, Chris Guntrip would need to raise the issue at the competitors' briefing (or have it raised on his behalf if he could not attend the briefing in person). He would need to try to secure the agreement of other competitors to his proposals. If they agreed, that would be fine; but if there were even a single objection, the objection would have to be honoured. Nigel Holland, as Discipline Rep, agreed to report back to Chris Guntrip on the position.

Action: Nigel Holland

18/03 BBC Sports Personality of the Year

Ian Marshall asked why no skydivers had been invited, even to the audience, for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony last year. The Chairman said that this was because of UK Sports ranking of sports, which categorised parachuting as a level 3 sport, in effect a minority sport. He believed that no airsports were represented at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony for the same reason.

19/03 Judges' uniform

Kate Charters reported that she had been asked, at the Judges' meeting at the AGM, whether there were any plans to re-instate the judges' uniform that had been provided, in the form of a customised polo shirt, a few years ago. Kate Charters said that these had kindly been sponsored by Chris Thomas. The Chairman suggested that Kate Charters might task someone with finding out the unit cost of such items now, and report back to the Committee with a budget figure for kitting-out the judges in this way.

Action: Kate Charters

20/03 Artistic Nationals: Proactive tv

Nigel Holland reported that Proactive Television had expressed an interest in covering this year's Artistic Nationals and Artistic Coaching Roadshows. He hoped to have more information in due course.

21/03 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25 March 2003 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF.

The meeting closed at 2035.

Appendix: Draft Competitions Action Plan grid and text for the year 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004

Issued: 18 February 2003

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