

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 25 March 2003 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep - Artistic
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observers:	Ian Matthews	-	Team VNE
	Andy Scott	-	Team VNE
	Alan Wilkinson	-	from item 23.4.8
Apologies for absence:	Team VMax		

Item Minute

22/03 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2003

Nigel Holland proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2003 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

23/03 Matters arising

23.1 Page 1, minute 3.2, Pre-registration for Junior and Intermediate teams

Three eligible teams had pre-registered with the BPA Office to date.

23.2 Page 1, minute 3.3 Correspondence with Dona Crum

The Committee noted correspondence between the Chairman and Dona Crum. The Chairman suggested that it would be appropriate to draw a line under this, as it appeared to him there was little to be gained by a further exchange of letters. The issue now was whether or not Dona Crum wished to continue to be a judge in the 2003 season. The Chairman asked Kate Charters, in her capacity as Judges' Co-ordinator, kindly to liaise with Dona Crum to find out.

Action: Kate Charters

23.3 Canopy piloting (swoop canopies) test Regional competition 2003

The Chairman reported that he had written to invite Jack Fowler to become the Discipline Rep to help to organise a test Regional competition in Canopy Piloting, but that Jack Fowler had been unable to accept the invitation. In view of the planning authority and regulatory problems relating to sinking water trenches at civilian Drop Zones, the Chairman said he would enquire of APA Netheravon whether they might be able to host a trial Regional competition in Canopy Piloting, possibly towards the end of September 2003, and perhaps concurrently with the Classics Southern Regionals, for which a venue had yet to be found.

He believed that the first necessity was to find a suitable venue for a test Regional competition in Canopy Piloting, and then to draft the rules, drawing as a guide on the various sets of rules already published for competitions outside the UK. In discussion, John Hitchen suggested that it might be helpful to keep a close watch on the development of Canopy Piloting in the USA, where he thought it possible that it might be included as an event in an Accuracy competition.

The Chairman asked the BPA Office to try to obtain from Mark Bayada a copy of the Canopy Piloting competition rules used at RAPA.

Action: BPA Office

23.4 Page 5., minute 12, Competitions Action Plan 2003-4

The consolidated version of the Action Plan 2003-4, covering all the BPA's main areas of activity, was now being finalised for submission to UK Sport. The outcome of this bid for funding (including £25K for competitions) would be likely to be known during late May 2003.

23.5 Page 7, minute 19, Judges' uniform

No update on this was available because Kate Charters was not present.

24/03 Domestic competitions 2003

24.1 Classics Southern Regionals

As no civilian Clubs or Centres had bid to host this competition, despite the issue of two bid forms, the Chairman said he would invite APA Netheravon to host it in late September 2003, after the WPC Mondial in Gap (7-14 September 2003).

Action: Chairman

24.2 CF Southern Regionals: Cornwall Parachute Club, 3-5 May 2003

The Chairman reported that it was still not clear whether or not the Club would be operating at the time of the competition. This may become clearer after the STC meeting to be held on 10 April 2003. The Committee therefore decided to put this matter in abeyance until after that date. Meanwhile, the Chairman would make tentative enquiries of APA Netheravon to ask if they might be willing to host a rescheduled CF Southern Regional competition concurrently with the Classics Southern Regionals in late September 2003, if need be.

Action: Chairman

24.3 Competition Rules 2003

24.3.1 Selection criteria for National teams

The Committee set out the following form of words to be included in the rules under 'selection criteria' in all disciplines.

"As IPC has decided, in effect, to have four World Championships back-to-back for the years 2003 to 2006, the BPA has decided that there will unfortunately be no funding available for British Teams for the period August 2003 to August 2004. Therefore, NO minimum criteria will be set for funding, as teams and/or individuals selected to represent GB will be expected to be self-funded or obtain their own sponsorship. However, the BPA will continue in its efforts to obtain corporate sponsorship for the 2004 delegation. In addition, the BPA reserve the right not to select any individual or team to represent GB if considered unsuitable, especially on safety grounds, given IPC's declared intent to take skydiving to the general public at the venues chosen for future World Championships."

24.3.2 Determination of Overall Regional 'Grand Prix Champions

The Committee set out the following form of words to be included in the Regional 'Grand Prix' rules in all disciplines, concerning the determination of the Overall Regional Champions.

"For 2003, parallel Regional points will be awarded for ALL disciplines at ALL the National Championships. This means that there will effectively be four competitions to decide the Overall Regional / Grand Prix Champions for 2003."

24.3.4 Finalisation of rules

The Chairman asked all Discipline Reps to send their rules to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office in good time for them to be copied and posted out as the final draft for consideration for approval by the full Council at its meeting on 15 April 2003.

Action: Discipline Reps

24.3.5 Classics Rules

24.3.5.1 Classics Nationals Rules

Rule 3(d) of the Classics Nationals would read *“Scoring will be on a 3 cms pad up to a maximum of 15 cms. Any miss will then be scored at 16 cms. Intermediate competitors will be scored to 25 metres. Novice competitors will jump as individuals, and will also be scored to 25 metres.”*

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Classics competitors had opted for on-year selection for the British team to WPC Gap 2003. He said he would ask Kevin Hardwick, a BPA Member who lived in Gap, to check out the Hotel Carina (which was to be the British team hotel) and also do a recce of the stadium in which the Accuracy event was to be held.

Action: Chairman

There were no changes (other than the insertion of the standard paragraph about selection for 2004 - minute 24.3.1 refers) in the rules for Style.

24.3.5.2 Classics Regionals Rules

All Accuracy competitors - seniors, intermediates and juniors - would be scored to 25 metres. The standard sentence about parallel scoring (minute 24.3.2) would be added.

John Smyth then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the rules for the Classics Nationals and Regionals should be approved for recommendation to the full Council.

Carried unanimously

24.4.6 CF Rules

24.4.6.1 CF Nationals Rules

Ian Marshall reported on minor variations to be incorporated in the Rules for 2003, together with the standard paragraph (minute 24.3.1) about selection for 2004.

24.4.6.2 CF Regionals Rules

Ian Marshall reported that there were no significant variations from last year's rules, except that the standard sentence about parallel scoring (minute 24.3.2) would be added.

Ian Marshall then proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the rules for the CF Nationals and Regionals should be approved for recommendation to the full Council.

Carried unanimously

24.4.7 FS Rules

24.4.7.1 FS Nationals Rules

Jim White reported that the only variation to the Nationals rules was the addition of the standard sentence about selection for 2004 (minute 24.3.1).

24.4.7.2 FS Regionals / Grand Prix Rules

Jim White reported that the 4-way FS Regional / Grand Prix rules would be similar to last year, except the reference bonus points would be deleted and the standard sentence about parallel scoring (minute 24.3.2) added. The 8-way was a new event, and its rules would be based on the rules for the 4-way Regionals. However, the dive pool for the 8-way Regionals would be the intermediate dive pool from the Nationals.

Jim White then proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the rules for the FS Nationals and Regionals / Grand Prix should be approved for recommendation to the full Council.

Carried unanimously

24.4.8 Artistic Rules

24.4.8.1 Artistic Nationals Rules

Nigel Holland reported that he had not yet completed work on the rules, but the only variation to the Nationals rules was the addition of the standard sentence about selection for 2004 (minute 24.3.1). The Chairman asked him to liaise with Paul Applegate to ensure that the final draft rules were received at the BPA Office in time for them to be issued to the Council ahead of its meeting on 15 April 2003.

24.4.8.2 Artistic Regionals

The Competitions Committee had already decided that there would be no Artistic Regionals in 2003 because so few teams entered last year. The Chairman expressed the hope that, through particular concentration on Skills Coaching Roadshows in the Artistic Disciplines this season, a critical mass of competitors such that the demand could justify the Committee re-introducing the Artistic Regionals in 2004.

24.4.9 Competitions news in the April issue of Skydive Magazine

The standard paragraphs in the rules for the Nationals on selection (minute 24.3.1) and for the Regionals / Grand Prix on parallel scoring (minute 24.3.2) would be submitted to *Skydive Magazine* for publication.

Action: BPA Office

24.4.10 Role of team VNE in the 8-way FS Regionals / Grand Prix

Ian Matthews (*VNE*) said that the team would attend the 8-way Regionals / Grand Prix (except the Strathallan leg, when they would be training outside the UK) for scored demonstration jumping and coaching only. They wished to encourage 8-way competitions and would therefore not take the points themselves. Up to two members of *VNE* would jump with any other team that wanted them to do so. The Committee thanked *VNE* for supporting the 8-way FS Regionals / Grand Prix in this manner and asked that their plans should be publicised in *Skydive Magazine*.

Action: BPA Office

25/03 WPC Mondial - Gap, France: Sunday 7 to Sunday 14 September 2003

25.1 General

The Chairman reported that he was continuing to seek sponsorship for the UK Delegation to WPC Mondial 2003 in Gap. Chris Lynch had yet to reply to the Committee's invitation for his National Champion Artistic teams to be part of the UK Delegation - the office would follow this up.

Action: BPA Office

The Classics disciplines of Style and Accuracy would have on-year selection at the Nationals in June 2003. The training programmes of the BPA-funded teams in FS (*XL*, *VMax* and *VNE*) were all proceeding satisfactorily in accordance with the training programmes they had submitted to the Committee. The Chairman said that the Committee would recommend to the full Council that the National teams must prioritise their own training for WPC Gap after the Nationals. They should put their involvement in Skills Coaching Roadshows on hold during the critical run-up to Gap. In particular the third, reserve, weekend of the FS Nationals should be used for National team training, not Coaching Roadshows. He thanked *VMax* and *VNE* for their sterling commitment to a demanding programme of Coaching Roadshows ahead of the Nationals.

The Chairman said that, as UK Delegation Manager at Gap, he planned to arrive two days before the first competitor. He was taking a 7-seater Land Rover Discovery, kindly sponsored by Land Rover, and would be able to use this to take any necessary kit, such as creepers, to Gap.

25.2 Head of Delegation

There followed a discussion requested by the full Council to nominate the Head of Delegation for the UK. The Chairman called for names, and the name of John Hitchen was put forward. No other names were suggested. The Committee therefore asked John Hitchen whether, if formally invited by the Council, he would accept this role. On securing his agreement, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council that John Hitchen should be Head of the UK Delegation to WPC Mondial Gap 2003.

Action: Recommend to the Council

John Hitchen outlined the role of the Head of Delegation, and explained that under new IPC arrangements, the Head of Delegation would no longer be required to sit on the jury as IPC would now choose three jury members in advance. There followed discussion about whether it was necessary to have a Delegation Manager as well as a Head of Delegation. For a 50-strong delegation to a multi-disciplinary meet such as WPC Mondial, Gap, the Committee believed both roles to be essential, as there was no way that a single individual could adequately discharge the full range of responsibilities involved.

From 2004, John Hitchen was to become the IPC Controller for international competitions in Russia and Croatia. Therefore, the Committee noted that it was unlikely that he would be available to head the UK delegation at these meets.

25.3 Team uniform

The Chairman reported that a team uniform of a T-shirt, or other type of shirt, would be required for the opening ceremony at Gap. He had asked the teams for design suggestions, which would come before the Competitions Committee for consideration.

26/03 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

A copy of an e-mail from Nigel Holland had been circulated with an update on arrangements for Artistic Coaching Roadshows this summer. Ian Marshall announced that CF Coaching Roadshows would be held at Langar on 5-6 July, coached by Mark Weaver, himself, and another; and at Hinton on 26-27 July, intended particularly for women CF jumpers, with coaches from Hinton. On both it would be essential to pre-book, as the number of jumpers that could be accommodated was strictly limited. He had also offered to organise a CF Coaching Roadshow at Strathallan and was awaiting a reply from Kieran Brady there. The Chairman emphasised that trainee coaches involved in the CF Coaching Roadshows would not be eligible to claim expenses from the BPA. Ian Marshall reported that three parachute centres were organising their own CReW seminars, which were not part of the BPA's Coaching Roadshows programme. This was because they wanted a club-focused event with their own coaches, possibly because the BPA CF Coaching Roadshows held last year had been over-subscribed.

The Chairman reported that Lesley Gale was co-ordinating the Coaching Roadshows aimed at encouraging women competitors, which were part of the Action Plan from 1 July 2003.

The Chairman said that the programme of Coaching Roadshows for summer 2003 was now complete. The Committee would review the position, including the remaining budget, in September 2003, to see whether funds remained for any further activity in autumn 2003 or during the first part of the 2004 season. Jim White reported that VMax had expressed an interest in an FS Coaching Roadshow at Netheravon after WPC Mondial 2003, and the Chairman said this would be subject to the budget review in September 2003 to determine whether or not sufficient funds remained in the Roadshow budget at that time.

Nigel Holland reported that Proactive Television was interested in covering FF team *Freejive* at Coaching Roadshows. It was seeking a sponsor for television coverage at the Roadshow. It also planned to cover the Artistic Nationals at Hibaldstow, and hoped to have found a sponsor by then. If so, it was possible that the television company may make a payment to the top teams for footage. Nigel Holland suggested that any such fees might be used to pay for the teams' entry fees to move towards a free-of-charge Artistic Nationals. The Chairman said this sounded promising and asked Nigel Holland to keep the Committee up-to-date with briefing notes as the plan developed.

Action: Nigel Holland

27/03 Judging matters

As Kate Charters was not present, this item was held over until the next meeting.

28/03 World Cup 2002 repayments

Repayments were now being received of entry fees and, where applicable, accommodation deposits, paid by the BPA on behalf of UK teams at the World Cup /European Championships at Empuriabrava in October 2002. Contact with the APA in respect of the 50% of the entry fee payment owed by the Army FS 4-way team *Quiksilva*, who withdrew, had revealed that APA would pay £500 towards the outstanding amount of £1098.20, with the remaining £598.20 due for repayment by the team members themselves. The other 50% of *Quiksilva's* entry fees had already been returned to the BPA by the competition organisers.

29/03 Euro Acro Festival

The BPA had been invited to send two male and two female Accuracy jumpers to represent the UK at the European Acro(batic) Festival to be held in Publier, France, from 7-10 August 2003. It appeared that the organisers would pay travel and accommodation costs. The Office had contacted a number of accuracy jumpers. The Committee decided that, since the organisers were now requesting confirmed names, first refusal should be given in the order of results in the men's and women's senior Accuracy event in the 2002 Nationals.

Action: BPA Office

30/03 Free Access for National Sportspeople Scheme

Ian Marshall called attention to the Free Access for National Sportspeople (FANS) scheme. It gave free off-peak access to local authority run gyms to national champions. A Sport England initiative, its availability was patchy and currently it was available mainly in the South East of England. The Committee asked the BPA Office to find out more about the scheme, with a view possibly to putting an item in a future issue of *Skydive Magazine*.

Action: BPA Office

31/03 Skydiving as a Paralympic sport

The Chairman referred to recent correspondence from the Development Committee, which had been circulated to the full Council, concerning a possible application for skydiving to be admitted as a Paralympic sport. He said this was not a Competitions matter, although he confirmed that the Competitions Committee would, in due course, be pleased to assist the Development Committee - for example on the preparation of rules - should this be required. However, the Chairman understood it was likely to take some time before the outcome of any application for Paralympic status, if one were to be made, was known.

32/03 Date of next meeting

Thursday 15 May 2003 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF.

The meeting closed at 2030.