

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 8 July 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	-	Vice Chairman/Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observers:	Bob Charters	-	Judge
	Liz Groucott	-	Team VMax
	Ian Matthews	-	Team VNE
Apologies for absence:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO

Item Minute

44/03 Minutes

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2003 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

45/03 Matters arising

45.1 Page 1, minute 36.1, Pre-registration for Junior and Intermediate teams

Fifteen eligible teams had pre-registered with the BPA Office to date. The wording on the form would be altered for next year to allow pre-registration up to the date of the Nationals.

45.2 Page 1, minute 36.2, Correspondence with Dona Crum

Kate Charters reported that Dona Crum planned to come to the 8-way Nationals / Artistic Nationals on 2-4 August.

45.3 Page 1, minute 36.3 Canopy piloting (swoop canopies) test Regional competition 2003

The Chairman reported that a number of Club events were being held in this new discipline. He had therefore suggested, and the Committee agreed, not to progress the idea of a BPA test Regional competition this year, but to look at it again next year.

45.4 Page 2, minute 36.4, Competitions Action Plan 2003-4

The Chairman reported that UK Sport had granted £30K of exchequer funding to the BPA for the nine-month period from 1 July 2003 to 31 March 2004. UK Sport had stipulated that half was to be spent on competitions and the other half on safety. The reason for the change from twelve to nine months' funding was because UK Sport was changing its funding year.

45.5 Page 2, minute 36.5, Judges' uniform

Kate Charters reported that the new judges' sweatshirts would be ready for the Nationals.

45.6 Page 2, minute 36.6, World Cup 2002 repayments

An updated list was tabled. Sarah-Jane Smith had asked whether she could spread her repayment over six payments. The Committee agreed to meet her half way and agree to three instalments.

45.7 Page 2, minute 36.7, European Acro Festival

The four UK nominees were presently awaiting further information from the organisers.

45.8 Page 2, minute 36.8, Free Gym Access to National Sportspeople

The Office had sent a letter to Alastair Macartney's district council to ask if they would be able to offer the FANS scheme in their area.

Jim White had made initial enquiries and said he was not aware of any similar scheme in Scotland.

45.9 Page 6, minute 39 Canopy Piloting World Cup

The Chairman proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that, on the recommendation of Alastair Macartney (team co-ordinator), the following should comprise the self-funded UK team to compete in the Canopy Piloting World Cup to be held at Perris Valley Skydiving Centre, California, USA, from 24-28 September 2003: Tim Carter, Chris Lynch, Alastair Macartney, Brian Vacher and Gary Wainwright.

Carried unanimously

Alastair Macartney would be asked to ensure that all team members had adequate insurance, including repatriation cover.

Action: BPA Office

The Committee wished the team every success.

46/03 Domestic competitions 2003

46.1 CF/ Classics Nationals

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her Chief Judges' report (circulated). The meet had gone well. Some of the CF competitors had expressed concern about the short time between the posting of the final scores and the presentation ceremony. Ian Marshall tabled a draft report on the CF Nationals for *Skydive Magazine* by Carl Blair. The Committee congratulated Yolande Lee of CF Team Focus as being the first woman to win a gold medal in CF in the UK.

Carl Williams had sent an e-mail (tabled) about the Classics Nationals in which he supported a Tuesday to Friday meet, as he said that the majority of Classics competitors earned their living from skydiving and did not therefore wish to be involved in a competition at a weekend. However, he urged the Competitions Committee to adopt off-year selection for the Classics in future (as was already the case for all other disciplines).

The Chairman said he agreed wholeheartedly with Carl Williams. He said that on-year selection had been tried but it had not worked. He noted that many of those who had strongly supported on-year selection at the Competitions Open Forum at the AGM in January 2003 had not after all competed at the Nationals. With a Classics World Championship to be held in Croatia from 18-24 September 2004 and the World Air Games June 2005 (which he cautioned may be by invitation only), he believed that it was appropriate that the Classics National team should be selected for two years.

The Chairman suggested, following which Ian Marshall proposed and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the dates of next year's Classics selection Nationals should be specified as Tuesday 15 to Sunday 20 June 2004, and that a bid form for Classics only should now be issued to all UK Clubs and Centres, with a deadline for receipt of bids of noon on the day of the next meeting of this Committee.

Carried unanimously

Because selection would be for 2004 and 2005, this would revert the Classics to the same pattern of off-year selection that was already in place for all other disciplines.

46.2 Classics/CF Northern - Wild Geese: 28-29 June 2003

Kate Charters reported that this had been essentially a Club competition, with 14 competitors. None had come from the mainland. No competitors had registered by the Wednesday before the meet, but the judges had already booked their flights.

46.3 FS 8-way Grand Prix - Target, Hibaldstow: 5-6 July 2003

No competition had taken place on the Saturday because of bad weather, but five rounds were completed on the Sunday, with VNE scoring 21, although they were not competing for a placing. The coaching by VNE had gone well, and had included some scratch teams, thereby meeting the objective of encouraging domestic competition in 8-way FS. The Chairman thanked VNE for their much-valued help in promoting the uptake of their discipline.

46.4 FS and Artistic Nationals - Target, Hibaldstow: 26-28 July (FS) and 2-4 August 2003 (FS and Artistic)

The Chairman said he planned to be present for both weekends. Nigel Holland said he would attend the Artistic Nationals. A request had been received from Hibaldstow for a point of clarification about the rules for the Artistic Nationals. The Chairman asked Kate Charters and Nigel Holland to consult outside the meeting and respond, and publicise the answer. The Chairman suggested that they should consult the Artistic event judge for the Mondial 2003.

Action: Kate Charters and Nigel Holland

Kate Charters said that, under the rules, any competitors who chose to leave the Drop Zone before jumping had finished would score zero for any missed rounds.

Nigel Holland reported that he had been told that the printed rules for the Artistic Nationals and the rules on the BPA website were not the same. (Note: The difference appears to be that the IPC rules are not posted on the BPA website, but on the IPC website.)

Ian Matthews raised an issue about XL and VMax's participation in the Nationals should the back-up weekend be needed for the 4-way competition, because both teams were planning to be in Italy that weekend to train for the Mondial. After discussion of various options, the Chairman confirmed that he would do all he could to ensure the teams' training for the Mondial would not be prejudiced. However, he said it was not for this Committee to set out the position now, but for negotiation with the competitors at the meet. He was confident that all competitors would wish fully to support our National teams in their training for the Mondial.

46.5 Classics/CF Southern Regionals

The Chairman reported that, as no civilian centre had bid to host this meet, Mike Smith had kindly offered use of the facilities at Netheravon. After discussion on possible dates, the Committee agreed to ask for the weekend of 4-5 October 2003. (Note: This was subsequently confirmed with Netheravon.) The Committee expressed its most grateful thanks to Netheravon for kindly agreeing to host this meet.

47/03 WPC Mondial - Gap, France: Saturday 6 to Saturday 13 September 2003

47.1 Composition of UK Delegation

The updated delegation list was tabled. The Chairman asked Liz Groucott whether VMax planned to register an alternate, and she said she would confirm the position before the registration deadline of 18 July. CF Team X had yet to confirm whether or not they would be competing in the Mondial. Nigel Holland asked whether the BPA might consider making a loan to the Freestyle and Freestyle teams, but the Chairman advised that this was a Council matter but he knew that the policy of the Council was that it would not authorise loans to teams. He confirmed that payment to the BPA was required before the BPA officially registered the UK delegation. Late registration would, however, be possible at the Mondial organisers' discretion, and subject to payment of an additional late fee per person.

47.2 Accommodation

The BPA had reserved 25 twin-bedded rooms at the Hotel Carina in Gap for the training and competition periods. No additional rooms were available, but the Hotel had indicated that at least some rooms could be made into triples.

47.3 Delegation vehicle

The Chairman reported that Land Rover had kindly agreed to supply a Discovery vehicle for use by the UK delegation in Gap. The vehicle would be made available ahead of the FS Nationals, at which it would also be used. The Chairman said it was important for the teams to get some good publicity shots of the vehicle with the National teams to recognise the kind support of Land Rover. The Committee thanked the Chairman for arranging this valued support.

47.4 UK Delegation shirt

Three members had submitted between them five designs for consideration in response to the 'design a logo' competition announced in the June Magazine. The Committee selected the winning entry, which was a globe and flag logo by Chris Hollis of Peterborough. His prize would be a shirt bearing the logo.

After consideration of various options, the Committee decided that the Chairman would invite Rob Colpus of Symbiosis Suits to supply the delegation shirts, in men's and women's versions. These would also bear the Symbiosis logo. The Chairman would seek the best deal, and the shirts would be paid for from the British Team Fund and supplied free-of-charge to delegation members, with any spare shirts sold off to help to defray the cost.

Action: Chairman

48/04 XL funding

The Chairman apologised to the Committee for his oversight in that the members of team XL had not renewed their BPA membership at the time he had authorised the latest tranche of BPA funding to be transferred to the team. He confirmed that the team had now renewed. In order to avoid any future mistake of this nature, the Committee asked Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, to adopt new procedures for team funding and to run a check on a team's membership status before any funding was transferred. All team members had to be in current BPA membership before any funding would be transferred.

Action: BPA Office

49/03 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The Artistic roadshows held so far this year had been an outstanding success. The Committee passed on its grateful thanks to Tim Porter and Chris Lynch for the coaching they had kindly provided.

Nigel Holland reported that Mark Swarbrick and Ash Crick had kindly agreed to act as coaches for a forthcoming Artistic roadshow at Sibson, for which Nigel Holland had sent a publicity poster to all Drop Zones.

The Chairman said that no further roadshows would be added to the diary for the time being, pending a check on the remaining budget after those already arranged had been held.

Jim White reported that a FS roadshow due to have taken place at Hinton last month had been postponed because one of the coaches from team 4-Pak had been unwell.

The Chairman reported that Julian Spencer had held a very good roadshow in Classics at Hinton ahead of the Nationals. However, it had been disappointing that none of the juniors or intermediates who had taken part in the roadshow had entered the Nationals.

50/03 New interactive coaching page and team contacts page on the BPA website

The Chairman welcomed the first interactive coaching page, with guest coach Pete Allum, who was one of the world's top FS coaches. However, he noted that it was proving difficult to find other coaches to write pages. He believed that part of the problem may be that summer was the busiest time of year for coaches. He considered that the preparation of coaching pages might best be done during the winter months. The Committee agreed there was a

need further to consider the arrangements for sourcing coaching webpages in partnership with the Development Committee, which was responsible for development of the website.

Action: Liaise with the Development Committee

The Committee was pleased to note that a new team contacts page had been added to the BPA website on 1 July, to enable teams to find members and individuals to team up.

51/03 Judging matters

Kate Charters reported that the judges training programme was going well, with three new judges set to achieve their national ratings this year, and one new international judge. However, there was a blockage in the system of progression, for those who wished to do so, in going from a national judge to a FAI international judge. This was because of the FAI/IPC policy that put international judges out of the loop if they had not judged a class 1 event for two years. This policy had diminished opportunities for our international judges and had set off a downward spiral of reduced participation. It would result in a small, elite group of international judges who were the chosen few, with others effectively frozen out. Kate Charters strongly believed that this was not a good policy. She said it meant that in the UK, we were wasting money in training new international judges, many of whom may probably never get into the loop.

The Committee agreed that this was a serious problem, and that the BPA should do all in its power to seek to bring about a re-think by FAI/IPC. To that end, Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that Kate Charters, as Judges' Co-ordinator, or her nominee, should be funded by the BPA to attend the next IPC meeting to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 28 January - 1 February 2004, with a mission statement to argue the case for change.

Carried unanimously

There were likely to be dire consequences for the progression of UK judges to international status if decisive action was not taken. The Chairman said that a specific target in the Competitions Action Plan was to increase our number of international judges. This year, that increase was likely to be zero, unless the IPC reviewed their approach - an approach that had seen the cancellation of international judges' seminars, for example at the World Cup 2002 and Mondial 2003. The Committee therefore believed that it was entirely proper that part of the budget for this Action Plan target should be used to fund the Judges' Co-ordinator's attendance at the next IPC meeting to put over the case strongly and in person.

Kate Charters then outlined the cost of hire of an Accuracy tuffet. The Committee considered that the BPA might well get better value if it purchased its own tuffet and cover. Kate Charters said she would obtain some quotes and report back with figures on the costs incurred to pay expenses plus hire and transportation charges for a tuffet, compared with the cost of outright purchase. This information was needed in order for the Committee to be able to make an appropriate recommendation to the full Council for next year's Action Plan, with a view to saving money in the longer-term. Kate Charters said that were a it to be decided to purchase a tuffet in due course, it could be kept by Frank Mallabone during the summer, and stored in Julian Spencer's warehouse during the winter.

Action: Kate Charters

Kate Charters reported that she would be Chief Judge for the FS 8-way and Artistic Nationals this year. She had told three German Freeflyers about the Artistic Nationals and hoped they would come.

Finally, Kate Charters asked that next year, the Regionals and Nationals should not be scheduled so compactly. If next year's calendar could be arranged earlier, she hoped it might be possible to spread out the events more. The Chairman said that it was always difficult to fit everything into the season, but the Committee would do its very best to address this issue by seeking to agree next year's dates earlier.

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her report.

52/03 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 23 September 2003 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF, supplemented by a short Competitions update at 1800 on the day of the next Council meeting, Tuesday 19 August.

The meeting closed at 2020.