

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

Tuesday 23 September 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:	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Ian Matthews	-	Team VNE

Item Minute

53/03 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2003 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

54/03 Matters arising

54.1 Page 1, minute 45.2, Correspondence with Dona Crum

The Chairman said he had spoken with Dona Crum, and understood that she planned to continue as an FS judge but not as a judge for the Artistic Disciplines. The Committee welcomed Dona Crum's decision to continue as a judge, and looked forward to her contacting Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, in the normal manner to submit her judges' logbook and confirm her availability for next year.

The Chairman then reported that he had spoken with Sue Meacock of Peterborough Parachute Centre. Sue Meacock had told him that she had taken the decision that the tapes from the 2002 Artistic Nationals could be taken off site for judging. He said that in due course he would write to Dona Crum to confirm this.

Action: Chairman

54.2 Page 2, minute 45.5, Judges' uniform

Kate Charters had stated in her written report (circulated) that judges had been issued with the new judges' uniform that they would wear at all BPA competitions. The uniform comprised a sweatshirt, polo shirt and black waterproof jacket all bearing the BPA logo. Every judge had been issued with one of each item on the understanding that they would purchase extras from the BPA at a cost of £10 for polo shirts and £11 for sweatshirts. This would enable the outlay to be recovered as the cost price of each item had averaged out at £7.50. Kate Charters had stated in her report that competitors had been pleased with the judges' uniform because it had made it far easier to identify the judges. The Committee thanked Kate Charters for arranging to supply the judges' uniform.

54.3 Page 2, minute 45.6, World Cup 2002 repayments

To date, the total repaid was £14,377.09 with £819.09 still outstanding. The outstanding monies comprised payments by instalment that had been agreed for two competitors, and one payment where the division of the payment still had to be clarified. The Chairman asked the Office to double check that the repayments were being credited into the Competitions budget head, as the World Cup 2002 payment had effectively been a loan to competitors that had resulted in last year's Competitions budget becoming overdrawn.

Action: BPA Office

54.4 Page 2, minute 45.7, European Acro Festival

Fran Shaskova-Richards, Esther Reynolds and Jeff Chandler had represented the UK at the European Acro Festival held in Publier, France, from 8-10 August 2003. Julian Spencer had been unable to go because of unforeseen commitments.

Fran Shaskova-Richards had kindly sent the Committee a short report (circulated). She noted that it had been mostly a gymnastics event that had included accuracy parachuting for the first time. The accuracy jumps had been made into a concrete area enclosed on three sides with large sports building structures and houses on the fourth side. The UK team had made five jumps. The rest of the competition had been held in the gymnastic hall of the sports centre. Scoring had been not as individual teams - skydivers, trampoliners, etc - but as a nation. The UK team had finished in third place.

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

Jim White reported that there did not appear to be any similar scheme in Scotland to the Sport England-sponsored 'FANS' scheme. The BPA Office had not yet received a reply to its letter to Alastair Macartney's district council to ask if they would be able to offer the FANS scheme in their area, and so a letter of reminder had been sent.

54.6 Page 2, minute 45.9 Canopy Piloting World Cup

The Committee noted that since its last meeting, Alastair Macartney (team co-ordinator) had added one more team member, Michael Holmes, to the UK team to compete in the Canopy Piloting World Cup. The Competition would be held at Perris Valley Skydiving Centre, California, USA, from 24-28 September 2003. The Chairman confirmed that, because a team uniform was a requirement of the organisers, he had authorised the purchase of a team uniform (a T-shirt costing approximately £10 per team member) from the British Team Fund. The Committee wished the UK team well in this first-ever Canopy Piloting World Cup.

54.7 Page 4, minute 50, Interactive coaching webpage

The Committee was pleased to note that Stuart Meacock had kindly prepared a coaching webpage on Freely. This had now been uploaded to replace the original FS coaching webpage that had been written by Pete Allum, to whom the Committee was most grateful for getting this new initiative off to such a good start. The Committee would continue to liaise with the Development Committee, which was the lead Committee for this website project. It had been generally recognised that it had been difficult for coaches to build new pages during the summer season, and the plan now was to construct pages during the winter to be posted on the BPA website in summer 2004. The Office would arrange for at least three pages to be prepared during the winter. Thereafter, the future of the coaching webpage would be reviewed during summer 2004 in the light of the level of interest from members.

Action: BPA Office

55/03 WPC Mondial - Gap, France: Saturday 6 to Saturday 13 September 2003

The Chairman reported on the Mondial 2003, which Ian Marshall and Paul Applegate had also attended. As everyone knew, the UK women's 4-way FS team VMax had won Gold in their event and were now World Champions. The team had also achieved a British National and World Record with a score of 28 in Round 6. The Committee congratulated VMax on these tremendous achievements.

The Committee unanimously recommended to the Council that Andy Ford, the only member of *VMax*'s current line-up who had not previously been awarded to Life Membership of the BPA, should now be awarded Life Membership.

Action: Recommend to the Council

4-way FS team *XL* had put in a creditable performance that had just missed out on the Bronze Medal by the narrowest of margins (with 205 points compared with third-placed Norway's 206). In 8-way FS, team *VNE* had come fifth of eight, in CF 4-way Rotation *Team Focus* had come 10th of 10 after an horrific wrap that team member Biff Thornton had dealt with in an exemplary fashion, which had won the team a lot of friends; and in CF 8-way Team *Hinton-8* had come 4th of 4. In the Classics, the UK had come last in the team events. In the Classics individual events, Kevin McCarthy had achieved the best UK placing despite suffering from a severe bout of gastro-enteritis during the last round. Had it not been for his taking a zap in the final round because of ill-health, the Chairman believed that Kevin McCarthy would have been likely to have reached the quarter finals.

The Chairman reported that he had travelled out to France early as UK Delegation Manager, ahead of the arrival of our first teams for the pre-competition training period. Soon after his arrival, he had been approached by the organisers to ask whether John Hitchen, UK Head of Delegation, would be prepared to stand down from that role in order to become a member of the jury, as there was a vacancy for the third jury member at the meet. The Chairman had considered this invitation to be a great honour and, after consultation with John Hitchen - who had agreed to take on this important role - he had confirmed John Hitchen's acceptance. Thereafter, the Chairman had himself taken on the role of UK Head of Delegation as under international rules, John Hitchen could not keep that role as well as serve on the jury. The Chairman reported that John Hitchen had done an excellent job, especially in dealing with the wave of protests with which the jury had been presented towards the end of the meet.

The Chairman reported that the meet had been extremely well organised. Inevitably, there had been one or two grumbles - such as the expensive and sometimes poor quality of the food, which Ian Marshall remarked had been something of a lottery. But the positives had vastly outweighed the negatives. Karla Cole and Bob King had been among the judges, and had both done a fine job. Of special note, Karla Cole had received an exceptionally high grading on her work as a judge in this, her first world meet - four scores of '1' and one score of '2'.

Liz Groucott from *VMax* had been required to take a drugs test some while after the team's victory, after which she had already drunk celebratory champagne. The Chairman asked the Office to check with UK Sport's Drug Free Sport Advisory Service about the position on this, as alcohol would almost certainly show in her system.

Action: BPA Office

There had been a misunderstanding involving Clive Bennett of *Team Focus* about the protocols of leaving the meet early, and it was agreed that it might be helpful to pre-brief competitors on such matters of protocol at future world meets.

Paul Applegate, who had attended as a rigger, said that the organisers had been a little slack in keeping competitors and others informed as to what was going on during the meet. Ian Marshall said there had been a big problem with communication from the organisers to the competitors, with some tannoys not working - or not present at all on the Accuracy site - and teams sometimes being on call during meal times. Also, he had been disappointed to note that there had been no secure equipment storage facility. Martin Shuttleworth said he had found the online-only registration process to be slow and tiresome. The online results service on the official Mondial website had not been clear. When the scores for a number of completed rounds had been posted, it had not been obvious whether an event was still in progress with further rounds, or whether it had been called and the results being shown were the final placings.

The Committee asked that a Certificate of Appreciation be sent to Land Rover for their kind supply of a Land Rover Discovery vehicle for the use of the UK Delegation during the meet.

Action: BPA Office

Nigel Holland reported that he had contacted a number of national newspapers and media outlets, but had been disappointed to find out that they had been more interested in the Stephen Hilder murder investigation. This had been conveyed to him in no uncertain terms by someone at the BBC. The Chairman suggested that Nigel Holland might wish to consider sending an official letter of complaint to the BBC to record his disbelief at the lurid terms in which this good news story about skydiving had been declined.

Overall, the Chairman summarised by saying that the organisation of meet had been a magnificent effort, a hundred times better than the shambolic organisation of the World Air Games in Granada, Spain, in 2001. The public access for spectators had been good and it had been quite simply the best world meet that he had ever attended.

56/03 World Championships 2004

The Chairman reported that World Championships in 2004 would be held as follows.

13-20 September 2004 - Brazil: Artistic Disciplines
18-24 September 2004 - Croatia: FS, Classics, CF

Unfortunately, because the IPC had decided to hold these World Championships next year, rather than on the established two-yearly cycle, no BPA funding would be available (in any discipline) to the UK Delegation in 2004. This had already been made clear in the rules of the Selection Nationals 2003. The 2004 UK Delegation would therefore be self-funded.

The Chairman would write to the National Champions in each discipline to invite them to join the UK Delegation on a self-funded basis, and to ask for their reply in time for the next meeting of the Committee on Tuesday evening 4 November 2003. (This was apart from the Classics Disciplines of Style & Accuracy, which would hold on-year Selection Nationals for the last time in 2004 - and which would also be the off-year Selection Nationals for Classics in 2005 - see minute 58.1.)

Action: BPA Office

The Chairman noted that at the Mondial, Australia had entered two teams in the World Championship for the Artistic Disciplines, and France had entered three teams. Careful examination of the IPC rules revealed that each national delegation was permitted to enter up to three teams in each Artistic event. The Committee therefore agreed that up to three invitations per event could be extended to Artistic teams to join the UK Delegation to the WPC 2004 Artistic events in Brazil, being those teams that had been placed first, second and third in the 2003 Selection Nationals.

Action: BPA Office

57/03 FS Nationals - Target, Hibaldstow: 26-28 July (4-way) and 2-4 August (8-way); Artistic Nationals - Target, Hibaldstow: 2-4 August

The 2003 FS Nationals at Hibaldstow had been an outstanding success with a record 54 teams taking part, 47 of them in the 4-way. Both competitions, and the Artistic Nationals that had taken place concurrently during the second FS weekend (the 8-way weekend) had been extremely well organised and a credit to Hibaldstow. Scheduling the Artistic and FS 8-way together had worked particularly well, and the Committee decided that this should be noted in the bid form for 2004 (minute 58.2) as bidding Clubs and Centres might wish to consider repeating this successful formula. The Chairman reported that he had been delighted to be the Meet Director, this being the first time he had acted in such a capacity.

The Committee then turned its attention to a letter from *Team Mayhem* that expressed dissatisfaction that the 8-way speed event had been called after two rounds instead of the four rounds they had expected. The Committee was both surprised and saddened by *Team Mayhem's* letter. The Chairman said that in his capacity as Meet Director, he had called an open meeting of all competitors on Sunday 3 August to decide on the number of rounds at which to call the 8-way speed event. He recalled that at least two members of *Team Mayhem* had been present. No competitor who had attended that meeting had raised any objection to calling the 8-way speed event at two rounds on the Sunday. Had any competitor objected, the competition would have continued on Monday 4 August.

The Committee noted that the 8-way speed competition was a fun event that was not an integral part of the 8-way Nationals, but icing on the cake, designed to bring a little more variety to the meet for those who took part. It was, therefore, a discretionary event that did not have to be run. The Committee could not understand how *Team Mayhem* could possibly have believed itself to have been 'short changed' in these circumstances, bearing in mind that the Team had been represented at the competitors' meeting on the Sunday - a meeting that had been open to all.

The Committee considered that many competitors would probably be disappointed to see the 8-way speed event discontinued in future FS 8-way Nationals. But such was the outcome that a letter like *Team Mayhem's* might be likely to produce. The Committee hoped that this would not have to happen and that the team would, on reflection, be content with the arrangements that it - or its representatives - had agreed with, or at the very least acquiesced to, as part of the due democratic process that was followed at the meet. The Chairman would write to *Team Mayhem* to report this discussion.

Action: BPA Office

58/03 Domestic competitions 2004

58.1 Classics Nationals

One bid, from British Skysports in Bridlington, had been received to host the Classics Nationals 2004 from Tuesday 15 to Sunday 20 June 2004 inclusive. This would be the Selection Nationals for the world meets in 2004 and the yet-to-be-decided-by-IPC world meet (possibly a World Air Games) in 2005. Thereby the Classics would be brought into line with all other disciplines in having off-year selection. The Bridlington bid was unanimously accepted with thanks. Bridlington had not bid to host the CF Nationals over the Friday to Sunday period concurrently with the latter part of the Classics Nationals. Therefore, the CF Nationals would be included in the bid form now to be issued for all the other Nationals, and for the Regional / Grand Prix competitions, in 2004.

The Chairman asked that news about the now finalised arrangements for the Classics Nationals 2004 should be sent to *Skydive Magazine*, which was holding space in its October issue.

Action: BPA Office

58.2 Domestic competitions bid form 2004

A draft of the bid form for domestic competitions had been circulated with the agenda. With minor modifications, the Committee approved it for immediate issue to all UK Clubs and Centres. The call-back date for bids would be noon on Tuesday 4 November 2003, this being the day of the next meeting of the Committee at which the successful bids would be selected.

Action: BPA Office

59/03 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The Committee was pleased to note that the Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates that had been run this season had again been a tremendous success. The Roadshow programme had finished a little earlier in the season than usual because the National Champions, who comprised the majority of the coaches, had been in final training for the Mondial. As per the Action Plan, Coaching Roadshows would be run again next season, but it was important to organise them with knowledge of the domestic competition dates that would be fixed at the next meeting. The Chairman thanked the Discipline Reps for their hard work in organising this year's programme of Roadshows.

60/03 Judging matters

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her written report (circulated), which the Committee had already referred to on a number of occasions earlier in the meeting. There was one important issue on judges on which the Chairman wished to update the Committee. His discussions with the IPC Judges' Co-ordinator and a number of top international judges at the Mondial had convinced him that there had been a sea-change of attitude at IPC regarding the training of new international judges and their access to judge at major international meets. Kate Charters had previously expressed serious concerns about moves toward a small élite of international judges, which would have restricted access. It now appeared clear to the Chairman that the concerns that Kate Charters had been expressing, which had been echoed by other nations such as Denmark, had got through to the IPC Judges' Committee who were

now set on a course that would allow more new international judges to earn their ratings, and give them access to international meets to keep their ratings current. This meant that the battle had been won, and there was now no need for the BPA to sponsor Kate Charters or her nominee to go to the next IPC plenary meeting in Portugal in January 2004 to lobby for change.

Instead, the funding that had been allocated for lobbying on behalf of the judges at IPC could now be better spent in sponsoring Kate Charters to attend for re-evaluation at an international judges' seminar to be held in Germany in 2004. The Committee unanimously supported this re-allocation of funding, which would still fall within the Action Plan target of making the UK self-sufficient in national and international judges. The Chairman said he had tried but had been unable to speak with Kate Charters by telephone before the meeting. He would now contact her as soon as possible to report on this item.

Action: Chairman

61/03 The Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year Awards

Information on the Sportswoman of the Year awards had been received from CCPR. The Committee unanimously agreed that the BPA should nominate VMax in the Team of the Year category. The closing date for nominations was 8 October.

Action: BPA Office

62/03 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 4 November 2003 at the earlier than usual start time of 1700 at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF (the earlier start is because bid forms for 2004 are due to be considered at the meeting).

The meeting closed at 2040.