

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 4 November 2003 at 1700

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 (from item 70)
	Ian Marshall	-	Vice Chairman/Discipline Rep: CF (from item 67 meeting thence quorate)
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Calvin Blacker	-	
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
	Sue Waterfield	-	Administration Secretary
Observers:	Marcus Beck	-	
	Sally Beck	-	Team <i>Misstral</i>
	Bob Charters	-	
	Ian Matthews	-	Team <i>VNE</i> (from item 64.2)
	Andy Scott	-	Team <i>VNE</i>
	Hannah Swallow	-	Target Skysports
	Steve Swallow	-	Target Skysports

Item Minute

63/03 Quoracy

The Chairman noted that, with only two voting members present in addition to himself, the meeting was inquorate at the time of this early start. However, two further voting members - Ian Marshall and Nigel Holland - were known to be on their way. Those present therefore agreed to press on, and to refer any matter requiring a formal vote back to the meeting once it became quorate.

64/03 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2003 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

65/03 Matters arising

65.1 Page 1, minute 54.1. Correspondence with Dona Crum

The Chairman read aloud a draft letter he planned to send to Dona Crum to apologise and set the record straight about judging issues at the Artistic Nationals 2002. It was clear that the decision to take the tapes away from the competition host Drop Zone to be judged elsewhere had not been Dona Crum's. Paul Applegate proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the Chairman should send the letter to Dona Crum. This was carried unanimously, with

the hope expressed that Dona Crum would now resume her judging activities, which were valued by the Committee. Kate Charters said she had not yet received Dona Crum's judge's logbook, and the Chairman said he would include a reminder in his letter.

Action: Chairman

65.2 Page 2, minute 54.3, World Cup 2002 repayments

Martin Shuttleworth reported that the remaining few due repayments, two by instalments over three months, were coming in slowly but surely.

65.3 Page 2, minute 54.6, Canopy Piloting World Cup

The Committee was grateful to Alastair Macartney (UK team co-ordinator) for sending a report on the first Canopy Piloting World Cup held at Perris Valley Skydiving Centre, California, USA, from 24-28 September 2003. The meet had comprised three events - speed, distance and zone accuracy. These were then put into a combined event with an overall winner. The report would feature in Skydive Magazine. The Chairman said that the team had obtained sponsorship for its uniform from Dragon Eye Art and had not therefore needed to call on the BPA's British Team Fund. Alastair Macartney had asked whether Canopy Piloting would be included as an event in future World Parachuting Championships (WPC) in 2004. The Chairman said that this was for the IPC Plenary meeting to decide in January 2004. The Committee agreed that the UK should support its inclusion. If Canopy Piloting were to be included in the WPC in 2004, this Committee would naturally have to consider the selection arrangements for the UK team.

Action: Next meeting

65.4 Page 2, minute 55.3, WPC Mondial - Gap, France: Saturday 6 to Saturday 13 September 2003

The Chairman reported on an issue that had come to light since the last meeting. Due to an accounting error, team VNE had been overfunded. The BPA Chairman had picked this up from the published accounts. The team been advised of the mistake, and had immediately agreed to repay the overfunding. The Chairman reported that he had discussed the situation with VNE prior to the meeting. The team had expected that it would have had to pay its entry fees for the Mondial because it thought its BPA funding had been used up. But on checking with the BPA Office, Ian Matthews had been assured that the remaining funding would cover the entry fees, which he said had rather surprised him. But the team was in training for the Mondial and had not time to pore over the accounts, so the team had accepted what they had officially been told.

The problem had been that the figure on which the Chairman and others were working was a figure for the remaining funds in VNE's grant from the BPA. There had, in fact, been an accounting error in recording the figure for the original amount of the grant. The figure that had been recorded had been too high. This was not, however, evident from just the figure for the amount remaining (without a figure for what had been spent to date). The Chairman said that what this had brought into sharp focus was that in future, when he was authorising expenditure, he would need to see three figures (a) the amount budgeted, (b) the amount spent to date, and (c) the amount remaining. This mechanism would avoid any recurrence of such an overpayment in future. The Chairman thanked all parties for their openness and understanding, and hoped that this honest mistake could be turned into an opportunity to learn by improving the payment authorisation system to ensure that it could not happen again.

Turning to other Mondial matters, the Chairman was delighted to confirm that the Council had unanimously approved the award of BPA Life Membership to Andy Ford, camera flyer with UK World Champion team VMax. All the other members of VMax were already Life Members.

Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that each member of team VMax should be awarded a Certificate of Achievement for their World Title. This would be presented at the AGM.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman reported that he would be nominating VMax, on behalf of the BPA, for the award of a Royal Aero Club Gold Medal for their outstanding achievement.

VMax had also been nominated by the BPA for the award of *The Sunday Times Sportswomens' Team of the Year*. The nomination had been made online through the BPA Office.

The Chairman reported on an e-mail he had received from Classics competitor Fran Shashkova-Richards. In it, she had expressed concern over the report on the UK Classics competitors at the Mondial, as recorded in minute 55.3. She had provided additional information that she asked to be included. The Chairman confirmed that what had been said at the last meeting, and duly recorded in the minutes, had been a factually correct summary. The further information now provided was, in the Committee's view, more appropriate to an in-depth report and analysis of the kind that might appear in *Skydive Magazine* rather than the summary of key points that would be expected at a Committee meeting. As such, the Committee considered the minutes as they stood to have fulfilled their purpose as an accurate summary of the meeting as held and considered it unnecessary to add to the minutes retrospectively. The Committee was, however, grateful for Fran Shashkova-Richards' interest and thanked her for her comments.

66/03 Report on Classics/CF Southern Regionals: Netheravon, 4-5 October 2003

Bob King had sent in his judge's report on this meet. It stated that two rounds of accuracy, and four rounds of CF had taken place. The style event had then been about to start when all jumping had had to cease because of a fatality. The Committee extended its condolences to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

67/03 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The Chairman reported that the Skills Coaching Roadshow programme was well on budget with the exception of the Artistic Roadshows, for which the budget had been overspent. Analysis of expenditure had revealed that Nigel Holland had attended and claimed expenses for attending all of the Artistic Roadshows and the Artistic Nationals in his capacity as the Discipline Rep. However, when this had come to light, the Chairman had said to him that his attendance at such events, with the exception of the first Roadshow, where it was valid that the Discipline Rep should be present to help to get it off to a good start, was not a valid claim on BPA expenses. For example, in the Artistic Nationals, Nigel Holland had entered as a competitor and had won a Medal. The Chairman reported that the total expenses payments made to Nigel Holland for these events had come to approximately £1,500. Nigel Holland had said that he had genuinely believed that he had been entitled to make these expenses claims. The Chairman said that the first claim, for the first Roadshow, had been valid, but the following six had been invalid. The Committee agreed to discuss the matter with Nigel Holland, whose arrival had been delayed, later in the meeting or at the next meeting (see minute 71 on page 8).

Action: Pending

The Chairman said that the 2004 season of Coaching Roadshows had been the biggest and best ever, and thanked all of the coaches without whom this would not have been possible. Andy Scott (team VNE) suggested that a formal coaching presence would be desirable at the Regional/Grand Prix meets, to help to bring on and develop new and up-and-coming teams. He said VNE had demonstrated the benefit of this approach at 2004's FS 8-way Regionals. Jim White therefore proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Committee should work towards identifying coaches in the various competition disciplines who might be available to coach at Grand Prix events with a view to encouraging more entrants to National competitions. This carried unanimously.

Action: Next meeting

68/03 World Championships 2004

The World Championships in 2004 would be held as follows.

13-20 September 2004 - Brazil: Artistic Disciplines
16-24 September 2004 - Croatia: FS, Classics, CF

68.1 FS

68.1.1 Women's 4-way FS

The Chairman had, as agreed at the last meeting (minute 56), sent invitations to represent the UK at the WPC 2004 the National Champions in each discipline, and the National Champions plus Silver and Bronze Medallists at the Artistic events (each of which were allowed up to

three entries per nation under IPC rules). All invitations had been issued on the understanding that attendance at the world meet would be entirely self-funded. The Classics disciplines of Style & Accuracy had not been included because selection would be at the 2004 Nationals to be held from 15-20 June 2004.

The Chairman reported that women's FS 4-way team *VMax* had decided to take a well-earned year off from competitive skydiving, and he read aloud an e-mail from Liz Groucott of *VMax* announcing this. *VMax* would not therefore be taking up the Committee's invitation to represent the UK at the FS WPC 2004 in Croatia.

Sally Beck of *Team Misstral* made an offer from her team, which comprised a group of seniors (Lynne Murray, Beth King, Sally Beck and Alex Stone) to represent the UK at the FS WPC 2004 in Croatia. The individual team members had all competed in the Selection Nationals 2003, but not as a team. After discussion, Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that, in the interests of fairness, a selection competition should be held for the women's 4-way FS team to represent the UK at the WPC 2004: and that this should be the first FS Grand Prix event of the 2004 season (see minute 69.1).

Carried unanimously

The Chairman asked that the above should be announced in the next issue of *Skydive Magazine* and on the BPA website to give due notice to those who might wish to enter. He thanked *Team Misstral* for their kind offer, and for Sally Beck for coming to the meeting tonight, and was sure the team would understand the Committee's reason for needing to put in place formal selection arrangements in the interest of transparency and fairness to the whole membership.

68.1.2 Open 4-way FS

The Chairman said that team *XL* had yet to reach a decision on whether to accept the invitation to WPC 2004. They were keen to go in principle, but family responsibilities and the problem of raising sufficient funds weighed against acceptance. The team would advise the Committee of its decision in due course.

68.1.3 8-way FS

Ian Matthews (team *VNE*) reported that the team had not yet decided whether to accept the invitation to WPC 2004, but planned to come to a decision ahead of the BPA Council meeting on 2 December 2003.

68.2 Artistic

68.2.1 Freely & Freestyle

The Chairman reported that Chris Lynch, of Freely team *Freejive* and Freestyle team *StyleJiver*, had not yet decided whether to accept the invitation to WPC 2004. The issue was that his commitment to swoop meets might make it difficult to accept, unless he could re-order his schedule.

Deb Clarke of *Tumbleweed Freestyle*, Silver Medallists in Freestyle at the 2003 Nationals, had accepted the Committee's invitation to represent the UK on a self-funded basis at the Artistic WPC 2004 in Brazil.

Dan Parker of team *Oh Boy!*, Silver Medallists in Freely at the 2003 Nationals, had accepted the Committee's invitation to represent the UK on a self-funded basis at the Artistic WPC 2004 in Brazil.

Freely Team *Avance Rapide*, Bronze Medallists at the Selection Nationals 2003, had not yet responded to the invitation to represent the UK at the Artistic WPC 2004 in Brazil on a self-funded basis.

68.2.2 Skysurf

Robbie Powell of National Champion Skysurf team *Project Airwave* had had accepted the Committee's invitation to represent the UK on a self-funded basis at the Artistic WPC 2004 in Brazil. The Chairman asked through Nigel Holland, Artistic Disciplines Rep, that Robbie

Powell should kindly confirm to the Committee the composition of the team for WPC 2004, as the Committee was not clear who would be the camera flyer. There had been no further teams eligible for invitation in Skysurf.

Action: Nigel Holland

68.3 CF

Ian Marshall, CF Rep, reported that 4-way rotations *Team Focus* had declined the Committee's invitation to represent the UK on a self-funded basis at the CF WPC 2004 in Croatia. 8-way CF team *Hinton-8* had just returned to the UK from an overseas visit and he was waiting to hear of their decision. 4-way CF sequential *Team X* were planning to hold a meeting in two weeks' time to reach their decision on the invitation. Should they decline, Ian Marshall would invite team *Cellmates*, who had taken Silver in the 2003 CF Selection Nationals.

Action: Ian Marshall

69/03 Judging matters

Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) tabled the results of the Regional Overall Champions as follows:

Senior 4-way FS: Gold - *Born to be Child*
Intermediate 4-way FS Gold - *Elevation*, Silver - *V2*, Bronze - *US-UK*
Junior 4-way FS: Gold - *Mission Impossible*, Silver - *Evolution**, Bronze - *Eclipse*

Senior 8-way FS: *Om*
Intermediate 8-way FS: *Shedded*

Senior Accuracy: *Glenn Stephenson*
Intermediate Accuracy: *Frank Robinson*
Junior Accuracy: *Gareth McCann*

Senior Style: *Carl Williams*

CF 8-way speed: *Hinton-8*
CF 4-way speed: *H20*
CF 4-way Rotations: *H20*
CF 4-way Sequential: *Team X*
CF 2-way Sequential: *Blair Witch Mission*

*Calvin Blacker made an appeal on behalf of team *Evolution*, which he believed should have taken Gold in the Junior 4-way FS. Kate Charters said she would re-check her calculations to ensure the above result was correct.

Action: Kate Charters

The Regional Overall winners' medals would be presented at the AGM on Saturday 24 January 2004.

Kate Charters had circulated a list of new national judges' ratings and new trainee judges as follows.

New national judges ratings

FS: Frank Mallabone, Elizabeth Warner
Accuracy: Ruth Cooper, Karla Cole, Frank Mallabone, Ted Payne, Sue Waterfield
CF: Sue Waterfield
Artistic: Sue Skull

New trainee judges for 2003/4

Penny McParlin - FS
Graham Pemberton - FS and Accuracy
Christine Askew - FS

Kate Charters reported that it had been a very busy year for trainee judges and that there was now a very dedicated group who put everything into judging. Kate Charters believed this was

because they were now trained to a very high standard and their training was financially supported by the BPA to help defray the cost of their travel and subsistence.

Kate Charters confirmed that the Committee was now well on the way to meet the Action Plan target of the BPA becoming self sufficient in good judges at National and International level. Kate Charters confirmed that she had also trained Gail Stevenson to FAI standard and hoped to get this ratified by IPC before the BPA AGM in January 2004.

Kate Charters cited Karla Cole's superb performance as a judge at the WPC Mondial in Gap in September 2003 as a perfect example of how judge training has progressed and developed within the UK. Kate Charters then proposed, and the committee unanimously agreed, that Karla Cole should be presented with a Certificate of Achievement at the AGM for her meritorious performance as a judge.

Action: BPA Office

Kate Charters said she would supply the BPA Office in December 2003 with the UK list of international judges to be formally nominated to IPC for 2004. This would include the names of all UK judges who held a current international judges' rating and wished their name to go forward.

Action: Kate Charters / BPA Office

Kate Charters said she had received judges' logbooks from all judges except Dona Crum (see minute 65.1).

Kate Charters reported with great sadness on the bravery of judge Jack Fowler and his family in the face of his serious illness. The Committee recognised their great fortitude.

Frank Mallabone had relayed to Kate Charters quote he had received for the purchase of an accuracy tuffet for the BPA, but these had been too high. He had also been quoted £900 for a trailer to carry the tuffet, which seemed reasonable.

Ongoing

Kate Charters relayed to the Committee a request from the French Parachuting Federation. It had asked whether it could send some of its trainee judges for training at the UK FS Nationals in 2004. A similar request had been received from the Spanish Parachute Federation. The Chairman said this was a clear reflection of the high esteem with which the rest of Europe held the BPA's highly successful FS Nationals. The Committee agreed that the answer in both cases was yes. The only stipulation was that the trainee judges from outside the UK would need to join the BPA as Temporary Members for the duration of their involvement in parachuting activities in the UK. This would be necessary to ensure that they were covered by third party insurance. Kate Charters would convey this decision to the French and Spanish federations who she felt sure would be delighted.

Action: Kate Charters

The Chairman reported that Jon Gretton had requested clarification of policy on expenses payments to trainee judges. The Committee confirmed that the policy had always been that these were paid, on a per meet basis, in accordance with the BPA's policy on the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. A provision that three meets had to be attended, or a trainee judge had to have been in the sport for at least one year, related solely to the eligibility of trainee judges for free Associate Membership of the BPA during the following membership year, and not in any way to their entitlement to claim expenses.

Finally on judging, Lesley Gale of *Skydive Magazine* had requested a cumulative summary of the results of the Grand Prix 2004 for the Magazine, so that readers could see how competitors for the Overall Championships were progressing as the season went on. Kate Charters kindly agreed to provide this.

Action: Kate Charters

70/03 Domestic competitions 2004

Copies of all bids received in response to the Committee's invitation to all UK Clubs & Centres to host National or Regional/Grand Prix competitions 2004, unseen until now by the Committee, were tabled.

The Chairman suggested, and the Committee agreed, to seek to accommodate as many of the bids as possible. This would be achieved by calling the Regional meets a "Grand Prix". There would then be no need to seek to attach a geographical label to each meet - such as Northern, Central or Southern, which had caused difficulties and stretched geographical boundaries sometimes almost beyond reason in the past. It would also give the Committee the flexibility to hold more 4-way FS Grand Prix meets to meet the growing demand from jumpers. The schedule would be demand-led. The bids were then considered as follows.

70.1 British Open Nationals 2004

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Classics	British Skysports, Bridlington	Tues-Sun 15-20 June 2004 Notes: As previously agreed (minute 58.1)
FS	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sats-Mons 31 July - 2 August 2004 (4-way) 7-9 August 2004 (8-way) plus following weekend in reserve . Meet Director - John Hitchen if available, otherwise John Smyth. Notes: Strathallan also bid. Vote: Target 4, Strathallan 0. The Committee thanked Strathallan for its bid and encouraged it to bid again in future. Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the 8-way speed event, that had been retained in the FS nationals purely as a legacy from when it used to be a weekend meet. <i>Carried unanimously</i>
Artistic	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat-Mon 7-9 August 2004 plus following weekend in reserve Note: Target was the sole bidder.
CF	to be arranged	Note: No bids received. Steve Swallow (Target) offered to host the CF Nationals if no other Club or Centre expressed an interest. The Chairman believed that Hinton might be interested and Ian Marshall agreed to check with them. <i>Action: Ian Marshall</i>

70.2 Grand Prix 2004

Nigel Holland proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that there should be no Grand Prix events in the Artistic Disciplines in 2004 because there did not appear to be sufficient demand to justify the expenditure.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman then summarised the extensive discussion that had led to the compilation of the Grand Prix programme, asset out on the next page. It had increased the number of 4-way FS events to six to cope with increasing demand, and reduced to two the number of Classics events, which were not as well supported. All Clubs & Centres that had bid to host a competition had been offered at least one.

There were two bids that the Committee regretted it could not fit into the programme. This was purely for the reasons of lack of judge availability and slots in the schedule. The bids that could unfortunately not be accommodated on this occasion were from NWPC Cark and Peterlee, each for an FS 8-way Grand Prix event. The Committee concluded that the maximum number of 8-way Grand Prix events that could be fitted into the 2004 season's schedule was four. The Committee was at pains to ensure that the Centres concerned should continue to bid to host BPA domestic competitions in the future, and were pleased to note that it had been able to include each of these centres in the 4-way FS Grand Prix schedule for 2004.

Grand Prix 2004

Competition	Venue	Dates
FS 8-way	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 24-25 April 2004
FS 4-way	Headcorn PC	Sat-Sun 8-9 May 2004
CF & Classics	Skydive St Andrews	Sat-Sun 15-16 May 2004
FS 4-way & FS 8-way	Skydive Strathallan	Sat-Mon 29-31 May 2004
FS 4-way	NWPC Cark	Sat-Sun 5-6 June 2004
FS 8-way	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat-Sun 26-27 June 2004*
FS 8-way	Black Knights PC	Sat-Sun 3-4 July 2004*
FS 4-way	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat-Sun 10-11 July 2004
CF & Classics	Black Knights PC	Sat-Sun 17-18 July 2004
CF	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 4-5 September 2004**
FS 4-way	BPS Langar	Sat-Sun 11-12 September 2004**
FS 4-way	Peterlee PC	Sat-Sun 25-26 September 2004**

* Two FS 8-way Grand Prix weekends had deliberately been scheduled consecutively as this was the only way to enable 8-way National Champion team VNE to be represented both events.

** Date revised since meeting by agreement with all relevant parties.

The Chairman again thanked all the bidders and said that the number of bids received for the Grand Prix meets in 2004 had been particularly encouraging.

Pursuant to minute 68.1.1, the Chairman confirmed that the first 4-way FS Grand Prix meet of 2004 would be held at Headcorn over the weekend of 8-9 May 2004. This would therefore be the selection meet for the women's 4-way FS to represent the UK on a self-funded basis at the FS WPC in Croatia in September 2004.

The Chairman noted an invitation from the European Skydiving League (ESL) for the UK Grand Prix to become part of that league. However, there were issues over co-ordinating competition dates and Kate Charters reported that the ESL had a completely different dive pool. There was therefore a clear need for possibly extensive negotiation, and the Committee decided that it would be best for now to thank ESL for its kind invitation, and to put this issue on hold for the time being.

Pending

71/03 Artistic Skills Coaching Roadshows

Further to the arrival of Nigel Holland at the start of item 70, the Chairman briefed him on the issue about his expenses claims that had resulted in the budget for Artistic Coaching Roadshows being overspent, as set out in minute 67. Nigel Holland immediately said he would remedy the overpaid expenses by repaying them. He proposed to do this by making no further expenses claims for attending BPA Council and Competitions Committee meetings until the due amount had been repaid. He said he had three such claims currently outstanding, each of about £90, with which he would start off the repayment.

72/03 Date of next meeting

For those on the Competitions Committee 2004, there would be an Action Plan Ideas meeting following the Council meeting on AGM Day, Saturday 24 January 2004, at the Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

The meeting closed at 2050.