

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 16 March 2004 at 1815**

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

<b>Present:</b>	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Chris Allen	-	Chairman of Council
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic (from item 19.2)
	Ian Marshall	-	Vice Chairman / Discipline Rep: CF
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Brian Vacher	-	Discipline Rep: Canopy Piloting
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
<b>In attendance:</b>	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Lisbeth Harris		
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO / IPC Delegate
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General

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### Item Minute

**15/04 Minutes**

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2004 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

**16/04 Matters arising**

**16.1 Page 1, minute 3.3 Possible purchase of an accuracy tuffet**

Kate Charters reported that Frank Mallabone had inspected the tuffet for sale from the CCI at South Cerney, and had found it to be in generally good condition. The price was £500 as it was, or £700 fully refurbished. He had also obtained a quotation from a commercial garage of £1,800 for a trailer to transport the tuffet. After discussion, the Committee decided that the tuffet was good value but that the trailer was too expensive. Drop Zones could be asked to arrange for their own transport of the tuffet, although the Committee would try to find a cheaper trailer. Jim White therefore proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the BPA should purchase the refurbished tuffet for the agreed price of £700.

**Action: Carried unanimously**

The Committee confirmed that South Cerney could invoice the BPA for the £700 cost of the tuffet. Jim White said he would ask whether the tuffet could be delivered to St Andrews in time for the first Classics Grand Prix meet of the season, to be held over the weekend of 15-16 May 2004.

**Action: Jim White**

The Committee noted that, when the tuffet was not in use for BPA competitions, it might be possible to hire it out to DZs for fun meets and other non-BPA events. This might help to recover some of the capital cost of purchase.

#### **16.2 Page 2, minute 5 IPC meeting: Lisbon, January 2004**

The Chairman thanked John Hitchen for his written report on the IPC 2004 meeting, which had been circulated since the last meeting.

#### **16.3 Page 3, minute 5 Publication of FS rule changes**

Andy Scott reported that he had sent a summary of this year's principal FS rule changes to *Skydive Magazine* for publication in the April issue.

#### **16.4 Page 3, minute 7.1 Delegated authority to publish competition rules 2004**

The Chairman reported that the full Council had delegated authority for this Committee to publish the BPA Competition Rules 2004 as soon as they were ready, so as not to have to delay publication until the next meeting of the Council.

#### **16.5 Page 4, minute 7.4 Canopy piloting**

Brian Vacher said that he was to put a paper on Canopy Piloting to the next meeting of STC in early April, after which he would report back.

**Action: Brian Vacher**

#### **16.6 Page 4, minute 8 European Skydiving League**

Andy Scott confirmed that UK participation in the European Skydiving League, within the senior category, would be arranged where dates coincided. For example, the British and French 4-way FS Nationals were to be held over the same weekend and there was therefore the possibility of a unified draw. A Dutch or Belgian meet was due on the same weekend as the 4-way FS grand Prix at Hibaldstow. Other dates might also match up. Andy Scott said he would continue his work on developing this.

**Action: Andy Scott**

#### **16.7 Page 5, minute 9 Update of Coaching Roadshow page on the BPA website**

The Coaching Roadshows page on the BPA website had now been updated to reflect the Committee's arrangements for BPA Skills Coaching Roadshows in 2004, as set out in minute 9.

### **17/04 Domestic competition rules 2004**

The Chairman thanked all the Discipline Reps for the hard work they had put in to update the National and Grand Prix rules for the 2004 season. Each discipline was now considered in turn.

#### **17.1 FS**

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the FS National rules should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the 4-way and 8-way Grand Prix Rules should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **17.2 CF**

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the CF National rules with the addition of the dive pool, should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the CF Grand Prix rules, should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **17.3 Classics**

Only the rules for the Classics Nationals would this year contain selection criteria for the National Team, as Classics was the only discipline still to have on-year selection, although this would be the last year it applied. As no BPA funding was available for the 2004 National Team (in any discipline), the wording about selection was not funding-related but would stress that the Competitions Committee reserved the right to determine whether or not an individual would be eligible for the National team. This provision was necessary on the grounds of safety. The Chairman said he planned to be present for the final briefing of the UK Classics team to the world meet to emphasise this point. He said that from a recce of the Classics landing area at the world meet that John Hitchen had carried out, the level of skill required

would be equivalent to that of a demonstration jumper (this did not mean, of course, that only demonstration jumpers would be selected: it was merely a benchmark for the level of skill and competence required to ensure safety).

Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the Classics National rules should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the Classics Grand Prix rules should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **17.4 Artistic Disciplines**

This item was held over until later in the meeting because Nigel Holland, who had advised the Chairman that he would be late because of work commitments, had not yet arrived.

#### **18/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates**

Andy Scott reported that he had received two enquiries about FS Coaching Roadshows, from Cark for June and Black Knights for 24/25 July. He was currently arranging coaches. As this was the weekend before the FS nationals at Hibaldstow, and by custom and practice the Club or Centre hosting the Nationals was offered first refusal of a Coaching Roadshow the weekend prior to the Nationals, the Chairman asked Andy Scott to kindly check with Hibaldstow before offering the dates to Black Knights.

**Action: Andy Scott**

Ian Marshall reported that he had arranged coaches for three CF Coaching Roadshows this season. Jim White reported that he had received no requests for Coaching Roadshows in the Classics. The Chairman asked him kindly to consider whether or not the BPA tuffet, once purchased, could be offered with coaches to provide coaching support at Classics Grand Prix meets.

**Action: Jim White**

The Committee had previously decided not to hold any further Artistic Coaching Roadshows for the time being because nothing remained in the budget for Artistic Coaching Roadshows. However, the Chairman reported that at the AGM, Target Skysports had asked Nigel Holland for an Artistic Roadshow, and that Nigel Holland had agreed. The Committee therefore believed that this commitment should be honoured and that Nigel Holland should confirm the coaches in the normal manner (see minute 21). In answer to a question from Chris Allen, the Chairman said that he would discuss the progress of the repayments with Nigel Holland, who was expected to arrive shortly, after the meeting.

#### **19/04 World Parachute Championships 2004**

The World Championships in 2004 would be held as follows.

- 13-20 September 2004 - Brazil: Artistic Disciplines (possibly concurrent with a Canopy Piloting World Cup)
- 18-24 September 2004 - Croatia: FS, Classics, CF

#### **19.1 UK Delegation**

Acceptances to date, with the current contact person in each team, were as follows:

FS	4-way open	<i>DPW</i> (Nick Lupton)
	8-way	<i>Om</i> (Lesley Gale)
CF	8-way	<i>Hinton-8</i> (Paul Yeoman)
Artistic	Skysurf	<i>Airwave</i> (Robbie Powell)
	Freestyle	<i>Tumbleweed</i> (Deb Clarke)
	Freefly	<i>Oh Boy!</i> (Dan Parker)

In CF, the intention of National CF Champion Teams CF 4-way rotations *Team Focus* (Peter Thornton) and CF 4-way sequential *Team X* (Alan Fielding) needed to be clarified. If either team declined their invitation to the world meet, the silver medallists from the 2003 Selection Nationals would be invited in their stead.

**Action: Ian Marshall and BPA Office**

In Skysurf, the Chairman reported that the 2-person National Champion team of 2003, comprising Robbie Powell (performer) and Andy Kille (camera flyer), had split. Both of them now wished to go to the world meet. Since the rules stated that 50% of the two-person team could change, the Committee confirmed that this was in order, subject to the Committee approving the new member of each of the teams. Robbie Powell had already written to say his new camera flyer would be Gary Dawes.

#### **19.2 Head of UK Delegation and Delegation Manager, WPC Croatia**

In ratifying minute 10.2 of the last meeting, the Council had confirmed John Smyth in the joint role as Head of the UK Delegation and UK Delegation Manager for WPC Croatia.

#### **19.3 Head of UK Delegation to WPC Artistic Brazil**

The names of a number of potential candidates as Head of the UK Delegation to the WPC Artistic Disciplines in Brazil were discussed. The Chairman would take soundings with a view to recommending a name to the next meeting, which would, if approved, then go forward for ratification by the full Council.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **19.4 International trainee judges' training seminars at WPC Croatia (FS) and WPC Brazil (Artistic)**

Kate Charters reported that, in accordance with the BPA's policy of seeking to qualify more FAI International Judges from the UK, three National judges had satisfied the criteria for nomination onto an international judges' training seminar. They were: Dona Crum and Ruth Cooper in FS, and Sue Skull in the Artistic Disciplines. Appropriate training seminars were due to be held at this year's world meets.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the funding arrangements would be as follows. The BPA would be pleased to refund the entry fee and reasonable travel costs of the UK-nominated international trainee judges who meets the FAI requirements to achieve an international judges' rating at the seminar. However, in the unlikely event that a UK-nominated international trainee judge should fail the seminar, neither the entry fee, travel expenses (nor any other costs) would be reimbursed to the nominee by the BPA. UK sponsored international trainee judges would be required to sign a funding agreement to the above effect before official registration for the seminar, to pay their own seminar fee in full, and to make their own travel arrangements with sufficient forward planning to take advantage of the most economic rate practicable. Receipts for travel would need to be retained. On official notification from the organisers that the trainee had passed the international seminar, the new international judge would be eligible to claim a full refund of their seminar entry fee and reasonable travel costs (provided they had been agreed by the Competitions Committee in advance), fully supported by receipts, from the BPA Office.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, that Dona Crum and Ruth Cooper (FS) and Sue Skull (Artistic) should each be invited to attend the appropriate international judges' training seminar at WPC Croatia (FS) or WPC Brazil (Artistic) on the basis of the above funding arrangement.

**Carried unanimously**

The rationale behind this funding arrangement was that UK Sport had changed the way in which it funded the BPA by this year introducing a new incentivised funding regime. Payment may be made on the achievement of approved targets set out in the BPA Action Plan. So instead of the old system of making a contribution to fund the intention of qualifying of a new international judge, UK Sport would now make its contribution only when a new UK-based international judge had actually qualified.

Chris Allen pointed out an omission from the draft Competitions Action Plan 2004 where the specific target of qualifying two new international judges had been omitted in error from the broader judges' target. The Chairman confirmed that it had been the Committee's intention to include this within the (correctly) stated budget of £2K for new judges overall. He asked that the target should be corrected accordingly and would call this to the attention of the full Council at its next meeting.

**Action: Chairman**

### **19.5 WPC UK T-shirts**

Lesley Gale had suggested the illustrator Tom Gold, a BPA Member, might be invited to quote for the supply of T-shirts for the UK Delegations to the World Meets, and this was agreed.

**Action: BPA Office**

### **19.6 Translator**

Peter Smith had e-mailed to say his wife was a Yugoslav national who had offered her services gratis to translate for the UK delegation at WPC Croatia. The Chairman expressed thanks for this kind offer but thought it to be unlikely that a translator would be required since the language of world meets was English. Moreover, a translator would be classified by the organisers as an 'accompanying person' and would therefore be liable to pay the accompanying persons' fee. He asked the BPA Office to reply to Peter Smith.

**Action: BPA Office**

### **20/04 Artistic National Rules 2004**

This item was a return to item 17.4 that had been held over pending the arrival of Nigel Holland, who was now present. There was discussion about the number of rounds in Group A and it was decided to leave them at seven, the same as last year, comprising two compulsory and five free rounds. Group B would comprise five free rounds, with no compulsories. A rule was added to state that the competition could be called after three rounds in any event. Reference to a minimum number of judges was deleted from the draft rules.

Nigel Holland proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the National rules in the Artistic Disciplines should be approved for publication.

**Carried unanimously**

### **21/04 Artistic Coaching Roadshow**

Pursuant to minute 18, Nigel Holland confirmed that he had already arranged for Chris Lynch and Tim Porter to coach at a BPA Artistic Disciplines Skills Coaching Roadshow to be held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, on the normal basis of reimbursement of their expenses only.

### **22/04 Judging matters**

Kate Charters had circulated some material from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that she had obtained from FAI. The Chairman said that the BPA had signed up to the UK Sport Drug Free Sport Code. It was not immediately clear exactly how closely the WADA and UK Sport anti-doping codes matched up. They appeared to cover a similar broad area, but did not appear to be identical. The Chairman said that a number of anti-doping codes existed across the world, and there was a move towards harmonisation, but this would take time. For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee decided to ask UK Sport's Drug Free Sport Directorate for advice on the status of the WADA/FAI documentation. It was necessary to be absolutely clear about this in order to give the correct information to our competitors, both in the UK and internationally.

**Action: BPA Office**

Kate Charters reported that she had allocated judges to competitions this year, and had issued a list to all judges to enable them to see to which competitions both they, and other judges, had been allocated. She was pleased to confirm that there were now enough FS judges to have two judging teams at the FS Nationals, so that judges who might have to work late into the evening were not on early call the next day.

A trainee judge from the Republic of Ireland was being sent by the Irish Parachute Association to train in more than one discipline at the British Nationals this year, at no cost to the BPA. This was in addition to self-funded trainee judges from the France and Spain who were coming over to learn how to judge. The Chairman said that this was a mark of the esteem with which the British Nationals were held within the rest of Europe, and a matter in which the BPA could take considerable pride.

Kate Charters said she had now arranged the date for a judges' briefing to be held at the BPA Office over the weekend of 17-18 April 2004, being the weekend before the first competition of the season. Some 15 judges and trainee judges had so far signified their intention to attend. Brian Vacher was coming to brief the judges on Canopy Piloting and to talk on judging from a camera flyer's perspective.

#### **23/04 8-way speed Nationals**

Lisbeth Harris was in attendance to speak to her proposal, circulated with the agenda, for the 8-way speed event that the Committee had decided to drop from the FS Nationals through pressure of time (minute 7.2) to become a new National competition in its own right, perhaps augmented by other disciplines to develop a new multidisciplinary meet.

Brian Vacher believed the proposal to be inappropriate because even to consider holding an 8-way speed Nationals might contradict the Committee's decision (minute 7.2) at its last meeting. The Chairman understood this concern, which was shared by Andy Scott, but believed it to be misplaced. He said that the decision the Committee had taken was to discontinue the 8-way speed event at the FS Nationals because of time pressures. Lisbeth Harris was correct, therefore, in interpreting the 8-way speed event to remain on the table and the Chairman said that her proposal to do something with it was therefore entirely legitimate. Brian Vacher agreed to consider it on the understanding that his earlier reservation had been addressed.

The proposal having been accepted for discussion, there followed a frank exchange of views over the desirability and practicability of seeking to grow a multidisciplinary speed meet, with emphasis on the Artistic Disciplines, out of an 8-way FS speed event. The types and availability of aircraft and altitude were among the factors considered. Lisbeth Harris said there was a possibility of using the event to seek sponsorship associated with Broadband technology that might include, for example, a case study using this technology in competitive skydiving. To stand the best chance of securing sponsorship, it was important to make the event as attractive as possible to the potential sponsor. It would therefore be necessary to ensure that the host Club or Centre was Broadband enabled.

Andy Scott therefore proposed, and Brian Vacher, seconded, a motion that the Committee's decision at its last meeting (minute 7.2) to discontinue the 8-way speed event from the FS Nationals had indeed been the correct one; but that the Committee recognised there was now potential, in the light of that decision, to hold 8-way FS speed as a separate event, subject always to judges' availability, and the possibility to explore developing any new event as a multidisciplinary meet in future.

**Carried unanimously**

The consensus around the table was that it would be appropriate for the Committee to issue a bid form for a test event of an 8-way FS speed Nationals, with the possibility of expanding it into a multidisciplinary event in future. The diary for this season was already nearly full and it appeared that the best time for this test event would be as a two-day meet over the weekend of 2-3 October 2004. A bid form would therefore be issued, with a return date of no later than 1200 on the day of the next meeting (minute 24), to all Clubs & Centres. It would specify that Broadband access would be required, and such aircraft and/or altitude specifications as may be deemed appropriate.

**Action: BPA Office**

The Committee decided that the rules for this new event should be based on the 8-way FS speed rules from previous years, which Andy Scott agreed to review in consultation with Lisbeth Harris, together with consideration of the options of speed sit flying or speed head down flying in the Artistic Disciplines, which Nigel Holland agreed to review in consultation with Lisbeth Harris. Report back, ideally in the form of a consolidated draft set of rules, would be to the next meeting. The Chairman asked Lisbeth Harris kindly to co-ordinate the response.

**Action: Andy Scott, Nigel Holland, Lisbeth Harris**

#### **24/04 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 4 May 2004 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2145.