

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 4 May 2004 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Brian Vacher	-	Discipline Rep: Canopy Piloting (from item 28.4)
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observers:	Bob Charters		
	Ian Matthews		
Apology for absence:	Nigel Holland		

Item Minute

25/04 Committee Membership

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Council, at its meeting on 20 April (Council minute 18), had suspended Nigel Holland's membership of the Council, and therefore of this Committee, until such time as he renewed his BPA membership for the current year. This had fallen due on 1 April 2004 and had not yet been renewed.

Paul Applegate therefore agreed, pro tem, to be the Artistic Disciplines Rep until the situation was regularised. He stated that he was happy to help but that his other commitments would not allow him to continue on a permanent basis.

26/04 Minutes

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2004 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

27/04 Matters arising

27.1 Page 1, minute 16.1 Purchase of an accuracy tuffet

The tuffet had now been purchased. Jim White, in his capacity as Classics Rep, would make the logistical arrangements for it to be available at the appropriate competitions.

Action: Jim White

27.2 Page 2, minute European Skydiving League

Andy Scott reported that he had arranged UK participation in ESL as agreed at the last meeting.

27.3 Page 3, minute 19.3 WPC 2004 Brazil, Artistic Disciplines

The Chairman confirmed that the Council had approved this Committee's recommendation by appointing Paul Applegate as the UK Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager to WPC 2004 Brazil. The Chairman thanked Paul Applegate for agreeing to serve in this capacity.

27.4 Page 5, minute 22 Compatibility of WADA and UK Sport Drug Free Sport Codes

The Chairman reported that UK Sport had referred our enquiry to their consultant on drug free sport, who had not yet reported back to them. The Royal Aero Club had thanked the BPA for taking a lead in finding out more about the compatibility of these two drug free sport codes.

28/04 Nationals and Grand Prix competitions 2004

28.1 FS 8-way Grand Prix, Langar, 24-25 April 2004

Andy Scott reported that some competitors had complained that the meet had been held as two categories but that medals had not been available for the Intermediates. Bob Charters said that he had stated at the team captain's brief that:

- the meet was one category, with a single dive pool, as set out in the rules
- there was enough interest to have a fun separation of 'seniors' and 'intermediates'
- he would raise with this Committee whether or not to formalise this arrangement and award medals for an intermediate category.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the meet rules would remain as published with only one category at 8-way FS Grand Prix events. The BPA Office would issue confirmation to the teams concerned.

Action: BPA Office

The Senior and Intermediate categories would remain for the Nationals. Taking log book numbers and the option for Intermediate teams to pre-register was relevant to the Nationals.

The Chairman apologised for any misunderstandings that had arisen and said that lessons had been learned. He emphasised the primacy of the rules on a fundamental issue of this nature.

Andy Scott suggested that an end-of-season review of 8-way FS Grand Prix competitions should take place at the Competitions Committee Open Forum at the AGM in January 2005.

28.2 Change of date of the Cark FS 4-way Grand Prix to 28-30 August 2004

A letter received earlier today was tabled from Stuart Morris, DZO of NWPC Cark, asking to change the dates of its FS 4-way Grand Prix meet from 5-6 June to 28-30 August because of a delay in the delivery of a new aircraft. The Chairman declared an interest that Stuart Morris was a personal friend. To answer questions from the Committee, the Chairman made a telephone call during the meeting to Stuart Morris to find out more about the problem and was advised that the pre-arranged back-up aircraft would also not be available, through no fault of the Centre.

As a general principle, the Committee did not normally agree to a change competition dates because the responsibility to provide an appropriate aircraft on the scheduled date remained with the host Centre. In this case, however, having ascertained with Kate Charters that judges would be available on the new dates requested, the Committee empathised with the compound problem over aircraft that the Centre had suffered.

Andy Scott therefore proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion exceptionally to agree to the change of date as requested, to be publicised through the BPA magazine and website.

Carried unanimously

Stuart Morris was advised of the decision by telephone. He thanked the Committee for its understanding of the exceptional circumstances that had arisen.

28.3 BPA supported coaching at competitions

This season, many Skills Coaching Roadshows were due to be held at Grand Prix events rather than as stand-alone Roadshows, as had usually been the case in previous seasons. An issue this raised was to what extent it would be appropriate for the unpaid coaches - whose travel and subsistence expenses were being met by the BPA - themselves to compete in the meet. Inevitably, it was sometimes the case that a coach would need to jump to make up an ad hoc Junior or Intermediate team and this was valid as coaching. However, the Committee agreed that if a coach were an existing or pre-registered member of a senior team that was itself competing, then the coach would not be eligible to claim the BPA coaches' travel or subsistence expenses.

28.4 Rule clarification

Andy Scott referred to FS Grand Prix rule 1(j) that stated *"There will be a minimum of one round to call a meet. In the event of the minimum number of rounds not being completed the competition will be continued at the DZ Operator's convenience. Teams not registered at the 1st competition can enter but will not be eligible for prizes."* The Committee confirmed that the reference to "the 1st competition" meant the "the original competition" and not the first competition of the season. The Committee agreed to put this note on interpretation in these minutes and make the above clarification in the wording of next year's rules.

Action: 2005 FS Grand Prix Rules

28.8 Speed 8 Nationals - Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 October 2004

Bids (tabled) had been received from Hibaldstow and Sibson. The Chairman said that both bids were of a high quality. Reading the bids revealed that Sibson had offered the lowest prices. The Chairman said that price was not the only criterion. The facilities at both the bidding Centres were deemed to be good for this competition. A vote was taken and Sibson's bid was accepted.

Carried unanimously

The Committee thanked both Centres for bidding. The Chairman again said that, because of a non-negotiable requirement from potential sponsors, unfortunately those Clubs & Centres that were not currently broadband enabled had unfortunately not been eligible to bid, but there was nothing he could do about this.

The Chairman said that the normal arrangements for Nationals would apply, including that the host Centre was expected to purchase the medals. The BPA had only one shield to award at this event. Andy Scott would confirm the arrangements with Sue Meacock at Sibson. He would also liaise with Sibson and the BPA magazine over publicity.

Action: Andy Scott

Draft rules for the Speed-8 Nationals were tabled by Andy Scott and discussed. They would be forwarded as a draft to the host Centre for consultation, and Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office would polish the administrative section.

The Chairman thanked Andy Scott for his work in coordinating the arrangements for this new meet.

29/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

Andy Scott reported that he had arranged FS Skills Coaching Roadshows at Cockerham the week before the Nationals, and at Hibaldstow the week before that. He confirmed that Hibaldstow, which was hosting the Nationals, were content for Cockerham to have a Roadshow on the pre-Nationals weekend (for which the Centre hosting the Nationals was customarily offered first option).

A hard copy of an e-mail from Nigel Holland was tabled. He proposed holding Artistic Skills Coaching Roadshows on 3-4 July at St Andrews and 17-18 July at NWPC Cark. The Cark date had already appeared in an advertisement in the Mag, although Nigel Holland had said in his e-mail that he had asked for the dates not to be publicised until and unless they were confirmed.

The Committee agreed to confirm the arrangements for the above two Artistic Roadshows, and Andy Scott kindly agreed to confirm the dates to the Magazine.

Action: Andy Scott

Chris Lynch was understood already to be planning to be at St Andrews to give his *Wing Tips* seminar the day before the BPA Roadshow. Brian Vacher believed that the BPA should pay Chris Lynch's return travel expenses, but the Chairman considered it reasonable that St Andrews and the BPA should each pay half.

The meeting was concerned that Nigel Holland appeared to be acting independently of the Committee by making arrangements for Artistic Roadshows before the appropriate budget had been replenished. This was contrary to what the Committee had previously agreed (minute 18). The Chairman said it was only fair that Nigel Holland should be advised of these concerns, together with concern about his failure to renew his BPA Membership to date. He would therefore write to Nigel Holland.

Action: Chairman

30/04 Canopy Piloting

Brian Vacher tabled a draft bid form and draft rules for a 2004 British Open National Competition in Canopy Piloting. The rules, which were broadly adapted from FAI international rules for Canopy Piloting competitions, specified three events: speed, distance and accuracy. Each event would have three rounds. The rules included competence-based qualifications for eligibility to enter, and a system of red and yellow cards used by the CCI and Meet Director (but not the judges) to control any unsafe behaviour. A UK Swoop Tour would take place this summer that would allow most competitors to qualify before the Canopy Piloting Nationals to be held on 4-5 September 2004.

Brian Vacher had presented his proposals to the last meeting of STC. STC had been supportive but had considered that it did not, as a body, have sufficient experience of the discipline formally to endorse Brian Vacher's proposals on behalf of the Association. STC recognised Brian Vacher's experience in Canopy Piloting and raised no objections to his proposals. When this had been reported to the full Council at its meeting on 20 April, John Smyth had said (Council minute 23.5) that the Competitions Committee would consult with IPC and take the lead to draft a set of competition rules to recommend to the Council. The Chairman of Council had asked the Committee to consider putting in place a waiver of insurance to be signed by competitors. John Hitchen suggested that it might also be prudent to consider insurance waivers for judges and officials at Canopy Piloting competitions. The Chairman said he intended to discuss an appropriate form of words for use in insurance waivers with the BPA Chairman.

Action: Chairman

The second World Cup in Canopy Piloting would take place in the USA in late October 2004. The Committee fully endorsed the Chairman's view that it was important for the UK to send a substantial delegation of competent, capable jumpers. It would therefore be necessary to hold Selection Nationals. The UK would then be in a position to take the lead in Europe in this new discipline. The Committee was fortunate to have Brian Vacher as a Member, who was the prime mover of the Canopy Piloting competitions, and the Chairman thanked Brian Vacher for the work he had put into this project.

The Committee was extremely enthusiastic about the new Canopy Piloting Nationals and saw this as the vital first stage of the UK being proactive to earn a leading place in the world in this discipline. The Committee was fully aware of safety and insurance issues and it was worth remembering that Ian Marshall had said that the situation was similar to that which had obtained when Canopy Formations had first been introduced over twenty years ago. The Committee believed it had to be proactive to drive forward Canopy Piloting as a new discipline; otherwise we would end up burying our heads in the sand and banning the discipline as certain other countries had done.

The Committee decided that the wording on the bid form and draft rules should be amended clearly to state that the competition was to be held subject to the approval of the BPA Council, and that the bid form should be issued to Clubs & Centres, and copied to the BPA Council, forthwith. It would have a return deadline for bids of noon on Wednesday 2 June

2004, this being the date of the next meeting of the Competitions Committee at which the winning bid would be selected.

Brian Vacher had further minor variations to make to the draft rules, which he would provide to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office in order that the rules could be issued as soon as possible, again with a note saying that they were subject to the approval of the BPA Council, which would next meet on 15 June.

Action: Brian Vacher / BPA Office

Brian Vacher then proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that, with the variations agreed above, the bid form and rules should be issued and distributed.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said that, as a matter of protocol, he would confirm the Committee's intentions to the BPA Chairman by telephoning him tomorrow.

Action: Chairman

Note: When consulted by telephone, the Chairman of Council requested that the Canopy Piloting bid form and rules should *not* be issued before the BPA Council meeting on Tuesday 15 June, other than in draft to Council Members, to facilitate discussion at the Council table.

With regard to the Second Canopy Piloting World Cup in October 2004, Brian Vacher proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the British delegation should comprise 16 competitors plus judges and a Head of Delegation / Delegation Manager.

Carried unanimously

Brian Vacher would be team captain and he proposed that John Smyth, as Competitions Chairman, should be nominated as UK Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager. John Smyth said he would be happy to accept the nomination, but it was for Council formally to make any appointment.

Chris Lynch was understood to be compiling a list of canopy pilots. The Chairman said that this Committee would like to work in partnership with him to make the best-informed decisions on competence and safety.

31/04 World Parachute Championships 2004

An update on the UK delegations to Croatia and Brazil was tabled. Presently, no eligible CF teams had confirmed that they would be competing. The 4-way FS women's team would be selected at the Grand Prix at Headcorn on 8-9 May. The Classics competitors would be selected on-year at the Nationals on 15-20 June. Competitors would be required to pay their entry fees to the BPA before the BPA transferred the entry fees, so far as possible in single tranches (to economise on bank charges) to the organisers in Croatia and Brazil.

A design for a UK delegation T-shirt had been circulated. The unit cost was £8 for an order quantity of 75. Paul Applegate proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion to place an order for the top design of the two on the circulated paper, subject to the wording reading 'World Skydiving Championships 2004 - British Team'. Sizes and the number of male / female fits could not yet be notified.

Carried unanimously

32/04 Judging matters

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, reported that a successful judges' briefing weekend had been held at the BPA Office on 24-25 April. It had given all judges a valuable insight into other disciplines and had helped to encourage them to expand into more disciplines. She thanked Brian Vacher for kindly attending to brief the judges on Canopy Piloting. Judges would go to Canopy Piloting events at their own expense. The judges had said that the Competitions Open Forum at the AGM was held at the wrong time of day, being about 1700 in the afternoon. The Chairman said he would certainly bear this in mind, but a number of key competitors were usually involved in giving seminar presentations earlier in the afternoon, and it was difficult to see any way in which the programme could easily be

rearranged without causing inconvenience to other meetings. He invited any specific suggestions.

Brian Vacher asked about the purchase of course markers for Canopy Piloting competitions from the budget for judging equipment. The Chairman asked for a list of costs for these and other relevant equipment such as windblades, of which 10 would be needed. It might be possible to obtain windblades from sponsors. Paul Applegate agreed to approach Airtec and Brian Vacher would approach other potential sponsors.

Action: Paul Applegate and Brian Vacher

Brian Vacher proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that, subject to the Council agreeing to hold a Canopy Piloting Nationals, if 10 windblades could not be obtained from sponsors, he would purchase the windblades (as part of next year's Competitions Action Plan for the purchase of judging equipment) and send the invoice to the BPA for payment after 1 July.

Carried unanimously

33/04 Loan of ground to air video

Mark Celland had requested loan of the BPA's ground to air video for use for spectators and the media at the Hibaldstow speed event in June. The Committee agreed in principle to provide this subject to Frank Mallabone, BPA Competitions Equipment Co-ordinator, who stored the kit and was insured to use it, being available on the relevant dates. The Office would put Mark Celland and Frank Mallabone in touch with each other.

Action: BPA Office

34/04 Funding policy

The Chairman said that recently he had again had to quash entirely unfounded rumours that the BPA was funding FS but not Artistic competitors for a world meet. This had arisen from a misunderstanding. A draft policy statement on funding was tabled stating that there was parity of opportunity for funding, and parity of esteem, for competitors in all established competition disciplines that were represented both at WPC and within the selection system of the BPA Nationals. If this were put on the BPA website, perhaps as a BPA Form, it would provide an authoritative reference to help alleviate any doubt in the future. Paul Applegate proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that this funding policy should be published, subject to the BPA Chairman being content with the precise form of words in the final version.

Carried unanimously

35/04 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 2 June 2004 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2125.