

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Wednesday 14 July 2004 at 1830**

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

<b>Present:</b>	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Ian Marshall		Discipline Rep: CF
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
<b>In attendance:</b>	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
<b>Observers:</b>	Mark Calland		
	Bob Charters		
	Clare Murphy		
<b>Apology for absence:</b>	Nigel Holland		Discipline Rep: Artistic

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### Item Minute

#### 46/04 Minutes

Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2004 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

#### 47/04 Matters arising

##### 47.1 Page 1, minute 37.1 Compatibility of WADA and UK Sport Drug Free Sport Codes

No reply had yet been received from the Drug Free Sport Directorate of UK Sport, who were still busy with preparatory work for the Olympics.

The Chairman said he had written to the Royal Aero Club to say that the BPA had for some time been fully signed up to UK Sport's Drug Free Sport code, which had the full support of the BPA. He reported that the Royal Aero Club had now decided to comply with Drug Free Sport requirements. Although, as noted above, the precise relationship between the World Anti-Doping Agency Code and the UK Sport Drug Free Sport Code remained to be clarified, the Chairman said that the general trend was towards a convergence and harmonisation of such codes.

##### 47.2 Page 2, minute 38.2, Transporting the BPA accuracy tuffet

The Chairman said this would be discussed under the item on National and Grand Prix Competitions (minute 48).

##### 47.3 Page 3, minute 38.4 Speed 8 Nationals

The rules had now been circulated and posted on the BPA website.

#### **47.4 Page 6, minute 42 Competitions expenditure**

The Chairman said this would be considered under judging matters (minute 53). The Chairman confirmed to Jim White that references to Classics Coaching Roadshows in a letter from Frank Mallabone related to the previous year when the Chairman himself had been Classics Discipline Rep. The Chairman said he would reply to Frank Mallabone's letter.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **48/04 Nationals and Grand Prix competitions 2004**

##### **48.1 Classics Nationals - British Skysports, Bridlington: 15-20 June 2004**

The Chairman said that arrangements for the 2004 Classics Nationals had been confirmed over twelve months ago, and arranged to start on a Tuesday, all in order to meet the requirements of Classics competitors for whom it was an on-year selection meet. The BPA had also purchased an accuracy tuffet for Classics competitors, which did not happen to be needed at Bridlington as the Centre had its own tuffet.

Notwithstanding the above efforts by the Committee, the Chairman said he was sorry to have to say that there appeared to be little but complaints from the Classics competitors. He said that Fran Shashkova-Richards had written a letter to *Skydive Magazine*, due to be published in the August 2004 issue, that said, among other things, that it was 'disappointing that not one member of the Competitions Committee showed up at any time during the Classics Nationals'. The Chairman said he had taken Friday 18 June as a day off work specifically to visit the Classics Nationals, but on telephoning on setting out, had discovered that the meet had been called, and the medals given out, on the Friday morning. Some competitors had apparently left on the Thursday evening, others had left after the medals ceremony on Friday, and a only a few had remained until later on Friday to compete in Style. Jim White (Classics Discipline Rep) said he had not visited the Classics Nationals because he knew that the Chairman intended to go.

The Chairman said he, and indeed the whole Committee, was always the first to hold up its hands when it was wrong. However, he believed that the criticism from Classics Competitors was unfounded and not supportive of the efforts that the Committee had put in on their behalf. As such, the Chairman had declined the Editor's invitation for him to reply to the letter of criticism in the August Magazine, and would let the complaint speak for itself. He did not believe that it would elicit much sympathy from the membership as a whole. The Committee supported the Chairman's decision not to reply through the Magazine.

The statistics for the 2004 Classics Nationals sounded impressive, with a 40% increase in intermediate competitors. However, the source data was less impressive as it revealed that this year there were 4 intermediate competitors compared with none last year; and that 3 of the 4 had been local Club jumpers. The only competitors in the novice category had been Club jumpers.

In the seniors, Liz Danby had taken some zaps because she had left early and the Committee therefore considered it inappropriate to invite her to compete in the British National Team at WPC 2004 Croatia. The Chairman reported that the invitation had already been issued to Liz Danby join the UK delegation to WPC 2004 Croatia and he did not consider it appropriate to withdraw it. However, he requested that the Committee's comments should be recorded in the minutes.

There was an issue over the payment of judges' expenses at the 2004 Classics Nationals. This would be considered under item 53, judging matters.

##### **48.2 FS 8-way Grand Prix: Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, 26-27 June 2004**

8 teams had competed. Andy Scott (FS Discipline Rep) said the weather had not been kind, but it had at least enabled him to talk at some length to competitors to ascertain their views. He reported that there had been a general consensus in support of some form of intermediate category, together with a senior category with a senior dive pool. Andy Scott said he would investigate this further and hold more informal consultations at the Nationals.

##### **48.3 FS 8-way Grand Prix: Black Knights, Cockerham, 3-4 July 2004**

Only 3 teams had competed, which had been a disappointment. A number of teams who had not gone to Cockerham had indicated that they wished to train for the Nationals out of an aircraft with a left-hand door, and so had preferred to go to Drop Zones that flew a Porter. However, 2 rounds had been completed at Cockerham and it had been a good event that had been very well hosted. Andy Scott said that if it was agreed to have different categories next year, rather than a single category as at present, this might well help to increase the number of teams competing.

#### **48.4 FS 4-way Grand Prix: Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, 10-11 July 2004**

15 teams had competed, completing on the Saturday afternoon. The Centre had been disappointed by this number, as it had expected 24-30 teams. However, the weather forecast had been poor and this may have dissuaded a number of teams from setting out.

The Chairman said he had clarified to Steve Swallow that six rounds were required at a UK Grand Prix to take part in the European Skydiving League - ten rounds were required only for the UK Nationals.

Andy Scott was pleased to report that the Grand Prix Standings, in the form of a league table, had been published on the BPA website and would also appear in the August 2004 issue of *Skydive Magazine*. Andy Scott said he had sent the UK results to ESL, and there was now a reference to ESL on the United States NSL website, offering the opportunity to compete against USA leagues. Andy Scott said he would prepare an item for a future issue of *Skydive Magazine* to explain the relationship between the USA single A and triple A categories and the UK Junior category, etc.

**Action: Andy Scott**

#### **48.5 CF/Classics Grand Prix: Black knights, Cockerham: 17-18 July 2004**

Kate Charters reported that Scotland-based CF judge Dave McLaggan, who had been assigned to judge at this meet, had kindly offered to hire a van to transport the BPA accuracy tuffet to Cockerham. The Committee thanked him and agreed to cover the hire cost of the van and the cost of fuel.

The Chairman said that he wished, in retrospect, the magnitude of the problem of transporting the BPA tuffet had been foreseen. Although it had been suggested that the receiving Centre should collect the tuffet from the previous Centre that had used it, this had proved to be impracticable. It now appeared that the most sensible solution would be to purchase a trailer to transport the tuffet. The Committee noted that Frank Mallabone had already obtained quotation for a bespoke new trailer of about £2.4K, but unfortunately this was more than the available budget. The Chairman therefore agreed to put to the full Council a proposal that the Competitions Committee should set aside a budget of £1K and ask Frank Mallabone to purchase a suitable trailer for the tuffet within this sum.

**Action: Recommend to the Council / Frank Mallabone, subject to Council's agreement**

Ian Marshall confirmed that there would be CF teams competing at the Grand Prix Cockerham, which would also be hosting a CF Coaching Roadshow concurrently with the competition. He thought that some of the CF competitors might enter the Accuracy competition, too.

#### **48.6 Nationals: Target Hibaldstow, 4-way FS, 31 July-2 August and 8-way FS and Artistic, 7-9 August**

The Chairman reported that, due to work commitments that he had not foreseen at the time of accepting the invitation to be Meet Director, he would now be out of the UK at the time of the second weekend. The Committee therefore agreed that, subject to liaison with Steve Swallow, he should ask John Hitchen whether he would be available to be Meet Director.

**Action: Chairman**

Andy Scott said he would unfortunately miss the 4-way FS National weekend, as he would be in Sweden at the time, but he planned to attend the 8-way Nationals the following weekend.

Andy Scott and Kate Charters then discussed the arrangements for supplying the draw to ESL. Kate Charters agreed to liaise with Sue Skull and Andy Scott to plan this.

**Action: Kate Charters**

Kate Charters then outlined the arrangements for judges for the FS Nationals. There would be two teams of three judges to help to spread the workload and provide an efficient judging service. She reported that the French judges who had intended to come for training purposes would not after all be able to attend because of a clash of dates with their own Nationals. Unfortunately, Sue Dixon was not going to be available either.

50 or more teams were expected to compete in the FS 4-way Nationals, and Brian Vacher, together with Calvin Blacker from the BPA Council, were expected to be there. Kate Charters said she had made arrangements for that trophies and medals that had not been presented at the Scottish Nationals in May to be presented at the 4-way FS Nationals, and thanked Target Skysports for their understanding on this.

**49/04 Speed Skydiving**

The Chairman introduced Mark Calland and Clare Murphy who were in attendance for this item. They tabled relevant papers including speed skydiving competition rules.

Mark Calland was the British Speed Skydiving Champion and said he was predominantly ranked No 1 in the world and was on course as a serious contender to become World Champion. He outlined the nature of the discipline in which air speeds in excess of 300 mph had been recorded before deployment of the canopy at a minimum of 2,500 feet. He asked that Speed Skydiving should be recognised as an official National Competition by the BPA, from next season. He said this would help in securing recognition for the discipline by IPC. The Chairman said that there was already a strong proponent for the discipline in IPC, Ken Hanson, whom he had met.

Mark Calland said that fifteen competitors from nine nations had taken part at the Speed Skydiving meet held at Hibaldstow earlier this season. The event had enormous sponsorship potential.

With regard to safety, Mark Calland said that L&B sponsored every competition by supplying a special red-coloured Pro-track to each competitor. These recorded data that could easily be analysed by computer to give the flight characteristics of the jumper and therefore a direct safety assessment.

After discussion, including consideration of equipment and judges' training, Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the Committee would recommend to the full Council that the BPA should hold a British Open Nationals in Speed Skydiving in 2005, subject to any safety considerations that the TO/NCSO may wish to put forward.

**Carried unanimously - Action: Recommend to Council**

The Chairman asked Mark Calland to write an article on Speed Skydiving for submission to *Skydive Magazine*, and invited him to make a presentation on AGM day on the afternoon of Saturday 22 January 2005 at the Hanover Hotel, Hinckley. Mark Calland kindly agreed to do this.

The Chairman said he would arrange to circulate the papers tabled by Mark Calland to the full Council, and that if the Council accepted the Committee's recommendation to hold the first Nationals in Speed Skydiving in 2005, the Committee would be likely to invite Mark Calland to take the lead in drafting the rules. Mark Calland again agreed to do this if formally invited by the Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mark Calland and Clare Murphy for attending and wished Mark Calland well in his next competition.

#### **50/04 Canopy Piloting**

The Chairman said that he had not had an opportunity to discuss Canopy Piloting further with Brian Vacher since the last meeting. He would try to contact Brian Vacher to discuss in more detail the arrangements for using the UK Pro Swoop Tour for selection of the UK team to the Second Canopy Piloting World Cup.

**Action: Chairman / Next Meeting**

#### **51/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates**

**FS** - Andy Scott reported that the first FS Skills Coaching Roadshow of the season was due to take place this coming weekend. He had found it hard to fill all of the coaches' slots, because some coaches had pulled out leaving vacant slots that could sometimes be difficult to fill.

**CF** - Ian Marshall reported that a CF Skills Coaching Roadshow was due to start tomorrow (Thursday) morning at Black Knights, Cockerham. So far 12 jumpers had booked for coaching. The mid-week Coaching Roadshow would be followed by a Grand Prix competition over the weekend, to create a 'CF theme week'. The Chairman complimented Ian Marshall on this innovative approach, and looked forward to receiving feedback on it.

**Artistic** - an Artistic Skills Coaching Roadshow had recently been held at St Andrews, coached by Chris Lynch and Tim Porter. All had gone well and everyone had jumped, despite the on-off weather. Seminars had been held during the weather holds. The Chairman noted that the coaches' travel by air to Scotland had been considerably less expensive than it would have been by car, and asked all Discipline Reps kindly to note this in relation to long-distance travel in Great Britain.

**Classics** - Jim White reported that no requests had been received for a Classics Roadshow.

#### **52/04 World Parachute Championships 2004**

To date, the only eligible Classics competitor who had accepted the invitation was Jeff Chandler. Tim and Kathleen Andrewes had declined the invitation, and Glenn Stephenson had now been invited in place of Tim Andrewes. Other Classics invitees had not yet confirmed their intentions.

In FS, the teams competing were *Spank* (4-way), *Om* (8-way) and *Misstral* (women's 4-way). In Artistic, the teams competing were *Airwave* (Skysurf), *Tumbleweed* (Freestyle), and *Space* (Freefly). There were no CF teams.

The Chairman reported that the team training was going well and that Lesley Gale, on behalf of team *Om*, had thanked the Competitions Committee for its work on co-ordinating the UK Delegation.

In response to correspondence that had been circulated, the Committee agreed that Rezzan Shiel was eligible to join the delegation to Croatia as an accompanying person.

FS judges Dona Crum and Ruth Cooper were to attend the training seminar for international FS judges' seminar to be held at WPC 2004 Croatia. Artistic judge Sue Skull was due to attend the training seminar for international Artistic judges at WPC 2004 Brazil, although the Committee noted that to date confirmation that this seminar would run was still awaited from the organisers. The BPA Office were continuing to chase for information.

The delegation T-shirts were on order from Tom Gold of *Blue One*. These were to meet the requirement for a uniform to be worn at the opening ceremony. A T-shirt would be supplied free of charge to each competitor courtesy of the British Team Fund. A limited number of additional T-shirts would be available for purchase by accompanying persons.

#### **53/04 Judging matters**

The Chairman recapped on the discussion about competitions expenditure at the last meeting (minute 42) for Kate Charters, who had not been present. The crux of the problem was that the £5K budget for judges for the financial year ended on 30 June 2004 had been about £5K overspent. He then went on to say that, in some ways, the Competitions

Committee was a victim of its own success because it now had more judges and therefore the expenditure on judging was higher.

Kate Charters outlined the process for the allocation of judges to meets. She confirmed that she always did her utmost to minimise the cost of travel. However, because of the non-availability of judges from time to time, or judges who pulled out, considerable travel was sometimes unavoidable. Kate Charters said she also encouraged judges to travel together whenever possible to save on travel costs. She said she spent vast amounts of time matching available judges to meets.

Kate Charters then explained that she had to allocate training judges to whichever competitions the senior judges had been allocated. This made it inevitable that, considered as a group, training judges would generally have further to travel than qualified judges - and therefore *pro rata* their expenses would be higher.

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her hard work in planning the most economic judging cover, which he said was greatly appreciated by the Committee. He asked that, at the next meeting, the cost structure of judging should be considered so that the arrangements could be reviewed, and updated if necessary, ahead of the 2005 competitions season. For instance, should more funding be allocated to judges' travel, and if so where would the additional money come from? Another option that might be considered at the next meeting was no longer to provide expenses to trainee judges until they had qualified. Yet another idea was to change the Grand Prix bid form next year so that Clubs & Centres hosting Grand Prix meets would pay the expenses of the qualified judges - in the same way that they already did for the Nationals - and the BPA would cover only the expenses of trainee judges. The Chairman asked Kate Charters and all around the table to brainstorm these and other ideas ahead of a discussion at the next meeting. The need to have a budget provision for contingencies would also need to be considered.

**Action: Next meeting**

Kate Charters reported that judge and equipment co-ordinator Frank Mallabone had not received yet his expenses from the Classics Nationals at Bridlington that had been held last month. A letter from him about this had been circulated. Kate Charters reported that Frank Mallabone was one of three official BPA judges at the Classics Nationals, the others being Bob King and Gail Stephenson. Bob King was understood to have agreed to cover his own travel and subsistence expenses. However, Gail Stephenson and Frank Mallabone had not yet received their expenses. Frank Mallabone had said in his letter that he would stand down as a judge the day after tomorrow unless this matter was resolved.

The Chairman said he would of course take up the matter by writing to the Centre, which had a contractual agreement to pay judges' expenses as part of the bid to host the event. As the matter had only today come formally to the attention of the Committee through the proper channel and due process of the Judges' Co-ordinator's report, the Chairman said he would write to Frank Mallabone to assure him that the Committee would do everything in its power to resolve this matter, but it needed to be allowed sufficient time. The Chairman would confirm to Frank Mallabone that the Committee was grateful for the work that he was doing as a judge and BPA competitions equipment co-ordinator, and did not wish this matter to jeopardise the continuation of his valuable contribution.

**Action: Chairman**

**54/04 Malevsky Cup**

The Committee congratulated team *VMax* for winning the 4-way FS women's event at the Malevsky Cup in Russia.

**55/04 National standards for officiating**

Correspondence had been circulated to the Chairman and Judges' Co-ordinator about the development of national standards for officiating in sport. This was linked to national standards of vocational competence and NVQs by the sectoral body for standards development in sport. The Committee decided not to offer to take part in the functional mapping exercise that was being planned, but it would monitor developments as the project progressed. The Committee was aware of reservations about the bureaucratic and costly nature of standards development in some occupational sectors and would therefore need to be assess whether any firm proposals, once available for consultation, would have the

potential to bring positive benefits to competitive skydiving rather than impose a new burden upon it.

**56/04 FANS Scheme**

Ian Marshall thanked the office for issuing an A4 poster to host centres for the Nationals about the Free Gym Access for National Sportspeople scheme that was sponsored by Sport England in some of the English Regions, so far mainly in the south of England. He asked Discipline Reps to help to publicise the scheme among the top 10 teams nationally in each competition event. He noted that BPA Members had recently been successful in extending the scheme to cover part of Devon, and it should be possible to build up momentum to get the scheme extended to cover still more local borough and district council areas.

**57/04 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 7 September 2004 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2110.