

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 7 September 2004 at 1800

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Nigel Holland		Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Ian Marshall		Discipline Rep: CF
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Brian Vacher	-	Discipline Rep: Canopy Piloting
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observer:	Bob Charters		

Item Minute

58/04 Minutes

Jim White proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2004 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

59/04 Matters arising

59.1 Page 1, minute 47.1 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 busy with the Olympics.

Action: Ongoing

59.2 Page 2, minute 47.4, Chairman's reply to Frank Mallabone's letter of 5 July 2004

A copy of the Chairman's letter of reply had been circulated.

Action completed

59.3 Page 3, minute 48.4 Article on ESL/NSL

Andy Scott confirmed that he had written an explanatory article that was due to appear in the October 2004 issue of *Skydive Magazine*.

Action completed

59.4 Page 3, minute 48.5 Purchase of a trailer to transport the BPA accuracy tuffet

The Chairman said that, although he understood that this item had not been specifically highlighted to the Council meeting on 24 August 2004 (from which he had been absent because he had been working outside the UK), minute 48.5 had set out this Committee's recommendation to the full Council that a budget of up to £1K should be set aside to purchase a suitable trailer to transport the BPA accuracy tuffet. The Council had ratified the minutes, and the Chairman said he believed this meant that this Committee was now in a position to proceed with the purchase. He asked Kate Charters to inform Frank Mallabone accordingly.

Action: Kate Charters

59.5 Page 4, minute 48.6 Supply of the FS nationals draw to ESL

Andy Scott reported that this had been done and had worked satisfactorily. The French did take part in the shared draw, and the USA needed a draw the day before, so it ended up as the UK v Austria. It was good that the UK was now part of ESL.

59.6 Page 4, minute 49 BPA Open Nationals in Speed Skydiving

To Committee was pleased to note that the Council at its meeting on 24 August 2004 agreed to a BPA Open Nationals in Speed Skydiving in 2005. The Chairman invited Mark Calland and Clare Murphy - both of whom were now understood to be World Champions - to the next meeting to discuss plans for this and congratulate them on their achievements.

Action: BPA Office

59.7 Page 6, minute 53 Late payment of Frank Mallabone's expenses

The Chairman reported that the matter had now been satisfactorily resolved. A copy of his letter to Frank Mallabone of 3 August 2004 had been circulated. The Council had considered it prudent to delete a few words from minute 53 because they related to hearsay that was inappropriate for a permanent record. The Committee agreed.

60/04 Nationals 2004

60.1 FS Nationals - Target Skysports, Hibaldstow: 31 July-2 August 2004 (4-way), 7-9 August 2004 (8-way)

With a record 349 competitors in 50 4-way and 11 8-way teams, this had been a first rate meet. The Chairman said that a big thank you was due to host centre Target Skysports from this Committee and the Council. He would write a personal letter to thank the Swallow family, in particular James and Hannah. The Committee would recommend to the Council that the BPA should send a Certificate of Appreciation to the Centre.

Action: Recommend to the Council

60.2 Artistic Nationals - Target Skysports, Hibaldstow: 7-9 August 2004

This meet attracted 63 competitors in 4 or 5 category A and 11 category B teams. It had been the best turn out at an Artistic Nationals for many years, and it was encouraging to note that the standard of competitors' performance had improved. The judges had done a good job and had dealt competently with judging issues raised by some of the competitors. Thanks were due to Target Skysports for hosting the meet.

60.3 CF Nationals: Langar, 14-15 August 2004

Ian Marshall reported that the meet had gone well, with 3 8-way teams registering. Special thanks were due to *Team X*, who had split into three to help out other teams. They had also helped by jumping with cameras when ground-to-air judging had been ruled out by the DZO because of aircraft intrusion and approaching inclement weather. Some non-UK competitors had taken part, who were eligible for the Open Championships, but had not met the nationality requirements for the British Nationals. Kate Charters reported that the three CF training judges had all performed impressively.

The provision of medals for simultaneous British and Open Championships was then considered. John Hitchen recalled that the current position was that a second set of medals would be provided if advance notice had been given of non-UK nationals competing. However, no non-UK team could take a cup or a shield. The Chairman warmly welcomed the interest shown by overseas teams in entering our Open Championships. He said that prior notification was fine in theory but was not always practicable. He believed the least we could do was to supply two sets of medals. John Hitchen said that in practice the BPA always supplied a bigger batch of medals on sale or return.

61/04 Grand Prix 2004

61.1 CF & Classics, 17-18 July 2004

This meet suffered from video equipment failure when the monitor had gone down. Thanks were due to Frank Mallabone and all concerned for helping to overcome this.

61.2 FS 4-way, NWPC Cark, 29-30 August

11 teams had taken part and the meet had gone well. John McIver who had been the BPA coach.

61.3 CF, BPS Langar, 4-5 September

The CF Grand Prix had been held over an exceptionally busy weekend at Langar with training for the *Brit Chicks* record attempt and other events also going on at the same time. Judge Dave McClaggan had expressed his concern that the pace of the CF Grand Prix had suffered as a consequence of the other events. Kate Charters said she would discuss this with various stakeholders to get their views.

Action: Kate Charters

62/04 FS competitions feedback

Andy Scott (FS Rep) said he had submitted an article for publication in *Skydive Magazine* for October 2004 in which he sought feedback from FS competitors about various issues by 12 January 2005, ahead of formulating the rules for next season. The issues for consultation included differences between the Sky League (NSL and ESL) and BPA competition formats, whether the present five rounds should be increased to eight for 8-way intermediates, and which were the most appropriate dive pools for the three classes (perhaps to be called senior, intermediate and junior?) for the 8-way draws. He believed there should be an overall winner, and perhaps also a runner up, in each class, but not gold, silver and bronze medals in each class. The Chairman invited Committee Members to encourage discussion of all these issues and to report back, always remembering that the Committee's policy was to be demand-led.

The final two 4-way FS Grand Prix meets of the 2004 season had yet to take place on 11-12 September and at Peterlee on 25-26 September. A review of Nationals and Grand Prix would take place once all meets had been completed. However Andy Scott reported that a consensus had already emerged among FS competitors that there had been at least one too many Grand Prix meets in both 4-way and 8-way, and recommended that this should be borne in mind when next season's competitions calendar was being drawn up.

The Chairman said that the bid form for Nationals and Grand Prix 2005 would be issued after the next meeting and asked Andy Scott to make his proposal on any variation to the number of next season's meets at that time. Andy Scott said he would like to improve correlation of UK dates for ESL and suggested that dates might be set out on the bid form. The Chairman invited Andy Scott to put his thoughts in writing for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Andy Scott

63/04 Canopy Piloting

63.1 Postponement of the Second World Cup in Canopy Piloting

Brian Vacher reported that the Second World Cup in Canopy Piloting, which had been due to take place at the Florida Skydiving Centre at the end of October 2004, had had to be postponed consequent on the after-effects of the disruption caused by recent hurricanes. The new dates had been announced as 7-12 February 2005. There would be two classes, Advanced and Pro. To date, there provisional UK team selection would be from among 7 in the Pro category and 2 in Advanced. The Committee appointed Brian Vacher as UK Team Captain and authorised him to select the team. The Chairman asked Brian Vacher to keep in mind the rule that any competitor who had represented another nation within the last three would not be eligible to represent the UK, even if s/he met other eligibility criteria.

Action: Brian Vacher

The UK delegation would be entirely self-funded. John Smyth confirmed that the change of dates would not affect his availability to carry out the duties of Head of Delegation/Team Manager on a self-funded basis, and the Committee accepted his offer to do this, subject to ratification by the full Council. Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) would consider whether she would be available to attend the meet on the new dates, again on a self-funded basis.

63.2 Canopy Piloting Nationals 2005

Brian Vacher said that he was reluctant to do any further work on the planned Canopy Piloting Nationals 2005 until a firm timetable was in place to introduce the new canopy

handling CH1-4 system. He was concerned that the roll-out of the new canopy handling system might be a rate-limiting factor in holding the Canopy Piloting Nationals. What if the roll-out were to be delayed for some reason? Where would that leave the CP Nationals? Andy Scott said that the BPA Chairman had cited the CP Nationals as an integral part of the roll-out programme at CH4 level. Brian Vacher said there was an urgent need for a clear steer from the Canopy Handling Panel/STC on how CH4 would affect next year's CP Nationals. He said he was becoming frustrated about what appeared to be a lack of information, and fearful that this might lead to requests for further deferral of the inaugural CP Nationals.

The Chairman said it was important to explain to the Council that this Committee had now reached the point in its programme where detailed planning for next year's Nationals had to take place. If there were any remaining issues surrounding the grant of full authority from the Council for this Committee to organise CP Nationals in 2005, these now had to be identified and worked through.

Action: Clarify with the Council

64/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The Chairman said that a review of this year's Skills Coaching Roadshow programme would take place at the next meeting, when expenditure figures would be available from Jon Gretton. The Chairman thanked Andy Scott for monitoring expenditure on FS Roadshows to date.

Ian Marshall reported on the CF Roadshow that had been held at Black Knights, Cockerham. 38 coaching jumps had been made. There had been three trainee coaches, one of who had now stood down from future involvement in this capacity. The turnout had, however, been lower than expected. Ian Marshall suggested that a registration fee should be levied to discourage jumpers from putting down their names for a Roadshow but not turning upon the day, after coaches and kit had been laid on for them. The Chairman said this was something to consider in respect of all disciplines in the review of this season's Roadshows to be held at the next meeting, ahead of planning for next season's Roadshow programme.

In the light of the expected further reduction in the UK Sport grant to the BPA, or the withdrawal of the grant entirely, it might be an appropriate time to discuss the option of a registration fee or other charge of some kind.

Action: Next meeting

65/04 World Parachute Championships 2004

65.1 Croatia (FS & Classics)

The Chairman, in his capacity as Head of Delegation/Delegation Manager, reported that the UK delegation of 45, including accompanying persons, was all set and ready to go. The Committee again congratulated John Hitchen on his appointment as FAI Controller at WPC Croatia. The Committee was also delighted to note that three UK international judges - Kate Charters (FS), Karla Cole (FS) and Bob King (Style & Accuracy) - had been invited by IPC to judge at WPC Croatia.

65.2 Brazil (Artistic Events)

Paul Applegate, Head of Delegation, reported that IPC had had to change the original Brasilia venue after the original organisers had pulled out only about a week ago. The Chairman had suggested that we enquire of the USPA what they thought of the new Drop Zone, near Sao Paulo, and the feedback was good. Planning had, however, been thrown into uncertainty with the late change of venue. Ian Marshall asked how this situation had arisen. The Chairman said he understood it to be due to a lack of expected government sponsorship of the first venue. He said there would be time to analyse what had gone wrong when it was all over: the important thing now was not to let it spoil the meet. Ian Marshall agreed and said he expected our IPC Delegate to make appropriate representations in due course, as uncertainty of this nature was not fair on competitors and did the sport no favours in the public eye.

66/04 Judging matters

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) for her written report on recent meets (circulated). Kate Charters outlined various judging issues that had arisen and how she had resolved them. Kate Charters said she had not yet heard from Peterborough Parachute Centre about the 8-way speed Nationals, due to take place in October, and she planned to contact Sue Meacock about this.

The Chairman agreed to hold over discussion about the Judges' budget until the next meeting, when figures from Jon Gretton would be available after the remaining two Grand Prix meets of the season had taken place.

Action: Next meeting

Kate Charters reported that more Training Judges were expected to qualify for their National Ratings at the end of the season - 2 in CF, 2 or 3 in FS, and 2 in Accuracy. Two qualified FS National Judges were due to attend the International Judges' Training Seminar at WPC Croatia, for which she wished them well.

67/04 X-elements Magazine

Nigel Holland reported that his interview with on Freestyle team *Project Airwave* had appeared in X elements magazine, copies of which he would distribute shortly.

68/04 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 October 2004 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.
John Hitchen tendered his apologies for absence as he would be out of the UK.

The meeting closed at 2015.