

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 12 October 2004 at 1830

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 (from item 71)
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apology for absence	John Hitchen, NCSO		

Item Minute

69/04 Minutes

Nigel Holland proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2004 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

70/04 Matters arising

70.1 Page 1, minute 59.1, Compatibility of WADA and UK Sport Drug Free Sport Codes

The Office had sent a further reminder about the Committee's original request for advice in March 2004 to the Drug Free Sport Directorate of UK Sport. UK Sport had asked for a duplicate copy of the documents concerned, which had now also been forwarded.

Action: Ongoing

70.2 Page 1, minute 59.2, Purchase of a trailer to transport the BPA accuracy tuffet

The Chairman reported that a trailer had now been selected by Frank Mallabone, which he had purchased for approximately GBP 800 on behalf of the BPA. The Chairman would write to thank Frank Mallabone, and also Jeff Illidge of the Black Knights Parachute Centre, who had kindly stowed the tuffet pending purchase of the trailer.

Action: Chairman

70.3 Page 3, minute 61.3, CF Grand Prix at Langar, 4-5 September 2004

Kate Charters reported that she had discussed this meet with David and Angela Hickling who had agreed that, with all that had been going on that weekend, it had probably not been the best time to hold a CF Grand Prix meet. The Chairman had since received a helpful letter from David Hickling, which he would bring up under the end of season review on the main agenda (minute 73).

71/04 World Parachute Championships 2004

70.1 WPC Brazil - Artistic Events

Paul Applegate (Head of Delegation) reported that the rearranged venue had had very little time to prepare, but had made a good job of hosting the meet in the circumstances. In Freestyle Female, Team *Tumbleweed* (Deb Clarke & Jim Weir) had been placed tenth out of thirteen teams; in Freestyle, team *Space* (Dan Parker, James Harris and Robert Simpson) had come thirteenth out of thirteen teams; and in Skysurf, team *Project Airwave* (Robbie Powell & Gary Dawes) had come seventh of seven teams. Paul Applegate said that all the teams had learned a lot from what was, in every case, their first experience of a world meet. Ian Marshall proposed a vote of thanks for Paul Applegate for his work as Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager.

71.2 WPC Croatia - FS, Classics

The Chairman, who had been Head of Delegation, reported that the UK delegation had comprised 24 athletes and almost as many accompanying persons. The Classics competitors had been delayed because Ryanair would not let one competitor's Cypres AAD onto the aircraft, and this had been taken up with the airline.

The opening ceremony had been held at the end of the first day, as now seemed to be the practice at world meets. The accommodation had been basic but adequate. The Classics DZ had been a long way from the main DZ. The weather had not been kind: luxury team tents that had been provided had blown down, necessitating re-location into a hangar that had had to be cleared of aircraft for the purpose. The 8-way FS competition had been called at Round 9; the Men's Accuracy at Round 8; and both CF (in which there had been no UK teams) and Style were also called short. A widespread view among competitors from many nations was that this had been one world meet too many.

The UK had won no medals but women's 4-way FS team *Misstral* had scored a personal best. FS teams *Spank* and *Om* had also done well. Jumping conditions had been difficult at the Accuracy DZ so scores had been inconsistent. The big success had been in judging. UK judges Bob Charters and Karla Cole had both enjoyed good assessments from the event judges; and trainee international FS judges Ruth Cooper and Dona Crum had both earned their FAI ratings after a challenging training seminar and assessment. The Committee congratulated all concerned. The Chairman said this had now fully achieved this year's Action Plan targets on judging, only three months into the Action Plan year.

The Chairman said he would ask John Hitchen to take up at IPC the matter of the medal allocation in relation to the overall category in Style & Accuracy. The long presentation ceremony had comprised many of the same competitors receiving different awards, and had been far too repetitive. Some had received as many as six medals.

Action: John Hitchen

Ian Marshall referred to a report on CF (circulated) by Christophe Balinsky of the French team. The Committee agreed that the issues this raised, concerning the disappointingly low number of CF competitors at the world meet, should be discussed at the Competitions Open Forum at the AGM with the object of briefing John Hitchen, UK IPC Delegate, and/or Bob Card UK Alternate Delegate to IPC, ahead of the IPC Plenary Meeting in late January 2005. In the meantime, Ian Marshall would thank Christophe Balinsky for his report.

Action: Ian Marshall / John Hitchen / Bob Card

Ian Marshall proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his work as Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager at WPC Croatia 2004.

72/04 Nationals and Grand Prix 2004

72.1 Speed 8 Nationals: Peterborough Parachute Centre, 2-3 October 2004

This had been a good meet, on which Peterborough Parachute Centre was to be congratulated. Appreciative comments (circulated) had been received from several competitors. A police and fire brigade joint team had been the proud winners of the 'snail award' for the slowest team! As the team that had come last had so enjoyed competing, it was a sure sign that this had been a great fun weekend. The Chairman thanked Karla Cole

for stepping in to judge the meet, as Kate Charters had been called away at short notice outside the UK on family business. He also thanked Andy Scott for drafting the rules. Andy Scott said that the definition of a UK National would be included in the rules for next season.

Action: Bring forward to 'rules' meeting, February 2005

72.2 Grand Prix 2004

72.2.1 FS

Andy Scott reported that FS 4-way Grand Prix meets had been held at Langar on 11-12 September 2004 and Peterlee on 25-26 September 2004. In both cases, 11 teams (55 competitors) had attended.

Over the entire 2004 season, the average Grand Prix attendance had been 13 teams per meet in 4-way FS, and 6 teams per meet in 8-way FS. This was down on last year's average Grand Prix attendance of 20 teams per meet in 4-way FS. The reason was that there had been more meets this year; and feedback from competitors suggested that there had been too many. This feedback had been taken on board in the draft bid form (minute 76), which proposed fewer meets next year.

Andy Scott reported that the final standings table had now been prepared for the FS Grand Prix 2004 and it had been supplied to the BPA website and *Skydive Magazine*. Team *South Parc* had won the FS 4-way GP intermediate category. Team *International Space Kettle* had won the FS 8-way intermediate category (the higher-placed teams in the single 8-way GP category had been senior teams). Medals would be presented at the AGM to the top three teams in each 4-way category. This was because of the number of teams competing: about 10 teams was the point at which three medals would be considered, but this would be decided by the Competitions Committee on an event-by-event basis. In 8-way FS, there would be a Gold only - as there would in CF and Classics.

Action: AGM Presentation Ceremony

Teams *South Parc*, *Optic* (ESL 4-way FS intermediate winners) and *International Space Kettle* were all eligible for a contribution to their coaches' expenses (such as car mileage and overnight accommodation, at standard BPA rates). This would come from the total fund of GBP 2500 (to cover *all* disciplines) that the Committee had earmarked in the Action Plan for training of the top intermediate teams in preparation for the World Cup in Eloy, USA, in 2005. The Committee agreed that Andy Scott should write so to inform the eligible FS teams, after consultation with the Chairman on the wording.

Action: Andy Scott

72.2.2 CF and Classics

Ian Marshall would write to the top Intermediate CF GP team along the same lines as Andy Scott's letter in the paragraph above to eligible intermediate FS teams. The CF GP standings had not yet been published

Action: Ian Marshall

The Chairman said he would review the position in the Classics GP Intermediate category, and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Chairman

73/04 End of season review

73.1 UK Sport competitions funding

The Chairman reported that UK sport was redefining its funding criteria. It was likely to concentrate on funding for medals at recognised World Championships. For non-Olympic sports such as skydiving, it appeared that UK Sport might fund reigning World Champions and those with the potential to become World Champions. He said that the Committee needed to start to think now about its strategy for the new Action Plan year from July 2005, which needed to be based on funding top athletes to World Championships, in order to chime with UK Sport's expected new funding criteria. The Chairman reported that Chris Allen, BPA Chairman, had sought clarification from UK Sport about the nature of the evidence they would require to signify that an athlete had the potential to become a World Champion.

The World Cup 2005 in Eloy, USA, would be the springboard to the World Parachute Championships 2006 in Germany. Coaching would therefore continue to play an important role in the development of upcoming teams, and this was another issue for discussion at the Competitions Open Forum on AGM Day.

Ian Marshall asked why UK Sport were changing the criteria for funding when the BPA had done everything they had asked of us in previous years. He feared that this change would result in yet a further drop in UK Sport exchequer funding for the BPA. The Chairman said this was not necessarily the case; it depended on the final criteria that UK Sport had yet to put in place. It might even be possible to contemplate an increase in funding if the criteria turned out to be more favourable.

73.2 Letter from David Hickling

The Chairman had received a letter (circulated) dated 8 October from David Hickling of BPS Langar. This concerned the economics of hosting BPA competitions in CF and Classics, which were not favourable to the Drop Zone. Kate Charters had discussed this with David Hickling, who had pointed to increased costs at Drop Zones such as a 25% increase in the price of aircraft fuel. She said she believed that it was necessary to look at CF and Classics as combined events, since neither was cost-effective on its own. The Chairman thanked David Hickling for his open and candid letter.

The Chairman asked the Committee to bear in mind the points that David Hickling had made, and to be careful not to hold too many competition meets. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the existing criteria for National and Grand Prix competitions should continue (that is to say the Nationals being run at no cost to the BPA; and, the BPA paying for medals and covering the expenses of authorised judges at Grand Prix meets). However, the cost structure of judging would be reviewed (minute 78).

Ian Marshall said that next year's CF rules would specify a common, safe, altitude for all CF events.

Action: Bring forward to 'rules' meeting, February 2005

74/04 Speed Skydiving

Mark Calland had unfortunately been unable to attend this meeting, to which the Committee had invited him. The Committee offered Mark Calland and Clare Murphy their congratulations at having become World Champions in Speed Skydiving. This was not an IPC-recognised discipline, so the Committee was not in a position to arrange for the BPA to refund their entry fee to the world meet for Speed Skydiving. Ian Marshall proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that this Committee should recommend to the full Council that Mark Calland and Clare Murphy should each be presented with a Certificate of Achievement at the AGM to recognise their achievement as World Champions in Speed Skydiving.

Action: Recommend to the Council

75/04 Canopy Piloting

The Chairman reported that Brian Vacher's concerns about possible delay to plans for the Canopy Piloting Nationals 2005 because of the introduction of the new canopy handling progression system CH1-4 (minute 63.2), appeared to be unfounded. The Chairman had already seen a comprehensive draft of the specification for CH1. He said that this Committee had confidence in the work being carried out by STC's Canopy Handling Working Party, and looked forward to the CP Nationals 2005 contributing to the consolidation of the CH4 level.

76/04 Competitions bid form 2005

A draft bid form by Andy Scott had been circulated in advance. The Chairman thanked him for the hard work he had put into this, which had saved the Committee a great deal of time.

The Committee discussed the draft form and a number of variations were agreed, including the addition of two Grand Prix meets in Freestyle.

Skills Coaching Roadshows were now included in the bid form for the first time. Andy Scott said that a single BPA coach only would be allocated to each 4-way FS meet. Ian Marshall and Andy Scott were both concerned that Roadshows had been arranged this season at which few, and in one case no, jumpers had turned up despite a good list of names in advance.

To avoid a repeat next season, the Committee decided that Centres hosting a BPA Skills Coaching Roadshow in 2005 should charge a non-returnable fee of GBP 10 per jumper, to be remitted to the BPA at least seven days in advance of the date of the Roadshow. This would be to confirm that the Roadshow had generated sufficient interest to warrant the coach(es) attendance. The funds so generated could be allocated either to the British Team Fund or the coaching fund, whichever the Council considered to be most appropriate.

Action: Recommend to the Council

The Committee then agreed to circulate the bid form, as an updated draft, to the full Council. The aim was to secure Council ratification so that the bid form could be issued to Clubs & Centres during the week ending Friday 22 October 2004, with a call-back date for bids of Monday 15 November 2004. This would be the date of the next meeting, and the Committee hoped that it would be early enough to secure accepted bids a reference in the BPA Calendar 2005 that Lesley Gale was preparing for the Communications Committee. A reserve alternative meeting date of Wednesday 24 November was also noted.

77/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows

A review of the financial position of Skills Coaching Roadshows was deferred until a future meeting once all this season's expenses claims had been settled.

Action: Future meeting

78/04 Judging matters

Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) reported that there had been cases of trainee judges claiming expenses for meets to which they had not been allocated. She had discussed this with the Chairman and had agreed that she would vet expenses claims to ensure that they were valid, before the Chairman authorised payment. The Chairman asked that a memo be sent to Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, who had suggested this procedure, to confirm the arrangement.

Action: BPA Office

It was agreed that the Committee would review the cost structure of judging at a future meeting, once all the claims from this season had been processed.

Action: Future meeting

Kate Charters reported that she had issued a letter to judges requesting submission of their logbooks for the annual validation. National rating certificates for new judges would be issued at the AGM. FAI Judges' Certificates had already been issued to Ruth Cooper and Dona Crum but these would be re-presented at the AGM.

Action: AGM Presentation Ceremony

In December, IPC would be requesting UK nominations for FAI judges at next season's meets. The Committee agreed that all current UK FAI-qualified judges would be nominated, except for any judge who had advised Kate Charters that they did not wish their name to be put forward. Kate Charters would have the list ready for the next meeting.

Action: Kate Charters

Kate Charters reported that there were likely to be two FAI trainee judges next year.

79/04 Life Membership

Andy Scott reported that he had received a number of representations suggesting that an award of Life Membership should be made. The Chairman said this was a matter for Council and asked Andy Scott to raise it at the next Council meeting.

Action: Andy Scott

80/04 Date of next meeting

Provisionally, Monday 15 November 2004 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester. Alternatively, reserve date of Wednesday 24 November 2004, same time and venue.

The meeting closed at 2105.