

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 7 June 2005 at 1810

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: AE
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Geordie Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence	Mark Calland	-	Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: AE
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: CP

Item Minute

31/05 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Geordie Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2005 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following corrections:

- 1 Page 1: delete 'from item 10.2' against Geordie Page's name in the list of those present.
- 2 Page 2, minute 24: Change 'Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 15 November 2004' to 'Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 1 March 2005'.
- 3 Page 5, minute 26.2. Change 'Deb Weir and Jim Clarke' to 'Deb Clarke and Jim Weir'.
- 4 Page 8, minute 28: first line at the top of the page – change 'submitted receipts' to 'should submit receipts'.

Approved

32/05 Matters arising

32.1 emails from Nigel Holland (page 1, minute 22)

The Chairman said that Nigel Holland had apologised and removed the advertising message from the bottom of his BPA-related emails. The matter was now closed.

32.2 Compatability of WADA and UK Sport Anti-Doping Code (Page 2, minute 24.1)

UK Sport was in the process of harmonising its own UK anti-doping code with the WADA anti-doping code.

The Chairman called attention to a disturbing email from an Anti-Doping Information Officer at UK Sport. This had been sent to BPA competitor Amanda Kemp in response to an enquiry about asthma medication. The email signed by "Drug-Free Sport, UK Sport" said : *Skydiving is not currently part of the UK Sport Anti-Doping Testing Programme and is not subject to the UK Sport National Anti-Doping Policy, ie skydivers will not be drug tested by UK Sport in the UK*".

The Office had questioned this and an Anti-Doping Programme Officer from UK Sport had apologised and clarified that the original message referred to UK Sport's testing programme. The Chairman had tried to speak to the UK Sport Anti-Doping Programme Officer by telephone before the meeting, but had been unable to reach him.

The Committee was greatly concerned about the original message from UK Sport's Anti-Doping Information Officer to a BPA competitor. This was a source that the competitor had every expectation to be authoritative and reliable. Yet it contained a falsehood, viz: *"Skydiving is.... not subject to the UK Sport National Anti-Doping Policy"*. This was not true.

The Chairman said that this email at a stroke undermined all the time and effort that the BPA had spent over the last few years in adopting and publicising to competitors the UK Sport Anti-Doping code and rules. With UK Sport's anti-doping policy being so strict, and it being so easy for competitors to be caught out by substances in over-the-counter medicines and even some soft drinks and beverages, it almost defied belief that a UK Sport Anti-Doping Information Officer could send such a misleading email to a competitor. Apart from the misinformation in the email, it also undermined the philosophy of random testing by indicating that UK Sport would not be organising drug testing at UK skydiving competitions this year.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairman confirmed that the BPA was fully signed-up to UK Sport's Anti-Doping Policy. This was, inter alia, a condition of UK Sport funding for BPA competitions. An integral part of that policy was random testing at competitions. The Chairman said that testing could yet take place as there was provision for it in the rules. Testing could happen when least expected and, who knows, UK Sport might even seek to redress its mistaken email by adding a skydiving event to its testing programme. The Chairman urged competitors not to be deflected from adherence to the BPA's Anti-Doping Policy and Rules (BPA Form 220) by what appeared to be a most unfortunate email from UK Sport. He thanked BPA competitor Amanda Kemp for calling the email to the attention of the BPA Office.

The Committee resolved that the Chairman would write to UK Sport's Director of Anti-Doping to deplore the content of the email that it had sent to Amanda Kemp and to call for a written apology and clarification to her. Misinformation like this, from a source that should be above all be authoritative and reliable, could spread around sport parachuting by word of mouth and had the potential to cause untold damage to the sporting achievements of BPA competitors.

Action: Chairman

Moreover, Amanda Kemp had asked UK Sport for a TUE form to register her inhaled asthma medication. The Chairman said that as Amanda Kemp would be competing for the UK at the Skydiving World Cup in Eloy, USA, in October 2005, she did need to complete a TUE form (or equivalent) and lodge it with both the event organisers on registration for the competition, and the BPA. The Committee BPA Office would advise Amanda Kemp accordingly.

Action: BPA Office

32.3 Certificate of Achievement: Paul Rossouw (Page 2, minute 24.4)

The Chairman reported that Paul Rossouw had been contacted by the BPA Office and had indicated that he would shortly be renewing his BPA Membership.

32.4 Classics Grand Prix at UK Parachuting, Norfolk (Page 4, minute 14.4.1)

Geordie Page reported that he had arranged two new Classics Grand Prix meets, as follows:

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July 2005 at Skydive St Andrews

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September 2005 at UK Parachuting, Norfolk.

[correction to error in original minutes: thanks to Frank Mallabone for kindly pointing it out]

These would be notified to *Skydive Magazine* and added to the BPA website diary of events.

Action: BPA Office

Geordie Page said that Frank Mallabone would not be available to operate the camera at St Andrews, but that Jim White had kindly agreed to do this.

UK Parachuting in Norfolk would be hosting their first BPA Competition for some years, although CCI Tony Knight was experienced in hosting competitions from his days at the Ipswich Parachute Centre. Geordie Page said he would still do his very best to attend the Classics Grand Prix at UK Parachuting to represent the Competitions Committee at UK Parachuting's first BPA competition.

Action: Geordie Page

32.5 Funding criteria (Page 2, minute 25.1.1)

The Chairman reported that the funding criteria set out by the Committee had now been ratified by the full Council. Andy Scott said he had received a number of telephone calls from competitors who were concerned at what they saw as the narrow focus of UK Sport on World Championship medal prospects.

32.6 Judges' training in speed skydiving (Page 2, minute 25.1.3)

The Chairman asked Mark Calland to continue to liaise with Kate Charters, neither of whom could be present tonight.

Action: Mark Calland & Kate Charters

32.7 Speed 8 Nationals Rules (Page 3, minute 25.1.4)

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Speed 8 Nationals Rules for 2005 should be the same as those for 2004, subject only to an update of the administrative section.

Carried unanimously - Action: BPA Office

32.8 CF Nationals (Page 4, minute 25.1.7)

The Chairman reported that these would be going ahead at NWPC Cark on the agreed dates of Monday 5 to Friday 9 September 2005, concurrently with the Classics Nationals. Kate Charters had now confirmed that she would be available to judge.

32.9 3rd Anton Malevsky Memorial World Cup - Stupino, Russia: 4-9 July 2005 (Page 5, minute 26.2)

Women's Freely team *Tumbleweed* (Deb Clarke and Jim Weir) and Classics competitor Jeff Chandler had registered on a self-funded basis to represent the UK.

32.10 World Cup, Eloy, Arizona, USA: 21-29 October 2005 (Page 5, minute 26.4)

John Hitchin reported that the rules stated that 'up to four' teams could represent each nation. He was trying to get sight of the original bid form to see whether this had stated a limit of four teams, which had now somehow metamorphosed into three teams in the published Bulletin.

Action: Ongoing

32.11 Speed Skydiving Coaching at Artistics Roadshows (Page 6, minute 27)

The Chairman reported that Mark Calland (Speed Skydiving Rep) was liaising with Nigel Holland (Artistics Rep) over this.

Action: Mark Calland & Nigel Holland

32.12 Loan of BPA Accuracy Scoring system to Greece (Page 6, minute 28.1)

The Chairman reported that Frank Mallabone had arranged this. The BPA had refunded the transit costs to him, the people in Greece would repay the BPA.

32.13 Nationality rules (page 8, minute 29)

The Chairman read aloud a helpful reply by email from Chris Allen, BPA Chairman, to the question in minute 29. This said that, under FAI rules, the issue of nationality was closely allied with that of representation. If a competitor had represented one nation at an FAI event, he or she could not represent another nation for a period of three years. Ian Marshall said that he was enquiring on behalf of a Classics competitor, Roumy Radountcheva, whose visa stated that she was not entitled to apply for a British passport until she had been resident in

the UK for 4 years. The Chairman said that this was not an issue provided she met the nationality criteria set out the BPA's rules for the Nationals, which was 3 years residence in the UK and/or eligibility to hold a British passport. For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee confirmed that Roumy Radountcheva would be eligible to represent the UK if she met the selection requirements at the Nationals and had not represented any other country in the past 3 years.

John Hitchen reported that he had confirmed that Gigliola Borgnis could represent the UK in an attempt at a European altitude record. As it was not a competition, the FAI nationality rules for competitors did not apply.

33/05 Domestic competitions 2005

33.1 Grand Prix 2005

33.1.1 Freely Grand Prix - Langar: 30 April-2May 2005

A letter dated 5 May 2005 from David Hickling of BPS Langar had been circulated. This criticised the behaviour of Nigel Holland, Artistic Disciplines Rep, and Sue Skull, Meet Director and Artistics Judge. The Chairman had sent a holding reply on behalf of the Committee in which he apologised and promised to investigate. The issue raised by Langar centred on behaviour in the bar on the Friday evening, and non-availability for competition duties on the Saturday morning. Andy Scott had been present on the Saturday and was able to give additional background information, including that the weather on the Saturday morning had been too poor for jumping.

The Chairman reported that, although Nigel Holland could not be present tonight, he had sent an email (copy circulated) in which he said that he was not happy at copies of the correspondence with Langar having been circulated without him having seen it first and being given the right to reply. Nigel Holland said that the late start to the competition on the Saturday was due to bad weather which did not clear up until mid-day. He pointed out that the rules had not been available until the day before the competition, which may not have helped. Nigel Holland's email went on to say that there were other issues raised by the letter from Langar that he did not agree with and would be willing to discuss when he was next present at the Committee. Andy Scott reported that he had discussed the situation with Nigel Holland on the Saturday and had given him advice, which Nigel Holland had followed; and the Chairman thanked Andy Scott for his help in doing this.

Sue Skull had not introduced herself on the Friday evening or held a competitors' briefing and a draw before the start of the competition on the Saturday. On the Saturday morning, because of the bad weather, she had been studying the just-published rules in her tent. The Chairman said that it appeared that the normal process ahead of the competition - which would have been covered in judges' training - had not been followed, and apologies were due to Langar and to the competitors for this.

The Chairman said he was sure that lessons had been learned from the weekend and that the same problems would not recur, and he believed that the Committee should draw a line under it. He would report back in writing, on behalf of the Committee, to David Hickling, as he had promised.

Action: Chairman

Two teams had entered this first freely Grand Prix. Nigel Holland had reported in his email that he expected more teams to enter the next Freely Grand Prix, to be held on 9-10 July at Hibaldstow, as it would benefit from a Skills Coaching Roadshow held the weekend before the competition.

33.1.2 8-way FS Grand Prix - Langar: 14-15 May 2005

Andy Scott reported that 3 teams had entered. The date and venue had had to be changed from the previous at BKPC Cockerham, because BKPC had not received altitude clearance until later in the season. The Chairman said that the urgency of the need to re-schedule the meet meant that there had been no time to put out a new bid form. Instead, he had rescheduled the competition to a centre that had already put in a bid for the weekend concerned.

33.1. 3 4-way Grand Prix - Target Skysports Hibaldstow: 21-22 May 2005

Andy Scott reported that this had been a successful meet. 17 teams had entered, comprising 4 senior, 6 intermediate and 7 juniors. All had completed 6 rounds.

33.4 4-way & 8-way Grand Prix - NWPC Cark: 28-30 May 2005

Andy Scott reported that 17 teams had entered the 4-way competition, and only one team in 8-way. It had been a Skills Coaching Roadshow weekend but unfortunately the coach had been unable to attend at the last minute and he had telephoned his apologies to the DZ and the BPA Office.

33.1.5 Grand Prix yet to be held in 2005

Five more Grand Prix meets already in the published calendar remained to be held this season. In addition, there were the two further Classics Grand Prix meets to be added (minute 32.4), bringing the total to 7. The Chairman said that a good season was in prospect.

33.2 Nationals 2005

32.2.1 FS Nationals - Target Skysports, Hibaldstow: 30 July-1 August and 6-8 August 2005

The Chairman said that he would be working abroad during most of the FS Nationals this year. He was not aware who was to be the Meet Director. John Hitchen said that he did not know either.

Andy Scott reported that Lofty Thomas had expressed disappointment to him that the Chairman of the BPA had not attended to present the medals at the FS Nationals last year. The FS nationals were the biggest and best-attended of all the Nationals, and effectively the BPA's 'blue riband' event. The Chairman said that it so happened that the BPA Chairman - who, like all members of Council, received no remuneration for his work for the BPA - had his own business that traded mainly at weekends in the summer. It was therefore not realistic to expect the BPA Chairman to give up even more of his 'pay-the-bills' work for the BPA, in view of the vast amount of time that he regularly gave to the BPA throughout all seasons of the year.

The Chairman said that the BPA Chairman should of course be invited to present this year's medals out of courtesy, but that his work commitments should be recognised in the invitation as it would be grossly unfair to be seen to be seeking to exert any pressure. There were, however, other senior figures in the BPA such as one of the three Vice Presidents who might be invited to carry out the pleasant duty of presenting the medals at the FS Nationals on the 4-way and 8-way weekends (for which attendance on Sunday 31 July/Monday 1 August and Sunday 7 /Monday 8 August would normally be required). The Committee agreed, and left it to the Chairman to extend the appropriate invitations.

Action: Chairman

32.2.2 Nationals in other disciplines

The arrangements for Nationals in other disciplines were progressing well. Jim White had kindly agreed to operate the camera at the Classics Nationals, as Frank Mallabone was not available.

The Chairman then thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work on the domestic competitions this year, and looked forward to the remainder of the 2005 season.

33/05 International competitions

33.1 European Skydiving League 2005

Andy Scott reported that the UK had not taken part in the first ESL event of the season in April, because although the date had been put out to tender, no Clubs or Centres had bid. The first ESL event in which the UK had participated had therefore been the FS 4-way Grand Prix at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, on 21-22 May. Andy Scott then reported that the ESL website was currently offline. ESL results were being reported on the NSL website. This had a drop-down menu for international results, which included ESL. He said that this was probably a better web format, because it allowed direct comparison with NSL scores in the USA. He would keep the BPA Office informed if the ESL website did not return, because the links on the BPA website would need to be switched from the ESL to the NSL website.

Action: Andy Scott

33.2 3rd Anton Malevsky Memorial World Cup: Stupino, Russia, 4-9 July 2005

Women's Freely team *Tumbleweed* (Deb Clarke and Jim Weir), and Classics Competitor Jeff Chandler had registered to represent the UK on a self-funded basis.

32.3 Acro Festival: Léman, France, 28-31 July 2005

Geordie Page reported that Jeff Chandler, Robin Mills, Esther Reynolds and Fran Shashkova-Richards, and Glenn Stephenson as coach, would represent the UK on this all-expenses-paid event, which comprised a number of gymnastic activities including Classics parachuting, for which the BPA was supplying the team. The organisers had asked that the 'titles' of those taking part should be forwarded to them, upon which the organisers would supply further information about travel and tickets, etc.

Action: BPA Office

Geordie Page then asked about the possibility of producing BPA pennants for our teams in international events as our teams had nothing official by which to reciprocate mementos given by teams from other countries. The Chairman said that BPA pennants had been discontinued some years ago because they were very expensive to produce, and issues about to whom they should be given had not helped team morale!

32.4 3rd World Cup in Canopy Piloting: Steiermark-Stubenberg am See, Austria, 24-28 August 2005

The Chairman reported that the UK team had been selected from participants in the Pro-tour by Brian Vacher (UK team captain) and Chris Lynch. The Chairman said that unfortunately he would be working abroad at the time of the meet and would not therefore be available to be the Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager on a self-funded basis. He said that Brian Vacher was well capable of carrying out these roles, even though he would also be competing.

The Office would assist the team with preliminary registration and registration, on a self-funded basis.

Action: BPA Office

32.5 World Cup in FS, CF & Artistic - Eloy, Arizona, USA, 21-29 October 2005

The UK delegation to date was as reported to the last meeting.

John Hitchen reported that, unfortunately, he would not be available to be Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager (on an unfunded basis, like the teams) because of family commitments. The Chairman said he had work commitments on these dates, but he would see whether or not he could re-arrange them. If he could not, the Committee agreed to invite Bob Card, as the BPA's Alternative Delegate to IPC, again on an unfunded basis. If Bob Card was not available, the name of another suitable was agreed, to be held in reserve for an invitation.

Action: Chairman

32.6 World Parachuting Championships 2006 - Gera, Germany, 6-11 August 2006

The Chairman said that the Selection Nationals 2005 would decide the UK delegation to this WPC in FS and Artistic; and to the Anton Malevsky meet in CF and Classics in 2006 (which would be the WPC in these disciplines). It was early days but Bulletin 1 had already been distributed and was available via a link on the BPA website.

Carried unanimously

33/05 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The Chairman reported that there was one further Skills Coaching Roadshow, in FS 4-way at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, due to be held before the end of the current financial year on 30 June 2005. He asked that Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, should then produce an end-of-year financial report showing the actual expenditure against budget for these Roadshows. This would be considered at the next meeting.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

The Committee then discussed CF and FS coaching events at BKPC Cockerham which were listed in the diary of events in the Magazine in such a way that they might be taken to be part

of the BPA-sponsored Skills Coaching Roadshow programme, whereas they were not and the Committee therefore assumed them to be DZ-organised events. Andy Scott agreed to contact Jeff Illidge of BKPC about this.

Action: Andy Scott

34/05 Judging matters

The Chairman reported that various judging matters had been dealt with throughout the meeting. He had spoken with Kate Charters by telephone shortly before the meeting and there were no further judging matters to report.

35/05 Judging matters

Amanda Truman had emailed the Committee (copy circulated) to suggest that Craig Girard of *Arizona Airspeed* might be invited to give a presentation at the BPA AGM in 2006, as Dan BC had done at this year's AGM – which had proved to be a very popular talk. The Chairman said that the BPA did not fund speakers to attend the AGM but he would be delighted if Craig Gerard could come. Andy Scott had been talking to him last weekend at Eloy and kindly agreed to follow this up.

Action: Andy Scott

37/05 Team funding

Questions requesting further clarification about team funding had been received by the office from an Artistics team. The Chairman said that for anything beyond what the Office could answer, the questions should be referred to Nigel Holland, Artistics Discipline Rep.

Action: BPA Office / Nigel Holland

38/05 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20 July 2005 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester. (The Chairman noted that he would be working out of the UK for a month from 31 July.)

The meeting closed at 1945.