

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 15 February 2006 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	John Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Grant Richards	-	Discipline Rep: CP
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS (from item 4.4)
	Elizabeth Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: AE
In attendance:	Bob Charters	-	per pro Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO (to item 9)
	Steve Saunders	-	CF Competitor per pro Ian Marshall (from item 4.4)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF

Item Minute

01/06 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Committee to its first meeting of 2006, in particular the new members Grant Richards and Elizabeth Stoodley, who were attending their first meeting.

02/06 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2005 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

03/06 Officers and Discipline Representatives 2006

The Committee confirmed the following allocation of responsibilities.

Andy Scott	Competitions Vice Chairman and FS Discipline Rep
Ian Marshall	CF Discipline Rep
Geordie Page	Classics Discipline Rep
Weed Stoodley	Artistics Discipline Rep
Grant Richards	CP Discipline Rep
Kate Charters	Judges' Co-ordinator (co-opted).

04/06 Matters arising

4.1 World Record ratification by FAI (minute 66.3)

FAI had now ratified *Airkix's* women's world record formation at the 2005 FS Nationals.

Completed

4.2 UK FAI judges' list (minute 66.4)

The list of UK qualified current international judges had been sent to the IPC judges' co-ordinator in December, and all had been ratified at the IPC meeting in January 2006. Unfortunately, IPC had missed off the name of one judge from their website. Kate Charters had noticed this and had asked the BPA Office to call it to IPC's attention. IPC had now rectified the error.

Completed

4.3 Competitions Equipment Co-ordinator (minute 66.5)

This position was now vacant. John Page said he would maintain an overview of the equipment for the time being as part of his role as Classics Discipline Rep.

Action: John Page

4.4 Letter to Bob Soutar (minute 66.6)

The Chairman reported that he had had a constructive discussion on judging issues with Bob Soutar, who had a physical disability, and a copy of Bob Soutar's subsequent letter to the Chairman had been circulated. Andy Scott proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion to fund Bob Soutar's carer's expenses, on the same basis as for a judges' expenses, as a reasonable adjustment to enable Bob Soutar to judge competitions. The Chairman said that this would cover subsistence only, as the carer would travel with Bob Soutar, occasioning no additional mileage.

Carried unanimously

4.5 FAI judges' travel expenses to World Cups (minute 66.7)

The Chairman was pleased to report that IPC had, at its 2006 meeting just held, agreed to fund invited judges' travel expenses to World Championships and World Cups from 2007.

4.6 Classics Nationals 2006 (minute 77.4)

As no bids had been received for the Classics Nationals 2006, John Page suggested a number of possible ways forward. The Chairman asked the Committee to reflect on these so that a decision could be made in item 7.1.

4.7 Nationality criteria (minute 75)

John Page said that the Council at its meeting of 6 December 2006 had referred back the issue of nationality criteria to this Committee for further consideration. He said that this was as a result of his raising the issue with the Council, because he believed that the matter had been considered too quickly by the Competitions Committee.

At the last meeting of the Competitions Committee, the Committee had decided by a majority that eligibility to compete for selection to the British team should depend on "an individual's right to hold, or be eligible to hold, a UK passport". The Council had had difficulty with the phrase 'be eligible to hold a UK passport'. This was because it was for the UK Passport Office, not the BPA, to determine such eligibility.

After further discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that all competitors for a place on the British team must hold a UK passport.

Carried unanimously

05/06 IPC Meeting 2006

John Hitchen (UK Delegate to IPC) tabled a report on the IPC 2006 meeting in Sweden he had attended. The Chairman had also attended as an observer. Among the key points in the report, the Committee noted:

- Women's 4-way FS teams could now have a male camera operator.
- CF 8-way and CF 2-way were both to be included in CF WPC 2006.
- Video review (paid-for re-judging) of FS was discontinued.
- Judges' travel to world meets will be paid by IPC from 2007.
- IPC is changing its accounting currency from US dollars to Euros.
- There were a number of minor variations to the Style & Accuracy rules.
- There was no junior or intermediate category in Canopy Piloting – just seniors, a team of 8 competitors per nation at the first CP WPC in 2006.
- No guest teams would be allowed to compete in WPC 2006 in any discipline

- If there were not many competitors in Skysurfing at WPC 2006, IPC may discontinue the event at future world meets.
- If there only 3 teams at a category 1 event, only gold medals would be awarded (no silver or bronze). If there were fewer than 3 teams, no medals would be awarded.
- John Hitchen had final drafts of the rules for all disciplines, but advised that it was best to await formal publication on the FAI website of the definitive version.

In response to a question from Steve Saunders, the Chairman confirmed that it was Steve Saunders' team, Team *Outcast*, that would represent the UK in CF 8-way at WPC 2006. No other teams were allowed by invitation.

06/06 Competitions Action Plan 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

As there would be no World Championships during the period of this Action Plan, the Committee decided to focus on coaching and judges' training. The targets and associated budgets were discussed and the agreed draft Action Plan matrix is set out at the Appendix, together with draft supporting text. Andy Scott proposed, and Elizabeth Stoodley seconded, a motion that this draft plan be recommended to the full Council at its meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2006.

Carried unanimously

07/06 Nationals 2006

7.1 Classics Nationals

Further to minute 4.6, John Page proposed a motion that, as there had been no bids received to host the Classics Nationals 2006, the National Champions in the Classics disciplines of Style and Accuracy would be declared on the basis of the results of the Classics Grand Prix event to be held at BKPC Cockerham.

Carried unanimously

John Page was updating the rules for the Classics in 2006. In Style, he said he intended to state that if there were fewer than 5 competitors, a non-event would be declared.

The Committee noted that BKPC also planned to run a CF Grand Prix on the Classics Grand Prix weekend of 29-30 April 2006. As the Classics Grand Prix now had the additional cachet of determining the National champions, the Committee asked John Page kindly to seek to re-negotiate the dates with BKPC.

Action: John Page

7.2 FS Nationals Rules

Andy Scott had circulated draft rules after consultation with competitors, officials and the host DZ. He had taken into account discussions at the Open Forum on AGM Day. The draft rules included a fourth tier, to separate the intermediate category into less experienced and more experienced intermediates, along the lines of the European Skydiving League, as competitors had requested. He agreed to liaise with Steve Swallow, DZO at Target Skysports, the host DZ, about the cost of additional medals consequent on this change.

Action: Andy Scott

The rules also included caveats relating to the roll-over weekend, and stated that the meet director had the casting vote on matters raised by the chief judge. Andy Scott said he would add an FAI rule about use of wind tunnels and the just-agreed updated nationality criteria (minute 4.7). He had also set out the eligibility for funding of the top female team in selection years, although funding criteria would not be included, as 2006 was not a selection year. Bob Charters asked for an incorrect example of scoring set out in the rules to be corrected. With these variations, Andy Scott proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the rules should be adopted.

Carried unanimously

Bob Charters said that the print quality of the dive pool had been poor in 2005 and asked whether this could be improved this year.

Action: BPA Office

John Hitchen confirmed that Omniskore had been taken over by Larry Hill, who would be updating the software.

7.3 Artistics Nationals Rules

Elizabeth Stoodley had circulated draft rules for the Artistics Nationals 2006. She reported that there had been issues with judging last year, and competitors Deb Clarke and Jim Weir of Freestyle team *Tumbleweed* had kindly helped in updating the draft rules to bring them more into line with FAI rules. She believed that the meet should be called the “nth” British Open Nationals if the number of previous Artistic Nationals could be determined – Paul Applegate thought it must be about the 10th. Bob Charters reported that Kate Charters had commented that adding too many FAI rules was unnecessary because the rules always defaulted to the FAI rules, and putting too much in could make the rules unwieldy.

The main variation to the technical rules was that Elizabeth Stoodley proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion to include one compulsory round in the B category, so that it would now comprise one compulsory and four free rounds compared with five free rounds last year. She said that competitors had requested this, to help them to prepare in due course to compete in the A category, which included compulsories. The vote was; For – 4 Against – 1 (Paul Applegate). Paul Applegate said he had voted against because he did not believe the change reflected the wider will of the competitors, just the views of a few.

Carried unanimously

Elizabeth Stoodley would continue to work on the rules and the Committee was content for them to be issued in due course after further liaison with Kate Charters, Judges’ Co-ordinator.

7.4 CF Nationals Rules

Ian Marshall was not present tonight, but had advised that the principal changes to the CF rules he was suggesting were (i) the switch to a standard exit height of 7000 feet for all CF events; and (ii) making an air-to-air camera compulsory for every team. The Committee unanimously endorsed these changes. The Chairman asked Ian Marshall kindly to forward the full draft rules to Kate Charters for comment as soon as possible.

Action: Ian Marshall

7.5 Canopy Piloting Nationals

The Chairman reported that the possibility of holding the first Canopy Piloting Nationals at RAPA was on hold because of the current insurance issue involving German skydivers at RAPA. Grant Richards said he was also investigating some other possibilities, and would report back in due course.

Action: Grant Richards

7.6 Speed Nationals and 8-way Speed Nationals

The Chairman said these rules would be considered at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

08/06 Grand Prix 2006 Rules

The Chairman advised Elizabeth Stoodley to use the Nationals rules for the Freestyle Grand Prix. Andy Scott was drafting the FS Grand Prix rules. He would allocate each team a number in that would appear in the standings table to track the team’s results as the season progressed. John Page said that the Grand Prix rules in Classics would include provision for the declaration of the National results (see minute 7.1).

09/06 International competitions

9.1 World Parachuting Championships 2006

- FS and Artistic - Gera, Germany: 6-11 August 2006
- CF and Classics - Stupino, Russia: 12-20 August 2006
- Canopy Piloting – Vienna, Austria: 23-27 August 2006.

The Chairman reported that the WPC 2006 in Canopy Piloting had moved from Stubenberg, Austria, to Vienna. The dates (above) remained unchanged.

Andy Scott reported that the current World Champion women’s 4-way FS team had split up and would therefore not be competing at WPC FS 2006 Gera.

9.1.1 Appointment of Heads of Delegation and Team Managers

The Chairman asked the Committee to appoint Heads of Delegation and Team Managers, subject to ratification by the full Council. He was delighted to announce that Range Rover had kindly agreed to loan a new Discovery vehicle without charge for use by the British delegation to the WPC at Gera and Vienna, in exchange for publicity.

John Page proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that John Hitchen should be appointed as Head of the British Delegation to the CF and Classics World Meet in Russia.

Carried unanimously – recommend to the full Council

The Committee then invited John Page to be the Team Manager for CF and Classics if he was not competing, to which he agreed, subject to ratification by the full Council.

Recommend to the full Council

The Chairman asked John Page, in consultation with John Hitchen, to provide CF and Classics competitors with advice about how to apply for a Russian visa, as this had caused difficulties for competitors in the past.

Action: John Page

Paul Applegate proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that John Smyth be appointed as Head of the British Delegation to WPC Gera 2006 in FS and AE and WPC Vienna 2006 in CP.

Carried unanimously – recommend to the full Council

The Committee invited Andy Scott to be the British Team Manager for FS and AE at WPC 2006 Gera, subject to ratification by the full Council.

Recommend to the full Council

The Committee invited Grant Richards to be the British Team Manager for WPC 2006 in canopy Piloting in Vienna, subject to ratification by the full Council.

Recommend to the full Council

The Chairman confirmed that, as was custom and practice, the BPA would pay the entry fees and travel of Heads of Delegation and Team Managers.

Action: BPA Office

9.1.2 Artistics delegation

Elizabeth Stoodley reported that Team *Tumbleweed*, which was a female Freestyle team, wished also to enter the male Freestyle event at WPC Gera 2006. The Chairman confirmed that this would be acceptable as only one Freestyle event had been run at the Nationals.

9.1.3 British Delegation T-shirts

Elizabeth Stoodley reported that Deb Clarke and Jim Weir had offered to help with the supply of delegation T-shirts through a contact of theirs. The Committee invited them to submit a proposed design.

Action: Elizabeth Stoodley

9.2 Other international competitions

9.2.1 Europa Cup Meets 2006

Dates had been published in *Skydive Magazine*.

9.2.2 European Skydiving League 2006

Andy Scott reported that all was on target, and the first UK team had already registered.

10/06 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-senior teams

The Chairman briefed Elizabeth Stoodley on the procedures for organising skills coaching roadshows, and said that two coaches were usually appropriate for each Artistics roadshow.

Paul Applegate asked whether the coaches at skills coaching roadshows should hold a coaching qualification. The Chairman said he would consult with the TO/NCSO about this.

Action: Next meeting

John Page and Steve Saunders suggested a combined coaching roadshow to cover CF, CP and Accuracy. The Chairman said that he could see the logic of seeking to include CF and CP at a single event, but including Accuracy too might make it difficult logistically. John Page said he would be pleased to liaise with Ian Marshall and Grant Richards about this.

Action: John Page

11/06 **Judging matters**

11.1 Bursary for trainee judges

The Committee had previously set aside budget provision for the award of a bursary to trainee judges who did not receive expenses during training, and who subsequently went on to earn their National judges' ratings. Two recently-qualified judges were in this position: Sue Moran and Richard del Toro. Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to award them each a bursary of £300 as a contribution to expenses, based on its equivalence in amount to 12 nights at the BPA standard rate of £25 per night.

Carried unanimously

11.2 Letter to the Council from Frank Mallabone

A letter date 7 February 2006 from competitions judge Frank Mallabone, addressed to the Council and Judges, had been circulated. The Chairman said that he proposed to send an initial reply ahead of consideration of the letter by the full Council next Tuesday, 21 February. He believed that the Council would be likely to refer the letter to the Competitions Committee, because its content related specifically to competitions. Therefore, rather than await the next Competitions Committee meeting in six weeks' time, the Chairman invited discussion of the letter now so that, subject to the agreement of Council, a reply could be sent after the Council meeting.

At the core of Frank Mallabone's letter were six points which he had not been able to raise at the Open Forum on AGM because he said the Competitions Chairman had not called on him to speak. These points were now considered.

- 1 Allowances for trainee judges. The daily allowances of £25, at standard BPA rate, were paid from a budgeted target in the 2004/5 Action Plan, approved by the Council.
- 2 2006 trainee judges' allowances. For 2005/6, the allowances were replaced by a bursary (see 11.1 above) but in the 2006/7 Action Plan (see minute 6 and the appendix), the Committee plans to re-introduce the daily allowance for trainee judges training at meets specifically designated for them to attend by the Competitions Co-ordinator.
- 3 The establishment level of judges is the maximum that the BPA can reasonably support. It may vary with the competitions calendar from one year to another, and therefore the target may vary each year.
- 4 The Chairman had discussed Bob Soutar's needs with him and made reasonable adjustments to help him in his work as a competitions judge (minute 4.4).
- 5 The FAI decided on the categorisation of world meets. Judges were invited by IPC. The BPA supplied IPC each year with a list of all current international judges (minute 4.2) but had no say at all in the invitation of judges to FAI category 1 or category 2 meets. Limited funding did not allow the BPA to cover judges' travel except to World Championships. The good news was that from 2007, FAI/IPC would pay (minute 5).
- 6 Funding of women's FS 4-way team *Airkix*. Although Frank Mallabone had identified a technical oversight in the rules, which had now been corrected (minute 7.2). *Airkix* was, not the National Champion 4-way FS team, but *Airkix* was in fact the National Champion women's FS team, there being no separate female event in 4-way FS.

The Committee was unanimous in its opposition to Frank Mallabone's request that Team *Airkix*'s funding of £30K should be reviewed. It saw absolutely no case for this, and would be advising the Council likewise. The Chairman expressed concern that the matter had been raised in this manner. He said he expected BPA competitions people to support our world-class teams of proven excellence who were working so hard to bring home medals this summer. The Chairman lamented the probable psychological effect on the team of a competitions judge raising an issue such as this with the Council.

Action: Report to the Council

12/06 World Record 400-way

The Committee congratulated Andy Scott as one of the BPA Members who had taken part in the recent World Record 400-way formation over Thailand.

13/06 CF 8-way Overall Champions 2004

Steve Saunders said that he believed the 8-way CF Overall Champions medal 2004 had been awarded to the wrong team at last year's AGM. The Chairman said he was surprised at the time it had taken for this to come forward, but would ask Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, to re-check the scoresheets, assuming that they were still available.

Action: Kate Charters

14/06 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28 March 2006 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2330.

Appendix: Draft Action Plan 2006/7 matrix and text to be recommended to the full Council.