

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 28 March 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:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observers:	Ian Matthews		
	Kev Sargent		
Apologies for absence:	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF

Item Minute

15/06 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2006 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

16/06 Matters arising

16.1 Competitions Equipment Co-ordinator (minute 4.3)

John Page reported that he was considering ways to get the Classics competitions equipment, including the tuffet, from Old Buckenham to Cockerham for the Classics Grand Prix on 6-7 May 2006. Hire of a van would cost about £325 plus petrol. He was considering the possibility of suggesting that the Committee might sell the tuffet at the end of this season and re-invest the proceeds in an inflatable tuffet and a compressor to supply the air to inflate it. The Committee thanked John Page for his input and authorised him to get the equipment to Cockerham by the most economical means available to him.

Action: John Page

John Page then apologised to Kate Charters because the new date for the Classics Grand Prix, 6-7 May, clashed with a Judges' Seminar that Kate Charters was organising for all BPA judges, to be held at Empuriabrava. The only judge presently available for the Classics GP would be Bob King, who would have to miss the Judges' Seminar. John Page said it might not be a good idea to have a single judge at the meet, since the scores would be used to declare the National Champions. Kate Charters had therefore asked John Boardman whether he could assist by being a judge, and was waiting for his reply. John Hitchen suggested the use of a competent ground-based video person and the Committee agreed on

this as the experience was likely to be helpful to IPC, where the idea had been discussed this year as a new approach to be trialled.

Action: John Page

16.2 Canopy Piloting Nationals (minute 7.5)

Grant Richards reported that he had spoken to Paul Moore at RAPA, who he said was planning to hold a small swoop competition during RAPA's competition week. Unfortunately, not all the competitors were available at the time. There was, however, the possibility of progressing this option in 2007 - the RAPA week would be during the third or fourth week of July 2007. There was a possibility that the Classics Nationals 2007 could be included too.

The Chairman said this was a possible option. It was, however, necessary for RAPA formally to make its offer in the normal bidding process. This process would also invite all other Clubs and Centres, should they so wish, to bid. The Committee therefore agreed to issue a bid form for the 2007 Canopy Piloting and Classics Nationals (only) to be issued as soon as possible. The form would explain that both disciplines had attracted no bids in 2006 and, consequent upon an expression of interest from one Centre, the CP and Classics Nationals 2007 bid form was being issued early this year in order to afford all Centres the opportunity to bid. The bid form for all other National and Grand Prix meets would be issued, as usual, during the autumn.

Action: BPA Office

16.3 WPC 2006 delegation T-shirts (minute 9.1.3)

Elizabeth Stoodley had circulated a design by Artistics WPC competitors Deb Clarke and Jim Weir for WPC 2006 delegation T-shirts. The Committee approved the design, and asked that the BPA logo should be added to the sleeve on the opposite side to the badge. Andy Scott knew of a reliable printer, details of which were held on an invoice at the Office from the T-shirts Andy Scott had had printed for our delegation to the ESL finals last year. The number of T-shirts required was likely to be 60 to 70, which would include some overs that could be sold to non-competitors. The target was to have them ready by early in July.

Action: BPA Office / Elizabeth Stoodley

17/06 Nationals 2006

17.1 FS Nationals

The FS Nationals Rules had now been posted on the BPA website and hard copies would be printed shortly. Andy Scott asked for a second version to be posted on the BPA website without the dive pool, which would reduce the document size and enable it to be downloaded more quickly.

Action: BPA Office

Andy Scott had spoken to the host DZ about the cost of additional medals for the new AA category. Given that the new category had been decided upon by this Committee after the bid form had been issued, the Committee agreed that exceptionally the BPA would meet the cost of medals for this additional category, for this year only on the basis that the new category was a trial. Andy Scott said that the system of categorisation, which reflected that used by ESL, would be reviewed at the end of the year in the light of how well it had worked.

17.2 8-way Speed Nationals

Andy Scott said he planned to complete the draft 8-way Speed Nationals rules in time for the next meeting. The draft would include a couple of improvements from last year.

Action: Andy Scott

17.3 Artistics Nationals

Elizabeth Stoodley had circulated updated draft rules for the Artistics Nationals 2006. The host DZ had made an input. FF1 and SS1 had been introduced as minimum qualifications for entry to the Nationals. Skysurf videographers were required to have a mandatory AAD. The maximum limit of 8 jumps per day was taken out. Elizabeth Stoodley would send the finalised rules to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office for issue.

Action: Elizabeth Stoodley

17.4 CF Nationals

No draft rules had yet been received from Ian Marshall, who was out of the UK. The Chairman asked the Office to send him a reminder.

Action: Ian Marshall

17.5 Speed Skydiving Nationals

Kate Charters reported that, consequent on injuries he had sustained in a road traffic accident, Mark Calland was unfortunately unable to jump any more. The Committee noted that last year there had been only two competitors in the Speed Skydiving Nationals, of whom Mark Calland had been one. The Chairman said that the Committee had accepted a bid from a Drop Zone to host the meet, the dates and venue had been publicised, and it was quite possible that competitors from other European nations would enter. The Committee therefore agreed that the event should continue, and that the same rules as last year would be used. Ian Chapman was mentioned as a speed skydiver who the Committee might approach for organisational assistance if this was required.

18/06 Grand Prix 2006 Rules

The Committee reviewed the progress on Grand Prix rules in each discipline as follows:

18.1 Classics GP – rules completed

18.2 FS GP rules – rules completed

18.3 Artistics rules – draft rules circulated, Elizabeth Stoodley was finalising

Action: Elizabeth Stoodley

18.4 CF rules – no draft yet circulated. The Chairman said that last year's rules might have to be used if no updated draft was available for the next meeting.

Action: Ian Marshall

19/06 International competitions

19.1 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.

19.1.1 FS & AE – Gera, Germany

The FS delegation had now nearly all paid their entry fees to the BPA Office and the Office was about officially to register them. The Artistics delegation would be registered separately. Competitors would make their own travel arrangements. The Chairman, in his capacity as Head of Delegation, asked for competitors' dates of arrival so he could arrange his own itinerary to arrive in good time.

19.1.2 Classics & CF – Stupino, Russia

The Classics and CF Bulletin for WPC Stupino, Russia, had not yet been published. The Chairman asked John Page, Delegation Manager, to liaise with John Hitchen, Head of Delegation, to provide advice to delegation members on Russian visa requirements and the application procedure as this had to be initiated well in advance. A letter of invitation from the organiser was understood to be the first stage.

Action: John Hitchen & John Page

19.1.3 CP – Vienna, Austria

The first Bulletin had just been published and a copy was tabled. The Chairman noted that the entry fee did not include accommodation and asked the Office to contact the team to find out whether or not everyone preferred to stay together at one hotel. Again, the Chairman asked for competitors' planned dates of arrival.

Action: BPA Office

The Chairman expressed concern that the Bulletin lacked the normal specific information on accommodation and training, only referring to external websites such as the tourist information website and the website of an Austrian Drop Zone. He asked John Hitchen kindly to contact the IPC Chairman of Canopy Piloting to pass on these concerns on behalf of the BPA. The Chairman also asked John Hitchen in particular to seek to clarify the arrangements for training jumps with the IPC CP Chairman. The Bulletin referred only to the website of a Drop Zone which was at a different location from the competition venue.

Action: John Hitchen

19.2 Other international competitions

19.2.1 European Skydiving League 2006

Andy Scott reported that ESL 2006 looked set to be popular and was gathering momentum all the time as more teams entered. At present, there was no limit on the number of teams per nation that could enter.

19.2.2 Europa Cup Meets 2006

Dates had been published in *Skydive Magazine* and a number of British competitors were taking part.

19.3 UK Alternate Delegate to the International Parachuting Commission (IPC)

Following the retirement of Bob Card as UK Alternate Delegate to IPC (minute 10.4 of the Council meeting on 21 February 2006 refers), the Council had asked the Competitions Committee to put forward a recommendation on his successor. John Hitchen (UK IPC Delegate) reported that John Smyth, as Chairman of the Competitions Committee, had attended recent IPC meetings as an observer and would therefore be in a good position to become Alternate Delegate, should he and the Committee so wish. John Hitchen said that the only other BPA Member who had similarly attended IPC meetings was Annette Williamson, but she did not wish her name to go forward for consideration. Andy Scott then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that this Committee should recommend to the full Council that John Smyth be elected UK Alternate Delegate to IPC. John Smyth confirmed that he was content for his name to go forward.

Carried unanimously

20/06 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-senior teams

Andy Scott reported that he was finalising two coaches for the FS Roadshow over the Easter weekend of 15-16 April at BPS Langar and finding 4 or 5 coaches for the FS Roadshow at Target Hibaldstow on 29-30 July. Elizabeth Stoodley reported that she had arranged coaches for the planned Artistics Roadshows and that NWPC Cark had requested an Artistics Roadshow on 12-13 August, the weekend before the Nationals. Grant Richards said he had set the date of 16-17 September at UK Parachuting, Norfolk, for a Canopy Piloting Roadshow. He would offer to run it alongside a CF Roadshow if the CF people wanted this. He would discuss the idea with Ian Marshall, CF Rep. The Chairman asked Grant Richards that, as Ian Marshall was currently out of the UK, he should press on to publicise his CP Roadshow dates even if he could not manage to contact Ian Marshall about CF.

21/06 Senior competitors' funding

The Chairman asked that, in accordance with the training schedules they had each set out, the next tranche of training funding should be released to women's FS 4-way team *Airkix* and to CP competitor Paul Rossouw.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

The Chairman asked Grant Richards to enquire of Paul Rossouw whether he would be available in the UK for Skills Coaching to up-and-coming competitors after the WPC CP Vienna 2006.

Action: Grant Richards

22/06 Judging matters

22.1 Correspondence with Frank Mallabone

The Chairman had sent a further reply, dated 24 February, to Frank Mallabone's letter of 7 February after the Council meeting on 21 February (Council minute 10.4 refers). John Page tabled a letter from himself (for which the Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow reading time) in which he said he believed that Frank Mallabone's letter had been treated unduly harshly by this Committee. In particular, he believed the Committee had appeared reluctant to concede Frank Mallabone's point that it had got the rules wrong because prior to the revised rules this year, there had been no official female 4-way FS National Champions because there had been no female 4-way event.

Elizabeth Stoodley said she accepted that the Committee had made an omission in the rules and that it was appropriate for John Page to call this to the Committee's attention. The Chairman emphasised that this oversight in the rules had been corrected when it was brought to the Committee's attention last year, and this year's rules reflected that. It had also been agreed last year that this did not affect the spirit of the rules, ie *Airkix* are our women's 4-way FS National Champions. The Chairman had stated this in his reply of 24 February to Frank Mallabone.

The Chairman said that Frank Mallabone's letter had been a formal request to Council to reconsider BPA funding of one of the top women's 4-way FS team in the world after it had met the performance criteria to for funding. The letter had not been a friendly note to the Committee asking it to correct a technical oversight in the rules. It had been addressed to the Council as a challenge to the BPA's strategy. Any member was of course free and welcome to challenge the BPA's strategy: and an effective way to do this was to offer themselves for election to the Council, as the Members of this Committee had all done, successfully. In response to any suggestion that there had been any element of threat in the Chairman's response to Frank Mallabone [about not including him as a trainee international judge in the FS delegation to WPC 2006 Gera unless he apologised for asking for re-consideration of the BPA's competitions funding strategy], the Chairman said that what he had written had been purely a statement of fact. It would plainly be ridiculous for the British delegation to include any individual who did not wholly and fully support all of our competitors in our National delegation.

John Page asked that the Chairman withdraw his request for Frank Mallabone to apologise for item 6, BPA funding strategy, in his letter to the Council of 7 February 2006. The Chairman declined to withdraw this request, but assured the Committee that an apology from Frank Mallabone would be willingly accepted, so that a line could be drawn under this matter and everyone could move on. This was what the Chairman wanted to see. Andy Scott, Paul Applegate and Grant Richards supported the Chairman such that, by a majority, the Committee's position remained as set out in the Chairman's letter to Frank Mallabone of 24 February 2006 to which the Chairman had yet to receive a reply.

No further action

22.2 Judges' seminar

Kate Charters reported that she was holding a Judges' Seminar at Empuriabrava from 5-9 May. All judges were planning to attend except Bob King, who was judging the Classics Grand Prix at Black Knights on 6-7 May (minute 16 refers).

22.3 Artistic Nationals' Judges

Kate Charters reported that Sue Skull was the only UK Artistic judge available to judge at the Artistic Nationals 2006. The rules specified three judges, and this would mean bringing in two more judges from outside the UK. The Centre had budgeted for only two judges. The Chairman asked Kate Charters to obtain, through the Centre, the travel costs of a third judge for consideration of a possible BPA contribution at the next meeting. He confirmed that the Committee would raise no objection to the Centre increasing the entry fee to cover the travel and subsistence costs of a third judge.

Action: Kate Charters / Next meeting

22.4 FS scoring system

Kate Charters reported that a new FS scoring system was soon to be trialled at a competition in a UK wind tunnel by, among others, Ruth Cooper, who was an experienced BPA judge. The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for this information and said it would be helpful if she could kindly ask Ruth Cooper to provide a short briefing note about the new scoring system for the information of this Committee.

Action: Kate Charters

23/06 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16 May 2006 at **1800** at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2020.