

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 24 October 2006 at 1800

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF (from item 46)
	John Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Elizabeth Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: AE
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observers:	Steve Saunders		
	James Swallow	-	Target Skysports
	Steve Swallow	-	Target Skysports
Apologies for absence:	Paul Applegate		
	Grant Richards	-	Discipline Rep: CP

Item Minute

62/06 Minutes

Ian Marshall proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 September 2006 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

63/06 Matters arising

63.1 Sale of accuracy tuffet and trailer (minute 45.1)

John Page and Kate Charters agreed to liaise over the purchase of an air blower for the BPA's inflatable tuffet.

Action: John Page & Kate Charters

63.2 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 45.2)

The BPA's anti-doping rules were being updated at the request of UK Sport to meet UK Sport's revised requirements, which now harmonised with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code.

Action: BPA Office

63.3 Trophies (minute 45.3)

John Page was liaising with the other discipline reps about the list he was drawing up of BPA competition trophies and who held them. The Committee noted that Mark Calland was the person to speak to about the trophies for Speed Skydiving.

John Page said that he had now discounted his original idea of seeking to re-allocate trophies that were no longer used. This was because their history was inextricably linked with the events to which they had originally been dedicated. John Page therefore proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion to recommend to the Council that the BPA should purchase a

trophy cabinet of some sort (perhaps but not necessarily a corner unit) to display historic BPA trophies.

Carried unanimously: Recommend to Council

John Page said that it may be helpful to ask the Discipline Rep, when he or she attended a competition at which any BPA trophy was awarded, to be responsible for ensuring that the safe custody statement was completed and returned. This would be implemented for next season.

Kate and Bob Charters kindly offered to donate a new trophy for the Overall Champion in the new FS A Class. Andy Scott proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion to accept this kind offer.

Carried unanimously

Kate Charters confirmed that she would source the trophy and that it would be available for presentation at the AGM in January 2007.

Action: Kate Charters

63.4 Computer / audio visual equipment for judging (minute 45.4)

This would be covered in Judges' matters (minute 72).

63.5 BBC Sports Personality of the Year (minute 47.1)

The Committee decided to nominate Claire 'Sparky' Scott when nominations opened online.

Action: BPA Office

63.6 Letter to British Airways about conveyance of parachuting kit (minute 47.2)

The letter had been sent, and the Committee decided to send a similar letter to Virgin Airlines as Richard Branson was known to have made a parachute descent.

Action: BPA Office

63.7 Advice on obtaining a Russian Visa for the World Cup 2007 (minute 50)

John Page kindly agreed to prepare notes for the guidance of Members of the British Delegation to the World Cup in Stupino 2007. The notes would be available through the BPA Office.

Action: John Page

63.8 IPC meeting 2007 (minute 52)

Karla Cole, a judge, had confirmed to the Office that she intended to attend as a self-funded observer. The Office would therefore include her name on the registration form.

Action: BPA Office

63.9 Pre-Nationals Canopy Piloting coaching/trials/assessment (minute 53)

In the absence of Grant Richards (CP Rep), this item was deferred until the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

64/06 Review of Nationals and Grand Prix 2006

64.1 Grand Prix

Andy Scott (FS Rep) reported that there had been a good turnout of competitors in 2006. The change from a single intermediate category to AA and AAA class had not diluted the other categories, and supported retention of 4 classes in 4-way (A/AA/AAA/Rookie). He had sent a list of the final placings in the Overall Championships to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office in relation to presentations to be made on AGM Day.

The Chairman noted that Andy Scott was not standing for re-election to the Council next year. He wished to place on record his sincere thanks for the enthusiasm, hard work and dedication that Andy Scott had put into the role of FS Rep which he said had been absolutely inspirational in helping British FS to grow and develop.

Ian Marshall (CF Rep) reported that the final CF Grand Prix of the season had been held at BPS Langar over the weekend of Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October 2006. It had been a good meet and he thanked the DZ for hosting it.

John Page (Classics Rep) and Elizabeth Stoodley (Artistics Rep) had nothing further to add to their review of Grand Prix in their disciplines already reported to previous meetings.

64.2 Nationals

64.2.1 8-way Speed Nationals

Andy Scott reported that the 8-way Speed Nationals had been held at Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson, over the weekend of 23 –24 September 2006. Six rounds had been held as planned, and it had been an enjoyable, well-run meet.

64.2.2 CF Nationals - medals

UK Parachuting had held their first Nationals. They had had more medals engraved than were actually needed because they had not been aware of the usual practice about pre-engraving only those medals that were sure to be awarded. After discussion, Andy Scott proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the Committee should accept responsibility for not making the normal practice clear to this 'new' Centre and therefore, exceptionally, the BPA would absorb, from the Competitions Budget, the cost of £133 for the additional medals that had been engraved.

The Chairman summarised the policy on pre- engraving medals. This would be done whenever attendance in a particular event was certain. In cases of doubt, engraving should be done where possible between the start of the event and the presentation ceremony. If not, engraving would have to be done after the event. Following reports that occasionally winners had never received their medals, the Chairman said that the BPA would ensure that medals were sent to the appropriate winners if they were not awarded at the Drop Zone during the meet.

65/06 Consideration of bids received for domestic competitions in 2007

65.1 Nationals 2007

Bids to host the Canopy Piloting Nationals and the Classics Nationals 2007 had already been considered at the meeting on 6 September (minute 53). These would be held as a joint event at JSPC(L)/RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany, from 14-21 July 2007.

Bids to host the Nationals 2007 in other disciplines were now tabled.

For FS, Artistic, speed and Speed-8, the sole bidder was Target Skysports, Hibaldstow. The Committee checked to ensure that the bid in terms of facilities, arrangements, and price and was satisfied with what Target was proposing. After discussion with Andy Scott and Steve Swallow (Target), the dates were agreed as set out in the Appendix.

For CF, two bids had been received, from Target Skysports and UK Parachuting. The bids were considered on the basis of aircraft, other facilities and value for money. The Committee noted that, with target's aircraft, the meet could be scheduled for three days instead of the four days it would need at UK Parachuting. The vote was: Target – 4; UK Parachuting – 1 (Elizabeth Stoodley, who wished to see the Nationals spread across more centres).

Target to host CF Nationals 2007

The dates agreed are set out in the Appendix.

65.2 Grand Prix 2007

65.2.1 FS 4-way

Three bids, from BPS Langar, NWPC Cark and Target Skysports, had been received to host legs of 4-way FS Grand Prix. Three meets were required. Andy Scott therefore proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the Centres should be awarded one meet each on the dates set out in the Appendix.

Carried unanimously

63.5.2 FS 8-way

Three bids, from Black Knights, BPS Langar and Target Skysports had been received to host the two FS 8-way Grand Prix meets in 2007. Andy Scott reported that the aircraft at Black Knights had a right-hand door exit whereas left-hand door exits were more popular with competitors. The Committee therefore decided to award the meets to BPS Langar and

Target Skysports on the dates set out in the Appendix. Andy Scott would explain the reason to Jeff Illidge of Black Knights.

Action: Andy Scott

65.2.3 Artistic

Two bids had been received, from Black Knights and Target Skysports, to host two Freely Grand Prix meets. The meets were therefore awarded one to each centre on the dates set out in the Appendix.

65.2.4 Classics

John Page proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion to hold a Classics Grand Prix at the sole bidder Black Knights, concurrently with the Freely Grand Prix to be held there (see Appendix for dates).

Carried unanimously

John Page said he would seek to arrange a further Accuracy Grand Prix meet, as there had been only one bid received and it had been planned to hold two meets.

Action: John Page

65.2.5 CF

Three bids had been received, from Black Knights, BPS Langar and Target Skysports, to host three legs of the CF Grand Prix. The meets were therefore awarded, one per centre, on the dates set out in the Appendix.

66/06 World Cup in FS, Artistics & Accuracy - Stupino, Russia: 4-12 August 2007

John Hitchen said that he understood that it was being proposed that up to 4 teams per nation would be allowed in each event. The position could not be confirmed until the final decision was taken at the IPC meeting in January 2007. Competitors would be self-funded. Andy Scott reported that 4-way FS senior open team Damn Zebra had registered their interest, as had the 4-way FS women's team Bodyflight Storm. The Committee noted that it was unlikely that more than four teams from Britain would wish to go to any one World Cup event.

67/06 World Cup in Canopy Piloting- Sydney, Australia: 7-11 November 2007

The Chairman said that it was expected, again subject to confirmation, that up to 13 competitors per nation would be eligible to enter this meet. As there were currently only about 10 BPA Members qualified in Canopy Piloting, this was unlikely to present a problem. Competitors would be self-funded and would have to meet appropriate safety criteria.

68/06 World Cup 2007 in CF?

John Hitchen reported that IPC had not yet announced a possible World Cup 2007 in Canopy Formation. He understood that negotiations were in progress with Croatia as a possible venue.

69/06 Other international meets

John Page congratulated Jeff Chandler and Glenn Stephenson on their excellent performance in an international Classics meet. Andy Scott congratulated the British delegation to the European Skydiving League Finals at Spa in Belgium in September 2006 - our FS teams were ranked highly in Europe.

70/06 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-senior teams

A printout had been circulated showing expenditure to date on Roadshows. The Chairman noted that there had been no claims from FS coaches during the current financial year beginning on 1 July 2006. Andy Scott said that generally the FS coaches did not claim expenses, although he had advised them that they were entitled to do so, but coached out of the goodness of their hearts because they wanted to put something back into the sport. The Chairman thanked the coaches for this, and noted that under the current BPA financial policy, any money unspent from a designated budget such as the Roadshows budget in one financial year could be carried forward to the next financial year. The present healthy state of the coaching account meant that Discipline Reps in all disciplines could confidently plan for skills coaching Roadshows next season. The strategy for the early part of next season would be to get more juniors and intermediates in the air to boost the number of competitors at the Nationals 2007 in all disciplines. Top teams such as Team Airkix would be available for coaching next year, to compensate for this year when the date of the WPC had made it difficult to arrange dates for coaching during the main part of the season.

Andy Scott said that a note to DZs should be included in the February 2007 Magazine to say that Centres should contact the 2007 Competitions Discipline Reps to arrange Skills Coaching Roadshows in all disciplines to be held from March 2007. The Committee agreed that the system of DZs notifying the relevant Discipline Rep of their interest in hosting a Roadshow had worked well and should be continued.

Action: Note in February 2007 Magazine

71/06 Élite coaching for National Champions

The Chairman asked Discipline Reps to liaise with their National Champion teams to find out which teams wished to be considered for BPA support for elite coaching.

Action: Discipline Reps

BPA funding for elite coaching would be strictly to cover the fee of a top coach – the funding was not available for travel, subsistence or jumping (even jumps by the coach would not be covered). To apply, a National Champion team / individual should identify a suitable coach of international renown, find out the coach's daily rate, and submit a coaching timetable together with a total coaching fee (daily rate x number of days). BPA funding would be paid direct to the coach's bank account.

John Page asked whether the National Champions in Classics could bring over a top coach from another country to coach in the UK, so that not only the National Champions but other seniors and up-and-coming jumpers could benefit. The Chairman said that if next year's Committee wished to review the coaching strategy with a view to possibly broadening it out from National Champions to others with potential, it would be appropriate to consider this in formulating the Competitions Action Plan for the year 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. However, for this year the Committee had to pursue the coaching objectives set out in this year's Action Plan. That said, there would be no harm in John Page obtaining a quote for a top international Classics coach to run a coaching session in the UK.

Action: John Page

72/06 Judging matters

72.1 Equipment for judging

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, suggested that the BPA should purchase up-to-date audio visual equipment for judging at Grand Prix meets (for which the BPA supplied the judging equipment). Two high definition DVD recorders and monitors were required. Andy Scott proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the Committee authorise expenditure of up to £600 from the competitions equipment budget for the Judges' Co-ordinator to purchase this equipment for use at BPA Grand Prix Competitions and Skills Coaching Roadshows. The Committee agreed that the purchase should be made by March 2007, in time for the judges' seminar that Kate Charters was planning for April 2007 (minute 70.4)

Elizabeth Stoodley made a counter-proposal that the purchase should be delayed pending an assessment of which DZs hosting Grand Prix actually needed such equipment, as some could arrange access to similar facilities. The counter proposal failed to find a seconder.

A vote was therefore taken on the original proposal (up to £600 for judging equipment) and the vote was: For: 3, Against – 1 (Elizabeth Stoodley).

Carried

72.2 International judges 2007

Kate Charters presented the draft list of international judges from the BPA for 2007, which was to be signed by John Hitchen as IPC Delegate, and sent to the IPC Judges' Co-ordinator by 31 December 2006. The Committee discussed and agreed the list.

Action: Kate Charters

72.3 Trainee judges

Kate Charters updated the Committee on the progress of current trainee judges towards earning their National judges' ratings.

72.4 Judges' seminar

Kate Charters reported that she planned to hold a self-funded judges' training seminar at RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany, in April 2007. She had chosen this venue because RAPA was to host the first British Canopy Piloting Nationals 2007 and the Classics Nationals 2007 and, as yet, she herself was the only qualified Canopy Piloting judge in the BPA. She reported that Canopy Piloting judges needed also to be Accuracy judges.

72.5 Standard of judging in CF

Ian Marshall and Steve Saunders said there had been a major issue with CF judging at the WPC 2006 that had to be clarified. Kate Charters said she needed to see the CD or DVD together with the score sheets in order to clarify the problem, and that she would do her best to obtain the relevant material.

Action: Kate Charters

After discussion, the Committee asked John Hitchen, as IPC delegate, kindly to ask the Chairman of the IPC CF Committee to clarify the rules on grips, because of issues arising out of CF WPCs, in order to assist in future training. The Chairman asked John Hitchen, Ian Marshall and Kate Charters to liaise and prepare a briefing note to set out the issue that needed to be clarified by IPC.

Action: John Hitchen, Ian Marshall & Kate Charters

73/06 Date of next meeting

This had been the last scheduled Competitions Committee meeting of 2006. The Chairman thanked all Members for their hard work that had been greatly appreciated during another busy year. Dates for next year's meetings would be arranged once the 2007 Council had been elected and the composition of next year's Competitions Committee was known. Usually the first meeting would be arranged for February and then the date of the next meeting would be agreed at the end of the preceding meeting.

The Chairman again thanked Andy Scott, who was standing down, for his contribution to the Committee. He also thanked all other Committee Members for their hard work and lively discussion during the year, and wished them well in standing for re-election to the Council next year.

The meeting closed at 2150.



Competitions dates 2007

as at 25 October 2006

British Open Nationals 2007

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Classics	JSPC (L) / RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany	Sat 14 - Sat 21 July 2007
Canopy Piloting		
Formation Skydiving	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	4-way: Sat 18 - Mon 20 August 2007 4- and 8-way: Sat 25 - Mon 27 August 2007 8-way reserve: Sat 1 - Mon 3 Sept 2007
Artistic & Speed		Sat 25 - Mon 27 August 2007 Reserve: Sat 1 - Mon 3 Sept 2007
8-way Speed		Sat 22 - Sun 23 September 2007
Canopy Formation		Sat 22 - Mon 24 September 2007

Grand Prix 2007

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
FS 4-way	NWPC Cark	Sat 5 - Sun 6 May 2007
Freefly & Classics	Black Knights	Sat 19 - Sun 20 May 2007
FS 4-way	BPS Langar	Sat 2 - Sun 3 June 2007
CF	Black Knights	Sat 9 - Sun 10 June 2007
FS 8-way	BPS Langar	Sat 23 - Sun 24 June 2007
FS 4-way	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 7 - Sun 8 July 2007
CF	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 21 - Sun 22 July 2007
FS 8-way & Freefly	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 28 - Sun 29 July 2007
CF	BPS Langar	Sat 6 - Sun 7 October 2007

A further Grand Prix in Accuracy may be arranged