

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 6 March 2007 at 1800

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

Present:	Geordie Page	-	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Weed Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: AE
	Alex Wilson	-	Discipline Rep: CP
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator (from item 6.6)
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apology for absence:	Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Grant Richards		

Item Minute

05/07 Minutes

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded a motion that the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 24 October 2006, Tuesday 5 December 2006 and Saturday 20 January 2007, be approved as a correct record.

Approved

06/07 Matters arising

6.1 Tuffet (minute 63.1)

The Chairman reported that he had purchased an air blower to inflate the accuracy tuffet kindly donated by Texair. The tuffet and the blower were now stored in the Equipment Room at the BPA Office.

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

As Kate Charters was not free to go, Martin Shuttleworth would represent the BPA at a forthcoming UK Sport Conference on Anti-Doping for National Governing Bodies. The BPA rules would then need to be updated. Only the detail needed to be updated, the framework remained the same.

Action: BPA Office

6.3 Trophies (minute 63.3)

Ann Fowler, herself a BPA judge and wife of the late BPA judge Jack Fowler, had kindly agreed to donate a new trophy to the BPA for Canopy Piloting in memory of Jack Fowler. The Committee gave a vote of thanks to Ann Fowler for this kind gesture. The Chairman asked CP Rep (now Alex Wilson – see minute 6.7) kindly to liaise with Paul Moore over the purchase of the new BPA Jack Fowler CP Trophy.

Action: Alex Wilson

The Chairman said that other CP trophies might be required as the CP events were all new. Each of the three CP disciplines (distance, zone accuracy and speed) needed a trophy, plus the overall trophy – the Jack Fowler CP trophy – for the highest aggregate score. It was

understood that Kate Charters was exploring the possibility of obtaining sponsorship for a trophy.

The Chairman reported that his database of BPA trophies was coming along well. The database included a photograph of most of the trophies. Paul Applegate said that one Artistics trophy was still missing, believed to be in the USA.

The Committee asked Tony Butler, who sometimes attended furniture fairs, kindly to keep a look out for a trophy cabinet for the BPA Board Room.

Action: Tony Butler

6.4 BBC Sports Personality of the Year (minute 63.5)

Unfortunately it had not been possible to vote for skydiver Claire 'Sparky' Scott as the shortlist published on the BBC website comprised only sporting personalities well known to the general public.

6.5 British Airways (minute 63.6)

Robin Durie, Development Chairman, had written to British Airways to ask them to include sport parachuting equipment on their list of recognised sporting equipment.

6.6 Russian visas for WC 2007 (minute 63.7)

The Chairman reported that he had prepared guidelines on how to obtain a Russian visa for the benefit of members of the British Delegation to the World Cup 2007 in Stupino.

6.7 Canopy Piloting Nationals (minute 63.9)

The Chairman reported that Alex Wilson was taking over from Grant Richards as CP Rep, because Grant Richards had insufficient time to fulfil the role. He therefore asked Alex Wilson kindly to consider the arrangements for pre-Nationals coaching and trials.

Action: Alex Wilson

6.8 Second Accuracy Grand Prix (minute 65.2.4)

The Chairman said that some Centres had expressed an interest in hosting a Classics Grand Prix in Accuracy only. He was therefore considering whether to invite Centres to bid for just an Accuracy meet.

Action: Chairman

6.9 Standard of judging in CF (minute 72.5)

John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) reported that IPC had now clarified the rules on CF judging. The way in which CF had been judged in the UK had been correct. Kate Charters said she would still like to see the video discs and scores from last year's WPC in Stupino, Russia, where there had been serious concerns over an apparently inconsistent standard of judging (it was understood that the event judge at Stupino had not even been a current FAI judge). John Hitchen said he would try to encourage IPC to release the video disc and scores to Kate Charters.

Action: John Hitchen

6.10 International judges' list (minute 77)

This list had been forwarded to the IPC judges' Co-ordinator in December 2006. Kate Charters was waiting to hear of competitions to which UK judges had been allocated by IPC.

6.11 FS Rep (minute 2.1)

The Chairman reported that Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson had kindly agreed to advise the Committee on FS matters. Meanwhile, thanks were due to Andy Scott for drafting the 2007 FS rules.

6.12 Speed Skydiving (minute 2.2)

The Committee hoped that Mark Calland would be willing to continue to advise the Committee on Speed Skydiving. If he was not available, other possible advisers might be Craig Poxon, Martin Reynolds or Steve Thomas.

07/07 IPC Report

John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) had circulated his written report on the IPC 2007 meeting to the full Council. He highlighted the following issues:

- a likely increase in competitor registration fees consequent upon an increase in the sanction fees and IPC meeting invited judges' travel and accommodation expenses;

- the introduction of a two centimetre disc in Accuracy;
- no need for a run-in command in FS
- no gender separation in Skysurf.

The Chairman thanked John Hitchen and John Smyth (IPC Alternate Delegate) for representing the BPA at IPC.

08/07 Competitions Action Plan 2007/8

After discussion, Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Chairman would kindly draft the 2007/8 Competitions Action Plan to recommend to the next meeting of the full Council on Tuesday 17 April. It would be based on the 2005/6 Action Plan, because of the two-year cycle in competitions set by the World Parachute Championships, which were held every other year.

Carried unanimously - Action: Chairman

Weed Stoodley asked the Committee to consider making a contribution to the cost of the entry fees of UK delegation competitors at WC 2007. The Chairman said that this would not be fair on the whole Membership, who would be unlikely to see any benefit. He was confident that the Membership as a whole would not be in favour of the BPA funding competitors who had no realistic prospect of winning a medal. With team entry fees likely to be around £1000 per team, he did not consider this to be a valid call on BPA funds. If the limited available funding was spread too thinly, too little would be left to support intensive training for medal prospects.

09/07 Judges' Seminar 2007

Kate Charters reported that she was to run a Judges' seminar, kindly hosted by RAPA at Bad Lippspringe, Germany, from 27 April to 1 May 2007. The Committee welcomed this, and thanked RAPA for its hospitality. It was more economic to train judges than to bring them in from abroad. The budget for judging was underspent and had sufficient funds to enable each judge attending the seminar to be sponsored with the sum of £50 to help offset their travel expenses. About 12 judges were expected, at a total cost of around £600. Alex Wilson proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to approve this spend from the current year's judges' budget.

Carried unanimously

10/07 International competitions

10.1 5th World Cup in Accuracy Landing – Stupino, Russia, 2-8 July 2007

As there had been no Classics Nationals in 2006, the Committee agreed to invite those in the last British delegation to Stupino, together with any others placed at the Classics Nationals 2005 at Cark, on a non-funded basis. Up to 4 Accuracy teams (20 people) could register. Ian Marshall said he did not wish to take part this year.

Action: Chairman / BPA Office

10.2 2007 World Cup in Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events – Stupino, Russia, 4-12 August 2007

10.2.1 FS There were a maximum of 4 slots in each event. On the basis of their performance in the Nationals 2006, Weed Stoodley proposed, and Alex Wilson seconded, a motion to invite the following teams (all self-funded):

FS 8-way	Sounds Grrr8
FS 4-way	Damn Zebra, Inferno, Fusion

Carried unanimously

10.2.2 Artistics There were a maximum of 4 slots in each event. On the basis of their performance in the Nationals 2006, Paul Applegate proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to invite the following teams (all self-funded):

Freely	Outbreak, FFF, Silver Bullet, Bad Lieutenants
	Reserve (if one of the above 4 teams declined): Avalore.
Freestyle	Outbreak Freestyle

Weed Stoodley reported that Team Trouble had now withdrawn from the Female Freestyle event (and were not therefore drawing on their funding for National Champions in minute 3.2) and no-one had yet expressed an interest in the Skysurf event.

10.3 8th World Cup in Canopy Formation – Osijek, Croatia, 4-9 September 2007

Ian Marshall (CF Rep) said he had not received any expressions of interest to date.

10.4 4th World Cup in Canopy Piloting- Sydney, Australia, 7-11 November 2007

Alex Wilson (CP Rep) reported that 12 places were available. Invitations to compete (self-funded) would be issued, on the basis of performance, after the 2007 Nationals.

10.5 18th World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th World Artistic Skydiving Championships – La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France, 9-14 August 2008

The Committee noted the dates. The UK delegation would be selected at the Nationals 2007.

10.6 Official British T-shirt

Ian Marshall proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to continue the Committee's policy that any competitor representing the UK at an official international meet run under FAI regulations in any discipline would be able to call on the British Team Fund for an official British delegation T-shirt, for which the nominal budget was £10 per head.

Carried unanimously

10.7 European Skydiving League (ESL) 2007

Britain would again take part in the FS European Skydiving League this year. At this stage, there was nothing to report.

10.8 Competition in Indonesia

An international open skydiving competition was being held in Indonesia but, as everyone had been informed at the competitors' meeting on AGM Day, the British Consulate's advice was not to travel to the part of Indonesia where it was to be held.

11/07 Élite coaching for National Champions

11.1 Team Outbreak - change of coach

Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to agree Freestyle & Freely Team Outbreak's request to change their BPA-funded coach to Fred Frugan from Babylon.

Carried unanimously

Less coached time would be available to them under the new coach and therefore they may not use all of their allocated 3600 Euros.

11.2 Team Trouble - withdrawal

Weed Stoodley confirmed that Female Freestyle Team Trouble were now unlikely to compete and so they would not be using their already-agreed 1800 Euros of (minute 3.2) coaching funding.

11.3 Team Airkix

Team Airkix had now re-named themselves as Team Élan.

11.4 Eligibility criteria

Weed Stoodley put forward a case for special consideration for funding for Female Freestyle Team Tumbleweed, who had not been able to compete in the 2006 Nationals because of injury. The Chairman said that the funding allocation was for National Champions and that Team Tumbleweed were therefore unfortunately not eligible. Weed Stoodley proposed that Team Tumbleweed should be funded as a special case but the proposal failed to find a second.

12/07 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

The Chairman said that a number of requests from Centres wishing to host Skills Coaching Roadshows had been received. He asked the Discipline Reps to seek to arrange mutually convenient dates with Centres and coaches, with a cap of three Roadshows per discipline, at least for the time being. The Roadshows budget was £10K of which only £827 had so far been spent.

The Chairman said he would oversee Roadshows in FS until Milko (new FS Rep) was briefed.

An FS Roadshow had been arranged at Weston, with Team Airkix coaching, on 5-6 May. Weed Stoodley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, that this should be included as the first FS Coaching Roadshow in the calendar this season.

Carried unanimously

Ian Marshall (CF Rep) recorded his disappointment that none of the members of the embedded CF team at Langar were available to coach in the CF Coaching Roadshow held at Langar last year, necessitating him to bring in coaches from elsewhere, at increased cost.

Alex Wilson (CP Rep) reminded the Committee that only Black Knights and RAPA had a pond, which was essential for CP.

13/07 Judging matters

Kate Charters summarised judging matters not already covered:

- Omniskore had been arranged for the FS Nationals.
- The Danish Association had requested British judges for the Danish Nationals.
- No FAI judges' training seminar had yet been announced for 2007 in any discipline. This might be because of costs – IPC was now funding invited judges to world meets. Kate Charters said it would not be practical for her to run a FAI judges' training session at the British Nationals.
- Judge Liz Warner had requested clarification of the car mileage rate and a review of the daily subsistence rate for judges, which had been £25 for many years. After discussion, Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to recommend to the Council, through the Development Committee, that the daily allowance judges and coaches should be increased from £25 to £30 (but that this should not be made retrospective).

Carried unanimously

- In response to a point raised by Liz Warner, the Committee asked Jon Gretton (BPA Financial Administrator) kindly to set out on the judges' and coaches' expenses claim form the period of validity of the mileage rate quoted on the form so that users knew it was current.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

- The Committee considered a request for BPA funding for British judges at ESL. The Chairman understood that some funding was already available from the ESL organisers. It was a privilege for a judge to be invited to ESL and the Committee was content with the arrangements already in place.

The Chairman reminded the Committee of judge Frank Mallabone's suggestion at the Judges' meeting on AGM Day that there should be a super-judge. The thinking was that at a Grand Prix, sometimes the only judge present was the chief judge. However, the Chairman said he saw a drawback to the idea of a super-judge in that he believed it would encourage competitors to appeal to a higher authority and not to respect the event judge. The Committee agreed.

14/07 Nationality criteria

Ian Marshall tabled a letter originally tabled last year from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport about freedom of movement for professional and semi-professional sportspeople. The Chairman noted the contents but cautioned against reading too much into it. He did not believe the content of the letter had any material effect on the BPA's definition of British

Nationality - ie, to be the holder of a British Passport – since this simple and straightforward definition also applied, for example, in the British Olympic Association. Alex Wilson proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that this definition of British Nationality should continue to apply in the BPA.

Carried unanimously

15/07 Rules for Nationals and Grand Prix 2007

The Chairman asked Discipline Reps to complete their work on the 2007 rules by no later than Friday 20 April. Alex Wilson had extra time since he was a new Rep.1 Standard paragraphs for the rules were discussed and the wording agreed. Kate Charters requested that the rules should state that teams may not change their team members between meets but they may register one alternate for seniors (per FAI rules) or two alternates for non-seniors.

16/07 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8 May 2007 at 1800 at the BPA Office.

The meeting closed at 2200.

Appendix: Report on this meeting tabled at the Council meeting on Tuesday 17 April 2007 (because these minutes were not transcribed before the Council meeting, due to a staff shortage at the BPA Office).

Competitions Committee Report to the Council - Tuesday 17 April 2007

Notes on the Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 March 2007 at 1800

Unfortunately the minutes have not yet been transcribed because of an administrative staff shortage (a vacant post is currently being advertised).

A summary of the main points from the meeting is as follows. Key items for Council are boxed.

- **Trophy cabinet for BPA Board Room** – Committee to ask Tony Butler to keep a look out at any furniture auctions he may attend.
- **British Airways Baggage Policy for Parachuting Equipment** – the Development Committee is kindly taking this up with BA.
- **Standard of international judging in CF** – concerns expressed by BPA. John Hitchen will do what he can to get WPC CF tapes and score cards.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BPA Judges' Seminar – to be convened by Kate Charters at RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, 27 April to 1 May 2007. Carried unanimously to spend GBP 600 (£50 per judge for approx 12 judges) to support the seminar, from underspend in current judges' training budget, comes within that budget. Cheaper to train our own judges than to bring in qualified judges from overseas.
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- **Competitions Action Plan 2007/8** – format and content agreed, Chairman to finalise to present to the Council.
- **World Cup 2007 Stupino, Accuracy** - agreed to invite only those in the delegation to Stupino in 2006 or those placed at the last Classics Nationals at Cark in 2005 (there were no Classics Nationals in 2006). All self-funded.
- **World Cup 2007 Stupino, FS & Artistic** – invitations agreed, all self-funded. Expected that up to 4 teams per nation can be entered in each discipline. Invitations now issued. Awaiting issue of Bulletin 1 by the organisers.
- **World Cup 2007 Sydney, CP** – 12 places. WC in Nov after first British Nats in July. Top 12 at Nats will get offer of selection to represent UK at the World Cup, self-funded.
- **British Team T-Shirts** – agreed as standing policy, T-shirt to be supplied (from British Team Fund) for any competitor officially representing the UK in any IPC recognised discipline.
- **Elite coaching for National Championships** – Outbreak FF team, funding already agreed, but now change of coach – agreed. Female Freestyle Team Trouble – unlikely now to be competing, and use coaching funding already agreed. Discussed a possible special case, but Committee confirmed that criteria for funding have not changed, or it would open the floodgates.
- **Judges' Expenses Form** – request to Jon Gretton at the BPA Office to put the period of validity on the form so judges know the mileage rate set out on the form is current.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judges' Daily Subsistence Rate – recommend to Council that this should be referred to the Development Committee with the Competitions Committee's recommendation that the rate should increase from £25 to £30 per 24-hour period (not retrospective), as it has not increased for many years. Suggest same also for coaches on Coaching Roadshows (many do not claim at all). Cheapest decent B&B now around £35 a night.

- **BPA Jack Fowler CP Trophy** – agreed to accept a trophy from Ann Fowler. To ask Paul Moore if he can source – trophies may be less expensive in Germany.
- **Rules for Nationals & Grand Prix 2007** – in preparation, will be published when ready.
- **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 8 May 2007 at 1800 at the BPA Office.

17 April 2007