

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 3 July 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:	A DZ Operator	-	for part of item 29.2.2
	Bob Charters	-	for Judges' Co-ordinator (from 28.2.3)
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Chris Hollis	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Clare Murphy	-	Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apology for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator

Item Minute

26/07 Composition

The Chairman welcomed Chris Hollis, FS Rep, and Clare Murphy, Speed Skydiving Rep, as ex officio co-opted (non-voting) Members of the Committee who had been co-opted to this Committee at the last Council meeting. The Chairman congratulated Clare Murphy on winning the World Speed Skydiving Championships for the second time - and therefore being British National Champion - and for her entry in the Guinness Book of Records as holder of the Women's World Record in Speed Skydiving.

27/07 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2007 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

28/07 Matters arising

28.1 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 19.1)

The Office was working on the update of the BPA's Anti-Doping Code and Rules to meet UK Sport's current requirements. The updated document would be put for formal approval to a meeting of the full Council later this year.

Action: BPA Office

28.2 Trophies (minute 19.2)

28.2.1 Canopy Piloting Trophies (minute 19.2.1)

The Chairman reported that the three trophies for the individual disciplines within Canopy Piloting had not yet been purchased. Therefore, for the time being, the winners would receive only medals. If trophies were subsequently purchased at a later date - sponsorship of the planned new trophies was currently being sought - the winners' names would be inscribed. The Jack Fowler Trophy, a shield, had, as reported in minute 19.2.1, already been purchased

for the overall winner (the highest-placed British competitor) and this trophy was ready and waiting at Bad Lipp Springs, the host Centre for the first Canopy Piloting Nationals to be held from 14-21 July 2007. Alex Wilson, CP Rep, said that a significant number of Open competitors were expected. The Chairman confirmed that only one set of medals would be awarded per event.

28.2.2 Database of BPA competition trophies (minute 19.2.2)

The Chairman reported that his work in constructing a database of BPA competition trophies was progressing well, and that it included photographs of many of the trophies, with a few more photographs still awaited. Ian Marshall said that he believed he had traced the CF trophy that had been missing, and would report further to the next meeting.

Action: Ian Marshall

28.2.3 Canopy Piloting Nationals – pre-selection arrangements (minute 19.2.3)

Alex Wilson reported that a pre-Nationals CP meet had been held at Black Knights. Four CP1 jumpers had attended, who had not been planning to enter the Nationals, for which CP2 was required. Those who had attended who were planning to compete in the Nationals had already achieved their CP2 ratings.

28.3 Standard of judging in CF (minute 19.4)

John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) had obtained the DVDs of WPC 2006 in CF in Russia that had been requested at the last meeting. These would be copied to Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator), Ian Marshall (CF Discipline Rep) and Steve Saunders (CF competitor).

Bob Charters said that clarification was still needed of the criteria that had been applied to the CF judging in Russia, with reference to grips. Ian Marshall agreed that we had still not received the clarification we had sought. The matter had gone to IPC, but the agreed wording was still being interpreted in two different ways. Bob Charters said that the Head of Delegation to the next WPC in CF should ask the Chief Judge to make explicit the exact judging criteria.

Action: Future meeting / Ian Marshall

28.4 Canopy Piloting selection criteria (minute 19.9.1)

The Chairman reported on a long telephone discussion he had had with CP competitor Martin Reynolds about selection criteria. Martin Reynolds believed that he had been misled by a conversation with last year's CP Rep. The Chairman said that this had arisen because that conversation had taken place at a time when John Smyth, the then Competitions Chairman, had not anticipated more than 10 CP competitors seeking a place in the National team so rendering unnecessary any formal system of selection. The Chairman had advised Martin Reynolds that the matter had been discussed by the full Council at its meeting on 12 June (Council minute 43.5.3 refers). The Council had reconfirmed the selection arrangements at the CP Nationals, and said that if any places still remained unfilled on the National team after the Selection Nationals, the Competitions Committee could consider other interested competitors who had not attended the Nationals.

28.5 Canopy Formation Nationals (minute 19.9.2)

Ian Marshall (CF Discipline Rep) confirmed that he had advised competitor Alistair Macartney, who had raised the question, that the CF 4-way speed stackplane event was now classed as a bad weather event, not an IPC event. The Chief Judge had the final say on whether or not the would take place, and this depended on circumstances at the time.

28.6 Policy on payment of expenses to Roadshow coaches who also compete (minute 21)

Weed Stoodley proposed, and Alex Wilson seconded, a motion that Skills Coaching Roadshow coaches would not be eligible to claim coaching expenses from the BPA for coaching at competitions (such as Grand Prix) in which they were themselves competitors, except where this had been specifically agreed in advance by the Competitions Committee.

Carried unanimously

By way of guidance to coaches, the circumstances under which the Committee would be prepared to consider specific approval for payment of BPA expenses to coaches who were also competing would be in competitions for individual jumpers such as Accuracy (minute 23

cites an example). The Committee did not envisage circumstances where coaching expenses would be paid to coaches who took part in team-based competitions at which they were coaching.

28.7 Policy on whether Skills Coaching Roadshow coaches should hold an appropriate BPA coaching rating (minute 23)

The Committee further discussed the desirability of coaches at BPA Skills Coaching Roadshow holding an appropriate BPA coaching qualification. Alex Wilson said that in CP, this was a requirement of the Operations Manual. But it was not the case in other disciplines. Ian Marshall said there was a grandfather clause, cat 10, in FS and CF. John Hitchen said coaching qualifications were appropriate. Technical skills in skydiving and the ability to impart information to others effectively – to teach at ground school, for example – were two entirely different skills sets. It was possible for a skilled and talented jumper nevertheless not to be able properly to coach others. This was where a formal coaching qualification came in, because it assured a level of competence in skills coaching. The consensus around the table was that because the Roadshows were BPA coaching events, the BPA should support its own coaching qualifications through the example of the coaches. For coaches from outside the UK, this would be the equivalent coaching qualification of their own Parachuting National Governing Body.

The Chairman noted that some excellent coaches did not presently hold a coaching qualification, and he saw this as an anomaly. He suggested that if BPA Roadshow coaches were not presently coach-rated, the Discipline Reps should ask them to complete the appropriate form to obtain the coaching qualification, and the fee of £10 would be deducted from the coaches' expenses. Ian Marshall observed that in CF, there were about 24 competitors but some 54 rated coaches – he asked how they had all come by their ratings. He also noted that there was presently no coaching qualification in Accuracy.

Alex Wilson then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that any coach at a BPA Skills Coaching Roadshow must hold, as a minimum, the coaching rating in that discipline.

Weed Stoodley made a counter-proposal that this should start from next year. The counter-proposal failed to find a seconder.

A vote was therefore taken on Alex Wilson's original proposal, as follows:

For – 3, Against – 1 (Weed Stoodley)

Carried

The Chairman confirmed that the requirement for coaches at BPA Roadshows to hold a coaching rating in that discipline applied with immediate effect. He asked Discipline Reps that they should ask, when planning Roadshows, whether each of the coaches was coach-rated for that discipline and if not, sign them up.

28.8 Skills Coaching Roadshow request form for Clubs & Centres (minute 23)

No draft forms had yet been tabled by Committee Members. The Chairman therefore deferred consideration of this item until the next meeting. Questions to be included on the form included: aircraft, jump prices, resident coaches/schools, facilities for particular disciplines, for example FS – creeper, Accuracy – accuracy pit, tuffet; CP – suitable body of water.

Action: Next meeting

28.9 Judges' scoring sheets (minute 24)

Bob Charters reported that Kate Charters had suggested that stocks of the old scoring sheets were used up before new ones were produced. She planned to put the scoring sheets from world meets on a disc. The files could then be uploaded to the BPA website so the scoring sheets could be downloaded by the judges as required.

Action: Kate Charters

A draft scoring sheet for CP had been circulated, based on the one used at the WPC in CP in Vienna in 2006. Alex Wilson said there were additions to be made to the draft, and he would liaise with Kate Charters on this.

Action: Alex Wilson & Kate Charters

29/07 Domestic competitions 2007

29.1 Nationals 2007

The Chairman confirmed that the rules for the Nationals had now been published for all disciplines except Speed Skydiving, which was to follow. Because Speed Skydiving was not presently an IPC-recognised discipline, there were unlikely to be any significant variations to last year's rules.

Action: Clare Murphy (Speed Skydiving Rep) & BPA Office

The Chairman also asked Clare Murphy kindly to liaise with Kate Charters on judging matters.

Action: Clare Murphy

The first Nationals this year would be in Classics and Canopy Piloting, held concurrently at RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany, from 14-21 July 2007, being the first ever BPA Nationals in Canopy Piloting. Nationals in all other disciplines would all be held in August and September at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow.

Alex Wilson (CP Rep) confirmed that judging equipment for the CP Nationals was not an issue as the Centre had got the Empuria kit, and in any case a budget for the purchase of BPA CP judging equipment had been agreed last year. He suggested that the BPA should not purchase any such kit until feedback from the Nationals had been considered.

Action: Kate Charters

29.2 Grand Prix 2007

29.2.1 Meets to date

The Chairman reported that four Grand Prix meets had been held since the last meeting. This had included a Freefly and Classics Grand Prix held concurrently at Black Knights over the weekend of 5-6 May, which both Weed Stoodley and the Chairman had attended. At this, Sue Skull, who had not attended on the day due to illness, judged via from her home via a download and e-mail. Weed Stoodley had continued as a trainee judge. On 2-3 June, there had been a FS 4-way Grand Prix at BPS Langar; on 9-10 June, a CF Grand Prix at Black Knights, and on 23-24 June an FS 8-way Grand Prix at Langar.

The Chairman reported on an issue about aircraft type at the FS 8-way meet at Langar. He said that the Committee needed to be careful when placing 8-way events at different venues that the aircraft being offered was suitable for launching 8-way.

The Chairman referred to an unfortunate clash of dates that, together with poor weather, may have adversely affected attendance at the first 4-way FS Grand Prix of the season held at NWPC Cark on 5-6 May (minute 20 refers). The Committee discussed the possibility of seeking to arrange another FS 4-way GP at Cark for late in the season, perhaps a weekend in September. However, the consensus was that the weather then might be something of a gamble, and the Committee agreed instead that the Chairman should discuss with Stuart Morris of NWPC the possibility of Cark putting in a bid to host a leg of the FS 4-way Grand Prix next year.

Action: Chairman

29.2.2 Complaint

The Chairman said that he had received a formal complaint from one judge, and written representations from three others, about alleged verbal abuse to the judges by a Drop Zone Operator (DZO) during a BPA competition. The DZO had been the Meet Director. The Chairman summarised the correspondence he had received, and read aloud the report by the Chief Judge. The DZO was present and, on invitation from the Chair, responded. The DZO regretted any problems that may have occurred, and that they had not been resolved at the time. The Chairman thanked the DZO, who then left the meeting.

The Committee believed that the probable root of the difficulty was that the DZO and the Chief Judge did not know each other and had no previous experience of working together. The Chairman said that this was a different situation from one where the DZO and Chief Judge had established a good personal relationship from working together many times before, and had come to accommodate each other's ways of working. In this case, there had

unfortunately been no formal introduction of the DZO/Meet Director and Chief Judge. It was therefore perhaps not entirely surprising that lines of communication had become strained.

After discussion, the Chairman said he would write to invite the DZO to seek to mend their fences with the judges. The Committee wished the Chairman well in this, and hoped that it would help to bring this matter to a conclusion acceptable to all.

Action: Chairman

29.2.3 Judging issues

29.2.3.1 Camscore/Camtrix and remote judging via the Internet

The Camscore/Camtrix scoring system – an alternative to Omniskore – had been trialled at the FS 4-way Grand Prix held at Langar on 2-3 June. The Chief Judges' report noted that there had been a mix-up over who was in charge of this equipment, but the trial had proved useful. The owners of the scoring system had been keen for James Swallow of target Skysports, Hibaldstow, to see it as they hoped that he would wish to use it as a back-up to Omniskore at the FS Nationals.

The Camtrix system had in fact been used for the first BPA judging over the Internet, via a broadband link, by Kate and Bob Charters, who had been at home. John Hitchen observed that the time lapse had defeated the instant results that competitors sought. Bob Charters believed that remote judging via the Internet was not a viable option in normal circumstances because the judges needed to be on the ground at the competition site. Judging via the Internet could, however, be useful as a back-up in special situations.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to ask Kate Charters kindly to note down the issues in remote judging via the Internet so that this valuable experience would not be overlooked in future planning.

Carried unanimously – Action: Kate Charters

29.2.3.2 Judging equipment

The Chief Judge at the CF Grand Prix at Black Knights on 9-10 June had called attention in her report to the BPA not providing the correct judging equipment. Bob Charters confirmed that the judges had experienced difficulties of technical compatibility in using the host Centre's own DVD equipment, and he had confirmed to them that the BPA was looking to buy a portable DVD system for judging.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that last year's Competitions Committee, at its meeting on 24 October 2006, had already approved expenditure of up to £600 on audio visual equipment for (minute 72.1/06 refers) with the intention of making the purchase before the Judges' Seminar held in April 2007. However, the purchase had not, to date, been made.

The Chairman had recently reviewed the price of the equipment required, and advised that it would be prudent to allocate an additional budget of £50. Weed Stoodley therefore proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to increase the budget for the purchase of judging equipment by £50 from £600 to a total of £650.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman asked for the assistance of Discipline Reps, in liaison with the Judges' Co-ordinator, in helping to ensure that the judging equipment was available at host Centres for Grand Prix meets as required, and to help to ensure that the equipment was properly stored and maintained. To this end, an equipment list of the items in each box, including cables set, would be drawn up. A possible means of conveyance was to arrange for the Centre's CCI to collect the equipment when they came to the Office for an STC meeting.

Action: Discipline Reps

Although the equipment was intended for Grand Prix meets, it could also be provided for Nationals if the host Centre needed it.

Clare Murphy (Speed Skydiving Rep) said a laptop would be needed for judging at the Speed Skydiving Nationals. The Chairman said he would liaise with Steve Swallow of Target Skysports, the host Centre, on this.

Action: Chairman

30/07 International competitions

30.1 Invited judges

The Chairman reported that Ruth Cooper was at present at the Anton Malevsky meet as an invited judge in FS.

An invited judge to another category 1 FAI/IPC meet had requested clarification about their entitlement to expenses. John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) explained the policy, which the Chairman would confirm to the judge.

Action: Chairman

The expenses policy at such meets was determined by IPC, not the BPA. Each meet had a budget and the entry fee was set in accordance with projected expenditure, which included funding judges in accordance with the current IPC policy. The BPA's involvement in such matters was simply to forward to the IPC Judges' Co-ordinator each December, a list of qualified international judges by discipline who were Members of the BPA and available for invitation to international meets.

30.2 2007 World Cup in Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events – Stupino, Russia, 4-12 August 2007

Final preparations were being made by the British delegation in FS and Artistics to go to the World Cup and European Championships in Stupino from 4-12 August 2007. The Head of Delegation would be Mike Rust (Council minute 43.5.2 refers).

Chris Hollis kindly agreed to design a T-shirt that would be suitable not only for Stupino but for other international meets later in the year and even beyond. The T-shirts would therefore not be specific to any particular discipline, but an all-purpose, multi-discipline design incorporating the BPA logo. The Committee agreed to order a sufficient quantity of T-shirts to cover this requirement.

Action: Chris Hollis / BPA Office

30.3 8th World Cup in Canopy Formation – Osijek, Croatia, 4-9 September 2007

There were no British competitors.

30.4 4th World Cup in Canopy Piloting- Sydney, Australia, 7-11 November 2007

Invitees to represent Britain, on a self-funded basis, would be determined by performance at the CP Nationals to be held at RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, from 14-21 July 2007. The Chairman and Alex Wilson (Discipline Rep) would ask the Office to issue the invitations once the results were known.

Action: Chairman / Alex Wilson / BPA Office

30.5 18th World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th World Artistic Skydiving Championships – La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France, 9-14 August 2008

The UK delegation would be selected at the Nationals 2007. News from the organisers was awaited about the aircraft to be used. Chris Hollis (FS Rep) noted that the top two teams were both all female and asked how selection for the open and female categories would be treated. The Chairman said that whichever team came first, irrespective of gender, would be offered the opportunity to represent Britain in the open (ie, open to men and women) category. If the team happened to be all female and chose not to accept that invitation, they would then be offered the opportunity to represent Britain in the women's category. To qualify for funding in the open category, an open team – irrespective of gender – would need to meet the performance criteria for funding in the open category.

30.6 European Skydiving League (ESL) 2007

There had been disappointment among competitors that the first FS 4-way GP of the season, before Chris Hollis had been appointed as FS Rep, had not been synchronised with the NSL/ESL arrangements. However, subsequent meets had been synchronised. Chris Hollis was seeking to attract as many British teams as possible, there being a limit of 3 teams per category. It was possible that one or more BPA judges might be going to judge at the ESL finals at Spa in Belgium from 7-9 September 2007. It was understood that the organisers would pay the judges' accommodation and give them a contribution to their travel costs.

Chris Hollis said the UK had a proud record of doing well in ESL at Intermediate and Junior levels, but it was proving a struggle to encourage more senior teams to take part in the FS Grand Prix, as they preferred to use their weekends for training.

Chris Hollis suggested that next year, the FS 4-way Grand Prix programme should be re-titled as the UK Skydiving League (UKSL) to highlight its place in the NSL/ESL structure. He had prepared a BPA UKSL logo, which he tabled. The Committee considered that it might be appropriate to launch UKSL with a presentation at the AGGM on Saturday 12 January 2008.

Action: Chris Hollis

30.7 Other international competitions

30.7.1 FAI/IPC web-based CF competition

Ian Marshall tabled a printout of a CF competition that was being promoted on the FAI website – the IPC CF web challenge. There was to be a draw on 29 June, and judges were already in place. The rules did not, however, fully parallel IPC's normal rules for a CF competition (there was no penalty for omitting formations in normal CF rules, but there was in the rules for the web challenge). No entry fee was shown. Ian Marshall said that he supported the concept of an Internet-based competition in which competitors could take part from their home locations. He was, however, concerned with the gestation of this competition which had taken UK CF competitors by surprise as it seemed to have come out of the blue. John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) said that it had been discussed at the 2007 IPC plenary meeting, and reference to it would be in the minutes, and was also in his report from IPC. Bob Charters agreed with Ian Marshall that the BPA should be questioning the arrangements for this competition, and the Chairman asked John Hitchen kindly to look into it.

Action: John Hitchen

30.7.2 World Championships in Speed Skydiving

Only Clare Murphy (women's World Champion) represented Britain. After the British Nationals in Speed Skydiving, the Committee would consider whether to lobby IPC again for it formally to recognise the discipline.

30.7.3 Judging

Bob Charters reported that he, Kate Charters and Sue Skull had been invited as judges to the American Nationals in Chicago. This was a meet for which invited judges received a fee. Bob Charters further reported that he had been invited to judge at the Asiatic Championships in Indonesia, but had not yet decided whether to accept.

31/07 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

Ian Marshall reported that a CF Coaching Roadshow was planned for this weekend at Black Knights. Weed Stoodley reported she had arranged an additional Freely Roadshow at Black Knights for the weekend of 8-9 September.

32/07 Elite coaching for National Champions

Alex Wilson proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that a further tranche of funding of US\$4500 should be provided to FS 4-way Team Élan, to be spent on coaching before the FS Selection Nationals 2007.

Carried unanimously

In reply to a question from Weed Stoodley, the Chairman confirmed that BPA grants were strictly to pay coaching fees only, not team or coach hotel or accommodation costs. If the coach included certain of their expenses in their coaching fees, so be it.

33/07 Judging matters

Judging matters had already been covered in other items.

34/07 Possible sponsorship opportunity for an individual skydiver

A company had contacted the Office about a possible sponsorship opportunity for an individual up-and-coming skydiver. Alex Wilson had identified a CP jumper he considered to fit the profile being sought by the company. The Committee agreed that he should seek to secure sponsorship for this jumper.

Action: Alex Wilson

35/07 Head-down record formation

A notification had been received from Andy Ford of a head-down record formation. As this was not an in-competition record, the Committee referred the matter to the Development Committee.

Action: Refer to Development Committee

36/07 Date of next meeting

To be agreed at the next Council meeting (Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 14 August 2007 at 1830).

The meeting closed at 2150.