

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 26 September 2007 at 1815

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
In attendance:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Chris Hollis	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Paul Moore	-	Council Member
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Alex Wilson	-	Discipline Rep: CP
Observers:	Jo Bell		
	Hannah Betts		
	Richard del-Toro		
	Pat Hammond		
	Adam Mattacola		
	Gavin McLeod		
	Sue Moran		
	Andrew Mansfield		
	Andrew Newell		
	Steve Saunders		
	Sarah Smith		
	James Swallow		

Item Minute

37/07 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 July 2007 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

38/07 Matters arising

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

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 in due course.

Action: BPA Office

38.2 Database of BPA competition trophies (minute 28.2.2)

The Chairman reported that photographs of certain trophies were still outstanding. Ian Marshall said he had tonight returned to the BPA a CF trophy that had been missing for 3 years. In response to a question from Weed Stoodley, the Chairman said it was the winners' own responsibility to get the trophies engraved, at their cost.

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

Weed Stoodley said that the best way to initiate Roadshows was for the Office to put out an e-mail in the New Year listing the Discipline Reps and inviting Clubs & Centres wishing to host a Coaching Roadshow to contact the appropriate Discipline Rep. The Reps details would also be published in 'Skydive the Mag'.

Action: BPA Office

38.4 Judges' scoring sheets (minute 28.9)

As Kate Charters was not present, consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

38.5 Canopy Piloting judging equipment (minute 29.1)

Paul Moore reported that he was obtaining a quotation for a complete electronic scoring system for Canopy Piloting.

Action: Paul Moore

38.6 FS 4-way Grand Prix at NWPC Cark (minute 29.2.1)

The Chairman said there would be no additional FS 4-way Grand Prix this year but he would keep in mind the problem with the clash of dates at the FS 4-way Grand Prix held at Cark on 5-6 May (minute 20). He said that no FS coaches had attended that meet (there was no FS Rep in post at the time.) He asked all Discipline Reps to please try to identify one or more coaches to coach at each Grand Prix that had a Skills Coaching Roadshow associated with it.

Action: Discipline Reps

38.7 Judges' complaint (minute 29.2.2)

The Chairman said that he had spoken to both parties and had nothing further to report. It was therefore appropriate to draw a line under the matter.

No further action

38.8 Notes on judging via the Internet (minute 29.2.3.1)

As Kate Charters was not present, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

38.9 Purchase of judging equipment (Minute 29.2.3.2)

Audio visual equipment for judging (DVD recorders and screens, etc) had now been purchased by the BPA. The Chairman thanked Steve Saunders and his wife for their help in pricing and listing the equipment. Ian Marshall said that carrying cases and a few more leads were still required, and the Chairman asked him kindly to obtain these in his capacity as CF Rep.

Action: Ian Marshall

The Chairman confirmed that the equipment was available for all disciplines, and asked the Discipline Reps to co-ordinate its transfer as required to the appropriate host competition Drop Zones. He also asked the Discipline Reps in association with Kate Charters kindly to prepare a note on what judging equipment was needed for competitions in their discipline.

Action: Discipline Reps & Kate Charters

The Chairman confirmed that the host DZ of the Speed Skydiving Nationals, Target Skysports, had kindly provided a laptop on which the ProTrack scoring software was run. The software had been obtained following the Chairman's letter to Larsen and Brusgaard. The Committee decided not to consider purchase of a laptop for judging for the time being, as it depended on how the use of the Cametrix scoring system developed.

No further action

38.10 Expenses policy for invited judges to FAI international meets (minute 30.1)

The Chairman had confirmed the policy to the judge concerned.

Completed

38.11 British delegation T-shirt for international meets (minute 30.2)

Chris Hollis was wearing one of the T-shirts and the Committee approved of the design. The Chairman thanked Chris Hollis for the design of this generic T-shirt that was not specific to any specific meet or year. About 180 had been ordered in a range of sizes in male and female versions. Some had been used earlier this month at the ESL Finals.

Completed

38.12 FAI/IPC web-based CF competition (minute 30.7.1)

John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) confirmed that the FAI/IPC web-based CF competition had been covered in this Delegate's Report on the IPC plenary meeting held in January 2007. This was an official event sanctioned by the IPC Discipline Committee for CF.

No further action

38.13 Possible commercial sponsorship of a CF jumper (minute 34)

As Alex Wilson was not present to report, this item was held over until the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

39/07 Domestic competitions 2007

39.1 Nationals 2007

39.1.1 Classics & Canopy Piloting

A joint Classics & CP Nationals had been held at RAPA, Germany, from 14-21 July 2007. The venue had attracted some controversy because, although it was a BPA Affiliated Centre, it was outside the UK. RAPA had been chosen by this Committee as the successful bidder to host the meet because it was the only BPA Centre that, at the time, had a suitable body of water that met the IPC requirements for the conduct of a CP competition. Paul Moore had been Meet Director. The joint format had not, unfortunately, increased the number of competitors as had been hoped, in fact some regular Classics competitors had been lost. Two new CP judges qualified at the meet. The Chairman noted that there would be a high cost in judges' expenses if the BPA started Grand Prix in CP in the future (at the Nationals, judges' expenses were met by the host centre from their income from hosting the meet).

39.1.2 Formation Skydiving

Chris Hollis (FS Rep) reported that the FS Nationals, which had been held at Target Skysports over the long weekends 18-20 and 25-27 August 2007, had been a success with 47 teams competing. It had, however, been hit by bad weather. There had been a problem with the draw, because the NSL draw had been used. It became apparent during Round 1 that this draw had already been on the Internet for three days. Kate Charters, Chief Judge, had therefore called all the teams together after Round 1 for a re-draw. Chris Hollis understood that Kate Charters' view was that there should no longer be any attempt in future to co-ordinate the FS Nationals with NSL/ESL. The Chairman agreed and said he had not been aware that there had been any intention to co-ordinate the Nationals with ESL, although he could understand how this might have arisen given that the Nationals had been included in as an event in the FS Grand Prix circuit.

39.1.3 Artistics

A report by Weed Stoodley (Artistics Rep) had been circulated with the agenda. The Artistics Nationals had been held at Target Skysports over the long weekend of 25-27 August 2007. 24 teams had taken part, making it the biggest Artistics Nationals to date. Team Outbreak in Freestyle and Team Killa 'n' Parker in the Freestyle had met the performance criteria for funding for the National Team to the World parachuting Championships in 2008.

Weed Stoodley said that the meet had been run concurrently with the FS Nationals an issue that had emerged was that the Artistics judges needed a separate judging room and equipment. There had been only two judges, when three had been needed, and certainly with only two judges judging assistants had been required to cope with the sheer volume of work.

The start of the Artistics Nationals had been delayed by an overrun of the FS 4-way Nationals. Weed Stoodley said the DZ had put out an announcement that Artistics competitors did not need to register by the cut-off time as stated in the rules. This had led to difficulties at the start of the competition, and she asked that the cut-off time for registration should be honoured even if the start time was delayed.

Weed Stoodley referred a question about interpretation of the rules to John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) for an official intent on the rules. John Hitchen advised Weed Stoodley to contact the relevant IPC Committee Chair, who he would identify to her.

Action: Weed Stoodley

There had been confusion over the entitlement to medals for the British category and Open category (open to competitors of all nationalities). Although this had happened in previous years, and an agreed form of words had been published, this was still unfortunately open to more than one interpretation. Weed Stoodley had set out three different scenarios in her report against which the medals policy could be tested. The Chairman asked Discipline Reps to liaise with each other on this with a view to clarifying the policy at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

39.1.4 Speed Skydiving

The Speed Skydiving Nationals had been held at Target Skysports over the long weekend 25-27 August 2007. There had been about 8 competitors and all rounds had been completed.

39.1.5 Canopy Formation

The Canopy Formation Nationals had been held at Target Skysports over the long weekend 22-24 September 2007. The weather had not been kind. There had been no 4-way sequential or 8-way events.

Time had run out before the 2-way Sequential event had been held. There were two teams in this event, in contention for selection for the National Team to compete at the World Parachuting Championships in 2008. The earliest dates with the prospect of reasonable weather on which both teams were available were in March 2008, unless exceptionally the Committee agreed to hold this event abroad.

The Chairman said that this type of scenario had been cautioned to Ian Marshall as CF Rep when the CF Nationals had been scheduled for a 3-day weekend. He said that the matter would need further consideration and that a decision could not be reached this evening.

Action: Next meeting

The Chairman reported that he had received a number of complaints from competitors about the judging at the CF Nationals. John Hitchen reported that one team had lodged a formal protest, but he had been unable to process it because a protest had to be made against a specific rule, and this one had not cited a rule but a paragraph heading in the general section of the FAI Sporting Code. He therefore believed that the protest fee, which he was holding pro tem at the BPA Office, would have to be refunded as the protest was technically invalid.

Steve Saunders, a CF competitor, reported that the CF Nationals had not been judged consistently. The Chairman said his understanding was that there had been some form of discrepancy between the Chief Judge's briefing to the competitors before the meet, and what was set out in the rules. The basis of competitors' complaints was that they were not judged in the manner the Chief Judge had briefed. All but one team had complied with the Chief Judge's briefing. The captain of the team that had not complied had left the Chief Judge's briefing before it had been completed. The discrepancy centred on the definition of a legal grip. The Chairman said that different interpretations of this definition had been causing problems in judging in CF at international level – the problem was not restricted to the UK, although it had clearly had an impact at our CF Nationals this year. The FAI/IPC and BPA CF rules differed on their definition of a grip. Steve Saunders said that one team had put in a vote of no confidence in the judging. Relations between the competitors so deteriorated that the judges had left the Drop Zone whilst the competition had still been in progress.

The Chairman said that the matter needed to be discussed with Kate Charters, who was unfortunately not present tonight, in her capacity as Chief Judge. However, he had asked her to re-judge the rounds in the 2-way event against the criteria published by FAI/IPC, which was as per her Chief Judge's briefing at the event. At an international meet, such a request would normally come from the jury. As there was no jury for the Nationals, the Competitions Committee effectively assumed that role on rare occasions such as this when it needed to be invoked.

Action: Kate Charters

Ian Marshall said the CF competitors had other concerns about the judges, concerning the draw, which he said had to be changed, and the scoring of intermediate teams with single points instead of 2 points as set out in the rules. Steve Saunders said these issues had

centred on use of the new Cametrix scoring system, which competitors had been told would not be used for scoring.

Ian Marshall said that competitors paid to compete and were therefore customers. When customers received unsatisfactory service, as in this case, there had to be a form of redress. It was unsatisfactory to say that competitors could not protest a judges' decision, even if that was the FAI/IPC stance.

The Chairman said he would seek to arrange a meeting between the CF competitors, Chief Judge and Judges.

Action: Chairman

The Chairman asked Ian Marshall, as CF Rep, to correct the oversight in the BPA CF Nationals rules where there was a mismatch in the definition of a grip compared with the FAI/IPC rules.

Action: Ian Marshall

Ian Marshall asked for a review of the judging to see whether a mistake had been made. He wanted the review to be by a competent person independent of the original judging. The Chairman said this would effectively mean calling on the services of an international judge. The Chairman said he would consider this in the light of his discussions with Kate Charters.

Action: Chairman

39.1.6 General

The Chairman referred to an e-mail (copy circulated) from James Swallow of Target Skysports, which had said that the problems at the FS and CF Nationals (there had also been an problem with judging at the CF Nationals) had not reflected well on the Drop Zone, causing Target considerable embarrassment. This was notwithstanding the fact that the problems had been entirely outwith the control of Target Skysports as Operator.

The Committee noted with regret that certain situations had arisen at the FS and CF Nationals 2007 that unfortunately may have left competitors with the feeling that Target Skysports had been in some way at fault. The Chairman gave his reassurance that this was not the case. Despite our best efforts to ensure that the events ran without problems, it was inevitable that on occasion situations may arise that had not been foreseen. The problems that occurred at this year's FS and CF Nationals were outside the control of the host centre. The Chairman and Committee thanked both target Skysports and RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany, for hosting the Nationals in 2007 and looked forward to their continued support in hosting future National competitions.

Because Target had been involved in extra costs in re-running the re-drawn Round 1 of the FS Nationals after discussion, Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that an ex-gratia payment of £1K would be made by the BPA to Target Skysports from the BPA competitions budget.

Carried unanimously

39.2 Grand Prix 2007

Chris Hollis (FS Rep) reported that most of the FS Grand Prix meets this year had been successful, with the exception of the first one at Cark (minute 38.6) where attendance had been poor because of a clash of dates, poor weather, and the lack of a BPA Skills Coaching Roadshow. He said that AAA (senior) teams did not generally take part in Grand Prix meets.

Weed Stoodley (Artistics Rep) reported that the turnout at Artistics Grand Prix had been poor, and too low economically to justify the cost of about £500 per meet in judges' expenses. She believed that Artistics Grand Prix could no longer be sustained but that instead, an additional Skills Coaching Roadshow – these being better-supported – should be considered for next year. Paul Applegate said that we had been here before, this was an exact parallel to the situation a few years ago. Andy Newell suggested that a competition should be held with scrambles and compulsories only, because he believed Grand Prix were not well supported because teams would have to reveal their non-compulsories, which they were not prepared to do at a Grand Prix. The Chairman asked him kindly to liaise with Weed Stoodley in her capacity as Discipline Rep.

Action: Andy Newell & Weed Stoodley

40/07 Competitions bid form 2008

A draft Competitions bid form for Nationals and Grand Prix 2008 was tabled by the Office. The Chairman said this should be held for the time being, as not all relevant dates of international competitions were yet known, and these would affect the dates of domestic competitions. He asked each Discipline Rep kindly to prepare a briefing note of any special equipment that may be required for competitions in their discipline, so that this could be included in the bid form.

Action: Discipline Reps

41/07 International competitions

41.1 Invitations to the National Team for the World Parachuting Championships 2008

The Nationals 2007 had been the selection Nationals for the British teams to go to the World Parachute Championships 2008. In accordance with the results of the Nationals, Paul Applegate proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, that invitations should be extended as set out below.

The vote was: For – 2, Abstention – 1 (Ian Marshall, because he was a member of the 4-way rotations team to be invited).

Carried

41.1.1 Classics

Glenn Stephenson, Pete Sizer, Deane Smith, Jeff Chandler, Steve Cox, Esther Reynolds, all unfunded.

41.1.2 FS

4-way Female: Team Storm qualified for Open unfunded or women's funded. They elected to opt for women's funded, where they had met the published performance criteria for funding.

4-way Open: Team Elan, unfunded.

8-way: Team Connexion, unfunded.

41.1.3 Artistics

Freefly: Team Outbreak, funded as they had met the published performance criteria for funding. The team had now changed its name to Team Vol Airkix; Team Bad Lieutenants, unfunded.

Freestyle Male: Team Killa 'n' Parker, funded as they had met the published performance criteria for funding; and Breakout and Saladfingers [Note: This is a correction by Weed Stoodley, Artistics Rep, to what was reported at the meeting, on double-checking the results of the Artistics Nationals], unfunded.

Freestyle Female: team Bullet Freestyle and Team Tumbleweed Blue, both unfunded.

Skysurf: Team DCTD (Robert Bradley), unfunded, and subject to confirmation, before WPC 2008, from an appropriate coach that the Team can adequately perform the compulsories (as the team entered the Skysurf B category in the Nationals, which does not include compulsories).

41.1.4 Canopy Formation

2-way sequential – not yet known (see minute 31.3.5)

4-way sequential – not contested at the Nationals 2007, so no British team in WPC 2008

4-way rotations – Team Outcasts, unfunded.

41.1.5 Canopy Piloting

Brian Vacher – funded, as he had met the published performance criteria for funding.

Deane Smith, Alastair Macartney, Mike Gorman, Stuart Storey, John Bishop, Spencer Hogg, David 'Dan' Danskin, all unfunded.

41.1.6 General

The Chairman said that those teams/individuals who had met the performance criteria for funding would be asked, in the letter of invitation, to supply a costed training plan in order that the amount of funding could be decided at the next meeting. Funding would be payable in tranches subject to satisfactory progress on training plans once these had been agreed by the Committee.

In reply to a question from Weed Stoodley, the Chairman said that the team names could change, and team members could change by up to 50% for the invitations to remain valid.

41.2 2007 World Cup in Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events – Stupino, Russia, 4-12 August 2007

The Committee congratulated Freely Team Outbreak, now re-named Team Vol Airkix) for winning the Silver Medal in their event in the World Cup 2007 in Stupino. The Chairman also thanked the UK judges who judged at this meet and the earlier Anton Malevsky meet at the same drop zone.

Completed

Weed Stoodley had circulated draft guidance notes for the Head of Delegation at world meets. John Hitchen said that in the event that a team member became seriously ill, the Head of Delegation's attention would be largely focused on the needs of that individual. This demonstrated the need for the Head of Delegation to be flexible and responsive to demands on their time as they arose. The Chairman agreed that it would be unwise to be too prescriptive and to seek to make the guidance notes an official BPA document. He believed, however, that they might be of use for the information of future Heads of Delegation, and asked the office to keep a copy on file for this purpose.

Keep on file

41.3 8th World Cup in Junior Style & Accuracy – Osijek, Croatia, 4-9 September 2007

Steve Cox had attended this meet. The Chairman suggested that the BPA should contribute to his costs, because it had not offered any Skills Coaching Roadshows in the Classics. Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, that the BPA should - in lieu of a Skills Coaching Roadshow in the Classics – contribute £400 towards the future Classics coaching of Steve Cox.

Carried unanimously

41.4 European Skydiving League Finals – Spa, Belgium, 7-9 September 2007

The Chairman thanked Chris Hollis (FS Rep) for his report on the ESL Finals, and for his results and report on the BPA website. The Committee congratulated all the teams that had taken part in the ESL Finals.

41.5 4th World Cup in Canopy Piloting- Sydney, Australia, 7-11 November 2007

Official registration of 6 British competitors had now been made. The team comprised Brian Vacher, Alastair Macartney, Martin Reynolds, Spencer Hogg, Michael Holmes and Stuart Storey. There might possibly be a further one or two late registrants, if they could secure time off work.

The Chairman asked John Hitchen to consider being the Head of Delegation and Delegation manager for this meet. John Hitchen said he would consider it in the light of his other commitments and let the Chairman know.

Action: John Hitchen

41.6 18th World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th World Artistic Skydiving Championships – La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France, 9-14 August 2008

See minute 33.1

42/07 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

The programme of Skills Coaching Roadshows for 2007 had now been satisfactorily completed.

Ian Marshall had circulated a paper with the agenda which, together with a number of other letters (circulated) had asked the Committee to consider purchasing a few smaller canopies to enable light-framed people to take part in CF Skills Coaching Roadshows. He said that quite

a number of the lighter-framed people who wished to try CF were women. The Chairman said he had discussed the matter with the TO and NCSO and their advice was against the BPA itself being responsible for any canopies. He suggested that Ian Marshall should ask the manufacturers, PD Canopies, if they would donate canopies for use in Roadshows. However Steve Saunders said he believed that this would be unlikely to succeed. The Chairman said that another alternative might be for coaches to charge for kit hire at Roadshows, which would help to build up funds for the coaches to purchase additional canopies.

The Chairman said that it was not possible to use the competitions budget for Skills Coaching Roadshows to buy kit and therefore this Committee was regretfully unable to help. It was however open to Ian Marshall to take the matter to the full Council if he so wished.

Action: Ian Marshall

43/07 Judging matters

A number of judging matters had already been covered earlier in the meeting. With reference to the CF Nationals (minute 31.3.5), the Chairman said he planned to send the judges concerned a letter to express concern at some of the statements they had allegedly made, and at some judges leaving the Drop Zone before the competition had been completed.

Two e-mails from Kate Charters had arrived after the meeting had started, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting whilst these were printed off.

A letter from judge Ruth Cooper had been circulated concerning the Anton Malevsky meet in July 2007 at which she had been an invited judge. The letter was discussed and, although the Committee had sympathy with them, the view of the Committee was that the issues raised by Ruth Cooper were a matter for the organisers and IPC, as this was not a meet run under the aegis of the BPA. The Chairman would reply accordingly.

Action: Chairman

The final Grand Prix meet of the season was in CF, to be held at BPS Langar over the weekend 6-7 October 2007. It was not yet known who the judges would be.

44/07 In-competition records

The Committee decided that in-competition records claims validated by a CCI or judge should be signed off as seen by the relevant Discipline Rep before being posted on the UK skydiving records page of the BPA website.

Action: BPA Office

45/07 BPA Membership Survey

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Communications Committee was planning to conduct a Membership Survey, for which it had invited questions from all BPA Committees on their respective areas of activity. The Chairman said he was planning to speak to Adrian Bond, Communications Chairman, to make an input of questions about competitions.

Action: Chairman

46/07 DVDs of the Nationals

A competitor had asked whether the BPA would be producing a DVD of the FS Nationals 2007. He noted that the Cametrix system downloaded all the rounds in a digital format, and suggested that sales of the DV could be a training aid and that future teams could use it as a fundraiser. Paul Hollow, CCI of target Skysports, had said that the format used by Cametrix would not play directly in a typical DVD player and would therefore require to be edited.

The Chairman said that a more fundamental issue was who owned copyright to the images. The Committee believed that the USPA claimed copyright of all footage recorded at their competitions. The Chairman said that the views of well-known videographers such as Simon Ward, Leo Dickinson and Mike Carpenter should be sought, and suggested that this item should be discussed further at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

47/07 Date of next meeting

To be arranged.

The meeting closed at 2135.

Ratified by the Council: 9 October 2007
Distribution: Committee / Council, Vice Presidents, Staff and Editor