

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 5 March 2008 at 1815

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

Present:	Andy Scott	-	Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF (from item 3.7)
	Paul Moore	-	Vice Chairman and Discipline Rep: Classics
	Weed Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: AE / VFS (from item 14.6)
In attendance:	Bob Charters	-	Judge
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO (to item 16)
	Chris Hollis	-	Discipline Rep: FS (from item 14.10)
	Clare Murphy	-	Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving (to item 30)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apology for absence	Alex Wilson	-	Discipline Rep: CP
Observers:	Jo Bell	-	Cametrix (items 15- 20)
	Andy Mansfield	-	Cametrix (items 15- 20)
	James Swallow	-	Target Skysports

Item Minute

13/08 Minutes

With a typographical correction in minute 6.1.1 of '2-way CF' to read '4-way CF', Paul Moore proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2008 (which had already been ratified by the full Council at its meeting on Tuesday 19 February 2008) be approved as a correct record.

Approved

14/08 Matters arising

14.1 Composition of the Committee 2008 (minute 2)

The Chairman confirmed that the Council had ratified the co-option to the Committee, as non-voting members, of:

Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator
Chris Hollis, FS Discipline Rep, and
Clare Murphy, Speed Skydiving Rep.

He said that John Smyth had advised that he did not believe it would be appropriate for him to sit as a member of the Competitions Committee this year in view of his Chairmanship of the Council. John Hitchen said that John Smyth was now our IPC Delegate, and it was customary for the IPC Delegate to attend meetings of the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Chairman said that John Smyth would attend meetings on an as appropriate basis, but not vote. He would liaise with John Smyth on this.

Action: Chairman

14.2 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 3.1)

The Office had e-mailed a copy of updated Form 220, BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules, to UK Sport asking for confirmation that this document was now current and compliant with UK Sport's requirements.

Awaiting reply

14.3 Competition trophies (minute 3.2)

John Page, last year's Competition Chairman, had kindly agreed to continue with his work in compiling a database of BPA competition trophies.

Kate Charters was pleased to report that she had been successful in obtaining sponsorship for the three new trophies for the Canopy Piloting Nationals, and thanked the sponsors, Helmut Cloth, Thomas Sports and Derek Thomas. Paul Moore would purchase the new trophies in time for the CP Nationals in July, and provide photographs and details to John Page for inclusion in the trophies database.

Action: Paul Moore

Kate Charters asked about an FS trophy that she believed was missing. The Chairman said he would ask John Page if the database had a gap that might indicate a missing trophy.

Action: Chairman

Ian Marshall said that one trophy, for CF, was in need of repair.

14.4 Judges' scoring sheets (minute 3.3)

The Chairman said that the only old-style paper sheets that remained in stock at the BPA Office were for FS and Style. Once these had been used, they would be replaced by electronic templates that would be available on the BPA website for judges to download as required.

14.5 Canopy Piloting judging equipment (minute 3.4)

Paul Moore reported that only one of the five companies he had approached had provided a quotation for judging equipment for canopy piloting, of £4850. John Hitchen suggested that Paul Moore may wish to liaise with the Chairman of the IPC CP Committee who may be able to advise on the judging equipment that would be used at world meets. Paul Moore confirmed that the necessary judging kit was in place for the CP Nationals 2008. Time was therefore on our side to investigate this further.

Action: Paul Moore

14.6 Possible commercial sponsorship of a CP jumper (minute 3.5)

Alex Wilson was to approach the sponsor again now that the jumper had recovered from an injury. As Alex Wilson was not present, this item was held over until the next meeting.

Action: Alex Wilson/Next meeting

14.7 In-competition records (minute 3.8)

Alex Wilson still had to sign off the in-competition CP record submitted to the BPA Office. There had been a delay because he had been overseas. As Alex Wilson was not present, this item was held over until the next meeting.

Action: Alex Wilson/Next meeting

14.8. Possible DVDs of the Nationals (minute 3.9)

The Chairman reported that Cametrix had supplied Weed Stoodley with a DVD of the jumps at the Artistics Nationals 2007. They had indicated that the cost of further copies of footage from all of last year's Nationals would be £30 per complete set. The Committee decided that there was no need to purchase another set. Later in the meeting, the Chairman advised Cametrix accordingly.

14.9 Speed Skydiving World Cup (minute 3.10)

Clare Murphy, Speed Skydiving Discipline Rep, reported that there would be no formal world meet as IPC had not officially recognised the discipline. Instead, there would be a multi-part World Cup with meets on 6-8 June 2008 as part of a Skyfest in Carolina, USA; 13-15 June in Finland; 18-20 July in Italy; and 5-7 September in Sweden. The Swedish dates clashed with the reserve weekend for the British Open Nationals in Speed Skydiving. Competitors had to take part in at least 2 of the 4 World Cup meets to win. There had been 11 competitors in the Nationals last year, and the Chairman asked whether Clare Murphy was suggesting that the

backup weekend might be moved to avoid a clash with a World Cup meet. She said she needed more time to think about it, and to liaise with James Swallow of Target Skysports, the host Centre.

Action: Clare Murphy/Next meeting

Clare Murphy would enter the World Cup dates on the events page of the BPA website and confirm them to them to the Magazine.

Action: Clare Murphy

14.10 Competitions attendance records (minute 4.2.7)

Paul Moore proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that attendance records be kept for all competitions in all disciplines. This would enable accurate statistics to be compiled at the end of each year.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman asked Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, kindly to arrange this.

Action: Kate Charters

14.11 Release of approved funding to a funded team (minute 6.1.3)

This had been resolved at the Council meeting on Tuesday 19 February (Council minute 18.4).

14.12 Current judges (minute10)

In response to a question raised by Ian Marshall at the last meeting, Kate Charters confirmed the current CF National judging team and the arrangements for further training and this year. Ian Marshall thanked Kate Charters for her work with the judges and apologised for his behaviour as a competitor at the last Nationals when he had been under a lot of pressure because of a dispute between the CF competitors and the judges. In doing this, he was not conceding his case, but acknowledging that we now needed to move forward together. He recognised that Kate Charters had worked hard to achieve this.

The Office asked Kate Charters kindly to supply a copy of the most up-to-date judges' list as current judges were entitled to complimentary Qualified Associate (non-jumping) Membership.

Action: Kate Charters

15/08 IPC Plenary meeting, January 2008

John Hitchen had circulated his written report with the agenda. He confirmed that he and John Smyth had exchanged roles during the IPC Plenary Meeting, and that John Smyth was now IPC Delegate and he, John Hitchen, was Alternate Delegate. This had cleared the way to John Smyth being elected as a second Vice President of IPC, and as such a member of the IPC Bureau. The Committee congratulated John Smyth on his election to this influential office in the International Governing Body of our sport.

IPC had formally recognised the new discipline of Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS). The first World Cup in VFS would be held in Eloy, Arizona, USA: from 26-28 October 2008 (minute 22.4).

Some Discipline Reps had experienced difficulty in downloading international rules from the IPC section of the FAI website and asked the Office, through John Hitchen, kindly to advise John Smyth, as IPC Delegate, on how this could be improved in order that he might ask IPC to do this.

Action: BPA Office/IPC Delegate

16/08 Head of UK Delegation to WPC 2008 in Canopy Piloting

This item was taken out of sequence because John Hitchen was delivering an instructor course this week, and had taken time out to attend this meeting. He therefore needed to leave early. Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, that John Hitchen should be the Head of Delegation to the 2nd FAI World Canopy Piloting Championship - Wonderboom Airport, South Africa, 18-23 November 2008.

Carried unanimously

17/08 Remaining domestic competition dates 2008

The remaining domestic competition dates 2008 that had been left to be arranged after the last meeting were now settled as follows. Dates of all domestic meets in 2008 are set out in the Appendix.

17.1 CF Nationals

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the dates of the CF Nationals as Saturday 27 to Monday 29 September 2008 at Target Skysports (concurrent with the 8-way Speed Nationals). James Swallow of the host Centre agreed.

Carried unanimously

17.2 8-way Speed Nationals

The Committee agreed that these would take place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 September 2008. James Swallow of the host Centre agreed.

17.3 Grand Prix

17.3.1 Style & Accuracy

Paul Moore, Classics Discipline Rep, confirmed the dates as follows:

GP Style & Accuracy	RAPA / JSPC (L) Bad Lippspringe, Germany	19-20 April 2008
GP Accuracy	Headcorn	24-26 May 2008
GP Style & Accuracy	Black Knights PC	21-22 June 2008.

17.3.2 CF

Ian Marshall, CF discipline Rep, confirmed the dates of CF Grand Prix as follows:

Black Knights PC	31 May-1 June 2008
Target Skysports	5-6 July 2008
BPS Langar	16-17 August 2008.

18/08 Rules

Chris Hollis had circulated in advance a draft of the FS Nationals rules. He outlined the technical changes to last year's rules, which included a change in exit altitude according to meteorological conditions. The dive pool had not changed. The draw would be live. The agreed policy on the award of British and Open medals (minute 3.6) would apply. In discussion, the Committee agreed to add 'non-senior draws will be based on the senior draw using a substitution method to ensure the correct dive pool is used for that category'. This would enable non-senior draws, as far as it was appropriate, to mirror the senior draws. Paul Moore then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to approve these rules for publication.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

Paul Applegate proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion to approve for publication the rules (circulated in advance) for 4-way UKSL 2008.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to approve for publication the rules (circulated in advance) for 8-way UKSL 2008.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to approve for publication the rules (circulated in advance) for 8-way Speed Nationals 2008.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

After discussion about the rule that skysurf boards must be approved by the CCI, and the description of the aims of B category events, Weed Stoodley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to approve for publication the rules (circulated in advance) for the Artistics Nationals 2008.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

Ian Marshall and Bob Charters had yet to complete their liaison on the CF Nationals rules 2008 in the light of the IPC 2008 CF rules.

Action: Ian Marshall / Bob Charters

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion to approve for publication the rules (circulated in advance) for the CF Grand Prix 2008.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

The Speed Skydiving Nationals 2008 rules (draft circulated in advance) were discussed. It was agreed that there would be separate medals for men and women as this would be beneficial to encourage participation. This would require two full sets of medals to cover male and female. James Swallow of Target Skysports, the host Centre, agreed to purchase these as required. Paul Moore then proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to approve for publication these rules.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

Paul Moore, Classics Discipline Rep, reported that the Classics 2008 Nationals and Grand Prix rules were still in preparation because the IPC rules had only recently been published on the FAI website.

Action: Paul Moore / Kate Charters

19/08 VFS Nationals

Consequent on IPC's recognition of VFS as a new skydiving discipline, the Committee had already circulated a bid form to all Affiliated Centres to invite bids to host the first VFS Nationals in 2008, with a call back date of today. Only one bid had been received (tabled), from Target Skysports. Their preferred date was Saturday 23 to Monday 25 August 2008, the same weekend as the FS 4-way Nationals. The bid was considered. Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the bid be accepted.

Carried unanimously

Weed Stoodley would draft the rules based on IPC's rules, and seek a trophy.

Action: Weed Stoodley

20/08 Judging for domestic competitions 2008

Kate Charters said that the arrangements for judging at domestic competitions in 2008 were in hand. She was seeking the help of overseas judges for the Artistics Nationals, and had secured one such judge to date.

The Committee then considered the scoring system to be used. Kate Charters noted that IPC was considering three alternative systems and had not yet reached a decision on which to use for world meets. These were Cametrix, a British system; a Finnish system used at ESL; and a French system. Omniskore was also still available - the Danish version was current. Kate Charters reported that judges had experience of using Omniskore and Cametrix, and at ESL the judges enjoyed using the Finnish system. A significant consideration in selecting a system was cost. Weed Stoodley noted that host Centres paid for the scoring system at the Nationals, as part of what was funded by entry fees. The Chairman said that, ideally, the same system should be used at our Nationals as at world meets, as this would help both competitors and judges' progression.

Andy Mansfield of Cametrix said that the BPA might look for sponsorship of a scoring system, and he suggested a potential sponsor. The Chairman was grateful for this suggestion and said he would follow it up.

Action: Chairman

The Chairman said that the host Centres had the flexibility to use any appropriate system, there was no mandate from the BPA. However, he was sure that host Centres would bear in mind IPC's preferred scoring system, when announced, together with the discussion here tonight.

21/08 Boosting media interest and sponsorship of the FS & Artistics Nationals

At the last meeting, Target Skysports had proposed (minute 4.1.3) that they should be awarded the privilege of hosting the British Open National Championships in FS 4-way and 8-way and Artistics for the next three years. They noted that, over the past few years, no other Centre had bid to host the FS and Artistics Nationals, and discussions they had had with the media had led them to conclude that the only way they could get television companies and big sponsors interested would be if they could guarantee coverage for 3 years. The Chairman

had raised this for discussion at the Council meeting on 19 February 2008 (Council minute 18.4), suggesting that the BPA might invite bids for a 3-year agreement to host the FS and Artistics Nationals in order to seek to secure the benefits outlined in Target's paper. The Council had agreed to a consultation with Affiliated Centres on their reaction to such an arrangement. This consultation had been duly carried out. Only two Centres had replied, which the Chairman said he interpreted to mean that most were indifferent. Of the two replies, one had been completely against the idea, and the other had said it would not itself be bidding but had thought it might put off other centres.

The Committee believed that this could be a great opportunity to take the Nationals to the next level, and should not be passed over lightly. It had the potential to benefit competitors. The Committee discussed caveats that would need to be included in a bid form, for example to ensure there was no unreasonable increase in entry fees in the second and third year. This might be done by including a method of calculating entry fees based on movement in the Retail Prices Index and Fuel Price. Flexibility on dates would also be required, to fit in with world meets. An annual review would need to be built in. Ian Marshall said that any sponsorship obtained by the host Centre should help to benefit the competitors and the BPA, and that a provision to this effect should be built in.

The Chairman said that with a general indifference from most other Centres to this idea, and only one Centre being firmly against, the balance in his view weighed in favour of progressing the idea. Benefit to the sport could of course never be guaranteed, but the potential for benefit, identified by a Centre with considerable experience of successfully hosting the Nationals, was too good an opportunity to decline. The Committee agreed unanimously.

Paul Moore therefore proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the Committee should draft a bid form to recommend to the full Council, at its meeting on 22 April, to be issued to all Affiliated Centres to invite bids to host the FS and Artistics Nationals for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Action: Committee / BPA Office

The Chairman confirmed that the bid form would contain appropriate provisions as outlined above to safeguard competitors' and the BPA's interests. He suggested a call back date for bids of the end of June 2008, and the Committee agreed, subject to ratification by the full Council.

22/08 International competitions

22.1 18th FAI World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th FAI World Artistic Skydiving Championships - La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France: 9-14 August 2008

The Office had circulated the list of competitors. Weed Stoodley reported that Rob Bradley of Team Orbit would not now be competing in Skysurf. There was no other skysurf team to be invited, so we would not be represented in that discipline. Freely team Lillo Avalore had not confirmed their attendance and she had therefore taken their team's name off the delegation list.

Weed Stoodley reported that Marcus Goodsell of team Airtrix Freestyle was unable to compete in the male freestyle. The other team member, Andy Lovemore, therefore needed a new team member if he was to compete. He had proposed Michael Mackenzie, who was a South African passport holder.

The Chairman asked the Committee to make its decision in a structured and objective way. The first question was whether a 50% team change in this discipline (ie, with a team of two) was acceptable. Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that this was acceptable.

Carried unanimously

The second question was whether the Committee was content for the BPA to issue a UK Sporting Licence to an appropriately experienced jumper in such circumstances. Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that this was acceptable.

Carried unanimously

Lastly, the requirements to compete in the National team were that competitors had to be UK passport holders, although the BPA Council, on the recommendation of this committee, had the power to give an individual permission against this rule. Weed Stoodley proposed that Michael Mackenzie should be given such a permission. The proposal failed to find a seconder.

Ian Marshall then proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the Committee would accept a suitably experienced jumper who was a British passport holder to make a male freestyle team with Andy Lovemore to compete for the UK, subject of course to any gender rule that may apply.

Carried unanimously

Paul Applegate proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, that John Smyth should be the Head of Delegation to the 18th FAI World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th FAI World Artistic Skydiving Championships - La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France: 9-14 August 2008. John Smyth had indicated his willingness to accept.

Carried unanimously

22.2 30th FAI world Style & Accuracy Parachuting Championship – Lucenec, Slovak Republic: 27 July - 1 August 2008

To date, there were only three competitors in the men's event, which was fewer than the five needed for a team. There was one woman competitor. Paul Moore, Classics Discipline Rep, said he would consult the results of last year's selection Nationals to find out who was next in line for an invitation with a view to building a team of five for the men's event.

Action: Paul Moore

If a full men's team could be secured, Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that Paul Moore should be the Head of Delegation.

Carried unanimously

22.3 13th FAI World Canopy Formation Parachuting Championships – Teuge, Netherlands: 9-14 September 2008.

The list of invitees could not be completed as the 4-way sequential selection event from last year's CF Nationals had yet to be completed (minute 6.1.1).

22.4 1st FAI World Cup in Vertical Formation Skydiving – Eloy, Arizona, USA: 26-28 October 2008

Weed Stoodley said she would like to offer to be Head of Delegation when this was considered at a subsequent meeting. Kate and Bob Charters confirmed that they would be attending. Clarification was awaited from the organisers as to whether 3 or 4 teams per nation would be eligible to enter.

22.5 2nd FAI World Canopy Piloting Championship - Wonderboom Airport, South Africa: 18-23 November 2008

See minute 16.

22.6 World Air Games 2009 - Torino, Italy: 7-13 June 2009 - Freestyle, CF, CP & Classics

This invitation event was noted.

22.7 ESL Finals 2008

Chris Hollis, FS Rep, reported that a venue for these years ESL Finals had yet to be found. He was working with his equivalent number to find an appropriate venue. Current thinking was to offer first refusal to the home country of the current ESL Champions, which would therefore be to Skydive Texel in the Netherlands.

22.8 UK judges at international events

Kate Charters reported as follows WPC FS – judges not yet known; 3 trainee judges to go. WPC CP – Kate Charters possibly a judge, not yet confirmed.

Paul Moore said he had been approached by DFV, the German Parachute Association, to bring along some German trainee judges to the CP Nationals at Bad Lippspringe in July. The Chairman said it was excellent that they wanted to come to train at our event. He asked Paul

Moore to ensure that they had adequate insurance in place. Kate Charters said that the DFV trainees should be given BPA certificates of attendance rather than a BPA judging qualification or rating.

28/08 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

Discipline Reps reported that skills coaching would take place at many of the UKSL and Grand Prix events, as well as at a number of stand-alone Coaching Roadshows. Arrangements were being made by Discipline Reps direct with the Centres and coaches concerned, on initiation by a request from the Centres. In Artistics, the Committee had already decided (minute 4.2.3) that Artistics Competitions Skills Coaching Roadshows would this year replace poorly supported Freely Grand Prix. Paul Moore, Classics Discipline Rep, said he was still considering arrangements for the Classics.

In response to a question, the Chairman said that when BPA Skills Coaching took place at competitions, it was preferable if the coaches were not themselves competing. But even if they were, it was better to have coaches present than not to be able to offer any coaching at all. If coaches were not competing, and attending purely to coach, they were entitled to claim car mileage and subsistence at the standard 24 hour BPA rate. He asked that Discipline Reps should, wherever possible, seek coaches with minimum travelling distance to the coaching venue, to keep expenses as low as practicable. For longer-distance travel, for example for coaches based in Southern England travelling to a Centre in Scotland, it was usually cheaper to fly than to drive.

29/08 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

The Committee reviewed progress on the current Competitions Action Plan, which was on target and within budget, as follows

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Target	From	To	By	How	Budget & Actual to date
1. Support training of top teams that meet strict funding criteria (performance equal to fourth place or better at the last World Championships) to win medals at the World Championships 2008	UK World Champions 2006 in 4-Way Women's Formation Skydiving	Medals in the World Parachute Championships 2008	June 2008 on target	(a) Use 2007 Selection Nationals to identify champion senior teams (b) Provide support through funded coaching and training by previous National Champions.	£57,000 Authorised spend to date £54,000
2. Improve competitor standards to build a base for future National teams	Successful Skills Coaching Roadshow programmes in previous years, which have helped to secure record attendances at BPA National Skydiving Championships	4 stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshow events, one per discipline, in addition to coaching at Grand Prix events	June 2008 on target	By running skills coaching at Grand Prix competitions augmented by stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshows, to transfer the skills and expertise of our existing World Champions and National Champions to Juniors and Intermediates, so building the UK National teams – and World Champions – of the future.	£10,000 Spend to date approx £5000
3. Retain the level of UK National and international judging expertise at establishment	UK pool of 17 INDIVIDUAL Judges	Re-evaluate half the UK pool of judges on a two-year re-evaluation cycle and train new judges to take the place of retirees.	June 2008 on target	(a) Re-evaluate judges' training and qualifications in all Disciplines, according to criteria set by our IGB. (b) Provide seminars for Trainee Judges (c) Recruit at least 1 new Trainee Judge	£5,000 Spending £1600 on Spring Training Seminar
4. Review the scoring system cards	Score cards printed for the BPA by outside printers	Self sufficient system that reduces spending in the future	June 2008 on target	Using Digital or Multimedia to replace current cards	£544 Achieved at zero cost

30/08 Funding teams to peak performance at WPC 2008

The release of funding to teams that had met the funding criteria was discussed. Funding was paid in tranches according to the team's training plan approved by this Committee. Tranches were released on agreement by the Committee subject to subsequent tranches only being released upon receipt of the appropriate invoices or receipts as evidence of appropriate application of the previous tranche. Weed Stoodley asked that such documentation should be circulated to all Members of the Committee for their information.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

As set out in minute 3.11, funded teams and individuals, and the amount of funding in each case, were as follows:

- 4-way FS team Bodyflight Storm – Sarah Smith, Hannah Betts, Kate Stephens, Claire Scott and Gary Wainwright (camera) [5 x up to £6K = up to £30K]
- Freely team Volairkix – Andy Newell, Mike Carpenter and Adam Mattacola [3 x up to £6K = £18K]
- Canopy Piloting competitor Brian Vacher. [£6K].

The second tranche of funding had been released to Team Storm and Brian Vacher. Team Volairkix had so far drawn £2K from their first tranche of £5K. However, as they were about to undertake some further training including a planned trip to Eloy requiring in total perhaps more funds than the balance remaining (the difference which they would pay themselves), they had requested that the Committee approve in principle the availability of the second tranche of £5K in anticipation of expected spending. The Committee agreed to this request subject to the appropriate invoices/receipts being produced covering the first tranche before any subsequent drawdown, would be allowed. Weed Stoodley confirmed that most of Volairkix expenditure, as per their training plan, had so far been made directly to the provider and therefore, to date, had been released on sight of invoices anyway.

Where a funded team or individual was seeking payment from the BPA direct to a coach or training facility, one team had asked for a payment guarantee letter from the BPA. On discussion, this was considered to be too open-ended. The Committee decided that a more reliable procedure would be for the coach or training facility to be asked to e-mail Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, to set out the cost of the training they were to provide to the funded team or individual. The BPA would then check that this amount of expenditure was within the team's or athlete's BPA funding budget and, if so, agree the arrangements for payment, contingent on delivery of the coaching.

31/08 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

The provisional Action Plan targets had been agreed at the last meeting (minute 9). The Chairman reported that the available budget was £31, 828.

There followed considerable discussion about budget and expenditure allocations between competitions running costs and action plan targets. The Chairman said that the Action Plan budget related specifically to the agreed targets in a particular year's Action Plan. It was a different budget to that for routine annual expenditure on competitions, for example Grand Prix. Weed Stoodley said that in Artistics, she was this year not holding Grand Prix – funded from running costs – but Competition Skills Coaching Roadshows – roadshows being funded from the Action Plan. Therefore, it appeared that she was forfeiting running cost funding and having to draw more heavily on Action Plan funding. She asked whether she could transfer the running cost funding for what would have been the Artistics GPs to boost the budget for Artistics Competitions Roadshows. The Chairman understood the point but said it was a different discussion, and asked that for now the Committee should concentrate on allocating its agreed budget across the Action Plan targets.

The Committee divided the Competitions Action Plan budget of £31,828 as follows among each of the four targets.

- 1 Support development of established BPA competition coaching personnel - in order to strengthen the skill base of the current competition coaching team, provide access to world-class competition coaches who can work on specific skills. Budget £10K
- 2 Coaching support to champion teams - support non-senior 2008 National Champion teams with access to coaching for progression into senior category and access to category 1 events. Budget £3K.
- 3 Raise standards of UK competitor base - provide at least 3 coaching events throughout the period where established champions and expert coaches can work with competitors. Budget £13K.
- 4 Retain the level of UK National and International judging expertise to current establishment. Budget £5,828.

Weed Stoodley believed that the wording of target 2 above should be modified to allow coaching support up-and-coming teams new to the A category in Artistics to nurture their skills and talent. The Chairman invited her to suggest, after the meeting, an appropriate form of words for consideration.

Action: Weed Stoodley

The Chairman would now formulate a complete draft of the four targets in the Committee's Action Plan. This would be presented in the usual format of a matrix with accompanying narrative. The Committee would recommend its Action Plan for formal adoption by the full Council at its meeting on Tuesday 22 April, as part of the overall BPA Action Plan 2008/9.

Action: Chairman / Recommend to Council

32/08 BPA patches

Paul Moore proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that BPA sew-on patches for jumpsuits, etc, should be provided to all members of the national team, not just funded competitors, as had been the policy hitherto.

Carried unanimously

The Office said that only a modest stock of patches was carried because few had been needed before. Therefore, an additional supply would need to be ordered.

Action: BPA Office

33/08 Date of next meeting

Thursday 1 May 2008 at 1815 at the BPA Office.

The meeting closed at 2245.



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Competitions dates 2008

(as at 5 March 2008)

British Open Nationals 2008

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Classics	JSPC (L) / RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany	Thurs 10 - Sun 13 July 2008
Canopy Piloting		
Formation Skydiving & Vertical Formation Skydiving	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	4-way & VFS: Sat 23 - Mon 25 August 2008 4- way reserve and 8-way: Sat 30 Aug - Mon 1 Sept 2008 8-way reserve: Sat 6 - Mon 8 Sept 2008
Artistic & Speed		Sat 30 Aug - Mon 1 Sept 2008 Reserve: Sat 6 - Mon 8 Sept 2008
Canopy Formation & 8-way Speed		Sat 27 - Mon 29 September 2008 Sat 27 - Sun 28 September 2008

UKSL & Grand Prix 2008

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
GP Style & Accuracy	JSPC (L) / RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany	Sat 19 - Sun 20 April 2008
UKSL FS 4-way	BPS Langar	Sat 17 - Sun 18 May 2008
GP Accuracy	Headcorn	Sat 24 - Mon 26 May 2008
UKSL FS 8-way & GP CF	Black Knights	Sat 31 May - Sun 1 June 2008
UKSL FS 4-way	APA Netheravon	Sat 7 - Sun 8 June 2008
GP Style & Accuracy	Black Knights	Sat 21 - Sun 22 June 2008
UKSL FS 4-way	NWPC Cark	Sat 28 - Sun 29 June 2008
UKSL FS 8-way & GP CF	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 5 - Sun 6 July 2008
GP CF	BPS Langar	Sat 16 - Sun 17 August 2008

Instead of Freely Grand Prix, there will be three Freely Competition Skills Coaching Roadshows, at (i) APA Netheravon; (ii) Black Knights, and (iii) Target Skysports. Dates will be published in events listings on the web and in the Mag as part of the BPA Skills Coaching Roadshow programme.