British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 June 2008 at 1815

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

Present: Andy Scott - Chairman

Paul Applegate

Ian Marshall - Discipline Rep: CF
Weed Stoodley - Discipline Rep: AE / VFS
Alex Wilson - Discipline Rep: CP

In attendance: Kate Charters - Judges' Co-ordinator

John Hitchen - NCSO

Clare Murphy - Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving

Martin Shuttleworth - Secretary-General

Apologies for Chris Hollis - Discipline Rep: FS

absence Paul Moore - Vice Chairman and Discipline Rep: Classics

Item Minute

46/08 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the last meeting, held on Thursday 1 May 2008, should be approved as a correct record.

Approved

47/08 Matters arising from the minutes

47.1 Budget (minute 47)

Weed Stoodley believed that it would be appropriate for the Committee to review the format of competitions budget information so that routine competitions expenditure as well as Action Plan expenditure, could be included. There were also accounts such as the British Team Fund, for which this Committee was responsible, that it would be helpful to include. It would also be appropriate to review budget heads, particularly in the light of new disciplines introduced over the last few years such as Canopy Piloting, Speed Skydiving and most recently Vertical Formation Skydiving, to ensure that appropriate budget heads were available for the allocation of invoices.

Martin Shuttleworth said that Action Plan budgets had tended to be inflated because the Action Plan document had, in the past, also served as a bid for funding from UK Sport. Discussions about budgets had tended to focus mainly on the Action Plan. However, the Committee was also responsible for the management of considerable routine expenditure each year on, for example, judging costs and medals for the Grand Prix. This was not part of the Action Plan.

lan Marshall requested clarification on the policy on any underspends at year-end, and whether these could be carried forward to the next financial year or beyond. The Chairman said this was a question of general policy for the Council to decide because it would also affect the budgets of other BPA Committees.

Refer to Council

The Committee agreed that Weed Stoodley, in association with Chairman and the Office, would consider how presentation of the annual competitions budget might be improved to make it more straightforward for this Committee to manage and monitor at each meeting.

Action: Weed Stoodley, Chairman & BPA Office

47.2 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 36.2)

The Office had been in touch with UK Sport, who had confirmed that it was the BPA's responsibility to arrange and pay for any anti-doping tests conducted at BPA competitions. It was incumbent on the BPA to maintain compliance with UK Sport anti-doping requirements, including testing procedures, in order to maintain continued recognition by UK Sport. UK Sport had provided details of a commercial testing agency that provided such a service. The Committee agreed that the Office should contact the agency for details of their charges. Weed Stoodley reported that another National Governing Body, whose anti-doping policy and rule book she had brought with her, had used the term 'may test' instead of 'will test' in the corresponding BPA Anti-Doping document. The Committee agreed that the BPA should also use 'may test', subject to UK sport agreeing.

Action: BPA Office

47.3 Competition trophies (minute 36.3)

Weed Stoodley reported that she had been in discussion with James Swallow of Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, who had kindly agreed to sponsor a trophy for the new VFS Nationals that his Centre would be hosting this year. The Committee was most grateful to James Swallow for this welcome gesture and asked Weed Stoodley kindly to finalise the arrangements and obtain the trophy by the date of the next meeting and supply a photographic record to John Page.

Action: Weed Stoodley

Kate Charters reported that the required new trophies for Canopy Piloting were available for presentation at this year's CP Nationals.

The Committee noted that there was no trophy for Intermediate FS 8-way. The Chairman reported that last year, the event had attracted 6 teams comprising 54 competitors. Ian Marshall proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to allocate up to £100 for Chris Hollis, FS Discipline Rep, to purchase a new trophy for Intermediate FS 8-way.

Carried unanimously Action: Chris Hollis

In response to a question from Weed Stoodley, the Chairman confirmed that it was the responsibility of host Centres to arrange the engraving of trophies presented in the Nationals.

47.4 Canopy Piloting judging equipment (minute 36.4)

The Committee discussed various options as set out in a helpful report by Paul Moore but believed that it would be unwise to take a decision until after the WPC CP 2008 (minute 49.4) when the type of judging equipment used at the world meet, and the experience of operating it, was known. Kate Charters reported the latest news that IPC did not intend to purchase new judging equipment for this year's WPC.

Action: Defer until after WPC CP 2008

47.5 Possible commercial sponsorship of a CP jumper (minute 36.5)

Alex Wilson (CP Rep) reported that the jumper who met this particular sponsor's criteria was not presently available for jumping and therefore the matter could not be progressed for the time being. Alex Wilson said he would continue to monitor the situation and if there were any possibility of obtaining sponsorship for this or another jumper, he would get back in touch with the sponsor.

47.6 In-competition records (minute 36.6)

The Office had asked Alex Wilson literally to sign off in-competition CP records. Alex Wilson reported that he had received a new CP record claim (circulated) from Alastair Macartney, who had scored 129.4m in one of the distance rounds the recent Spanish Nationals. This was a new British record. The Committee congratulated Alastair Macartney on his achievement. Alex Wilson confirmed Alastair Macartney's record and the Committee agreed it should be posted on the UK records page of the BPA website.

Action: BPA Office

The Chairman called attention to BPA Form 243 UK National Skydiving Record Claim Form, which was downloadable from both the UK Records and Forms pages of the BPA website. It was the form on which any record claim should be submitted. For an in-competition record, the form required the Chief Judge to sign. For an out-of-competition record (such as, for example, a large formation record), the form had to be signed by the CCI. The form currently had a line for signature by the Chief Judge or CCI. Weed Stoodley proposed a motion that the type of record for which each could sign should be explained on the form. The proposal failed to find a seconder. The Chairman said he believed the form was satisfactory as it was, and that those who used it would understand who should sign.

47.7 Speed Skydiving World Cup (minute 36.7)

Clare Murphy (Speed Skydiving Rep) confirmed that the dates of the Speed Skydiving Nationals were as already published, including the reserve weekend of 6-8 September 2008.

47.8 Current judges (minute 36.9)

Kate Charters was delighted to report that Liz Warner had recently qualified as a National Judge in Accuracy and Canopy Piloting. The Committee asked that its warmest congratulations should be passed to her.

Kate Charters confirmed that she was currently preparing an up-to-date list of judges.

Action: Kate Charters

47.9 FAI/IPC website (minute 36.10)

The Office confirmed that purchase was in hand of pdf software to allow access to IPC international rules documents for conversion to versions that met the needs of the UK Nationals.

In progress

47.10 Possible sponsorship of a scoring system (minute 36.11)

The Chairman reported that Martin Soulsby of the Development Committee had indicated that Bodyflight might be prepared to sponsor a licence for one judge to use the Cametrix system for a year. As we were now well into the 2008 season, this would be a benefit for next season and would be subject to confirmation once the Grand Prix dates for 2009 had been announced. The Committee expressed its most grateful thanks to Bodyflight for this sponsorship, and to Martin Soulsby for arranging it.

Kate Charters said she would e-mail Martin Soulsby to confirm her understanding that the Cametrix system would be useful for Grand Prix in all disciplines.

Action: Kate Charters

47.11 3 year bid form for FS & Artistics Nationals (minute 36.12)

A copy of a letter dated 25 May from Robin Durie of APA Netheravon had been circulated. It stated that, although Netheravon would not be bidding because it was due to move into a new hangar in 2009, they would be interested in bidding to host the event in 2010 if for any reason a 3-year arrangement was not reached with another Centre.

Noted

The Office reported that no bids had yet been received. The due date was 30 June.

47.12 Funding teams to peak performance at WPC 2008 (minute 36.13)

The Committee thanked Jon Gretton (Financial Administrator) for circulating a statement of all WPC 2008 training funding releases to date, itemised by team, amount and date of issue of funding.

Noted

47.13 BPA sew-on patches (minute 36.14)

The Chairman reported that he had recently signed off the artwork for the order of one thousand sew-on BPA patches from the supplier MBC at a cost of £600 + VAT. Alex Wilson suggested sale of the patches as a source of income to cover the cost of the order. After discussion, the Committee confirmed that it was the intention to confine issue of the patches to competitors who had earned them (minute 36.14 refers). Previously, they had been restricted even more, to BPA funded teams only.

47.14 Nationals Rules: Licence to use images (minute 37.1)

Weed Stoodley had asked for a change in the order of the wording of this new provision in the Nationals rules because she was concerned that it might be mis-read. However, the wording

had been promulgated straight after the last meeting and the Committee decided therefore to keep in mind the revised wording for next year.

Action: Rules meeting 2009

47.15 Head of Delegation aide memoire (minute 38.4)

Weed Stoodley had kindly supplied this bullet-point list, which the Office would make into a BPA Form and pass it to each Head of Delegation at this year's WPCs.

Action: BPA Office

47.16 IPC online course to qualify National Artistics judges (minute 42)

Weed Stoodley said she had been interested in this but the arrangements had not been entirely clear in terms of the time demands, and in any case her computer at work had been unable to read the program. Kate Charters said she would contact Dr Florian Ebner, the international Artistics judge who had devised the online training program, to ask for advance information about any further opportunity for trainee Artistics judges from the UK to take part in the program. Weed Stoodley said this could be particularly useful as this year there were currently no Artistics Grand Prix on which to train judges.

Action: Kate Charters

48/08 Domestic competitions 2008 season

48.1 UKSL 4-way Grand Prix, BPS Langar, 17-18 May 2008

22 teams had competed over an excellent and very enjoyable weekend, the only problem being the weather, which did not clear until 1900 on the Saturday. There had been good communication between Chief Judge and DZO ahead of the competition and this helped to ensure that the event ran extremely smoothly.

48.2 Accuracy Grand Prix, Headcorn PC, 24-25 May 2008

8 competitors had entered, 5 senior and 3 intermediate.

48.3 UKSL 8-way and CF Grand Prix, Black Knights PC, 31 May - 1 June 2008

lan Marshall (CF Rep) reported that 3 x 2-way sequential senior, 4 x 2-way sequential intermediate, one senior speed rotations and 2 x 4-way intermediate speed rotations teams had competed.

The 4-way sequential event held over from the 2007 Nationals due to bad weather had also taken place. It had been won by Team Cellmates, the only eligible team that had been present: they were therefore selected for the National Team and would now be issued with an invitation to join the National CF delegation to WPC CF 2008 (minute 49.3).

Action: BPA Office

One team had entered the FS 8-way, and BPA Skills Coaching had been provided.

48.4 Purchase of Pro-Tracks for the Speed Skydiving Nationals

Clare Murphy said that the red Pro-Tracks for last year's Speed Skydiving Nationals had been loaned by International Speed Skydiving Association (ISSA). However, as this year's Nationals were at the same time as the Speed Skydiving World Cup, so the ISSA Pro-Tracks would not be available to us. After discussion, Alex Wilson proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the BPA would purchase 4 pairs of red Pro-Tracks from L&B, the manufacturers, at a cost of up to £1500 from the Competitions budget.

Weed Stoodley made a counter-proposal to purchase 3 pairs with a pro rata reduction in cost. This failed to find a seconder.

The original motion, to purchase 4 pairs of red Pro-Tracks, was therefore put to the vote.

Carried unanimously Action: Clare Murphy

John Hitchen said that these items, once purchased, should be insured by the BPA.

Action: BPA Office

The Chairman asked Clare Murphy to look after the BPA's Pro-Tracks for this season, unless it was an insurance requirement to keep them at the BPA Office when not in use. Clare Murphy agreed.

[Note: Since the meeting, Clare Murphy has been able to negotiate an extra free pair of speed Pro-Tracks for the same quoted price. The Chairman authorised the extra pair (free of charge) to be included in the purchase up to the agreed sum as above.]

48.5 Scoring system for the Nationals at Target, Hibaldstow

Kate Charters reported that Target Skysports, host to the FS Nationals, had not yet contracted a scoring system. This was because Cametrix, the preferred system, had submitted a quote that was over budget. In discussion, the Committee noted that other options were the French system or the Dartfish system. The Committee believed it would be a shame if Cametrix might perhaps be at risk of pricing itself out of the market, as it was an innovative and exciting British product for which there was a clear demand. The Chairman would discuss the scoring system with James Swallow of Target Skysports, and Kate Charters would liaise further with Cametrix.

Action: Chairman & Kate Charters

48.6 Judges at the Artistics Nationals

Kate Charters reported that she was arranging for judges to come from overseas to the Artistics Nationals because of the shortage of UK Artistics judges.

49/08 International competitions

The Committee asked the Office kindly to remind all competitors that they needed to hold travel insurance that included cover for repatriation to the UK.

Action: BPA Office

49.1 30th FAI World Style & Accuracy Parachuting Championship – Lucenec, Slovak Republic: 27 July - 1 August 2008

The Committee noted that there were five male and one female competitors from the UK.

49.2 18th FAI World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th FAI World Artistic Skydiving Championships - La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France: 9-14 August 2008

The Chairman confirmed that Martin Soulsby had indicated his willingness to be UK Delegation Manager, which would allow more time for John Smyth, UK Head of Delegation, UK Delegate to IPC and a Vice President of IPC, to look after IPC business. Alex Wilson proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that Martin Soulsby be appointed as UK Delegation Manager.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said it was necessary to be alert to any equipment issues in relation to this world met.

<u>49.3 13th FAI World Canopy Formation Parachuting Championships – Teuge, Netherlands: 9-14 September 2008</u>

As stated in minute 48.3, Team Cellmates would be invited to represent the UK in the CF 4-way sequential event.

49.4 2nd FAI World Canopy Piloting Championship - Wonderboom Airport, South Africa: 18-23 November 2008

Alex Wilson reported that 7 of the 8 available competitor places had been allocated as per the list circulated. The eighth and final place would be offered to the highest-scoring competitor at this year's CP Nationals.

49.5 World Air Games 2009 - Torino, Italy: 7-13 June 2009 - Freestyle, CF, CP & Accuracy.

John Hitchen confirmed that the World Air Games would be an invitation meet to the top teams at WPC 2008 in the relevant disciplines.

49.6 UK Invited judges to WPC 2008

Kate Charters was delighted to report that there was an invited judge from the UK at all the WPC meets that would be held this year.

49.7 WPC judges' training entry fees

In response to a request by the Office for clarification, the Chairman confirmed that trainee judges would need to pay their own entry fees and expenses and could reclaim

both of these from the BPA, in accordance with the normal BPA expenses policy, on their successful qualification as an FAI international judge. Trainee international judges therefore needed to keep receipts to submit to the BPA.

50/08 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Kate Charters reported that there was an underspend on the current year's Action Plan budget for judges, and said she believed it was time for the judges to be provided with a new uniform. The judges were each going to buy 3 T-shirts paid for from their own pockets. She asked the Committee to agree to supply each judge with a new jacket. She had obtained three quotations for fully lined jackets that featured the BPA logo, and recommended acceptance of the quotation from Dave Honeybone of CNP Professional in Manchester at £36 per jacket. 17 individuals were current judges. Alex Wilson proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to use up to £700 from the Judges' Action Plan budget for Kate Charters to arrange purchase of judges' jackets.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman was pleased to report that all targets in the Action Plan for the current year ending on 30 June 2008 had been achieved well within budget. The exact outturn of actual against budget would not be known until after the end of the financial year on 30 June.

51/08 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

The matrix for the agreed Action Plan, subject to ratification of the revised budget by the full Council, had already been agreed (minute 40) and is set out on page 9.

A further discussion on the amount to be carried forward to next Action Plan year, 2009/10, took place. The carry forward was because 2009/10 would be an on year for training for the WPC. Weed Stoodley proposed that the 2008/9 budget for Skills Coaching Roadshows, which at £12K she believed to be generous, should be reduced by £2K to £10K so that a further £2K could be carried forward to WPC training in 2009/10 to bring the total carried forward to £21.083. The proposal failed to find a seconder.

The Committee noted that underspends on the Skills Coaching Roadshow budget highlighted by Weed Stoodley were in part due to the willingness of coaches to provide services without claiming the expenses to which they were entitled. Regrettably but understandably this might change as a consequence of recent significant increases in fuel costs alone.

51.1 Target 1: Train BPA coaches in coaching skills

The Chairman suggested, and the Committee agreed, to invite Paul Moore's contact who was a trainer on sports coaching, to the next meeting to discuss his running one or more sessions to train BPA skydiving coaches on the art of coaching. This was not to do with their skydiving skills but their coaching skills – ie, techniques to impart knowledge and understanding of the sport to others. In discussion it was noted that Loughborough University, which was highly renowned for its sports training, may also offer courses of this nature. The Chairman said he would check.

Action: Chairman

51.2 Target 2: Coaching support to champion teams

The Chairman reported that, following from the live Honda skydiving television advertisement broadcast on Channel 4 on Thursday 29 May, Phil Curtis, who had co-ordinated the team of British skydivers for the advertisement, had been in discussion with Honda. As a result of these discussions, Honda had generously indicated that it would make a donation to support coaching of the winners of the Rookie and A class categories at the FS Nationals 2008. This would support target 2 of the Action Plan, to help teams with skills development to support their transition to the next category. The Chairman said he saw this working by means of a Honda bursary, each for half of the amount of the donation, to support a coach for each of the two teams. The Committee agreed that the BPA would look after the funds and disburse the money on receipt of a coaching invoice from the teams. The Committee thanked Phil Curtis for the excellent work he had done in negotiating this funding from Honda.

The Chairman said that the Honda funding was additional to the already-agreed £3K BPA funding of the coaching support to champion teams set out as target 2 of the Action Plan. However, it was sensible to administer and monitor the funding from Honda in the same way.

Ian Marshall suggested that Honda should be invited to present the medals at the FS Nationals. The Chairman asked that Chris Hollis, FS Rep, consider this suggestion with Target Skysports, the host Centre.

Action: Chris Hollis, FS Rep

52/08 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

A number of Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors had taken place since the last meeting.

Ian Marshall reported that successful CF Roadshows had taken place at St Andrews and Wild Geese. Letters of thanks from Jim White at St Andrews and Maggie Penny at Wild Geese had been circulated. Alex Wilson reported that a CP Roadshow had been held at Netheravon last weekend, but rain had confined it to ground seminars by Brian Vacher. The Chairman asked Alex Wilson kindly to submit a Roadshow feedback form. Weed Stoodley reported that a very successful Freefly Roadshow had been held at Hibaldstow on 17-18 May. The attendance had been 18. The challenge now was to translate this into more entries in the Nationals. Another Artistics Roadshow would be held at Netheravon this coming weekend.

The Committee noted comments on UKS that UKS had not been advised of Roadshow dates. The Chairman said that Roadshow dates were in the diary of events on the BPA website, from where they could easily be picked up.

53/08 Judging matters not already covered

The Chairman asked Kate Charters whether any new judges were coming forward at the tunnel competitions that were being held, as he wondered whether this might be a potential source of new judges. Kate Charters said that tunnel competitions used existing BPA judges and she had to date not been able to identify any newcomers to judging through this route.

54/08 New BPA Media Co-ordinators

The Chairman reported that the Development Committee had appointed Rebecca (Becca) Armstrong and Rich Rust as joint BPA Media Co-ordinators. They were both keen to help to promote good news stories about skydiving to the media and could be reached at skydivingnews@live.co.uk The Chairman asked Discipline Reps to keep them informed of competitions news throughout the season.

Action: Discipline Reps

The Chairman reported that discussions had been initiated with executives from Channel 4 and other television stations about the possibility of television coverage of the World Championships and the Nationals. The plan for a 3-year arrangement to host the FS and Artistics Nationals had been a feature of these discussions. Rich Rust, who had been involved in the arrangements for the television programme *Drop the Celebrity*, was involved in the discussions. The Chairman said that there was a long way to go to achieve the goal of television coverage of the sport, and these were small but positive steps towards it.

55/08 Sport Accuracy Competition

A paper from Jeff Chandler had been circulated in which he proposed a new Sport Accuracy competition. Jeff Chandler had suggested that the new accuracy competition should be held at the RAPA and Armed Forces Competition as a pilot and, if successful, at the Classics Nationals and Grand Prix. He had also sent a copy of his paper to Jeremy Denning, Commandant of Netheravon. John Hitchen had experience of competitions in this format outside the UK and saw no problem with it. The Chairman invited Kate Charters and Paul Moore to provide feedback if it was piloted at the Army Championships.

Action: Kate Charters & Paul Moore

56/08 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23 July 2008 at 1815 at the BPA Office. Clare Murphy gave her apologies for absence as she would be on holiday.

The meeting closed at 2155.

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

Target	From	То	Ву	How	Budget & Actual to date
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
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
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
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

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

Budget: £50,083

Target	From	То	Ву	How	Budget
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.	Internal BPA coaching qualification	Targeted non - technical coaching skills development	June 2009	Use of outsourced coaching workshops for at least 2 coaches	£10K
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.	No Support	Assisted transition for non senior champions into Senior Category	May 2009	Support of coaches expense claims to assist coaching of champion non senior teams	£ЗК
3. Raise standards of UK competitor base - provide at least 6 coaching events throughout the period where established champions and expert coaches can work with competitors	4 stand alone coaching events	6 coaching events or competition based event coaching	June 2009	By Running skills coaching at competition events and as stand alone coaching road shows – to see transfer of skills from our existing National and International champions to emerging competitors	£12K
Retain the level of UK National and International judging expertise to current establishment and maintain suitable judging equipment stock	UK pool of 17 individual Judges	UK pool of 17 individual judges	June 2009	a) re-evaluation of judges b) training seminars for judges c) recruit at least 1 new judge d) evaluate and refresh judging equipment	£6K

Note: The 2008/09 budget for Competitions is lower than usual, so we can carry forward £19,083 towards sending our National teams to future World Championships in which we expect to be successful and offer exposure to the international media.