

British Parachute Association

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COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2000 at 1830
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth Tim Andrewes Paul Applegate Chris Clements	-	Competitions Chairman
In attendance:	Kate Charters John Hitchen Ian Marshall Martin Shuttleworth Glen Turnbull	-	Judges Liaison NCSO Co-opted CF Adviser National Administrator Development Officer
Observers:	Clive Bennett Bob Charters Craig Cunningham Mark Gudgeon Ian Matthews		
Apologies for absence:	Dona Crum Mick Danby		

ITEM MINUTE

- 1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2000**
Paul Applegate proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2000 be approved as a true record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

2 **Matters arising**

Page 1, item 3 – Bob Card's article for Skydive magazine Tim Andrewes reported that the article had not appeared in the August magazine but it was hoped it would appear in a future issue.

Page 4, item 5 – Review of the Combined Nationals 2000 Tim Andrewes had had a very useful meeting with the host DZ operator to debrief on the nationals. A number of points had been discussed which would be of benefit in planning future nationals. The DZ operator was preparing a written report which would be submitted in due course to assist in this process.

The Committee unanimously agreed that in future nationals, the BPA policy on late entry fees needed to be reviewed because there was a widespread view that it had been set too high this year, which had discouraged fun jumpers.

Page 5, item 5 – Letter from Jeff Chandler The Chairman reported that he had discussed the letter with Jeff Chandler and the issue had been resolved.

Page 5, item 5 – Judges The Chairman had still to draft a letter of thanks to Scott Smith, the US judge who came to the UK nationals, for Chris Allen to sign.

Action: Chairman

Page 5, item 5 – Judges John Hitchen reported that Karla Cole, who was a German national, had satisfied the BPA's requirements to become a UK judge providing the German Parachute Federation had no objection. Kate Charters agreed to remind Karla Cole to check with the German Federation, and to let her know the outcome.

Action: Kate Charters

Page 7, item 11 – Trophies Tim Andrewes reported that the classics overall champion's cup was now at the jewellers for a quotation for refurbishment.

Page 7, item 12 – VMax World Record Claim Unfortunately this had been notified to the FAI more than seven days after the jump, which was too late for them to consider.

Page 7, item 13 – XL national record A new national record for XL had been confirmed.

3 World Air Games 2001

3.1 GB delegation

All of the competitors who had responded to the invitation to be part of the GB delegation to the World Air Games in Spain in 2001 had accepted except Dave Ballard and Debbie Curtis, who had both declined.

Dave Ballard had reached his decision not to participate because the maximum potential level of funding was insufficient to cover his commitments. The Chairman recorded his disappointment at this decision, because Dave Ballard was jumping better than ever.

This meant that only XL and VMax would now be funded. Surprisingly, the IPC would not make a firm decision on whether there would be a women's 4-way FS event at the WAG until February 2001, only four months before the competition. The Chairman proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the only reasonable assumption on which the Committee could proceed was that a women's 4-way event *would* take place.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman would register the BPA's concern with the Chairman of the IPC FS Committee about its late decision on the event, which was clearly unreasonable for planning.

XL and VMax had submitted their training plans and budgets, which totalled approximately £50K and £60K respectively. The Committee carefully scrutinised the budgets and identified items that would not qualify for funding, which left a core budget of essentials totalling approximately £30K for each team.

The Chairman reported that the Sports Council grant for competitions was £25K but this was not all for funding competitors. £10K needed to be set aside for other competitions expenditure such as regionals, coaching, judges, etc. This left £15K to fund competitors. The Committee noted that both teams had cleared the hurdle of the BPA's toughest-ever funding

criteria and in doing so proved they were the Association's top athletes with a real opportunity to come home with medals. The rest of the membership would be inspired by their example – VMax had received a rousing reception as everyone at the last AGM shared in their success. Both teams therefore properly justified additional investment by the BPA over and above the Sports Council grant.

The Chairman proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the Committee should recommend to the Council that XL and VMax should be funded for the World Air Games at £30K each, comprising an equal share of £7.5K of the Sports Council grant plus £22.5K from BPA reserves, making a total call on BPA reserves of £45K.

Carried unanimously

As usual, any funding would be paid to the teams in tranches and the teams would be fully accountable to the BPA for its proper and controlled expenditure in accordance with the agreed budget heads.

The Chairman reported that XL had sought confirmation of funding from the BPA so they could open a UK bank account. The Committee believed this to be entirely a matter for the team.

The Committee was aware of a view that training in the UK should be mandated for BPA-funded teams. The Committee considered this view to be unrealistic and did not support it.

In response to a question from Chris Clements, the Chairman said that a training strategy for the Classics team could only be worked out once the composition of the team was known, which had only today been confirmed. There would be a training camp immediately before the WAG, to make maximum use of the training facilities on site. Any potential coaches known by members of the Committee or others were invited to contact the Chairman. Tim Andrewes had already identified one Spanish-speaker who was prepared to act as an interpreter to the delegation, free of charge.

The Committee agreed to loan the BPA pad to Tim Andrewes for the use of himself and Katherine, Glenn Stephenson and other members of the GB team. Tim Andrewes would be responsible for taking proper care of the pad whilst it was on loan.

3.2 Appeals for funding

Roddy McKay and Tim Porter (Men's Freestyle) and the team Clockwork Orange (Men's Skysurfing) had appealed for funding. In the case of Freestyle, this was on the grounds of inconsistent judging at the selection nationals. Kate Charters reported that the Chief Judge had considered the scoring to be consistent but slightly generous. The Committee saw no grounds on which an appeal for a higher score in the first round, and therefore an increase in the average score, could be supported. The Committee was also unable to recommend any change to the funding criteria. The competitors were free to take up the matter with the Council if they so wished.

No further action

3.3 CF team Focus

Clive Bennett of CF team Focus was attending as an observer to hear consideration of his request for his team to be an unfunded part of the BPA's GB delegation to WAG 2001 in the discipline of 4-way canopy rotations. The Chairman explained that unfortunately, the team's score at the qualifying nationals did not come close to the minimum attendance criteria. Whilst the Committee had every sympathy with the team, in fairness to others, it was simply not possible to move the selection goalposts. The best advice to the team was to concentrate on preparing for the next world championships, in 2003. Clive Bennett thanked the Committee for listening, and the Chairman wished the team every success for the future.

No further action

3.4 Sponsorship

Glen Turnbull (Development Officer) reported on use of the BPA website and press releases to newspapers local to team members in an effort to attract sponsors. He was also planning to approach large national companies. The Committee were only too aware of how difficult it was to secure sponsorship deals for skydiving – the Hollis directory of sports sponsorship failed to mention skydiving at all. If a team track suit or uniform could be provided by a sponsor, this would be an improvement on the past. Tim Andrewes suggested the idea of asking the Spanish Embassy to help identify British companies active in Spain as it was the host country for WAG 2001.

Ongoing

4 Judging matters

4.1 Trainee judges

Kate Charters reported that the BPA had used to fund trainee judges to world championships. However, that was in the days when the annual grant from the Sports Council was more than double its present level. Two trainee judges wished to go to the FS training seminar at the World Cup in Arizona but a motion that this should be funded by the BPA failed to find a proposer.

Bob Charters reported that many judges, including himself, were standing down from international judging because of the IPC's policy of reducing the number of judges at world meets. The same group of judges tended to be used, making it now much harder for other national judges to keep their international ratings current.

The Chairman said that the Committee had already decided to fund one judge per discipline (subject to receiving invitations to judge) at the WAG 2001. A strategy to support the attendance of trainee judges at WAG 2001 would be an item for a future meeting, but this had always to be considered against the background that most competitors were self-funded.

Action: Future meeting

The Committee approved two recent claims for trainee judges expenses.

4.2 Judges at Regional Competitions

Kate Charters reminded the Committee that under the rules, the BPA funded up to six judges at regional competitions. As attendance figures had come down, the Chairman proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that as the number of judges required would usually be less than six, specification of the number six should be replaced by 'the number of judges considered appropriate by the BPA for the event'.

Carried unanimously

In practice, the Judges Co-ordinator would decide on the number of judges, with reference to the Committee as appropriate.

Kate Charters asked that DZ's hosting their own competitions requiring BPA judges should make first contact with her as Judges Co-ordinator. Most were doing so, and the system had become established and was now working fairly well.

5 Regionals 2001

After considerable discussion, the Committee decided to issue a bid form for Regional Competitions in 2001 based on Northern, Central and Southern Regions in (a) FS and (b) Classics and CF combined, at dates to be arranged. The Committee would consider bids in the light of the geographical location of each club or centre and would reserve the right to determine the regional boundaries for the purposes of the competition concerned, which might involve some flexibility. The bid form would point out that expenses for the Regionals were met by the BPA but could be offset by a maximum entry fee of £5. The form would also ask clubs that decided not to bid to state their reason why, to assist in future planning.

Completed bid forms would need to be returned to the BPA Office by the date of the next meeting, Wednesday 15 November 2000.

Action: BPA Office

In response to a suggestion from Clive Bennett, and after discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that a 4-way senior CF rotations event should be included in the Regionals.

6 Nationals 2001

The Committee discussed various options for the nationals 2001, considered notes provided by Craig Cunningham and Steve Mursell on a helpful impromptu meeting of FS team representatives during a weather hold at Weston on the Green on 9 September, and consulted with the competitors present.

As a result, the Committee decided to issue the bid form for the Nationals in 2001 based on the following:

FS Nationals:

Friday to Sunday over two weekends, dates to be arranged.

4-way first weekend (running over the second weekend if not completed)

8-way second weekend

Style, Accuracy and CF Nationals:

Friday to Sunday over two weekends, dates to be arranged.

New Age Nationals:

Friday to Sunday over two weekends, dates to be arranged.

The rationale behind the format of long weekends was to reduce the amount of time that competitors needed to take as holiday.

7 Coaching

The Chairman recognised that plans for a coaching roadshow would take time to build up, but it was important to make a start. Already XL and VMax had offered to coach, as had Committee members Tim Andrewes and Ian Marshall. All that had to be done now was to tie up coaches with drop zones and dates during next year's jumping season. The Chairman asked Chris Clements whether she would be willing to undertake this co-ordination, and Chris said she could not commit to it but would consider it. Therefore, the Chairman agreed to start to co-ordinate the roadshow programme.

Action: Chairman

8 Correspondence with Alastair Macartney and Dave Tyler

The Chairman reported on correspondence with Alastair Macartney and Dave Tyler. The Committee endorsed the Chairman's reply to Alastair Macartney on its behalf, with the exception of Chris Clements who dissociated herself from the reply. The Committee believed the correspondence had drawn naturally to a close.

No further action

9 Correspondence from clubs and centres

9.1 Southern Regionals FS - 2000

The Committee had received a letter from Dave Hickling at BPS Langar thanking the BPA's judges and NCSO for their contribution to the recent Southern Regionals 4-way meet at Langar. This had attracted 14 teams and had been a really good weekend with the seniors

helping out the less experienced teams. The Committee was most grateful to Dave Hickling for such positive feedback.

9.2 Wild Geese proposed 'Five Nations Competition' – 2001

Maggie Penny of Wild Geese Parachute Centre in Northern Ireland had written to seek the Committee's advice on dates for their proposed 'Five Nations' (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Southern Ireland) Competition in 2001. The competition would be in 4-way FS, Accuracy and Freeflying. The Committee's advice was to put a date in the calendar as soon as possible since most other competition dates had yet to be fixed. A long weekend (Friday to Monday), avoiding the bank holidays in May and August, might be appropriate. Also, any possible nationality limitations needed to be considered as within any one team there might be individuals from more than one of the five nations. John Hitchen had already spoken with Wild Geese and would pass on the Committee's advice.

Action: John Hitchen

10 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 15 November 2000 at 1830 at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2325.

Distribution

Competitions Committee and other Members of Council, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Kate Charters – Judges Co-ordinator, Ian Marshall – Co-opted CF Adviser, Technical Officer, NCSO, National Administrator, Financial Administrator, Development Officer, Editor – Skydive Magazine