

British Parachute Association

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COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2001 at 1820
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Tim Andrewes	-	Competitions Vice Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: New Age
	Chris Clements	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Carl Williams		
In attendance:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Apologies for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges Co-ordinator
	Dona Crum	-	Discipline Rep: FS

ITEM MINUTE

14/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2001

Paul Applegate proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2001 be approved as a true record. This carried unanimously. The Committee was grateful that the minutes now set out more comprehensively the reasons for its decisions.

Approved

15/01 Matters arising

Page 1, item 2 - Trophies The Committee asked the office to obtain, for the next meeting, a quotation from a local jeweller for refurbishment of the Daily Telegraph Overall Champions Cup, The Lady Quilter Cup and the Team Accuracy Cup.

Action: BPA Office

Page 2, item 4 – Competitions Action Plan Matrix 2001 Tim Andrewes asked whether funding to run Regional or the newly-named Grand Prix Competitions should have been included in the Action Plan. The Chairman said that historically it never had been included, but it was accepted that the costs did come out of the Competitions budget.

Page 2, item 5 – IPC meeting 2001 The most extensive ever report to the membership on the annual IPC meeting would feature in the April issue of *Skydive Magazine*, with contributions from John Hitchen, Bob Card and John Smyth. It would be interesting to see whether this amount of information would sustain members' interest, and any feedback would be welcome when planning coverage of future IPC meetings.

The Chairman had spoken at length to Bob Card (UK Alternate Delegate to IPC) to brief him on current competitions issues, and had issued an open invitation for him to attend Competitions Committee meetings to get an even better feel for these issues. Bob Card had responded positively, and said he also hoped to attend some of this year's National Championships to meet competitors and listen to their views.

Page 7, item 11 – Correspondence Replies had been sent to Derek Thomas (item 11.1) and Adrian Bartby (minute 11.3). The letter from Paul French (item 11.2) had been passed to Dona Crum as it asked for clarification of certain rules for this year's FS Nationals.

Action: Dona Crum

Page 7, item 12 – Fast / swooping canopies The Committee anticipated that before long it might receive a request for a competition in fast/swooping canopies. It would therefore be prudent to start to consider the rules to apply to such a competition. John Hitchen had already collected three sets of rules, which would be circulated to the Committee as drafts for consideration. Safety was of course paramount, and the drafts would also be sent to John Saunders (Chairman STC) to invite an input on safety matters.

Action: BPA Office

16/01 World Air Games (WAG) 2001

16.1 Delegation Administrator / Team Manager

Graham Liggins had been invited to be the unfunded Team Manager of the GB Delegation to WAG 2001, but unfortunately he had had to decline because of existing commitments. John Smyth thanked Members of the Committee for their support in the recent postal vote by the Council that carried a motion to fund him as GB Delegation Administrator to WAG 2001. The primary aim of this post would be to relieve the Head of Delegation and the Competitors from the burden of organising the administration of the delegation from their arrival in Spain until the end of the competition. There were many organisational tasks that would need to be undertaken, such as meeting teams at the airport and ensuring their hotel accommodation was satisfactory, even if things went exactly to plan. However, no event as complex as WAG 2001 could be expected to run without problems, and this is where the Delegation Administrator would come into his own in supporting our competitors and negotiating on their behalf.

The Committee noted that, although the function of the post 'Delegation Administrator' was known and understood within the BPA, the online official entry form had fixed post titles against which names had to be entered. These titles would determine, for example, who was allowed access to appropriate briefing meetings in Spain. The nearest equivalent in the WAG list of posts was 'Team Manager' and therefore John Smyth's name would be registered against this title.

Ian Marshall suggested that the a funded post of Delegation Administrator/Team Manager should in future be included in all multi-discipline BPA delegations to international competitions, such as the 'Mondial' event planned at Gap, France, in 2003. The Committee agreed to review the situation in the light of experience in Spain this summer.

16.2 Composition of GB Delegation and official entry

The GB team comprised a Head of Delegation, Delegation Administrator/Team Manager, 30 Competitors, and 4 accompanying persons. Official entry formalities were now being completed by the BPA office. The Committee was sorry to hear that in Freestyle & Accuracy, Esther Reynolds had been forced to delay a decision on her entry because of an ankle problem. She would decide during April whether she would be able to enter or not, and recognised that a surcharge of 10% for late entry would apply to the fee she would have to pay. Unfunded competitors had all either paid the BPA by cheque or provided credit card details for the BPA to debit their accounts once the exact amount was known, taking into

account the exchange rate and bank charges. The BPA had transferred fees in respect of the whole GB delegation in two tranches to meet two different deadlines set by the organisers. The first bank transfer, earlier this month, had comprised the hotel fees for those taking part in the pre-competition training camp, and the second had consisted of the combined entry fee for all 36 members of the delegation. The second bank transfer had been initiated yesterday, in order to meet the organisers' deadline of 31 March for receipt of the funds in Spain.

16.3 Competitor agreements

Draft competitor agreements prepared by Chris Clements, for Freefall Style & Accuracy, and Ian Marshall, for CF, were approved. Paul Applegate suggested, and the Committee agreed, that wording should be included in the agreements for funded teams to state that team members would jump only for GB and that any significant misdemeanours may result in the funding being forfeited. The office would prepare agreements for FS and New Age based on versions in previous years, and all four versions would be made ready for the Competitions Committee to sign at the BPA Council meeting on 24 April, before being forwarded to the competitors to sign.

Action: BPA Office

16.4 Training

Funded 4-way FS teams *XL* and *VMax* had kept the Committee informed of the progress of their training, which was going well for both teams. Training was also going well for the other competitors.

16.5 Delegation uniform

A delegation uniform was required for the local opening and closing ceremonies for the parachuting events. After consultation with competitors, it appeared that the clothing most favoured was a long-sleeved and a short-sleeved T-shirt. Lucie Wood tabled some prices from Sarah-Jayne Thomas for economy and better quality T-shirts together with designs for a special motif to be screen printed onto the shirts. Airtec GmbH (manufacturers of the Cypres AAD) had offered to supply some T-shirts bearing their logo, free of charge.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to purchase from Sarah-Jayne Thomas, in a mixture of sizes M and L, 50 each of white short-sleeved and white long-sleeved T-shirts, screen printed with a motif. The motif would comprise a circular Union flag and wings, under which would be the wording 'World Air Games 2001, GB Skydiving Team'. The unit cost of the unprinted T-shirt was understood to be £9.80 for the long-sleeved version, and £6.50 for the short-sleeved, to which would need to be added the cost of postage and a one-off cost of £160 to set up the silk screen for printing.

The Committee also asked for a quotation for 75 and 100 of each shirt, together with the run-on cost of another 50, so that the shirts could be sold more widely by the BPA.

Once the costs had been finalised and the fully inclusive unit cost calculated, Lucie Wood would prepare a sheet to notify members of the GB Delegation of the availability of the T-shirts together with the price, as team members would be expected to buy their own garments ahead of WAG 2001. The Committee also asked that a poster should be prepared, including a photograph of the T-shirts, and sent to all BPA Clubs and Centres to publicise the availability of the shirts for sale from the BPA office (or the BPA Shop, as appropriate).

Action: BPA Office (Lucie Wood)

Sponsorship for the T-shirts would continue to be sought, and John Hitchen suggested that Lucie Wood should approach Paragear.

Tim Andrewes proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that – subject to approval by the Council – the British Team Fund, which currently stood at about £7,000, should be used as a float to purchase the T-shirts, with the aim of recouping the money from sales. The vote was For – 4, Against – 0, Abstention – 1 (Ian Marshall).

Carried as a recommendation to the Council

The Committee also decided to accept Airtec's kind offer of 40 grey short-sleeved T-shirts free-of-charge, and to ask whether this quantity could be increased to 50. Enquiries would be made of Sarah-Jayne Thomas whether the Airtec T-shirts could additionally be overprinted with the GB WAG motif.

Action: BPA Office (Lucie Wood)

17/01 Competition Rules 2001

17.1 Classics Nationals

A draft update by Chris Clements had been circulated. This contained a number of variations that had been clearly highlighted. The main variations were that the team size was reduced from five to four with all four scores to count (in effect, there would be no throwaway round in the team event). There was also a modification in altitude to give a range from a maximum of 1000 metres (3,300ft) to 700 metres (2,300ft). These changes were accepted. In addition, the following variations were agreed.

- A new first paragraph would be inserted to set out the aims and objectives of the competition. Chris Clements would supply the wording to the office.

Action: Chris Clements

- A new paragraph would be added in the 'General' section as 1(c) to read 'The maximum number of scored jumps per day will be 8, excluding re-jumps and tie-breaks.'
- A new paragraph would be added in section 7, 'Determination of British National Champions', as 7(d) to read 'The title of British National Overall Overall Champion will be awarded to the competitor with the best overall score, taking into account both the men's and women's events.'

With inclusion of the above variations, Chris Clements proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the rules should be added to the administrative instructions and a copy forwarded to the Chairman, Chris Clements, John Hitchen and British Skysports, Bridlington (the host DZ), for final review before publication.

Action: BPA Office

17.2 CF Nationals

A draft update by Ian Marshall had been circulated. This contained a few variations, including the wording of paragraph 20.1 on working time. A new paragraph would be added in the 'General' section as 1(c) to state 'The maximum number of scored jumps per day will be 8, excluding re-jumps and tie-breaks'.

With inclusion of the above variations, Ian Marshall proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, a motion that the rules should be added to the administrative instructions and a copy forwarded to the Chairman, Ian Marshall, John Hitchen and British Skysports, Bridlington (the host DZ), for final review before publication.

Action: BPA Office

17.3 New Age Nationals

The Committee considered the pros and cons of including compulsories in this year's New Age Nationals. After discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that compulsories should *not* be included in the New Age Nationals this year, but that the position would be reviewed again next year.

Carried unanimously

A new paragraph would be added in the 'General' section as 1(c) to state 'The maximum number of scored jumps per day will be 8, excluding re-jumps and tie-breaks'. Last year's references to selection criteria for the British team would be deleted, as this was a non-selection year. Paul Applegate would liaise with the office on these variations.

With inclusion of these variations, Paul Applegate proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the rules should be added to the administrative instructions and a copy forwarded to the Chairman, Paul Applegate, John Hitchen and Peterborough Parachute Centre (the host DZ), for final review before publication.

Action: BPA Office

17.4 FS Nationals

The rules were being updated by Dona Crum, who was unfortunately not able to be present tonight because of 'flu.

Reference to the selection criteria for the British team would be deleted as this was a non-selection year. A new paragraph would be added in the 'General' section as 1(c) to state 'The maximum number of scored jumps per day will be 8, excluding re-jumps and tie-breaks'.

Other changes, as follows, were required to take account of the competition being run over two weekends.

- The draw for the 4-way FS will take place on Thursday evening and if all rounds have not been completed by close on Sunday, the Meet Director has discretion to continue with the 4-way on the Friday of the second weekend, with the remaining rounds being re-drawn on the second Thursday.
- The 8-way FS will take place on the second weekend. The draw for the 8-way FS will take place in the evening of the second Thursday. The start day and time for the 8-way FS will be at the discretion of the Meet Director.
- Whereas the integrity of each round will be maintained (ie, the same aircraft will be used within each round), different aircraft may be used in different rounds.

With incorporation of the above variations in an updated copy of last year's rules (to be sent by Dona Crum to the office), Tim Andrewes proposed, and Carl Williams seconded, a motion that the rules should be added to the administrative instructions and a copy forwarded to the Chairman, Dona Crum, John Hitchen and Target Skysports Hibaldstow (the host DZ), for final review before publication.

Action: Dona Crum, BPA Office

17.5 Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing Grand Prix

In both Style and Accuracy, the Committee deleted last year's rule 1(c) in the General section concerning the need for a minimum number of entries; and in rule 1(g) added a limit, to a maximum of £5, to the entry fee that may be charged for each competition.

In Accuracy, the reference to 'four or five man teams' in rule 3(b) would be changed to 'four man teams'.

In Style, an addition was made to rule 6(a) to state that in the Northern Ireland leg, judging will be by telemeters only.

17.6 CF Grand Prix

The Committee agreed that the rules would state that the secondary method of judging will be at the discretion of the Meet Director; and that in the Northern Ireland leg, only telemeters or air-to-air video will be available. The entry fee for each competition was limited to a maximum of £5. Other minor variations were also discussed. Ian Marshall would supply the final text to the office.

Action: Ian Marshall

17.7 FS Grand Prix

The only variation from last year's rules was to limit the entry fee for each competition to a maximum of £5.

18/01 Publicity

The Chairman had contacted Lesley Gale of *Skydive Magazine*, who would arrange for Clubs and Centres hosting this year's Nationals to be invited to advertise in features on these competitions in future issues.

Ongoing

A draft A4 publicity sheet on the Nationals 2001 was approved for issue of 2 or 3 copies to all DZ Operators and CCIs.

Action: BPA Office

19/01 Judges liaison

Kate Charters had, in absentia, set out a list of judging issues to the Chairman who read it aloud for discussion.

Kate and Bob Charters' daughter was due to be married on the first weekend of the FS Nationals. This meant that Bob Charters would be unable to attend the first weekend of the competition to set up the Omniskore system. Kate Charters had suggested that the competition dates might be put back a week. The Committee believed that this would not be feasible because many people had already laid plans for the published dates. However, John Smyth had spoken to Helen Swallow of Target Skysports, the host DZ, who had agreed to obtain the Omniskore equipment the weekend before, and for Bob Charters to come to set it up then. The Committee asked that the judges should also be invited for that weekend, to learn how to set up the system.

Karla Cole, who was based in Germany, was the only qualified National FS judge who was available for the first weekend of the FS Nationals. The Committee confirmed that she must not be out of pocket for carrying out this role.

Tim Andrewes believed, and the Committee agreed, that it was important to cast the net for FS judges as widely as possible. Invitations to judges such as John Hitchen, Dr Roger Flinn and Doris Merz-Hunziker should all be given full consideration.

Action: Kate Charters

The Committee noted that a recently-issued list of National judges had not included Dr Roger Flinn. This was believed to be because of the format and content of his judges' logbook, in particular that each event had not been ratified or signed off. In discussion, it was recognised that there may be an issue about who was in a position to sign off the logbook of a Chief International Judge. John Hitchen agreed to raise the matter informally with Dr Flinn and report back to the next meeting, at which it was hoped Kate Charters would be present.

Action: John Hitchen

Finally, Kate Charters had sought confirmation that normal expenses would be paid to judges attending the Wild Geese legs of the Grand Prix events that were being held over two weekends. This timetable would of course increase the judges' expenses. The Committee

confirmed that covering normal judges' expenses was assured, and that acceptance of the higher cost of judges' expenses for a venue in Northern Ireland had been inherent in the selection of that venue. It was important, however, to avoid unnecessary expenditure by ensuring that only essential judges were allocated to the Wild Geese legs.

20/01 Coaching roadshow

Ian Marshall reported that the first coaching roadshow, in CF, which had been due to take place at Headcorn over the coming weekend of 31 March-1 April, had unfortunately had to be postponed because of restrictions due to the current foot and mouth epidemic. This was a great pity, as among those expected to attend had been 20 jumpers from the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police Teams combined, and 20 other students. The intention was to re-schedule the event after WAG 2001 in the summer, possibly during August or September. However, a new date could not be fixed for the time being because if foot and mouth restrictions disrupted the season, a backlog of competitions could build for the late summer.

The Chairman reported that the first Classics coaching roadshow was still set to go ahead at Bridlington on 7-8 April. The DZ had recently re-opened after a period of closure because of foot and mouth precautions.

The Chairman asked all discipline representatives to liaise with Clubs and Centres to host coaching roadshow events, and to report back to the next meeting. Wild Geese had offered to host an FS event, and Dona Crum was invited to liaise with Maggie Penny on this, bearing in mind that teams *XL* and *VMax* would not be available until after WAG 2001 and that *XL* would be representing GB at the World Games in Akita, Japan, from 16-26 August. Strathallan, and also possibly Langar, were possible venues for coaching roadshow events in September. Ian Marshall had tried to contact Netheravon but it was currently closed, again due to the foot and mouth problem.

Strathallan had offered to host a Classics coaching roadshow, and also a coaching event for camera persons. The Chairman and John Hitchen would both try to contact Tony Danbury at Langar as a potential coach for the camera persons' roadshow.

Action: Dona Crum, All Discipline Reps, John Hitchen, Chairman

Publicity for the roadshows would be given in *Skydive Magazine*. Probably the best publicity would be reports on successful first events in each discipline. The effects of the foot and mouth situation were difficult to predict but had the potential to disrupt both planning and even funding. It should be clearer by the next meeting whether the worst was over or if disruption was likely to continue into the season.

21/01 World Games, Akita, Japan: 16-26 August 2001

This was an Olympic test-bed meet in which team *XL* were to compete by invitation. John Hitchen reported that, in his view, the entry fee and accommodation charges were prohibitively high for him to attend as Head of Delegation.

22/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 15 May 2001 at 1830, at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.
Carl Williams offered his apologies for absence in advance.

Distribution:

Competitions Committee and other Members of Council, Vice Presidents, Staff, Editor.