

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 30 January 2002 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: New Age
	Barrie Buck		
	Andy Houston	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Bob Card BEM MBE	-	Vice President / IPC Alt Delegate
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO / IPC Delegate
	Nigel Holland	-	for co-option to the Committee
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Observers:	David Grzeskowiak)	Competitors
	Vicki Priest)	
Apology for absence:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator

Item Minute

1/02 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Members of the new Committee for 2002, BPA Vice President Bob Card, the Competitors who were attending as Observers, and Nigel Holland whose interest was New Age, in which he had offered to assist the Discipline Rep.

The Chairman had just learned that Barrie Buck, with deep regret, had been obliged to stand down from the Council - and therefore from the Competitions Committee - consequent on his posting to a new job at a new location. Barrie Buck had not foreseen this when he had stood for the Council last autumn. The Chairman thanked him for being present tonight, and everyone on the Committee wished him well in his new job.

The Chairman then summarised the constitution and terms of reference of the Committee, together with its practices and procedures to enable business to be transacted in a fair, democratic and orderly manner. He then went on, for the benefit of new Members, to recapitulate on decisions taken over the last couple of meetings, including the well-established procedure for Clubs and Centres to bid to host domestic competitions. Many domestic competition venues and dates had already been settled, but a number remained outstanding and these would be considered tonight.

2/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2001

Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2002 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

3/02 Matters arising

3.1 Page 1, items 70.1 and 70.2, Classics World Cup of Champions

The Chairman confirmed that the Committee's invitations to Jeff Chandler and Esther Reynolds to represent the UK in this event (to be held in August) would stand, irrespective of the selection arrangements for Classics for the next World Championships.

3.2 Page 1, item 70.2, Selection for the Classics

A show of hands at the Competitions Open Forum on AGM Day had been in favour of retaining on-year selection. This meant that the majority of Competitors present had voted for the Classics Nationals 2002 *not* to be the selection nationals for the World Championships in 2003.

The Committee respected the democratic wish of the Classics Competitors. Therefore, Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that selection for the Classics should be on year, which meant that the 2002 Classics Nationals would *not* be the selection Nationals for the World Championships in 2003.

Carried unanimously

For the avoidance of doubt, the Chairman stated that this decision applied only to the Classics disciplines of Style and Accuracy. For all other disciplines, off-year selection at the 2002 Nationals would apply, to select the National Team for the World Championships in 2003.

With reference to minute 70.2, Chris Clements (Classics Discipline Rep 2001) had asked that her objection to use of the term 'abuse of process' be recorded. The Chairman said he believed this to have been a reference to the manner in which the decision had been taken by the Committee at its previous meeting, on 2 October 2001, at which two Members with views on the matter had not been present to make their views known. It had not been directed at any particular individual. The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, apologised to Chris Clements if it had come over in that way.

3.3 Page 6, item 78, Expenses

The Chairman said this minute had unintentionally caused entirely unwarranted embarrassment to Ian Midgley, to whom he had since spoken to convey the Committee's apologies. The issue raised by Ian Marshall had purely been one of ensuring allocation to the appropriate budget of any claims that may have been made. It had been raised because the Competitions budget had, quite properly, been subjected to rigorous scrutiny at an earlier Council meeting. The Committee was accountable to the Membership. It was now clear that there had never in fact been issue of budget head allocation, because no expenses claim had even been made.

Chris Clements had been in touch with further comments on the second part of minute 78, on an entirely different matter - an expenses claim which had been made by another person. The Chairman expressed sentiments similar to the above. He recalled the Chairman of Council's advice that questions on such matters should first be discussed with the Office so that complete information could be gathered from all parties. If not, bringing one side of a story direct to the Committee table could and did cause the sort of misunderstanding we had just witnessed. This was an inappropriate forum at which to take further discussion on specific expenses claims, whether real or imaginary!

4/02 Postholders 2002

4.1 Election of Competitions Vice Chairman

At a short meeting immediately after the inaugural Council meeting on 19 January, Paul Applegate had proposed, and Barrie Buck had seconded, a motion that Ian Marshall be elected Competitions Vice Chairman. This had carried unanimously.

4.2 Discipline Representatives

At the same meeting, the following had been invited by the Committee, and had agreed, to serve as Discipline Reps for 2002: FS Discipline Rep -Barrie Buck; CF Discipline Rep - Ian Marshall; Classics Joint Discipline Reps - Andy Houston and Jim White; New Age Discipline Rep - Paul Applegate.

As Barrie Buck had now had to stand down (minute 1), the allocation of roles was recast such that the Discipline Reps for 2002 were now confirmed as:

FS Discipline Rep	-	Jim White
CF Discipline Rep	-	Ian Marshall
Classics Discipline Rep	-	Andy Houston
New Age Discipline Rep	-	Paul Applegate

The Chairman suggested that Jim White might seek assistance from an FS Judge in carrying out his role as FS Discipline Rep. Jim White said he was based not far away from Kate Charters, which would help.

Nigel Holland had offered to help with the Committee's work in the New Age disciplines. The Chairman was grateful for this offer of assistance and sought a proposer to co-opt Nigel Holland onto the Competitions Committee. This would mean that Nigel Holland would become a non-voting Member of the Competitions Committee, although not of course a Member of Council. Andy Houston proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that Nigel Holland should be co-opted onto the Competitions Committee to assist the New Age Discipline Rep, Paul Applegate.

Carried unanimously

4.3 Judges' Co-ordinator

Kate Charters had signified her willingness to continue as Judges' Co-ordinator. The Committee expressed its thanks to her for this. Andy Houston proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that Kate Charters should be elected as Judges' Co-ordinator for 2002 and this carried unanimously.

5/02 New Age brainstorming session

The Chairman reported that Sue Meacock of Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson - venue of this year's New Age Nationals - had offered to host a brainstorming session on New Age, to take place in March. This offered an excellent opportunity to keep the UK at the forefront of New Age in Europe. Among the issues to be considered were the formulation of rules for a successful senior and junior event at the Nationals, including whether or not to bring in compulsories for the seniors. Rules for the first New Age Regionals also had to be prepared.

The meeting also offered a good opportunity to plan for the season's New Age Skills Coaching Roadshows. Sue Meacock had enquired whether any funding might be forthcoming for these. After discussion, the Committee decided to confirm to Sue Meacock, at the planned meeting in March, that it would look favourably on any application she may wish to make for the BPA to cover the travelling and subsistence expenses of New Age coaches at the same standard BPA rates that applied to coaches in other disciplines (*viz*: £25 subsistence for each of up to two 24 hour periods per Roadshow, plus standard car mileage rate for travel to/from the Roadshow). This could include suitable coaches from outside the UK, in which case the expenses would apply from their point of entry to this country.

Andy Houston proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the BPA should pay the travelling expenses, at standard BPA rates, of the following Members to attend the New Age

brainstorming meeting at Sibson in March: Paul Applegate (New Age Discipline Rep), Dona Crum (New Age Judge), and Nigel Holland (Assistant to New Age Discipline Rep).

Carried unanimously

Paul Applegate would liaise with Sue Meacock and others planning to attend to finalise the date and time of the meeting.

Action: Paul Applegate

6/02 Domestic Competitions 2002

6.1 British Open Nationals 2002

Only the venue and dates of the combined CF/Classics Nationals remained to be settled. Hinton had put in the successful bid (minute 72.1), however on advice of the dates the Committee had preferred, Hinton had advised that it had been unable to offer a second weekend. Instead, Hinton had proposed that the competition should still start as planned on Saturday 7 September, and run through until Wednesday 11 September. The Committee had consulted competitors at the Competitions Open Forum on AGM Day, who had indicated acceptance of these dates. Strathallan, which had been another bidder, had confirmed that it had no problem with the BPA and Hinton agreeing to adjust the dates as above.

Therefore, Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the CF/Classics Nationals 2002 would be held at Hinton from Saturday 7 to Wednesday 11 September 2002.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said that in the event of limited weather breaks, etc, priority would need to be given by the Meet Director to CF as it was a selection year for that discipline. Andy Houston saw no problem with this - he was certain it would be reciprocated in a selection year for the Classics.

6.2 Regional Competitions 2002

Arrangements seven of the planned eleven Regional Competitions 2002 had been finalised at the last meeting (minute 72.2), with four remaining to be settled.

6.2.1 CF Southern Regionals

However Cornwall Parachute Club, host of the CF Southern Regionals, had considered the dates suggested by the Committee, of 5-6 October 2002, to be too late in the season for the competition to be held successfully. Instead, the Club had offered any weekend from May to September. After discussion, the Committee agreed to propose the dates of Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 August 2002 to the Club. Subsequent to the meeting, the Club confirmed that it was content with these dates, which have since been publicised.

6.2.2 FS Southern Regionals

The FS Southern Regionals were one of the competitions that had been the subject of a re-bid form issued after the last meeting in December, as a consequence of no bids having been received on the original bid form.

The second bid form had resulted in receipt of one bid (circulated) from Headcorn Parachute Centre, for Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July 2002. The Committee considered this bid and agreed to accept it. Headcorn were subsequently advised and the dates re-confirmed.

6.2.3 Classics Central and Southern Regionals and New Age Southern Regionals

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that above three Regional competitions still remained entirely without bids after the issue of two bid forms, the first last October and the second last December.

The Committee believed it had a duty to do all it reasonably could to serve existing competitors in these disciplines, and encourage new ones, by offering a full programme of competitions in all Regions. There were three gaps in the programme that needed to be filled. The Chairman reported that, in anticipation of this discussion, he had recently written

to (i) APA Netheravon, to ask them whether they would consider offering to host the two unallocated Southern Regionals, in Classics and New Age; and (ii) RAFSPA Weston-on-the-Green, to ask them whether they would consider offering to host the Classics Central Regionals.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a vote in support of the Chairman's seeking the assistance of APA and RAFSPA in these circumstances.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman asked Committee Members to consider, for the next meeting, contingency plans in the event that APA and/or RAFSPA were unable to offer to host the meets. (Note: Shortly after the meeting, APA Netheravon kindly offered to host the Classics Southern Regionals, on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May 2002, and the New Age Southern Regionals, on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 July 2002. These dates have now been published.)

7/02 Competitions Action Plan Matrix 2002

As a result of discussions held immediately after the inaugural Council meeting on 19 January, the Chairman had prepared a draft (tabled) of the Competitions Action Plan Matrix for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 inclusive. Following further discussion, Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the Matrix be approved by the Committee and recommended to the Council.

Carried unanimously

The Committee authorised the Chairman to draft the supporting text to accompany each target within the matrix. The matrix, together with the draft accompanying text, is appended to these minutes and is put forward for ratification by the full Council on 19 February.

8/02 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Junior and Intermediate Athletes

The Chairman tasked Discipline Reps with arranging a programme of Skills Coaching Roadshows in their disciplines during the forthcoming season. Clubs and Centres should contact the Reps in disciplines in which they were interested in hosting a Roadshow. Agreement on dates depended on the availability of current or previous national champions to act as coaches. Coaches were engaged on an expenses-only basis, at standard BPA rates (although last year some coaches had not even claimed this entitlement). The availability of current national champions in most disciplines was of course limited by the demands of their training for this year's selection nationals. The Committee had already set out its policy of seeking to arrange a Roadshow in each discipline at the host Club or Centre for the Nationals in that discipline, to be scheduled for the weekend before the Nationals - subject always to the agreement of the Centre and the availability of coaches.

Action: All Discipline Reps

8.1 FS Roadshows

Already, NWPC Cark had expressed an interest in holding an FS Roadshow. Target Hibaldstow had been promised a FS Roadshow on the weekend of 20-21 July, the weekend before it hosted the Nationals, subject of course to the availability of coaches. Sibson too were interested in hosting an FS Roadshow after the FS Nationals.

Action: Jim White

8.2 New Age Roadshows

Sibson, host of the New Age Nationals, had offered to a New Age Roadshow. Target had also expressed an interest in hosting a New Age Roadshow.

Action: Paul Applegate

8.3 CF Roadshows

Ian Marshall reported that CF Roadshows were in prospect at Strathallan (March/April), for the South - possibly Headcorn - in spring (which the Chairman said would attract jumpers from the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Service if it was held during April), Netheravon in June, and Hinton later in the season. Langar were keen to hold a repeat of their successful CF Roadshow last year, on a date to be discussed.

Action: Ian Marshall

8.4 Classics Roadshows

Last season, there had been more Roadshows for Classics than for any other discipline. Yet the overall number of jumpers had been low, such that the cost per jumper (in terms of coaches' expenses) had been exceptionally high compared with other disciplines. The Chairman supported continuing with Roadshows in Classics, but said they had to deliver better value. Andy Houston (Classics Discipline Rep) was fully aware of this, and said he was looking at a fresh approach, concentrating on just two venues in different regions of the country.

Action: Andy Houston

8.5 Camera Operators' Roadshows

The Chairman said that when Camera Operators' Skills Coaching Roadshows had been started last year, they had been co-ordinated by a different Committee Member from the FS or CF Roadshows. The result was that they had not really taken off. This year, the Chairman asked Jim White, as FS Discipline Rep, to look after FS Camera Roadshows too. Experience had shown that Camera Roadshows needed to be run concurrently with, and as an integral part of, the Roadshows in the disciplines. This was most easily achieved by asking coaches to bring their team's camera operator, or any experienced flyer with camera skills, along too.

Action: Jim White

8.6 Publicity

The Chairman said that publicity was a key prerequisite to a successful Roadshow, and asked Discipline Reps that, once they had agreed dates with Clubs/Centres and with coaches, they should let *Skydive Magazine* and the BPA Office know in order that the dates could be publicised in the diary pages of the Magazine and the website.

9/02 Report on the 53rd IPC Plenary Meeting: Lausanne, Switzerland: 26-27 January 2002

John Hitchen (Delegate) and Bob Card (Alternate Delegate) reported on the recent IPC meeting they had attended. John Hitchen's written report would be circulated shortly.

Among the points reported were:

- accommodation at the World Championships in Gap, France, from 7-14 September in 2003 would not be included in the entry fee, which had now been reduced to 300 Euros per person. However, accommodation near Gap was very scarce and would be at a premium. It had to be booked direct, not through the organisers. This meant that accommodation for our National Team needed to be arranged very soon - Ian Marshall would consult Alan Fielding (who was based in France) for advice; the Chairman would also make enquiries, and the matter would be considered further at the next meeting.

Action: Ian Marshall / Chairman

- expenses of approved Judges at the World Championships 2003 in Gap would be paid by the event organiser
- Portugal had withdrawn from hosting the World Cup 2002 in FS, Freestyle and CF
- the bid for the World Cup in Style and Accuracy had been put back and would be decided within the next 7 days
- maximum jump numbers per day had been abolished for competitions in all disciplines
- variations had been agreed to the blocks in the dive pool for (i) 4-way and (ii) 8-way FS - these would be published shortly on the IPC website (www.fai.org), and in *Skydive Magazine*
- 10 rounds had been retained for FS

- the arrangements for Style and Accuracy had reverted to teams comprising 5 competitors, and in each round one score can be thrown away
- the possibility of introducing a CF 2-way competition was being considered
- the idea of two CF 4-way teams from different nations joining together to form a CF 8-way team had not found favour, but the seeds of the idea had at least been sewn
- provision had now been made for 'Joint World Records' for 2 or 3 teams leaving on the same pass
- a new type of FAI / IPC card would be phased in - look out for it!
- IPC's New Age Subcommittee had been re-titled 'Artistic Performance Committee'
- the President of FAI had said that, of all air sports, parachuting had the greatest appeal for inclusion in the Olympic Games
- the bureau of IPC were planning, with an eye on courting media coverage, to develop a ranking system by which teams would be selected
- continuing the theme of seeking to become more media-friendly, IPC had set up a task force on 'synchronisation'- to develop a standard format (number of rounds, etc) at all levels, from national competitions to World Championships. Bob Card had not supported this, as he believed that national meets and World Cups, etc, should not suffer from any undue restriction in their number of rounds
- IPC had withheld US \$38,000 from the organisers of the World Air Games 2001 in Spain for deficiencies in the organisation of the meet. It could have withheld up to US\$138,000, but the matter might still end up in court

The Chairman thanked John Hitchen and Bob Card for providing such a comprehensive debrief.

10/02 Domestic Competition Rules 2002

The Chairman asked all Discipline Reps to draft the National and Regional rules for 2002, for consideration at the next meeting. Criteria for the award of BPA funding would continue to be benchmarked on performance equivalent to fourth place or better at the last World Championships.

Action: All Discipline Reps

11/02 Swoop Canopies Competition

John Hitchen reported that STC had no input to make at this stage on a possible BPA swoop canopies competition. The Chairman said it was now a case of finding out whether any Club or Centre was interested in hosting such a competition, which required a water trench. He understood that Target Hibaldstow had expressed an interest in running a Swoop Accuracy Competition, and asked Andy Houston to liaise with them and report back. RAPA had held such a competition outside the UK last year, and might be a source of further information and guidance. It was important to find a host Club or Centre before starting work on the rules - or much work might be done to little avail.

Action: Andy Houston

12/02 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 6 March 2002 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.
The meeting closed at 2110.

Issued: 6 February 2002

Attached appendix: Draft Competitions Action Plan for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 inclusive.

Distribution: Committee / Council, Vice Presidents, Staff and Editor.

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

Summary of Targets and Performance Measures

Target	From	To	By	How	Budget
Win Medals at World Championships	Fourth place at World Championships 2001	Medals at World Championships 2003	June 2003	Build on existing skills of teams (after strict criteria for funding attained at National Championships 2002), to train for World Championships 2003	£65,000
Further enhance skills of Junior and Intermediate Athletes	Extremely successful launch last year	More Athletes, More Locations - investing in the World Champions of the Future!	June 2003	By continuing to use the skills and expertise developed by our existing National Champions and British Team Members	£20,000
Increase the pool of (i) Trainee Judges, (ii) National Judges and (iii) International Judges	Highly successful start to this action cycle in the last two annual Action Plan matrices	Position UK to be self-sufficient as a Nation for Judges at all levels in all Disciplines by June 2004 (first stage of a two-year target)	June 2003 to continue to June 2004	Provide seminars for Trainee Judges; and continue to re-evaluate judges' training and qualifications in all Disciplines, according to criteria set by our International Governing Body	£10,000 2002/3 £10,000 2003/4

Competitions Targets 2002/3

Win Medals at World Championships - £65K

Our National Champion Formation Skydiving teams - 4-way and 4-way women's - just missed out on medals at the last World Championships in Spain in 2001. They came tantalisingly close by both taking fourth place in their respective events. The good news is that both teams have decided to stay together, to build on their skills and experience and make a push for the podium at the next World Championships in 2003. We believe the skill, commitment, motivation and sheer guts of our teams can do it for Great Britain - with the BPA's financial support. The present tough criteria for the award of financial support - performance in the British Selection Nationals equivalent to fourth place or better at the last World Championships will remain in place. We hope that, with the success of the BPA's Skills Coaching Roadshows (see next target), we shall be able to look forward to celebrate the attainment of this exacting standard by other teams in other disciplines if not this season, in seasons to come.

Further enhance the skills of Junior and Intermediate Athletes - £20K

Tomorrow's success is in today's planning. The BPA is proud to have developed a hugely successful - and fiercely cost-effective - programme to train the champions of the future. Tomorrow's World Champions are out there somewhere as Juniors or Intermediates. It is our mission to ensure that the somewhere is within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. BPA Affiliated Drop Zones are in all four home countries, and the BPA's Skills Coaching Roadshow has been touring Drop Zones the length and breadth of the UK. In this ground-breaking programme, current and previous National Champions offer their coaching skills unremunerated, which means that our Junior and Intermediate jumpers can benefit from free-of-charge expert skills coaching. It's a win-win situation, because the Juniors and Intermediates get coached by our top athletes, and our top athletes in turn get tremendous fulfilment out of helping to bring on the next generation of skydivers. This has proven to be such a successful formula, we plan to continue and extend it with even more dates and more venues in 2002/3. The funding is to cover coaches' travelling expenses and, where necessary, overnight budget accommodation.

Increase the pool of (i) Trainee Judges, (ii) National Judges and (iii) International Judges - £10K 2002/3 and £10K 2003/4

Judges are the unsung heroes of competitions. Without judges, there could be no competition. The BPA takes seriously its responsibilities towards judges. This target is for the UK to achieve self-sufficiency in skydiving judges by a three-pronged strategy. (i) First, to encourage and support new trainee judges and provide training seminars to help them to earn their ratings as National Judges. Then, to re-evaluate Judges' Training and Ratings in all Disciplines for (ii) National and (iii) International Judges. Our International Governing Body stipulates a two-year cycle for the re-evaluation of both National and International Judges - without which, the currency of the Judges would lapse. The BPA's strategy therefore mirrors this two-year cycle for the recruitment and retention of Judges.