

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 6 March 2002 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: New Age
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Observers:	Bob Charters		Kev Sargent
	Liz Groucott		Cheryl Smyth
	Ian Matthews		James Smyth
Apologies for absence:	Nigel Holland		
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO

Item Minute

13/02 Composition of the Committee

The Chairman confirmed that Andy Houston had resigned from the Council and the Competitions Committee on 20 February because of a new work commitment in France from April. The Committee was sorry to lose his input, and wished him well in his new job. The Chairman offered to take over from Andy Houston as Discipline Rep for Classics (Style and Accuracy) and this was agreed.

14/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2002

Typographical errors (italicised) were corrected as follows: minute 2 on page 2 - 4 December 2002 corrected to read 2001; and minute 6.2.3 on page 5, para 3: 'Classics Southern Nationals' and 'New Age Southern Nationals' both corrected to read 'Regionals'.

With these corrections, Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2002 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

15/02 Matters arising

15.1 Page 2, item 3.1, Classics World Cup of Champions (Slovakia: 27 July to 3 August 2002)

The Chairman reported that Bulletin 1 had just been received. There was a discount for early registration. The Office was asked to proceed with registration of our two competitors Jeff Chandler and Esther Reynolds, subject to receiving from them written confirmation that (i) they still wished to represent Great Britain at this event; and (ii) they understood that the event would be self-funded.

Action: BPA Office

15.2 Page 3, item 5, New Age Brainstorming Session

Paul Applegate reported that he hoped shortly to arrange a date for this session, to be held this month at Sibson.

Action: Paul Applegate

The Chairman reported that Dave Sturgeon of *Clockwork Orange* had expressed an interest in attending to contribute ideas. The Committee agreed that the session should be thrown open to as many jumpers as possible as the wider the input, the better.

15.3 Page 4, item 6.2, Regionals 2002

15.3.1 Item 6.2.2 ,FS Southern Regionals, Headcorn

The Chairman reported that this competition had been arranged for the weekend of 13-14 July. The dates had been at the request of Headcorn Parachute Centre, which was to hold its Andy Kelly meet at around the same time. However, a number of FS competitors had expressed concern about an overcrowded calendar in July. Further, there had been a request from Chris Shaw (circulated) for Junior and Intermediate teams to be allowed to register ahead of the first domestic FS meet as this was not due to take place until early July, which was well into the season.

The Chairman had discussed these concerns with Pete Sizer at Headcorn, who had kindly agreed to bring forward the dates of the FS Southern Regionals to the new dates of Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May 2002. Although the new dates were the same as those for the Classics Southern Regionals at Netheravon, Kate Charters advised that there would be no problem in providing judges for both. The dates were also those of the second weekend of the Langar boogie, but on balance the new dates were considered to be significantly better than the original dates. The Committee therefore accepted the new dates in May with gratitude to Headcorn for agreeing to the change. The new dates would be publicised through the Magazine and on the website, and Lucie Wood would post out a notice for display at Clubs and Centres.

Action: BPA Office / Lucie Wood

The Chairman reported that he had received representations from several competitors about why this competition had not been allocated to one of the northern clubs that had made a first-round bid. The answer was simple: the Committee had reverted to the Regional concept, which the Chairman said he believed to be preferred by UK Sport, as it made the competitions more accessible to competitors by locating them throughout the country, including - in this particular case - the south.

15.3.2 Item 6.2.3, Classics Central Regionals

The Chairman reported that he had not yet received a reply from Dave Woods at RAFSPA Weston-on-the Green to the Committee's letter of request for them to consider hosting the Classics Central Regionals (which had been sent because no bids had been received from the issue of two bid forms). The Committee believed Dave Woods to have been working outside the UK, and that a reply might yet be due. The position would therefore be reviewed at the next meeting.

Action: Next Meeting

15.4 Competitions Action Plan 2002/3

The Chairman was pleased to confirm that the Council at its meeting on 19 February had ratified the Competitions Action Plan 2002/3, with minor variations. The current total number of trainee, national and international judges needed to be set out in the matrix, and Kate Charters kindly agreed to provide the Office with this information.

Action: Kate Charters

15.5 Accommodation for the UK team at Gap, France, for the WPC, 7-14 September 2003

Ian Marshall reported that Alan Fielding was to send the Office a brochure of *gites* (holiday chalets) in the area, which might sleep typically from 8 to 16 people. Brittany Ferries was understood to offer some attractive package deals, inclusive of ferry crossing and

accommodation in a gite, which would be worth investigating. Ian Marshall said there were also a few hotels in the area, which could be located through the Internet.

The Committee asked the Office to try to find suitable accommodation from these sources, located as close as possible to the WPC 2003 venue.

Action: BPA Office

Also, the Chairman would contact Kevin Hardwick, who was based in France, to see whether he could offer any advice on local accommodation during WPC 2003.

Action: Chairman

The Committee recommended to the Council that, as soon as suitable accommodation had been located, a deposit should be paid to reserve accommodation for a UK delegation of 50 people for the period of WPC 2003.

Action: Recommend to the Council

15.5 Page 7, minute 11 Swoop Canopies competition

The Chairman reported that, now he had taken over as Classics Discipline Rep, he would contact Steve Swallow at Hibaldstow to discuss the possibility of running a Swoop Canopies competition, which required a water trench. He further reported that Chris Lynch had expressed an interest in running a Skills Coaching Roadshow in Swoop Canopies ahead of any competition. It would be necessary to have a firm venue and dates in mind before setting to work on the rules.

Action: Chairman

16/02 Domestic Competition Rules 2002

16.1 National Rules 2002

16.1.1 FS Nationals

Jim White had updated the FS National rules for 2002, including the new IPC dive pools and other variations. Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that these now be passed to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office for preparation and circulation by post of the draft rule booklet for final approval.

Carried unanimously

16.1.2 CF Nationals

Ian Marshall reported that there had been little change from last year to the CF National rules, apart from the introduction of a 2-way competition for 2002. Ian Marshall then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that these be passed to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office for preparation and circulation by post of the of the draft rule booklet for final approval.

Carried unanimously

16.1.3 Classics Nationals

The Chairman reported that the only change to the Classics National rules for 2002 was to reflect IPC's reversion to 5 man teams for the team event, with the worst individual score on each round being discounted for the team event. There was discussion about the possibility of scoring the senior event up to 2 metres to encourage competition. However, the Committee decided that it was not a good principle to have National rules that were at variance with IPC's rules. Therefore, the maximum score of 0.16 (scoring to 16cm) would be retained for the senior event.

The Chairman then proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the Classics National rules for 2002 should now be passed to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office for preparation and circulation by post of the draft rule booklet for final approval.

Carried unanimously

16.1.4 New Age Nationals The New Age National rules for 2002 could not be decided until the next meeting, after the New Age brainstorming session (minute 15.2) had taken place.

Action: Next Meeting

16.2 Performance criteria for funding 2002

Subject always to the caveat that no guarantee could be given that funding would be available, or if it was what the amount of funding might be, the Committee now went on to consider performance criteria for funding.

16.2.1 FS The Chairman reminded the Committee that the benchmark for funding, as set out in the Competitions Action Plan, was fourth place or better at the last world meet - in this case, the World Air Games (WAG) 2001. The need to consider a benchmark performance rather than simply the WAG score arose because of IPC's changes to the rules, specifically to the FS dive pools, in which some of the faster blocks from 2001 had been removed. IPC had introduced these changes with the declared intent of slowing down the FS events. Evidence from teams in the USA indicated that this was precisely the effect that the new dive pools were having. Blindly to adopt performance criteria, based solely on scores from last year's dive pools, would be a gross disservice to our teams, who deserved and would get more mature consideration from the Competitions Committee of *all* relevant factors.

After thorough discussion, Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that because of the slower dive pool for 2002, in order reasonably to benchmark performance criteria against fourth place at WAG 2001 for FS 4-way and 4-way women, the performance criteria should be set at an average score of 0.50 less than the actual average scored for fourth place at WAG 2001, that is 19.40 for 4-way (WAG 4th place score 19.90) and 13.60 for 4-way women (WAG 4th place score 14.10).

Carried unanimously

In FS 8-way, IPC's changes to the dive pool had slowed down the event even more radically than in 4-way. For example, Arizona Air Speed's performance had dropped from 19.2 last year to 15.3 this year - a massive reduction of nearly a full 4 points. Even after making a generous allowance for other contributory factors, such as changes to the team, it was clear that the new dive pools were slowing down the event very significantly. Last year's quick three point blocks had gone. Kate and Bob Charters agreed with this analysis, and said they would try to get the tapes from the 8-way Valentine's Meet in the USA to help prove it.

Jim White therefore proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that for FS 8-way, because of the much slower dive pool for 2002, in order reasonably to benchmark performance criteria against fourth place at WAG 2001, teams should be required to achieve an average score of 1.00 less than the actual average scored for fourth place at WAG 2001, that is an average score of 12.00 (compared with 13.00 at WAG 2001).

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said the above were now formal recommendations to go forward from the Competitions Committee for consideration for ratification by the full Council at its next meeting on Tuesday 23 April. The Chairman invited Kate and Bob Charters and Ian Matthews (Team VNE) to attend the next Council meeting to help state the case; and for VNE to send the Office any supporting evidence to circulate to the Council ahead of that meeting. The Chairman emphasised that the above performance criteria for funding could not be formally adopted until and unless ratified, in the normal manner, by the full Council.

16.2.2 CF Ian Marshall reported that, in contrast with FS, IPC had made no changes to the dive pool or other rules for CF. Ian Marshall therefore proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the actual WAG 2001 scores for 4th place should be set as the minimum performance criteria for funding - these were, for 8-way, 332 or better over 7 rounds (47.4 seconds/round); for rotations, 15.29 per round; and for sequential, 7.14.

Carried unanimously

16.2.3 New Age Performance criteria for funding for New Age disciplines would be considered at the next meeting, after the New Age brainstorming session (minute 15.2) had taken place.

Action: Next Meeting

16.2.4 Classics (Style and Accuracy) The issue of performance criteria for funding for the Classics disciplines of Style and Accuracy would not arise this year as 2002 was not a selection year, the Committee having respected Classics competitors' majority preference for on-year selection at the 2003 Nationals.

16.3 Regional Rules 2002

Kate Charters proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that, in order to encourage participation in the Regionals, 3 bonus points would be added to the score of each team or individual for every Regional competition in which they took part during the season. This would apply equally to all disciplines.

Carried unanimously

This decision would now need to be written into the rules for all Regionals.

Action: BPA Office

The Committee appreciated that certain military jumpers were prohibited by their commanding officers from taking part in Regionals in Northern Ireland (whereas others were not) but, on balance, considered the advantages of the above arrangement to outweigh this disadvantage.

16.3.1 FS Regionals Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the FS Regional rules for 2002 he had prepared, which included an increase in the number of alternates for the Junior competition only, should be adopted and passed to Trudy Kemp at the Office for circulation by post for approval in final form (with the addition of the 3 bonus points per competition, per minute 16.3).

Carried unanimously

16.3.2 CF Regionals Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the CF Regional rules for 2002 he had prepared - including a CF 2-way competition, should be adopted and passed to Trudy Kemp at the Office for circulation by post for approval in final form (with the addition of the 3 bonus points per competition, as per minute 16.3).

Carried unanimously

16.3.3 Classics (Style and Accuracy) Regionals

The Chairman proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the rules for the Classics Regionals 2002 should be based on last year's rules, with the following variations to be taken in by Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office, who would arrange preparation and circulation by post for approval in final form.

- 5 man teams with the worst individual score on each round to be discarded in the team event;
- scoring up to 2 metres for senior teams, and up to 10 metres for intermediate teams, to encourage competition (junior teams would still be scored up to 25m)
- the addition of 3 bonus points per Regional Competition entered (as per minute 16.3).

Carried unanimously

16.3.4 New Age Regionals The rules for the first New Age Regionals in 2002 could not be decided until the next meeting, after the New Age brainstorming session (minute 15.2) had taken place.

Action: Next meeting

17/02 Coaching for senior teams

The Chairman confirmed that the training programmes of the senior teams that had sent in their training programmes were progressing as planned. XL had yet to send in its programme. As already agreed, teams VMax, VNE, 4-Pak and Team X (together with XL, subject to the Committee's approval of XL's training programme, when received) were each authorised for their coaches to submit invoices direct to the BPA, in two or three tranches, up

to a total expenditure on coaching of up to £2000 per team. Details of precise arrangements for how exchange rates, etc, would be treated could be obtained by contacting Jon Gretton, Financial Administrator, at the BPA Office.

Ongoing

18/02 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Junior and Intermediate Athletes

The successful Skills Coaching Roadshow programme would continue to run uninterrupted from the current Action Plan year ending on 30 June 2002 and into the next, from 1 July onwards. The Chairman thanked Jim White (FS Discipline Rep) for having arranged a number of FS Coaching Roadshows that were now in the calendar, including VNE at Cark on 11-12 May, 4-Pak at Sibson on 8-9 June, VMax at St Andrews on the same dates, and VNE at Target on 15-16 June. Ian Marshall (CF Discipline Rep) reported that no dates had yet been confirmed, but the Red Devils had some events planned, details of which would be confirmed as soon as possible.

Ongoing

Paul Applegate (New Age Discipline Rep) would arrange a Roadshow at Sibson and take up an offer from Hibaldstow. In relation to the use of international coaches, the Chairman confirmed that coaches' travelling expenses to and from the Roadshow within the UK only were reclaimable from the BPA (as recorded at minute 5 of the meeting on 30 January) but not any consideration for loss of earnings. Dave Sturgeon had kindly volunteered his services as a Skysurf coach and had offered to provide equipment free-of-charge. The Chairman asked Paul Applegate to take up this helpful offer.

Action: Paul Applegate

In order to have on record comparative data on each Roadshow, Jim White proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the one-page form for feedback, that had been prepared by the Office (draft circulated), be adopted.

Carried unanimously

19/02 Judging matters

Kate Charters (Judges Co-ordinator) reported that all judges had been notified of competition dates for 2002. By careful matching of the location of judges and competitions, she would seek to keep judges' cross-country travelling expenses to a minimum, whilst at the same time running a full programme of judges' training seminars and re-evaluating as many judges as possible.

20/02 Role Descriptions

Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that role descriptions for (i) Discipline Reps; and (ii) Judges' Co-ordinator (drafts already circulated) should be adopted.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman thanked the Office for preparing these helpful aides-memoire.

21/02 FS World Cup 2002

Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to agree to a request from Dave Paul Tyler that FS team *Quicksilva* (who had been unable to enter last year's Nationals because of military commitments) should be allowed to represent the UK in the FS World Cup 2002 self-funded (i) if this competition, which had not yet been confirmed, went ahead and (ii) in the event that the organisers decided to put a limit on the number of teams from each country, but subject to there being no team that *had* competed in last year's FS Nationals wishing to go themselves.

Carried unanimously - Jim White to notify Dave Paul Tyler

22/02 BPA Anti-Doping Policy

The Council, at its meeting on 19 February 2002, had agreed in principle to a request from UK Sport for the BPA to sign up to the National Anti-Doping Policy, which was based on the International Standard for Anti-Doping (Council minute 18). The Council had referred the

matter to the Competitions Committee and the BPA Medical Adviser for detailed consideration.

A dossier of documentation from UK Sport had been circulated with the agenda. The policy covered performance-enhancing drugs, illegal substances, alcohol and even set a limit on the amount of caffeine in the body. Many over-the-counter and prescription medicines contained banned substances - getting a medication on prescription was no defence. It was clear that considerable momentum had built up behind the National Policy, such that UK Sport was now requiring its implementation by National Governing Bodies as a condition of their continuing recognition, including funding. A detailed registration form, events calendar and information/education programme planner had all to be completed by the BPA and returned to UK Sport originally by 1 March, although the Office had obtained an extension until as soon as possible after this meeting.

The policy appeared primarily to affect the National Team and competitors at the British Open Nationals. It was unlikely that recreational jumpers would be directly affected as they were not competitors (in UK Sport's terminology, they were not 'athletes'). Random drugs tests would be carried out in the public interest by an independent agency contracted to UK Sport. Drop Zones hosting the Nationals had to provide minimum facilities where samples of urine for testing could be taken. It appeared that variations by sport to the list of banned substances were not encouraged. This generated discussion about the use of decongestants in parachuting, which might be seen as a safety precaution because they helped to avoid burst eardrums during the rapid decompression of a skydive.

The Committee was unanimously in support of adopting the National Anti-Doping Policy. In doing this, it would however be appropriate to ask UK Sport to advise on whether or not they might be prepared to give any special consideration on safety grounds for the use of decongestants in parachuting. (*Note:* UK Sport have indicated that they are likely to take note of the position of the International Governing Federation for Parachuting (FAI / IPC) on this.) Part of the requirement for implementation was to put in place a Disciplinary Committee, with a legally qualified chairperson, which had the power to hear evidence and, if appropriate, impose punishments such as a ban on athletes who had tested positive. The Committee considered that putting in place machinery such as this was properly a matter for the full Council. Therefore, it referred back to the Council the arrangements for putting in place a policy, together with rules and procedures, including an appropriate disciplinary procedure. The Committee assured the Council of its complete support, and that it would be glad to play its full part in implementing the policy and procedures once confirmed, including a publicity campaign to inform and educate competitors.

Ian Marshall said that athletes in other sports already had to operate under what was effectively a standard International Anti-Doping Policy. The International Parachuting Commission did not yet come under the International Olympic Committee's Anti-Doping rules, but it was only a matter of time before it had to come fully in line because anti-doping arrangements were being standardised world-wide for all sports at all levels.

In order to consult with UK Sport on the use of decongestants in parachuting, and to clarify various other questions that the Office had highlighted in the documentation, the Chairman suggested that it would be appropriate to arrange a meeting with Shelly Farrier, UK Sport's recently-appointed Anti-Doping Programme Officer for Parachuting. This suggestion would first be discussed with the Chairman of Council, ahead of any approach to UK Sport. (*Note:* It has been possible for the Office to clarify certain points with Shelly Farrier by 'phone.')

Action: Refer to Chairman of Council and the next meeting of Council

23/02 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 April 2002 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2145.