

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Wednesday 3 April 2002 at 1830**

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

|                               |                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Present:</b>               | John Smyth          | - | Competitions Chairman /<br>Discipline Rep: Classics |
|                               | Paul Applegate      | - | Discipline Rep: New Age                             |
|                               | Ian Marshall        | - | Discipline Rep: CF                                  |
|                               | Jim White           | - | Discipline Rep: FS                                  |
| <b>In attendance:</b>         | Nigel Holland       | - | Asst to Discipline Rep, New Age                     |
|                               | Martin Shuttleworth | - | National Administrator                              |
|                               | Lucie Wood          | - | Development Officer                                 |
| <b>Observers:</b>             | Ian Matthews        |   | Team VNE  |
|                               | Cheryl Smyth        |   |   |
|                               | Debra Smyth         |   |   |
|                               | James Smyth         |   |   |
| <b>Apologies for absence:</b> | Kate Charters       | - | Judges' Co-ordinator                                |
|                               | John Hitchen        | - | NCSO  |

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### Item Minute

#### 24/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2002

Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2002 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

#### 25/02 Matters arising

##### 25.1 Page 1, item 15.1, Classics World Cup of Champions (Slovakia: 27 July to 3 August 2002)

The Chairman reported that Jeff Chandler was now unable to go to this World Cup because of a clash of dates with the British FS Nationals he wished to attend. Esther Reynolds had said she was unlikely to go to the World Cup but had not definitely decided. She had said she would have no objection to someone else being invited instead. The Committee therefore agreed to ask (in order) Katherine Andrewes, Debbie Curtis and Jules Ballard whether they wished to represent Great Britain on a self-funded basis (Cheryl Smyth had already indicated that she did not wish to go).

**Action: BPA Office**

##### 25.2 Page 2, item 15.2, New Age Brainstorming Session

Paul Applegate reported that the brainstorming session had taken place at Sibson, with only Sue Meacock and himself present, as Dona Crum had unfortunately had to tender her apologies for absence.

### **25.3 Page 2, item 15.3.2, Classics Central Regionals**

The Chairman reported that he still had no news from Dave Woods at RAFSPA Weston-on-the Green in response to the Committee's letter of request for them to consider hosting the Classics Central Regionals. This had been sent because no bids had been received notwithstanding the issue of two bid forms last year. Paul Applegate would discuss the position with Dave Woods, whom he was due to meet this weekend. The aim would be to finalise the venue and dates at the next Council meeting on 23 April.

**Action: Paul Applegate**

### **25.4 Page 2, item 15.5, Accommodation for the UK team at Gap, France, for the WPC, 7-14 September 2003**

The Office had identified a number of available accommodation options, a summary of which had been circulated with the agenda. The Chairman said he saw advantage in the GB delegation being based together in one location, which would become the British Team HQ. In discussion, the Committee fully respected self-funded competitors' right to select and arrange their own accommodation. However, for a meet at which accommodation was likely to be in short supply, and to further the team spirit of our delegation, the Committee believed that most competitors would justifiably look to their Association to take the initiative. It was therefore appropriate that the BPA should reserve rooms at a reasonable but inexpensive hotel to accommodate the whole of the delegation, including accompanying persons. It was already clear that one hotel in Gap was fully booked on the dates - in all probability by another national team. An alternative option would be to reserve a number of gîtes or chalets. Some of these were in town but others were in remote rural areas, and some were self-catering. All things considered, a dispersed array of gîtes would probably *not* be the most convenient option. By comparison, serviced accommodation in an hotel only about 17km from the Aerodrome, on the outskirts of Gap (2km from the facilities of the town centre), and with an optional evening meal, appeared to offer the most attractive package.

After careful consideration of all the options available, Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Committee should recommend to the full Council on 23 April that the BPA should pay a deposit to reserve 25 x 2-bedded rooms (to accommodate a delegation of 50 people) for the period from Sunday 31 August to Saturday 13 September 2003 (14 nights) at the 2-star Hotel Carina in Gap, which had quoted a rate of 31 Euros (about £19) per person per night for bed and breakfast in a room for two. The dates comprised the expected Training Period (31 August to 6 September) and the Competition Period (7 to 14 September).

**Carried unanimously Action: Recommend to the Council**

The Office would seek to determine from the Hotel the amount of the deposit they would require to secure the reservation.

### **25.5 Page 3, item 15.6 Swoop Canopies competition**

The Chairman had spoken with Steve and Helen Swallow at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, who were willing to build a water trench to hold a Swoop Canopies Competition. The construction of such a trench was subject to the DZ gaining planning permission from the local authority. Chris Lynch and Pete Allum would be available to act as coaches and to oversee the competition to be held in late August or early September. Pete Allum had relevant experience, as he had run a Swoop Canopies competition in Orlando and had competed in three others.

The Committee discussed the idea of holding a Swoop Canopies Coaching Roadshow the weekend before the Competition, so that the Coaches could determine who was sufficiently competent, and therefore safe, to compete. With this arrangement, the coaches would be entitled to the standard BPA UK travel and subsistence expenses as a token but nevertheless important recognition of their valuable help and support. The Competition might be held as a trial Regional. Although Hibaldstow might be the first UK Club or Centre with a water trench (planning permission and Standing Water Regulations permitting), informal indications suggested that other Clubs and Centres were taking an interest and might join in by sinking a water trench of their own if the test event proved the interest in this type of competition. It was a discipline that could well attract media interest. If all went well, a Swoop Canopies

Competition might even become part of the Regional circuit for 2003 - perhaps held as a joint event with a Classics Accuracy competition.

Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that in principle a BPA trial Regional Swoop Canopies competition should be held at Hibaldstow in late August or early September 2002, preceded by a Coaching Weekend - subject of course to the DZ receiving planning permission and constructing a suitable water trench.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **25.6 Page 5, item 17: Coaching for senior teams**

The Chairman reported that a satisfactory training plan had now been received from Team XL. Therefore, the already-agreed sum of up to £2K in coaching fees, payable direct to the coach, was now available. The Chairman had advised XL that, if they wished to avail themselves of this funding, their coach should invoice the BPA direct in three instalments.

#### **25.7 Page 6, item 21: FS World Cup 4-10 October 2002**

FS 8-way Team VNE had advised that the FS world Cup had been re-scheduled for 4-10 October 2002 at Empuriabrava, and had asked for the agreement of the Committee for them to represent Great Britain. Ian Matthews (VNE) reported that he understood the 4-way women's Team VMax may also wish to go. Paul Applegate proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the Competitions Committee agreed that Teams VNE and VMax should represent Great Britain, self-funded, at the FS World Cup 2002.

**Carried unanimously**

The above GB representation was in addition to Team Quicksilva, whose participation had been agreed at the last meeting (minute 21).

#### **25.8 Page 6, item 22: Updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy**

The Chairman reported that the BPA had now completed and returned the necessary documentation to UK Sport to confirm its ongoing compliance with the now updated UK Sport Anti-Doping Policy. This required the BPA to update its own Anti-Doping Policy and Rules. A draft had been circulated with the agenda prior to circulation to the full Council for ratification at the Council meeting on 23 April.

After discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall, seconded a motion that:

- (a) specific reference to the updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules should be made in the National and Regional rules;
- (b) a photocopy of UK Sport's Anti-Doping Athlete Advice Card should be included in the rules booklet for the Nationals;
- (c) the following statement should precede the signature on each entry form for a National competition:

*"I confirm that team members will abide by the Competition Rules, including the BPA's Anti-Doping Policy and Rules which makes team members subject to drugs testing at this competition, and the Sporting Code of the FAI."* (addition in italics, not to be italicised on the actual entry forms);
- (d) the following should be added to each entry form for a National competition:

*Notice for Competitors with Asthma: Under the BPA's Anti-Doping Policy and Rules, the substances salbutamol, salmeterol, terbutaline and certain other beta2agonists are allowed by inhaler only to prevent and/or treat asthma and exercise-induced asthma. Any competitor who uses an inhaled asthma medication that contains or may contain any of these substances is required to say so on this entry form and must also securely attach to this form written notification by a qualified medical practitioner (ie, a letter signed by a doctor, for which the doctor is entitled to charge a fee as this is not NHS work);*

- (e) the chronological list of compliance measures set out by the office and circulated with the agenda should be implemented, including:
- i put forward the updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules to the Council for ratification on 23 April;
  - ii post information about the BPA's Anti-Doping Policy and Rules on the BPA website, with links to UK Sport's website, including their online Drugs Information Database ([www.ukssport.gov.uk/did](http://www.ukssport.gov.uk/did));
  - iii follow up the information in the April magazine with an item in the June issue - the issue before the first Nationals 2002;
  - iv include compliance with the updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules (once ratified by the Council) in all future invitations and competitor agreements to represent GB at any international event (whether BPA-funded or self-funded); and in all funding agreements (funding agreements only to include provision for out-of-competition testing at training sessions);
  - v invite Dr John Carter, the BPA's Medical Adviser, to present a seminar on Anti-Doping, perhaps to include a screening of UK Sport's video on testing methods, at the next AGM on Saturday 18 January 2003.

**Carried unanimously Action: BPA Office**

The Committee noted that the BPA had a key role as an educator and disseminator of information, in putting in place the machinery to deal with any positive test results (which was a matter for the full BPA Council) and in policing the effectiveness of its Anti-Doping Policy. However, it remained *strictly the personal liability* of each competitor to check on, and take responsibility for, whatever substance - from however an innocuous source - may be found in his or her body, irrespective of how it got there. This meant that the BPA needed to refer, and to encourage all competitors to refer, to the primary sources of official information, *viz*: IOC, The World Anti-Doping Agency, and UK Sport.

**26/02 Domestic Competition Rules 2002**

The Chairman confirmed that the intention was for the final draft of all domestic competition rules (both Nationals and Regionals) to be circulated by post to the full Council ahead of the next Council meeting on 23 April, for ratification on that date. Additions relating to the updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules, as set out at minute 25.8 (a) to (d) inclusive, needed to be added.

**26.1 National Rules 2002**

The final draft of the FS rules to be circulated to the Council would need to leave a space for the insertion of minimum scores in the criteria for funding, since these would be the subject of discussion and decision at the Council meeting.

Ian Marshall had completed work on the rules for the CF Nationals, and was tonight returning a corrected draft to the office. The Chairman had completed work on the Classics Nationals.

Paul Applegate said he had seen a draft of the rules for the New Age Nationals and had discussed these with Sue Meacock at Sibson, who was in touch with Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office. He said that the brainstorming session had come up with the idea of having two categories, A and B, in each subdiscipline. Competitors would be eligible to enter either category A or B, but not both, in the same subdiscipline. This was designed to make the competition fairer by eliminating the possibility of entering a ringer to 'buy' medals. Category A would comprise five rounds, two of which would be compulsories and the remaining three free rounds. The compulsories would be randomly drawn from the IPC dive pool. Category B would comprise four free rounds, with pre-submission of the routines to the judges. The Chairman asked Paul Applegate to liaise with Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office to ensure that the final draft rules were ready for circulation to the full Council for ratification ahead of its next meeting on 23 April.

**Action: Paul Applegate**

## **26.2 Regional Rules 2002**

The FS, CF and Classics Regional Rules for 2002 were now in draft and would be ready for circulation of a final draft for ratification by the Council at its meeting on 23 April, subject to the addition of a reference to the updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules (minute 28. 6(a) refers) and reference to the UK Sport Anti-Doping Athlete Advice Card.

The New Age Regional rules were also in preparation and Paul Applegate would liaise with Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office to ensure completion of the final draft in time, to which the same additions regarding the updated BPA Anti-Doping Policy and Rules would be made as for the Regionals in the other disciplines.

***Action: Paul Applegate***

### **27/02 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Junior and Intermediate Athletes**

The Chairman congratulated Jim White (FS Discipline Rep) on having completed arrangements for a full complement of FS Roadshows for the coming season, with a Roadshow at Sibson on a date to be confirmed in August as the last to be added.

Ian Marshall (CF Discipline Rep) confirmed that dates for CF Roadshows would be published in the April magazine and posted on the website.

Arrangements needed to be discussed with Sibson for a possible New Age Roadshow there on the weekend before they hosted the New Age Nationals. Once dates for the Sibson Roadshow had been confirmed, Target should be contacted to follow up the interest they too had expressed in hosting a New Age Roadshow.

***Action: Nigel Holland***

The Chairman (Classics Discipline Rep) reminded the Committee that last year's Classics Coaching Roadshows had not represented value for money with too many Roadshows held and too few junior and intermediate jumpers attending them. He was therefore planning to hold just one Classics Roadshow this summer, at Hinton on the weekend before the Classics Nationals. This arrangement should offer the best opportunity of securing a respectable attendance. Further Classics Roadshows could be organised, but there would have to be proven demand to justify the expenditure of BPA resources.

### **28/02 Mismatch of dates of Council meetings and publication dates for the Magazine**

The Chairman observed that the way in which Magazine publication dates fell in relation to Council meetings sometimes made it difficult for the Competitions Committee to use the Magazine as an effective channel of communication with the membership generally and competitors and potential competitors in particular. A case in point was the recent need for the Chairman to write to all Council Members to ensure that there were no objections to publishing the 2002 dive pool in the April Magazine, ahead of ratification by the Council meeting on 23 April. After ratification at that meeting, it would be nearly two months before the next issue of the Magazine was published in June. The Chairman said it did not reflect well on the Association for news/decisions to be published so late, when a straightforward solution would be to seek in future planning (ie, from next year) to align the dates of publication of the Magazine with the dates of Council meeting so that news and decisions could be communicated to the membership in a more timely fashion. This would surely be to everyone's benefit. He would raise the subject at the next Council meeting and, if agreed in principle, would be pleased to work in partnership with the Magazine and the Communications Committee to consider the options for co-ordinating next year's schedules.

If, however, there were convincing arguments to maintain the status quo, the Chairman would instead seek the delegated authority of the Council for the Competitions Committee to action certain limited routine competitions matters (excluding, of course, any that involved new or additional expenditure) without being obliged to wait for a month or longer for ratification. The rationale behind this was that the smooth operation of domestic competitions was being held back because the necessary and desirable machinery of accountability was on occasion having the unintended effect of becoming rather bureaucratic by imposing long waiting periods before routine Committee decisions were ratified. It was clear that the balance needed to be reviewed so the Committee could operate in a manner that was both accountable yet fully responsive to routine competitions matters. Each year the Committee had a lot of work to fit into a condensed timetable and having long waits on routine matters

was demotivating when a simple, cost-free, solution was at hand that would help further to enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of the Association.

**Action: Competitions Chairman to raise at the next Council meeting**

**29/02 POPS**

The Committee congratulated Jeff Chandler on winning the World POPS Accuracy title for Great Britain for the third consecutive time. The Chairman believed that this achievement would be publicised in the next Magazine.

**30/02 Judging matters**

The role description of the Judges Co-ordinator, approved at the last meeting (minute 20) had now been issued as BPA Form 218, and the role description of Discipline Reps as Form 219.

**31/02 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 29 May 2002 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1950.