

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 20 May 2003 at 1830**

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

<b>Present:</b>	Ian Marshall	-	Vice Chairman (in the Chair) Discipline Rep: CF
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: FS
<b>In attendance:</b>	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
<b>Observer:</b>	Ian Matthews	-	Team VNE
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep - Artistic
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman / Discipline Rep: Classics

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### Item Minute

#### 33/03 Apologies for absence

John Smyth had sent his apologies for absence. He was especially sorry to have to miss the meeting after the date had been re-arranged at his request. Unfortunately, his father had been admitted to hospital and had this afternoon been awaiting test results and a possible discharge for convalescence, for which John Smyth had to remain close by. This was the first Competitions Committee meeting John Smyth had ever missed as Chairman. He had therefore invited Ian Marshall, as Vice Chairman, to take the Chair for this meeting; and would be at home by the telephone should the Committee need to contact him during the meeting.

#### 34/03 Quoracy

Ian Marshall duly took the Chair. He noted that the meeting was not quorate, and said that all votes would require ratification when the minutes came before the Council to be ratified.

#### 35/03 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2003

Nigel Holland requested that the final paragraph on page 5 of the minutes, concerning his discussions with Proactive Television, be deleted because these had not yet been finalised and he did not wish to raise expectations about the eventual outcome. The Committee had no objection to the deletion of this paragraph.

With the above amendment, Jim White proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2003 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

#### 36/03 Matters arising

##### 36.1 Page 1, minute 23.1, Pre-registration for Junior and Intermediate teams

Twelve eligible teams had pre-registered with the BPA Office to date.

### **36.2 Page 1, minute 23.2, Correspondence with Dona Crum**

The Committee understood that Kate Charters was discuss Dona Crum BPA judging matters with Dona Crum when they were both at the RAPA meet that was due to take place shortly.

**Action: Kate Charters**

### **36.3 Page 1, minute 23.3 Canopy piloting (swoop canopies) test Regional competition 2003**

Mark Bayada of RAPA had kindly supplied a copy of RAPA's rules for a Canopy Piloting competition, which had been circulated to the Committee.

### **36.4 Page 2, minute 23.4, Competitions Action Plan 2003-4**

The consolidated version of the Action Plan 2003-4, covering all the BPA's main areas of activity, had been submitted to UK Sport. The outcome of this bid for funding (including £25K for competitions) would be likely to be known during late May 2003.

### **36.5 Page 2, minute 23.5, Judges' uniform**

This item was covered in Kate Charters' written report, to be considered under the main agenda item on judging matters (see minute 42).

### **36.6 Page 6, minute 28, World Cup 2002 repayments**

Repayments by competitors were continuing to accrue. An updated list was tabled. It was now understood that APA would pay the 50% of the entry fee that had been forfeited by the withdrawal of their team *Quiksilva*. All repayments would be required before the end of the BPA's financial year on 30 June 2003.

### **36.7 Page 6, minute 29, European Acro Festival**

The BPA had been invited to send two male and two female Accuracy jumpers to represent the UK at the European Acro(batic) Festival to be held in Publier, France, from 7-10 August 2003. The organisers had said that they would pay travel and accommodation costs. At the last meeting, the Committee decided that, since the organisers were now requesting confirmed names, first option should be given in the order of results in the men's and women's senior Accuracy event in the 2002 Nationals.

The Office had progressed this in accordance with the Committee's instructions. The UK team would comprise Esther Reynolds, Fran Shashkova-Richards, Julian Spencer and Jeff Chandler. The French Parachuting Federation had been notified of the contact details of each team member.

### **36.8 Page 6, minute 30, Free Gym Access to National Sportspeople**

A mention of this Sport England initiative - known as the FANS scheme - would be submitted for the June issue of *Skydive Magazine*.

**Action: BPA Office**

The Committee believed that a feature article might better promote the FANS scheme, which unfortunately still had very limited regional availability, being confined mainly to the south east of England. However, a feature article might focus on participation in the FANS scheme by an eligible BPA Member or Members who were actually benefiting from it. It was therefore decided to keep in mind the idea of a feature until one or more parachutists had taken up membership of the scheme. Ian Marshall confirmed that he had applied to join, and the Committee believed that he was the first BPA Member to have done so.

Jim White said he would make enquiries of Sport Scotland to find out whether or not they had a similar initiative.

**Action: Jim White**

### **37/03 Domestic competitions 2003**

#### **37.1 Classics Southern Regionals**

As no civilian Clubs or Centres had bid to host this competition, notwithstanding the issue of two bid forms, the Chairman would invite APA Netheravon to host it in late September 2003, after the WPC Mondial 2003 (6-13 September 2003).

**Action: Chairman**

#### **37.2 Postponed CF Southern Regionals: Cornwall Parachute Club, 3-5 May 2003**

Unfortunately, this meet had not taken place because the Centre had not been operational at the time. The Chairman had confirmed that he would make enquiries of APA Netheravon to ask if they might be willing to host a rescheduled CF Southern Regional competition concurrently with the Classics Southern Regionals in late September 2003.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **37.3 Competition Rules 2003**

##### **37.3.1 Ratification of competition rules by the Council**

The Council had ratified and approved for issue all the 2003 National and Regional/Grand Prix competition rules, with the exception of the rules for the Artistic Nationals, at its meeting on 15 April 2003 (Council minute 21.4.1 refers).

The Council had referred back draft the Artistic Nationals rules for further consideration by the Competitions Committee of a specific issue. This was the eligibility for entry to class A and class B. The present draft rules (based on last year's) stated that entry was possible in either class A or class B, but not both, within the same discipline (FF, FS or SS). The Council had asked the Committee to give this rule further consideration in the light of the objective of encouraging as many competitors as possible. The Council had given delegated authority to the Competitions Committee to finalise and issue the rules, since they needed to be published before the next Council meeting.

##### **37.3.2 Artistic Nationals Rules**

Nigel Holland opened discussion on the eligibility criteria for class A and class B in the draft rules for the Artistic Nationals. He considered that it would be helpful to set out precisely the eligibility criteria for each category. This may help to promote more entries, whilst at the same time maintaining the necessary distinction between the two categories, of which A was, in effect, the senior category and B the intermediate and junior category.

After detailed consideration, Ian Marshall proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the following eligibility criteria should apply.

- Teams consisting entirely of FF2 jumpers will only be eligible to enter Class A.
- To be eligible to register for class B, at least one competitor must be FF1 (this includes the camera flyer).
- FF1 competitors will **not** be eligible to participate in class A because they will not be able to complete some of the sequences.
- FF2 jumpers are eligible to compete in both classes providing the team above criteria have been met. This must be cleared by the Chief Judge in order to ensure that the competition is fair.

And that the following additional wording should be included under 'Section 9 - Equipment' in the rules:

- Only the designated Camera Flyer may wear camera equipment for the competition.

**Carried**

Nigel Holland would e-mail the above variations to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office who would prepare an updated draft for final proof reading and approval by Nigel Holland and the Chairman, following which the rules would be published.

**Action: Nigel Holland**

### **38.1 Composition of UK Delegation**

The Office had prepared an updated list of members of the UK delegation to the Mondial 2003 (tabled) and whether their status was confirmed, awaiting confirmation, or provisional. The Classics competitors in Style & Accuracy would not be known until after the selection Nationals to be held from 17-22 June 2003. The Committee thought it prudent to expect up to about 10 Classics competitors. CF 4-way sequential *Team X* had advised that they would decide on whether or not to enter the Mondial 2003 based on their performance at the CF nationals to be held from 20-22 June 2003. There were therefore likely to be up to 52 competitors, together with the Head of Delegation John Hitchen, Delegation Manager John Smyth, and an as yet unquantified number of official accompanying persons - among which Nigel Holland said he wished to be included. Kate Charters had advised that two UK judges were also involved - Bob King and Carla Cole. The Committee understood that the judges were officially part of the UK delegation although they would be accommodated separately, at the meet organisers' expense.

The Committee considered that, in the light of anticipated overall numbers, it would be prudent to seek to reserve a few more rooms at the Hotel Carina, Gap, which was to be the UK Delegation HQ hotel. At present, 25 twin-bedded rooms (ie, 50 beds) had been reserved for the training period and the competition period. The Committee decided to try to reserve an additional 5 twin-bedded rooms for the competition period.

**Action: BPA Office**

Ian Matthews reported that he had visited the Hotel Carina during VNE's recent successful training camp at Gap. The Hotel was located the town of Gap about 4km from Gap-Tallard Aerodrome, where many of the Mondial events would take place. The Hotel's facilities appeared to be adequate but not luxurious. Ian Matthews said he would have preferred to stay in an apartment, as at the World Cup 2002 at Empuriabrava, because they were furnished with refrigerators. However, he appreciated that the same facilities were not necessarily available in Gap and appreciated the logistical advantage of keeping the whole UK delegation together under one roof at a location fairly close to the Drop Zone and near to the town's facilities.

### **38.2 Registration**

The Committee noted that preliminary registration with the Mondial 2003 organisers was now due, and authorised the Office to do this based on the list already prepared. Those to be included in the UK preliminary registration would be those teams and individuals who had to date confirmed, plus an estimate of the number of Classics competitors still to be selected.

*(Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the Office was advised that the participation of team Clockwork Orange in the Skysurf event may be unlikely because of fitness problems.)*

The deadline for Official Registration and payment of the accompanying entry fee had been was 25 July 2003. After this date, a late fee per person was payable and late registrations would be accepted solely at the discretion of the organiser.

The Committee decided that, to avoid the large volume of work that had been caused by the retrospective recovery of fees from the World Cup in 2002, payment before registration would be requested of all UK delegation members to the Mondial 2003. Ian Marshall therefore proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion to set the deadline of Friday 18 July 2003 for receipt by the BPA of the entry fee and accommodation deposit for each delegation member.

**Carried**

Nigel Holland said that the Freely and Freestyle teams FreeJive and StyleJiver wished to apply to the BPA for some form of financial assistance, perhaps such as a loan. Ian Marshall said that the correct channel for any such request was direct to the Council.

The Committee decided that competitors and the two delegation officials would first be offered the BPA's reserved accommodation at the Hotel Carina. Any untaken beds would then be offered to official (ie, registered) accompanying persons within the delegation.

### **38.3 Accuracy landing area recce**

Andy Scott of team VNE had kindly provided a written recce (circulated) of the Drop Zone to be used for the Accuracy competition at the Mondial 2003. In this, he noted that the Accuracy landing area was only about 400 metres from the main airport / DZ of Gap. It comprised a 5 a side football pitch of dirt construction measuring about 100m x75m. It had 6 floodlights (1 per corner and 2 on the half way line) standing 10 - 15m high. There was a small tube metal fence at waist height surrounding the pitch: there was no stadium wall. The pitch was surrounded by fields on three sides and a vineyard on a gentle slope on one the other. It was located so close to the main DZ that in the event of a malfunction, it would be easy to land at the DZ proper.

Darren Birkin had kindly taken some digital stills and a video to accompany Andy Scott's description, and these had been e-mailed to John Smyth. Ian Marshall asked Ian Matthews to ask if the visuals could be e-mailed to the BPA Office, who would forward them in due course to those Accuracy competitors selected to represent the UK at the Mondial 2003 at next month's Classics Selection Nationals.

On behalf of the whole Committee, Ian Marshall asked Ian Matthews to pass on thanks to his team mates Andy Scott and Darren Birkin for the valuable help they had given in carrying out the recce of the Accuracy landing area in Gap, and reporting their findings to this meeting.

### **38.4 Facilities on site at Gap**

The Committee asked the Office to enquire whether there were any delegation lockers or lockable areas for the on-site storage of parachuting equipment at Gap.

**Action: BPA Office**

### **38.5 UK Delegation shirt**

The Committee understood that one possible design of a shirt for the UK Delegation to wear at the official opening ceremony had been suggested to the Chairman - a black polo shirt bearing a BPA logo. Ian Matthews said he had been trying to encourage Rob Colpus of Symbiosis Suits to submit a design based on an enlarged section of the detail of the Symbiosis logo, which he thought would be visually distinctive. At the suggestion of Paul Applegate, the Office had recently written to Gap Clothing UK to ask whether they might be prepared to support the UK delegation by supplying shirts.

The Committee decided to submit an item for the June issue of *Skydive Magazine* to invite designs for the delegation shirt, for consideration at its next meeting.

**Action: BPA Office**

### **38.6 Certificates of Appreciation to team supporters**

Ian Marshall reported that three national CF teams had each managed to arrange financial support from commercial businesses. In aggregate, the sum involved amounted to about £12K. Supporters were distinct from sponsors in that they did not normally require anything in return, other than mementos such as photographs of the team, which often made a talking point when displayed on the company's premises. Ian Marshall considered that it would be appropriate for the BPA to recognise team supporters by sending them a BPA Certificate of Appreciation with a covering letter of thanks from the Discipline Representative. He reminded the Committee that the Certificate of Appreciation had been introduced by the Council in October 2001 *for those who have made a significant contribution to the activities of the BPA (as a member or non-member)* - Council minute 65.2.9 of 2001 refers.

Nigel Holland therefore proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the BPA should award Certificates of Appreciation to team supporters on the recommendation of the appropriate Discipline Representative.

**Carried**

### **39/03 Canopy Piloting (Swooping) World Cup**

Ian Marshall had been briefed on this by the Chairman ahead of the meeting. He reported that Alastair Macartney had expressed an interest in competing in the Canopy Piloting (Swooping) World Cup. The Chairman had noted that there was no selection meet and that it would not be appropriate to put out an open invitation because, as with any Canopy Piloting competition, it was important that for safety reasons only those with an appropriate level of expertise were invited to take part.

John Smyth had therefore proposed in absentia, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion to invite Alastair Macartney to put together a team for the Canopy Piloting (Swooping) World Cup and submit the names to this Committee, which would consider it for nomination as the official UK team. This would be on an entirely self-funded basis.

**Carried**

### **40/03 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates**

#### **40.1 FS**

Jim White reported that the first Skills Coaching Roadshow of the 2003 season had been an FS event, coached by VNE, which had taken place at Netheravon over the weekend of 17-18 May 2003. Unfortunately, the weather had not been kind and this had precluded any training jumps from taking place. The only advantage of bad weather had been that there had been plenty of time to hold seminars and demonstrations on the ground. These had been a success with 14 jumpers attending with jump numbers ranging from 46 to over 1000. The coaches had been complimented on the quality of their presentation skills and their consultative approach.

#### **40.2 Artistic**

Nigel Holland reported that Tim Porter would no longer be available to coach the Artistic Roadshow to be held at Peterborough on 19-20 July 2003. He was therefore seeking alternative coaches so that the dates could be honoured.

**Action: Nigel Holland**

#### **40.3 Brit Chicks**

Ian Marshall gave an update on an issue that had been discussed briefly at the Council meeting on 15 April. This concerned a complaint by Adam Jones who thought that the proposed Skills Coaching Roadshows for women in association with *Brit Chicks* discriminated against men (Council minute 27 refers). It was left at the Council meeting for the Chairman of Council to discuss the matter with Lesley Gale. Ian Marshall said he had spoken to the Chairman of Council before the meeting, who had advised him that it had been agreed with Lesley Gale that only one Skills Coaching Roadshow linked with the *Brit Chicks* would now feature as part of the BPA's Skills Coaching Roadshow programme. This would be designed to encourage more female competitors, who were at present under-represented in competitions. The second BPA Skills Coaching Roadshow designed to attract more women participants would be the one already in planned for CF at Hinton on 26-27 July 2003, which would be open to all.

### **41/03 New interactive coaching page on the BPA website**

This was a Development Committee target in the new Action Plan year from 1 July 2003. The Development Committee was seeking the guidance of the Competitions Committee on content. This effectively meant that guest coaches were being sought to feature on the site. The idea was to feature one dive per month, and the guest coach for that dive would respond, via the website, to questions or comments from jumpers that had been submitted again via the website. The coach would post the questions and comments received, together with their reply, on the site at least once a week during their period of tenure. All material to be posted on the website would first go through an administrative filter at the BPA Office to ensure that nothing infelicitous was published on the website.

Top UK and world-renowned 4-way FS coach Pete Allum had kindly agreed to be the first guest coach, and a copy of the material he had kindly supplied for the first coaching page had been circulated to the Committee. This was now being used to make up a page template by Centrepages, the BPA's website consultants. It was envisaged that this template - adapted

as necessary in the light of its actual use on the website - would serve as a standard format for web-based coaching on other dives in other disciplines.

In discussion, there was some doubt about whether the target of one dive per month was intended to be in a different discipline each month, or whether the target was one dive for each discipline in each month (ie, four dives per month). This remained to be clarified. Concern was expressed at the possibility of being too ambitious, in that it might be better first to aim to get just one page up and running - and attend to the inevitable teething problems - rather than try for a multi-page launch. However, the Committee was keen to see other disciplines in addition to FS represented and it was known that the Chairman had in mind that a page on the Artistic disciplines should be introduced early on. Ian Marshall therefore asked Nigel Holland, as the Artistic Disciplines representative, to contact Artistic coaches to invite them to participate as guest coaches for a web-coached dive, and to let the BPA Office know as soon as any coaches had accepted the invitation.

**Action: Nigel Holland**

Ian Marshall said that the infrastructure of coaching in CF was not as well-developed as in FS, but that he would be pleased to consider how an interactive coaching page on CF might be compiled once he could see a draft page mock-up for Pete Allum's FS page. Without seeing something approximating to finished format, he found it difficult to visualise quite what was required. He understood that a page mock-up of the first FS page would be available shortly. The Committee believed that a coaching page on Accuracy might present different issues, and left these to the Chairman, in his capacity as Classics Representative, for initial consideration.

Ian Matthews said that team VNE would be willing to supply one of their number as a guest coach, but not for the month of September 2003 when they would be competing in the Mondial 2003 (minute 38). The Committee was grateful for this, as it wished coaching in 8-way FS to be included.

In discussion, it was clear that there were many imponderables about the new initiative of an interactive coaching webpage. How much would it be used? Could a coach cope with replying to many different questions? Or would many of the questions be similar? Perhaps some questions could be answered by providing links to other websites? Might coaches in some disciplines receive too many questions, and coaches in other disciplines too few? It was clear that the only way to clarify these issues was to try it out and see. The Committee welcomed the initiative as one with potential, but that was possibly likely to require some fine-tuning in the light of experience to optimise its value to competitors and potential competitors.

#### **42/03 Judging matters**

Ian Marshall thanked Kate Charters in absentia for sending in a comprehensive written report on judging matters. The report had already been referred to on a number of occasions earlier in the meeting. This item would therefore confine itself to those issues that had not already been considered.

##### **42.1 Competitions 2003**

Kate Charters confirmed that she had received notification of all judges' preferred competitions and had allocated competitions on this basis. She had encouraged the trainee judges to attend as many competitions as possible to gain experience. Kate Charters had spoken with Willy Bokens about the RSL meet and hoped to run it this coming weekend at the Northern FS Regionals at Strathallan, subject to the competitors' agreement. The plan was to compare each round with those jumped in Belgium and the other countries that were taking part in the weekend. Kate Charters hoped to be able to report the outcome to the next meeting. She had also discussed with Willy Bokens the possibility of the Belgian FS National team entering the UK Open Nationals if it did not clash with one of their training camps.

Kate Charters' report stated that she was still looking for Artistic judges to support the Nationals, and would report on the position at the next meeting. Sue Dixon had agreed to judge the 4-way event at the FS Nationals.

Kate Charters had written to Sue Skull to apologise for her not getting her Artistic judges' rating last year, and asking her to get in touch if she wished to continue judging this year. She had received no reply to date but hoped to meet her at the forthcoming RAPA meet to discuss the matter.

A few potential new trainee judges had expressed an interest in judging this year, and Kate Charters had encouraged them to register with the BPA Office.

The first domestic competition of the year had been the FS Regional held at Headcorn over the weekend of 10-11 May 2003. This had been very successful with over 30 teams registering. Three rounds were completed before the weather closed in.

#### **42.2 Suggested judges' uniform**

Kate Charters had submitted a quotation for a judges' polo shirt from Ted Payne in Germany, who she noted may be able to get some sponsorship from the skydiver who made up the shirts. The Committee was grateful for this quotation and considered that it should seek two further quotations in order to compare them. Jim White and Nigel Holland both offered to obtain comparative quotations.

**Action: Jim White and Nigel Holland**

The Committee thanked Kate Charters for her report.

#### **43/03 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 8 July 2003 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF.

The meeting closed at 2135.