

# British Parachute Association

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## Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 11 February 2004 at 1805**

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

<b>Present:</b>	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Ian Marshall	-	Vice Chairman/Discipline Rep: CF
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Brian Vacher	-	Discipline Rep: Canopy Piloting
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
<b>In attendance:</b>	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
<b>Observers:</b>	Ian Matthews	-	(from item 5)
<b>Apologies for absence</b>	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: Artistic
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO / IPC Delegate
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: Artistic

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### Item Minute

#### 01/04 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Competitions Committee 2004, and extended a warm welcome to the new members who were attending their first meeting.

#### 02/04 Minutes

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2003 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

#### 03/04 Matters arising

##### 3.1 Page 1, minute 65.1, Correspondence with Dona Crum

The Chairman had written to Dona Crum. He had not yet received a reply, although he hoped that Dona Crum would contact Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, in the normal manner.

##### 3.2 Page 5, minute 69 Confirmation of 2003 Regional Junior FS Gold

Kate Charters reported that team *Evolution* had won the 2003 Regional Junior FS Gold Medal, and had been presented with their medals at the AGM. Team *Mission Impossible* had taken Silver.

##### 3.3 Page 6, minute 69 Possible purchase of an accuracy tuffet

Kate Charters reported that the CCI at South Cerney had an accuracy tuffet to sell. She was arranging for Frank Mallabone to go to see it. If he considered tuffet to be suitable, Kate Charters would negotiate a price. The tuffet was of a type that would be easy to transport, and Julian Spencer had kindly agreed to store it in his warehouse when it was not in use. The Committee therefore agreed to include a budget for £500 for a tuffet in the next Competitions Action Plan (minute 6) and considered that this would be money well spent.

**Action: Kate Charters**

**04/04 Elections to Committee posts**

The following portfolio of responsibilities was agreed for the year.

Vice Chairman and CF Rep	-	Ian Marshall
FS Rep	-	Andy Scott
Canopy Piloting Rep	-	Brian Vacher
Artistic Disciplines Rep	-	Nigel Holland
Classics Rep	-	Jim White

Jim White proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to invite Kate Charters to be Judges' Co-ordinator for 2004 and to co-opt her to the Competitions Committee if she accepted.

**Carried unanimously**

Kate Charters confirmed her willingness to be Judges' Co-ordinator for 2004.

**05/04 IPC meeting: Lisbon, January 2004**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the January 2004 IPC meeting in Lisbon as an observer, together with John Hitchen (UK Delegate to IPC) and Bob Card (UK Alternate Delegate to IPC). A full written report was being prepared by John Hitchen and would be circulated in due course.

The Chairman summarised the main points arising from the IPC meeting, which included the following.

- There had been no significant changes in the officers of IPC this year.
- We, the UK, had been caught snoozing over the rapid growth of Canopy Piloting as a new discipline. If only we had thought to ask a big player on the international scene, such as Bob Card, to go to the first Canopy Piloting World Cup in 2003, the UK might now have representation on the new Canopy Piloting judging committee. We were now playing catch up. The good news was that Brian Vacher, who had been in the UK team that competed in the first Canopy Piloting World Cup, was on the 2004 Competitions Committee. Brian Vacher confirmed that the significance of Canopy Piloting as a new discipline had not yet registered in the UK.
- IPC had cancelled the World Air Games 2005. The World Air Games concept might never be resurrected. Future international meets would be:

2005	World Cup - Arizona, October
2006	World Parachuting Championships - Germany, August
2007	World Cup
2008	World Parachuting Championships.

World Parachuting Championships would be run as a Mondial, which meant they would be multi-disciplinary.

- IPC had received a single bid for the 2005 World Cup. It would be an ambitious multi-disciplinary meet in Arizona in October 2005. The entry fee would cover jumps only - competitors would need to arrange their own accommodation and transport. The Classics entry fee would be higher than the rest, to pay for the higher number of judges needed for the Classics disciplines. The World Cup would be a springboard for the World Parachuting Championships to be held in Germany in August 2006 - and therefore it would be particularly important for the UK to enter as many teams as possible to gain international experience ahead of WPC 2006.
- In FS, of particular reference to the women's event, a review of the rules was likely to see phased in during 2005/6 a requirement for the freefall videographer to be of the same nationality and gender as the rest of the team. This would mean that a team such as VMax would need to have a British female camera person. There was, however, no change to the status quo (male camera person allowed) during 2004.

- There was no change to the FS dive pool for 2004. There were minor rule changes (tabled and available on the FAI website). Andy Scott would arrange to publish a summary on the BPA website.

**Action: Andy Scott**

- In CF, there were few rule changes. Rules for 2-way sequential had been added.
- In Classics, the IPC rules had reverted to the old system of 8 rounds with final rounds 9 and 10 in Accuracy. (The domestic UK rules had always kept to 8 rounds.) There were other minor variations.
- IPC was considering further testing Canopy Piloting (CP) by holding another CP World Cup concurrently with the 2004 WPC (13-20 September) in Brazil. However, the venue in Brazil had changed from the coast to the capital city, Brasilia, which was inland and 3000ft above sea level. This altitude had raised safety concerns and IPC was investigating these before any firm arrangements would be made. It might be that the CP World Cup would be held at a different location: we would not know until March.
- There were a number of rule changes for the Artistic Disciplines.
- A World Games would be held in Germany, by invitation only. The UK was certain to get an invitation for women's 4-way FS. The position on a possible invitation to send a CP team was not yet clear.

**06/04 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005**

Andy Scott tabled a draft Action Plan matrix based on the Committee's informal discussions on AGM Day. This was discussed at length.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the draft Action Plan [as set out in the Appendix to these minutes] should be recommended to the full Council. It proposed a total budget spend of £34K, of which it was hoped that UK Sport would maintain the same level of funding as last year, being £20K for Competitions.

**Carried unanimously**

**07/04 Domestic competitions 2004**

**7.1 National and Grand Prix Rules**

The Chairman said that the first task of the new Committee was to update the competition rules for the 2004 season. In the Nationals, selection for the British Team applied only to the Classics, being the only discipline still to have on-year selection, although this would be the last year it applied. The Chairman said he intended to seek the approval of the full Council on Tuesday 17 February for the Competitions Committee to be delegated authority by the Council to publish the competition rules ahead of the April Council meeting, which would be too late.

**Action: Chairman**

The Chairman thanked Andy Scott who tabled a first draft of the FS National and Grand Prix rules. He would now prepare a second draft in the light of recent variations by IPC and discussions at this meeting. He asked all Discipline Reps to forward their draft rules to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office without delay. Subject to the agreement of the Council, the final draft rules would be considered for approval for publication by the next meeting of the Competitions Committee on Tuesday 16 March.

**Action: All Discipline Reps**

**7.2 FS**

Andy Scott proposed, and Brian Vacher seconded, a motion that the 8-way speed event should no longer be held at the FS Nationals from 2004, because it was an anachronism that was no longer an integral part of the competition. There was no longer sufficient time in the now very well attended weekend FS Nationals to make room for this optional, fun event.

**Carried unanimously**

### **7.3 CF**

The Chairman asked Ian Marshall (CF Rep) to consider a rule change for 2004 to dispense with the throwaway round at the CF Nationals.

**Action: Ian Marshall**

### **7.4 Canopy Piloting**

Brian Vacher (Canopy Piloting (CP) Rep) endorsed the Chairman's earlier comments (minute 5) about the arrival of CP as a new discipline. He had drafted rules for a 2004 Nationals in Canopy Piloting. The Committee agreed to issue a bid form for this new domestic event, to be held from a Saturday to a Monday possibly in August or early September 2004, subject to approval in principle by the full Council on Tuesday 17 February. Special facilities, such as a water trench, might be desirable.

Brian Vacher reported that safety issues, and therefore training and competence, had always to be paramount and this was especially so for a new discipline such as canopy piloting. Accordingly, he was recommending that the CP Nationals should not be open to all comers, but that registration as a competitor should be contingent on a competence threshold such as might be assured by a licence system, albeit to a lower standard of competence than required by IPC for international competitors. Such competence might be acquired through attendance Chris Lynch's *Wing Tips* seminar, for example. This would avoid the need to hold a training day immediately before the competition proper. The Chairman said that the Committee supported the introduction of a CP Nationals subject to adequate arrangements for safety and training being in place. Such arrangements did not fall within the remit of this Committee and were properly a matter for the Safety and Training Committee (STC). He therefore advised that Brian Vacher should take up this matter with STC.

**Action: Brian Vacher**

#### **08/04 European Skydiving League (ESL)**

Kate Charters reported that she had been in contact last season with Willy Boykens, co-ordinator of the European Skydiving League (ESL) over possible UK participation. It had become clear that this would only be practicable in the senior FS events, subject of course to the competitors themselves wishing to be part of ESL. Junior and Intermediate FS events used different dive pools in the UK and on the continent and the same dive pools were necessary to take part in ESL. Andy Scott (FS Rep) kindly agreed to co-ordinate this UK participation in ESL. The Committee understood that UK participation in ESL would be on an experimental basis and at no cost to the BPA. Andy Scott also kindly agreed to prepare an explanatory note for publication in *Skydive Magazine* and on the BPA website.

**Action: Andy Scott**

#### **09/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates**

As already discussed in the Action Plan (minute 6), the Committee believed that a natural development of the demand-led Coaching Roadshow concept was to integrate roadshows, where possible, with Grand Prix events. With limited resources of coach availability and funding, this would inevitably mean a reduction in the number of stand-alone Coaching Roadshows that could be offered in 2004 although the total number of Roadshows (including coaching at Grand Prix events) would be at least equal to the number run in the 2003 season, and probably more.

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of running Coaching Roadshows at smaller Drop Zones. On the plus side was the 'Heineken effect' as it took top teams to parts that they would otherwise never have reached. On the minus side, if small drop zones had low capacity aircraft and attracted roadshow attendees from outside their locale - as happened at some such Roadshows last year - then the DZ found its resources so stretched that there were inevitably delays that led to frustration, especially from those who had travelled a significant distance to be there. A 4-place Cessna 206 could not effectively service 50 or 60 jumpers! This applied particularly to FS, but also needed to be considered for CF Roadshows. The Chairman asked that expected numbers and aircraft capacity should be matched, where appropriate by the host Club or Centre operating a pre-registration system. It was important to publicise the need for attendees to notify the host DZ of their attendance in advance, and to arrive at the beginning of the day to enable the coaches properly to plan the day's programme for all participants. It was equally important for attendees not to think they

could arrive unannounced mid-morning and expect to be accommodated. This was not fair on the coaches, the other jumpers or even themselves - the benefit they gained from attending would be much reduced by showing up late. The Committee agreed that updated information should be posted on the Coaching Roadshow page of the BPA website to set out these points.

**Action: BPA Office**

In order to spread the budget fairly, the Committee agreed that it would put a limit per Roadshow event on the number of coaches whose travel and subsistence expenses it would cover. This limit would be a maximum of 2 coaches at a Grand Prix (where the coaches would not take part in many jumps) and a maximum of 4 coaches at other Roadshows. If additional coaches were required, the host Club or Centre would be expected to supply them and cover their expenses: that is, coaches in excess of the above maxima would be at no cost to the BPA.

As a rule of thumb for stand-alone Coaching Roadshows - not those at Grand Prix events - the Committee suggested a ratio of one coach to 8 jumpers.

At Grand Prix events, coaches would not ordinarily jump with teams except where this was necessary to further the competition, for example for the coach to make up numbers in a team. Coaches who were established or formal members of teams taking part in the competition would not be eligible to claim expenses from the BPA as coaches.

Up to four stand-alone Coaching Roadshows, covering between them FS and CF, would be held before the end of the current Action Plan year on 30 June 2004. No Artistic Roadshows would be held during this period because these were already overspent (minutes 67/03 and 71/03 refer). Classics Coaching Roadshows in Style & Accuracy were also suspended because previous Roadshows had failed to attract the target Junior and Intermediate jumpers and had become a seniors' club, which was expressly not the purpose of the Roadshow initiative.

Andy Scott reported that he had had a request for a stand-alone FS Roadshow from NWPC Cark; and Jim White said that Netheravon had also requested an FS Roadshow. Ian Marshall reported that two CF Roadshows were planned during the whole 2004 season, provisionally at St Andrews and Black Knights.

Up to twelve Coaching Roadshows would be held at Grand Prix events, subject as always to coach availability.

Finally, in response to a point raised by Kate Charters, the Chairman asked that coaches' expenses claims for attendance at Coaching Roadshows should be sent to him for approval and not to Kate Charters.

**Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)**

#### **10/04 World Parachute Championships 2004**

The World Championships in 2004 would be held as follows.

13-20 September 2004 - Brazil: Artistic Disciplines (possibly concurrent with a Canopy Piloting World Cup)

16-24 September 2004 - Croatia: FS, Classics, CF

##### **10.1 UK Delegation**

The Chairman reported that team *DZW* (Bronze Medallists at the 2003 Nationals) had accepted the invitation to represent the UK at the 4-way open event consequent on teams *XL* (Gold) and *VMax* (Silver) declining the invitation.

In 8-way open, team *Om* were facing issues of complying with the requirement that allowed up to a maximum of 25% of the team to change subsequent to selection. The Chairman said that this would allow up to three team members to change.

A rule in the 2003 selection Nationals forbade participation by the same competitor in both a 4-way and an 8-way team. This rule was an anachronism with no parallel in the international rules (it dated from the days when BPA funding criteria related to it) and therefore Ian

Marshall proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the rule that forbade participation by the same competitor in both a 4-way and an 8-way team should be deleted it from future FS selection rules, although it would not be fair on other teams to seek to delete it retrospectively.

**Carried unanimously**

Unfortunately, competitor Nick Lupton of 4-way team *DZW* and 8-way team *Om* had been caught by this now outdated, but last year still extant, rule. Should team *Om* not be able to offer a qualifying team composition under the rules of selection, FS 8-way Bronze Medallists at the 2003 selection Nationals, *Box of Frogs*, would be offered the place to compete at the FS WPC 2004 in Croatia. If *Box of Frogs* declined or had broken up, the fourth-placed team at the 2003 selection Nationals would be invited.

Andy Scott said he would talk to team *Om* and, if appropriate, team *Box of Frogs* and the fourth-placed team, to clarify the position. This was now urgent because the selected team needed to start its training programme.

**Action: Andy Scott**

### **10.2 Head of UK Delegation**

The Chairman said that, by custom an practice, the Council appointed a Head of Delegation after consultation with the Competitions Committee. It was therefore incumbent on this Committee to recommend a name or names to the Council.

For the WPC events in Croatia, John Hitchen (UK Delegate to IPC) was not available because he was to be the FAI Controller, therefore he would be IPC-funded and not able to combine this role with UK Head of Delegation. Bob Card (UK Alternate Delegate to IPC) would unfortunately not be available to go to either the WPC in Croatia or the WPC in Brazil because both clashed with the Arnhem reunion event.

After consideration, Brian Vacher proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the name of John Smyth, BPA Competitions Chairman, be recommended to the Council for a combined role of Head of Delegation and Delegation Manager of the UK delegation to WPC Croatia. He had successfully carried out a dual role of this nature at the Mondial 2003 and the Committee had full confidence that he could do so again. John Smyth indicated that, if formally invited by the Council, he would be minded to accept.

**Carried unanimously**

With respect to WPC Brazil, the Committee decided that if a Head of Delegation were required, the name or name/s of appropriate individuals would need to be discussed and that person or persons informally approached to see whether or not they would be available and interested, before any recommendation was made to the Council. The Committee needed more time to do this.

The Chairman said it was within the purview of this Committee to appoint the Delegation Manager for WPC 2004 Brazil (Artistic). Brian Vacher suggested that Nigel Holland be invited on a self-funded basis. The Chairman said the proposal should be put to Nigel Holland when he was present at the next meeting and, if he was in agreement, put to the meeting.

### **11/04 Judging matters**

Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) reported that Bob Charters and Karla Cole had been invited to judge at the FS WPC 2004 in Croatia, and the Committee congratulated them on being selected.

This year, there were 7 new trainee judges of which two would be in Canopy Piloting. The Committee agreed with a recommendation by Kate Charters to invite Dutch judge Igor van Aperin to be the Chief Judge at the British Artistic Nationals, assisted by Sue Skull.

Sue Dixon had asked Kate Charters to send her the tapes from the 2003 FS Nationals at Target to show to French trainee judges, some of whom planned to come over for training at the UK FS Nationals 2004 - an indication of just how important the British Nationals were now seen within Europe.

Finally, Kate Charters reported that she planned to run a judges' seminar at the BPA Office over a weekend, dates to be arranged.

Andy Scott asked Kate Charters if she could supply judging tapes for team training and she agreed to consult with him about this outside the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Kate Charters for her report.

**12/04 Funding for record attempts**

Ian Matthews asked for clarification of whether funding for record attempts came within the terms of reference of the Competitions Committee. The Chairman advised him that it did not, it came under the Development Committee. He understood that the organisers of the *Brit Chicks 2004* record attempt had made a presentation to the Development Committee on 2 December 2003 but had not been able to secure funding (Development Committee minute 44/03 refers).

**13/04 World Record 357-way**

Ian Matthews reported that the world 357-way record had recently been set in Thailand. The Committee offered its congratulations to the BPA Members who had taken part.

**14/04 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 16 March 2004 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2210.

**Appendix:** Draft Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

**Appendix to the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 February 2004 - minute 06.04 Action Plan 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005**

**DRAFT TEXT - Competitions Action Plan Targets 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005**

**1. Improve competitor standards to build a base for future National teams - budget £25K**

Following from the established successful programme of stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates, this target is to focus many of the Roadshows (at least 8 of the 12) on coaching at Grand Prix events and thereby bring the coaching even closer to the competitors. UK Teams at the 2003 World Championships have taken a year away from competition during 2004. All UK National teams have recognised the need to maintain momentum within UK competition, and are therefore keen to pass on their skills through coaching the next generation of skydivers. The 2006 World Championships are clearly identified as a long-term goal. The BPA needs to ensure the best possible early recognition of talent and provide opportunity and support for up-and-coming teams. By targeting coaching support at Grand Prix competition events, the BPA can help identify teams as potential medallists in 2006 World Championships. Coaches will be available to all competitors to provide technical knowledge and advice to maximise the performance of teams. Coaches will be unremunerated, receiving only an allowance to cover their travel and subsistence expenses - their motivation is to put something back into their sport.

**2. Improve the skills base for developing teams at World Cup events - budget £2K**

The World Cup of Skydiving 2005 is the bi-annual event where more than one representative per Nation is permitted. In 2005 it plans to be the biggest skydiving event ever, with up to four teams competing from each country in each discipline. The opportunity to compete against world-class teams draws many of the top teams in the sport from across the world. Currently the BPA are usually represented by medallists from the UK Senior championships. The development of less established teams would be enhanced by attendance at a World Class event such as the 2005 World Cup. The champion Grand Prix Intermediate team of 2004 would be selected to attend as a Senior team at the 2005 World Cup alongside the national senior champions from 2004.

**3. Keep the UK self-sufficient as a Nation for Judges at all levels in all Disciplines - budget £5K**

Judges are the unsung heroes of competitions. Without judges, there could be no competitions. The BPA takes seriously its responsibilities towards judges. This target is for the UK to achieve self-sufficiency in skydiving judges by enrolling two new trainee judges, and training two existing trainees to earn their ratings as National Judges. It is also to re-evaluate Judges' training and ratings in all Disciplines for half of our eligible pool of National and International Judges. The new discipline of Canopy Piloting is included, for the first time this year, in our targets for new judges. FAI, 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 target of re-evaluating half of our eligible pool of qualified judges is therefore a one-year benchmark within a two-year target.

**4. Make the UK self-sufficient in equipment for judging - budget £2K**

The BPA owns only limited equipment for judging and has to rent the remainder. One example is the landing tuffet required for Accuracy competitions. The intention is to purchase appropriate equipment, which would represent a cost saving in the long run.

Summary in matrix overleaf.../



**Competitions - Summary of Targets and Performance Measures -  
1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005**

Target	From	To	By	How	Budget
1. Improve competitor standards to build a base for future National teams	No coaching presence at Grand Prix 2003 events	At least 8 Grand Prix competitions with a skills coach specific to that discipline in 3 disciplines - investing in the World Champions of the Future!	October 2004	By running Skills Coaching at Regional Grand Prix competitions augmented by stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshows to transfer the skills and expertise of our existing World Champions <i>VMax</i> , National Champions and British Team Members to Juniors and Intermediates to build the UK National teams - and World Champions - of the future	£25,000
	Skills Coaching Roadshow events covering 4 disciplines last year	At least 4 stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshow events, one per discipline, in addition to the new coaching at Grand Prix events (above)	June 2005		
2. Improve the skills base for developing teams at World Cup events	A single UK Medal winning team competing at the 2002 World Cup	At least 3 senior teams plus the Intermediate event Champions from 2004 to compete in the 2005 World Cup	June 2005	2005 Selection Nationals to encourage senior teams plus top Intermediate team to compete in World Cup 2005 through coaching, subject to availability, by previous National Champions	£2,000
3. Keep the UK self-sufficient as a Nation for Judges at all levels in all Disciplines	UK pool of 5 Trainee Judges, XX National Judges and XX International Judges	a. Re-evaluate half the UK pool of judges b. Increase the judging pool by (i) 2 Trainee Judges, and (ii) 2 Qualified National Judges.	June 2005	a. Continue to re-evaluate judges' training and qualifications in all Disciplines, according to criteria set by our IGB. b. Provide seminars for Trainee Judges.	£5,000
4. Make the UK self-sufficient in equipment for judging	Limited judging equipment owned by BPA	Key items of judging Equipment owned by BPA	June 2005	Purchase additional judging equipment, including an accuracy tuffet	£2,000