

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Monday 15 November 2004 at 1800

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: AE
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
In attendance:	Calvin Blacker	-	Council Member / Competitor (from item 88)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Observers:	Hannah Swallow	-	Target Skysports (from item 82.3)
	Steve Swallow	-	Target Skysports (from item 84.2)
Apologies for Absence:	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: AE
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Brian Vacher	-	Discipline Rep: CP

Item Minute

81/04 Minutes

Jim White proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2004 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

82/04 Matters arising

82.1 Page 1, minute 70.1, Compatibility of WADA and UK Sport Drug Free Sport Codes

Advice from UK Sport was still awaited.

Action: Ongoing

82.2 Page 2, minute 71, IPC meeting, Warsaw, 25-30 January 2005

Issues to brief the UK's delegates to IPC would be discussed at the Competitions Open Forum on the afternoon of AGM Day, Saturday 22 January 2005 at the Hanover Hotel, Hinckley.

Action: Competitions Open Forum at AGM

82.3 Page 3, minute 72.2, Coaches expenses for top intermediate teams going to Eloy

Andy Scott had confirmed that he was liaising with the top intermediate teams in FS over representation at the World Cup in Eloy (21-29 October 2005) but was not yet in a position to report on which teams would be attending. Ian Marshall reported that he knew of one CF team that may wish to go. More than one team per country was allowed for each event.

Action: Ongoing

82.4 Page 4, minute 74, Speed Skydiving

The Council had agreed to the Committee's recommendation to hold a British Open Nationals in Speed Skydiving in 2005. Accordingly, this meet had been included in the bid form that had been issued on 21 October.

82.5 Page 5, minute 76, Registration fee for attendance at Skills Coaching Roadshows

The Council had agreed to the Committee's recommendation that a registration fee of £10 should be charged to each attendee at Skills Coaching Roadshows from the 2005 season. This was to ensure that booked places were actually taken up. See minute 85: Competitions funding.

82.6 Page 5, minute 78, Procedure for payment of judges' expenses

The agreed new approval procedure was now in place.

Completed

82.7 Page 5, minute 78, Nomination of UK international judges to IPC meets in 2005

The Chairman reported that these nominations would be due next month, and he looked forward to receiving the list from Kate Charters before the Council meeting on 7 December. He said that all UK qualified international judges should be nominated, except where a judge had specifically asked for his or her name to be withheld due because they would not be available.

Action: Kate Charters / BPA Office

83/04 Skills Coaching Roadshows

The Chairman reported that the Skills Coaching Roadshow programme was on budget. A review of expenses had highlighted the cost of transporting CF kit to Scotland. When kit did not have to be carried, the Chairman asked all Discipline Reps to note that it usually cost less for coaches to fly than to drive from southern England to Scotland.

84/04 Judging matters

84.1 Cost of Judges' expenses

The Chairman said he had planned to hold a discussion on the cost structure of judging. Because Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) was not able to be present tonight, he wished to defer a decision until she had been able to present her views to the Committee. There would also be an important opportunity to consult with judges on AGM Day on 22 January.

The Chairman started the discussion by presenting the issues, and asked all members of the Committee to reflect on these so that a decision could be taken at the first meeting in 2005.

The Chairman reported that to date - approximately six months into the financial year that had begun on 1 July - the annual budget for judges of £10K had already been spent, with actual expenditure running at almost £10.3K and another six months still remaining. Analysis of this expenditure, which had been provided by Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, revealed that the judges' seminar weekend in Leicester had cost approximately £1.5K, and the remainder had comprised car mileage and subsistence in attending competitions. There was now a long list of training judges and it was their claims that had considerably inflated the total. Once new judges had qualified in a particular discipline, a number had gone on to become trainee judges in a different discipline.

A few years ago, when more restrictive terms had applied to the eligibility of trainee judges for expenses, there had been a shortage of trainee judges. Action had therefore been taken to increase their number by dangling the 'golden carrot' of paying their expenses. This had worked so well that the Committee was now a victim of its own success. The cost of covering trainee judges' expenses to the present extent could no longer be sustained. The Chairman drew an analogy with training competitors - the BPA did not cover the travel and subsistence expenses of competitors in training, so was it reasonable that it should do so for trainee judges?

The Committee recognised that the contribution of the trainee judges of today as the qualified judges of tomorrow was a valuable one, as without judges there could be no competitions. There remained a need for an incentive to trainee judges: equally, it was important that this incentive did not cost as much. Middle ground needed to be found. Accordingly, the Chairman said that he wished, at the next meeting, to vote on:

- (i) a restructuring of the terms on which trainee judges may claim travel and subsistence expenses, such that overall expenditure is considerably reduced;
- (ii) to what extent, if any, the judges' seminar weekend in Leicester should be funded by the BPA.

Before then, these issues would be raised at the judges' meeting at the AGM, so that judges and trainee judges could make their input to the discussion.

Action: Judges Meeting on AGM Day / Next Meeting

84.2 End of season report by Frank Mallabone

Competitions equipment co-ordinator and judge Frank Mallabone had sent in an end-of-season report (circulated). The Chairman said he proposed to discuss this with Frank Mallabone and Kate Charters at the AGM.

Action: Chairman & Kate Charters

85/04 Competitions funding

The Chairman reported that, under the new budget process currently being developed by the Council, this Committee would need to set realistic targets for expenditure in the next financial year and carefully monitor its actual spend. It looked likely that it would be necessary to make provision for contingency expenditure within the Committee's own budget. UK Sport were changing their funding criteria: Chris Allen was doing an excellent job in trying to find out the details, but it was all very new and the implications for BPA competitions funding were as yet unclear.

With this as background, pursuant to minute 82.5, the Chairman proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the £10 per person registration fee for attendance at a Skills Coaching Roadshow should be credited not to the British Team Fund (as had originally been planned), but to the coaching fund, to be used to help to fund the Roadshows.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman reported that, at the next Council meeting on 7 December, there would be a vote on the allocation in percentage terms of the available BPA funds for the financial year from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. Any competitions funding from UK Sport would be in addition to this.

86/04 Competitions bids for 2005

Bid forms had been issued to all Clubs & Centres on 21 October, for return by noon today. Copies of completed bids received were tabled. Dates had been attached to FS meets in the bid form, to enable the UK to take part in the European Skydiving League, which required the UK to synchronise its dates with those of other participating European nations.

86.1 Nationals 2005

86.1.1 Formation Skydiving Nationals 2005

4-way 30 July-1 August, 8-way 6-8 August, reserve weekend 13-15 August - sole bidder - Target Skysports.

86.1.2 Artistic Nationals 2005

6-8 August, reserve weekend 13-15 August - sole bidder - Target Skysports.

86.1.3 Speed Skydiving Nationals 2005

6-8 August - sole bidder - Target Skysports.

86.1.4 8-way Speed Nationals 2005

Three bids received, from BPS Langar, Peterborough Parachute Centre and Target Skysports. Vote: Langar 1, Peterborough 2, Target 0. Successful bidder Peterborough Parachute Centre, 24-25 September.

86.1.5 Canopy Formation Nationals and Classics (Style & Accuracy) Nationals

No bids had been received. The Chairman proposed, and the Committee unanimously agreed, that the Chairman would write to the Commandant of APA Netheravon to ask

whether APA would agree to host the CF & Classics Nationals concurrently with the APA Championships in August 2005.

Action: Chairman

Ian Marshall said that, if APA agreed to host the CF Nationals, we should ask for an exemption for CF jumpers from wearing AADs.

86.1.6 Canopy Piloting Nationals

No bids had been received. The Chairman proposed, and the Committee agreed, that he should write to the Commandant of APA Netheravon to ask whether Netheravon or RAPA would be prepared to host the inaugural CP Nationals. The Committee believed that the need for the host Drop Zone to be equipped with a course over a suitable body of water had discouraged Centres from bidding to host the CP Nationals. The Committee understood that RAPA had a suitable body of water in situ. Calvin Blacker suggested that Weston should also be asked, and the Chairman said he would telephone them.

Action: Chairman

86.2 Grand Prix 2005

86.2.1 FS 4-way Grand Prix 2005

Bids had been received as follows: Headcorn (7-8 May - dates not specified by the BPA on the bid form), BPS Langar (25-26 Jun), NWPC (28-30 May), Peterborough (25-26 Jun & 9-11 Sept), Peterlee (28-30 May), Strathallan (28-30 May), Target (flexible on dates). There had been no bids for the dates of 16-17 April specified in the bid form.

The Committee selected bids as follows for the FS 4-way Grand Prix 2005:

Target Skysports, 21-22 May
NWPC Cark, 28-30 May
BPS Langar, 25-26 June
Peterborough Parachute Centre, 9-11 September.

The Committee unanimously decided not to hold a meet on 16-17 April because there had been no bids for these dates. There was no proposal to accept the Headcorn bid for 6-7 May because it would have led to too many meets during May.

For the dates of 28-30 May, bids had been received from NWPC Cark, Peterlee and Strathallan. Each bid was carefully considered. The Committee noted that this was the weekend of the Scottish Nationals, which was a club meet, and that Strathallan had not given any jump prices but had indicated on their bid form that jump prices were "tba" (to be arranged). The other two bids had clearly set out their jump prices. The vote was: NWPC Cark - 2, Peterlee - 1, Strathallan - 0.

The Chairman noted that this meant that the 4-way FS Grand Prix would not be held in 2005 at Strathallan concurrently with its Scottish Nationals, as had been the practice in the past. The Chairman assumed that the Scottish Nationals would go ahead as normal, and this would mean that there would be two FS competitions over the same weekend. He believed that this would make little difference to the number of teams that entered the Scottish Nationals because last year, few teams that had entered the Grand Prix had also entered the Scottish Nationals. The availability of Judges should be no problem. The Chairman said that the decision had been taken fairly by due process as all three bidders had the right to expect.

86.2.2 FS 8-way Grand Prix 2005

Bids had been received from: Black Knights (flexible on dates), BPS Langar (30 Apr-2 May), NWPC (28-30 May), Peterlee (28-30 May), Strathallan (28-30 May), Target (flexible on dates).

The Committee selected bids as follows for the FS 8-way Grand Prix 2005:

Black Knights, 14-15 May
NWPC Cark, 28-30 May
Target Skysports, 9-10 July.

The vote on allocation of the 28-30 May meet was: NWPC Cark - 3, Peterlee - 0, Strathallan - 0. The good value for money jump prices at NWPC had weighed in their favour.

86.2.3 Classics (Style & Accuracy) and Canopy Formation Grand Prix 2005

Bids had been received for Classics from Black Knights (flexible on dates), Strathallan (28-30 May); and for CF from Black Knights (flexible on dates), BPS Langar (flexible on dates), Strathallan (28-30 May).

The Committee selected bids as follows for the Classics (Style & Accuracy) and Canopy Formation Grand Prix 2005:

Classics & CF: Strathallan, 28-30 May
Classics & CF: Black Knights, 18-19 June
CF only: BPS Langar, 16-17 July.

86.2.4 Freely Grand Prix 2005

Bids had been received from: Black Knights (flexible on dates), Langar (30 Apr-2 May), Target (flexible on dates).

The Committee selected bids as follows for the Freely Grand Prix 2005:

BPS Langar, 30 April-2 May
Target Skysports, 9-10 July.

86.3 Publication of competitions dates 2005

The Committee agreed to the publication of the competitions dates agreed above in the 2005 BPA Calendar, whose press date was imminent.

86.4 Skills Coaching Roadshow dates 2005

The bid form this year had also, for the first time, covered Skills Coaching Roadshows. A number of bids had been received for these. The Committee carefully noted the bids but decided that it would not be prudent to confirm dates tonight. This was because the availability of coaches first needed to be checked. Coaches' availability was likely to be influenced by the competitions dates, and so could best be determined by the Discipline Reps early next year. Experience had shown that in order to attract jumpers to the Roadshows, the coaches needed to be top international skydivers.

Action: Future meetings

There remained a budget of a little under £5K for Skills Coaching Roadshows in the current financial year ending on 30 June 2004. The Chairman asked all Discipline Reps to set out firm proposals at the first meeting in the New Year.

Action: All Discipline Reps

The dates of 28-30 May that had been bid by BPS Langar for a FS Roadshow were the same as a FS Grand Prix event. The Chairman asked that this should be noted in the minutes and Andy Scott (FS Rep) invited to clarify the position. There was room for two FS Roadshows before the Nationals.

Action: Andy Scott

Nigel Holland (Artistic Events Rep) asked for additional Artistic Roadshows before the end of June 2005. The Chairman said that this would not be reasonable because almost as many Artistic as FS Roadshows had already been held during the financial year to date, and there were fewer competitors in the Artistic Events.

The Chairman asked Jim White to determine whether or not there was a genuine demand from juniors and intermediates for a Classics Roadshow. The problem with previous Classics Roadshows had been that mainly or only seniors had attended, and the Roadshows were not designed for seniors.

Action: Jim White

87/04 Second World Cup of Canopy Piloting - Lake Wales, Florida: 7-12 February 2005

The second bulletin (circulated) had now been published. Brian Vacher (Team Captain) had supplied a provisional list of UK team members. Brian Vacher had asked for a membership check on the prospective team members and this had confirmed that all but one were current BPA Members. Brian Vacher would be advised so he could take the necessary action. The Committee agreed that the BPA Office would register UK delegation. As it was to be entirely

self-funded, payment of the registration fee would need to be made by each delegation member to the BPA Office before the registration date. A single total fee for the whole delegation would then be remitted as a single payment by the BPA Office to the organisers in Lake Wales. This would save on bank charges.

Action: BPA Office

88/04 Publicity for the Nationals

Steve Swallow said it would be helpful to have assistance with publicity for the Nationals. The Chairman said he would refer this to the Development Committee to see whether the Media Co-ordinator could help, not just for the Nationals but for all BPA competitions.

Action: Refer to the Development Committee/Media Co-ordinator

89/04 Artistic Nationals - Nationality Rules

Kate Charters had asked for confirmation that an Artistic team with a non-UK camera flyer could compete in the Open Championships but not the Nationals. Nigel Holland said this was correct, British nationality being as defined in the rules.

90/04 CF Grand Prix medals

The Chairman said that the overall champions in CF Speed and CF Rotations should be recognised by the presentation of separate medals on AGM Day. This applied even if the same team had won both - which was not yet known - because each recognised a different skill.

Action: BPA Office

91/04 Date of next meeting

Excepting any subsequent need for another meeting to be arranged, this was the last meeting of 2005. Meeting dates for the Competitions Committee in 2005 would be arranged in the New Year, once the dates of Council meetings had been agreed.

The Chairman thanked all the members of the Committee who were present, as well as those who had been unable to attend tonight's meeting, for their hard work and commitment during another busy year. Ian Marshall proposed a vote of thanks that the Committee gave to John Smyth as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 2050.