

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 1 March 2005 at 1830

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: AE
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Geordie Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics (from item 10.2)
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
In attendance:	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: AE
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: CP

Item Minute

08/05 Minutes

8.1 15 November 2004 meeting

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2004 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

8.2 22 January 2005 meeting

Andy Scott proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2005 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

09/05 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 15 November 2004

9.1 Compatability of WADA and UK Anti-Doping codes (page 2, minute 82.1)

In relation to the relationship between the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code and UK Sport's Anti-Doping Policy and Rules, UK Sport had stated:

"UK Sport recognises that, first and foremost, NGBs must be compliant with their IFs. If the IF regulations follow the WADC, and NGBs are under pressure to adopt these now, before the UK Anti-Doping Policy (NADP) is available, then they should do so."

The Committee agreed to keep the issue of harmonisation of world and UK anti-doping codes under review.

9.2 Nomination of UK judges to international meets in 2005 (page 2.minute 82.7)

The nominations had been duly made.

9.3 End of 2004 season report by Frank Mallabone (page 2, minute 84.2)

The Chairman said he had replied to Frank Mallabone by letter last autumn but no further discussion had taken place at the AGM as other issues had come to the fore in the meetings with judges. The Chairman hoped that he had adequately covered the points that Frank Mallabone had raised, in particular those relating to operational equipment for competitions.

9.4 FS Grand Prix, NWPC 28-30 May 2005

The Chairman said he had had a private meeting with Kieran Brady after the inaugural Council meeting. This had led to a mutual understanding of each others' position over the unsuccessful Grand Prix bid by Strathallan, and a line had been drawn under the matter.

9.5 Skills Coaching Roadshows 2005 (page 5, minute 86.4)

Andy Scott reported that he had clarified the date.

9.6 Publicity for the Nationals (Page 6, minute 88)

The Chairman would ask Elizabeth Stoodley, Honorary Media Co-ordinator, whether she could assist.

Action: Chairman

10/05 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 22 January 2005

10.1 Pete Allum (Page 1, minute 3)

The FAI had now ratified Pete Allum's membership of the Italian National Team. The Committee wished him well, and the Chairman said he would continue to liaise with him.

Action: Chairman

10.2 Competitions Action Plan 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

The Chairman thanked Andy Scott, Vice Chairman, for working up the Action Plan for presentation to the Council in his absence. The Plan had been agreed by the Council and had become a main part of the BPA's bid to UK Sport for exchequer funding.

11/05 Report on the IPC meeting in Warsaw, Poland, 25-30 January 2005

A written report by UK Delegate John Hitchen had been circulated. Variations to the rules in various disciplines had been noted and would be incorporated as appropriate into the rules for the Nationals (minute 14). Confirmation of the 2005 rules for some disciplines such as CF had yet to be posted on the IPC website. The Chairman said the delay was because those preparing the rules had gone straight from the IPC meeting to the 2nd World Cup of Canopy Piloting in Lake Wales, USA.

12/05 2nd World Cup in Canopy Piloting: Lake Wales, Florida, USA: 7-12 February 2005

The Chairman said that Brian Vacher, Team Captain, was writing a report for *Skydive Magazine*, to which the Chairman would also make an input in his capacity as Head of Delegation.

The Chairman reported that there could be no doubt that this competition had excitement, speed and glamour. As an event, it had been very attractive to the media. So far as the organisation was concerned, the courses had been complicated to set up. Safety measures had been in place - it had been absolutely essential that the competition had been over water, otherwise there would have been serious injuries or worse.

The Chairman said that he had received offers from all over Europe to help to set up a course for the British Nationals in Canopy Piloting. He was waiting to see whether there was a response from UK Drop Zones to provide a suitable body of water. Geordie Page said that RAPA had a swoop pond, and the Chairman said that he had contacted RAPA about the possibility of using this and was awaiting a reply. He understood that the pond at RAPA would need to be enlarged to meet the required specifications for the proposed CP Nationals. Draft rules for the CP Nationals had been prepared by Brian Vacher last year. Another issue was insurance, and it would be necessary to refer to the Insurance Committee the matter of the insurance requirements for Canopy Piloting competitors and the precise form of words for a waiver of the BPA insurance policy.

The Chairman reported that IPC planned to hold a 3rd World Cup in Canopy Piloting this year, to test some further rules before the World Parachute Championships in 2006. Andy Scott proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that if it happened that no CP Nationals could be held in 2005, selection of the 2006 British Canopy Piloting team for the WPC would be from the pro-tour qualified team members at the 3rd World Cup.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said that the article in *Skydive Magazine* would invite other eligible Canopy Piloting competitors to contact Brian Vacher and Chris Lynch. If there were too many to all go to the World Cup, there would be a means of elimination based on the pro-tour scores.

The Committee congratulated all the British competitors in the 2nd World Cup in Canopy Piloting at Lake Wales. Particular congratulations were due to Paul Rossouw who had taken the Silver Medal in the Intermediate category. The Committee decided that Paul Rossouw should be awarded a Certificate of Achievement.

Action: BPA Office

13/05 Funding plan

A discussion paper by Andy Scott had been circulated with the agenda. This proposed that the established criteria of a performance equal to fourth place or better at the last World Championships should be retained, as it was effectively a requirement for UK Sport funding. The discussion paper had then gone on to question whether there should be more than one opportunity for the National Team (or individual in Style & Accuracy) in each discipline to qualify. Apart from the Nationals, where the National Team would be selected, the Anton Malevsky meet and the World Cup in Eloy potentially offered other opportunities for the National Team to try to meet the funding criteria.

A response to Andy Scott's discussion paper by Chris Allen, BPA Chairman, was tabled. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow reading time. Clarifications to the wording of the funding strategy suggested by Chris Allen were accepted with thanks. Chris Allen's suggested division of the funding cake by proportional representation was accepted as the most objectively justifiable method, viz: call the total number of competitors from all disciplines the 100% figure, then divide the percentages in relation to the numbers of competitors entering the Nationals for each discipline.

The Committee added Canopy Piloting to the list of disciplines eligible for funding.

In discussion, use of the Malevsky meet to qualify for funding was discounted because it would take place in July, before the selection Nationals. The World Cup in Eloy, however, was not until October 2005, well after the National Teams would have been selected. The Chairman said that in every other sports organisation he knew, the selection and performance criteria had to be met at a single designated event, and there was no second bite of the cherry for funding (notwithstanding that in Andy Scott's proposal this would be restricted to an already selected team). The paper by Chris Allen also advocated using only the Nationals to qualify for funding because it created the fairest and most level playing field. Geordie Page agreed, on the basis that not all disciplines may get the second chance because they might not all be represented at a post-Nationals World Cup.

Andy Scott proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion arising from Andy Scott's paper, that:

"The National Team selected at the selection Nationals, if it does not meet the funding criteria at the Nationals, may be re-considered for funding, subject to availability, at the World Cup prior to the WPC for which it has been selected."

The vote was:

For: 2 Against 1 - Geordie Page Abstain 1 - Paul Applegate

Carried

Paul Applegate said he was abstaining because he did not consider the rules surrounding the re-consideration for funding at the World Cup to be tight enough.

The Chairman summarised the Committee's decision that a performance of a National Team equal to fourth place or better at the last World Championships remained the benchmark for consideration for funding, but that it could now be looked at twice, not once.

14/05 Domestic competitions 2005

14.1 Nationals 2005

14.1.1 Style, Accuracy and Canopy Formation Nationals

The Chairman reported that he had written to Mike Smith, Commandant at APA Netheravon, as agreed at the November meeting (minute 86.1.5) to ask whether these Nationals could be held concurrently with the Army Parachute Championships during the August bank holiday week. Unfortunately, Mike Smith had said that this would not be possible because the APA

was to run Accuracy over 6 rounds only, whereas the BPA needed 10 rounds. He had, however, offered to host the Nationals during the following week, Monday 5 to Friday 9 September, on condition that the BPA paid for judges. The Chairman had declined on the grounds that the Nationals were run at no cost to the BPA, and had issued a letter to Affiliated Centres to invite bids to host the Style, Accuracy and CF Nationals during the week 5-9 September 2005. Two bids had been received, from NWPC Cark and UK Parachute Services, Norfolk, and these were tabled.

After consideration of the bids (aircraft, facilities, competitions experience), the vote was:

NWPC Cark - 3 UK Parachute Services - 1

The successful bidder was therefore NWPC Cark. The Chairman would write to convey the news, and the BPA Office would notify the Magazine and publicise the dates through the BPA website.

Action: Chairman / BPA Office

The Committee was delighted that UK Parachute Services had made a bid, as this Centre had not bid to host any BPA competitions in recent years. The Committee therefore decided that the Chairman should write to thank them for their interest and suggest that their bid should, if they agreed, be considered for a Grand Prix in Classics and CF to give the opportunity to bring the Centre in to the competitions circuit.

Action: Chairman

14.1.2 Speed Skydiving Nationals

Andy Scott proposed, and Geordie Page seconded, a motion to co-opt Mark Calland as a non-voting member of the Committee to be the Discipline Rep for Speed Skydiving.

Carried unanimously

Mark Calland's first task as Discipline Rep would be to draft the rules for the Speed Skydiving Nationals 2005. This would not be a selection meet because Speed Skydiving was not presently an FAI-recognised discipline.

14.1.3 FS Nationals

Andy Scott had circulated draft rules for the FS nationals 2005. He said that a major change was that there were no longer categories according to jump numbers, but team categories relating to team ability. The paragraph on eligibility for funding was updated based on the funding plan agreed earlier in the meeting (minute 13). The Committee agreed that this paragraph would be used as the basis for similar paragraphs in the rules for Nationals in the other disciplines that were eligible for funding.

Action: Discipline Reps (except Speed Skydiving)

Andy Scott then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the FS Nationals rules 2005 be adopted.

Carried unanimously

14.1.4 Style & Accuracy Nationals

There would no longer be an overall competition, although there would still be an overall champion with a cup.

Geordie Page proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the overall positions would be calculated for team selection but there would be no medals.

Carried unanimously

In answer to a point raised by Geordie Page, the Committee confirmed that every individual score would be pooled such that the team score would be eligible to be considered for funding if it was equivalent to fourth place or better at the last World Championships.

Geordie Page proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the overall overall competition and champion should be discontinued in all its forms.

Carried unanimously

With these variations, the Chairman authorised Geordie Page to draft the rules for the Style & Accuracy Nationals 2005, and he asked that they should be sent to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office.

Action: Geordie Page

14.1.5 CF Nationals

Ian Marshall had circulated a draft of the rules for the CF Nationals 2005. The number of rounds had been increased from 6 to 10 because the event would be held over 5 days. There would be a minimum of 3 rounds to call. 8-way speed was left in. It was noted that there might not be an 8-way event at the World Championships in 2006, and there would definitely not be an 8-way event in the World Cup 2005, but they would test 2-way at the World Cup 2005.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Geordie Page seconded, a motion that the rules for the CF Nationals 2005 be adopted.

Carried unanimously

14.1.6 Artistic Nationals

The Committee asked that Nigel Holland should draft the rules as soon as possible, and send them to Trudy Kemp at the BPA Office.

Action: Nigel Holland

In answer to a question raised in an email by Nigel Holland, the Chairman confirmed that the funding criteria of a performance equal to fourth place or better at the last World Championships applied to the fourth-placed team, irrespective of how many teams from a particular nation happened to be placed in the top four teams.

14.1.7 Canopy Piloting Nationals

Brian Vacher had already drafted the rules for the Canopy Piloting Nationals, and Jim White, this year's CP Rep, had recently asked for a copy. Jim White would co-ordinate preparation of the rules if a suitable venue could be found to run a CP Nationals this year.

14.2 Grand Prix 2005

14.2.1 FS Grand Prix

Andy Scott proposed, and Geordie Page seconded, a motion that the rules for the FS Grand Prix (circulated) should be adopted.

Carried unanimously

14.2.2 CF Grand Prix

Ian Marshall proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the rules for the CF Grand Prix (circulated) should be adopted.

Carried unanimously

14.2.3 Style & Accuracy Grand Prix

Geordie Page proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the rules for the Style & Accuracy Grand Prix, as discussed, should be adopted.

Carried unanimously

14.2.4 Freely Grand Prix

The Chairman said he looked forward to the Committee receiving the draft of the rules for the Freely Grand Prix.

Action: Nigel Holland

The Chairman asked that a table of domestic competitions 2005 should be prepared. This is attached as an appendix.

15/05 International competitions

15.1 European Skydiving League 2005

Andy Scott reported that he had liaised with ESL to ensure that appropriate UK FS meets were co-ordinated with ESL in 2005.

15.2 3rd Anton Malevsky Memorial World Cup: Stupino, Russia, 4-9 July 2005

As recorded in minute 4, the Committee had agreed that freestyle team *Tumbleweed* (Jim Weir & Deb Clarke) would represent the UK, on a self-funded basis. Andy Scott said he would put a call in *Skydive Magazine* for other teams that might wish to go, and the Chairman asked Discipline Reps to advise if they knew of any potential entrants from their disciplines.

Action: Andy Scott / Discipline Reps

Registration would be made through the BPA Office.

Action: BPA Office

15.3 Acro Festival Léman, France, 28-31 July 2005

Details had been circulated. The Chairman asked Geordie Page, Classics Discipline Rep, to call this event to the attention of any Classics jumpers who might be interested.

Action: Geordie Page

15.4 World Cup in FS, CF & Artistic - Eloy, Arizona, USA, 21-29 October 2005

The Chairman reported that this would no longer include Style & Accuracy. As recorded in minute 4, the Committee had agreed that freestyle team *Tumbleweed* (Jim Weir & Deb Clarke) would represent the UK on a self-funded basis. In FS, Andy Scott reported that in 4-way, Team *Optic*, *South Parc* and Dave Tyler's team were all interested. One women's 4-way team was interested, but as yet no 8-way team had come forward. He had put a call in the Magazine and on the BPA website for any other interested teams to make themselves known.

Andy Scott reported that there was a limit of 3 teams per nation per event. The Chairman said that, based on what he had heard at the recent IPC meeting, he thought this should be 4 teams. Andy Scott said that this was not what he had been advised by the host DZ but he would be pleased to check again to see if the position had changed.

Action: Andy Scott

Ian Marshall called attention to the £2.5K in the current year's Action Plan budget to fund coaches' expenses for the top intermediate teams from 2004 in all disciplines to go to the World Cup in Eloy. Andy Scott reported that Steve Hamilton was coaching FS 4-way team *Optic* and he was eligible to claim his expenses (ie, travel and overnight accommodation at the BPA rate) from the BPA. The same would apply to the coach for any eligible team in CF or any other eligible discipline.

15.5 World Parachuting Championships 2006 - Gera, Germany, 6-11 August 2006

This event would now comprise FS and Artistic only - there would be no CF or Style & Accuracy. Bulletin 1 had been circulated.

The Chairman reported that he understood the first World Parachuting Championships in Canopy Piloting were planned to be held in Austria about two weeks after the WPC 2006 events in Germany.

16/05 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

Discipline Reps were making arrangements with Clubs & Centres to host Skills Coaching Roadshows in the 2005 season. In reply to a question from Ian Marshall, the Chairman said that it was acceptable to run a Roadshow over a long weekend, Friday to Monday, if it was cost effective and demand-led.

17/05 Judging matters

Judging matters had been considered throughout the meeting as they arose.

The Chairman said that he had made the judges aware at their meeting on AGM day that the Committee's policy was to maintain the pool of judges at the current establishment level, and that there had to be cutbacks in the entitlement of training judges to expenses.

The Committee congratulated Kate and Bob Charters on the honour of their being invited to train judges in Greece. He had suggested they report their experience through the Magazine.

18/05 Membership questionnaire 2005

Andy Scott referred to the comments he had made at the Council meeting on 15 February 2005 about perceived bias against competitions in some of the questions in the BPA membership questionnaire 2005. The Chairman said that although he had been sent a draft of the questions by email, this had been at the time he had been out of the UK at the 2nd World Cup in Canopy Piloting at Lake Wales, USA. Therefore, he had not seen the questions before publication. The Committee believed that, as the Chairman's absence was known, a

copy of the draft should have been supplied to the Vice Chairman. The Chairman said he believed that the membership was astute enough to recognise any bias in the questions. He said he was ready to clarify the facts should this be necessary when the analysis of responses was published.

19/05 Drop Zone Operators' Forum

The Committee noted there was to be a discussion on wind tunnels at upcoming DZO forum. As no members of this Committee were able to attend, Andy Scott said he would make a written representation on the Committee's views on the value of wind tunnels for training competitors.

Action: Andy Scott

20/05 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 April 2005 at 1830 at the BPA Office. (Note: This meeting was subsequently postponed to a date to be arranged after the Council meeting on Tuesday 19 April.)
Andy Scott said he would be out of the UK from 4-19 April.

The meeting closed at 1025.

Appendix: Nationals and Grand Prix competitions dates 2005



Competition Dates 2005

as at 18 March 2005

British Open Nationals 2005

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
FS 4-way	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 30 July - Mon 1 August 2005
FS 8-way, Artistic & Speed	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 6 - Mon 8 August 2005 plus following weekend in reserve
Classics & CF	NWPC Cark	Mon 5 - Fri 9 Sept 2005
8-way Speed	PPC Sibson	Sat 24 - Sun 25 Sept 2005

Grand Prix 2005

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Freefly	BPS Langar	Sat 30 April - Mon 2 May 2005
FS 8-way	Black Knights PC	Sat 14 - Sun 15 May 2005
FS 4-way	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 21 - Sun 22 May 2005
FS 4-way & FS 8-way	NWPC Cark	Sat 28 - Mon 30 May 2005
Classics & CF	Black Knights PC	Sat 18 - Sun 19 June 2005
FS 4-way	BPS Langar	Sat 25 - Sun 26 June 2005
FS 8-way & Freefly	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	Sat 9 - Sun 10 July 2005
CF	BPS Langar	Sat 16 - Sun 17 July 2005
FS 4-way	PPC Sibson	Fri 9 - Sun 11 September 2005