

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 27 April 2005 at 1815

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 (from item 23.7)
	Geordie Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: CP
In attendance:	Mark Calland	-	Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving
	Bob Charters		
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Paul Denis-Smith	-	CF competitor
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: AE

Item Minute

21/05 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Mark Calland, who had been co-opted as a non-voting Member of the Committee as Discipline Rep for Speed Skydiving. The Chairman said the BPA had never before held National Championships in a skydiving discipline not yet recognised by the IPC/FAI. He was sure that our new National Championships, together with Nationals in other countries such as Australia and Sweden, would help in the process of achieving recognition. He asked that John Hitchen, as our IPC representative, should continue to lobby for IPC recognition.

Action: John Hitchen

22/05 E-mails from Nigel Holland

Paul Applegate raised an issue about an advertisement for tandem skydives that appeared at the bottom of emails he and others had received from Nigel Holland. He said it was inappropriate for a Council Member and a Member of this Committee to carry advertising such as this on e-mails relating to BPA matters. The Chairman said that he had already spoken informally to Nigel Holland to ask him to take off the advertisement. Paul Applegate then proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that Nigel Holland should be formally requested not to use this advertisement on any future emails he sent out in relation to his activities as a Member of the BPA Council and Competitions Committee.

Carried unanimously

23/05 Minutes

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2005 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

24/05 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 1 March 2005

24.1 Compatability of WADA and UK Anti-Doping codes (page 1, minute 9.1)

The Committee agreed to retain this as a standing agenda item in order to keep the matter under regular review.

24.2 Publicity for the Nationals (Page 2, minute 9.6)

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Elizabeth Stoodley, Honorary Media Co-ordinator, who had kindly agreed to contact each Club or Centre hosting the Nationals or Grand Prix to ascertain their needs and expectations in terms of publicity. She would then action the responses accordingly. The Committee thanked Elizabeth Stoodley for her help.

24.3 Liaison with Pete Allum (Page 2, minute 10.1)

The Chairman reported that Pete Allum was training hard as a member of the Italian 4-way FS team. The Committee again wished him well.

24.4 Certificate of Achievement: Paul Rossouw (Page 3, end of minute 12.5)

The Chairman reported that the Council, at its meeting on 19 April, had ratified this Committee's decision to award Paul Rossouw a Certificate of Achievement for winning the Silver Medal in the Intermediate Category at the 2nd World Cup in Canopy Piloting held at Lake Wales, Florida, USA, from 7-12 February 2005.

24.5 Funding plan (Page 3, minute 13)

The Chairman asked, and the Committee agreed, that this item be taken under consideration of the Artistics Nationals rules (item 27.1.1) as it was relevant to how the funding criteria were expressed therein.

24.6 Classics Grand Prix at UK Parachuting, Norfolk (Page 4, minute 14.4.1)

UK Parachuting had replied to the Chairman's letter (minute 14.4.1) to say they would like to host a Classics Grand Prix. Geordie Page had liaised with them and reported that they were busy with tandems at the weekends. He would continue to liaise with a view to finding a suitable date for a Classics Grand Prix meet to augment the one Classics Grand Prix already in the calendar (at BKPC Cockerham on 18-19 June 2005).

Action: Geordie Page

24.7 Membership questionnaire (Page 6, minute 18)

The Committee decided to await the published analysis of the questionnaire before discussing it further.

24.8 DZ Operators' Forum (Page 7, minute 19)

As agreed, Andy Scott had made a written representation of the Committee's views to the Development Committee, which had organised the DZOs Forum. These views had been duly noted and had been reflected in the discussions on the day.

25/05 Domestic competitions 2005

25.1 Nationals 2005

25.1.1 Funding criteria

Nigel Holland had circulated the draft of the Artistic Nationals rules 2005. These contained the agreed funding criteria of a performance at these selection Nationals equivalent to fourth place or better at the last World Championships (WPC). Nigel Holland had included the 4th place scores in each event. The Chairman said that in men's Freestyle, only four teams had entered the last WPC and there had been an enormous difference between the third place score and the fourth place score, the latter being in effect the bottom score. As such, achievement of this modest score, compared with the minimum medal winners' score – which was 11.7 points more – was not a realistic predictor of likely medals success at the next WPC.

The Chairman said that funding a team that had met the fourth-place performance criteria in such circumstances would at best not be good use of the limited funding available and at worst be a waste of money. The Chairman said he did not therefore believe that achieving a score of fourth place or (slightly) better in such circumstances should ever be a guarantee of

funding, but that it should be a benchmark for consideration. The third place score at the last WPC, and the number of teams that had competed in the last WPC, were also relevant factors that sensibly needed to be considered by the Committee.

The Committee agreed that the fourth place score from the last WPC had to be seen in context, not in isolation. The criteria for funding were about a real commitment to the pursuit of excellence and a realistic prospect of coming home with a medal. Ian Marshall said that a precedent had been set with a CF team a few years ago, which did not even bother to ask for funding in similar circumstances.

The Committee therefore agreed that the funding criteria should be further clarified by the addition of the statement that, to be considered, a team (or individual, in the case of Style & Accuracy) had to achieve a score at the selection Nationals equal to fourth place or better at the last WPC...

“The fourth place score is simply a benchmark that will be carefully assessed by the Committee in the light of its policy to seek to provide, subject to availability, financial assistance to UK teams that show a real commitment to world-class performance and demonstrate a convincing and realistic prospect of winning a medal at the next WPC.”

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the above addition (italicised) should be made to the funding criteria section of the Nationals rules for all disciplines*, and that it should be circulated to Clubs & Centres and posted on the BPA website as an addition to the already-issued rules for the FS Nationals.

*excluding Speed Skydiving, which was not yet recognised by IPC (minute 21) and therefore did not yet qualify for funding.

Carried unanimously Action: BPA Office

The Chairman then summarised the discussion on funding criteria that had taken place at the Council meeting on 19 April 2005. Although the Council had ratified the funding criteria, which had included provision for the National Team (and only the National Team) to be reconsidered for funding according to its performance at the World Cup 2005. The same criteria would apply, although the Chairman of Council had questioned whether higher criteria should be put in place – namely performance equal to third place or better at the last WPC. This was because the World Cup was later in the year than the selection Nationals and therefore the National Team should be closer to its peak performance for WPC. The Committee understood the rationale behind the point the Chairman of Council had raised. However, it believed that the funding criteria should remain as above.

25.1.2 Artistic Nationals

Paul Applegate then proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the rules for the Artistic Nationals 2005 should be published, after (i) removal from the draft of the fourth-place scores from the last WPC; and (ii) addition of the wording in minute 25.1.1 above to further explain the performance criteria for funding.

Carried unanimously

25.1.3 Speed Skydiving Nationals

Ian Marshall proposed, and Geordie page seconded, a motion that the draft rules for the Speed Skydiving Nationals 2005, which had been circulated in draft by Mark Calland, should be approved.

Carried unanimously

As already stated (minute 27.1.1), the funding criteria did not apply to Speed Skydiving because it was not yet an IPC-recognised discipline.

Mark Calland would liaise with Kate Charters on training judges (see also minute 27).

Action: Mark Calland / Kate Charters

25.1.4 Speed 8 Nationals

Andy Scott said he was waiting for clarification of certain technical points and he would then draft the rules for the Speed 8 Nationals. The meet would not take place until September so there was no immediate hurry.

Action: Andy Scott

25.1.5 Style & Accuracy Nationals

Geordie Page proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the rules for the Style & Accuracy Nationals should be approved as per the draft circulated.

Carried unanimously

25.1.6 CP Nationals

The Chairman reported that no suitable venue had yet been identified for the proposed first-ever Canopy Piloting Nationals in 2005. If no suitable venue could be identified, the 3rd World Cup in Canopy Piloting, which would take place in Austria from 23-27 August 2005 (see minute 26.6), would be used to select the UK team for the first World Championships in Canopy Piloting to be held in August 2006.

25.1.7 CF Nationals

Andy Scott proposed, and Geordie page seconded, a motion that the rules for the Canopy Formation Nationals should be approved as per the draft circulated.

Carried unanimously

Paul Denis-Smith, a CF competitor, tabled a document that set out CF competitors' concerns over the scheduling of the CF Nationals over a week, Monday 5 to Friday 9 September 2005 (at NWPC Cark, concurrently with the Classics Nationals) rather than over a weekend as had been the practice in recent years. The issue was that competitors had expected the CF Nationals to be held over a weekend, and many of them had run short of holiday from work to be able to compete during the week. The Chairman had received emails about this from several CF competitors, and these together with a fax from Paul Yeoman received today, had all been circulated.

The Chairman explained at some length the background to the arrangements that had been made with Cark. The initial bid form for the Nationals, issued to all Clubs & Centres, had resulted in no bids for the CF Nationals. This had been after the APA had been unable to accommodate the CF Nationals concurrently with the APA Championships because they were running fewer rounds. The APA had offered to host the CF Nationals during the following week, but at cost to the BPA. The Committee had not been able to accept this because the established policy for Nationals in all disciplines was that they were run at no cost to the BPA.

Therefore, a second bid form had been issued to all Clubs & Centres for a combined CF and Classics Nationals. The bid form had highlighted the economy of scale that could be achieved by running CF and Style together – as they exited from the same altitude – and it was on this basis that bids had been received. The Committee had then selected the bid from NWPC Cark who had been offered, and had accepted, to host the CF Nationals on this basis.

The Chairman said that the fact was that Drop Zones were businesses and not charities. They faced commercial and economic pressures in the same way as any other business. The issue raised by the competitors had been discussed with Cark, but Cark was not able to accommodate the meet over a weekend because they were running their student programme then. Further, the economy of scale of running CF and Style together would no longer apply to a weekend meet, because the Classics competitors favoured a Monday to Friday competition.

Paul Dennis Smith reported that he had spoken to another Centre that had indicated it would be willing to host the CF Nationals over a weekend should Cark decide that it was no longer able to host the meet. The Chairman said that Cark had not, and was not likely to, make any such decision.

The Committee discussed the possibility of prioritising CF on the Monday and Tuesday. However, this was a decision normally taken on site by the Meet Director. Geordie Page said he could not support the Committee deciding anything now because it would create an unfortunate precedent and it might be unfair to Accuracy jumpers. After further discussion, no proposal to prioritise CF was forthcoming.

Ian Marshall, on behalf of CF competitors, proposed that the dates of the CF Nationals should be changed to a weekend in order to accommodate the wishes of the majority of CF competitors. There was no seconder, so the proposal failed.

The Chairman thanked all concerned for their full and frank exchange of views. He said the competitors had made their point well and their concern had been clear to the Committee. However, the Committee had entered in good faith into an agreement with NWPC Cark to host the CF Nationals concurrently with the Classics Nationals on weekday dates that the Committee had specified. The Chairman said he knew of two or three CF teams, including Army teams, that he believed would attend the weekday CF Nationals and he regretted that it was not possible to change these arrangements now. He hoped that the CF competitors would understand the situation and do their best to commit to the existing arrangements.

25.2 Grand Prix 2005

25.2.1 CF Grand Prix

Ian Marshall reported that colleagues in France had asked why 8-way CF speed was still included in the British Nationals. The event had been dropped from the French Nationals on safety grounds, and it was no longer included in the World Cup in CF. The Committee believed this was an appropriate point to raise, but considered that the safety briefings given by CCIs and meet directors in the UK were suitable and sufficient to manage the risk.

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

Carried unanimously

25.2.2 Style Grand Prix

Geordie Page proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the rules for the Style Grand Prix (circulated) should be adopted.

Carried unanimously

25.2.3 Accuracy Grand Prix

Geordie Page proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the rules for the Accuracy Grand Prix (circulated) should be adopted. This included a variation from last year in the scoring for seniors, with a new maximum of 16cm.

Carried unanimously

25.2.4 Freely Grand Prix

Andy Scott proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the rules for the Freely Grand Prix should be approved as per the draft circulated by Nigel Holland.

Carried unanimously

26/05 International competitions

26.1 European Skydiving League 2005

Andy Scott reported that ESL had brought forward the final from 9 - 11 September to 2 - 4 September 2005. This meant it no longer coincided with the 4-way FS Grand Prix at PPC Sibson. Andy Scott had therefore asked Sibson to make Friday 9 September an optional practice day and to hold the Grand Prix on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September.

26.2 3rd Anton Malevsky Memorial World Cup: Stupino, Russia, 4-9 July 2005

Women's Freely team *Tumbleweed* (Deb Clarke and Jim Weir) were the only British competitors known to be entering. They would be self-funded. Andy Scott said he would check whether or not FS 4-way team *Optic* wished to go. The registration deadline was 15 May.

Action: Andy Scott

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

Geordie Page reported that he was not aware of any UK Classics jumpers who planned to take part.

26.4 World Cup in FS, CF & Artistic - Eloy, Arizona, USA, 21-29 October 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 reported that four 4-way FS teams (3 open, 1 women's) were planning to enter. Ian Marshall reported that two CF teams had expressed an interest. The Chairman reported that the UK delegation was likely to be of such a size as to merit the appointment of a combined Head of Delegation and Team Manager, again on a self-funded basis. John Hitchen had offered to take on this role. The Chairman invited the suggestion of any other nominations, but none was forthcoming. Paul Applegate therefore proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that John Hitchen's name be recommended to the Council as joint Head of the British Delegation and Team Manager for the World Cup 2005 in Eloy, on a self-funded basis.

Carried unanimously

The Committee asked John Hitchen, as the UK's IPC Delegate, to ascertain whether due process had been followed within IPC on reducing the number of teams per nation eligible to enter in most disciplines from four to three.

Action: John Hitchen

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

Andy Scott initiated a discussion about whether the 2006 British Nationals in FS should be held before or after World Championships because the latter clashed with the usual dates of the FS Nationals. The consensus of the Committee was that the FS Nationals should be held after the world meet, a date and location to be arranged. The Chairman thanked Andy Scott for raising this point so early.

26.6 3rd World Cup in Canopy Piloting – Austria, 24-28 August 2005

The Chairman reported that the team would be selected by the Pro-Tour and captained by Brian Vacher. An email dated 27 March from Brian Vacher set out the team and Ian Marshall proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, that this should be accepted. All team members were appropriately qualified.

Carried unanimously

26.7 Insurance at world meets for National teams

Geordie Page proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to seek advice from the Insurance Committee on the third party insurance of competitors in the National Team now that the limit of BPA's third party insurance at non-Affiliated Drop Zones overseas had been reduced from £2m to £100K.

Action: Refer to Insurance Committee

27/05 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

Andy Scott reported that the Coaching Roadshow programme in FS was as published, and included coaches at competitions as well as at self-standing events. Peterlee was keen to host a FS Coaching Roadshow but competitors needed one in the south of Britain. The Chairman asked Andy Scott to liaise with all parties and to seek to satisfy demand. Andy Scott noted that Netheravon were to host their own coaching extravaganza (not a BPA event) which might go some way to help to redress the balance of BPA FS coaching being in the north.

Ian Marshall reported that BKPC Cockerham had sought a CF Roadshow but after negotiation he had agreed with BKPC to help to provide equipment for the Centre's own coaching week, which would not be a BPA Coaching Roadshow.

Geordie Page reported that no Classics Roadshows were yet planned because no demand was yet apparent from the Junior and Intermediate jumpers at whom they were aimed.

In Artistic Events, Nigel Holland had arranged three Coaching Roadshows. This was the maximum that the budget could support.

Geordie Page proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion to ask Mark Calland to liaise with Nigel Holland with a view to Mark Calland providing coaching in Speed Skydiving at the Artistic roadshows and encouraging Artistic jumpers to try it. Mark Calland would also liaise with the DZ Operators, and with Kate Charters reference judges' training.

Carried unanimously - Action: Mark Calland

28/05 Judging matters

28.1 Judges' training seminar in Greece

Kate Charters, Judges Co-ordinator, reported that she and Bob Charters had coached 48 trainee FS and Accuracy judges in Greece. The training had gone well and had been the first time the Greek military and civilian sport parachutists had come together. One of the Greek officials planned to come to the UK Nationals to get a better insight into competition judging in the UK. An article was due to appear in the next issue of *Skydive Magazine*. The Chairman thanked Kate and Bob Charters on behalf of the BPA and congratulated them on the success in delivering this innovative training programme in Greece.

Geordie Page proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to agree to a request that Kate Charters relayed from Greece, that they be loaned the BPA Accuracy scoring system on the

basis that they paid for its outward and return shipping and insurance. It would be returned on 6 June.

Carried unanimously

28.2 National judges 2005

Kate Charters reported that she had completed the list of current National judges based on those who had submitted their logbooks for validation and confirmed their availability for 2005. She had also completed work on allocating judges to competitions. The Committee fully supported Kate Charters in not allocating to competitions in 2005 any judges who had failed to submit their log-books as had been required.

Kate Charters said that following the decision of Dave McLagan to resign as a judge (his email had been circulated), she was short of judges in CF. The Committee asked Kate Charters to seek to make up any shortfall by recruiting a CF judge from Europe - France and Ireland were both believed to have suitable judges who might be invited.

Action: Kate Charters

Kate Charters reported that the 2005 pre-season meeting of all judges planned for last weekend at Hibaldstow had unfortunately had to be cancelled because she had suffered a back injury at work and was presently unable to drive.

28.3 Judges' funding

The Chairman again outlined the position on judges' funding. Competition judges would continue to be entitled to claim the standard allowance of £25 a day for their accommodation and meals, plus travel at the standard BPA mileage rate. However, as the judges' pool was now up to establishment after a highly successful Action Plan target to recruit and train more judges, the level of funding for trainee judges could not be sustained. Instead of paying trainee judges the standard allowance, those who successfully completed their training would be entitled to receive a bursary at the end of the year, the amount to be determined according to the funding available at the time.

With regard to the World Cup 2005 in Eloy (minute 26.4), the Chairman said that – as was custom and practice for World Cups – the British delegation was to be entirely self funded. This applied to competitors, judges and all others in the delegation. Historically, judges might have been able to reclaim their expenses if they had qualified as an international judge, but this had never been guaranteed: it depended entirely on the availability of funding from year to year, which varied in accordance with the targets and their associated funding allocations set out in the Competitions Action Plan.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that Dave McLagan appeared to have misunderstood the position. In particular, Dave McLagan's concern that judges allocated to competitions would not continue to receive the usual standard allowance was entirely without substance and foundation. The Committee accepted Dave McLagan's resignation with regret.

The Chairman said that no-one was discriminating against judges and their essential contribution to competitions could not be underestimated: without judges there could be no competitions. But the budget in expanding the present judging pool had been seriously overspent and the current Action Plan included the key target of winning medals at the WPC whilst maintaining the UK's national and international judging pool at establishment. As funding was finite, the Committee had a duty to allocate that funding where it was most likely to be beneficial, from one year to another. Funding allocations therefore, quite naturally, changed and should not be seen as an entitlement. The main reason for involvement in sport parachuting for all stakeholders, judges included, should be love of the sport and not financial benefit. Andy Scott said he was sure that competitors, some of whom had spent thousands of pounds of their own money in training, would fully endorse that view.

The Chairman asked Kate Charters kindly to report back the position to the judges.

Action: Kate Charters

Andy Scott said he was concerned that competition judges received a subsistence allowance of £25 a day, intended to cover accommodation and meals, instead of the entitlement to claim receipted out-of-pocket expenditure on accommodation and meals up to this amount. He said

that coaches on the Skills Coaching Roadshows, to whom the same limit applied, should submit receipts and only claim actuals if they were below the maximum of £25. The Chairman said that because this was a question on financial policy, Andy Scott should refer his concern to the full Council.

Action: Andy Scott to refer to the Council

29/05 Nationality rules

Ian Marshall sought clarification on the nationality rules, which the Chairman provided by saying that the requirement was that the individual had to be a British passport holder (or eligible to hold one) and have been a UK resident for 3 years (UK military bases overseas included).

The Chairman said it was important to recognise that the rules did not stop overseas competitors competing in the British Nationals, for they were very welcome. What the nationality rules did do was to specify who was eligible win British National medals, with of course the National Champions qualifying to represent Britain at World Meets and to be eligible for funding subject to meeting the performance criteria for funding (minute 25.1.1).

Ian Marshall said he believed that the BPA's nationality rules differed slightly from those set out by FAI. He wondered whether the BPA's rules (which had been in place for some years) were in compliance with current European sporting rules. The Chairman said this question should best be referred to the Chairman of Council.

Action: Refer to the Chairman of Council

30/05 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7 June 2005 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2125.