

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 20 July 2005 at 1808

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

Present:	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Asst Discipline Rep: AE
	Nigel Holland	-	Discipline Rep: AE
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Geordie Page	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Andy Scott	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Jim White	-	Discipline Rep: CP
In attendance:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Steve Saunders	-	CF competitor (from item 41.6)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence	Mark Calland	-	Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving
	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator

Item Minute

40/05 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2005 be approved as a correct record, subject to correction of the second Classics Grand Prix competition date in minute 32.4 to read 'Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September 2005 at UK Parachuting, Norfolk', correction of the item from page 5 so that it was in sequence, and correction of the title of minute 37 to read 'Possible AGM presentation'.

Approved

41/05 Matters arising

41.1 Computability of WADA and UK Sport Anti-Doping Code (Page 1, minute 32.2)

The Chairman said he had prepared a letter to send to the Director of Anti-Doping at UK Sport with reference to incorrect policy information that had been sent in an email by a UK Sport Anti-Doping Information Officer in reply to an enquiry from a BPA competitor. He would arrange for his letter, and in due course the reply, to be circulated to the Committee.

41.2 Certificate of Achievement: Paul Rossouw (Page 2, minute 32.3)

Paul Rossouw had yet to renew his Membership, but had promised to do so shortly.

41.3 Classics Grand Prix at St Andrews (Page 2, minute 32.4)

Geordie Page reported that the Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July 2005 at Skydive St Andrews had unfortunately not taken place. This was because of logistical problems in organising transport of the accuracy pad and judging equipment to St Andrews. The equipment was in north west England but the trailer to transport it was in Suffolk. The issue of transport of the Classics competitions equipment would be discussed later in the meeting (minute 47.1). The Chairman thanked Jim White of St Andrews for his understanding of the situation that led to the event having to be cancelled, for which he was very sorry.

41.4 Judges' training in speed skydiving (Page 3, minute 32.6)

This was held over until the next meeting, when Mark Calland and Kate Charters would be present.

Action: Mark Calland & Kate Charters

41.5 3rd Anton Malevsky Memorial World Cup - Stupino, Russia: 4-9 July 2005 (Page 3, minute 32.9)

The Chairman reported that this had been an excellent meet, at which a new world record had been set. He congratulated John Hitchen who had been FAI controller. UK competitors Deb Clarke and Jim Weir. Team *Tumbleweed*, had come sixth in the women's Freely. UK Classics competitor Jeff Chandler had been unable to take part because of problems in obtaining a Russian entry visa in time.

41.6 Speed Skydiving coaching at Artistic Roadshows (page 3, minute 32.11)

Nigel Holland reported that he had given the dates of Artistic Coaching Roadshows to Mark Calland but had not heard further from him. The next Artistic Roadshow would be held at BKPC Cockerham on 10-11 September 2005.

41.7 Loan of BPA Accuracy Scoring System to Greece (page 3, minute 32.12)

The Chairman reported that this had gone to plan and the cost of transport had been refunded by the parachuting organisation in Greece.

41.8 Acro Festival: Léman, France, 28-31 July 2005 (page 5, minute 33.3)

Geordie Page reported that arrangements for the UK team to take part in the Acro Festival, which had been organised with assistance from the British Gymnastics Federation, were going well. The UK Classics parachuting team comprised Fran Shaskova-Richards (who had kindly overseen administration for the team), Esther Reynolds, Jeff Chandler and Robin Mills.

41.9 Possible AGM presentation (page 7, minute 35)

Andy Scott said he would report back to a later meeting on whether or not there was a possibility of Craig Girard of *Arizona Airspeed* making a presentation to the BPA AGM.

Action: Andy Scott

42/05 Domestic competitions 2005

42.1 Grand Prix 2005

42.1.1 Freely Grand Prix - Langar: 30 April - 2May 2005

The Council at its meeting on 14 June had referred back to this Committee the issue of the conduct of Nigel Holland and Sue Skull (Competitions Committee minute 33.1.1 of the minutes of the meeting on 7 June). Elizabeth Stoodley had emailed the Chairman to say that Council minute 35.2 did not accurately report the basis on which the matter had been referred back, which she said had been for the Competitions Committee to consider whether to write to the individuals concerned.

After discussion, the Committee considered that both parties had learned valuable lessons from this unfortunate experience. The Chairman sought an assurance from Nigel Holland that there would be no repeat and the assurance was given. The Committee unanimously agreed with the Chairman that a line should now be drawn under this matter and that the Committee should take no further action. This being so, the Chairman was now in a position to report back to David Hickling, as he had already promised (Competitions minute 33.1.1).

Action: Chairman

42.1.2 Classics & CF Grand Prix, BKPC Cockerham, 18-19 June

Relatively few competitors had entered this meet, but Geordie Page said he had heard that the Style & Accuracy events had gone well. In CF, two teams had taken part. Steve Saunders was in attendance and he reported that his team had won the 2-way sequential CF event. The team that had come second had lodged an objection to this result based on Rule 30 that read as follows:

Rule 30 Teams may consist of two members and an alternate, and a videographer. A competitor may not compete in more than one team. In order to promote Canopy

Formation teams can hold only one member of a national team, or medallist of a national CF meet of the previous year. This rule does not apply to the videographer.

Their invocation of Rule 30 was on the basis that Steve Saunders, who was a member of the team that had won this Grand Prix event, had been the videographer for the 2-way team last year.

In discussion, the Committee concluded that, in a Grand Prix event, the videographer was not be considered to be a member of the team, but simply as providing a means to judge the team's performance. This had to be so, because pool videographers were widely used in Grand Prix. Also, each event was considered separately. Ian Marshall (CF Discipline Rep) said that Rule 30 had been brought in by the French to encourage competition in 2-way CF but now that 2-way had been established, the rule had become redundant.

Ian Marshall therefore proposed, and Geordie Page seconded, a motion that CF Grand Prix Rule 30 for seniors was redundant and should be struck out.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said this raised the issue of misinterpretation of the purpose of such rules. Rule 30 had been included with the objective of *encouraging* competition. If, perversely, a rule such as this had the effect of discouraging competition – the opposite result to that intended – meet directors and chief judges at both the Grand Prix and Nationals should apply the authority vested in them and use their discretion to strike it out. The plain fact was that if two teams had not competed in the 2-way sequential CF event at Cockerham, there would not have been a competition. (This differed from the Nationals where a single team or entrant might compete against a performance standard.)

42.1.3 FS 4-way, BPS Langar, 25–26 June 2005

Andy Scott reported that this had been a good meet that attracted 16 teams. Coaching had been provided by Lynne Murray of Team *Misstral*. The meet had been part of the ESL series that had used a common dive pool in 6 European countries, also shared with the NSL in the USA. This allowed direct comparison of performance between different countries. Our UK juniors had done well compared with the European and US rookies, but our seniors had come way behind the US and Belgian teams. Particular thanks were due to David Hickling for hosting the meet and to the three judges who did such a good job.

42.1.4 FS 8-way and FF, Target Skysports, Hibaldstow: 9-10 July 2005

Andy Scott reported that in the FS 8-way there had been 6 teams comprising 54 competitors. VNE had provided skills coaching. Nigel Holland said that in Freefly, there had been 2 teams, one visiting and one home. It had been disappointing that, after a successful Freefly Skills Coaching Roadshow on 2-3 July, more had not entered the competition. Nigel Holland said that a possible reason was that there had been a clash of dates with the BCPA Nationals. The Chairman said that it would be necessary to look, in the end-of-season review, at the costs of holding a competition so poorly attended. He asked that a review of this season's FF Grand Prix should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

42.1.5 CF, BPS Langar: 16-17 July 2005

Steve Saunders noted with disappointment that the meet had been so poorly supported that not even the home team had taken part, and one of the three teams that had taken part (2 x 2-way and 1 x 4-way) had left after the third round. Those that had competed had also been participating in a 50-way event over the same weekend. The CF competition had, however, been well run. David Hickling was praised for his first-class organisational skills that had given the CF competitors an aircraft to themselves on every third lift. David Hickling's magnificent support of competitions in general was also praised. The Chairman was mindful that the BPA underwrote the cost of Grand Prix competitions and relied on the goodwill of Clubs & Centres to host them. The Committee's end-of-season review therefore needed to look carefully at the level of participation to inform the planning of next season's programme.

42.1.6 Grand Prix yet to be held in 2005

Andy Scott reported that he had arranged coaches for the 4-way FS Grand Prix to be held at PPC Sibson on 9-11 September. Geordie Page confirmed that all was in hand for the Classics Grand Prix to be held at UK Parachuting, Norfolk, on 24-25 September. The

Chairman said that the end-of-season review to be held at the next meeting should pay particular attention to participation rates in Classics competitions, because of the additional costs of transporting equipment to and from the host Drop Zone.

43.2 Nationals 2005

43.2.1 FS Nationals - Target Skysports, Hibaldstow: 30 July-1 August and 6-8 August 2005

The meet director had now been confirmed as John Hitchen. 50+ teams were expected at this, the largest domestic meet of the season, which was widely recognised as the BPA's 'blue riband' event. The Chairman reported with regret that work commitments overseas would unfortunately prevent him from being present throughout but he would send John Hitchen and Andy Scott an email to convey his best wishes for a keen and successful competition to everybody at the event. He asked that Andy Scott, as Vice Chairman, should formally represent this Committee at the FS Nationals. Nigel Holland said he planned to be present throughout.

Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that due to the expected high demand by juniors and intermediates for coaching at the FS Nationals, the Committee should authorise four BPA FS 4-way skills coaches to attend.

Carried unanimously

With regard to the presentation of medals (minute 32.2.1), the Chairman reported that the BPA Vice Presidents were unfortunately not available. John Hitchen said he would speak to Steve Swallow of Target Skysports to suggest that Target might invite the mayor or other local dignitary to do the honours.

43.2.2 Classics & CF Nationals – NWPC Cark: 5-9 September 2005

Geordie Page reported that the accuracy tuffet was already at Cark and all the arrangements were in hand.

In CF, there was an unhelpful email doing the rounds from a team that had wanted a weekend CF Nationals and did not now wish to go to Cark for a competition to be held during the week. This email sought to criticise Cark for charging up front, and failed to recognise that a refund would be given for jumps not made. The Chairman said that putting out misinformation of this nature in an attempt to discourage competition went against everything this Committee stood and worked for. He asked Ian Marshall, in his capacity as CF Discipline Rep, to quash this unhelpful rumour and inform its originators that the Committee took a dim view of such selfish and unsporting behaviour.

Action: Ian Marshall

44/05 International competitions

44.1 European Skydiving League 2005

Andy Scott reported that the ESL website was now back up and running. He said that quite a number of teams were now coming round to the idea of harmonising with ESL with rookie (junior), AA (intermediate) and AAA (senior) categories. He was therefore proposing to discuss with Willie Boykens, ESL Co-ordinator, the possible creation of a new ESL category for juniors next year.

Action: Andy Scott

44.2 3rd World Cup in Canopy Piloting: Steiermark-Stubenberg am See, Austria, 24-28 August 2005

The 7-strong UK delegation under the captainship of Brian Vacher had now been registered: Paul Gurteen, Michael Holmes, Chris Lynch, Alastair Macartney, Martin Reynolds and Paul Rossouw. Some of the team members were not UK-based, and had asked for special dispensation to take out temporary membership of the BPA, as Paul Gurteen had done last year. The Chairman said that allowing a member of the National team to take out temporary, rather than full, BPA membership last year had been an error.

Ian Marshall proposed, and Geordie Page seconded, a motion that all competitors in any National team representing the UK must be current full BPA Members.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said that if any members of the CP team had any issues with this policy, they should contact him direct before he left for his month-long overseas work assignment at the end of the month.

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

Provisional registration of the UK delegation was due by 10 August and official entry by 8 September. This was a self-funded event and, as usual, the Committee required competitors to pay the BPA office in full in advance. The BPA Office would then make the official entry, and send the total entry fee for the whole of the UK delegation to the organisers in one tranche in order to minimise bank charges.

Action: BPA Office

Ian Marshall noted that the high entry fee made this one of the most expensive World Cups ever.

The Chairman reported that Bob Card, a BPA Vice President and Alternate UK Delegate to the IPC, was considering whether he might be available as Head of Delegation (John Hitchen not being available on this occasion).

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

There was nothing further to report at this stage. The next meeting would be held after the Selection Nationals, when the Committee would have a good idea of who would be representing the UK at WPC Germany 2006.

45/05 Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Competitions Action Plan for the year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 was now current. This year, the focus was on the pursuit of excellence. As a result of the Selection Nationals 2005, the Committee would be able to concentrate on helping to achieve the best possible performance of the National team at the WPC 2006.

The Chairman said that, to assist in planning expenditure during the new Action Plan year, a financial outturn of last year's (2004/5) Competitions Action Plan matrix needed to be studied, and he asked Jon Gretton kindly to supply the figures to the next meeting.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

The Chairman also asked the Committee to start thinking about possible targets for next year's Action Plan, to run from 1 July 2006. Although it seemed a long way ahead, the plan needed to be settled early in the New Year, which was now only six months' away.

46/05 Skills Coaching Roadshows for Juniors and Intermediates

The Committee asked Jon Gretton kindly to provide the outturn budget for Skills Coaching Roadshows for 2005, whereupon the programme and accompanying budget for next season would be considered.

Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton) / Next meeting

Nigel Holland reported on various changes in coaches at Artistic Roadshows and he thanked Steve Newman and Jim Harris for kindly agreeing to step in as replacement coaches. He had noted a comment from an Artistic Roadshow attendee that the Roadshow had not been well advertised. He said that the Roadshow had been publicised well in advance both through *Skydive Magazine* and the BPA website. It was difficult to know what more could have been done, although Nigel Holland said he now had his own email list through which he would help to publicise future Roadshow and Competition dates.

47/05 Judging matters

47.1 Classics competitions equipment

The Chairman outlined the background to the purchase by the BPA of an accuracy tuffet and trailer to transport it. Frank Mallabone had kindly agreed to transport the tuffet, together with the Classics judging equipment which included a video camera, to Clubs & Centres hosting competitions. However, the system had proved to be expensive when Frank Mallabone's own transport broke down and he hired a van to get the tuffet and other equipment to Cockerham. The tuffet etc was now believed to be in Cark, Cumbria, whereas the trailer to

transport it remained at Frank Mallabone's home in Suffolk. As Frank Mallabone was not available to go to the Classics Nationals in Cark, this meant that the Committee had to arrange for the tuffet to be re-united with its trailer.

The Chairman therefore asked Geordie Page, in his capacity as Classics Discipline Rep, kindly to (i) confirm the location of the tuffet and other Classics competitions equipment at Cark; (ii) after the Classics Nationals at Cark on 5-9 September, arrange for the tuffet and accompanying judging equipment to be transported to UK Parachuting in Norfolk in time for the Classics Grand Prix there on 24-25 September, and (iii) review the costs and logistics of transporting the tuffet.

John Hitchen suggested that one way to save on the cost of transport might be for the Committee to arrange to hold all domestic Classics competitions at the same Club or Centre in a given season. The tuffet and equipment would then only need to be transported once a year, between seasons. Geordie Page said this was a good idea and it would be considered at the next meeting when the bid form for the 2006 season was being formulated.

Action: Next meeting

47.2 Other judging issues

47.2.1 Trainee judges' expenses

An expenses claim had been received from a trainee judge in relation to a 2005 season meet. Kate Charters had declined to authorise payment because the Chairman had clearly stated at the Judges' meeting on AGM Day – at which the trainee judge concerned had been present – that the budget for trainee judges had been overspent and that no further payments could therefore be made. The trainee judge concerned had wrongly interpreted this to mean no claims after 30 June 2005, the end of the BPA's financial year. Jim White said that the Chairman had made it perfectly clear at the Judges' seminar last January that the money for trainee judges had run out and that no further claims could be paid from that time.

47.2.2 Accessibility

The Chairman reported on an issue concerning wheelchair access to judging rooms at Clubs & Centres, which he was discussing with Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator.

48/05 Nationality question

Geordie Page asked whether Mr Konstantin Shashkov would be eligible to represent the UK on the Classics team, should he attend the British National Championships this year, and subsequently qualify through placings. Relevant data had been circulated to the Committee in advance. Konstantin Shashkov was a UK resident, eligible for a British passport, and he had not represented his native Russia since 1992.

Geordie Page then proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that Konstantin Shashkov should be eligible to compete for selection to the National team, subject of course to his being a current BPA Member.

Carried unanimously

John Hitchen said that, as he had represented Russia in the past, he would need also to secure their NGB's agreement were he to wish to represent another country.

49/05 Artistic Discipline Rep

An email to the Chairman from Ruth Covell had been circulated. In it, she had noted disappointment with the Artistics Discipline Rep and stated that she would be interested in becoming the Freely Rep. The Committee thanked Ruth Covell for her interest and invited any constructive suggestions which would be passed to Nigel Holland, the Discipline Rep already in post. If Ruth Covell wished to stand for election to the BPA Council with a view to volunteering for this post next year, she was of course welcome to do so.

50/05 Expenses

Nigel Holland asked whether or not he was eligible to claim from the BPA his travel expenses in attending a Freely Skills Coaching Roadshow at Hibaldstow on 2-3 July. After careful consideration, the Committee said that the policy was that, in order to be eligible to reclaim expenses from the BPA, there had to be a specific and agreed need for a Discipline Rep to attend a particular event. In this case, the request should have been made to the Committee

for consideration in advance and the Committee declined to consider it retrospectively. However, the Chairman thanked Nigel Holland for raising the question so that the Committee's policy could be re-stated. He said that the whole idea of Discipline Reps were that they should normally be active skydivers who were out skydiving on most weekends during the season, such that payment of travel expenses to meet other BPA Members should not normally be necessary – there had to be a special reason.

51/05 Parachuting and the London Olympics 2012

An email from Nigel Holland, inspired by a suggestion from Calvin Blacker that the BPA might propose skydiving as a demonstration sport at the London Olympics in 2012, had been circulated. The Chairman said that, whilst there was potential for a possible skydiving demonstration to be included in the opening ceremony, this was a completely different from a demonstration sport. However, this was a matter for liaison between the IPC and the International Olympic Committee. He said it was vital that no BPA Member should seek to contact the London Olympic Committee because in his view this would be likely to scupper all chances of a skydiving demonstration. This message needed to be made known to the whole membership. The Chairman also noted that any skydiving demonstration in an Olympics opening ceremony would have to be of an extremely high order. As Nigel Holland's email had been addressed to the full Council, the Chairman was sure that the Chairman of Council would raise the matter at the next Council meeting.

Action: Refer to the Council

52/05 New Sport England-sponsored website

Ian Marshall reported that he had passed to the BPA Office details of a new Sport England-sponsored website designed to promote participation in sport, for a possible link with the BPA website.

Action: BPA Office

53/05 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 20 September 2005 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester. Bid forms for domestic competitions in 2006 would be finalised for issue after this meeting. The Chairman would be out of the UK from 31 July – 29 August.

The meeting closed at 2020.