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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 8 May 2007 at 1835

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

Present:	Geordie Page	-	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
	Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: CF
	Weed Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: AE
In attendance:	Kate Charters	-	Judges' Co-ordinator
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
Apology for absence:	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Alex Wilson	-	Discipline Rep: CP

Item Minute

17/07 Minutes

Adjustments were made to the draft wording of minute 8, Competitions Action Plan 2007/8, following which Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 March 2007 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

18/07 Composition

The Chairman reported that Grant Richards had now stood down from the Committee because of other commitments. He also reported that Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson had advised him that he would be unable to continue as FS Rep because he had too little time. The Chairman said that the vacancy for an FS Rep would be considered later in the meeting (minute 19.5).

19/07 Matters arising

19.1 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 6.2)

The BPA's Anti-Doping Code and Rules were being updated to meet UK Sport's current requirements.

Action: BPA Office

19.2 Trophies (minute 6.3)

19.2.1 Canopy Piloting Trophies

The Chairman reported that the Jack Fowler Canopy Piloting Overall Champion Trophy had been purchased and would be delivered direct to RAPA Bad Lippspringe, the host Centre for the first British Open Nationals in Canopy Piloting to be held from 14-21 July 2007. The Jack Fowler trophy was in the form of a shield. Three other Canopy Piloting trophies would be required, for the individual disciplines within CP. Kate Charters was discussing this with possible sponsors and would report back to the next meeting

Action: Kate Charters

19.2.2 Database of BPA trophies

The Chairman reported that his work in constructing a database of BPA competition trophies was progressing well. However, he was still short of photographs of certain trophies,

including some for CF, which he hoped it would be possible to photograph at the CF Nationals this summer. Ian Marshall said that one of the CF trophies was missing.

Action: Chairman

19.2.3 Canopy Piloting Nationals – pre-selection arrangements (minute 6.7)

The Chairman said that a pre-Nationals Canopy Piloting meet was planned at Black Knights, Cockerham. Those wishing to compete in the Nationals would need to hold a CP2 rating. The Chairman said that Alex Wilson (CP Discipline Rep) was considering how overseas competitors could get a CP2 rating or equivalent, and he would report back to this Committee.

Action: Alex Wilson

19.3 Second Accuracy Grand Prix (minute 6.8)

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

19.4 Standard of judging in CF (minute 6.9)

John Hitchen (IPC Delegate) was not able to be present tonight. The Committee therefore looked forward to his report back to the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

19.5 FS Discipline Rep (minute 6.11)

As Ian 'Milko' Hodkinson had been unable to continue as FS Rep (minute 18), the Committee agreed that the Chairman said he would seek to identify a new FS Rep.

Action: Chairman

19.6 Speed skydiving adviser (minute 6.12)

The Committee agreed to invite Clare Murphy to advise it on speed skydiving.

Action: Chairman

The Committee noted that because the discipline was not recognised by FAI, it was not subject to annual FAI/IPC variations to the rules, which meant the rules were stable.

19.7 Competitions Action Plan 2007/8 (minute 8)

The Chairman reported that the Competitions Action Plan 2007/8 had been approved by the Council on 17 April 2007. It is set out at the Appendix (page 7).

19.8 Expenses for judges, coaches, etc (minute 13)

The Chairman reported that at its meeting on 17 April 2007, the Council had approved an increase in the 24 hour subsistence rate for competitions judges and coaches, etc, of £5 from £25 to £30 effective from that date. The BPA Office had added a date to the claim form by which users could confirm that it was the current version.

19.9 Rules for Nationals and Grand Prix 2007 (minute 15)

19.9.1 Canopy Piloting Nationals

These had been published on the BPA website. The Committee had received correspondence from Canopy Piloting competitors about the selection criteria for the CP World Cup 2007 and the WPC in CP in 2008. The Committee agreed that the selection criteria should be brought into line with those in other disciplines. The only reason they had been different in the past had been that the BPA had never held Nationals in Canopy Piloting before. Likewise, the same criteria for funding would apply as in the other FAI disciplines. The Chairman said he would liaise with Alex Wilson (CP Rep) to prepare a paragraph on selection criteria to be issued as an appendix to the rules.

Action: Chairman / Alex Wilson

19.9.2 Canopy Formation Nationals

An e-mail had been received from Alastair Macartney asking about the CF 4-way speed stackplane event. Ian Marshall (CP Rep) said this would run if there were sufficient teams wishing to take part. He would reply to Alastair Macartney.

Action: Ian Marshall

19.10 Artistic Nationals: Freestyle B category

Weed Stoodley (Artistics Rep) reported that one team had a French videographer. The Committee confirmed that, as the videographer was part of the team, the nationality rule applied and the team would not be eligible to take part in the British Nationals but would of course be eligible to take part in the Open Nationals. The Committee was aware of questions about whether the nationality rule should be applied so strictly in the B category, from which

there was no selection for the National Team. The Chairman said that the time to consider this was not now but at the next annual review of the rules.

Action: Bring forward to February 2008 Rules meeting

20/07 Domestic competitions to date: FS 4-way Grand Prix, NWPC Cark: 5-6 May 2007

The Chairman passed around the table a letter of complaint from Stuart Morris, DZO of NWPC Cark, about the clash of dates of the above Grand Prix with a BPA 4-way FS Roadshow at Weston on the Green. He believed this had reduced attendance at the Cark Grand Prix.

The Chairman explained that the FS Roadshow coaches, Team Airkix/Elan, had requested a change to the original Roadshow dates of 15-16 May and that the Chairman had been advised that Weston had advertised the new dates, which just needed to be rubber-stamped by the Competitions Committee. The Chairman had agreed to this without realising that the new date clashed with the Cark FS 4-way Grand Prix that had been in the calendar for some time. This had been a mistake for which the Chairman apologised. It was of course not BPA policy for the dates of Grand Prix and Roadshows in the same event to clash.

NWPC Cark had asked for an additional 4-way FS Grand Prix by way of compensation for the clash. The Committee considered this request but did not believe it would be fair on competitors to introduce another meet at this stage as the GP programme had already been in the calendar since last October. Whilst Cark undoubtedly had a valid complaint about the clash of dates, the Committee believed that poor weather on the day may also have reduced attendance at their GP. The Committee apologised unreservedly to NWPC Cark for the unintentional clash of the 4-way FS Roadshow at Weston.

21/07 International competitions

21.1 5th World Cup in Accuracy Landing – Stupino, Russia, 2-8 July 2007

The Chairman reported that no potential competitors had come forward to express an interest in representing the UK at this meet. This was probably because it was too close to the Classics nationals on 14-21 July 2007. Bob King was an invited judge (he was also going to the Accuracy meet in Indonesia).

21.2 2007 World Cup in Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events – Stupino, Russia, 4-12 August 2007

3 x 4-way FS, 1 x 8-way FS, 4 x Freely and 1 x Female Freestyle teams had so far confirmed their self-funded participation in the UK delegation. One of the Freely teams was in doubt as it contained a member who had not renewed his BPA Membership. Unless he renewed, the team would not be entered.

The official website for the event was now up at www.worldmeet2007.com and Bulletin 1 had been published, which included the entry fee charges. The organisers had requested passport scans of all delegation members (including accompanying persons) and the BPA Office had passed on this request to delegation members and would forward their passport scans to the organisers in Russia. The organisers would then issue a formal invitation to delegation members. This invitation was required for delegation members to apply for a Russian visa.

The Chairman reported that the Council, at its meeting on 17 April, had agreed to support a Head of Delegation's travel and entry fee to a maximum cost of £500. The Chairman said that both John Hitchen and himself were unavailable and asked if either Paul Applegate (Accuracy Rep) or Weed Stoodley (Artistics Rep) wished to go. If not, he asked Ian Marshall (CF Rep) if he would be interested. The Reps said they would respond as soon as possible after consultation with their families.

Action: Paul Applegate, Weed Stoodley, Ian Marshall

Kate Charters reported that the following were invited judges to WC 2007 Stupino: Karla Cole in FS, and Sue Skull in Artistics. They would be included in the UK delegation registration documentation, which had a section for judges.

Action: BPA Office

Delegation members would be responsible for their own travel arrangements. However the BPA Office would contact the BPA's travel agents, Traveleads, to ask about flight prices to Stupino and also whether discounts would be available if one or more teams decided to travel together on the same flight. Although tickets purchased through Traveleads might not be the cheapest, they were recognised by British Airways as a specialist sports travel agency which allowed a piece of sports kit to be carried in the hold free of additional charge, and there was usually some flexibility with the ticket in the event of change of travel plans. Traveleads' offer would be forwarded to delegation members for information as an option for them to consider and make up their own minds.

Action: BPA Office

In discussion the Committee noted that the organisers allocated hotel accommodation based on delegation and discipline, a choice of hotel was not offered.

21.3 8th World Cup in Canopy Formation – Osijek, Croatia, 4-9 September 2007

Ian Marshall (CF Rep) said that no UK competitors would be taking part. John Hitchen had expressed concerns about the competition Drop Zone.

21.4 4th World Cup in Canopy Piloting- Sydney, Australia, 7-11 November 2007

See minute 19.1 for selection criteria. Kate Charters reported that there would be no official judges' seminar. IPC's policy, now that it was paying invited judges' expenses, was to call in judges based as near to the event venue as possible to minimise their travelling expenses. Canopy Piloting was a judge-intensive discipline and the organisers had indicated that any trainee judge from the UK would be welcome. If a UK trainee judge were to gain a rating in CP, this would trigger BPA funding, otherwise the trainee judge would have to fund themselves.

21.5 18th World Formation Skydiving Championships and 7th World Artistic Skydiving Championships – La Salmagne-Maubeuge, France, 9-14 August 2008

The UK delegation would be selected at the Nationals 2007. The organisers had not yet announced the configuration of the aircraft exit door.

21.6 European Skydiving League (ESL) 2007

The FS 4-way GP at Langar on 2-4 June would be based on an ESL draw.

22/07 Élite coaching for National Champions

The Committee would monitor actual expenditure against budget as we approached the end of the Action Plan and Financial Year on 30 June 2007. This was an Action Plan 2006/7 target. It would not be continued in this form in 2007/8, because the new performance target would focus on WPC 2008.

23/07 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

The Discipline Reps summarised the arrangements for Skills Coaching Roadshows in their disciplines. Weed Stoodley had arranged 3 in Artistics, at Langar, Cark and Hibaldstow, and Black Knights had also requested an Artistics Roadshow. A decision was held over until the next meeting. An FS Roadshow had already been held at Weston (see minute 20), others were planned at Hibaldstow and Langar. A CF Roadshow would take place at Hibaldstow next weekend and there would possibly be another at Sibson. The Chairman said two coaches had agreed to coach at the Classics Grand Prix at Black Knights on 19-20 May. There followed a discussion about whether coaches who were also competitors should be allowed to claim expenses from the BPA. The Chairman said he would investigate previous practice and report back to the next meeting.

Action: Chairman

However, Ian Marshall proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion that due to the fact that there were to be no stand-alone Coaching Roadshows in the Classics this season, the

two coaches at the Classics Grand Prix, who were also competitors in the senior category, would be entitled to claim expenses as coaches from the BPA.

Carried unanimously

The Committee noted that some disciplines were more amenable to in-competition coaching than others. For instance, Artistics coaching, because it was predominantly one-to-one, was

best suited to stand-alone Roadshows. There was therefore possibly a case to be made that the same blanket policy should not apply to all disciplines. Ian Marshall said he had lost CF coaches because they had been unable to claim coaching expenses when they had also been competing.

The discussion then turned to whether coaches should hold a BPA coaching rating. The Chairman said there was certainly a case in favour of this as the individuals were acting as official BPA coaches. That said, there was no formal coaching qualification available in Classics. The Committee saw merit in asking coaches to support the BPA grading system. Paul Applegate said he would like to see a policy that those invited to coach at BPA Roadshows held coaching ratings where such ratings existed. The Chairman said that the effect on coaches coming from outside the UK would need to be considered. The Committee agreed to give thought to the implications on a discipline-by-discipline basis and revisit the issue at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

The Committee discussed other issues about Coaching Roadshows. One was that there were sometimes resident coaches at a Drop Zone. In the past, there had been occasions when the resident coaches had declined to associate themselves with a BPA Roadshow and the BPA had had to meet the travel expenses of other coaches from sometimes distant parts of the country. The Committee was aware that there was a case that such an arrangement might nevertheless be valid, because visiting coaches might generate more interest. The Chairman said that BPA Roadshows existed to provide a benefit to BPA Members: it did not matter whether the Centre had local coaches in that discipline. The aim was to give access to the Roadshows to BPA Members, and as BPA coaches gave freely of their time, BPA Roadshows were most likely the best value coaching Members could get.

The Committee believed that, in future, it would be helpful for the Discipline Rep who was arranging a Coaching Roadshow to be aware of the local coaching arrangements at the host Drop Zone. The Chairman suggested that this, and other, questions should be included in a Coaching Roadshow request form for Centres. Ian Marshall said that a question about altitude should also be included because this was an issue in CF. The Chairman asked all Committee Members to draft such a form, or at least the questions to be included in it, for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

24/07 Judging matters

Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) summarised judging matters not already covered as follows.

- A successful judges' seminar had recently been held at RAPA Bad Lippspringe, and Kate Charters placed on record her thanks to Paul Moore and all at the DZ for the use of their facilities, and their warm hospitality. The body of water used for Canopy Piloting had unfortunately not been available because engineering work on it was being completed at the time of the seminar.
- There would be a small competition at the 4-way FS Nationals on Vertical Relative Work (VRW), an emerging new FS discipline, for three invited teams at the FS Nationals.
- FAI still had no judges' training seminars planned. Kate Charters said that the IPC Judges' Chair had said that no country wished to hold a seminar. Kate Charters believed that the UK may be in a position to host a judges' seminar in FS for IPC possibly in autumn 2007. There would be no cost to the BPA, as judges paid their own way.
- Kate Charters had still not received the tapes and scores in CF from Stupno 2006. Minute 19.4 refers.
- We were now running out of judges' score pads in some disciplines, although there remained plentiful stocks of pads for others. The Chairman said that the cost of printed pads was excessive and questioned their traditional format given that we were now in the digital age. The Committee agreed that it would be better to have a digital template for the score sheet/s in each discipline, from which judges could print off the

required number of blank sheets. It was important that the judges who would use the new sheets should design them, and that Kate Charters should be satisfied with the final design before the each digital file was created.

Action: Kate Charters

Kate Charters said she had already advised judges of the move to this arrangement, and that the digital templates, once available, would be downloadable from the BPA website.

- Just prior to the start of tonight's meeting, the Committee had seen a demonstration of the Camitrix FS scoring system. This was a possible alternative to Omniskore. The Committee agreed with the Judges' Co-ordinator that there was a possibility of the BPA adopting this system for domestic competitions, subject to trialling it at a judges competitions, perhaps starting with a Grand Prix. It was impossible to say for sure whether the system was appropriate for BPA competitions until it had been fully trialled at competitions. One of the issues was that it did not presently provide a live feed to competitors, the competitor feed was only after judging. Camitrix were working on improving this. The Chairman suggested, and the Committee agreed, that the new system should be referred to the Development Committee, which would be kept up-to-date on the outcome of field trials with judges, with a view to considering possible BPA investment in the system ranging perhaps from purchase to taking a stake in it.

Action: Refer to Development Committee

25/07 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3 July 2007 at 1800 at the BPA Office.

The meeting closed at 2210.

Appendix: Competitions Action Plan 2007/8

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Target	From	To	By	How	Budget
1. Support training of top teams that meet strict funding criteria (performance equal to fourth place or better at the last World Championships) to win medals at the world Championships 2008	UK World Champions 2006 in 4-Way Women's Formation Skydiving	Medals in the World Parachute Championships 2008	June 2008	(a) Use 2007 Selection Nationals to identify champion senior teams (b) Provide support through funded coaching and training by previous National Champions.	£57,000
2. Improve competitor standards to build a base for future National teams	Successful Skills Coaching Roadshow programmes in previous years, which have helped to secure record attendances at BPA National Skydiving Championships	4 stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshow events, one per discipline, in addition to coaching at Grand Prix events	June 2008	By running skills coaching at Grand Prix competitions augmented by stand-alone Skills Coaching Roadshows, to transfer the skills and expertise of our existing World Champions and National Champions to Juniors and Intermediates, so building the UK National teams – and World Champions – of the future.	£10,000
3. Retain the level of UK National and international judging expertise at establishment	UK pool of 17 INDIVIDUAL Judges	Re-evaluate half the UK pool of judges on a two-year re-evaluation cycle and train new judges to take the place of retirees.	June 2008	(a) Re-evaluate judges' training and qualifications in all Disciplines, according to criteria set by our IGB. (b) Provide seminars for Trainee Judges (c) Recruit at least 1 new Trainee Judge	£5,000
4. Review the scoring system cards	Score cards printed for the BPA by outside agency	Self sufficient system that reduces spending In the future	June 2008	Using Digital or Multimedia to replace current cards	£544