

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 27 November 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
	John Hitchen	- NCSO
	Chris Hollis	- Discipline Rep: FS
	Clare Murphy	- Discipline Rep: Speed Skydiving
	Martin Shuttleworth	- Secretary-General
Observers:	Mike Carpenter	- Competitor
	Gavin McLeod	- Competitor
	Andy Newell	- Competitor
	Steve Saunders	- Competitor

Item Minute

48/07 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 September 2007 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

49/07 Matters arising

49.1 Update of anti-doping code and rules (minute 38.1)

Updated rules, to a template required by UK Sport of recognised National Governing Bodies, were tabled. These represented the latest harmonisation between the UK Sport anti-doping code and the World Anti-Doping Agency Code. There was no change of policy or principle, just an update of detail. The Committee asked Kate Charters kindly to review the document, which had been circulated to the full Council, and advise before the Council meeting on Tuesday 4 December 2007 if there were any specific issues the Council needed to consider. (A copy was also being sent to Dr John Carter, BPA Medical Adviser.)

Action: Kate Charters

49.2 Database of BPA competition trophies (minute 38.2)

The Chairman reported that photographs of certain trophies were still outstanding, and he did not yet have signed safe custody statements for some. He was continuing to work on this.

Action: Chairman

49.3 Judges' scoring sheets (minute 38.4)

Kate Charters reported that some judges' scoring sheets were now available in electronic format and online links to these had been uploaded to the 'BPA Forms' page of the BPA website. The Chairman said this was an excellent development, and looked forward to

progressively more of the judges' scoring sheets being made available in this way until they were all online.

Action: Kate Charters & BPA Office

49.4 Canopy Piloting judging equipment (minute 38.5)

Paul Moore was obtaining a quotation for discussion with Kate Charters. The Chairman said the Committee would need to consider whether purchase or rental of CP judging equipment presented the most cost-effective solution to the BPA.

Action: Paul Moore & Kate Charters

49.5 Notes on judging via the Internet (minute 38.8)

Kate Charters said that the technology was available, and she had proven it in use, for judging via the Internet when, for whatever reason, judges could not be present in person. However, it was no substitute for judging at the meet because judges were an integral part of a meet.

49.6 Purchase of judging equipment (minute 38.9)

Ian Marshall had packed the two sets of BPA audio-visual equipment for judging in carrying cases for easy portability. The Chairman thanked him for this, and again confirmed that the equipment was available for all disciplines, and asked the Discipline Reps to co-ordinate its transfer as required to the appropriate host competition Drop Zones.

AV equipment for judging now available

49.7 Possible commercial sponsorship of a CF jumper (minute 38.13)

As Alex Wilson was not present to report, this item was held over until the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

49.8 Interpretation of an Artistics Rule (minute 39.1.3)

Weed Stoodley said that she and John Hitchen had now been in touch with IPC through the BPA Office. The relevant IPC Committee Chairs (Artistics and Judges) had confirmed the intent that the performer/s and videographers in Artistics teams could change places, as long as this did not involve a 'change of gender' (ie, transgression of gender-specific roles). They had also agreed that the wording of the rules needed to be clarified to reflect this. This would be done by IPC at its annual plenary meeting in January 2008.

Question answered

49.9 Policy on award of British and Open Medals at Nationals (minute 39.1.3)

Weed Stoodley said there remained confusion over this. After discussion of a number of options, Weed Stoodley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to put the issue to competitors at the Competitions Open Forum on AGM Day, Saturday 12 January 2008. The vote was: For – 2, Against – 0, Abstention – 1 Ian Marshall (who abstained because he was a current competitor).

Carried

49.10 CF Nationals 2007 – 2-way sequential (minute 39.1.5)

The Chairman said this matter had been discussed at length at the last meeting, when Kate Charters (Judges' Co-ordinator) had not been present, because she had recently started a new job and had found it difficult to get time off. In further detailed discussion now with Kate Charters, apparent discrepancies emerged between the criteria for judging reported by the CF judges who had been in attendance at the last meeting, when they had said they had judged to the BPA published rules of foot in cell and Kate Charters' understanding that they had judged in accordance with her briefing on the day, as Chief Judge, when - and in accordance with her previous clarification with IPC in relation to the FAI judging criteria of foot in line which IPC had stated would apply at the next World Meet), she had expressly stated that the Nationals would be judged in accordance with the FAI judging criteria of grip and foot in line. The Committee understood that some competitors, and one judge, had not been present at the Chief Judges' briefing for competitors, which all parties should have attended. The tapes had since been re-judged by Bob Charters in his capacity as an independent, internationally-rated, FAI judge. The Chairman had the scores from this independent re-judge.

Paul Applegate proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to accept scores and declare the event on the scores of this independent re-judge. The vote was: For – 2, Against – 0, Abstention – 1 Ian Marshall, who abstained because he was a CF competitor.

Carried

The Chairman said that the above decision was subject to ratification by the full Council on Tuesday 4 December 2007. Before then, he would advise teams not represented at tonight's meeting of the Committee's decision in case they wished to appeal to the Council against it.

Action: Chairman

49.11 Artistics GP – revised format

Weed Stoodley reported that she proposed to go ahead with Artistics Grand Prix on a possible format of scrambles with compulsory moves. She said she would liaise with competitors through the Internet and mention it at the Competitors' Open Forum on AGM Day to gain feedback before the format was finally settled.

Action: Weed Stoodley

49.12 In-competition records (minute 44)

The Office had received an in-competition UK record claim for performance of two members of the British National Canopy piloting team at the World Cup in Canopy Piloting held in Sydney, Australia, from 7-11 November 2007 (minute X refers). In accordance with the agreed procedure (minute 44), the Office had forwarded this to the relevant Discipline Rep, in this case Alex Wilson, to be signed off before the record was posted on the UK Skydiving Records page of the BPA website.

Action: Alex Wilson & BPA Office

49.13 Possible DVDs of the Nationals (minute 46)

The Chairman reported that he had discussed with a couple of freefall videographers the possibility of the BPA publishing DVDs of the Nationals. The advice he had received was that the BPA would need to write in to the rules that footage at the Nationals was copyright to the BPA. Steve Saunders said that the videographers had the right to a fee for their footage, which could be, subject of course to securing their agreement, a nominal amount such as £1. The Chairman said he would continue informal discussions outside the meeting to seek to clarify a way forward to bring back for consideration by a future meeting of this Committee.

Action: Chairman

50/07 Competitions bid form 2008

50.1 Draft bid form

An updated draft Competitions bid form for Nationals and Grand Prix 2008 was tabled. This contained information on the requirements of Clubs & Centres to host Artistics Nationals and Grand Prix, as kindly supplied by Weed Stoodley, Artistics Rep.

The Chairman, as Classics Rep, said he would supply the office with corresponding copy for the Classics disciplines of Style & Accuracy.

Action: Chairman

He asked Ian Marshall, CF Rep, to please kindly supply the Office with equivalent copy for CF.

Action: Ian Marshall

Chris Hollis, FS Rep, suggested two alternative sets of dates for the FS Nationals, either side of the WPC in FS from 9-14 August 2008. These dates were discussed, and other disciplines, including Artistics that usually held their Nationals as a combined event with the FS 8-way Nationals were considered. The Committee settled on the pre-WPC dates as their first choice for bids, and decided also to publish the post-WPC dates in case any Centres might prefer to bid for these later dates. The dates were:

50.2 Dates of FS Nationals 2008 to go on the bid form

	1 st choice	2 nd choice
4-way FS	19-21 July 2008	23-25 August 2008
4-way FS reserve	26-28 July 2008	30 August - 1 September 2008
8-way FS	26-28 July 2008	30 August - 1 September 2008
8-way FS reserve	2-3 August 2008	6-8 September 2008

The bid form would state that in previous years, the Artistics Nationals had successfully run concurrently with the 8-way FS Nationals, and that Centres may wish to bid on this basis.

50.3 UK Skydiving League and FS 8-way Grand Prix

Chris Hollis, FS Rep, recommended the following dates, which the Committee agreed, should be set out on the bid form for FS 4-way Grand Prix – to be relaunched on AGM day as the UK Skydiving League (UKSL) – and FS 8-wy Grand Prix:

50.4 FS 4-way Grand Prix – UK Skydiving League dates to go on the 2008 bid form

<u>UKSL (4-way FS Grand Prix)</u>	<u>8-way FS Grand Prix</u>
17-18 May 2008	31 May - 1 June 2008
7-8 June 2008	5-6 July 2008
19-20 June 2008	

50.4 Other dates

The Committee agreed not to specify dates for other Nationals and Grand Prix 2008, but to point out successful synergies for combined events, viz Canopy Piloting Nationals and Classics Nationals, and Speed Nationals with Artistics and 8-way FS Nationals. It would be invidious to specify dates because IPC had not yet announced the dates of the World Parachuting Championships 2008 in Classics, Canopy Piloting or Canopy Formation (minute 41.1.1). The bid form would therefore ask Clubs & Centres to propose two different dates or sets of dates, in case one were to clash with the relevant WPC once IPC had announced the dates of the world meets.

50.5 Call back date for bids

The Chairman said Andy Scott has suggested a call-back date for bids so they could be decided by a meeting of the Competitions Committee on the afternoon of AGM Day. The Chairman said that, in his view, there was too much else going on that day to be able to take the time and concentration properly to consider the bids. The Committee needed a meeting without the distractions of AGM Day. Accordingly, the Committee decided on a call-back date for bids of the Friday after the AGM, **Friday 18 January 2008**, with a view to the Competitions Committee for 2008 calling a meeting in late January or early February to decide on the bids received.

50.6 Issue of bid form to Clubs & Centres

The Committee authorised the Office to issue the bid forms once the copy relating to the specification to Clubs & Centres on requirements to host Classics and CF competitions had been received (minutes 50.1 refers).

Action: BPA Office

51/07 International competitions

51.1 4th World Cup in Canopy Piloting- Sydney, Australia, 7-11 November 2007

The CP Discipline Rep was not present to report in detail on the meet. The Chairman congratulated the British National Team that had taken part, and was pleased to note that two new UK records had been set (minute 49.12).

51.2 Invitations to the National Team for the World Parachuting Championships 2008

51.2.1 Classics, CF and CP

Invitations had not yet been issued because IPC had not yet announced the dates or venues of the WPC 2008 in these disciplines. Those to be invited were named in minute 41, with the exception of CF 2-way sequential (minute 49.10 refers)

51.2.2 FS

4-way Female: Team Storm, funded – accepted, but training plan not yet received.

4-way Open: Team Elan, unfunded - declined

8-way: Team Connexion, unfunded – accepted.

Chris Hollis, FS Rep, reported that the invitation to represent the UK in 4-way FS Open at WPC 2008 should cascade to the next highest-performing team at the Selection Nationals

2007, which had been Team Aardvark Zulu (team contact: Ian 'Stumpy' Matthews). If they declined, the invitation would cascade to Team Fusion (team contact: Lynne Murray).

Action: BPA Office

51.2.3 Artistics (up to 2 teams per event)

a) Freefly

1. Team Volairkix (formerly known as Team Outbreak), funded - accepted, training plan received
2. Team Bad Lieutenants, unfunded - declined

b) Freestyle Male

1. Team Killa 'n' Parker, funded – declined, as 'Killa' (Adam Mattacola) was a member of Team Volairkix, to which he wished to devote all his energies
2. Breakout and Saladfingers – unfunded, declined.

c) Freestyle Female

1. Team Bullet Freestyle – unfunded, accepted
2. Team Tumbleweed – unfunded, accepted.

d) Skysurf

Team Orbit (formerly known as Team DCTD; team contact: Robert Bradley) - unfunded, subject to confirmation, before WPC 2008, from an appropriate coach that the Team can adequately perform the compulsories (as the team entered the Skysurf B category in the Nationals, which does not include compulsories), accepted.

Weed Stoodley, Artistics Rep, reported, and the Committee agreed, that the second Freefly invitation to represent the UK at WPC 2008 should cascade to the next-best performing Team at the Selection Nationals 2007, which had been Team Lillo Avalore (Louis Harwood, Rob McVey and Adam Mattacola). The second Freestyle Male invitation should go, on a similar basis, to team Airtrix Freestyle (Andy Lovemore & Marcus Goodsell). If any of these teams declined, the invitation would cascade down as on previous occasions.

51.2.4 Funding

The Chairman said that, for teams/individuals who had qualified for BPA funding of their training for WPC 2008, the first tranche of funding would be released only upon approval by this Committee of their costed training plans. Of those qualifying for funding, only team Volairkix had to date submitted their costed training plan. Subsequent tranches of funding would be conditional on submission by those funded of appropriate documentary evidence (receipts, etc) that the BPA funding had been spent in accordance with their training plan as approved by this Committee, and subject to satisfactory continuing progress of the plan. The terms and conditions of BPA's funding were set out in a funding contract that those who had qualified for funding were required to sign before any money was released.

In all, 9 individuals had met the performance criteria for funding. The Chairman said that in the past, this Committee had considered funding of up to £6K per competitor. Ian Marshall proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, that the BPA should fund each eligible competitor up to £6K as a contribution towards the cost of pursuing their training programme, once it had been agreed by this Committee, to attain peak performance at WPC 2008.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman said that teams often opened their own bank account into which BPA funding would be paid. The Committee was content, subject to confirmation that the funding contract had been signed, to pay the first tranche of £5K in respect of the three competitors in Freefly Team Volairkix. The Committee decided that £1K per competitor of all funded competitors would be held back towards meeting WPC entry fees, etc.

51.3 Speed Skydiving World Cup

Clare Murphy reported that a Speed Skydiving World Cup would be held in 2008 and asked the BPA to issue appropriate invitations - she would supply relevant details to the BPA Office.

Action: Clare Murphy & BPA Office

Clare Murphy also asked about the possibility of BPA funding. The Chairman said that the BPA did not fund competitors to World Cups. For World Championships, only those competitors who had achieved a performance equivalent to fourth place or better at the last World Championships in a recognised FAI discipline, were eligible for consideration for BPA funding. Speed Skydiving was not currently a recognised IPC discipline, and he invited John Hitchen, UK Delegate to IPC, to comment.

John Hitchen said that there were a number of potential new disciplines vying for IPC recognition and that, in his view, the one most likely to succeed at least in the shorter term was Vertical Relative Work (VRW) also known as Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS). John Hitchen confirmed that, in accordance with this Committee's wishes, he would cast the UK vote in favour of IPC recognition both of VRW/VFS and Speed Skydiving as and when any such votes arose.

52/07 Skills Coaching Roadshows for non-seniors

The Chairman said the Committee would ask competitors in receipt of BPA funding to do their best to offer coaching at BPA Skills Coaching roadshows for non-seniors to help to nurture the grass roots of the sport and bring on the champions of tomorrow. No BPA-organised Roadshows would take place during the winter but the programme would resume next season.

53/07 Judging matters

Weed Stoodley asked if there were a sufficient number of judges for next year, and whether there was a need for more funding to be channelled to judging. The Chairman said that new judges were slowly coming in to replace those who had retired or resigned. He said that for competitors to qualify for BPA funding, they had to achieve the exactingly high standard of performance (minute 51.3 refers). Provision of additional funding of judges had to be seen in this context. Moreover, the still broader context was that those involved in competitions were a minority of the BPA Membership, and non-competitors could quite justifiably, from their perspective, take the view that BPA competitions funding should be reduced, or at least not increased, unless external sources of funding could be found. As with everything else, a balance had to be struck and it was a question of competitions living within their means. John Hitchen reported that an allocation of 50 Euros per head from the competitor entry fee at international meets was now allocated, under IPC practice, for judges' expenses.

Kate Charters said that if there was a shortage of judges in any discipline in 2008, for example in CF, there was always the option of seeking appropriately qualified judges from outside the UK.

Kate Charters confirmed that the annual return to IPC about the identity and availability of FAI-qualified international judges from the BPA had been completed and returned to the IPC Judges' Co-ordinator, and hard copied to this Committee.

Kate Charters was pleased to report that USPA has requested one of their judges to attend our FS Nationals to see how we managed to run it with so many teams in so little time.

She also reported that she had secured new trophies from Derek Thomas and Helmut Cloth, which the Chairman said the Committee would be pleased to recommend to the Council for adoption for Canopy Piloting Speed, Distance or Zone Accuracy (to date, only the Overall Winner's Trophy was in place for CP, because it was a new discipline). The Chairman confirmed that any new trophies would be awarded retrospectively to this year's first Nationals in Canopy Piloting. He thanked Kate Charters for her help in securing these new trophies.

54/07 Vertical Relative Work (VRW) / Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS)

The Chairman congratulated Team UK VRW (Mike Carpenter, Andy Ford, Jim Harris, Dan Parker and Andy Lovemore) who took Gold at the first European VRW Championships held in France recently. Weed Stoodley said she believed the BPA should consider holding a VRW/VFS Nationals next year, once John Hitchen had returned with his report from IPC, at which recognition of this new discipline by IPC might have been considered (minute 51.3). She also considered that the Committee should consider appointing a VRW/VS Rep in the near future, in line with other disciplines.

Action: Next meeting

55/07 CF Grand Prix – Langar: 6-7 October 2007

Ian Marshall reported that the weather had not been kind so that only one round had been completed in each event. Kate Charters had therefore, exceptionally, re-scheduled the meet. Only teams that had entered for the original dates would be eligible for their performance to count towards possible Grand Prix medals.

56/07 CF 100-way World Record Formation

The Chairman congratulated Ian Marshall and Steve Saunders as two of the eight-strong British contingent on the CF 100-way World Record Formation at Lake Wales, Florida, on 21 November. Details were on the BPA website. He reported that, sadly, a US jumper had died in training for the record, and would supply details so the Chairman of Council could write a letter of condolence on behalf of the BPA.

57/07 Chairman's thanks

As this was the last Committee meeting of 2007 and therefore of the current Committee, the Chairman thanked all members for their support and hard work during the year. He also thanked the competitors, Drop Zones, judges and staff and all who had been involved in the year's programme of competitions both in the UK and with our National Teams on the world stage.

58/07 Date of next meeting

The first meeting of the Competitions Committee 2008 would be held immediately after the inaugural meeting of the new Council for 2008, on the afternoon of AGM Day, Saturday 12 January 2008, at the Hinckley Island Hotel.

The meeting closed at 2135.