

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held on 3rd February 2022 20:00

Present: Andy Webster AW Media & PR Officer
 Arthur Bentley AB Parascending Representative
 Mark Bignell MB Paragliding Representative
 Andy Shaw AS Development
 Dave Crowhurst DC Classic Accuracy
 Liz Lawrence LL Rules Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	SS sent apologies, and advised that he was back in hospital, but hoped to be back out by the weekend.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	Previous minutes dated 6th January were proposed by DC and seconded by MB.	
3	Classic Accuracy	
3.1	AB advised the following on EPAC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a zoom EPAC meeting taking place on Sunday 5th. - The French Grand Prix date previously advised may go back to 28/29th May. - The current Covid testing for overseas travel is quite expensive, but matters will change between now and when the season starts. - He will propose that the UK leg of the Grand Prix be held on the August Bank holiday at South Cerney, and will ask if the overseas pilots can make all four days. 	AB
3.2	AB advised that he had been given permission to carryout conversions of BS pilots.	
3.3	AB advised that he will be doing a two day training session with the Thames Valley club to tow Hang gliders, and thanked AS for making the suggestion.	
4	Classic Rules	
4.1	LL advised that she had inserted the items agreed at the classic rules meeting into the classic rules, but there were still some outstanding items.	
4.2	AS proposed that a trial be carried out at the first three rounds of the BAC to not use the 10 second rule on finals. It was noted that the revised rule wording proposed by AS had some flaws, and DC would work on some amended wording. LL had concerns that people may be too busy to review the trial at the BAC events, and noted that monitoring 'insufficient height to make an approach' was easy to judge.	DC
4.3	It was noted that all the different classic categories (BAC, Nationals, Grand Prix) at the BAC events will use the same rules. There could be an option for the Grand Prix to start a day later at the beginning of the next whole round.	
5	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
5.1	MB reported the following at the January training camp at South Cerney:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was a good event. - Parallel towing took place alongside the winching. - New pilots from the Green Dragons tow conversion group had signed up for the squad. - The weekend will nearly have broken even cost wise. - He would like to see AS and instructors flying more, and DC agreed. - There was an opportunity for less experienced operators to tow experienced pilots, and Jamie Robe was signed off on the parallel towing system. 	
5.2	LL queried why low airtime pilots were getting involved with squad flying that was meant to be for top pilots. AS responded that the weekend was good for recruitment, development and training operators.	
5.3	MB advised that the February training camp (19/20 th) will be at Green Dragons, and must be a tow event for classic and paraglider pilots to stay together.	
5.4	AB advised that he should be able to turn up to Green Dragons with his winch.	
5.5	It was noted that the FAI Cat2 BAC events would count to a squad pilots best three competitions in the selection league. Training camps may be planned for May and July.	
6	Funding bid	
6.1	AW advised that the budget put forward to Bill Bell needs to include the Europeans, training camps, Grand Prix and overseas Cat2 funding. The Panel needs to agree the amounts / proportions.	
6.2	MB advised that he had put his budget estimate for the Europeans based on the Bill Bell rule of thumb in Dropbox.	
6.3	AB proposed that pilots attending Grand Prix events be given £50 per competition, but did not feel there would be sufficient time this year to start a selection league. 10 pilots attending both competitions would come to a total cost of £1,000. DC felt it may be best to leave this year and start funding next year based on a selection league where classic pilots would need to put a registration form in Dropbox.	
6.4	AS advised that 20 pilots claiming 2 x £80 would come to a total of £3,200. It was queried whether funding should be allocated based on performance, commitment or youth. AW advised that only the top four pilots in the WPRS contribute to their nations position, and suggested that there should be a cap in place as there will be limited funding. MB suggested that every pilot be eligible for £50 for their first competition and then further money is given to the top four pilots in the WPRS. It was noted that the pilot's positions in the WPRS could change throughout the year.	
6.5	AW offered to prepare a bid.	AW
7	50th Anniversary	
7.1	DC suggested that the Classic Nationals not be part of the BAC events as the number of pilots attending will reduce the number of flights that should be expected at a national championships. AW felt it had to go a head at a BAC event as the whole idea was to celebrate the 50 th anniversary of the Classic Nationals.	
7.2	AS advised that Bill Bell had requested a spread sheet for the 50 th and wanted to help back up the event if sponsors were also contributing.	

	AS advised that £2,500 had already been paid out to date. LL queried amounts on the budget prepared by AS for the evening meal, five overseas people and minibus, and suggested that nice to haves not be pursued if they cannot be afforded. It was also noted that PGAEC and PGAWC costs are only applicable to two BAC rounds. It was felt that costs could be better controlled if the competitions took place at Green Dragons and South Cerney. AS to provide a revised budget based on the above.	AS
7.3	AB advised that he should be able to book barrack blocks on the August Bank holiday, but it may be more difficult in June due to military operations. AB to discuss with his military contact.	AB
7.4	AS advised that an ambulance will be required for all competitions, but queried if the Scouts could offer a first aid service.	
7.5	AS advised that in 2019 he was able to use the local football club facilities and brought in £1,600 of sponsorship. Also inviting key overseas people may bring additional pilots to the competition.	
7.6	AB advised that Geoff Bailey may be able to offer competitively priced T shirts.	
7.7	LL to provide classic and BAC rules by 28th February.	LL
7.8	AS advised that he had sent messages to 34 judges.	
8	AOB	
8.1	AS requested that SS update the personnel on the Panel Whatsapp group.	SS
	Meeting closed at 22.15	
	Date of next meeting	
	8.00 pm, Wednesday 9 th February 2022	

BHPA Accuracy panel development officers report Feb 2022

50th Anniversary

It's been a tough journey but I am extremely pleased to report that the World Cup & European Cup dates and events are all sorted. Sadly, zero comms back from EPAC again! I will now focus on the teams and people that have showed commitment. I suggest if EPAC come on board now, they do so following our UK rules.

Proposal re venues

We need to have a final discussion about venues for 50th events. At first, I wanted to involve all clubs. Given all the feedback I'm starting to think it will be too much pressure on me personally, if I look at the weather the Wednesday before and call on the site. For example if we were to hold the Super finals at Rutland, I feel there will be far too much opposition to my decisions, based on weather, man power, travelling etc...

Just to let you know new folks are willing to travel where weather is best, the only resistance is from older generation.

So, to that effect unless you see differently, I suggest:

- April's World Cup and European cup at GD.
- June's PG Nationals at Rutland. We could move this location because I think there is less pressure.
- August Classic and FAI comp at Birdwings.

Next year I will continue to run the BAC both Classic and PG FAI and invite EPAC and I will put further work into the Wednesday before announcement.

Proposal of risk for the 50th Anniversary

I have two proposals to manage the financial risk:

- 1) Confirm that the BHPA Accuracy panel will take on the risk of the events (as per conversations with Bill Bell and the attached budget)
- 2) The BHPA Accuracy panel will refund the FAI registration, the PGAEC registration and PGAWC registration as agreed with Bill Bell and then Green Dragons Airports take on the risk of the events.

Judging development

LL has confirmed she will offer judge training before each and every event. CIVL head Judge Andy Cowley confirmed we can do training over one day to qualify FAI Judges for CAT 2 comps. I have therefore started to recruit back the judges I got for last PG nationals GD hosted and would ask everyone to help recruit judges.

Knowing the personalities very well and skill sets across the World I will put together the judging teams and speak to LL as these teams develop. I am asking WC and EC to share the cost of CJ they wish to appoint as I am hoping they agree we only need one. By the time you are reading this I hope invites would have gone out to all.

Rules

Rule Change Suggestion for Classic first 3 legs;

... can we have the rule, if you go for the target, you take your score.

If you clearly demonstrate you turn back into wind, 'just' before the target and land within 10 seconds, ' must not go past the target down wind, should you go past the target, no relaunch. This shows you would never had 10 sec finals, you are intitled to a relaunch.

I have been watching Dave Crowhurst and Les Carroll with great interest and they literally are good for a target turning into wind as hitting the pad, with seconds to go.

I am asking this because you can still run the Classic Nationals as per the rules, but the 3 legs before, use a trial for the rule many of us do now like as you can cheat.

This will also take pressure off all our sites should wind be light variable etc and competitors struggle to get to the target. I think many pilots will go for target with 2 - 9 seconds, this will help with turnaround which is necessary given the size of the comp.

This also adds to a pilot's skill set, as they have to concentrate and make a good decision. From judges point of view to watch a pilot turn just in front of the target and land counting to 10 seconds, just the same as all the years the judges have stood there counting second on finals.

Rules for BAC - Classic, I'd like to Liz give us the final version of classic rules by 28th Feb 2022.

FAI CIVL Plenary

I eventually managed to attend as an Official BHPA delegate. Therefore, saving the panel £800, as 5 x nights, flight, airport transfers, Covid tests all added up.

I believe I represented BHPA Accuracy very well, Mark Shaw, Brett Janaway, John Stevenson, also attended on and off by zoom.

Mark's message was:

"All good Andy, you were the model of diplomacy. It was my first CIVL meeting so it was interesting to see"

It's worth noting I always get this support and respect across the BHPA and FAI CIVL.

Next amazing news CIVL want me to work much closer with all my views and ideas with CIVL Accuracy Chair Martin. Which I have agreed to do.

I will write more up shortly, time too short to write this up now as there was huge developments and now I have got Liz on board with CIVL, together with Mark you will start to see lots.

Classic development

With the continued work with DC we have got more BPA/BS members converting.

Jamie Robe is now a qualified driver operator (paper work to do)

More work with DC, we now have a BS master rigger on board and qualified. Peter Sizer, CI (CCI) head corn parachute clubs. Should be also noted he is the Chairman of the BS riggers. Pete has said he can make equipment but nothing comes with insurance as his BS riggers insurance does not cover PA.

Further more, delighted to report parachutist Legend Jackie Smith has started training with team GD. Along with Jeff Chandler, for those who may remember, Jeff was a CFI and good friend of Adrian Holdstock former BAPC Chief examiner.

PG Squad.

Excellent turnout with what Mark Bignell is doing. Lots of new pilots joining, along with lots of energy for Classic, to fly within and be apart of the BHPA Squad.

BHPA Accuracy google calendar for comps

Myri set up the Google BHPA Accuracy calendar. We must now encourage folks not to double book weekends, first come first serve. This will help development.

BHPA AP Monthly Report Feb 22 (Parascending)

1. Funding. We are now introducing Monthly Squad meetings that include squares. My thoughts are that there will not enough time to establish a reasonable list showing the best, down to the 'not the best'. The first of the 2 overseas comps is scheduled to take place in May so I propose that we use a different system for funding for this year.

For the 2022 EPAC comps in France and Netherlands we offer every pilot £50 to offset the expense of getting there, entrance fee and accommodation. We don't usually have as many as ten but to safeguard our funds we could 'cap' this offer to the first 10 competitors to register. I also propose that the results from the monthly squad meetings for the Classics start in Apr 22 and a list is produced to include the results of all training weekends up to Apr 2023. Funding should then be offered to the best pilots.

2. Grand Prix. Jacques gave me dates for the French Grand Prix a few weeks ago (21-22 May 22). I have a meeting this Sunday with EPAC and I have already seen emails exchanged between Ed and Jacques that indicate that this competition date might get put back by one week (28-29 May). Ed has stated that if 21-22 May is the date for the comp, many of these Dutch will not attend.

3. Tow Conversions for BS Parachutists. I have recently been authorised by the BHPA FSC to carry out Tow Conversions for BS Parachutists.

4. Towed Hang Gliding. I have scheduled a 2 x day training session later this month to be signed off to winch-tow Hang gliders. It will then become an additional discipline to supplement the towing of paragliders and squares at South Cerney.

5. I propose that the last of the 50th anniversary comps be scheduled to be held at South Cerney during the August Bank Holiday period. This should be announced well in advance with the option of relocating to an alternative site if the forecast is for unsuitable weather and another site has a good forecast. I will arrange to have a transit block made available. These blocks have 4 x rooms with a total of 160 beds. Toilets and showers are included.