

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held on 13th October 2022, 20.00

Present: Myrianthe Ewington ME Vice Chairman
 Andy Webster AW Media & PR Officer
 Arthur Bentley AB Parascending Representative
 Mark Bignell MkB Paragliding Representative
 Andy Shaw AS Development
 William Lawrence WL Squad Manager
 Dave Crowhurst DC Classic Accuracy
 Liz Lawrence LL Rules Officer
 Matt Bignell MtB Safety Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	No apologies received.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	Previous minutes dated 4th August 2022 were proposed by DC and seconded by LL.	
3	Finances	
3.1	AW advised that the BHPA had paid a grant of £9k into the BHPA Accuracy Panel account. ME thanked AS for his liaison with Jenny Buck on this matter.	
3.2	AW advised that there is currently £9.5k in the account and noted that outstanding squad fees are being paid, but there are still some outstanding fees. Also Tyron Paul has paid a first £100 instalment of his loan this month.	
3.3	It was agreed that UK pilots attending Cat2 overseas competitions in 2022 should get £80 funding as in previous years. The amount of funding for 2023 will be discussed at the December panel meeting.	
3.4	AW advised that Jonathan Parkinson has updated the Expense Request Form to include a box for when a spending decision was made. AW to put the form in Dropbox.	AW
3.5	It was agreed that any squad member requesting an expense should submit their request through WL who will copy AW into any request sent to Jonathan Parkinson. AW to put details about what information is required to make a claim on the Squad page of the website.	AW
4	Classic Accuracy	
4.1	AB advised that the Dutch Grand Prix had been a success at a new site, with Richard Bissett and Green Dragons winning the individual and team categories. Romain Lecamus won the overall Grand Prix individual title followed by Luis de Pina and Dave Crowhurst.	
4.2	It was noted that John van der Reijden has made two Lithuanian style retrieve winches, and can make further units for about 5/6,000 euros. The units improved the turn around rate, but there were concerns that there were no weak links in the system. The units are not approved by the BHPA so an exemption would be required to carryout a trial.	
4.3	AB advised that he had had to pay the UK Grand Prix subs (£3 per pilot) out of his own pocket, and sought reimbursement from the BAC funds.	AB

4.4	AB advised that the annual EPAC meeting will take place on 28/01/23, and he would like to know dates of other competitions to avoid clashes.	
4.5	AB advised that the Birdwings competition had been put back a week due to a poor weather forecast.	
4.6	AS advised that arranging a base for the Classic Accuracy National Team trophy was ongoing.	AS
4.7	AS advised that the Classic Accuracy National Youth trophy was in his possession.	
5	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
5.1	WL advised that no request had been made for the female Euros entry fee that was paid for Sue Britnell, as it was understood that no refund was available. WL / AW to check the Local Regulations wording. It was noted that the Euro organisers had been kept informed about the UK Team places.	WL / AW
5.2	WL advised that he needed to carry out more work on the Selection Criteria following feed back, and felt that the current system should be used for the 2023 Worlds. Also WL requested some clarification on the current system e.g. bonus points. MtB stated that the current system discourages attendance at overseas competitions as more points are available at training camps even with the overseas bonus system. There was general consensus that the current system is reasonably fair and it rewards the most committed pilots. LL advised that any new system could be compared to the current system to make an evaluation. WL to issue the 2023 Selection Criteria.	WL
5.3	WL advised that he intends to implement the code of conduct this year, and will reissue it to include comments from Dave Crowhurst and a penalty for non payment of fees.	WL
5.4	WL advised that a training camp in Wales may need a 4WD vehicle and queried how this would be paid for. It was noted that an expenses claim should be submitted like Green Dragons currently make for training camps.	
5.5	AW advised that training camp dates for the remainder of 2022 are on the website. WL advised that he intends to have training camps on the third weekend of every month in 2023. Also it was intended to have an overseas training camp, and the date will need to be declared in advance.	
5.6	AS advised that the squad could operate along side a Thermal Chasers event, but should not take attention away from pilots who have paid for the course.	
5.7	WL advised that pilots need to do more general flying, and MkB suggested that the accuracy squad enter a team in the BCC. MtB suggested that this may not work as the BCC was for clubs.	
5.8	WL understood that Airsports type insurance was not available to sponsored pilots or at competitions where prize money was on offer, and he is currently looking at British Mountaineering insurance. AS advised that JS Insurance have set a limit of 500 euros prize money, and he had had discussions to increase this amount.	
5.9	WL advised that Jenny Buck is setting up a meeting with all the BHPA competition panels to discuss sponsorship.	
5.10	WL stated that the Euros was one hell of a competition, and was a lot of fun. Also the team bounced back really well from a bad start. AS stated that WL had done a great job as Team Manager, and the team	

	work was the best there had been for 15 years. MtB stated that the results did not reflect how well the team did.	
5.11	With regard to the thermic conditions, there was a general feeling from the team that pilots should have the confidence to have a shallower constant glide as displayed by a lot of the European pilots. DC felt that this information should be relayed to other squad pilots.	
6	50th Anniversary BAC	
6.1	AS thanked the Panel for making the series a great event, and advised the following successes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UK had moved up the WPRS. - There had been over 1,000 flights. - There had been massive publicity on social media which is great for sponsorship. Green Dragons had been recognised world wide e.g. Italian parachutists had shown an interest in parascending training at Green Dragons. - More FAI judges had been qualified. - There had been great support from Jenny Buck. - Other countries had recognised that the UK can run world class competitions and had gained a lot of respect. - MkB's scoring software has been used by other countries. 	
6.2	AS advised that he was not planning on running a BAC event next year, but was looking at the year after to celebrate Green Dragon's 50 th anniversary.	
6.3	AS acknowledged that the event had made a loss, and visa problems had reduced the attendance of overseas pilots. MkB felt that a budget based on a 50% attendance would have been more realistic. AS suggested a meeting to review the financial figures. AS also advised that he intended to sit down with ME, DC, LL and Chris Haynes to review the events.	AS
7	Equipment	
7.1	LL advised that the target camera needs to have high quality freeze frames. MtB will get to a camera show room to test out devices.	
7.2	AS to do work on the target mat (reinforce the holes, add a 2m FAI circle).	AS
7.3	Chris Haynes is to carryout the following work, and LL to chase up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a new threaded hole in the anemometer. - Resolve ongoing issues with radios. - Obtain the price of Weckbecker pad. 	LL
7.4	The Panel will discuss the following at the next Panel meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase of a Weckbecker pad / Texair system. - Judge video equipment. - Buying a shelter for the judges or potentially a sponsored unit. - Long handled squeegee for wet target clearance - Mallet for target mat pegs - Second stopwatch for classic competitions (one for EJ and one for wind) - Light wind indicator with pole (we currently rely on whatever personal kit is on the field) - 10 litre fuel can, plus funnel, for generator - Oil for generator - Second bat (we used one as wave away but should have 2) - Measured rope for 5m and 10m circles 	

	- Old wind sock	
7.5	Following the recent tow release hook up incident, DC to provide details of an improvement to the system that gets metal work away from the pilot. It was noted that the BHPA manual does not have a specific tow line arrangement, but Mick Roach can be contacted about suggestions.	DC
8	2023 competition dates	
8.1	The following provisional 2023 nationals dates were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paragliding Nationals – 26-29 May (Spring Bank Holiday, and includes a training day) - Classic Nationals – 26-28 August (August Bank Holiday) AW to put the dates on the website.	AW
8.2	DC to update the Google BHPA Accuracy calendar with Skydive dates.	DC
8.3	AB advised that there will be an EPAC fall back date, with the Birdwings competition preceding this date.	
8.4	AS to contact the Rutland and Norfolk clubs about hosting the 2023 paragliding nationals.	
	Meeting closed at 21.55	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 3rd November 2022.	

Parascending Report

By Arthur Bentley

1. Grand Prix. At the start of the Dutch Grand Prix, there was very little between the top 4 competitors. Leading the group was Romain L (Fr), followed by Dave C, Luis (Port) Bruno and then Richard B.

Apart from Bruno, These pilots were all at the new site near Breda ready to challenge the leader and take the top prize.

The first day was challenging with very strong winds at around 200-300 ft but within limits close to the ground. Consequently, there were quite a few max scores awarded during that day.

On Sunday the wind was more pilot friendly and by approx 1330hrs, the comp came to a conclusion with 4 rounds completed.

Our own Richard B, who had been in 4th place overall after the UK leg of the Grand Prix won the weekend competition with very good scores including two DCs.

The final results for the 2022 Grand Prix were: 1st - Romain Lecamus. 2nd - Luis De Pina. 3rd - Dave Crowhurst. Richard Bissett who won the weekend competition came 4th in the overall Grand Prix comp.

The hosts of the NL leg of the Grand Prix, SKY REBELS, introduced everyone to their new site and more than one person commented on it looking like a snooker table. It really is a magnificent site with camping with walking distance.

Looking ahead - The final UK Accuracy League comp is scheduled for 22-23 Oct. This is scheduled to be hosted by Birdwings at S Cerney. The Birdwings winch is currently having the electrics sorted and I am ready to replace the wire towline with Dyneema.