

Mark Bignell Citation for BHPA awards

Mark Bignell has been involved in parascending and paragliding since the eighties, and in recent years has been involved with BHPA Accuracy Panel and CIVL activities.

From 2016 to 2022 Mark was Paragliding Accuracy Squad Manager where he encouraged pilots to join the Paragliding Accuracy Squad and gave his time up to organise and run training camps to improve pilots skills. Mark did great work preparing the UK Team for FAI Cat 1 competitions, and was honoured to be UK Team Manager at three FAI Cat 1 events where he patiently motivated pilots to perform to their best.

Following a change to the structure of the Panel Mark became Paragliding Representative that included the Squad Manager role as well as involvement with the National Championships and coaching. At competitions, as well as flying, he can be found doing the unglamorous behind the scenes work of data checking, crunching and troubleshooting, often long after the other competitors have retired to the bar. In addition Mark has been an Instructor at Green Dragons for the past 12 years, and often recruits new members into the sport.

Mark is also a member of CIVL Paragliding Accuracy Subcommittee where he is responsible for the target equipment used at Cat 1 competitions. His engineering skills have certainly been a big help with some of the reliability issues of the equipment. This year Mark also created a scoring system for the British Accuracy Cup, which has also been adopted by other countries.

This year Mark stood down as Squad Manager due to family commitments, but is still involved with the BHPA Accuracy Panel and CIVL. His work as Squad Manager over the past few years, along with his ongoing commitment to the technical aspects of CIVL work, deserves some recognition.