

# Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 5th January 2023

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies were received from LL and MtB.	
2	<b>Signing off last meeting minutes</b>	
2.1	Minutes dated 8th December 2022 incorporating amendments from DC were proposed by DC and seconded by AW.	
3	<b>Chairman Vacancy &amp; General Meeting</b>	
3.1	It was agreed that there should be a General Meeting by Zoom call on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April. A Panel meeting will take place the week before to finalise the format. AW to put an item in March Skywings about the meeting.	AW
4	<b>Finances</b>	
4.1	Regarding the BHPA Financial Plan drafted by AW, it was agreed to make the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2022 grant was £9,000</li> <li>- Include seven pilots in the 2023 Worlds</li> <li>- Change insurance to seven pilots @ £210</li> <li>- Change accommodation to £480</li> <li>- Change pilot development costs to ten pilots x two competitions @ £100</li> <li>- Add 5% inflation to the second year</li> </ul> AW to make the amendments.	AW
4.2	ME & AS to add sponsorship information to the plan.	ME&AS
4.3	It was noted that a competition funding rolling scale had been agreed at the last meeting, however, until the Panel knows how much funding it will be getting, funding for 2023 could not be announced.	
5	<b>Classic Accuracy</b>	
5.1	AS advised that the Rutland Club had agreed to host the 2023 Classic Nationals, and a Meet Director needs to be agreed. The following list of people was drawn up for AB to approach about being the Meet Director: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Martin Kay</li> <li>- Sue Kay</li> <li>- Andy Cowley</li> <li>- John Harbutt</li> <li>- Chris Haynes</li> <li>- Nigel Barker</li> <li>- Mick Roache</li> <li>- Simon Sykes Snr</li> </ul>	

	It was noted that the Meet Director would be part of the working group, and not be responsible for the domestic arrangements.	
5.2	DC advised the Rutland Club only had one operator that can tow squares, and he intended to visit the club to assist with training more operators.	
5.3	AB advised that the EPAC meeting will take place on 28 <sup>th</sup> January. DC will also be attending to assist with the classic rules discussion. Competition dates will be announced at the meeting, however, there will be four weeks grace period where dates could change if clashes are spotted. The Panel needs to make EPAC aware of any paragliding competition dates in May and September to help avoid clashes.	Panel
5.4	DC advised that he is happy to be Parascending Squad Manager, and requested that the Panel review the Parascending Sponsorship Criteria, that will be used for allocating funding to attend overseas Grand Prix competitions, for agreement at the next meeting.	Panel
5.5	DC to send the classic squad registration form to AW to put on the website.	DC AW
<b>6</b>	<b>Paragliding Accuracy Squad</b>	
6.1	WL & LL to complete the Squad Code of Conduct.	WL&LL
6.2	WL advised that he had not had a response to his query to Valentine Popa about a refund for a female pilot at the Euros. WL to chase.	WL
6.3	It was agreed that WL could claim £8 per squad training camp day for use of his pad, tablet and GoPro. It was noted that WL could become custodian of the Panel IPAD when it is procured.	
6.4	It was noted that a two day squad training camp with judge would cost squad pilots £35. The host club would then be paid their fees by the Panel regardless of what squad fees are generated.	
6.5	It was noted that squad pilots attending the February Thermal Chasers trip will be charged £90 per day and this excludes flights and accommodation. Squad pilots will not be subject to the squad training fees, and no funding has been agreed.	
6.6	WL stated that a lot of squad pilots had stated that they required practice / training in thermic European conditions on their registration forms, and therefore training camps are required overseas. Also UK pilots should try and attend the same overseas competitions so that there will be a greater chance of getting squad and UK league points. It was noted that the selection league has a bonus system when UK pilot attendance is low, but it is difficult to get bonus points at high quality competitions.	
6.7	WL advised that squad training camps will take place on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend of every month except where there are five weekends in a month and then it will be the fourth weekend. It was agreed not to have back-up dates as this will clash with other activities. AW to put dates on the website.	AW
6.8	ME advised that the 2023 paragliding nationals would be a four day competition, and WL suggested that if towing could be provided on the Thursday before then this could be a squad training day.	
6.9	WL suggested that if judges were not available at a squad training camps then pilots could work in pairs (an experienced pilot and a less experienced pilot), to judge and gain rules knowledge. Concerns were noted about over competitive pilots causing problems. It was also felt that pilots should be encouraging judges to attend training camps, and possibly if there are no judges then there should be no selection	

	competition. It was noted that the Rules Officer was responsible for arranging judging at squad training rather than the Squad Manager.	
6.10	WL advised that the January squad training is planned for South Cerney with South Wales and Green Dragons as back up.	
6.11	WL advised that he will try and accommodate squares at squad training camps, but this will not be possible at some sites.	
7	<b>Paragliding Nationals</b>	
7.1	As Paragliding Representative MkB would be the main contact for the paragliding nationals. A Meet Director needs to be appointed, and it was noted that Chris Haynes had done a good job as Meet Director and launch marshal at the 2021 nationals. MkB's scoring system could be used which would take pressure off Chris Haynes.	
7.2	It was noted that Local Regulations are required for to get the competition on the FAI calendar. LL to assist with the Local Regulations, and MkB to arrange the submission.	LL MkB
7.3	AW raised concerns about having a four day competition event as pilots / judges may not be able to get time off work. AS advised that other BHPA competitions require pilots / judges to take a lot more time off work.	
8	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BAC</b>	
8.1	ME to provide amended final accounts for the BAC.	ME
9	<b>Equipment</b>	
9.1	It was noted that confirmation was required that a Weckbecker pad had been procured. MkB believed the Weckbecker price was ex works and there may also be a delivery charge on top of the price given.	
9.2	It was noted that MtB will be purchasing the IPAD imminently.	MtB
10	<b>AOB</b>	
10.1	DC reiterated the need to keep the google calendar up to date to avoid clashes. It was noted that Green Dragons have accuracy weekends on the first weekend of the month, and it was suggested that Birdwings have an open invitation for the second weekend of every month. AS raised concerns about the dilution effect of too much going on, and clubs should be concentrating on their own flying. AB stated that he had suggested in the past that pilots should move around clubs to keep them going, but it never really happened.	
10.2	AW volunteered to keep track of the returnable league trophies following the issues in 2022.	
10.3	AS stated that we should be congratulating Russell Ogden on gaining an MBE. Also his Russell Ogden's father had said well done to the accuracy community.	
	Meeting closed at 22.15	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023.	

## **BHPA Monthly Report (Parascending) Jan 23**

I will be attending the EPAC meeting in Calais on 28 Jan, accompanied by Dave C and Nikki B (EPAC secretary).

I would like agreement from the panel, to state (at the EPAC meeting) that South Cerney will be the venue for the 2023 Classic Nationals during the Aug Bank Holiday period.

Regards,

Arthur

Hi panel

Firstly apologies again for the meeting – I will be away at a conference.

Minutes look OK

Re actions I was supposed to do, I have:

- Communicated with all judges who are not also pilots re non-flying membership fees, including the form they need to send to Parki to claim the money back
- emailed Chris about ordering a pad (acknowledged) and to ask about potential future expenditure (no information yet). He will cost a second bat and the oil needed for the generator.
- Created generic classic rules
- Helped AW to locate trophies (now presented)

Attached are the classic rules, amended following email discussion and sent to Arthur and Nikki for circulation to the EPAC committee and discussion at their meeting later this month.

Once we have the agreed EPAC version I will add back the local regulation elements for the UK Nationals and consult with the panel and the meet director.

When we have an agreed meet director for the paragliding nationals I will also support them and the panel with cat2 local regulations as needed.

Re judges' BHPA membership (item 4), I would like to be able to issue to judges a single document clarifying what financial support we provide for competitions and squad training and for BHPA non-flying membership along with expectations (currently refund of non-flying membership if judge both nationals, 50% if judge at one). I think we have most of that but there are still some things that need clarifying.

- Who needs BHPA membership – who counts as a judge? My understanding from previous discussions with Bill Bell is that Chief and Event Judge (as competition officials) and all target judges require membership. If a non-member judges (at a classic competition) or undertakes FAI training the panel will pay for day membership but once qualified (FAI) or if judging is more than a one-off (classic) they should be expected to take out non-flying membership which can be reimbursed at the end of the year if they meet the criteria.
- What about others with roles at the target. We have used non-members in roles where they are not close to the landings (scorer, measuring the wind). However, especially in an FAI competition, the scorer has a key role as an official. And what about someone videoing the landings. We need to be very clear in information sent to judges about which roles need (and therefore could be panel funded) for membership. There are issues around liability and required expertise (which may or may not link to membership).
- Criteria for reimbursement. We may have judges who only judge one discipline but do judge at squad training competitions or club competitions. Although we want to encourage crossing disciplines and to incentivise judges to attend the 2 nationals do we also need to incentivise support for other competitions by broadening our criteria for reimbursement?

Those are the key points for now (so I can issue something to judges) but, if we want to increase UK judging expertise we may also need to think longer term about how judges are supported to judge at overseas competitions and see how others do it.

Liz

# BHPA Comp panel reports

Classic BHPA Nationals Venue confirmed 25th - 28th Aug 2023 - North Luffenham  
ACTION Appoint a Meet Director - I am happy to provide all back up and assistance to the meet director

Paraglider BHPA Nationals confirmed 26th - 29th May 2023 - Norfolk  
ACTION Appoint Meet Director  
ACTION file FAI application, I am happy to do this as a temp standing until the team is confirmed. This will get it on the FAI web site within 2 weeks.

## BHPA Accuracy Coaches

I have spoken in depth with Matt Bignell, Billy Elliston and Will Lawrence, re the need for a BHPA Coaches team. I have therefore started a Whatsapp team. We will meet shortly face to face, set some plans in place to recruit serious coaches and write coaching plans.

## Thermal Chasers - Accuracy training camp.

As we look across the UK XC PG team, current World Champions, there is something they all do - invest a lot of personal money and time to succeed. They use Jocky, Brett and Flyeo locations to better their skills. This is the single reason they are World Champions and Russ Ogden Current World Champion (and recently awarded a MBE). Therefore together with the BHPA Squad coaches and BHPA Squad managers support we are joining to focus more on overseas training.

The first date offered to the BHPA Squad Manager is 4th - 12th Feb 2023, the venues favourite will be Tenerife. However if the weather is not looking good we will choose a different location. The cost to the pilots is £90 per day for transports, Airport transfers, mini bus, fuel, driver.

Pilots will be expected to book their own flights and accommodation as long as flights are evenings - mornings and accommodation is near TC HQ.

Or pilots can log on to Thermal Chasers and book and buy an all exclusive week

ACTION: I Would like to ask the panel to contribute £100 travel costs. TC will also be contributing towards the Judges cost. I am currently talking with judges.

I'd like to see the BHPA squad training weekends also accommodate classics, we need a classic manager. This training could happen at a different site to PG sometimes.

## Notes

I have continued to push very hard on our UK Accuracy presence across the World both PG and PA and feel we really are getting serious momentum.

I will continue building and pushing social networking-communication, that's is going very strong with, Pilots Judges, British Skydiving, FAI pilots. This will help comp organisers with good places to recruit from.