

# Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 2nd February 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  
 Liz Lawrence LL Rules Officer  
 Matt Bignell MtB Safety Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	No Apologies.	
2	<b>Signing off last meeting minutes</b>	
2.1	Minutes dated 5th January 2023 were proposed by AW and seconded by AB.	
3	<b>Parascending Accuracy Squad</b>	
3.1	The following comments were made on the Parascending Funding Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 'erratic / poor performance' wording could be seen as a bit negative. DC to review wording.</li> <li>- It may be difficult for squad pilots to attend both paragliding and parascending competitions, but it was noted that the 75% rules gives some leeway. It was agreed to see how matters transpire in the first year.</li> <li>- Is the 'below 5 degrees' rule to be adhered to, and should a duty of care in extreme conditions be considered? DC to come up with some wording.</li> </ul>	DC  DC
4	<b>Chairman Vacancy</b>	
4.1	MkB was proposed as Chairman by AS and seconded by MtB. MkB was voted unanimously as Chairman.	
5	<b>Finances</b>	
5.1	ME to forward signed draft accounts to Jenny Buck.	ME
5.2	AW stated that there were no sponsorship monies detailed in the above draft accounts which had been implied in recent Whatsapp discussions with Ed Cunliffe. ME advised that money had been paid to individuals at the 2021 Worlds which had then been spread between the team pilots. It was agreed that monies should come via the Panel and be identified in the accounts in the future for transparency reasons.	
5.3	The following proposal made by AW was accepted; BHPA funding is allocated to four elements in the following percentage proportions (amounts if £6,000/£9,000 funding is granted):  Overseas Grand Prix – 8.33% (£500 / £750) Overseas Cat 2 competitions 16.67% (£1,000 / £1,500) Squad training camps - 16.67% (£1,000 / £1,500)	

	Cat 1 competitions – 58.33% (£3,500 / £5,250)	
<b>6</b>	<b>Classic Accuracy</b>	
6.1	The proposal by LL for the amended wording in the classic accuracy rules was accepted by the Panel.	
6.2	AB advised that the Dutch are unable to attend the French Grand Prix on the proposed date of 1-2 July, and the French are now offering options of the 29-30 April and 10-11 June.	
6.3	It was agreed that if the Classic Nationals is a 4 day event then the 'bank / catch up' rule would still be applicable. It was agreed by vote to have a 4 day event.	
6.4	AB to ask EPAC to decide on whether the UK Grand Prix is to be a 3 or 4 day event. It is expected that a decision will take two weeks. If a 3 day event is agreed then the entry fee will be 75% of the nationals. If the 4 day event is agreed then DC believed that there was justification to have an entry fee above the EPAC 50-70 euros recommendation. It was noted that if EPAC decided on a 3 day event that Grand Prix pilots could have practise flights by fitting in with the nationals flying order.	AB
6.5	AB's proposal to hold the 2023 nationals at South Cerney was not accepted, the main reason being that the Panel was committed to the Rutland Club and didn't want to burn bridges. It was noted that campsites needed to be sought early as it was a bank holiday.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Paragliding Accuracy Squad</b>	
7.1	WL advised that there were challenging conditions at the January training camp, but there was a good turnout.	
7.2	The February Thermal Chasers trip will offer two squad days at half price.	
7.3	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 & MkB to chase.	WL, MkB
7.4	WL confirmed that the final version of the Code of Conduct is now ready following previous acceptance. WL acknowledged that the document was quite onerous, but advised that pilots were joining a team rather than a flying club. MtB felt that pilots should be introduced to the document in a welcoming way. WL to introduce squad pilots to the document.	WL
7.5	WL to check registration forms have been received from all expected pilots. DC's proposal that non registered squad pilots pay full club fees at training camps was accepted.	WL
7.6	WL said he would review the weaknesses stated by pilots on their registration forms and feed back to the coaches.	WL
<b>8</b>	<b>Paragliding Nationals</b>	
8.1	MkB stated that he had not found a Meet Director to date. Chris Haynes was suggested as a Meet Director, however, Chris will be the launch marshal. Sue Kay won't do the Meet Director role, and Martin Kay is tow director.	
8.2	MkB advised that the Scouts would be helping via Judith Freeman. MtB advised that we have to manage the Scouts expectations, and tandem flights would be beneficial.	
8.3	LL advised that once judges finances have been sorted out, she will send out an email to all judges about attending both nationals.	LL
8.4	It was agreed that the tuffet was not required at Norfolk.	

8.5	Panel to check the nationals documents (entry form, Affidavit, Local Regulations) issued by MkB.	Panel
8.6	It was noted that the competition was not on the FAI website and Airtribune yet. AS advised that the FAI sanction fee still had to be paid which amounts to 1.5 x entry fee. Airtribune charge £2 per pilot. MkB arrange.	MkB
8.7	AS advised that he could get 9 sponsors for the nationals, but wanted to see something different to attract sponsors, e.g. not just sending a link to a website. MkB advised that he had contacted lots of manufacturers, but not had any responses back, and could only offer photos, website and social media posts.	
8.8	MkB advised that he had prepared budget that had determined an entry fee of £90. LL advised that there was no need for judges medals. MtB advised that thankyou's to helpers need to be arranged.	
8.9	It was agreed that the 'bank / catch up' rule was applicable to the nationals, but not the FAI element of the competition.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Judging</b>	
9.1	It was noted that LL's proposal for the judges reimbursement included comments from AW & DC. AW subsequently advised that he agreed with DC's proposal for funding of half non flying membership for 3 full judging days and funding of full non flying membership for 6 full judging days. DC advised that there should be limits on how many times judges can claim accommodation and travel costs. It was agreed that the recorder does not need BHPA membership. It was agreed that judges could claim £100 travel and £20 accommodation for overseas squad training trips. The money for the Thermal Chasers trip will come out of reserves rather than the squad budget. LL to update the judges reimbursement document.	LL
<b>10</b>	<b>Development</b>	
10.1	The proposal by AS to fund his attendance at the CIVL Plenary, at an estimated cost of £600, was accepted with funding coming out of the reserves. It was queried if the BHPA could fund this, however, AS advised that they are only prepared to fund the official delegate Brett Janaway. AS to provide accurate costings, as the Panel may not support costs above £600. Panel members to raise queries that they would like Andy Shaw to discuss at the Plenary.	AS Panel
10.2	Discussions took place regarding a sponsorship officer / working group, and the Squad Managers role in dealing with sponsorship. AS, DC, MtB and WL agreed to form a working group.	
10.3	AS advised that he has a sponsorship role within the BHPA, and PPG Panel was working really well on attracting sponsorship. Also the Panel needs to look after sponsors who had supported us in the past. LL queried if there was a conflict of interest for a commercial sponsor to be on a sponsorship working group. WL advised that we need to bring value for sponsors that they benefit from. ME advised that sponsors can have diverse interests and could be looking for prestige or just local interests.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	
11.1	MkB understood from Chris Haynes that the pad was on order with Weckbecker.	
11.2	LL advised that Chris Haynes was arranging a bat.	

11.3	MtB advised that he is looking for the best deal on the IPAD, and will have procured the IPAD by the next Panel meeting.	MtB
12	<b>AOB</b>	
12.1	MkB advised that he had received a letter about an award from the BHPA, and thanked the Panel for their involvement.	
13	<b>Outstanding Actions</b>	
(8.1)	ME to provide amended final accounts for the BAC.	ME
	Meeting closed at 22.07	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023. LL advised that she will not be able to attend. MtB advised that he may not be available.	

## Media & PR Officer Report

### January meeting actions:

- All actions complete.

### Financial:

- BHPA Annual Financial Plan signed by JP & AW and sent to Jenny Buck by ME.
- Draft accounts prepared by JP sent to ME to forward to Jenny Buck.
- £9,852.34 in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account.
- Tyron Paul is keeping up with £100 payments on the loan.
- January training camp squad fees incoming, and Birdwings towing fees paid.

### Operating Procedures:

- Just a reminder that Panel decisions need to be made by a quorum.

### Proposal on funding allocation:

BHPA funding is allocated to four elements in the following percentage proportions (amounts if £6,000/£9,000 funding is granted):

Overseas Grand Prix – 8.33% (£500 / £750)

Overseas Cat 2 competitions 16.67% (£1,000 / £1,500)

Squad training camps - 16.67% (£1,000 / £1,500)

Cat 1 competitions – 58.33% (£3,500 / £5,250)

## **BHPA MONTHLY REPORT. PARASCENDING - Feb 23**

EPAC Meeting 28 Jan 23. I attended the meeting in Calais on 28 Jan 23 accompanied by Dave C.

1. The dates for the 3 x Grand Prix comps for this year will be:

France 1-2 July

UK - (25) 26-28 Aug 3 or 4 day comp to be confirmed before end of Feb 23

NL 9-10 Sep

Fall-Back date (in the event of only having 1 validated comp) 30 Sep - 1 Oct. (South Cerney).

2. Proposed amendments to Classic Rules.

As expected, this became quite a long discussion. We eventually arrived at a slightly adjusted proposal to our original one and this was accepted by all 3 nations.

Dave has these amendments saved on his tablet and has already submitted what was agreed at the meeting. If the panel agrees these proposals, they will become the amended rules.

A big thank you to Dave for taking the lead on these proposals.

3. UK Classic Nationals. - Since the venue for the Classic Nationals was agreed by the panel during the Dec Zoom meeting (which I was unable to attend), I propose that the panel reconsider the location for this year's competition.

I propose that we hold the 2023 Classic Nationals at South Cerney where we will be supported with:

The sole use of the airfield with no other operators.

A shorter distance for our foreign guests to travel after arriving at Dover.

Camping on site at a much lower cost than a commercial site .

Generous support from the military with tentage provided for our foreign guests.

Packed lunches available for officials and competitors if required.

On-site Hanger for briefings / wet weather breaks. Heated lounge in the dining facility should we have to 'stand down' for long periods due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Tables, Chairs, Hot water boilers, camp beds etc - all provided by the military.

SOCIAL - Bar facilities will be available for the duration (similar to last year).

On-site BBQ Sat night.

Roast dinner at the local pub Sunday night.

Our foreign guests are eagerly waiting for the outcome of this proposal.

## **Classic Accuracy / PA squad report February 2023**

Document has been completed and circulated for final comment

Registration form for 2023 available

Dates provisionally set for the year

Both provided for website, which Andy Webster has prepared for publication once document agreed by panel

Limited number of pilots (4) have registered so far for PA squad

Jamie Robe approached and agreed to be deputy squad manager for events where I may not be available

Les Carroll approached and agreed to be Lead Coach.

Following dates and sites discussed

February, South Cerney. Agreed by Arthur Bentley

March, Green Dragons. Agreed by Andy Shaw

April, Rutland. Provisionally agreed with Mick Roach

Attended EPAC meeting re rule changes. Ongoing but hoping for a positive outcome at least in part with minor wording amendments.

Rules officer report Feb 23

Re minutes of Jan meeting: MKB please advise what assistance is required with local rules.

#### Proposals

- Amended wording of classic rules following EPAC meeting, to return to EPAC for final decision. In purple on attached.

Once final decision is made, judging code will be reviewed to ensure consistency.

We must remember when discussing the rule about straight into wind landings that it is not primarily about their height on finals, it is about whether the positioning of the target and tow and the efficiency of the tow enabled the pilot to have a fair attempt at the target. If the pilot does their best but cannot achieve the required approach because of factors outside their control and so flies away, a relaunch can be awarded. Anything the pilot does during their flight that prevents them achieving this stable final approach is not the problem of the organisers or judges, if the original conditions of a good tow enabling them to release in a position where they can achieve the target is met, so they would not be eligible for a relaunch if the contributing factor was pilot error.

- Reimbursements to judges  
Amended proposal with contributions from DC and AW attached.  
Re recorder: in what circumstances would recorder need third party insurance which is what membership gives you?

#### For clarification

- How are costs for judges budgeted for overseas squad events?
- Has pad been ordered or just costed?
- Will EPAC be a 4 day competition?
- If EPAC is a 4 day competition can we still price it viable given the pricing discussions at the EPAC meeting?
- Will classic nationals / EPAC include applying in advance if cannot attend all days?
- Will paragliding nationals (but obviously not the FAI comp) include applying in advance if cannot attend all days?
- Judges certificates have been suggested. What would they be awarded for? Are we just thinking of classic judging? If this includes paragliding, how would this sit with existing FAI training requirements?



## Development officers report and proposals Feb 2023

It's been a brilliant start to year, with BHPA Clubs Rutland, Norfolk, Birdwings and Green Dragons operating already.

BHPA Squad weekend was very tough but successful.

I am so pleased to see communication and development of judges, 4 judges attended the squad training camp and we have 2 going on next BHPA squad training weekend.

it made the target top notch, pilots taking comp training very serious.

ACTION we must keep pushing for staff.

Work has started for the very first BHPA Squad Thermal Chasers run by BHPA Squad manager.

I have asked lots times for feed back to give sponsors. It should be noted, NO replys, it should be noted the BHPA PPG panel and membership is on fire and Bill Bell and Jenny Buck has seen the work and results and full of praise.

I am not sure what more I can do for Accuracy with promotions and keep asking for feed back of what folks are doing for sponsors. Should be noted Matt and Myri are the only 2 writing report re what they are doing for sponsors. This was out on squad group to help others, but as said zero support.

ACTION: all Panel members to start promoting sponsors and this will encourage member to.

There is 2 new Classic pilots at Green Dragons. Along with hand ful of New PG pilots being inspired by Myri, Tyron, Jamie.

I'm working with Arthur behind the scenes with logistics at Rutland for Classic Nationals.

I'm working with Mark B behind the scenes for PG Nationals.

Proposals:

1. All panel members to provide reports and proposals in weekend before.

So we have read reports and armoured with Questions and proposals.  
Panel members can also post a vote to chair, if they can not attend a meeting.

2. AS to Attendance FAI Planery March 2023, funding for accom and travel region of £600.

3. Appoint a Chairman

We have lots of convocations going on, Myri did collate everyone's thoughts but got no support or reply.

Look forward to hearing how all getting on.

Best Wishes

Andy