

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 2nd March 2023

Present:	Mark Bignell	MkB	Chairman & Paragliding Representative
	Andy Webster	AW	Media & PR Officer
	Andy Shaw	AS	Development
	Arthur Bentley	AB	Parascending Representative
	Matt Bignell	MtB	Safety Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from LL, DC, WL & ME.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	Minutes dated 2 nd February 2023 were proposed by AW and seconded by AB.	
3	Finances	
3.1	There were no comments on AW's report.	
3.2	Based on £6,000 funding, AW's funding proposals were accepted as follows: Grand Prix (£500): £50 for the highest placed 5 pilots in the selection league who attend an overseas Grand Prix competition. Cat 2 competitions (£1,000): £100 for all pilots attending their first overseas competition. If there is any money remaining from the £1,000 then it will be allocated to rising talents at their second competition. The Panel will decide if a pilot is a rising talent. If funding received is different to £6,000 then the amounts will be reviewed.	
3.2	It was noted that the FAI Cat2 sanction fee is expected to go up to 2.5 times the entry fee soon, therefore savings can be made if the 2024 Paragliding Nationals sanction is submitted now.	
4	Classic Accuracy	
4.1	There were no comments on AB's report.	
4.2	AB advised that EPAC had not yet got back to him on whether the UK Grand Prix should be a 3 or 4 day competition. AB to chase up.	AB
4.3	Regarding the email DC had received from a Rutland Club member about the Classic Nationals, AS advised that there were sensitivity issues within the club as they were all XC pilots. Also the club chairman had requested that the Classic Nationals be not advertised on facebook. AS stated that he had been dealing with Major Arthur and Mick Roach regarding the Classic Nationals, and will advise them that he is handing over to Dave Crowhurst and Arthur Bentley.	AS
4.4	It was noted that DC's proposal for a Whatsapp / facebook message enquiring about numbers at the Classic Nationals had become difficult due to the above.	
5	Classic Accuracy Squad	

5.1	AB advised that he wanted to propose that the Grand Prix and Birdwings competitions be added to the classic accuracy selection league as he believed had been done in the past. AW advised that he raised this matter with DC a few weeks earlier, and DC just wanted the selection league to include training camp competitions. Confused discussions took place on leagues, and it was clarified that the selection league is different to the UK league. It was agreed to defer this issue to the April Panel meeting when hopefully DC is in attendance.	
6	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
6.1	There were no comments on WL's report.	
6.2	MkB advised that he had spoken with Valentin Popa, and the panel should be getting a refund for the female pilot at the 2023 Euros.	WL/MkB
7	Paragliding Nationals	
7.1	MkB advised that he had not been successful at getting any sponsorship for the paragliding nationals, and had asked AS for help.	
7.2	MkB advised that the Norfolk Club were really excited about the Paragliding Nationals, and had set up a messenger group called 'Mark's Accuracy'. MkB suggested that the spare 3cm pad and box be left with the club as they do put out a target for accuracy.	
7.3	MkB advised that he may have to be the meet director if no one can be found.	
7.4	MkB to review the comments AW and LL had made on the nationals documents (entry form, Affidavit, Local Regulations).	MkB
7.5	MkB advised that he intended to use Airtribune because of its advertisement potential. MtB advised that he can download information from Airtribune to a paper entry form like ME did last year at the 50 th competitions.	
7.6	It was agreed that there should be a under 26 youth trophy.	
7.7	The relevance of the Best Club Pilot trophy was discussed, and it was noted that Club Pilots had an opportunity to take part in the novice competition if they are entering the novice competition for the first time and have not previously won the competition.	
8	Judging	
8.1	There were no comments on LL's report.	
9	Development	
9.1	AS stated that he was not getting any support with sponsorship, and the Panel does not have the dynamic to represent sponsors citing examples; turning sponsored judging bibs inside out, and asking for terms and conditions. This was in contrast to PPG for who had embraced the Sponsorship Opportunities document. MtB volunteered to take charge of the Sponsorship Working Group, and MkB requested that at least a meeting take place.	MtB
9.2	AS stated that the Green Dragons 50 th anniversary event would be a huge event promoted by Green Dragons that encompasses the nationals. The nationals would be run by the Panel who would have complete control over its finances. The event would run 16-26 th August allowing the Classic Nationals to take place over the August Bank Holiday. The event was agreed in principle with the competition lengths up for discussion. MtB volunteered to be Meet Director for the	

	Paragliding Nationals, and it was noted that the sanction fee can be submitted now to save money, and get the competition in the diary for others to avoid. AB agreed to be meet director for the Classic Nationals.	AS
10	Equipment	
10.1	AW / AB to ask Chris Haynes if he needs payment of a proforma invoice.	AW/AB
10.2	MtB stated that he will get the IPAD ordered.	MtB
11	AOB	
11.1	AB thanked everyone for nominating him for an RAeC award. The presentation will take place in May, but can be announced now on the website.	
11.2	MkB advised that Jenny Buck had taken over the BHPA Chairman role from Mark Asquith, and Tom Prideaux-Brune was now BHPA Competitions Director. MkB was able to speak to all the above at the BHPA AGM.	
12	Outstanding Actions	
12.1	ME to provide amended final accounts for the BAC.	ME
	Meeting closed at 21.30	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 6 th April 2023.	

Media & PR Officer Report

February meeting actions:

- All actions complete.

Financial:

- £9,079 in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account.
- Latest activities have been the February training camps squad fees and towing fees, and payment of paragliding nationals sanction fee.

Grand Prix and Cat2 competition funding proposal:

Based on receiving £6,000 BHPA funding, it was agreed at the February meeting that there would be £500 funding for Grand Prix competitions and £1,000 for Cat 2 competitions. My proposal is to allocate funding as follows:

Grand Prix:

£50 for the top 5 pilots in the selection league at each of the two overseas Grand Prix.

Cat 2 competitions:

£100 for all pilots attending their first overseas competition.

If there is any money remaining from the £1,000 then it will be allocated to rising talents at their second competition.

If more than £6,000 funding becomes available then the amounts will be increased on a pro rata basis.

Parascending Representative Officer report

1. Earlier this month (Feb), we had the first 'Classic' Squad meet. This was organised by Dave C and I think it was a great success . Thanks to Dave for the time to put all the planning that is needed to make these events work successfully. It was a very good start to the Classic Squad meets and hopefully we will eventually have an impressive number of UK pilots entering the Fr and NL Grand Prix Competitions.
2. We now have the date for the French Grand Prix - 10-11 June

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report March 2023

Greetings from Dubai / Abu Dhabi. Please accept my apologies but I will not be able to get on this months meeting due to the time difference and the need to be up early for competition.

First squad weekend was a great success with good feedback from the pilots.

Used iPad to film pilots for feedback. Judge, Jayne Houston, attended both days

Feedback clearly was in favour of the PA squad being separate to the PG squad and suggestions are that the weekends are separated so pilots who fly both disciplines have the opportunity to do both.

The Sunday comp was affected reducing the number of rounds completed due to the inclusion of hang-gliders and a paraglider pilot. (this is a fact, not a moan.....)

I have reservations in terms of number of pilots to operate, as such I suggest to move the PA squad to week 2 of the month (3 if 5 weekends) and to have commitment from pilots to attend. If insufficient number by the Wednesday then defer it until the same weekend as PG squad.

This has been consulted on with Will as PG squad manager, He agrees this could work and give scope for adjusting the PG plan, but has raised a concern that as we are so short of judges, doing this over 2 weekends may mean one weekend doesn't end up with any judges.

Andy Webster has updated the website with the documents and added the squad results

Nine pilots have registered for PA squad

Following dates and sites discussed

March, Green Dragons. Agreed by Andy Shaw

April, Rutland. Provisionally agreed with Mick Roach

EPAC meeting rule wording changes made and circulated to group via Nikki (secretary). Chased for response, still awaiting

Andy Webster has provided the documents for the PA Nationals, amendments are ongoing.

I have contacted a couple of campsites at Rutland for bank holiday and awaiting responses. There are a number of rules at sites which may affect groups, etc.

Some sites are camping only, others are motorhome/caravan only.

At the end of the day people will be booking individually anyway

A few sites:

<https://www.rutlandwatercamping.co.uk>

<http://www.rutlandwatercampsite.co.uk>

<https://www.rutlandwatercamping.co.uk>

<http://www.rutlandcaravanandcamping.co.uk>

<http://www.winghall.co.uk/camping.html>

<http://www.lyndontop.com>

Winghall have responded

We would be delighted to have you Association members over the August bank holiday.

Please go online to book, (winghall.co.uk) we have plenty of availability. May I suggest that your members make reference in the name and address section to the Paragliding Association i.e Jo Bloggs (paragliding). This will help us to place as near to each other as possible.

Regards

Dave

Paragliding Accuracy Squad Manager

Despite difficult weather changing the thermal chaser squad training to a UK based weekend, it was a very successful weekend and comp.

The idea for an abroad thermal chasers will be revisited, potentially at a different time of year but I will speak to Andy S more about that and refer to his experience with the trips.

With the code of conduct I will be introducing it to the members at squad trainings, for those who are attending it can be explained and then sent directly to them. Those who have not attended the next few I will then personally contact them explaining and then sending them the code of conduct.

Rules officer report (March 23 panel meeting)

Actions from Feb minutes have been completed.

Updated funding information for judges (Feb minutes item 9.1) and requests for judges for both nationals (Feb minutes item 8.3) and squad training events emailed out. Good response re nationals but not heard from everyone yet. Will liaise with Dave/Arthur and Mark as I get the full picture.

Ongoing log of judge activity and availability set up for this year.

Will update classic nationals rules and judging code once I have confirmation that the document we sent to EPAC has approval – noted from Dave's report that he has not heard back.

No specific assistance requested by MkB with paragliding nationals local regs and other competition documents but I will look at them – they are on my list!

Thanks to MkB for sending feedback so far on plenary proposals to Brett.

Outstanding question from February report re Judges certificates will need to be deferred to next meeting as I will not be in attendance at this one.

If there are likely to be any judges who need training/retraining for this year's paragliding nationals I will need to know early as I will not be available to train them on Thurs 25th so alternative arrangements will need to be made (when putting work commitments in my diary many months ago I did not factor in a 4 day competition and assumed the practice day would be Friday).

Updates to Rules officer report

Have now looked at and commented on rules and other documentation for PG nationals – see my email in reply to Andy W's response and my proposal below.

Email from Chris yesterday

So far I have sourced the following equipment -

Bat

Stopwatch

Tickler pole and ground stake

Cordless peg driver

Awaiting confirmation of delivery of pad from Weckbekker. they did say mid Feb onwards.

Proposal – could be taken under rules or PA Nationals

To include a prize category for Junior/U25 in the paragliding nationals.

Rationale – there is one in the classic nationals (parity) and U26 is a recognised FAI category they are actively supporting. It would encourage newer/younger pilots. Cost would be low – because it is a

category with a single prize not 1st 2nd and 3rd we could use a recycled trophy, which would only be awarded if there are 3 in the category (I think Ben, Cherry, Tyrone all eligible, maybe others).

Paragliding Nationals documents

Waiver:

- No comments.

Ditto

Entry form:

- Under 25 is not relevant, and should be Club Pilot.

Agree re club pilot and U25 as we don't currently award a youth trophy. I assume we don't need to collect U26 (junior category) data as FAI will crunch that from information they hold. Would be great to have a junior trophy though – if we are likely to have 3 or more under 26 pilots I think we should consider it both to mirror the classic nationals and because it is a recognised FAI category.

- Would it be better to list CIVL ID rather than FAI ID.

Possibly. We need to check if they have an up to date FAI license – can we do this beforehand using their FAI ID? Checking of FAI licenses by CIVL is a key reason for all competitors being registered for the event on the CIVL MIS.

- A separate novice entry form is also required (2021 novice form attached).

This looks fine to me once updated

- Will the £10 discount for novices and half price for students under 23 still be applicable?

I think these are both useful ways to encourage participation of newer pilots if we can afford them.

- If we are using Airtribune is an entry form required? Do we have to use Airtribune?

What are the benefits of using airtribune rather than an entry form? Should we be using an entry form to get all the info we want and then telling pilots to register their participation on the CIVL MIS or is it still OK to expect Elena to add them all to this when we send in the results (as they need to be on there at some point)?

Local Regulations

- Best Club Pilot in the National Championship rules is not the same as novice. Novice is a separate competition. Agreed. Otherwise looks OK.

Development Officers report part 2 March 2023

- Sponsorship

I Hope everyone has had chance to read through part 1 of my report, sent 2 days ago. Re BHPA PPG panel sponsorship work I have done. I look forward to answering everyones questions and thoughts, re getting Accuracy to this level.

The PPG plan has already 31 competitors, 14 marshals registered, 7 sponsors signed up. It is a 6 day event. If the Accuracy panel can start putting meat on the bone I will go and sell Accuracy the same way.

- Management change

Jenny Buck to become BHPA Chairman, Tom from Parajet who's a great friend to work with, shall become BHPA Comps director soon.

- Accuracy Awards

Mark Bignel gets BHPA Award of Merit, for services to BHPA Acc panel.
Arthur Bentley gets Silver Medal from RAeC, for long time services to BHPA.
Well done both.

- Civil Plenary

I can report I decided not to go to Plenary, as it's too expensive for the panel. I also think we should encourage rules Officer and BHPA delegate to collate info needed. Along with get more momentum and planning with rules changes and development. Sept each year we should inform Exce of proposals, then our BHPA Delegate should take proposals to plenary. We Acc panel can support at our cost. We have 3 of us on FAI base camp.

I think I have brought everyone together and attending Plenary's for good few years now, I have kept us informed and ahead of the times in many FAI, I have contributed hugely to meetings and brought back lots info, it really is time for rules Officer to take this on.

- SQ managers

I continued to support both Squad members, with directing members to squads, offering sites, kit and coaching.

- PG Nationals

I have raised some sponsorship for Mark re PG Nationals upon his request.

I'm on standby to help squad managers when asked for sponsorship.

- Green Dragons 50th Anniversary next year.

I'd like to propose we host, the BHPA PG And PA over 9 days at GD. 4 days each event, one day off in middle.

I remain very confident we will have 50th years of Accuracy pilots attending, GD have trained 100's of pilots, many great friends, will return for Anniversary.
Could be another great recruitment and training opportunity for the sport.