

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 6th April 2023

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from AS.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	Minutes dated 2 nd March 2023 were proposed by AW and seconded by MtB.	
3	Finances	
3.1	MkB confirmed that it looked like the Accuracy Panel would be getting a £10,000 grant off the BHPA for 2023, and saw this as reward for AS efforts on sponsorship.	
3.2	ME advised that Tyron Paul had been reminded about his loan and will be making a payment shortly.	
4	Classic Accuracy	
4.1	It was noted that AB and DC will be having a meeting about the Classic Nationals with Rutland Airsports over the Parascending squad training weekend.	
4.2	DC advised that the Classic Nationals cannot be publicised on social media, and he will find out the reasons why. It was noted that Rutland Airsports have facebook and Telegram groups. DC suggested that a closed Whatsapp group be used for known attendees. It was noted that it would be difficult to publicise the event, and it was suggested that a post could be made advertising the August Bank holiday weekend and contacting a Panel member for more details.	
4.3	It was noted that EPAC have not raised an issue with a four day event, so it is assumed that the Grand Prix will be a four day event.	
4.4	DC advised that there had been no EPAC feedback on the re-wording of the rules that EPAC had requested. It was felt that no feedback was acceptance, and LL to officially update the rules.	LL
5	Classic Accuracy Squad	
5.1	DC advised that the March training camp did not happen due to challenging weather and to insufficient pilots.	
5.2	AB's proposal to include competitions in the squad selection league was discussed, but it was agreed to carry on with training camp competitions only and review at the end of the year in October.	
6	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
6.1	WL advised that there had been a good turn out at the March training camp, and the April training camp will be at a Southern Club site(s).	

	The Southern Club has requested that their club members be able to participate at the training camp, and a write-up be submitted for their club magazine.	
6.2	WL advised that the Worlds website states a registration date of 10 th August, and the UK selection should be two weeks before this so the July squad training will be applicable for 2023 selection. PMN - the Local Regulations state 15 th August. It was agreed to send the NAC entry form in early July.	
7	Paragliding Nationals	
7.1	MkB advised that he is expecting about 20 pilots to attend the nationals. ME suggested doing a 6, 5, 4 etc week countdown newsletters. All Panel members to try and recruit pilots.	Panel
7.2	It was noted that Don Bodill, Cherry McMahon and Jason Harper had so far requested to miss a day or more. It was agreed that MkB, as Event Director, should approve banking / catching up flights, and the rule wording should be changed from Meet Director to Event Director. It was noted that banking / catching up flights only applied to the nationals and not the FAI competition.	MkB
7.3	It was noted that registration is via the FAI EMS system, and there is no need to use Airtribune or the word document entry form. MkB to have a word with the Elena about links to the registration page. Paper entry forms could be used during registration at the event.	MkB
7.4	AW to get pilots to complete the Affidavit and Waiver forms electronically.	AW
7.5	MkB to organise flying order numbers.	MkB
7.6	AW to organise trophies.	AW
7.7	Judith Freeman will be doing the scoring.	
7.8	It was agreed that the Panel should try and offer tandem flights to the Scouts, and someone needs to be responsible for arranging a dual wing and a tandem instructor.	
7.9	It was agreed that judging certificates would not be issued to judges for attending the nationals.	
7.10	LL raised concerns that there are no hotels local to the flying site and the two Bobs will not camp.	
8	Judging	
8.1	LL advised that she was unsure what rule changes had been accepted at the CIVL Plenary as wording in minutes and proposals was not clear. Also potentially reducing the number of Event Judges was of concern and probably initiated by pilots who do not fully understand what judges do. MkB stated that he had advised Brett Janaway not to vote for any of the proposals at the Plenary. MkB suggested that a pre-release of the 2023 Section 7C rules be sought before the May publication date. It was not believed that a knock-out system will occur at this year's worlds as there is nothing in the Local Regulations. DC advised that there is a knock-out system in FAI parachuting competitions where all pilots take part in the first eight rounds, but then it is only the elites that progress to the next rounds. Also once a rule is introduced it will be difficult to reverse.	
9	Development	

9.1	<p>MkB advised that he had sent a WIP opportunities document to MtB, AW, AS and ME for comment, and the working group should now take it over.</p> <p>MkB suggested that the Panel should do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeting large organisations for sponsorship e.g. Sport England. - Looking to future development activities to attract more pilots into the sport. - Build a vision for accuracy not just paragliding. <p>ME felt that all BHPA Panels should be combining efforts, and October is the best time to contact sponsors when they are looking at next year's budget.</p>	MtB
9.2	LL advised that the sanction fee for the 2024 nationals will need to be paid before 01/01/2024 to take advantage of the lower sanction fee rate.	
10	Equipment	
10.1	Matt Bignell advised that an Amazon Fire Plus tablet and case was on order.	
11	AOB	
11.1	MkB to contact Chris Haynes to enquire if he wants to join the Panel as he has quite an involvement with Panel activities.	MKB
11.2	ME to forward the final BAC accounts.	ME
	Meeting closed at 21.39	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 4 th May 2023.	

Media & PR Officer Report

March meeting actions:

10.1 Chris Haynes told me on 16th March 'I have not heard from Weckbecker as to when the pad will be delivered apart from not before middle February 2023. When I have the invoice I will send it to Parki or you for paying'.

Financial:

- £9,217.87 in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account.
- Latest activities have been the March training camp squad and towing fees and payment for target equipment purchased by Chris Haynes.
- Tyron Paul has paid £300 of his £1000 loan so far, and has missed February and March payments
- March £20 squad payments still awaited from Matt, Cherry and Tyron.

Other roles:

Skywings, Acting Secretary, Website, Leagues, Trophies ticking over as usual.

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report April 2023

March squad weekend was a mix of a poor forecast, but didn't happen on the one day that was flyable due to lack of commitment from pilots.

April is planned for Rutland on 15/16th

Remain at nine pilots registered for PA squad

Following dates and sites discussed

April, Rutland. Agreed with Mick Roach

May, South Cerney. Request with Arthur Bentley

EPAC meeting rule wording changes made and circulated to group via Nikki (secretary). Chased for response, still no feedback

Nationals

Arthur and myself will meet with Rutland representatives on squad weekend 15/16th to discuss the Nationals. Open source media such as Facebook which is the traditional way of communicating with accuracy pilots is not to be used. As most use WhatsApp, I propose a closed WhatsApp group for comms be created, but this will be checked at the meeting to ensure that is acceptable to Rutland. Whilst targeting the UK PA members, which we know, will work, we also need to consider both the PA pilots who will attend the open, and the non UK pilots for the EPAC element.

Documents for the PA Nationals, amendments are ongoing. Draft documents on Panel dropbox. Further updates post meeting at Rutland

Update on campsites

Lyndon Top have responded

That's no problem at all and you are welcome anytime although our toilet facilities are closed this season so everyone would need their own facilities. I would also just need to make you aware that we do not allow music on site as we are a quiet site.

This effectively rules this site out so it remains likely that the recommended site will be Wing Hall

Regards

Dave

BHPA Monthly Report Apr 23 - Parascending

1. Classic Nationals. A meeting has been scheduled to take place between myself, Dave C and some of the Rutland committee during the weekend of 15-16 Apr.

Nothing else to report.

Regards,

Arthur

Rules **Officer** report – April 23

Paragliding Nationals

- Judges in place and all listed on the FAI competition page.
- All are current – no judge training seminar needed.
- If there are volunteers available at the competition it will simplify the videoing of flights.
- Local rules reviewed and now available on FAI competition page and on the panel website (thanks Andy W).

Classic Nationals

- Finalising of classic rules still awaiting EPAC.

Proposal: Update and publish – if they were unhappy they would have said so by now.

- Judging code can then also be amended.

Outstanding discussion point from Feb rules **officer** report

- Judges certificates were 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?

No outstanding actions from March minutes.

Accuracy development officers report

April 2023

BHPA Competition funding

It has been going extremely well behind the scenes with BHPA Exec, £7k plus £3k means we have increased our funding.

BHPA Sponsorship development amongst BHPA Comps panels is going very well with loads of contributions towards what panels would like in the way of sponsorship and what they are willing to offer. I am writing this document which will go to the BHPA.

ACTION Acc Panel need to write similar notes.

Acc Panel Sponsorship Doc

Mark has started writing a document on behalf of the panel which is excellent. All panel members need to get behind this and show willingness add evidence to support. I am working with him.

GD site for PG PA squad training comps.

Unfortunately, GD Sites are no longer available for squad mini comps. Some people just can't get to grips with the sites, judging, managing at the same time when the school is operating. Plus, in terms of communication pre-weekend, I had to keep pushing and pushing for attendance and commitment so we could be organised for both school and squad. I will still be an active part of the squad and Panel but will stand down as site supplier and squad head coach.

I can't emphasize enough, sites are very very sensitive and can be lost through idol chat and not working the way the specific club or school operates. If we got to a site as guests to hold training or comps, the priority **MUST** always be given to the local club.

We must remember a lot of clubs do not do Accuracy, ***a lot of clubs do not see the point of a landing comp.***

We can change this perception, if we recruit individuals within, every time we attend a club.

PPG comps panel.

They are doing extremely well. The team is on their way to raising £2000 in sponsorship money now and should reach the target of £3500. (still getting full BHPA funding too)

The reason why they are reaching the target so easily, is because all panel members, plus lots of Marshals and overseas competitors, are constantly promoting sponsors in social media threads along with the sponsorship coverage the sponsors have been provided with in accordance with their package.

PA National Championships

There have been some worrying Chinese whispers behind the scenes about Rutland. As reported many many a time it is gentle work and I have got us permission.

If you hear of any one being negative do be careful, we need to continue a positive journey with team Rutland. Another point to advise on, Rutland may not be as good as SC or GD, but we must help them build a positive environment for Accuracy. For example, camping is off site, we could get higher flights, maybe we could achieve more rounds in at SC or GD but

let's make sure we encourage all to respect the development of Rutland becoming an Accuracy Club.

GD 50th Anniversary 2024.

Update for those not present at last Panel meeting
BHPA PG Nationals will be 16th – 19th Aug 2024
BHPA PA Classic Nationals will be 23rd – 26th Aug 2024
Both BHPA Nationals will be run by the panel
Arthur Bentley is Meet Director of PA Nats
Matt Bignell is Meet Director of PG Nats
Andy Shaw and Team GD will be Event Directors.

I have not heavily published this just yet as I feel we need to get some good traction on this year's National Championships.

Further developments

Norfolk and Rutland are talking about having accuracy teams at both our Nationals, some members are not but please do encourage folks.

Taiga from Portugal has confirmed Parascending is now officially allowed in Portugal, I suggest EPAC and BHPA PA rep AB, should contact him, offering support.

PG news France and Spain is really developing, we should work closer with them as possible training camps.

PA PD Zero are continuing to build a relationship with GD as a training centre. First 2 training camps this year have not been pulled off. One due to weather the other due to Team PD diary getting too busy with demos.