

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 1st June 2023

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	No apologies were received. It was not known if Matt Bignell had carried out his announcement to leave the Panel after the Nationals.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	Following inclusion of AB's revised wording for minute 5.1 about the Rutland Club, the minutes dated 4 th May 2023 were proposed by LL and seconded by AB.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MkB advised that he had forwarded the accuracy report for the Exec meeting to Jenny Buck.	
4	Finances	
4.1	AW advised that a £10k BHPA grant had been deposited in the bank account. MkB thanked AS for securing this increase in funding that had been influenced by the results of last year's BAC events. It was also noted that the financial plan may also have helped with this matter. MkB advised that the Panel now needs to follow through with plans for increasing participation. MkB to send an official thank you note the Jenny Buck.	MkB
4.2	MkB advised that any accuracy related expenses need to be paid by the Panel rather than claiming directly off the BHPA. AB to submit his EPAC meeting expenses to Jonathan Parkinson.	AB
4.3	AW advised that so far this year the classic accuracy squad had run up a deficit of £640 and the paragliding accuracy squad a deficit of £232. The 2023 budget for Squad training had been agreed at a value of £1,000 if a £6,000 grant had been received. The classic / paragliding split had not been agreed, and a 50/50 split was suggested. AW suggested increasing the fees for the classic accuracy squad. DC to come up with a proposal for classic fees.	DC
4.4	Discussions took place on having another signatory on the account in addition to AW, but it was agreed to leave the current situation of Jonathan Parkinson as Treasurer and AW as signatory.	
4.5	AW's Proposal 1 for Officer's to include an update on their actions from the previous month's meeting was agreed.	Panel
4.6	AW's Proposal 2 for UK Team individual funding will be discussed at the next meeting when there is a better idea on how many pilots / reserve / team manager will be attending.	
5	Classic Accuracy	

5.1	There were no comments on AB's report.	
6	Classic Accuracy Squad	
6.1	DC advised that he had contacted the top five pilots in the selection league to see if they were intending to attend the French Grand Prix. It was noted that the selection procedure had to be followed, rather than offering funding after the event based on who turned up.	
7.1	Classic Accuracy Nationals	
7.2	It was agreed to order three toilets, however, the number could be reduced closer to the event.	
7.3	It was agreed that pack lunches will be provided for officials only, however, an offer will be issued to pilots to order sandwiches in advance.	
7.4	The main tow vehicles will be the Birdwing winch and Jamie Robe's Landrover. AB to enquire if the Cloudbase winch could be on standby for the paragliders if the Birdwings winch failed.	AB
7.5	Panel to advertise the event.	Panel
7.6	LL advised that she will get a quote for engraving, coating and getting a stand for the team trophy.	LL
8	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
8.1	WL advised that the May squad training went really well with two judges in attendance, good coaching taking place and flights being videoed.	
8.2	WL reported that he believed all UK pilots who intended to attend the Worlds had registered on line, and the first round of allocation takes place on 19/07/2023. It was noted that the final pilot names are not required until registration at the event, however, pilots need to know if they are chosen well in advance to book flights, accommodation etc. It was agreed that UK Team selection will take place on 30/06/2023. Also the NAC form could be sent now.	
8.3	Regarding the UK Team at the Worlds, the following was noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The selection criteria allows for a reserve pilot, and an invitation should be given in selection order. There is the possibility that the reserve could fly as an individual if the allocation process allows, and if not the reserve could become team manager. - WL advised that he could act as team manager, but it was noted that a separate team manager would be better to allow him to concentrate on his flying. WL to try and work out how many places the UK Team will get, and issue invites for a Reserve and Team Manager.	WL
8.4	WL advised that a parallel tow system could be used when there is low cloud level. AS suggested that the Panel form a club with a senior tow coach to operate the parallel tow system. WL to get costings for a parallel tow system, along with all the pros and cons so that a decision can be made by the Panel on whether to buy a system.	WL
9	Paragliding Nationals	
9.1	MkB to produce final accounts for the paragliding nationals.	MkB
9.2	MkB advised that the results had been submitted to the FAI, and are already on the WPRS.	
10	Judging	

10.1	LL / WL to get a quote for repairs to the target mat. AW advised that the target mat cost approximately £600. AS suggested getting a sponsored target mat.	LL/WL
10.2	LL advised that the Panel has an anemometer extension cable and Chris Haynes will get a male / female connector so that the cable can be used as back-up cable. LL to also mention to Chris Haynes about magnetic connectors to potentially avoid damage if the cable is pulled out of place.	LL
11	Development	
11.1	AS advised that he will offer help to anyone who wants it, and everyone needs to be on board if sponsorship happens.	
11.2	AS advised that he found out at the BHPA Instructors conference that there are 200 pilots with parascending ratings, although a lot of the pilots don't currently parascend. It was noted that only Green Dragons can now train parascending.	
11.3	LL to support MkB with a strategy document.	LL/MkB
11.4	MkB to encourage Paragliding XC and Hang gliding to attend squad training.	
11.5	MkB advised that he wants accuracy in the BHPA PRS.	
12	AOB	
12.1	AW advised that he had spoken to Chris Haynes about joining the Panel, and he advised that he did not want to join the Panel due to all the bickering. LL advised that some people do not like being on committees.	
12.2	It was agreed to separate the parascending and paragliding squad Whatsapp groups. DC to set up a parascending squad Whatsapp Group.	DC
	Meeting closed at 21.35	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 6th July 2023.	

Media & PR Officer Report

May meeting actions:

8.7 Requested that Paragliding Nationals returnable trophies be returned engraved with mixed results.

Financial:

- 2022/3 final accounts issued to Jenny Buck.
- £8,708 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 29/05/2023.
- Lots financial transactions in May including May training camp fees, Paragliding Nationals entry fees, Albania Cat 2 funding, Weckbecker pad (note that there was a £102 import duty).
- Jenny Buck has advised that the grant is on its way.
- 6 days squad classic accuracy training has cost £640 to date.
- 6 days squad paragliding accuracy training has cost £232 to date.

Other roles:

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

Proposal 1 – Officers reports

Officer's reports include an update on their actions from the previous meeting.

Proposal 2 – 2023 UK Team funding

Four team pilots will get funding as per the Bill Bell rule of thumb that we put in the annual financial plan as follows:

50% of: Insurance (£210) & Airport parking (£100) & Flights (£200) & Transfers (£50) & Accommodation (£480) & Food (£280) = £660

Entry fees are £305 per pilot and £130 per team manager / assistant / reserve

Total outlay would be as follows:

4 pilots only (entry fees & 50% funding) = £3,860

4 pilots & reserve (entry fees & 50% funding) = £4,650

4 pilots & team manager (entry fees & 100% funding) = £5,310

In the February 2023 meeting the following Cat 1 funding was agreed by the Panel:

£3,500 if we got a £6,000 grant

£5,250 if we got a £9,000 grant

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report June 2023

May squad weekend at Birdwings was a very good weekend with flying on both days. Saturday 64 flights, Sunday 42 flights.

June is planned for South Cerney on 24/25th

Fourteen pilots now registered for PA squad (plus 2 from May)

Following dates and sites discussed

June, South Cerney, 24th & 25th. Agreed with Arthur Bentley

Offers for funding sent to the top 5 pilots as per the PA squad funding criteria for the French EPAC competition

Nationals

Documents for the PA Nationals, draft documents on Panel dropbox will be further updated as per the decision to move to Birdwings Airsports

Gary Ounsworth has accepted an invite to be a Launch Marshall

Regards

Dave

BHPA MONTHLY REPORT - Parascending - Grand Prix

June 23

GRAND PRIX

The first leg of the Grand Prix will be hosted by GIPs at their Person / Beaumont Aerodrome on 10-11 June.

Practice will be available from Tuesday 6 June.

Currently, I am aware that we have 8 competitors going from UK.

CLASSIC NATIONALS

Most of the logistics will be similar to last year.

In 2022 we had 2 x toilets but this proved to be insufficient.

However, because it was the final of the BAC, there were probably more people on site than what we will have this year.

We could increase the number of units to 3, but as it involves expense, the panel can decide. They are approx £80 each.

At the PG nationals at Norfolk 26-29 May, everyone involved in the event was given a packed lunch.

I propose that we do the same at the Classics. Again, this will need more expense than just feeding the officials so we can vote on this.

Regards,

Arthur

Rules Officer report June 23

Actions from previous minutes:

- Returnable classic team trophy – awaiting quotes for:
 - engraving up to date (engraving on back is a possibility)
 - re-plating (with possible re-engraving as it is quite shallow)
 - a stand
- Response from Kamil on Basecamp re poor wording of rule – I have been asked to suggest improved wording.
- Query re WPRS posted to Basecamp. Response from Kamil:
5.4.3.2 Knock out
In the first 6 round all the pilots fly the competition. Best 60 pilots will continue to fly in 7th and 8th round. Best 40 pilots will fly 9th and 10th round, and 20 best pilots will fly 11th and 12th round in reverse order.
Pilots who will not continue the competition, will be marked as DNQ (did not qualify) or DNF (did not fly) in the scoring.
In a Category 2 event the number of pilots knocked out can be adjusted and described in Local Rules.

So pilots not qualified to the next round after applying Knock out rule will get DNQ but in the result will be maximum score. The WPRS Pp calculation will not be affected as it is based on competition placings and not actual points. And since all pilots who do not qualify for the next part of the competition will get the maximum score, the placing will not change.

$Pp = \max(P_{\text{placing}}^{(1+Pq)}, P_{\text{placing}}^2)$
where P_{placing} is (last place - pilot place+1)/ last place

Judging/rules

- 7 judges (including scorer) attended the Paragliding Nationals enabling us to have more than the FAI minimum target crew. Expenses have been authorised as per the panel document and claim forms issued. Total cost £410.07.
- Of the 19 pilots competing at the Paragliding Nationals 4 requested to fly at least one day of catch-up and 3 were not able to stay for the conclusion of the competition (and could have banked flights had they requested it) so almost 40% of competitors were not able to be present for the full competition.
- 9 judges have been active so far this year.
- 6 out of 7 squad events so far this year have had at least one judge in attendance.
- 8 judges (including scorer) have already said they are intending to judge at the classic nationals which would give us a full complement. I have sent out a reminder in case any more want to volunteer (which would give us a reserve).

Equipment

- I have suggested to Chris that he makes up a connector so that the anemometer extension cable can be used as a spare in case of accident or malfunction.
- Target mat requires small repairs – as Will now has this for squad he/I will arrange for these to be carried out if the panel authorises it.
- New pad has been tested but not used in competition yet.
- I am not aware of any other equipment issues.

Liz

BHPA Acc panel dev report June 23

I have continued to support all officers with opportunities where asked.

Unfortunately working together on delicate issues some folks seem to struggle with, so there's little I can do to assist further in these areas.

Green Dragons will continue supporting Rutland and running Accuracy training in both Classic and PG.

I have really enjoyed training our BHPA Squad coaches to coach in recent times with great results, i think we are making good progress.

I have a number of pilots sponsored now, with Equipment, travel, Accom, travel, entry fees.

We are smashing social Media which is the number one reason for pilot sponsorship success.

I have raised over £4000 in cash now with sponsorship for the BHPA PPG panel. This is purely because the panel is solid and back up the energy and content I bring to the table. Where I struggle with documentation, they step up immediately to help me, which makes a huge difference to what I bring to the table.

With my pushing and contacts built through Green Dragons, the BHPA PPG Nationals has quadrupled its numbers and trebled its sponsorship over the years I have been involved. I believe the key reason is everyone, pilots, marshals and sponsors totally support the energy I bring and ideas are discussed constructively to achieve the best outcome for all.

Latest PPG update - the BHPA PPG panel are about to close the door as they have are about to reach maximum entries from PR I have done for them.

In this month's Skywings, I have written a sponsorship article which I hope provides useful insights into what can be gained and how it will help the sport going forward. The most important thing is to not cut off the hand that feeds you.

By next month you should hear about the New BHPA Sponsorship working group.

In recent panel Whatsap chat Liz mentioned she would write a strategy plan. I am really keen to see this develop and at the same time will offer my advice You can ask people for feed back, but unless you push for the input, i feel Liz or anyone will struggle to achieve this planning in such a small group of people and resources you have. So if this planning starts please do not report volunteers, did not work etc etc..... This is why i push hard forward with my skill sets and it has given this panel endless results. You must push hard with the info you need for such planning.

The panel need to address the power struggle which is very hypercritical within the panel. I often hear sentences around the target, opinions about leadership or excuses as to why we can't achieve what other panels have and I cannot support these attitudes. Therefore, I just don't know how to sell this panel to BHPA members and potential future sponsors.

GD have now got 4 x PD Zeros sponsored as a PD Zero training centre, the aim is to train Classic pilots from across the globe with PD HQ.

GD are now working on Cadets and Scouts with the first course on 9th July. If you can help GD with the youngsters please spread the word.

Best Wishes

Andy Shaw CFI
BHPA Accuracy Panel development Officer