

# Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 12th October 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  
 Matt Bignell MtB Safety Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies received from AS.	
2	<b>Signing off last meeting minutes</b>	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 were proposed by MtB and seconded by LL.	
3	<b>Chairman</b>	
3.1	MkB advised that he had prepared a small article called 'Soar to Precision' for Skywings to announce the questionnaire that has a QR code. The article is in October Dropbox for review by the Panel. AW to provide some photos to go with it and be the contact with Skywings. It was felt that the article may be better in the news pages of Skywings rather than the DC page.	Panel AW
3.2	It was noted that the 2024 Paragliding Nationals are planned for the Green Dragons 50 <sup>th</sup> event, so the Paragliding Nationals will not take place at Buttermere. It was suggested that a Cat 2 or fun competition could take place at Buttermere in 2024 as there will be exposure to hundreds of pilots. AW raised concerns about the hill walk ups. MtB advised that he had been in discussions with the event organiser, and there are 4WD options to the top of some hills and low take-off options at other hills. Also a field could be allocated for accuracy. MtB to continue investigations.	MtB
3.3	AW advised that he had sent some potential questions for a questionnaire about the Accuracy Panel perception to the working group. DC advised that he had not looked at the questions in detail, but did not see a problem with the questions. Working group to create a questionnaire.	LL/AB/DC/AW
4	<b>Finances</b>	
4.1	LL advised that she now has a card and card reader, and can authorise payments if AW is not available.	
4.2	MtB advised that £2.5k may be deposited in the Panel account soon from the sponsor he has found, and this would then need distributing five ways to the UK Team pilots.	
5	<b>Classic Accuracy</b>	
5.1	AW queried what judges fees were likely to be incurred at the Birdwings event, as this could influence the entry fee. It was noted that most judges will have claimed the maximum two	

	competitions, so potentially the judging costs could be low. LL to estimate likely costs.	LL
5.2	AB advised that Jacques Lecamus and Ed Hilleveld were looking into the Grand Prix tie break situation and will respond shortly.	
6	<b>Classic Accuracy Squad</b>	
6.1	There were no comments on DCs report.	
7	<b>Paragliding Accuracy Squad</b>	
7.1	AW's proposal for a 2024 12 month selection period of 16/06/23 to 16/06/24 was accepted.	
7.2	MkB suggested that the winner of the nationals be automatically selected into the UK Team. It was noted that the nationals could be determined on one round, and may not select a good pilot. On the other hand it would encourage pilots to attend the nationals. Top of the WPRS was felt to be a better way of selecting a pilot as the Czechs do.	
7.3	WL detailed his six proposals for changing the selection criteria, where the aim was to prioritise currency and encourage pilots to get more WPRS. WL to put example spreadsheets in Dropbox for Panel review. WL to also seek squad pilot's opinions.	WL / Panel WL
7.4	AW advised that the deadline for getting a Worlds article in December Skywings is Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> November. The team will ask if Sue Britnell wants to do the write up, if not ME should be able to do something. Also high definition photos are required.	
8	<b>Judging</b>	
8.1	None of the Panel members had any major concerns with the current judges expense arrangements to propose a change. LL to enquire if any of the judges have got any comments.	LL
8.2	LL advised that FAI judge training needed to be part of a Cat 2 event, where theory preceded hands on judging at the competition.	
9	<b>Development</b>	
9.1	It was noted that Panel agreement in principle had been given to both 2024 nationals taking place at the Green Dragons 50 <sup>th</sup> event. AS to advise dates and what his proposals are for the event format.	
9.2	There was some confusion expressed at AS's comment about 'Squad managers come to panel with wording for the Novices category in competitions', as the rules are quite clear on novice eligibility. It was noted that Colin Jones was probably too good for the novice competition this year, and maybe a limit should be put on Club Pilots flying hours / tows. It was also noted that experienced pilots new to accuracy may need some coaching to avoid dangers. LL, DC and WL to review novice and newcomer eligibility.	LL/DC/WL
9.3	There was more confusion about AS's comment 'Squad managers put together a sponsorship proposal from a document template I issued, or their own'. ME stated that people should be getting sponsorship like Matt has done for the UK Team, and also produce a formal document. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.	

9.4	AS's proposal to pay for parts on the Jamie Robe Landrover was agreed on the basis that it happened at the Nationals, and will not set a precedent for other claims. MkB to approach Jamie to confirm the parts costs.	MkB
	Meeting closed at 21.52	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023.	

## Media & PR Officer Report September

### September meeting actions:

2.1 Minutes published on website with redactions.

3.2 Proposed questions for people who know how the Panel operates issued to Liz for consideration.

8.3 Team leader / assistant fee paid for Sue Britnell.

### Financial:

- £12,400 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 01/10/2023.
- Recent activity has been regarding the Classic Accuracy pilots Grand Prix funding and Parascending Squad fees.
- William Lawrence owes £25 September parascending squad fees.
- Tyron Paul has paid £700 of his loan.

### Skywings:

October – Classic Nationals (submitted)

November – Dutch Grand Prix (submitted)

December – Worlds (proposed)

January – End of year review (proposed)

### Proposal – 2024 PG selection period

16/06/23 to 16/06/24 (This is two weeks earlier than 2023 selection period (04/07/2022 to 30/06/2023), as the 2024 Europeans (04-12 October) are two weeks earlier than the 2023 Worlds (20-28 October).

## Classic Accuracy Report

Still not much activity due to poor weather forecasts.

The main event since the last meeting was the NL Grand Prix. Once again, a well run competition, good accommodation (on site) and good Saturday evening bbq.

The downside has been well documented and needless to say, every effort will be made to ensure that such errors don't happen again.

As for the rules, there are no separate rules for the Grand Prix. It has always been stated that the rules for the Grand Prix will be the rules used at the UK Classic Nationals. Just so that everyone is aware of the facts, when Jacques and I established that there was a tie for the 1st team place and because we were both unsure how this should be decided, we asked the Chief Judge for information. The DC, 1cm rule was what we were told. I have to confess that I don't have the rules with me so I can't state what the rules are.

Regards

Arthur

## Classic Accuracy / PA squad report October 2023

September squad weekend at Birdwings was Saturday only with unsuitable weather forecast Sunday. 6 pilots attended, 3 flying PA, and 3 PG. The winds picked up earlier than forecast, PG's weren't flying so the comp was called on 3 rounds.

October is planned for South Cerney on 14/15<sup>th</sup>  
No increase in pilots registered for PA squad.

Birdwings comp scheduled for 28/29<sup>th</sup> October

Regards  
Dave

## **Paragliding Squad Manager October Report**

Currently in discussion with Dave about a 6-month trial period of alternating PG squad training weekends and on alternate months working along side PA squad. Once details have been agreed it will be announced.

Next squad training date 18/19<sup>th</sup> November

A request for any pilots who have competed from July to send me position, number of competitors and total score. If possible, a photo of score sheet with individual round scores would be appreciated.

### Changes to CAT 1 team selection for 2024

1. Pilots must be as a minimum within the top 500 in the WRPS or (if applicable) have necessary WRPS according to local regulations at time of selection.
2. Points are no longer awarded to pilots at CAT 1 events. (Points are only given at competitions that are open to all pilots)
3. Point degradation will take effect on both squad and CAT 2 competitions, following the WRPS framework, 2.5% loss per month until month of selection. (this corresponds with our aim of selecting pilots whose performance is peaking at the time of the CAT 1 event)
4. Multiplier will now be used on Cat 2 competition scores based on a pilot's position within the WRPs compared to other UK pilots ranging from x1 to x1.5. ( Pilot who is 1<sup>st</sup> within UK on WRPS, their points are multiplied by 1.5 - Pilot who is 7<sup>th</sup> on WRPS, their points are multiplied by 1.35 etc )
5. CAT 2 bonus points have been extended to bring the maximum points possible up to 10 also meaning a bonus point can now be gained if pilots are within top 50%.
6. Squad competition scores will now be averaged, the number of scores used in the average follow old system (top 3 of 4/5, bets 5 of 7/8 etc)

Everything above works towards improving the competition within the squad, pushing pilots to participate in more important events, boosting our nations ranking within the WRPS and selecting the best possible team each year.

At the next squad training I will be explaining to all pilots attending how the system works so they can get the most out of it.

Regards

William  
PG Squad Manager

Rules Officer report Oct 23

No specific actions in Sept minutes

Ongoing actions:

- Returnable classic team trophy still with Andy Cowley I believe
- Target mat is still at Sportlite. Will check when it is likely to be ready

Judging/rules

- Jayne Houston will not be claiming judges expenses.
- We will need to review the current agreement with judges by the end of this year in case changes are needed.
- Further requests for judges for Birdwings comp to be sent.
- As in Arthur's report there is a need to discuss Grand Prix rules but this should wait until EPAC have ruled on the ongoing issue and identified any action they will be taking – this is an EPAC issue although we can suggest and support. Currently we have written and agreed competition rules but these do not include any overall series rules, although there are precedents of custom and practice and minuted decisions from the annual meetings which inform procedures.

Liz



## BHPA Accuracy Panel Development Officer Report - Oct 2023

Lots great news and progress.

- **Good development Pre Europeans 2023 Albania and Czech.**

Myri over 8 rounds averaging 112cm. Matt flew incredibly well in Czech finishing in to 1/3, moving him into top Brit place in WPRS. Its great to be able to closely track development and track the results is a great development for BHPA. I have offered this suggest to both squad managers and pilots.

- **Good investment**

I understand Tyron is paying his panel Bill, another great investment for BHPA initiated by GD. Tyron is flying extremely well on both PG and PA. 3rd in EPAC.

- **EPAC**

I was contacted by AB to say scoring was wrong. I understand this was not the case and EPAC will announce shortly.

**GD Volunteers** have been doing lots of development training.

3 x new UK Judges  
4 x new square pilots  
3 x new PG pilots  
4 x new tow operators

- **Flying4youth.** Aim to recruit membership. Lots of scouts flown, at GD, more booked in and Explorers are taking Trial Day courses at GD. Talks of helping scout Leader from PA Clubs. Working on Army Air cadets and youth organisations.
- **GD Parachute AFF course.**  
USA and UK in March 2024.  
Cost £1800.  
Open invitation to all.
- **Novices in BHPA competitions.** it's great news we are starting to think more about Novices and newcomers. Suggestion, as both new and old members seemed to be confused about Novices entitlement in competitions. Also new folks need to understand the importance and needs of working with both coaches and novices. \*\*
- **Development officers working group.**

I have formed a development officers working group. Where I am carefully selecting a team of people that share the same dreams and desires as I do. This will help me deliver better proposals for the Panel and other panel officers.

- BHPA clubs or pilots' help is available, please send them to me.

- Sponsorship seems to have drifted into an individual place now. Now hearing from squad managers re any sponsorship plans.
- I am working with other BHPA Schools. More news soon
- Manston is doing great development for the future, more news to come.
- We did vote and agree a few months ago, next years nationals at GD 50th with AB MD at Classics and MB MD at PG Nats. Last to weekends of Aug. We need everyone on board 100% for this to happen. If not no worries, it's another great opportunity to develop, but in all honesty I do not want to stand in fields anymore with fragmented team, so please give this serious consideration.
- World ranking now decides the flying order at CAT 1 comps. It was used in Albania, the interesting thing all the top pilots fly in moreless same conditions every round.

**\*\* Proposals:**

1. Squad managers come to panel with wording for the Novices category in competitions.
2. Squad managers put together a sponsorship proposal from a document template I issued, or their own.
3. I'd like to propose we pay £490 to the Robe family for land rover parts, please bear in mind Martin Robe gave the land rover to use for many many years for free or peanuts - Jamie has a young family and I feel although we contributed towards its use at Classics Nats, we need to help him keep going, as we have limited land rovers to use. (GD now use PT and 3 x Suzuki jeeps) As BHPA I feel we should support family Robe, it's very difficult and tough times for all the family/healths.
4. Agree/disagree 100% for format for BHPA Nats 2024, Venue GD, MD and MB.

Reminders, we all leave for FAI World Champs next Monday - onwards.

There are lots of rules changes on going. Is our rules officer, attending FAI Civil meeting 2024.