

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 2nd November 2023

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Andy Shaw, Myrianthe Ewington and Matt Bignell all resigned from the Panel by email on 2 nd November prior to the meeting.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 12 th October 2023 were proposed by WL and seconded by DC.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MkB to remove access to the Dropbox for the three Panel members who have resigned.	MkB
3.2	LL tabled the Panel survey questionnaire questions, and it was agreed to proceed with the questions with some small amendments. LL to create an on line survey. It was agreed that the survey should be sent to Norfolk and Rutland club members as well as past panel members, and a list of names will be created in Dropbox. Panel members to review and add anyone who they can think of not included in the list. It was felt that emailing people directly would get a better response rather than a general post.	LL Panel
3.3	MkB believed that Matt Bignell will still be organising a meeting with the Buttermere Bash organisers about an accuracy competition.	
4	Finances	
4.1	MkB to ask Matt Bignell about the sponsorship money for the worlds.	MkB
5	Classic Accuracy	
5.1	AB advised that Birdwings had successfully run a seven round classic accuracy league competition the previous week, and would like an article for Skywings. DC to ask Colin Jones if he could do an article.	DC
5.2	AB reported that EPAC will provide some Grand Prix rules regarding points, team eligibility and tie breaks. The rules will be made available for comment prior to the Calais meeting. It was noted that Green Dragons are still challenging the recent decision on the team result. It was believed that the rule on tie breaks being decided on DCs, 1cms etc was introduced around 2021.	
6	Classic Accuracy Squad	
6.1	DC reported that there was no squad event in October due to lack of numbers, and there may be a lack of numbers for the	

	November squad event due to it being the remembrance weekend. Paragliders are welcome to attend, but it was noted that a combined classic and paraglider event could not take place because of the one month notice required for selection competitions.	
7	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
7.1	AW advised that he had received a Worlds article for Skywings from Sue Britnell, and had taken some Jaroslav Jindra photos off facebook that were of reasonable quality.	
7.2	WL advised that the UK's Worlds performance was disappointing; Andy Shaw withdrew, and pilots struggled to adapt to the conditions. WL also advised that the squad training events held in the UK were inadequate for the conditions found in Bulgaria, and pilots have previously advised that they need practise / training in low wind thermic conditions. MkB advised that he had previously investigated a psychologist via Sports England, but there was little interest from pilots. AW advised that pilots need the correct skill sets to be good at accuracy. WL proposed that at the next training camp the pilots be grouped into teams of three of different experience including a team leader / coach.	
7.3	WL stated that he will be asking for additional funding for pilots to attend overseas competitions including the pre-event. It was felt that any additional funding should only go to committed pilots. DC advised that the UK parachuting team is selected the previous year so that funding is given to the right pilots. It was noted that the Panel needs to submit the BHPA grant application by the end of January.	WL
7.4	WL felt that some UK female pilots were being selected in desperation to fill a place without the necessary experience leading to accidents.	
7.5	WL advised that the Bulgarian medical services were not suitable for Myrianthe's accident; there was no helicopter, a 11/2 hours drive to hospital, an oxygen mask was taped up, and doctors gave two opinions. LL to raise a Basecamp comment about this proposing that medical facilities be part of a CAT 1 bid assessment process.	
7.6	WL proposed that badges be provided for DCs and accuracy awards that could be sewn on a jacket or other item. DC advised that pilots get coasters with a dot in the middle for DCs in parachuting, and a similar badge could be produced.	
7.7	WL's six point proposal to amend the 2024 selection criteria was accepted acknowledging that it will be reviewed at the end of the selection year. WL & AW to draft out the 2024 selection criteria.	WL, AW
8	Judging	
8.1	LL advised that a new wind sock is being sought because the colours had faded on the current unit and it was difficult observe which end was which. It was noted that the Panel possesses a fishing pole streamer and a ground spike is required for lower level streamers.	
8.2	LL stated that she had seen posts about new judges, but did not know who the judges were. It was noted that Sabina from Romania has expressed an interest in judging in the UK.	

8.3	AW to email two FAI rule proposals to the Panel for consideration.	AW
	LL advised that she would not be going to the 2024 Plenary, but can brief Brett Janaway on any proposals if necessary.	
8.4	The following was agreed about the novice competition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be no coaching while a novice is airborne, to avoid the competition becoming the best coach award. - Pilots who have been a Club Pilot for more that 24 months will not be accepted into the novice competition. 	
9	Competitions	
9.1	MkB advised that Green Dragons are proposing a classic accuracy league competition and a Cat2 competition at the end of July for the 50 th anniversary celebrations.	
9.2	It was agreed that the classic nationals be a three day event held at South Cerney on the August bank holiday.	
9.3	WL to ask Chris Haynes about hosting the paragliding nationals in Shropshire / North Wales and suggest a date.	WL
10	Sponsorship	
10.1	MkB was of the opinion that pilots should get their own sponsorship. LL also advised that pilots should also seek sponsors for the UK Team. WL noted that the UK Team is not currently appealing to sponsors because it is not doing well.	
10.2	It was noted that Andy Shaw is the BHPA Sponsorship Officer, and should be helping the BHPA to get sponsorship.	
11	AOB	
11.1	MkB advised that nominations are being sought for the annual BHPA and RAeC awards. Two suggestions were made. LL to arrange citations.	LL
	Meeting closed at 21.56	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 7th December 2023.	

Media & PR Officer Report November

October meeting actions:

3.1 Issued MkB's Soar to Precision article to Skywings. Joe is deciding where to put it in the magazine, and it will be in the January edition at the earliest. Joe also feels a photo showing some action will be the best, and I have got some potential ones from the Worlds that appeared on facebook.

7.3 More clarification sought from William on the selection league multiplier.

Financial:

- £12,179 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 29/10/2023.
- No payment activity since the October meeting.
- No sign of the sponsorship payment yet.
- I have asked Parki to make a £490 payment for landrover parts to Jamie Robe, following confirmation from Mark.
- William Lawrence owes £25 September parascending squad fees.
- Tyron Paul has paid £700 of his loan.

Skywings:

November – Dutch Grand Prix (submitted)

December – Worlds (proposed)

January – End of year review (proposed)

Classic Accuracy November

1. Several weekends scheduled but had to be 'called off' due to unsuitable weather or insufficient participants.
2. Birdwings annual comp went ahead and managed to fly 7 rounds.
3. Results were : Individual. 1st Dave C - 2nd Andy W - 3rd Katie L

Teams

1st Scouts - 2nd B'Wings - 3rd GDs

The Classic Accuracy League Champion for 2023 is Dave C

The next Classic Squad weekend is scheduled for 11 Nov weekend.

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report November 2023

October squad weekend at Birdwings was called off due to low numbers

November is planned for South Cerney on 11/12th
No increase in pilots registered for PA squad.

EPAC situation.

The EPAC committee have stated that a mistake was made and that it was a miscalculation error and that the correct rules were being used. This was including feedback from panel members to the committee prior to making their decision. Despite stating that the intention to announce this at the Birdwings competition, it was not.

Moving forward, the accuracy panel should assist the EPAC committee in looking at a new scoring formula or/and removing any ambiguity moving forward.

I believe that this should be dealt with without delay, continuing to delay dealing with this is not going to reduce fall out, especially as the EPAC committee have announced it, delays by the accuracy panel in this are more likely to increase the fall out and trust in the panel.

Regards
Dave

Rules Officer report Nov 23

Actions from Oct minutes;

- No judging expenses for Birdwings competition. 3 judges attended – Liz, Nikki and Jayne – 2 travelled with pilots and Jayne is not claiming expenses.
- Judges not yet contacted re expenses policy - will contact all existing judges now that competitions are completed for this year to confirm they wish to remain on judging register and be contacted about events next year and ask about the expenses policy at the same time.
- In discussion with Dave and Will on updating rules for Novices and Newcomers.

Ongoing actions:

- Work on target mat nearly completed

Judging/rules:

- See discussion points below

Equipment

- Chris alerted that the spare screw for the windssock pole is missing and asked to investigate a higher visibility windssock.
- Dave has had a conversation with Kyle about adding a new, grey top surface to the cutout mat so there is a contrast with the pad. This will help judges (visually and on video evidence) with potential 2-footed landings. Currently it is difficult to distinguish between dark shoes landing on the black pad or the black cut-out mat.

Panel requested action:

- I need names and contact information for anyone who has expressed an interest in judging or who has judged at non-panel training so they can be added to the list and invited to official training (if interested in FAI judging).

For discussion:

- Proposal (currently only seen on Facebook) for World ranking points to be frozen for a year of 'maternity leave' for female pilots who temporarily stop competing due to pregnancy and birth. If formally proposed would we support this?
- Do we have any other proposals re FAI rules to be put forward on Basecamp?

Liz