

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 13th December 2023

Present:	Mark Bignell	MB	Chairman & Paragliding Representative
	Andy Webster	AW	Secretary
	Arthur Bentley	AB	Parascending Representative
	Liz Lawrence	LL	Rules Officer
	William Lawrence	WL	Paragliding Squad Manager
	Dave Crowhurst	DC	Parascending Squad Manager

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	No apologies	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 2 nd November 2023, including amendments by DC, were proposed by DC and seconded by LL.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	LL advised that ex Panel members have been removed from DropBox with the exception of Nigel Barker who set it up. AW advised that recent Panel leavers have all left the Panel Whatsapp group.	
3.2	It was agreed to dissolve the Development Officer role with responsibilities reallocated as per AW's Proposal 1, with the following amendments to the responsibilities: b. All Panel members are responsible for recruiting into accuracy. e. BPA to be changed to BS. f. PPG Panel to be changed to all BHPA Competition Panels, and the Chairman to be added to the Parascending & Paragliding Representatives as responsible people. MB advised that he is on a BHPA Competition Panel Whatsapp group. i. 'Teaching' to be changed to 'Coaching'. j. All Panel members to be responsible for this item. AW to update the Operating Procedures and website structure.	AW
3.3	It was agreed to make the Parascending and Paragliding Squad Managers full Panel member roles.	
3.4	It was agreed that Cherry McMahon should take over the Media and PR officer role over seeing AW (Skywings) and Ben Woodcock (Website).	
3.5	WL advised that it was planned to create online squad registration and a calendar of accuracy events on the website. It was noted that care has to be taken with website editors as they can leave without telling others how it is run.	
3.6	Cherry McMahon will also start promoting accuracy on Instagram that will also auto update other social media outlets.	
3.8	MB advised that the BHPA now has a safeguarding policy that people involved in accuracy should be aware of. AW to set up a link to the BHPA website on the BHPA-Accuracy.org.uk website.	AW
3.9	MB advised that no further progress had been made on a Buttermere accuracy competition.	
4	Finances	

4.1	MB advised that Matt Bignell had told him that the 2023 Worlds sponsorship money he had arranged would not be forthcoming as it has failed antifraud checks.	
5	UK Leagues	
5.1	AW's Proposal 3 was agreed such that highest competition placings would be removed from the UK leagues tie break rule.	
6	Safety & Coaching	
6.1	AW's Proposal 4 about a squad coaching safety syllabus was discussed. AW expressed the need for some safety syllabus in the light of recent accuracy accidents. Concerns were raised that some of the proposed syllabus could be classed as teaching rather than coaching, therefore it was suggested that coaches advise on dangers and suggest pilots go to an instructor for further instruction. Also squad managers should record what safety information had been passed on to squad pilots in their officers reports to demonstrate safe practises to the BHPA. In addition judges should report near misses to the squad manager.	
6.2	MB expressed an opinion that coaching should be separate from instructing. Coaches should advise how to approach a competition. Instructors should teach flying skills, and do not necessarily make good coaches. MB also felt that the BHPA training scheme should include a syllabus for accuracy, noting that the spot landing task had recently been dropped, and will make contact with the BHPA. MB advised that he was in touch with Sport England about a coaching syllabus.	MB
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	It was noted that AB had recently sent an email on Grand Prix scoring in the light of the tie break scenarios, and made the point that the team / individual with the most overall grand prix points is not necessarily the team / individual with the lowest overall scores. AB suggested that we look at this and consider scraping the Grand Prix points system, and use the distance scored instead. This method ensures that the best / team individual with the lowest overall scores are declared the winners. AW felt that if there is a tie on overall points at the end of a Grand Prix, then overall scores should be considered first before looking at DCs / 1cm / 2cm. AB to finalise the Grand Prix rules.	AB
7.2	AB advised that Jacques Lecamus is standing down from his GIPS role, and was concerned that this could put the French Grand Prix event in jeopardy. A replacement to Jaques will be appointed at a meeting in early February, and the EPAC meeting will take place afterwards. The French Grand Prix has been provisionally set on 11-12 th May which clashes with a classic squad training weekend.	
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	
8.1	It was agreed that the 2024 selection league should include competitions in addition to training camp competitions.	
9	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	

9.1	WL to contact Chris Haynes by phone regarding the 2024 paragliding nationals.	WL
9.2	WL advised that he was happy with the 2024 Selection Criteria wording, and the latest selection league spreadsheet is in Dropbox. There are currently no eligible squad training camp competitions in the league. WL to run through the selection league changes with the squad, and AW to put the selection criteria and latest league on the website.	WL AW
9.3	WL to remind pilots to re-register by 31 st January 2024.	WL
9.4	WL advised that he can procure achievement badges at 40pence each, and Cherry McMahon is currently preparing designs.	
9.5	WL proposed that funding be provided for overseas squad training events in conjunction with competitions in Spain (April) and Germany (September). These events had been chosen as they should be relatively cheap compared to Albania for example.	
10	Judging	
10.1	LL advised that she had put a citation on Dropbox, and panel members need to add to it by 15th December deadline.	Panel
10.2	Panel to advise any comments on the classic rule changes by email.	Panel
10.3	AW advised that his proposed FAI rule amendments could be dealt with by the CIVL Paragliding Accuracy Sub-committee, and should not need Brett Janaway's involvement as BHPA delegate. LL felt that Brett should be advised out of politeness. LL to also check that the blue wording in clause 3.5.7 is correct.	LL LL
10.4	LL advised that put a list Panel survey participants in Dropbox. Panel members to review and add names if necessary. MB to send a link to survey participants as Chairman in January.	Panel MB
11	AOB	
11.1	MB advised that he had received a request from PPG to borrow the accuracy anemometer on 18–23 rd June (PPG Nationals) and 3-10 th August (Worlds). It was agreed that we could loan the equipment for both competitions subject to there being no clash with the Paragliding Accuracy Nationals on the June dates. It was noted that the Scouts and BS could provide anemometer back-up options. Also there is the possibility to run a joint PPG / accuracy event on the June dates. MB to respond to PPG.	MB
	Meeting closed at 21.53	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 4th January 2024. LL will not be available, and it was suggested holding a meeting on Teams.	

Media & PR Officer Report November

November meeting actions:

3.2 Couldn't find a list of names for the panel survey questionnaire on Dropbox.

7.7 Drafted out the 2024 Paragliding Accuracy Selection Criteria for review.

8.3 Forwarded FAI rules proposal to the Panel.

Financial:

- £11,471 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 03/12/2023.
- Recent payment activity has included November classic accuracy squad fees, £100 Cat 2 payments to Colin Jones and Pete Cush, and receipt of £200 from Tyron Paul.
- Tyron Paul has now paid off all his £1,000 loan.
- No sign of the sponsorship payment yet that Matt Bignell was dealing with.
- William Lawrence owes £25 September parascending squad fees.

Skywings:

December – Worlds by Sue Britnell

January – Colin Jones progression, Birdwings, Classic accuracy league, Soar to Precision

February – Paragliding accuracy league, Accuracy Awards, WPRS

Proposal 1 Development Officer Dissolution

I think it is fair to say that the Development Officer role has not worked, and has been the cause of much disharmony within the Panel. Admittedly its dictatorial implementation has been the biggest issue, but even in the hands of someone else it is a loose cannon role without much responsibility that could conflict with other officers duties. My proposal is to dissolve the Development Officer role, and allow each officer to be in charge of development in their particular field. The current Development Officer duties listed in the Operating Procedures would be dissolved or re-allocated as follows:

- a. Provide opportunities for Accuracy Panel Members – Dissolved
- b. Recruit BHPA Members and BHPA Clubs – Parascending & Paragliding Representatives
- c. Head hunt for potential Panel members from BHPA clubs - Chairman
- d. Stand in to support all Panel Officers where needed – Dissolved
- e. Build a good relationship with BPA to recruit classic accuracy pilots – Parascending Representative
- f. Work with BHPA PPG panel re joint sharing of events - Parascending & Paragliding Representatives

- g. Look into other BHPA Competitions panels regards parallel workings -
Chairman
- h. Keeping an eye on safety and development issues – Safety Officer
- i. Look into and keeping up to date with modern teaching and equipment
methods - Parascending & Paragliding Representatives, Equipment Officer
- j. Study the rest of the Accuracy World and bring ideas to the Panel -
Parascending & Paragliding Representatives, Safety Officer, Equipment
Officer

Proposal 2 Squad Managers Officer Role

At present the Paragliding Accuracy Squad Manager role comes under the Paragliding Representative Officer role, and the Parascending Squad Manager is currently not listed in the Operating Procedures. Due to the importance of these roles my proposal is to make both the Paragliding and Parascending Accuracy Squad Managers independent Officer roles on the Panel.

Proposal 3 UK Leagues Tie break

Tie breaks in both classic and paragliding accuracy leagues are currently resolved in the following order:

- Total distance scores
- Highest competition placing
- Most number of DCs, 1cm, 2cm

My proposal is to remove the highest competition placing from the tie break as comparing competitions with different numbers of competitors is not a fair reflection of a pilot's performance compared to others.

Proposal 4 Squad Coaching Safety Syllabus

Following recent injuries to accuracy pilots, I feel a coaching syllabus is required for new pilots in both paragliding and parascending accuracy to highlight inherent dangers in accuracy. The syllabus should include:

- Stall recognition and recovery.
- Awareness of stall risk when using more brake in low wind conditions.
- Awareness of dive when letting off lots of brake.
- Avoid landing on backside, and have legs down prepared to do a para roll.
- Avoid getting sucked into getting a score at all costs.
- Train new pilots to use a long glide in approach on minimal brake to start with.

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report December 2023

Actions:

5.1 Worked with Colin Jones on article and article submitted for Skywings

November squad weekend at Birdwings was scheduled for both days, flying Saturday only with unsuitable weather on Sunday.

3 PA squad pilots and 1 PG pilot attended, and Jayne did a couple of flights.

As the forecast on Sunday was borderline, competition rounds were flown Saturday.

December is planned for South Cerney on 9/10th

No increase in pilots registered for PA squad.

Regards

Dave

PARASCENDING REPORT DEC 23

Evening Panel.

I have spent the day working on the Grand Prix rules, but I'm having problems sending it.

Our Calais meeting is 20 January and it would help if I had a second AP member to attend the meeting with me.

Any volunteers?

We've not been very active at South Cerney recently, apart from assisting Dave with the NOV squad weekend we've not operated.

So, apart from working on the Grand Prix rules, I don't have anything else to report.

Regards,

Arthur

Paragliding Squad Manager

Hi all,

1. Proposing Cherry as new media officer, with Webbo and Ben in a working group with Cherry. Cherry focusing on social media, Andy continuing his work with Skywings and Ben taking over the running of the website. This have been discussed with all 3 before bringing to full panel.
2. Have contacted Chris about Nationals in Wales, he is making inquiries.
3. Squad dates published, am looking at announcing back up dates 1 week after, will be contacting Norfolk with the intention of them being primary back up location.
4. Squad selection updated as far as I am aware.
5. Custom badges starting from around 40p each, designs done for 1st pad, 1st DC, all DC's, nationals in Wales. More will be designed.

Some of Cherry's plans

1. Add pilot and judge profiles to website.
2. Create login, so certain information can be kept for only members.
3. Squad registration completed on website automatically.
4. She has nearly finished a sponsorship template document that will be accessed on the website for all squad members to use.
5. Starting Instagram for squad and linking to Facebook account.

Will

Rules Officer report Nov 23

Actions from Nov minutes:

- Survey created and list of people to send it to created – will upload to Dropbox before the meeting - needs adding to by the panel.
- LL has not posted on Basecamp re medical cover as there is concern about alienating Bulgarian comp organisers – will be approached via Andy Cowley and Brett.
- LL has been in contact with Sabina and will advise her of Nationals date when it is finalised
- LL has contacted all current judges about remaining on the register and the expenses policy but is unable to contact new judges as she still does not know who they are.
- Draft citations in progress for both proposed award nominees (**to follow**). Suggestion is that first one relates more to accuracy and so is submitted by the panel; the other will be submitted by the club.

Ongoing actions from previous minutes:

- Updating rules for Novices ([see document](#)) and Newcomers (no action needed)
- Updates made to classic rules ([see document](#))

Judging/rules:

- See discussion points below

Equipment

- Work on target mat still not completed
- Chris alerted that the spare screw for the windsock pole is missing and asked to investigate a higher visibility windsock – no response yet
- Dave has given cutout mat to Kyle for modification

For discussion:

- Classic Rules – are panel in agreement with changes (document should now reflect all email discussions)?
 - Changed text is in red with original still shown but crossed out.
 - Yellow highlighted bits have not been fully discussed and may need time in the meeting for clarification.
- When EPAC rules have been created where will they 'live'?
- Paragliding rules – is panel behind Andy's proposed changes ([see document](#))
- Citations and what needs to happen next
- Who else should survey be sent to – squads, judges, Exec, other?

Liz