

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 4th January 2024

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies received from LL and CM.	
1.2	WL advised that LL will miss the February and March meetings.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 13 th December 2023, including amendments by AB, were proposed by DC and seconded by WL.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	It was noted that the accuracy questionnaire will appear in January Skywings.	
3.2	DC and AW advised that they had suggested some names for the Accuracy Panel survey. AW raised a concern that some suggested people may not have sufficient knowledge of what the Panel does to suitably participate in the survey. DC felt that the survey would highlight which people do not understand what the Panel does. MB to email the survey to people.	MB
4	Secretary	
4.1	The following comments were made on the draft financial annual plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to identify all potential expenditure, but accept that we will not probably get the total amount. - The year 2 Grand Prix funding should be rounded up to a more whole number. - The Cat 2 pilot funding needs a review. - The full PGAEC sanction should be sought. AW to update the plan.	AW
4.2	MB advised that a revised request had been received from Green Dragons for a PGAEC sanction fee of £1,000. It was noted that the UK leg of the PGAEC provided a good opportunity for UK pilots to get WPRS points, but would probably not address the need for UK pilots to get European low wind thermic conditions experience. It was agreed to put the £1,000 amount in the financial annual plan, but initially offer £500 to Green Dragons. If the BHPA approve sufficient funds then this amount could be increased to £1,000. MB to advise Green Dragons.	MB
4.3	It was agreed to pay the website hosting fee of £538.56 for four years. AW to arrange payment.	AW
5	Media & PR	
5.1	AW advised that he had created website login details for CM and Ben Woodcock to review the website.	

5.2	WL explained that Cherry had created a sponsorship letter for squad pilots to use based on wording used by a parachuting legend. The letter would provide a consistent approach to sponsorship. Panel to comment on the wording.	Panel
5.3	AW to advise CM of the BHPA Accuracy facebook group login so that it can be linked to the Instagram account she is setting up.	AW
5.4	CM has created the following images for potential badges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4x Paragliding Nationals held in Wales - 2x pads - Union Jack / Albanian shield for attending 2024 Euros - 2m within pad - 5m within pad Panel to provide feed back on the badges. WL advised that he was now not proposing to provide jackets, but DC felt that some form of uniform with badge was a good idea.	Panel
6 Classic Accuracy		
6.1	AB's latest Grand Prix scoring proposal was agreed i.e. winners are determined on points, and tie breaks will be resolved on total scores first followed by most DC, 1cm etc. AB to complete a Grand Prix rules document.	AB
6.2	Following on from last year's success, AB to ask Andy Cowley if he wants to be Meet Director again.	AB
7 Classic Accuracy Squad		
7.1	DC advised that he wants squad pilots to advise if they can or cannot attend squad training on the Whatsapp group, as previous non communication had made it difficult to organise events. DC to add WL to the Parascending Accuracy Squad Whatsapp group. Concern was also raised about the number of adverts put on the Whatsapp groups which distracts away from the groups desired use.	
7.2	Comments on the 2024 selection document were addressed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The file name should match the document title. - The wording should refer to number of training camp points. - Confirmation emails not required, and payments can be made after the event. DC to update the selection criteria.	DC
7.3	MB to continue chasing the BHPA Exec about the BHPA Safeguarding document. DC wanted to refer to this on the squad registration form.	MB
8 Paragliding Accuracy Squad		
8.1	WL to advise the squad that the paragliding registration form is on the website.	
8.2	Additional funding for a squad training event linked to a Spanish Cat2 competition was discussed. WL advised that he had chosen the Spanish event as it is currently on the FAI calendar, but we could wait for more events to come up on the FAI calendar and select another event. There was general agreement that more funding should be given to the top pilots and top female determined by WPRS. MB advised that paragliding XC pilots	

	either get sponsorship or fund themselves to attend overseas training camps. AW felt that this funding needs to be considered with all Cat2 funding to agree a budget.	
8.3	WL advised that the North Wales club had given permission for the paragliding accuracy nationals to take place on their sites, and Chris Haynes will ask the Long Mynd club if Long Mynd is also available. The 29/30 th June weekend was proposed for the nationals, subject the LL's input. WL to announce the date on the Whatsapp group.	WL
9	Judging	
9.1	It was agreed that more discussion was required on the two outstanding comments on the classic rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time to accept a relaunch due to wind speed over limits. - Insufficient pressure being applied to trigger the pad, and the need to ficht. 	Panel
10	AOB	
10.1	MB advised that Nigel Barker will make MB and DC administrators on Dropbox.	
	Meeting closed at 21.23	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 1 st February 2024.	

Secretary Report January 2024

December meeting actions:

3.2 Website Panel structure updated, currently doing a general update on the Operating Procedures.

3.8 Awaiting the BHPA Safeguarding policy.

9.2 2024 paragliding selection criteria and latest selection league put on the website.

10.1 Added a couple of items to citation.

10.2 Emailed a couple of comments on the classic rule changes.

10.4 Added a name to the Panel survey participants list. Suggest that some of the pilot names are withdrawn as they will have little knowledge on what the Panel does.

Financial:

- £11,375 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 31/12/2023.
- Payment activity in the last month has included a £96 payment to Sportlite.
- William Lawrence owes £25 September parascending squad fees.
- I have drafted out the BHPA Financial Annual Plan (BHPA grant application) for review that is a wish list to the BHPA rather than an actual budget. Can anyone advise anything to put in the Annual Commercial Sponsorship sheet? Also WL needs to advise his proposal for Cat 2 funding. Until we know what grant we will get we can't really make a budget, so I have drafted out a spreadsheet identifying potentially highest and lowest budget scenarios and what reserves would have to be used assuming a £6,000 grant.

Skywings:

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

February – Paragliding accuracy league, Accuracy Awards, WPRS

March – TBC, possibly a 2024 competitions preview

Good Morning everyone,

And a happy new year!

Unfortunately due to work I will not be able to attend this months panel meeting.

However, below is all that I have done so far.

In line with what Will has discussed with me and what I have read from the panel notes I have completed two tasks.

A sponsorship letter is attached below that I have created as a standardised letter which can be adapted for either individual sponsorship, team sponsorship or organisational sponsorship. Anything that is highlighted in red is for people to adapt. I would be proposing in this panel meeting that this only be available on the teams portal on the website should that go ahead and be used by team members when requesting sponsorship. The point of it is to prevent people from sending out their own sponsorship letters that may be less professional and thereby increase the risk of other people missing out on sponsorship in future.

Secondly I have designed a portion of the badges that Will has requested in relation to team jackets. Please do give any feedback should they not be up to standard but I hope you all approve of them.

In relation to the instagram account I haven't created it just yet as I have some queries before hand. I am aware there is a google drive that contains a lot of pictures that could be beneficial for instagram account. With this in mind would I be able to get access to this? I'm very wary that on social media it is vital that good quality photos are used otherwise it looks unprofessional so it attacks me some time going through and selecting photos for the account.

Is there any specific name that needs to be used for the account as its account handle. I'm am of course aware it has to involve BHPA National and team but is it required to be the same as the Facebook group?

To be able to link the instagram account to the Facebook account I will require the email address to both and the login details for Facebook and email.

Hope you have a great Panel meeting. Any enquires please send me a message or ask Will, I've basically talked his head off about all of this, so if he can't answer anything you know how well his listening skills are.

Many thanks,
Cherry

BHPA AP Monthly Report Jan 24 (Parascending)

1. EPAC Meeting - The EPAC Calais meeting has been rescheduled for Saturday 17 Feb.

I will be accompanied by Dave C and I will be paying for the return ferry crossing and a twin room for the Saturday evening.

I will be requesting reimbursement for the ferry and the twin room (at the Ibis hotel Calais) on return after the event.

2. Agenda - In addition to finalising the dates for the 3 x Grand Prix comps, I anticipate a lengthy discussion on the scoring / points

method currently used, with proposals for amendments to the current system.

I recently circulated a model of a hypothetical result showing results of the top 3 competitors where the winner (using the Grand Prix Points method

of scoring) was not the competitor with the best (lowest) score. I proposed that we should consider changing the method of determining the winner

by considering the total distance measured throughout the 3 comps and discontinue using the Grand Prix Points method.

Having had more time to think about it, I am now having second thoughts; The F1 Grand Prix uses the points system as as far as I know, if the car in

2nd place is 100m or 30 secs behind the winner, the same number of points are awarded as they would be if the car in second place was just 100th of a second behind the winner.

So, if the points system is good enough for the biggest sporting event in the world then I suppose we can feel justified in using a similar method, ie

(1) we allocate Grand Prix points at each comp.

(2) At the end of the series we add the Grand Prix points from each comp. The Team / Ind with most points is the winner.

(3) If there's a tie, the overall distance is considered and the lowest distance scored is the winner.

(4) If there's still a tie, we use the DC, 1cm, 2cm, etc rule.

I am mindful that I represent the AP at these meetings and it is the view of the AP that I portray at these meetings .

We have the Jan and Feb AP zoom meetings before the Calais meeting and I propose that our panel agree on what we are in favour of before I attend the Calais meeting.

2. 2024 Classic Nationals - This 3 x day comp is being held at South Cerney. I think we should now start by selecting a Meet Director for this event.

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report January 2024

December squad weekend at Birdwings was cancelled on weather, however there were also insufficient pilots

January was planned for South Cerney on 13/14th moved to 27/28th due to site availability.

It was agreed to include competitions in the league for 2024, see circulated proposed document for approval.

INFORMATION

2023 Squad whatsapp information: (PA specific WhatsApp group started in June)

7 planned weekends, 3 weekends(or part) completed

34 people on the WhatsApp group

27 are Classic Pilots, 6 judges, 1 equipment officer

15 pilots have registered as squad pilots (12 not registered) 19 didn't attend any squad weekends

11 failed to communicate on any of the communicated dates

Actions:

Add to future reports

Safeguarding, presently unable to access the BHPA policy. Intention is to have pilots sign for this when registering for the squad.

Accuracy safety

Near misses

Regards

Dave

Rules Officer report Jan 24

Actions from Dec minutes:

- Proposed rule changes from AW and clarification of wording of 3.5.7 to address typos he spotted have been added to Basecamp for consideration before the plenary. Others are also proposing clarification of this 3.5.7.
- email to Brett will happen after I have a response from a query to Andy Cowley re how the issue of medical facilities is being addressed.

Ongoing actions

- Survey link and link to list of people on Dropbox sent to Mark
- Responses from judges to question about willingness to remain on register for next year are slow – 5 (Jayne, Andy S, Billy, Michelle and me) have said yes (3 of these have been active this year), 3 have said no (one of whom has been active this year but cited the costs of attending 4 day competitions although still happy to turn up at S Cerney for the day occasionally). Of the remaining 12 people contacted I anticipate that 4 will want to stay on the register, at least 3 will not and the rest I'm not sure about as most have not been active this year. Some last judged during past competitions at GD and may be persuaded by Andy to be involved in his competition (subject to reaccreditation) but on past form are unlikely to travel to judge elsewhere.
- Citation for Stuart has been received and acknowledged by Jenny Buck.

Judging/rules:

- Classic rules (generic) are attached – I have only had comments from Andy W which I have taken account of in this document. We could discuss these for longer but changes will need to go to EPAC in Feb and I don't have much more time between now and then so I have resolved most of the changes and **suggest we deal with the two comments still on the document and then call a halt to editing**. I will then send a version with changes highlighted and explained to Arthur and Ed and make any necessary amendments to the judging code. I propose that generic rules go in the judges area of the website when agreed and competition-specific ones with the blue sections expanded as necessary can be added when we create a page for the 2024 classic nationals.
- Judging activity 2023
 - Full crews provided for both nationals (expenses for this should be seen in comp budgets)
 - Judges also attended Birdwings comp (expenses not payable by panel)
 - All but one (classic) squad training that happened had at least one judge present with minimal cost as judges can only make 2 claims per year which are more likely to be for the main competitions.
 - It seems reasonable to estimate travel expenses as being similar this year but that will depend on location of paragliding nationals and which judges attend.
 - I anticipate panel also needing to budget for 3-4 non-flying BHPA memberships, which are not taken from competition or squad budgets, unless we train new judges who subsequently complete the required amount of activity. These memberships currently cost £60 and a £30 joining fee for new membership would also apply for any new judges.
- No comments from judges on the expenses document so I propose to reissue it largely unchanged (see attached). **Please confirm if it is OK or suggest changes, noting the comment box on the document.**

Equipment

- No actions

Liz