

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 7th March 2024

Present: Mark Bignell MB Chairman
 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.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 1 st February 2024, were proposed by AB and seconded by AW.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that he had received two responses to the accuracy survey questionnaire. AW queried whether it could be concluded that UK pilots are not interested in accuracy, especially as accuracy is visible in Skywings every month, and the following comments were made: Pilots make up their mind about their direction in paragliding during training at a school. With the exception of Green Dragons, schools don't promote accuracy, and we should attempt to promote more within schools with a Sites Officer. WL advised that he had been in contact with the South Wales Club, and we have Martin & Sue at Norfolk. Also a lot of pilots are a long distance from where the squad training occurs.	
3.2	MB was not aware of Matt Bignell progressing anything more on an accuracy competition at Buttermere.	
3.3	AW advised that he had put a link on both squad pages to the BHPA Safeguarding documents on the BHPA website.	
3.5	It was believed that Sue Britnell wants to claim for the cost of a Club Coaching course. Some thought that Club Coaching courses could be considered the same as judges non flying membership, but there were concerns of opening the flood gates. Sue should make an official request, and MB to talk to her about being a Squad coach coordinator.	MB
4	Secretary	
4.1	MB advised that he had verbally asked Andy Shaw to return the £500 paid to him as a contribution to PGAEC sanction fee. The matter could be viewed as a violation of the Squad Code of Conduct, however, the matter was not squad related. It was felt that Andy Shaw should not receive any further funding until the matter is resolved. MB to formally write to Andy Shaw.	MB
4.2	WL to send a message to Andy Shaw about the £65 payment to JJ for videoing at the Worlds.	WL
4.3	AW advised that he will add comments made by DC on the Operating Procedures. It was agreed to remove reference to a Parascending National Team and also Les Carroll as a coach. AW to update the procedures and upload to the website.	AW

4.4	AW's Proposal 1 was agreed for 2024 expenditure.	
5	Media & PR	
5.1	CM reported the following on the improvements to the website are in progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An interactive calendar that allows pilots to state which competitions they will be attending. - More photos to words. - Online payment system for squad members. 	
5.2	MB advised that Stuart Short has transferred admin rights for the Panel Whatsapp group and the facebook group to others. AW to add CM to the Whatsapp group.	AW
5.3	CM intends to post once a week on Instagram.	
6	Classic Accuracy	
6.1	AB advised that the Grand Prix scoring system will change so that the winning pilot / team will receive 50 points working downwards. Tie breaks will be resolved by total distance scores followed by most DCs, 1cm etc. Pilots can only fly for one club team throughout a season, but pilots can fly in different club teams e.g. GIPS 1,2,3. EPAC minutes will be issued when amendments have been typed up.	
6.2	DC advised that an earlier version of the UK rule revisions had been reviewed and the following had been agreed by EPAC: 4.8 The 2 minute decision time was accepted. The 2 minutes will start when the Chief Judge or Event Judge has communicated the score to the pilot. 5.1 A relaunch will not be offered for over the limit winds where a pilot has scored a DC. 6.3 Was incorrect in the version discussed.	
6.3	AB advised that the French Grand Prix site is approximately a 9 hours drive from Calais, and flying is possible the whole week before the event. It was noted that the competition could be a Friday / Saturday event, and the decision would be left to the French as the amount of travel will mean that UK people will have to take off either Friday or Monday.	
6.4	AW advised that he would prefer one dignitary to present trophies presenter at the Classic Nationals to avoid issues with dividing up the role.	
7	Classic Accuracy Squad	
7.1	DC advised that he had not received registration forms off all pilots, despite this being briefed at the February squad weekend that pilots who have not registered will not receive any points. DC has updated the selection criteria to clarify.	DC
7.2	Regarding combined squad training AW felt that if there is only one tow vehicle / winch then pilots can only fly in one code. DC advised that there is generally insufficient notice to organise two vehicles / winches due to not knowing the number of pilots until late in the week. Also it would make sense to have parascending and paragliding competitions on different days because of the judging requirements.	
7.3	AW suggested a change to the funding such that pilots pay the towing fees plus £5 judging fee minus £10. Over the course of a	

	year the £10s would approximately amount to the £500 funding. WL was not keen on this concept as he preferred a fixed fee and also wanted to make additional money for funding at competitions or overseas training. Also there may be a £400 fee for a retrieve vehicle at some squad training camps. AW & WL to formally issue their proposals.	AW & WL
8	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
8.1	WL to propose three competitions as the venue for the overseas training camp, and instigate a Whatsapp vote for squad pilots to register their preference.	WL
8.2	WL advised that he wanted the badges to tell a story, and needs a South Cerney badge. Also separate designs will be made for Classic and Paragliding. WL to propose jackets for consideration.	WL
9	Paragliding Nationals	
9.1	AW to update the entry fee to £70 in the Local Regulations to reflect a more expensive winning event at South Cerney. MB to apply for the sanction.	AW MB
9.2	To overcome the short notice to relocate to South Cerney, based on the weather forecast, it was noted that portaloos could be organised in advance and take a hit on the costs.	
9.3	CM to advertise the event on social media, and Chris Haynes to be ask to advertise the event to local pilots by AW.	CM AW
10	Judging	
10.1	It was agreed that Chris Haynes should purchase 6 paraglider tow strop clips and a radio battery.	
11	AOB	
11.1	MB advised that that it had been agreed at the CIVL Plenary to have a knock out system involving teams and optical measuring equipment at Cat 1 events. It was noted that Brett Janaway had abstained over these proposals rather than voting against something that was not clear.	
11.2	MB understood that Andy Cowley will be asking Liz Lawrence and Nikki Bodill to help with overall judging.	
	Meeting closed at 21.58	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 4 th April 2024.	

Secretary Report March 2024

February meeting actions:

4.2 Revised expenditure proposal based on £7,000 funding at end of this report.

4.3 Operating procedures re-issued with March Panel documents.

8.1 Paragliding selection criteria error rectified on website.

9.1 Chris Haynes has advised that the Long Mynd landing field is not available at present, thus ruling the Long Mynd out for the Paragliding Nationals.

9.2 Chris Haynes has advised that he is happy to be Meet Director and Launch Marshal, and I have been liaising with him about logistics.

10.1 Classic rules updated and re-issued.

Financial:

- £10,181 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 03/03/2024.
- Recent activity has been the February training camps and EPAC meeting expenses.
- Tyron Paul owes £40 and Colin Jones owes £20 for training camp fees.
- Green Dragons still owe the £500 paid to them in good faith for the European Cup sanction fee.
- WL and Andy Shaw to each pay £65 into the account so a payment can be made to Jaroslav Jindra for the worlds videos.

Skywings:

March – 2024 competitions preview

April – January & February Squad training camps

May - TBC, any ideas welcome

Paragliding Nationals:

- I have updated the Local Regulations for final review. I assume every one is happy with the back-up weekend of 7/8th September, £60 entry fee and minimum two rounds.
- Mark Bignell to advise how to apply for the FAI Cat2 sanction.
- Chris Haynes has advised that the Llangollen and Gyrn Moelfre sites will cater for most wind directions.
- We need to discuss how practical it is to switch venues to South Cerney.
- Chris Haynes is looking for a suitable campsite, noting that we may have to withdraw a booking at short notice.

Proposal 1 – 2024 expenditure based on £7,000 grant:

£500 (approx.) EPAC Calais meeting (7.1%)

£500 PA Squad training (7.1%)

£500 PA Grand Prix funding (7.1%)

£500 PG Squad training (7.1%)

£1,000 PG overseas training camp (14.3%)

£1,000 PG Cat 2 funding (14.3%)

£2,500 PG Cat 1 competition (35.7%)

£125 Badges (1.8%)

£135 website hosting fee (1.9%)

£240 judges non flying membership (3.4%)

BHPA Monthly Report (Parascending) Mar 24

1. EPAC - I attended the EPAC meeting on Sat 17 Feb accompanied by Dave C.

a. Rules. Our edited rules were distributed with the addition of the notes on the 'tied' result at the end of the Grand Prix series.

Added to the notes for the end of the series: 'There will be no jump off if there is a tie for the overall result of the series:

The winner is determined by:

1. The sum of the total distance from each individual comp.
if there is still a tie
2. The Total number of DCs, then 1cm etc.

2. Dates and Location.

FRANCE. Due to the on-going reorganising at GIPs, the French Competition will be hosted by the resident club at St Yan in the

South Of France on the weekend of 11 May. The information that we currently have is that the site will be open earlier in the week for practice.

Francois Barriot has a meeting with his club members scheduled for 9 Mar and he will then send me (hopefully) all the details that

we need to know about the competition.

The competition site is approx a 9 hr drive from Calais. Dave and I have been thinking about requesting that the comp be held on Fri and Sat as apposed to Sat and Sun. This should give sufficient time for our UK competitors (and Judges) to get back to UK in time for those who need to be at work on Monday morning.

If this is agreed by the AP, I will request this to Francois so he can consider putting this to his fellow organisers at his Saturday meeting.

NL. Finding a suitable date for the NL comp became very difficult and went on long after the Calais weekend meeting.

It was finally agreed that the NL comp would be hosted again by Sky Rebels at their Terheijden site on the weekend of 8-9 June.

The information that I have from Ed is that this weekend is also the Dutch Paragliding Accuracy Championships and we will be competing at the same time.

Unlike our Classic Nationals where we just have one competition, at the Dutch site, there will be 2 separate competitions happening simultaneously.

UK. Hosted by Birdwings at South Cerney 24-26 Aug.

Meet Director: Andy Cowley was unavailable during this period.

Chris Haynes has accepted my invitation to be 'Meet Director' for this competition on the proviso that the does not have to be involved in the organising of the competition prior to the competition period.

I proposed that we use the airfield for our accommodation area (tents / Motorhomes) and I will request tentage for our foreign guests.

I would like to invite Jackie Smith and one member of the military to assist with the final presentation.

Options for towing are Birdwings winch + 1 x LR. (Plus 1 x winch as a back-up if required).

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report March 2024

February squad weekend at Birdwings was a joint PA/PG squad. Several points were raised on pilots flying both disciplines and having additional tow capability (see points below). For this weekend, it was decided that as was in the past, the pilots selected which discipline they would fly.

7 Pilots registered as PA.

Also covered at the briefing and the de-brief that if pilots have not registered by the end of the month then they will not get points for squad competitions. No objections were raised on this matter at the weekend.

Proposal:

Pilots who attend future squad weekend have until the Friday of the following week to register to get points. Pilots who are not registered will not accrue points. This will allow any new pilots who have attended to have sufficient time to complete and submit the forms

Amendments in criteria

Points will be awarded in the following manner.

Each **registered** pilot taking part in the squad or any EPAC or domestic open competition.....

Pilot's Role:

The pilot must be a registered squad member, by registering the pilot accepts this criteria. **If the pilot is not registered then points will not be accrued, unregistered pilots have until the Friday post the squad competition to register for points to be logged.**

Safeguarding:

Policy covered at the squad briefing. It was well received and there was positive feedback received.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

Nothing to report

Regards

Dave

Joint Squads

At the joint squad meeting in February, discussion took place on pilots flying in both disciplines. Pilots were asked to provide feedback but it was stressed that it needs to be fair to all pilots.

If there are many pilots doing both disciplines it will affect the pilots flying only one discipline so is this fair? Please consider the following. 'X' needs to be sufficient for serious pilots in both disciplines, but not so high that it affects single discipline pilots in getting sufficient flights.

If more than 'X' pilots then:

No pilots will fly 2 disciplines;

Only the 'X' top squad pilots will fly 2 disciplines (need to consider how the top pilots are chosen across both disciplines);

Only the 'X' first pilots to confirm attendance to both squad managers will fly 2 disciplines.

What are fees if it's a joint event? Presently as PA don't have any cost free weekends so PA charge more. So if flying both disciplines then Pilots must pay PA fee, and if also flying PG then pay the suggested fee?

If flying on both days is forecast likely to take place one squad will run the competition on the Saturday one squad will run the competition on the Sunday. Need to consider if one discipline runs the competition on the Sunday and the other runs the competition on a Saturday will a number of pilots just disappear for the second day and not use it as training which is the proposal. This could leave numbers low in particular for PA where additional manpower is required.

The following are for consideration:

Pilots pay squad fee and can only fly one type canopy. *All pilots will pay the squad fee for the discipline and will do the same number of flights through the weekend in practice and competition.*

Pilots pay squad fee (or part 2nd squad fee) for each discipline doing twice the flights in training and competition as others on site. *Not favoured full fees as the fee isn't wholly for the site, those pilots only doing one discipline will do many less flights.*

Pilots pay fee and reduced fee for 2nd discipline. (see costs below) *They only get additional flights for the competition not for training, those pilots only doing one discipline are lesser affected by the difference in flights..*

Pilots pay fee and pay additionally for the cost of additional competition flights (rate charged is that paid by the panel)

Additional towing capacity.

If on the joint squad weekend there are large numbers then we should be getting additional towing capacity either via an additional winch the parallel towing system or a vehicle all of these will come at an additional cost so this needs to be understood. Need to consider where this additional funding comes from.

Hiring a winch from Birdwings cost

Hiring parallel tow system from Green Dragons cost

Hiring a winch from another cost

Hiring a Land Rover from scouts

Hiring a winch from scouts costs

Hiring Jamie Robe's Land Rover costs

We must have consideration that we have sufficient manpower as well as the vehicle or implement the towing so that will be a winch operator additional wing tips and equipment to run launch.

Need to consider, if a pilot is attending and also bringing additional towing equipment, i.e. Andy Shaw's parallel tow system and Jamie Robe's Land Rover, they would be travelling to the event anyway so should not need full fuel costs this is similar to how we treat judges with pilots coming to events that they don't get paid travel allowance. We would however need to do wear & tear, fuel costs etc. but not a transfer fee of the equipment to/from the site

Parascending funding

It was mentioned at the EPAC meeting about Parascending pilots getting funding to attend overseas events. Don Bodill raised the question of Parascending Accuracy Squad being funding from the panel he stated that this is Royal aero club funding and is only to be used for world championship competitions to "promote accuracy on a world footing", so is funding for Parascending Pilots outside of this agreement and would this possibly end any funding from the Royal aero club if not meeting this criteria?

This matter is closed and confirmed as outdated via information from AW and MB