

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 4th June 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
	Liz Lawrence	LL	Rules Officer
	Cherry McMahon	CM	Media & PR

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	All panel members present	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 2 nd May 2024 incorporating amendments by LL (9.2 'preceding or following') and AB (7.3 'Ian Cooper') were proposed by WL and seconded by LL.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB suggested getting the anemometer and poles to Green Dragons to pass on to the PPG Worlds.	
3.2	MB stated that some people thought he was in charge of accuracy, but he advised that this was not the case.	
4	Secretary	
4.1	LL advised that Katie Sykes has now paid the May classic squad fees.	
5	Paragliding Nationals	
5.1	It was agreed that a meeting should take place on Wednesday evening before the nationals for a final weather check and decision on venue. It was felt that this would be too short notice for the Mongolians, so AW to advise them earlier based on a longer range forecast.	AW
5.2	AB advised that there was a good chance that portaloos could be arranged for South Cerney at short notice. If not there was a chance that facilities could be used on the barracks. DC noted that the military had recently tightened down on who passes are issued to, but AB believed there would not be a problem if people are on the Birdwings list. LL advised that the Scout winch is not currently available as a back up winch. AB to enquire if Richard and the Cloudbase winch would be available.	AB
5.3	DC advised that he and WL currently held the panel first aid bags. WL to look for the box given to him.	WL
5.4	AW to buy sandwiches for the officials at a supermarket.	AW
5.5	LL to determine who will undertake the Chief and Event Judge roles in consultation with Nikki and Parki.	LL
5.6	It was noted that there will be potentially two squad training camps to collect the wind meter and wind sock poles from the trailer at South Cerney. Chris Haynes has the electronics.	
5.7	Panel members to promote the event. Those attending the Dutch competition can enquire if there is any interest from the Dutch pilots. It was suggested that Colin Jones may be able to drum some interest in the South Wales club.	Panel

5.8	Following the FAI Section 7 rule change on flying order, it was agreed that the flying order at the nationals would be in team order. This can be put in the Local Regulations or advised at the pilots briefing.	
6	Media & PR	
6.1	CM advised that AW and DC had attended a presentation by herself and Ben Woodcock on the new website layout.	
6.2	Only testing of the squad portal was holding up the website going live. It was noted that new website layout could go live without the squad portal. CM to circulate the website link again so those people who have not yet engaged with it would be reminded to do so.	Panel (part)
6.3	It was noted that Ben has created a 'Frequently asked Questions' section on the website, and CM felt this would be better than a manual on the website.	
6.4	CM advised that she had not received many photos to help with the Instagram page, and she will send out reminder about the google drive. CM advised that she had not had any communication with Stuart Short about the BHPA Accuracy facebook page login. LL to assist with communication.	CM LL
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	It was noted that the camping fees only needed to cover the costs of the portaloos.	
	Panel members to review the documentation prepared by AW.	Panel
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	
8.1	There were no comments on DC's report	
9	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
9.1	WL to report at the next meeting about how the scoring system will work in the Czech Republic. WL advised that coaching will be provided for squad members on the competition training day. WL and CM both felt that the Czechs would demonstrate fun, team cohesion and be an inspiration for UK pilots. WL advised that he is looking at AirB&B for accommodation. AW advised that there were options to fly to Katowice that is just across the Czech border in Poland. DC advised that checks should be made that the car hire company allows for crossing borders. It was believed that JS Insurance and Dogtag do competition insurance. JS Insurance requires a phone call to get competition cover. LL advised that the British Mountaineering Council offers paragliding insurance. WL advised that he will create a temporary Whatsapp group for the Czech event.	WL WL
9.3	WL advised that he had selected a three layer soft shell jacket that could be used for the badge system, and will take it to the paragliding nationals for pilots to view. The jacket could cost £60 if a bulk order was placed.	WL
10	Rules / Judging	
10.1	MB advised that the new FAI Section 7C rule on video was to view falls.	
10.2	LL advised that one new person had shown an interest in judging, and there should be sufficient judges for the paragliding nationals.	
10.3	LL presented a powerpoint document, prepared by LL, DC & AW, on the responses to the Panel Survey, and the following comments were made: - DC did not agree that too much time was spent on classic accuracy, citing that 80% of this panel meeting was on paragliding accuracy. - MB agreed that UK paragliding was in decline on a world stage.	
10.4	It was agreed that the powerpoint presentation should be finalised for publication to participants and the wider accuracy community. Also actions	

	proposed by participants should be considered with a panel strategy / action plan created and items ranked in order of priority. LL, DC & AW to review.	LL, DC, AW
10.5	<p>An open discussion on the presentation generated the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a pilot of the month award to improve communication. - In addition to the new Frequently asked Questions on the website, there could be a help section with queries going directly to panel members. - Invite general BHPA school / club members to attend panel meetings, so that they can find out more about accuracy. - Liaise with schools, as they offer the best potential for new accuracy pilots. - Add links to schools on the BHPA Accuracy website. - Create a Sites Officer role on the panel or a sites working group, to liaise with schools and clubs. - The BHPA training curriculum should have more emphasis on accuracy. - If pilots moan about the panel, the panel can advise that they have acted on feedback raised in the survey. - More people on the panel will dilute the haters. - The panel is in group think. - The lack of imagination was challenged as, the actions of a previous panel member did not allow people to express opinions. 	
11	AOB	
11.2	Jamie Robe has not repaired the Robe Landrover yet, so it is currently unavailable for squad training or the nationals.	
	Meeting closed at 21.56.	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 4th July 2024.	

Secretary Report June 2024

May meeting actions:

- 4.1 Forwarded the final accounts to MB for issue to Bill Bell.
- 4.2 Reminded squad pilots about outstanding fees.
- 4.3 Incorporated the FAI EMS procedure into the Operating Procedures and added to Drop box.
- 9.7 Corrected the selection league multiplier in the Selection Criteria on the website.

Financial:

- £9,835 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 02/06/2024.
- Recent activity has been squad funding payments (Sue Britnell, Colin Jones, Dave Crowhurst, Gary Ounsworth, Arthur Bentley) some paragliding nationals entry fees and parascending squad training fees.
- Paragliding training camp fees owed by Tyron Paul - £40.
- Parascending training camp fees owed by Katie Sykes - £40.
- MB to advise if he has issued the final accounts to Bill Bell.

Skywings:

June - Vrsac Open & Teba Open

July – Albanian Open

August – Dutch GP & article by Wayne Black on his parachuting / parascending exploits

Paragliding Nationals:

14 pilots have registered to date including three Mongolian pilots. Three pilots have paid and been given Confirmed status. I will chase up pilots who have attended in recent years, but have not registered yet.

I have sent an official invite to the Mongolian pilots for a visa application.

LL has provided a risk assessment for the paragliding target area.

All trophies bought last year have been re-engraved where required. All classic trophies also procured.

Chris is trying to arrange a Landrover and trailer for transporting pilots to the top of a hill.
Note - 4WD vehicles only allowed on Gyrn Molfre.

North Wales flying sites are available to fly under club rules prior to the event, so there is potential for some judge training.

Discussion items:

- Final decision on weather / venue
- Practicalities of relocating to S Cerney (toilets, back-up winch)
- Did the panel procure first aid boxes?
- Sandwiches for officials
- Chief Judge / Event Judge
- When to pick up wind sock and anemometer poles from the trailer
- Promoting the event

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report June 2024

May squad weekend at Birdwings was completed as planned on the Saturday due to the poor forecast for the Sunday.

3 pilots attended the French leg of EPAC and are entitled to funding

11 Pilots registered as PA accuracy pilots. +1 from last month

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

Nothing to report

Regards

Dave

BHPA Monthly Report June 24 Parascending

1. The first Grand Prix Comp - St Yan France. Four teams competed with one team from UK (Birdwings DC - GO - AB)

Birdwings came 3rd but it would have been possible to have come 1st if I hadn't had to retire injured after the landing on the 3rd round; I missed the last 2 rounds.

Bruno Lautard won the Individual category and the winning team was Bruno, Tiago and one other Portugese member.

Apart from the long distance getting there by car and the light and variable wind conditions it was an enjoyable and well run comp.

2. The second Grand Prix Comp will be at Terheijden NL hosted by Sky Rebels.

From UK we have one team from Green Dragons and two teams from Birdwings.

This leg of the Grand Prix will be on the same site and at the same time as the Dutch annual Classic Championships.

BHPA Annual Classic Accuracy Championships.

Toilets - Qty 3 hired for the duration at a total cost of £210 (paid for by me and already reimbursed).

Camping. I have negotiated Nil fee to the MoD for camping so I suppose £10.00 camping fee for the duration is reasonable. I suppose it all depends on how many competitors we have - assuming that we are aiming to NOT end up with a loss.

Tandem flights - Simon will be bringing his tandem paraglider for any tandem flights.

Possible tandem flights for the MoD (Soldiers and families):

Quartermaster, Ian Cooper (and some of their staff) and The Admin Clerk and her daughter from Abfabloos.

There is NO requirement for BHPA day Tickets to be issued. The basic rule is that there is no requirement providing that the tandem pilot is NOT making any financial gain.

Regards, Arthur

Squad Manager June Report

I will probably be unable to attend the next panel meeting as I will be working but i might be able to time my break well and join for a bit.

Last squad training was defeated by both tough weather and tough conditions, which was expected due to Albania and the coaching course.

Selection league updated.

Pilots informed of overseas squad training in Czechia, 6 pilots registered with 2 more planning to register that i know of and 2 UK judges, 1 confirmed and the other waiting for a reply.

Lastly for some time now there has been a growing issue within the accuracy squad, it is an issue we have seen repeated in the past and often resulting in pilots leaving the accuracy squad and further damaging our reputation both overseas and within the over BHPA disciplines.

Even though in this instance I believe all parties involved have acted in a way that breaks the code of conduct, there also seems to be a pattern of one individual always being at one side of the conflict. This pattern of behaviour needs addressing before it comes to a head again.

The specific areas of the code of conduct that have been breached (in my opinion) are under 'Responsibilities of squad members'

- conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a representative of the United Kingdom, upholding our core values of: Respect, Unity, Integrity, Trust, and Excellence.
- exercise self-control, responsible behaviour, consideration of others, courtesy, and good manners at all times.
- set a positive example (particularly to newcomers and supporters) at all times. This includes physical appearance, language, and demeanour in public (including online), training, coaching, behaviour at competitions, especially in defeat.

I request an investigation into the actions of both Andy Shaw and Colin Jones following their behaviour at the comp in Albania and public disagreements that followed. Any personal issues they had beforehand have now become public and are not appropriate for members of the UK squad who should be representing the BHPA, Accuracy squad and themselves appropriately.

If this issue is not addressed and resolved I do not believe either are eligible to be selected for this year's team, as we cannot remove one without the other if both are at fault. I do not believe it is in the accuracy panels or UK teams' best interest to send a team that cannot even pretend civility and has demonstrated a complete disregard for the UK squads' best interests and values.

I hope that following an investigation, discussion with the pilots and it has been impressed upon them the seriousness of their actions and potential ramifications they will put this behind them and can attend this year's CAT 1 competition ready to operate as a team but this is down to them.

Best regards
William

Rules Officer report June 24

Actions from May minutes:

- Target risk assessments (PA and PG) updated and circulated (item 5.2). No comments received.
- One person has expressed interest in judging seminar so far (item 10.2)

Ongoing actions

- Presentation on Panel effectiveness survey almost completed (item 10.1)
- Records of judging activity continue to be updated. 4 qualified judges (and one individual who may be a GD trainee judge but is not known to me) have judged at the 5 squad mini-comps completed so far this year.

Judging/rules:

- Main changes (May 24) to FAI rules:

Section 7C

- Changes to allocation of flying order. Cat 1 remains as usual method (all no 1s then no 2s etc). (3.2.2.1.1). For Cat 2 it is now individual rather than by team. It says pilots will be assigned flying order based on WPRS ranking with worst ranked flying first (and alphabetical order if equal; ranked). Top 10 pilots fly last – random order draw of nos 1-10. However, this rule can be adapted and can also use any other method such as, but not limited to, random order, reverse order based on WPRS ranking. (3.2.2.1.2)
- Other suitable measuring systems (using video etc) can be accepted for use by CJ. This does not replace the AMD. CJ should appoint Video Measurement Judge (VMJ) to control the measuring system. (New role created in Judging code to complement this). (5.4.3)
- Minimum number of target judges can be reduced if there is alternative measurement system. (9.3)
- Changes to knock out rules.
After R6 knock out at least top 6 ranked women and juniors will continue, whether qualified by ranking or not, but only competing for their specific category with position in overall ranking (which is what counts for WPRS) frozen. (5.4.4.3)
After R6 KO only the top 6 ranked teams continue in the team event. Results of pilots who did not qualify as individuals only count for team score. Ranking of non-qualified teams is frozen. (5.4.5.1)
- Complaint deadlines clarified to account for comps with online and not online results, where deadlines are different. (7.2.1 and 7.2.2)
- Protest must now be submitted within 1hr (was 2) of receiving result of a complaint. (7.3)

Section 7 common

- Organizer of 2nd category events who send results with no reported incidents, must sign a declaration stating that no incidents happened during the competition. (12.6.1)

Questions re Local Regs for Nationals:

- Our LRs say Flying order - as per Section 7C. Which method will we use for allocation of flying order?

Equipment

- Tape measure missing from judging box. Chris is aware.

Liz