

# Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Present:      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	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	None.	
2	<b>Signing off last meeting minutes</b>	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 4th July 2024, were proposed by WL and seconded by CM.	
3	<b>Chairman</b>	
3.1	MB did not attend, and LL chaired the meeting.	
3.2	MB to be sent a Whatsapp reminder to write the open letter as soon as possible.	MB
4	<b>Secretary</b>	
4.1	It was agreed to pay £8 for a new aerial for one that had been lost.	
4.2	WL to remind squad pilots to pay £10 for the June training camp.	WL
4.3	AW reiterated the need for a paragliding rep as he was totally overloaded at the paragliding nationals. No clear candidate could be thought of outside of the panel. WL and CM advised that they may be able to get more involved next year. AW to produce a list of jobs he had to do at the paragliding nationals, as it may be possible to persuade individuals from outside the panel to carry out defined support tasks.	AW
5	<b>Media &amp; PR</b>	
5.1	CM advised that she is looking for a printing service for the accuracy brochure she has prepared. CM to forward the brochure to the panel for review before it is sent to the printers.	CM CM
5.2	CM advised that all the paragliding nationals sponsorship conditions had been met. It was felt that the added financial value of this sponsorship was zero and should be recorded as such in the accounts.	
5.4	CM advised that she intended to reach out to schools and clubs regarding members and flying sites possibly via a news item in Skywings. WL to write a specification for a suitable accuracy landing field.	WL
5.5	CM advised that she intended to lookout for event sponsors early, but needed guidance on what we need from them. It was noted that sponsors could provide material items like food and vehicles rather than money. Also involving veterans and having a charity event could bring in sponsorship / members.	
6	<b>Classic Accuracy Nationals</b>	
6.1	AW advised that entry forms are on the website, but no entries had been received to date. DC to promote the event on Whatsapp.	DC

6.2	AB advised that Andy Cowley had got the team trophy replated for a cost of £150. AB has paid the £150 and will seek reimbursement. It was noted that the plate is engraved up to 2016 and needs a base for more engraving.	AB
6.3	AB advised that the military won't allow use of the white hanger due to safety concerns over the door and light fittings. It was noted that we have use of three military tents and one of these could be used to accommodate the electrical equipment if the white hanger power supply is available. Other options for a power supply were the Sykes's if staying at the barracks, the 20:20 club within certain time periods and the generator subject to inhibiting power spikes.	
6.4	AB also advised that there had been a military request that we camp on the north side of the airfield away from the solar farm and the public access. AB to further discuss with the military.	AB
6.5	It was noted that James Scully had still not got his tow qualification, and it was queried if Simon Sykes Jnr could act as his instructor if he is not able to get a tow qualification via Cloudbase.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Classic Accuracy Squad</b>	
7.1	DC advised that the July squad weekend went well with a fixed fee for the site & towing & fuel. Some squad members did not turn up when they said they would which could have created a financial loss. Concerns were raised about the combination of the 3 ring release with the light tow line used in the not generating sufficient pressure for release. It was felt that pilots should be fully briefed about this in the future.	
7.2	Following the introduction of competitions in the classic accuracy selection league, it was agreed that competitions could only be used since the rule was changed, and not back dated.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Paragliding Accuracy Squad</b>	
8.1	WL advised that there was a good attendance at the July squad training weekend.	
8.2	WL advised that he had sent the paragliding accuracy code of conduct to Jenny Buck and Marc Asquith for comment.	
8.4	WL advised that he has completed the NAC form for the Euros, and has sent it too MB for issue.	MB
8.5	WL to check the Euros participants list for confirmed UK places.	WL
8.6	It was note that the CAT1 events were getting more expensive, and DC advised that British Skydiving were now only funding one event every other year. The need for sponsorship was reiterated. AW advised that the entry fees for 5 pilots and 1 manager came to approximately £1,900 leaving £600 from the £2,500 agreed in March. WL advised that he had put in the invitation letters that there would be between £350 to £600 individual funding per pilot! AW to check what funding was provided last year, and the panel will make a decision on the amount of funding at the next panel meeting.	AW
<b>9</b>	<b>Rules / Judging</b>	
9.1	DC to contact MB about an additional page for the panel survey ppt that will be published for BHPA members to view.	
9.2	It was agreed that people helping with the nationals such as operators and launch marshals should be entitled to the same funding as the judges. This will need to be included in the nationals budgets, and can be put in the Operating Procedures.	

9.3	LL advised that the judges were not happy about events at the paragliding accuracy nationals, and were looking for assurances off the panel that this would not happen again otherwise they might not turn up. It was noted that this would be difficult to do if the full process had not been gone through.	
	Meeting closed at 21.30	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.	

## Secretary Report August 2024

### June meeting actions:

5.4 Further investigations for a 4WD for the paragliding nationals proved fruitless.

7.1 Classic Accuracy Nationals entry forms and affidavit are on the website. Programme to be posted when available.

### Financial:

- £8,086 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 28/07/2024.
- No sign of the BHPA grant.
- Recent activity has been paragliding nationals fees, Euros entry fees (5 team pilots & manager) and July training camp fees.
- Tyron Paul owes £15 paragliding nationals camping fee.
- Waleed Chaudhry and James Scully both paid the entry fee for the paragliding nationals and have agreed to transfer the amounts to the classic nationals.
- The paragliding nationals is currently showing a £548 surplus, but there may be some further judging costs to come.
- Training camp fees are owed by Wayne Black, Tyron Paul, William Lawrence and Peter Cush.
- One panel radio is missing an aerial. Chris Haynes has advised a cost of £8 for a replacement.

### Skywings:

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

September – Paragliding Nationals

October – Classic Nationals

### Paragliding Nationals feed back:

1. Sourcing a 4WD vehicle necessary for Gyrn Moelfry proved fruitless, and will be a problem going forward. The Scout Landrover has four nominated drivers on the insurance policy. Long Mynd and Llangollen sites are driveable by car / minibus. Long Mynd has a landing field that is further away than the previous field, and will require a £100 booking fee for an event preferably one month in advance. Simon Sykes Jnr reported that the Royal Hill pub was totally full on Saturday night so we may not have been able to eat there for the nationals.
2. We ended up with no back-up winch at South Cerney, which would have been a disaster if the Birdwings winch had failed.

3. A hand written flying order and posting results on Whatsapp seemed to work well negating the need for a printer.
4. Judges need to be present at the first briefing, requiring the briefing time to be flexible or the judges to break off from setting up the target to get to the briefing on time.
5. We need a paragliding officer to help out with the nationals as I was totally over loaded with jobs.
6. Arthur did a brilliant job making South Cerney available at short notice.

Classic Nationals:

Tow Equipment, the scout LR is now serviceable so we have Birdwings winch and scout LR. Jamie's LR could possibly be a spare tow for the squares.

I was contacted by Andy Cowley about 2 weeks ago informing me that the silver plate trophy has now been renovated. He had been given the plate by Liz as Andy knew someone that he thought would be able to renovate it to a high standard. There was a fee of £150 which I have paid (on behalf of the panel) I asked him about the plinth, but he had not been asked to look into getting a plinth made.

Arthur

## Classic Accuracy / PA squad report August 2024

July squad weekend which was joint PA/PG at Green Dragons Airsports took place with PA comp on Saturday and PG comp on Sunday. The costs were stated by Green Dragons Airsports in advance as £150 per day, plus fuel costs. This agreed in advance was a good benefit so understanding the number of pilots committed gave a feel as to the affordability of the weekend depending on the number of pilots committing.

The number of pilots stated as attending didn't pan out, Some didn't attend and some were operating the towing rather than flying.

12 Pilots (+1) registered as PA accuracy pilots. Form forwarded to two pilots who attended at the weekend. One completed

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

One pilot landed with the tow line still attached when the line failed to release, it was released by the pilot after landing. On inspection by myself, the release is a riser used on a parachute systems 3 ring release system and this system has operated successfully for a number of years. It was found to take greater force to release than expected, combined with the very light line in use it remained attached. The pilot was given a spinnaker release for the remainder of the day which operated without incident. They are purchasing a replacement.

I flew the 3 ring yolk for the remaining flights and on each occasion it was necessary to pull the line free, which being aware of the issue was manageable.

Regards

Dave

## Rules Officer report Aug 24

### Actions from July minutes:

- LL has not phoned Stuart as it is believed that he will attend the Classic Nationals so can be spoken to in person (item 6.4)
- Dave agreed to add an extra background slide to the survey ppt before it goes in dropbox and is sent out (unless Mark is doing this, in which case he needs the latest version) (Item 10.1)

### Judging/rules:

- 2 trainee judges attended online seminars (plus two pilots). Both attended the Nationals. One is now qualified as a Cat 2 (National) judge (and is also trained to judge classic accuracy). The other did not judge the whole competition and needs further practice on some aspects, so qualification has been deferred until this is done.
- 7 judges (including trainees) present for at least part of Paragliding Nationals plus scorer and (now trained) wind measurer (Willow) and video operator (Jason).
- Expected judging expenses are £100 travel for Parki and £100 travel for Billy (may also be claim of up to £30 each from him and Charlotte towards accommodation – treasurer to confirm). All other judges were travelling with pilots except Jayne who does not wish to make a claim. No camping charges were made for officials.
- Some of the judges present during the competition have reservations about doing further judging in the UK after the events of the weekend. There may also be tension around judging with one particular individual in future. I'm working on this but it means that I am currently unable to confirm the judging line-up for the Classic Nationals.
- 2 judges were present for the joint July squad training – Jayne judging both disciplines and Josie judging paragliding.
- Liz has been invited by Andy Cowley to join a small new group on Basecamp for discussions on judging.

### Equipment

- Chris has been requested to look at an additional pole for the windsock so it is raised too far above the guy ropes to tangle in light wind and a collar to sit directly above the guy ropes on the anemometer and designed to hit the ground instead of the cups in case of accidental toppling.
- Will to source a second set of target pegs as we need spares.
- Andy S did not take the anemometer. Is it not being used for the PPG worlds or will we need to get it to him?

### Proposal:

If budget allows, the judges expenses policy should be extended (or a separate policy created) to cover other key officials (e.g. winch operator and launch marshal) if they are not also competing pilots and are not travelling and accommodated with a competing pilot.

Liz