

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 5th September 2024

Present: Mark Bignell MB Chairman
 Andy Webster AW Secretary
 Arthur Bentley AB Parascending Representative
 William Lawrence WL Paragliding Squad Manager
 Liz Lawrence LL Rules Officer
 Cherry McMahon CM Media & PR

| Item | Minute | Action |
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| 1 | Apologies | |
| 1.1 | Apologies were received from DC. | |
| 2 | Signing off last meeting minutes | |
| 2.1 | The minutes of meeting dated 1 st August 2024, with emailed amendments to 4.3, 5.2 and 7.1 were proposed by WL and seconded by LL. | |
| 3 | Chairman | |
| 3.1 | MB advised that the open letter response was deliberately not hard hitting or aggressive, and he had told Myrianthe Ewington not to expect anything ground breaking. However, most panel members would have preferred a stronger worded letter. The delay in responding was of concern and disgruntled people had expected a response at the classic nationals. MB advised that the panel had done its duty and the delay was by others. It was agreed to circulate the letter to squad pilots, judges (including Billy Elliston), and also post on the website. MB to email out a list of recipients for panel review, and then issue the letter by email. | MB |
| 4 | Secretary | |
| 4.1 | It was noted that Tyron Paul was racking up a debt, and it was agreed that he should not be allowed to participate in any other panel run activities until all monies had been paid. AW to advise him. | AW |
| 4.2 | MB advised that he had sent the final accounts to Bill Bell, and will chase him up about the grant. | MB |
| 4.3 | It was agreed that Waleed Chaudhry should be refunded the full amount for the classic nationals, as he had not flown at all due to family issues. AW to arrange the refund. | AW |
| 5 | Media & PR | |
| 5.1 | CM advised that Ben Woodcock was happy to continue his work on the website once the open letter had been responded to. AW to advise Ben what pages he has amended in the interim. | AW |
| 5.2 | CM advised that she intended to promote the Euros. | CM |
| 5.3 | CM to review the 50 th BAC sponsorship document that AW had forwarded to her. | CM |
| 5.4 | LL to contact Stuart Short about the facebook group password. | LL |
| 6 | Classic Accuracy | |
| 6.1 | AB to present AW's proposal on the Grand Prix tie break rule to EPAC. | AB |
| 6.2 | AB advised that due to availability of people, the Birdwings competition will now be held on 12/13 th October. | |
| 6.3 | AB advised that he is in the process of recovering monies for a double payment of the toilets for the classic nationals. | AB |

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| 7 | Paragliding Nationals | |
| 7.1 | It was acknowledged that some people were disappointed that the paragliding nationals was not a hill launch competition when it had been advertised as a hill competition with a tow back-up. It was noted that the venue was chosen based on the weather, but in the end the weather may have been ok on a hill site. AW advised the difficulties of organising a 4WD vehicle needed for Gyrn Moelfre. | |
| 7.2 | It was acknowledged that the panel workload needs to be shared more evenly at future events. | |
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| 8 | Paragliding Accuracy Squad | |
| 8.1 | WL advised that he had sent the Paragliding Squad Code of Conduct to Jenny Buck and Marc Asquith, but had not had any comments back so assumed it was accepted. | |
| 8.2 | WL advised the following about the Czech overseas training camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The thermic low wind conditions were typically what UK pilots are not good at, so it was good practise. - It was difficult to provide coaching as UK pilots had been bunched together in the flying order, with the order being determined by the order of registration. - More UK pilots attending at an event gives more opportunity of coaching. - WL to review how squad pilots can benefit more from an overseas event. - Flying in rain requires use of the speed bar and flicks of the brakes to remove water. Possibly lighter cloth is affected the most. | WL |
| 8.3 | AW advised that funding Cat 2 competitions could be an issue in the future as reserves are being drawn down very quickly by more expensive Cat 1 events. It was suggested that funding only be provided for an overseas training camp in the future. | |
| 8.4 | WL advised that there would be no changes to the selection criteria scoring system for 2025, and clarified that if a competition or training camp spans two months, then the first day will determine the month used in the selection process. WL to complete the 2025 selection criteria document for publication on the website. | WL |
| 8.5 | It was agreed that the squad jackets should be priced at £55. WL to ask Jonathan Parkinson to pay the bill for the jackets, and squad members to pay into the BHPA account. | WL |
| | | |
| 9 | Paragliding Accuracy Euros | |
| 9.1 | MB advised that Matt Bignell had broken a bone and dislocated his shoulder in an accident at the Prague competition, but should be ok for the Euros. | |
| 9.2 | AW confirmed that team pilots and manager had all been paid the agreed £400 funding. | |
| 9.3 | MB confirmed that the NAC form had been issued to the Euros organisers. | |
| 9.4 | MB confirmed that everyone had booked flights, and transfers were to be by hire car. | |
| 9.5 | MB to organise kit for Colin Jones. WL to send details of the previous clothing order. AW to send a pdf of the artwork. | MB / WL AW |
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| 10 | Rules / Judging | |
| 10.1 | LL reported that it took a long time to review video footage at the Czech Open. Also the cameras were too high up to indicate bum strikes. | |

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| 10.2 | LL advised that Chris Haynes had rotated the windsock through 180 degrees so that the faded colours were on the underside, and the colours could be seen from above. It was noted that the colours will fade over time. | |
| 10.3 | LL advised that the new pad had not been used in anger as it needs a good thump to activate it. Chris Haynes is having a look at it. | |
| 10.4 | It was noted that DC had now provided an introduction for the power point presentation of the panel survey. AW to publish on the website. | AW |
| | | |
| 11 | AOB | |
| 11.1 | LL advised that Jonathan Parkinson works nights so can't attend panel meetings, but he is prepared to have a more active role on the panel. It was agreed to copy Jonathan Parkinson into panel email correspondence. | |
| 11.2 | There was a belief that accuracy needed to grow more numbers to attract more panel members, and people would be reluctant to join the panel if it appeared to be in difficulties. | |
| 11.3 | It was agreed that pilot meetings should take place at the national championships. | |
| 11.4 | It was noted that sponsorship for national championships could be in the form of food for pilots and judges. | |
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| | Meeting closed at 21.20 | |
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| | Date of next meeting | |
| | As the scheduled October meeting will be at the start of the Euros, it was agreed that the date of the October meeting will be agreed by a Whatsapp poll. | Panel |

Secretary Report September 2024

August meeting actions:

4.3 Produced a list of activities done at the paragliding nationals that need to be spread more evenly between panel members.

8.6 Advised funding of £660 per pilot provided at the 2023 Worlds.

Financial:

- £4,892 currently in the BHPA Accuracy Panel account as of 31/08/2024.
- No sign of the BHPA grant. Mark is chasing up.
- Recent activity has been Czech competition Cat 2 funding, classic nationals and Cat 1 pilot funding.
- Tyron Paul owes £15 paragliding nationals camping fee, £110 classic nationals fees and £60 training camp fees.
- Training camp fees are owed for the June paragliding training camp by five pilots – WL to chase up. Also Waleed owes £15 for the July training camp.
- James Scully to be reimbursed for the nationals.
- Should Waleed Chaudhry be re-funded for the classic nationals as he did not have a flight?

Skywings:

September – Paragliding Nationals

October – Classic Nationals

November – Prague / World Cup?

Proposal – Grand Prix tie break rule

'If there is a tie when all Grand Prix points are added together, the total distance scored by each of the tied individuals from each of the Grand Prix competitions is added together. The individual with the lowest total distance scored will be declared the winner. If one of the individuals did not compete in all of the validated competitions, a distance of 2.5m will be awarded for each tow that the individual missed during that competition. If there is still a tie, the individual with the most recorded 0.00cm from all validated competitions will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, 2cm scores will be considered then 3cm etc'.

This year tie breaks have been resolved using the distance of 2.5m rule, but it seems unfair to me as per the example of Bruno Lautard and Richard Bissett this year. Both got 50 points for winning their respective competitions. Under the tie break rule Richard missed the 5 round French competition so carries 12.50m, whereas Bruno missed the 4 round UK

competition so only carries 10.00m. My concern is that the 2.50m difference in carried scores does not separate the pilots by skill. I would therefore propose that the total distance scores only be applied where pilots have attended the same competitions. If this has not happened then I feel best scores would be more appropriate to separate the pilots.

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report September 2024

August squad weekend at Birdwings was cancelled due to the poor forecast and lack of pilots committed to attend.

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

Accuracy safety:
Nothing to report

Near misses:
Nothing to report

Regards
Dave

BHPA ACCURACY PANEL MONTHLY REPORT.

SEPTEMBER – PARASCENDING

1. With a very unfavourable weather forecast for the Classic National Championships, four rounds were completed with Richard B winning the 2024 Individual category and Birdwings (DC, RB and AW) becoming Team champions.
2. The scores from this comp were used to calculate the European Accuracy Grand Prix points which were added to the points gained in France, and the Grand Prix winners for 2024 were:
3. Individual - Dave C (Runner-up – Gary O)

Team – Birdwings – Dave C – Richard B – Andy W – Gary O – Arthur B

4 Birdwings Annual Comp.

Almost every date that was considered, there was at least one problem with it to justify considering an alternative date.

21 Sep – Arnhem weekend (80 year memorial.

6 Oct – Current reigning champion away therefore unable to defend his title.

13 Oct – This is my proposal for the annual competition and the presentation of the Classic Accuracy League Champion 2024.

Regards,

Arthur

Hi all,

Overseas Squad training was a success with 7 pilots and 3 judges attending, I think, and I believe the pilots who attended would agree that we should aim to continue with at least 1 overseas training a year.

The only potential issue with the location chosen was the difficulty level for our less experience pilots, I will aim to find a location with easier take offs and larger landing zones for next time.

My aim will be to do this earlier next year between march and may when the weather in the UK is consistently unpleasant.

I would also like to revisit the point potential for the overseas squad training as it is run as both a CAT 2 and a squad event, I feel points should be awarded in both categories.

I have included the latest Jacket quote; I believe it is now all accurate and correct and will contact Parki to send the money once the panel has checked and is happy to proceed.

I have updated squad selection after the Prague comp and included the updated WRPS, the UK has climbed to 22 overall and we are on tract to reach top 20.

Next squad training will be with the Classics and SC, no backup locations have been chosen.

William

Rules Officer report Sept 24

Ongoing action 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) – not sure if this happened. If not, I will ring him.

No actions from August minutes

Judging/rules:

- 6 UK judges (one in training) and one French judge present for Classic Nationals plus scorer and wind measurer (Willow). Pilots also assisted as needed. Video backup relied on Dave's equipment and a phone – operated by front strike as no spare people.
- No rules issues at Classic Nationals, although it is advisable to maintain parity in number of rounds between classics and paragliders except for pilots specifically catching up or banking flights in accordance with the rules. I suggest that no changes are needed to classic/EPAC rules for next year unless other panel members or EPAC have proposals. These will need to be made before the EPAC meeting. Does the panel want me to email Jacques and Ed?
- Expected judging expenses from Classic Nationals are £100 travel for Parki and mileage (amount as yet unknown) for Del.
- Judging expenses have also been paid for overseas squad training (Czech competition) - £120 each travel and accommodation to Josie and Liz and £20 for accommodation to Nikki.
- Some expenses claims from Paragliding Nationals still outstanding.
- One judge has reached eligibility for payment of non-flying BHPA membership and another is entitled to half payment. One more judge should be able to claim full non-flying membership by the end of the year.

Request for feedback on how the video recording system operated at the Prague competition. Note that video for bum/2-foot landings at the Czech Open was not always helpful as the cameras were too far above the ground.

Equipment

- Will has now bought additional target pegs as spares (have these been claimed for?).
- Chris has turned the windsock upside down so that the less faded parts are showing and visibility is improved.
- No action as yet on collar for the windsock
- One of the older pads needs checking for accuracy by Chris. The new pad seems to be very hard to trigger.

Liz