

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 5th December 2024

Present:	Mark Bignell	MB	Chairman
	Andy Webster	AW	Secretary
	Arthur Bentley	AB	Parascending Representative
	Liz Lawrence	LL	Rules Officer
	Dave Crowhurst	DC	Classic Officer
	Colin Jones	CJ	Paragliding

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from CM & WL.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 7 th November 2024 were reviewed, and it was agreed to add a post meeting note to minute 8.4 advising that Ben Woodcock is allowed to fly at Green Dragons sites. The minutes were proposed by LL and seconded by DC.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	Colin Jones was welcomed to the panel, and was given access to Dropbox by MB.	
3.2	MB advised that he had forwarded the citation for the panel nomination to Bill Bell.	
3.3	MB advised that he had been devoting time to CIVL, and the following topics had recently been discussed on Basecamp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knock out system. - Cat 1 team size. - Measuring up to 15 / 16cm only. - Reducing the number of judges. - Moving from Texair to PATpad measuring equipment. 	
3.4	MB advised that he had put his Exec report in the Dropbox.	
4	Treasurer	
4.1	It was noted that Tyron Paul's debts had been paid off by a loan from Matt Bignell.	
4.2	It was noted that Mark Bignell, Matt Bignell and Andy Shaw had all paid £55 cash to WL for the squad jackets. WL to put this money in the BHPA Accuracy account.	WL
4.3	There was agreement to the 2024 Classic Accuracy accounts that now show a £66 UK contribution for the Grand Prix subs.	
4.4	It was noted that JP is in discussions with Bill Bell about the 2023/4 final accounts.	
5	Media & PR	
5.1	The use of various messaging services were discussed for general paragliding accuracy chat. It was noted that not everyone uses facebook, and facebook does not deliver information to everyone on a group. Also people are still using squad whatsapp groups for general chat that risks losing information if irrelevant posts are not deleted. CJ suggested using Telegram as topics can be created within it for discussions on individual subjects. CJ to further discuss with CM.	CJ, CM

5.2	MB advised that he had received a request to change the 'Accuracy Chat' Whatsapp group to 'BHPA Accuracy Chat', but it was agreed to stick with 'Accuracy Chat'.	
5.3	There was a general feeling that an accuracy video suggested by CM would be a good idea for social media.	
	It was noted that CM had been using facebook and Instagram, and CJ suggested using Tik Tok as well noting that content can be shared between different platforms. Also pilots should like and share content to promote the sport. It was noted that facebook uses algorithms to share content rather than issuing content to everyone, therefore sharing content will spread content further.	
5.4	CM to forward the accuracy publicity brochure for review by the panel.	CM
5.5	It was agreed that AB should go ahead with the £130 engraving costs on the Pegasus Grand Prix team trophy, and seek contributions from France and Holland.	AB
5.6	DC advised that the Grand Prix individual trophy was last engraved in 2019. AB to arrange engraving on this trophy too.	AB
6	Classic Accuracy	
6.1	AB advised that Jacques Lecamus was quite down about the lack of accuracy interest at GIPS. It was agreed that AB should write a letter to Jacques thanking him for all his EPAC work over the years.	AB
7	Classic Accuracy Squad	
7.1	DC advised that pilot comms for the November training camp were poor, and based on this additional tow lines could not be justified. There was a consensus that the November weekend had been a great event with just one winch, and joint events are good to have.	
7.2	AW to post the training camp dates on the website, emphasising that parascending training camps are generally the second weekend of the month and paragliding events are generally the third weekend of the month. AB advised that he can't do the 11/12 th January weekend.	AW
8	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
8.1	CJ advised that he was looking at Shropshire / Welsh sites including Long Mynd, Black Knoll and YX school sites. Also he is looking to organise a pad and mat for the accuracy side of the Long Mynd club.	
9	Paragliding Accuracy Euros	
9.1	MB advised that jackets were worn at the closing ceremony as it was a cold evening.	
9.2	DC advised that he and AW were preparing a report on the complaint, but it is not ready for issue to the panel yet as there were still a few items to investigate. DC & AW to issue the report to the panel when ready.	DC, AW
9.3	It was noted that the current team kit has been used for some years, and WL will be providing a proposal for future kit.	WL
10	Rules / Judging	
10.1	Regarding LL's rewording of the bonus system in the competitions part of the paragliding accuracy selection criteria, AW felt that the use of the phrase 'squad FAI' could create some confusion. It was noted that UK competitions don't necessarily need FAI status as long as they are run to FAI rules. LL to re-look at the wording.	LL

10.2	With regard to league scoring AW, explained that multiple pilots who do not register a score in a competition get one point each in the league. The next pilot up who does achieve a score gets points based on the number of pilots beaten.	
10.3	There was agreement to continue with the same judging expenses into 2025, with a change such that judges can claim accommodation costs at a squad training weekend in cold weather conditions.	
11	AOB	
11.1	As WL has announced that the paragliding nationals will take place in the second half of June then the competition will either be the weekend of 21/22 nd or 28/29 th . The date will be dependent on site negotiations by WL.	WL
11.2	It was noted that Green Dragons are setting up the British Accuracy Pilots Academy (BAPC) again. There was some concern that this undermined what the squads were doing, but it was noted that any club could set up an academy. In addition selection for the UK paragliding team can only be achieved via the squad. Green Dragons also announced that they will hold four FAI BAC events in 2025, and there was an expectation that not many international pilots will attend due to UK costs.	
11.3	MB requested 160 euros for a PATpad interphase unit that would connect to a laptop, this would provide a larger screen and logging of scores. It was noted that a smoother would be required if a laptop was powered off a generator. Also screencast could be used to display an ipad onto a TV. It was agreed to hold off buying an interphase unit while version 2 of the PATpad is being progressed.	
	Meeting closed at 22.01	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 2nd January 2024.	

December Treasurer Report

As it stands the panel currently has £3245.48 in the accounts.

There is no sign of any grant from the BHPA as of yet. Bill Bell has informed me that he needs a lot more background info which I have hopefully supplied (I redacted all personal financial info) and he will hopefully get this sorted. The info requested is so he can answer any queries when talking to the BHPA auditors.

Luckily, I started keeping more detailed records a few years ago.

Going forward I have requested that a framework of what is expected be put in place so I can sort the relevant information as I go along.

The panel is currently owed money from various people. The breakdown is as follows do we can chase people up.

Squad Jackets

£440 Sue Britnell, J Lawrence & A Webster are the only people to have paid for a jacket. Need a refund for Josie's (£55).

~~Tyron Paul~~

£165 for various Nationals & squad costs. I have sent him a breakdown of all he owes but I have had no reply. **Paid by Mark Bignell on 25th November**

Mark Bignell

£20 for November Squad

Matt Bignell

£20 for November Squad

Andy Shaw

£20 for November Squad

Will Lawrence

£35 for November Squad

A per Liz's request the following judging expenses have been claimed this financial year.

J Parkinson £200 (2 x Nationals mileage costs)

N Bodill £82 (Non flying membership)

L Lawrence £120 (overseas squad £100 travel & £20 accommodation)

H Statham £92 (no flying membership)

J Ewington £120 (overseas squad £100 travel & £20 accommodation)

Secretary Report December 2024

November meeting actions:

3.8 Citation written.

9.4 Complaint review ongoing

Skywings:

December – Euros by Mark Bignell

January – North Macedonia European Cup by Myri Ewington

February – Propose WPRS, accuracy awards, records, PG league

Media & PR Report

Below is my monthly report, unfortunately I will not be in attendance as I am having my first proper holiday after 4 years of not having one. Whilst I love seeing all your pretty faces, I will still be missing it!

In relation to the brochure.

Attached is the design for the brochure with what I believe is good quality photos that best represent accuracy as a division. Please review and if you disagree or have any other photos you wish to be considered I will do so. I have got a couple of quotes of which the approximate estimate for the brochures at 500 is between £94.50- 135.00 or £194 for 1000. Please could you advise, Parki, on the approximate budget we could spare for this. As a trial piece to see how successful these are in attracting new interest, I vote 500 will be enough and should we require more then this can be reviewed at that time.

Social media:

For the European championships we put out approximately 10 post on Instagram and 6 on Facebook.

I decided this year to do a team profile post which contributed to the number of posts on both pages. These posts highlighted the individuals in the team and allowed a bit of their personalities to shine to viewers through questions regarding them, their experiences, show of their equipment and a small part on what they looked forward to for the competition. These appeared to be rather well taken by viewers and looked good on the socials. These answers were also accompanied by photos that showed pilots in their best accuracy approaches with a portion of their wing included as well as a small profile photo.

In relation to Facebook, the pilot profile from the post I made reached 522 viewers feeds. (Please be aware just because it was on their feed doesn't mean they interacted or necessarily saw it, if you open your phone with Facebook already open and immediately go off the app this still counts as "reaching someone's feed"). Whilst this may not sound impressive as it could be, the more viewers we can reach the better the chance of success there is for social growth. 25 people interacted with the post in one way or another of which 5 were from the panel so thank you to those who interacted.

For other post on Facebook referencing the top brit Matt during the competition he received a total of 300 feeds reached of which many could be different or the same

Our best Facebook post was the congratulatory post of the whole team at the end of the competition which reached 813 feeds and had a total of 37 interactions. This is great.

In relation to Instagram,

Pilot profiles did exceedingly well as well. On Instagram there is a features to see account activity, how many viewers are pilot related and how many are non followers. On several posts 90% of viewers were non followers whose have had their pages reached on their feeds or have clicked on the posts from stories or seeing it via other means of people sharing the posts etc. This is a really good stepping stone, however

when it came to interactions there were a lower number of people interacting. Why? This is something I'm working towards. Posts need to be engaging, good quality and something that the general public will be able to relate to in any way or find enjoyable to see. This can be done through choice of music, type of post (reels, photos, stories), post content. I feel that whilst there is a good level of photo quality, people who don't know enough about paragliding are less likely to be interested in viewing and interacting. So it's finding a balance. I would like to incorporate well put together videos however, this comes again with good quality videos from others to put together. I also want to include funny videos to balance out the serious nature it can be but without making the platforms more of a general comedy account. Maybe some blooper videos, some trick videos etc. REDBULL, UP etc all do some of these that capture viewers from all over, whilst we are nowhere near that level it will help.

2025 Nationals:

William and I aim to be sending out sponsorship letter by the end of this month in relation to the Nationals, its around this time that companies review their sponsorship budget for the year. Whilst I appreciate we haven't officially booked things for the nationals yet we do need to start the conversations with companies for sponsorship. Official Accuracy accounts will be advertising any sponsors we have. However, it would be greatly appreciated if panel members could also advertise these sponsors. I will make it clear here IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT OR FORCED REQUEST. Your socials are your choice and whilst there has been pressure in the past to be involved against your agreement or choice, this will not be the case. That being said your involvement will look good for the sport as a whole, but if you don't wish to post or share please could I ask you interact in one way or another.

Are there any companies people would like to suggest to go to for sponsorship any close friends, family or local businesses that could benefit from our advertisement. To be clear it doesn't need to be money that is sponsored, judges food would be a great choice for sponsorship agreements.

I appreciate this was a long report and many may have questions, please email or WhatsApp me on the panel chat and I will answer as and when I can.

Have a good one, and welcome Colin to the panel, we look forward to seeing your input and hope you learn a lot from joining us.

Cherry

BHPA ACCURACY PANEL MONTHLY REPORT- PARACENDING

DECEMBER

1. GRAND PRIX Provisional dates for the 2025 are: France - GIPs 10/11 May. UK - South Cerney 23/24/25 Aug. There are no dates yet for NL but the most likely dates will be 6/7 Sep.
2. GIPs. At the November GIPs meeting, Gilles Lambard, the new President of the club stated that the proposed date for the Fr comp is 10/11 May. I had suggested 17/18 May but these dates clashed with another event, Jacques has told me that he is concerned for the future of GIPs as there are very few members that have an interest in accuracy. Although he told me that he is feeling very 'low' because of the GIPs situation, and he feels that he needs to get away for a while, he does intend to be at the Calais meeting and he will be asking Gilles to be there to officially represent France.
3. I think it would be appropriate to prepare a letter, thanking Jacques for his contribution and support over so many years as he French representative of EPAC.

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report November 2024

November squad weekend was another joint weekend. As I was the only pilot there to fly parascending there was no competition. A good number of flights were completed in what was challenging conditions, assisted by the paragliding pilots.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

Nothing to report

Based on the already stated pretext of PA squads on the 2nd weekends the following are proposed for 2025. Known possible clashes shown

Jan 11-12

Feb 8-9

Mar 8-9 (GD trip to USA, 3rd-14th the following weekend is likely to be return travel)

Apr 12-13

May 10-11

Jun 14-15 (Father's day)

Jul 12-13

Aug 9-10

Sep 12-13 (Dutch/Belgian parachute nationals)

Oct 11-12

Nov 8-9

Dec 13-14

Regards

Dave

Paragliding Squad Manager Report

I will be away for the upcoming meeting so will read minutes after, please send me anything that I need to action on WhatsApp and email

Below are suggested squad training dates, please check they work with PA squad etc and I will notify squad.

Squad training dates -

January 11-12th / Backup 18-19th (Joint PA)

February 15-16th / Backup 22-23rd

March 8-9th / Backup 15-16th (Joint PSA)

April 19-20 / Backup 26-27th

May 10-11th / Backup (17-18th Joint PA)

June 7-8th / Backup 14-15th (changed sequence as Nationals should be in 2nd half of June)

For Colin

Club plus the sites we have current permission to use

SHGC - Newhaven Cliffs

GD - Sticks bowl, SW Bowl, Pilgrims Farm, Kennel Farm

SC - with Arthur

TVHGC - Combe Gibbet

Long Mynd - Long Mynd

Sewhgpgc - no agreed sites yet need to visit and work out which are viable

Nwhgpc - Llangollen, Gyrn Moelfre

I have updated the chats name and added Dave as admin, please ask which PA members wish to join and we can add them

The Code of conduct was changed with the updated disciplinary and grievance procedure and agreed a while ago. No changes have been made since.

It covers both, as even within a team setting they are squad members and are expected to act accordingly.

Acceptance letters sent, internet is not working great at the moment could find Colins, if he is attending Meeting may be able to forward his.

Regards

William

Rules Officer report Dec 24

Action from previous minutes

8.3 WL advised that a squad pilot wanted more clarification on the bonus points wording in the selection criteria, as they felt it was not clear whether bonus points were in addition to or a replacement for standard points. LL to review the wording.

I have looked at it and to be honest it seems pretty clear to me. The possible confusion might be between the words additional and bonus and from not defining the points system but only referring back to league rules so I propose that we amend to:

- Same point scoring system as the paragliding accuracy league will be used but only includes squad pilots i.e.
 - o At each competition the number of squad FAI competition points awarded to the top placed British pilot will be equivalent to the number of British pilots in attendance up to a maximum limit of 30 points. The second placed British pilot will get one less point and so on. Tied pilots will get the same score that is equivalent to the higher placing they occupy. Pilots who gain the maximum score in a competition (ZAP every round) will only get one point, however, pilots who do achieve scores will still be awarded points based on the number of pilots that they have beaten.
- Bonus points, in addition to the squad FAI competition points, will be awarded for good performance where there are ten or less pilots attending a competition as follows:

I hope this will make it clear that the additional points are the same as the bonus points referred to in the table. It also avoids having to refer to a separate document and defines squad FAI competition points as distinct from bonus points to help clarify that bonus points are additional.

However, I am not entirely sure of the purpose of these words from the league scoring system however, pilots who do achieve scores will still be awarded points based on the number of pilots that they have beaten.

Judging/rules

- 2 judges attended Nov Paragliding squad training (no classic competition due to low attendance). No travel expenses were claimed.
- Summary for the year:
6 judges have attended squad training (4 with greater frequency). A further 4 have judged at competitions giving a total of 10 active judges (some much more active than others), plus Willow as recorder/wind monitor. Next year I anticipate 6/7 judges and hope to see the return of Judith.
- Basecamp is currently very active discussing rules change proposals for the upcoming plenary. Many new pilot members have been added. Discussions threads covering:
 - o Min/max team sizes
 - o Knock-out
 - o Trialling 15cm pad-only scoring
 - o Age for junior category
 - o Signing for scores

Once there is agreement on the wording proposals we will need to make our views about them known to our voting rep (and figure out how to make sure he votes as we want!).

Proposal

Are we happy to keep judge expenses policy the same for next year (current one attached). I will need to reissue it, or an amended version, for 2025. I have asked Parki to separate out the cost of judges expenses this year to inform the discussion.

Liz