

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 2nd January 2025

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from CJ.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 5 th December 2024 were proposed by WL and seconded by LL, noting that BAPC is not a full acronym of British Accuracy Pilots Academy.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that the panel was doing quite well on most of the proposed actions identified in the Panel Effectiveness Survey, but needs to address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission statement. - Coaching system. - New / young pilot development. 	
3.2	It was noted that the Operating Procedures have goals, and a mission statement describes how you achieve your goals.	
3.3	MB to canvas opinions on a coaching system. It was noted that a BHPA coach needs to be competent in what they are coaching, however, MB felt that a coach to an elite pilot is different and doesn't need to be a pilot.	MB
3.4	It was noted that the Manston Air Cadets offer a youth development opportunity. The operation is run by Green Dragons, and they are mainly flying round canopies. It was felt that the panel should make the Air Cadets aware of its accuracy role and ask if the panel could help in any way. It was suggested that a squad demonstration event could be carried out at Manston. Also accuracy brochures and an old pad could be given to the Air Cadets. MB advised that he will be involved a few times a year with the Air Cadets and will report back on developments.	MB
4	Treasurer	
4.1	MB advised that he had paid for a squad jacket.	
4.2	WL advised that he had paid his outstanding squad fee.	
4.3	It was noted that the squad had only spent approximately £250 of last year's £1,000 budget. DC to review the parascending fees and with a view to increasing the number of free flights.	DC
4.4	With regard to the Annual Plan, the following were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add a sum for the Green Dragons Airsports competition sanction fees. - Add a sum for Nikki Bodill to attend the EPAC meeting. - The £600 free use of the airfield for the classic nationals should be identified in the Sponsorship amount column. 	

	AW to update the plan.	AW
4.5	WL queried if annual airports insurance policies were available to competition pilots. It was believed that annual policies were not available for competitions, however, standard policies were available with an additional premium for each competition.	
5	Secretary	
5.1	Proposal 1 – ‘Returnable trophy possession expectations’ was agreed with additional wording; ‘Costs will be refunded by the Accuracy Panel on submission of a completed expenses form and an itemised receipt to the panel treasurer’. AW / LL to include in the nationals rules.	AW,LL
5.2	Proposal 2 – ‘Team Manager role for the Operating Procedures’. It was agreed to reinstate the role with an additional item on the Team Manager reporting back on team pilots’ behaviour / compliance with the Code of Conduct. AW to add to the Operating Procedures.	AW
6	Media & PR	
6.1	CM advised that the new website layout was now live, and this had been announced on the WhatsApp group. It was suggested that a ‘How hear about us?’ function be added. Panel members to advise if any forms need updating. Panel members to thank Ben Woodcock for his work. AW to update the photo gallery.	Panel Panel AW
6.2	It was noted that the create an account and RSVP for events may need some tweaks. CM to advise it will take a few days for registration to go through. The website ‘contact us’ is set up as follows: Classic Squad - DC Paragliding Squad – WL General – All panel members	
6.3	CM advised that she was not happy with the quality of the technical articles on the website, and suggested the text be reproduced instead. DC and AW to provide word documents where possible.	DC, AW
6.4	CM advised that she had created a TikTok account.	
6.5	CM advised that DC’s comments had been added to the accuracy promotional brochure, and Marc Asquith had agreed to the brochure being issued by the BHPA Office with Club Pilot packs. It was agreed to get 1000 brochures printed with 500 going to the BHPA Office. CM advised the printing costs would be approximately £100 for 500, and she will arrange procurement. It was agreed that a pdf of the brochure should also be put on the website.	CM
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	AB advised that he will send the thank you letter to Jacques.	AB
7.2	AB advised that he is trying to get winning Grand Prix team members names from 2012 to 2022 to complete the Grand Prix team trophy engraving. AW to review his records.	AW
7.3	AB suggested that Nikki Bodill’s expenses, to attend the annual EPAC meeting, be reimbursed by the panel. As Nikki is representing EPAC it was suggested that the expenses be split between the three countries. AB to contact EPAC about the expenses.	AB
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	

8.1	DC reiterated that the lack of pilot responses was making it difficult to arrange squad weekends. WL suggested that unresponsive squad pilots should be annoyed into submission.	
8.2	DC advised that pilots who do not register will have to pay full club rates at squad training.	
8.3	DC advised that more information was required on the Portuguese event before it can be fully promoted.	
9	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
9.1	DC suggested that the parascending selection criteria wording on hot and cold temperatures be added to the paragliding selection criteria. It was noted that judges do not have to attend training camps if they feel the temperatures will be too high or too low. WL to update the selection criteria.	WL
9.2	WL advised that he had amended the windmeter wording in the selection criteria stating that training camps should be arranged with the intention of using a windmeter. It was noted that a handheld windmeter was also an option.	
9.3	WL explained that it is preferred to measure scores up to 10m, and the revised selection criteria wording on the measured distance was to cover exceptional circumstances.	
9.4	It was noted that the selection period was nearly 13 months long now that the championships dates had been confirmed. WL to remove reference to 12 months in the selection criteria.	WL
10	2025 Paragliding Nationals	
10.1	WL advised that the Paragliding Nationals will be held in South Wales on 21/22 th June with 26/27 th July as the back-up weekend.	
10.2	CM advised that sponsorship letters for the paragliding nationals will be going out soon, and requested that panel members advise any potential sponsors. WL suggested that local 4WD clubs could be contacted about retrieves. CM suggested contacting the Royal British Legion and involving veterans. It was also suggested that the British Army Paragliding centre at Crickhowell be involved.	
10.3	WL enquired if the panel could organise airsports insurance for competitors to pay for at the nationals. DC commented that the insurance would have to cover public liability and repatriation, however, this would need to be in addition to standard travel insurance.	
10.4	AW to forward last year's nationals budget and checklist to WL.	AW
11	Paragliding Accuracy Euros	
11.2	WL to look at team kit.	WL
12	Rules / Judging	
12.1	It was agreed that judges would be able to claim accommodation expenses if the night time temperature was forecast to go below 2 degrees C between 8pm and 8am. LL to update the judges expenses wording.	LL
13	AOB	
13.1	MB advised that Green Dragons Airsports had requested that the panel pays the sanction fees for their four Cat 2 competitions at £140 each. Concerns were raised that this may not represent good investment due the expected low pilot quality compared to funding UK pilots at overseas competitions where the pilot quality will be higher. PMN	

	It was agreed that the panel would fund the sanction fees for the first two BAC competitions providing that at least 30% of the competitors were new to accuracy or not BHPA members and have competition licences. Also, both UK PG and PA Nationals are to be advertised on site at the events and on event social media. Funding for the last two events shall be considered later by the panel.	
13.2	WL to arrange a formal hand over of the Paragliding Accuracy League trophy to CJ with photos being taken.	
	Meeting closed at 22.20	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 6th February 2025.	

January 2025 Treasurer Report

As it stands the panel currently has £10305.48 in the accounts.

I have moved £6000 of the £7000 grant into the higher interest reserve account.

We have now received the 2024-25 grant from the BHPA. The hold up appeared to be questions on a number of items but these were more information queries than anything else. Going forward I am going to have to make sure all of the records that I keep are sent, not just the spreadsheets. It appears that they are wanting justification for all expenditure and proof and records of what we do. Luckily, I had started this a few years ago so it wasn't a major issue and I could account for everything.

Going forward

We need to carry on with the request forms. These need to be in excel form only as I need to provide copies to Bill. The copies I send have the bank details redacted, and I send a pdf copy.

No payments without a form or invoice.

No payments without proof of purchase/cost.

No personal loans – they are very clear on this.

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).

Will Lawrence

£35 for November Squad

Secretary Report January 2025

December meeting actions:

- 5.4 Commented on accuracy brochure.
- 7.2 2025 training camp dates posted on the website.
- 9.2 Complaint review on going.

Skywings:

- January – North Macedonia European Cup by Myri Ewington
- February – Accuracy Awards, Records, PG league, WPRS
- March – Propose 2025 competitions pre-season preview

Accuracy Panel report to Exec:

The report states that both national competitions ran at a small loss, however, both competitions made a small profit.

Proposal 1 – Returnable trophy possession expectations:

Proposed wording to be added to the national competition rules:

If you take possession of a returnable trophy, you must meet the following expectations.

- The trophy must be returned in time for its official award the following year.
- The trophy must be returned in the same condition as when it was presented, and any damage must be repaired and paid for by yourself.
- The trophy must be returned having been recently polished.
- The trophy must be engraved for the year you won the trophy. Costs will be refunded by the Accuracy Panel.

If you can't honour the above requirements then the Accuracy Panel will look after the trophy on your behalf.

Proposal 2 – Team Manager role for the Operating Procedures:

We had a Team Manager role in the Operating Procedures prior to the major re-write following the ill-fated 2019 AGM. Further to recent events I feel the role should be re-instated in the Operating Procedures as proposed below:

Team Manager duties:

- Agree budget for UK Team.
- Ensure all relevant pilots have registered online.
- Arrange for UK Team entry form to be signed by NAC and issued to the championships organisers.
- Arrange entry fee payments.
- Ensure pilots are aware of what up to date documentation (UK Global Health Insurance card, passport, FAI licence, BHPA membership, BHPA liability insurance, Airsports insurance) and other items they are required to take to a championships.
- Organise team publicity in conjunction with the Media & PR Officer to attract potential sponsors.
- Organise team kit / uniform for the championships suitable for the expected temperatures.
- Agree flying order.
- Register the UK Team at the championships.
- Attend team briefings at a championships and brief the UK Team.
- Collate team members mobile phone numbers, Airsports insurance details.
- Wherever possible, ensure pilots are up in the morning and on time for competition flights, opening and closing ceremonies.
- Organise food, drink and transport during a championships.
- Make rules and protest sheets available for the UK team during a championships. Assist with the preparation of any UK protest and submit any UK protest.
- Raise any team flying / competition issues / complaints with the appropriate officials.
- Record scores and check published results of UK pilots and other teams where possible during a competition.
- Wherever possible, ensure team bills, including accommodation and transfers, are paid.

BHPA ACCURACY PANEL MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY

I have drafted a letter to be sent to Jacques. Once it has successfully passed the scrutiny of the panel, I will send it to Jacques. Please see below:

My Address / Date

1. Dear Jacques,

I am writing on behalf of the BHPA Accuracy Panel to let you know that we have greatly appreciated your tri-nation involvement while being a member of the European Parascending Accuracy Committee (EPAC) for so many years.

We were saddened and concerned when you announced that you were stepping down from your position of President of GIPs but somewhat relieved and pleased when we heard that you would be continuing to be the French representative on the EPAC.

I personally have found your decision making and suggestions throughout the years without fault, useful, and the EPAC would definitely be less efficient without you. I also would like you to know that you have always been highly respected by the UK pilots involved in our sport and I hope that we will still continue to enjoy your presence in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

2. Grand Prix Team Trophy engraving. Plynth engraving is completed and names of the winning team individuals being engraved on the shields is ongoing.
3. Grand Prix Individual Trophy engraving. If I can get the trophy when I meet up with DC on 18 Jan I will start the process of getting the trophy brought up to date.
4. The cost of engraving for teams and individuals from Fr and NL will be discussed at the EPAC meeting on 18 Jan.

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report January 2025

December squad weekend was cancelled, weather wasn't great, but only 2 PA pilots committed.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

Nothing to report

13 pilots registered during the year

5 weekends of squad took place with 7 cancelled, combination of weather and not having communications from pilots. Avoiding Scout weekends would also assist in numbers.

Communications

Of the 13 pilots registered over the 11 squads, 3 communicated 11 times, 1 x 10 times, 2 x 8 times, 1 x 4 times, 1 x 3 times, 3 x 2 times and 2 didn't communicate

New registration form for 2025 on WhatsApp.

Regards

Dave

Rules Officer report Jan 25

Action from previous minutes

- 10.1 – LL and WL looked again at wording for selection criteria. WL has the edited version.
- 10.3 – before new expenses policy is issued do we need to define cold weather conditions. Selection criteria state 'Training camps should not be held where the temperature is forecast to be below 5 degrees'. Not sure we hold to this, but if we do then do we need to worry about cold weather camping for judges or does there need to be a specification of overnight temperature?

Judging/rules

- Continuing to contribute to Basecamp discussions. No firm proposals yet.
- No judges required in Dec so end of year summary of judging activity is as in report to December meeting.

Liz