

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 6th March 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
	William Lawrence	WL	Paragliding Squad Manager
	Sue Britnell	SB	Sponsorship
	Colin Jones	CJ	Paragliding Sites
	Cherry McMahon	CM	Media & PR

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	No apologies were received.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes dated 6 th February were proposed by LL and seconded by DC.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	<p>MB advised that pilots without FAI licences had been removed from the BAC1 results, and the results had been accepted by the FAI despite some infringements. MB advised that Igor said some leeway can be given in Cat 2 competition results. Concerns were raised that the panel could be held responsible for these infringements despite not being involved in the organisation of the BAC events. MB advised that he will be a link between the panel and the BAC.</p> <p>It was noted that Jobin Yendayar had an Indian FAI licence, but could still fly for the UK if he hasn't flown for an Indian team.</p> <p>It was noted that all pilots who had a BHPA licence qualify for the UK league even if they do not have an FAI licence.</p>	
3.2	LL advised that Andy Shaw had told her that he had enough senior judges for all of the BAC events. Also Andy Cowley had told her that he had not been the person who authorised Sabina Mihailescu to run the judges seminar. MB advised that none of the judges who did the theory session achieved sufficient practical training to become qualified.	
3.3	SB advised that she still wanted a meeting following the complaint, and noted that sponsorship is not related to team kit.	
3.4	CM to find out if Chris Haynes is sponsored as stated in a recent post by Andy Shaw to avoid any issues.	CM
3.5	MB to speak to Bill Bell about funding of UK Cat 2 sanction fees.	MB
3.6	MB advised that he had found the personal / team sponsorship etiquette wording on the internet. CM / SB to summarise the wording for use with the UK team.	CM, SB
4	Treasurer	
4.1	JP's resignation email was noted. CM to advertise the role on the WhatsApp chat group, noting that the treasurer does not need to attend panel meetings.	CM
4.2	CM to put in a claim for the brochures that will offset squad fees that are owed.	CM
5	Secretary	

6	Media & PR	
6.1	CM produced a detailed report, and any additional items are detailed below.	
6.2	CM advised that brochures had been sent to the BHPA office and will be issued with Club Pilot packs. It was noted that pilots need to be engaged as early as possible before they get involved with XC. It was felt that engaging with Elementary Pilots could be too early for squad involvement as they require an instructor. Targeting schools with the brochure was also considered to be a good method for attracting new pilots.	
6.3	The use of a £10 boost was raised, it was felt that consistent posts needs to be built up first.	
6.4	CJ advised that he used the Capcut video editing software for his social media. WL advised that he had video editing software with music permissions.	
6.5	CM requested that if anyone finds old stray web pages, they should report it to her.	
6.6	DC requested to know which squad pilots had registered on the website – CM to advise. It was agreed that any squad pilots who had not responded on the website would not be able to take part in the squad weekends - WL to advise this on the WhatsApp group. In addition it was agreed that squad pilots should advise they are attending a training camp on the website even if they may not be fully certain they they can attend.	CM WL
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	AB advised that a new inscription form had been received for the French competition, where there would be a maximum 8 flights at 6euros per flight.	
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	
8.1	It was noted that the website had listed the March paragliding back-up weekend as a joint paragliding and classic event, whereas there are no classic back-up weekends. It was agreed that classic pilots could attend the back-up weekend at South Cerney, but there would be no classic selection competition.	
9	2025 Paragliding Nationals	
9.1	CM advised that she was considering a £5 donation to the Royal British Legion in the entry fee.	
9.2	CM reported that Andy Cowley will advise if he is available to be meet director in April. DC advised that he is not available to be meet director that weekend.	
9.3	WL advised that Blorenges is the proposed main site, and nearby Abergavenny offers good camping opportunities. North Wales sites are also available. CJ advised that he will be meeting up with Ali Andrews soon to look at SE Wales sites.	
9.4	It was noted that Local Regulations, flying site(s), and entry fee were required prior to applying for the competition sanction.	
9.5	It was noted that Crickhowell club had a bus, but if the weather is good then it will probably be used by them.	
9.6	It was noted that clubs logos could be advertised on the CIVL website.	
9.7	It was suggested that Tesco be approached for sponsored food, and MB advised that he got half price sandwiches when the nationals were at Norfolk.	

9.8	SB to approach Blaise Brogen about BGD blades. It was also agreed that the BHPA should be approached regarding a BHPA banner.	SB
10	Paragliding Sites	
10.1	CJ advised that he had found a potential accuracy site near Ludlow.	
10.2	CJ advised that he was building up a relationship with the Long Mynd club.	
10.3	CJ advised that he would prefer a blade to a flag, however, a blade will be more expensive. CJ to issue his final blade design. It was noted that a minimalist design would potentially encourage people to enquire more about the sport.	CJ
11	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
11.1	WL advised that Andy Shaw had told him that he will initially keep hold of new pilots that come through the BAC / BAPA system, as they were too new to be introduced to the squad. It was noted that the squad was set up to cater for all levels, but pilots coming through the BAC / BAPA system should eventually join the squad in the future.	
11.2	WL advised that Vlore would be the overseas training camp. Squad points will be awarded as per a Cat 2 competition.	
11.3	WL to advise the squad of the agreed Cat 2 funding arrangement for 2025.	WL
11.4	WL advised that he had asked for team logo suggestions. DC suggested that examples should be sent out to encourage others to submit a design.	
11.5	<p>WL proposed the following team kit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Squad jackets (funded by pilots) with sponsors on the back and achievements on the arms. The team logo could be sewn on the front. - Black outdoor trousers (sourced and funded by pilots) - T shirt (funded by the panel) <p>The above was generally agreed by the panel. WL to write up the proposal, and also consult with the team. SB suggested approaching Castore, a Manchester based sportswear brand, for clothing.</p> <p>It was felt that only blank caps should be worn.</p> <p>MB suggested that team kit should be worn at registration where everyone registers together as a unified team.</p>	WL
11.6	WL advised that the Accuracy Award stripes badges did not work as they looked like three of one colour and three of another colour. It was agreed to go ahead with the 'First pad' and 'DC' badges. It was noted that only a low number of team logos would be required as they are for selected pilots only.	
11.7	AW to check that he has not received anymore PG squad registration documents other than what is in Dropbox. It was agreed that pilots who have not registered will not receive squad points.	AW
11.8	It was agreed that WL could purchase a wind sock pole costing up to £40.	
11.9	WL advised that he had cleaned the target mat, and it was looking a lot healthier.	
12	Rules / Judging	
12.1	The classic rules amendments proposed by LL were accepted. LL requested an action to set up the webpage for the classic nationals – until that is done the rules cannot be finalised as they need to include a link to where the registration forms will be uploaded.	
12.2	LL advised that she had contributed to the CIVL Plenary discussions. MB advised that he had told Brett Janaway how to vote on current proposals, and say no to new proposals made at the meeting.	

13	AOB	
13.1	DC sent a Dropbox link to SB and CJ.	
	Meeting closed at 22.34	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 3 rd April 2025.	

March 2025 Treasurer Report

As it stands the panel currently has £9671.05 in the accounts.

The panel is currently owed money from various people. The breakdown is as follows.

Squad Jackets

£330 Mark Bignell, Sue Britnell, J Lawrence, Liz Lawrence & A Webster are the only people to have paid for a jacket. Need a refund for Josie's (£55).

As far as I can tell I still need payments off Jayne, Matt B, Myri, Will, Andy & Cherry for the jackets.

Squad Fees

All for Jan

John Lawrence £35

Andy Shaw £20

Will Lawrence £35

Cherry McMahon £35

Secretary Report March 2025

February meeting actions

2.1 PMN wording added to the January minutes and published on the website.

5.1 Returnable trophies wording updated in the Operating Procedures. Latest Operating Procedures added to the website.

12.1 Complaint review report completed, and responses written.

Skywings

March – Pre-season preview, Colin Jones pilot profile

April – BAC round 1

May – Nothing as yet

Media report

In preparation for the panel meeting on Thursday here is my report:

The media team (Webbo, Ben, Sue and I) had a meeting this past weekend to have an overview of our roles and plans going forward. This was highly constructive and I will detail some of what we discussed throughout this email.

Social media is going well and consistent advertising for competitions. This will remain. I would like to be able to advertise other things on the socials as well. But at this stage I am unsure what I could be doing. This is something that I'll work on in the near future. It will improve closer to the nationals and once a site has been confirmed. A tiktok account has been created and I am slowly teaching myself how to edit videos and am planning what to post. This is all going on in the background and I am not keen to advertise this at this stage to avoid unnecessary pressure.

In relation to the website. The sponsorship document for pilots to use, is now only accessible in the technical articles, if you are registered and logged in. Hopefully this minimises issues for people trying to find the document. There has been a small change to the hall of fame rewards, where previously the BHPA merits awards were shown first then FAI. This has been switched around now. Both Chris Haynes and Mark Bignells award has been updated as well. We also identified what appeared to be a very old website regarding the accuracy squad and panel, this should now have been removed, but if anyone finds one that is not the one Ben has updated, please report this to me so I can get it removed and avoid issues with new pilots.

We only have 25 people of which some are duplicate registered people on the website. I would like to push this more, including potential for should people not use the RSVP system with justified reason then, consequences such as no mini comp admission may have to be introduced.

The Brochures are on their way to the BHPA and due to arrive tomorrow. I will liaise with Marc Asquith regarding the distribution date and will send the quote to Parki once they have arrived.

Skywings:

Webbo has got this in hand, but is missing a May issue. I have no concerns here at all.

In relation to the Nationals:

I have reached out to the Royal British Legion to offer them an opportunity to have a charity stall. I have broached the subject of a collaboration as well, requesting some of their members who would be willing to come and support us in official roles. I am awaiting a response back.

I have also reached out to Andy Crowley to offer him the position of Meet director for the nationals. I am still awaiting a response, but should he be unwilling I am also keen to offer the position to Chris Haynes or Dave Crowhurst as I believe they are both equally as likely to succeed.

I have spoken with Webbo regarding getting the nationals sanctioned and placed on the civil website, however I cannot do this until the site has been confirmed. Colin could you please advise on a date that this will be agreed so i can plan accordingly.

Sue has now taken on responsibility for the sponsorship element of the nationals. She has made good progress so far and located both local businesses and chain businesses she wishes to approach for prizes and food for officials. Sue has also suggested we should look into speaking with the local club and discuss buying their Tshirts to advertise their club whilst we use their site. Of course, at a discounted rate. I advised it may be appropriate to hold back on that until the essentials have been dealt with and we can review the budget closer to the time, however, I do believe it important we find some way of advertising them and supporting them to help strengthen future relations. Sue has also made a fantastic suggestion of reaching out to Crickhow (i think i've spelt that wrong) regarding potential borrowing of a bus, which would help majorly with costs.

This is all for now. Any issues, or questions please let me know. I do intend on being at the meeting and hope to see you all there.

Many thanks
Cherry

Parascending

1. I now have both Grand Prix trophies in my possession and will hand them over at the earliest opportunity. I paid the £119 for the engraving and I'm willing to request reimbursement from the EPAC fund while at the French comp in May.
2. Tie break Rule. The tie-break rule where two Individuals have tied at the end of the series, but did not compete in all of the validated comps AND did not compete together in one the competitions has now been finalised. The Grand Prix rules have now been amended to show this.
3. An Inscription form for the French Grand Prix comp was sent out by Jacques last month. Some of the information on the form explained that it would be a 6 round competition with a fee of Eu6 per round. The form also stated that a fee of Eu3 would have to be paid by any pilot taking a re-flight. Both of these issues have been challenged and the ruling has been amended. The competition will now be an 8 x round comp and the Eu3 penalty will only apply if a pilot has a re-flight due to his/her negligence. When the amended Inscription form is issued I will distribute it on fb and our web-site.
4. Birdwings will be hosting both Squad weekends on 8-9 Mar.

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report March 2025

February squad weekend was not held due to unsuitable weather forecast.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

None

Ongoing

Plan to review squad fees in July

Regards

Dave

Squad Manager

Difficulty in accurately updating squad selection

- I have updated and sent the squad selection, based on the FAI website for the BAPC but currently I have 1 pilot who wasn't in attendance and also seems to have not attended the mandatory briefing but has scores and 2 other pilots who are also listed and photographed as judges while also participating in the competition which contravenes section 7 common.
- What is the panel's recommendation ;
 - o Keep it including all pilots listed on the FAI website
 - o Remove those pilots that did not or shouldn't of flown
 - o Remove all scores from the comp as it didn't reach CAT 2 requirements

The Votes on WhatsApp

- May squad training will be in held in Vlore, I will publicise this
- The team logo has been requested to be updated,
- The team kit will also be updated as per the vote

For team kit my suggestion

- Sadly I think the squad jackets will now have to also become part of the team kit, there will be rules on where badges etc can be located to ensure a clean look from the front, (including a badge for the new logo to be placed on the front for those that make the team if we decide we want this)
- Team trousers, here I suggest a certain level of freedom, with some guidelines for appropriate bottoms, dark grey or black, softshell, no big brand logos etc
- Team T-shirt will be the only item funded by the panel, I am looking into designs at the moment I am suggesting an active style T-shirt rather than a normal cotton one, looking at polyester-elastane blends unless someone suggests a better alternative

Badges - I have received quotes for some of the badges

- The X for DCs - £132 for 50 (£2.64 per badge) or 174 for 100 (1.74 per badge)
- Same price for the white and gold pad (for first pad and first DC)
- Struggling with the awards stripes and am looking for a solution as currently not possible within a reasonable budget

I hope everyone saw and is happy with my little WhatsApp blast, I hope this will fix some of the issues and create accountability for those who choose to ignore it.

I am creating some designs for the logo and am waiting to see if anyone offers any suggestions.

Squad Training in February

- Participating squad pilots, myself and Myri. With 2 new potential pilots joining us. As GD decided to wave fees to panel I decided to wave pilots fees and not run a comp as it seemed a little pointless

Rules Officer report Mar 25

Action from previous minutes

- 5.1 – wording re returnable trophies has been updated in the rules.

Judging

- Although 1 day of PG squad training happened (and one judge was in attendance) there were no squad competitions so no judges were actually required.

BAC concerns

- It has not been possible to update the register of national (cat 2) judges as there is still incomplete and conflicting information on the CIVL EMS. Seminar attendance/qualification has not been updated. The names on the list of competition judges does not match the list of seminar attendees or the number of people photographed with certificates so cannot be used with certainty to confirm who qualified. At this stage there is only one new judge who I can be fairly confident is legitimately cat 2 qualified.
- I have asked Andy Cowley to chase up Sabina to update the EMS and/or send her seminar report as there has been no action following contact from both me and Mark. No reply from AC or Sabina at time of writing.
- Cross-referencing of the published results and updated list of judges for the competition on the EMS confirms that 2 competitors were also judges. This contravenes cat 2 rules in Section 7 Common and raises questions about the cat 2 status of the competition and the Chief Judge/seminar trainer. As this is obvious to anyone looking at the information on the website, a challenge could be made by someone else if we do not act first. Is there a risk to the reputation of the panel from supporting this or future events?
- Scores include one pilot who has confirmed that he was not present for the competition. This is a misrepresentation which could affect the squad points awarded. I do not see how a pilot can be counted as a competitor if they did not attend, as a minimum, onsite registration and mandatory briefing and were not physically present at the flying site. 3 other pilots got maximum scores. Photos on social media show that Dexter was present (apparently flying and judging) and Ehab had large scores on the original score sheet (which scored beyond 5m) so we can assume that he flew. Is it confirmed that the other pilot with maximum scores (Stefan) was present?

Rules

- Following email exchanges with Arthur, Ed and Jacques and a further meeting of the EPAC reps I have made updates to the tied scores rule and circulated to EPAC. When they confirm that they are happy with the wording I will also update the Classic Nationals rules and issue both to the panel before getting them uploaded on the website.
- Discussions with EPAC re information about costs on the entry form for French competition. Changes will be made. Jacques' message states that:
 - It has been decided to change the 6 rounds competition to an eight one
 - Competitors will pay the EPAC participation and the FFP licence before the competition and their flights after it
 - The round running at 11h00 is the last and the competition time limit is 12h00
 - Concerning re-flight only those due to a competitor fault is at his/her charge (this one is a bit odd as we're not in the habit of giving re-flights because the pilot messed up but, in effect, that will mean no charges for re-flights)
- Paragliding nationals rules – still waiting for site information so these can be updated and cat 2 status applied for.

Liz