

# Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies were received from DC and SB.	
2	<b>Signing off last meeting minutes</b>	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> April were proposed by WL and seconded by AB.	
3	<b>Chairman</b>	
3.1	MB to chase Bill Bell about funding of competitions.	MB
3.2	MB to complete an expenses form for the paragliding nationals sanction fee.	MB
4	<b>Treasurer</b>	
4.1	WL confirmed he has paid for his jacket.	
4.2	WL confirmed that there is a jacket for Jayne Houston. AW to advised her.	AW
4.3	Josie Ewington has taken Myri Ewington's jacket, and the jacket needs paying for.	
4.4	WL advised that Kyle Tripp and Grzegorz Maciula should pay Birdwings directly for flights at the March training camp as they were not registered squad members. AW to check if some adjustment is required to the payment made to AB.	AW
5	<b>Secretary</b>	
5.1	There were no comments on AW's report.	
6	<b>Media &amp; PR</b>	
6.1	CM advised that she had created an accuracy Linked-in account.	
6.2	AW believed that Andy Shaw had been promoting the paragliding nationals on social media as part of the BAC funding agreement. AW to find the posts.	AW
6.3	CM advised that Andy Shaw had asked who the sponsors are for the paragliding nationals so that he can tag them in posts.	
6.4	It was reported that the Norfolk and Sir George Cayley Soaring Club had been circulating the accuracy brochures, and the paragliding XC panel wished they had done something similar.	
6.5	CM explained that the Sponsorship Guidance document purpose was to clarify what sponsorship is. CM to review AW's comments.	CM
6.6	It was agreed that the panel should provide £150 of funding for a free lance graphic designer that CM knows to produce a new accuracy logo. CM and WL to give the designer some ideas to work on.	CM, WL
7	<b>Classic Accuracy</b>	

7.1	AB confirmed that he had been able to negotiate a waiver with the military over the airfield and camping fees. Also an email had been sent to the Quarter Master about using military equipment.	
7.2	AB advised that he was owed for the use of three portaloos by the portaloos company. He used one at the Birdwings competition, and can provide the other two at the nationals that the panel will have to pay for.	
7.3	AB advised that the EPAC sanction fee has been raised to 10 euros. AW to update the budget to determine an entry fee.	AW
8	<b>Classic Accuracy Squad</b>	
8.1	There were no comments on DC's report.	
9	<b>2025 Paragliding Nationals</b>	
9.1	CM advised that 18 pilots had registered for the paragliding nationals, and some pilots had reported to her that they would not be attending after last year's events. MB advised that he knew of two pilots who would not be attending due to the outcome of the complaint. CM requested that panel members send invites to overseas pilots.	Panel
9.2	WL advised that he had built up a partnership with the Men's Shed charity in Essex, whereby he can use tools to make trophies for the nationals. This included a laser cutter for the engraving. Men's Shed to be advertised on the website. WL confirmed he had the official trophy wording list.	
9.3	It was agreed that SB's massage friend could be invited to the event on the basis that pilots / judges would be charged rather than the panel.	
9.4	It was noted that Max McMahon could help with judging and may need day membership. MB to check if he still has day tickets.	MB
9.5	WL advised that Simon Sykes Snr was available to drive the Scout Landrover. Costs would be £75 per day plus fuel and camping. There was also the possibility of a 4x4 for £400, but further investigation was required by WL. Also a people carrier / minibus was being investigated. It was noted that Blaenavon and Fochriw would not need any vehicles, but these sites are the least likely to be used.	WL
9.6	It was noted that possibly Chris Haynes and AW could share the launch marshal role if Chris Haynes wants to compete. CJ to also see if he can find a launch marshal.	CJ
9.7	CJ advised that Denis Trussler is not available for the competition, and he will enquire if Ali Andrews can be safety officer. It was noted that the Safety Officer needs knowledge of the sites and paragliders. MB queried if a safety committee formed by the Meet Director would be sufficient, but LL felt that there should be a non flying Safety Officer. LL to enquire with Andy Cowley.	CJ LL
9.8	CJ to ask if Spudman is available, so that we could advertise him. It was noted that we had to manage expectations due to our low numbers, however, the event offers a unique prospective and could bring value. WL advised that he will bring a roll of tape to act as a barrier if more people turn up because of the Spudman attraction.	CJ
9.9	CM advised that either Marc Asquith or Michelle Lanman from the office will be presenting the trophies.	
9.10	AW to produce entry forms for the novice competition and pilots without FAI licenses, and put on the website.	AW
9.11	LL advised that the issue with paying the sanction fee seemed to be a problem with her paypal account rather than a problem with the procedure in the Operating Procedures.	
10	<b>Paragliding Sites</b>	

10.1	CJ advised that Border Trek quad bike site near Shrewsbury offered north and south wind direction sites for paragliding. Toilets and camping were also available. CJ to send the information to CM to put on the website.	CJ
11	<b>Paragliding Accuracy Squad</b>	
11.1	LL advised that Jobin Yendayar had updated his nationality in his profile on CIVL comps. PMN - He now shows as British in the rankings, his recent competitions (BAC) and his profile but, strangely, his registration for the nationals shows him as Indian.	
11.2	CJ advised that he was having trouble getting Airsports type insurance for Vlore as there was prize money over 500 euros. MB advised that he had raised this matter with CIVL, and also stated that Gabi required £50k repatriation costs for his accident.	
11.3	<p>The recent upheaval to the Selection Criteria and Code of Conduct changes were discussed. MB advised that the panel should serve the squad, and felt changes should be explained. Others felt the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Squad members are not keeping up with the changes.</li> <li>- Certain people want to create upheaval.</li> <li>- Public forums become divisive and therefore explanations should not be offered. Squad pilots should send PMs to the squad manager or comment on the chat group if they have comments.</li> </ul> <p>Because of the above the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A squad bulletin board will be created for the panel to make announcements and explanations. WL to create the bulletin board.</li> <li>- The paragliding chat group will be retained for people to react to changes.</li> <li>- A 30 days grace period will be given for changes.</li> </ul>	WL
11.4	WL expressed disappointment that MB had not backed him up on the agreed changes to the Selection Criteria and had effectively thrown him under a bus by having contradictory conversations with certain pilots about the paragliding squad rsvp notice. MB stated that he had forgotten about the changes, and no one respects the panel. WL advised that Myrianthe Ewington, Tom Ewington and Dexter Bond had all turned up to the April squad training without rsvp by the Thursday evening deadline, and only Dexter Bond had requested permission to turn up without rsvp. WL advised that he had to relent on the rsvp due to MB's conversations and there being no grace period. WL requested that we uphold decisions and back each other up. It was noted that it is better to rsvp and not turn up rather than not rsvp and turn up due to planning transport. Also when you rsvp there is a comments box to express individual issues.	
11.5	SB's response to Myrianthe Ewington's open letter on the Code of Conduct changes were noted, but it was felt may cause problems if used as a direct response back. The panel to review WL's response and provide any comments before WL formally responds.	Panel WL
11.6	WL advised that 8 pilots are going to Vlore.	
11.7	MB believed that Matt Bignell still has BHPA 3 <sup>rd</sup> party insurance as his address is the same as MB's address.	
12	<b>Rules / Judging</b>	
12.1	MB advised that Judith Freeman was looking forward to the paragliding nationals when he spoke to her before BAC2, and he will have another word with her to confirm if she is attending.	MB

12.2	LL advised that she was disappointed that non of the new BAC judges had been in contact with her. MB to advise the new BAC judges to get in touch with LL. There was a general feeling that Andy Shaw does not want to let go of new judges and pilots that have come through the BAC system, and therefore the panel is not getting the benefit of the BAC sanction funding.	MB
13	<b>AOB</b>	
13.2	It was agreed not to have a group meeting at the paragliding nationals. As an alternative, the following were suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A meeting where questions are issued before the event.</li> <li>- A zoom meeting with a mute function.</li> <li>- Have a monthly forum where people could spout off, and eventually come to some consensus.</li> </ul> It was agreed to further discuss this at the next panel meeting.	
13.3	AB advised that he had been asked to take his winch down to BAC2, but has subsequently been told that they did not recognise £0.45 / mile expenses. MB to ask Green Dragons for £40 for the 200 mile trip on behalf of AB.	MB
13.4	MB advised that he had added the 2025 sporting code updates to Dropbox.	
	Meeting closed at 21.57	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025.	

## May 2025 Treasurer Report

As it stands the panel currently has £9721.21 in the accounts.

The accounts for 2024-2025 have been submitted, and Bill looks to be happy with them. We may have to wait a little for the grant as there has been some delay from other disciplines in getting their financial plans in.

Sue's mandate forms were submitted on about the 10<sup>th</sup> April to Barclays. This should be hopefully sorted in '14 working days'. Once Sue has all the relevant access, I will transfer all my files to her and do a run through of how I have been working things

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. Josie's (£55) now refunded

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

### Squad Fees

#### Jan 25

Andy Shaw £20

#### April 25

Not sure on this as I haven't been given a list of who attended and the fees I can expect in

## Secretary Report May 2025

### April meeting actions

4.1 Advised Kyle Tripp of March training camp fees (he has sent a registration form). Grzegorz Maciula was not available at BAC2 to discuss March training camp fees.

7.2 Draft budget issued for the Classic Nationals.

9.9 Official trophy list wording issued to WL.

### Skywings

May – BAC 2

June – Spring squad training camps

July - Albania

## Media & PR report May 2025

All going well, nothing really to report on this there's not been much difference. Photos are coming in nicely.

A new LinkedIn account has been created. I aim to use this to network in future and hopefully use it to scope official sponsors. Ideally as this is a business platform we might be successful. I just need to start making it look more official. Sue I will give you access to this as you are currently dealing with sponsorship so this may benefit you the most.

Website:

All going well, nothing new to report. Any feedback or additions are welcome and we can consult that. There has been a big banner added to advertise the Nationals.

Nationals prep:

Nationals is now officially a CAT 2 well done everyone who helped support the application and pushed it to get passed. Now we're on to the issue of participants. Currently we have 18 registered, which honestly is more than I expected at this stage but nowhere near where I was hoping to get it to. With that in mind I have done some digging as to why. Some feedback received which I will keep anonymous is that due to the events that happened at the last nationals, some pilots who we could regularly rely on in attending are now refusing to attend this year. They did not appreciate being apart of a political stunt for personal issues amongst the UK team, which I can appreciate. However, this does mean that we have now sustained some serious reputational damage. I can honestly say I do not know at this stage how to fix it. However, it's clear that this cannot happen again and if it does then we must be seen to dealing with it robustly. I am hoping that this year's nationals, especially since it's going to be the first hill comp in a few years, will be successful and good feedback will be shared internationally. PLEASE CAN EVERYONE SEND INVITES TO NATIONALS TO OVERSEAS PILOTS AND PUSH THE EVENT!!!

Sponsorship - we do not have any sponsors at this stage unfortunately despite Sue's good attempts. Honestly, I'm not sure we will but we have at least started sponsorship processes and this does not hinder individuals from getting their own.

Sue has her personal sponsor the sports massage person who has stated she is happy to come down and offer massages to pilots and officials at her usual rate. Sue has kindly offered her a tent to work out of. I am currently clarifying if she has any expectations of the panel for funding or anything, however if she doesn't I do think this may be a lovely addition to the competition. Sue has asked me to add this to my report as she won't be here this meeting and just wants panel approval before confirming her attendance.

RBL - I have not heard anything from the RBL despite some chaser emails. Unfortunately it's not looking hopeful. I will make one more attempt but if this is unsuccessful I will cut my losses.

JUDGES:

My brothers have offered to be trained as judges for the competition which Liz is managing at this stage so we will have at least one more official judge and should numbers allow my other brother will be the videographer/photographer.

Officials food:

I plan to purchase in bulk officials food and drink from Costco.

This is all for now.

Many thanks  
Cherry

## Sponsorship update for May 2025 Panel Meeting

### **Nationals Sponsorship**

I have had no success so far with sponsorship.

I have approached Mountain Warehouse and Blaise Brogan (BGD sales manager), as well as the following local firms who sponsor Abergavenny Town FC, asking these for just £250:

- FR Ball Insurance
- Gravells (used car dealers)
- Robert Price (builders merchants)
- Christie (estate agents)
- Harrhy Carpets

### Team Sponsorship

Again no success yet. I have approached

- Castore (Sportswear brand)
- Holiday Extras
- Wizzair

These letters did not include any specific amount: I plan to put in a new value of £10k for future letters for similar large companies so that they know we're not asking for millions.

I did ask on the Accuracy group chat if any existing / previous sponsors want to get in touch but have not had a response.

Please let me know if you want me to take a different approach.

## Classic Report May 2025

### Parascending

1. Took my winch to Green dragons comp 4-7 Apr .

My winch was not used.

2. I have negotiated a similar deal as last year regarding fees for our Classic Nationals competition; we will not be charged an airfield fee for this 3 day comp. Hence, a saving of £225.
3. Both classic Squad weekends were held at S Cerney and supported by the Birdwings winch.

Regards,

Arthur

## **Classic Accuracy / PA squad report May 2025**

April squad weekend went ahead with 4 registered pilots attending. Competition held Saturday and training on Sunday until winds picked up over limits.

May squad will take place in France as the majority of squad pilots are in attendance at this event.

Accuracy safety:  
Nothing to report

Near misses:  
None

Ongoing  
Plan to review squad fees in July

April cost panel £76 utilising the 4 free flights per day per pilot

Regards  
Dave

## Rules Officer report Apr 25

### Action from previous minutes

Covered in my report below except for:

- 7.1 – Scout Landrover for classic nationals – Yes it is available, with drivers, at usual rates.
- 9.5 – With help from Mark, sanctioning sorted out and event now Cat 2.

### Judging

- 3 judges attended paragliding squad training (one for practice day only) and 1 attended classic squad training.
- Judges for paragliding nationals
  - So far Me (CJ), Nikki (EJ) and Hanna are confirmed
  - Josie may come (depending on whether Myri does)
  - Jayne may be fit to attend
  - Norbu Lama from India has been sent a letter of invitation and added as a judge but not yet confirmed he has a visa. Logistics of getting him to the comp will need to be considered when I know his travel arrangements. I'm not yet counting on him being there.
  - Seminar is live (item 9.7). One person currently registered – Denis Szalai. I have been in contact with him. He is Hungarian but UK based and has previous (out of date) judging experience.
  - One more person wishes to be trained (Max McMahan). One other may be trained although he has been allocated to video operation (which is needed)
  - I have reached out to a couple more possibles but they are not available
  - That would give between 5 and 9 judges. Ideal is 7 plus at least one reserve and we also need a scorer. So would be good to have 1 or 2 more in case none of the 'maybes' turn up. We could manage with as few as 5 but that would make it more challenging to fully train target judges or to train Hanna as EJ.

### Actions needed

- Need to confirm intentions of qualified judges who have not responded – Judith who was being contacted by Mark (item 9.6).
- Further social media post advertising the seminar
- Could invite some of those who are in training at GD. I have not been given contact details to add them to the register yet and I don't know which of those who registered actually attended. As I will be training judges, anyone who registered for a the BAC seminar but could not attend it and wants to be trained could come to mine. Anyone who did attend BAC seminar but has not completed practical training is eligible to judge at the nationals as a trainee under instruction.

### Rules

- Local rules for Paragliding Nationals done and on website.
- Seminar material and detail of processes for Paragliding Nationals cannot be finalised until latest version of FAI section 7 documents with changes from the plenary are uploaded to the website

Liz