

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 5th June 2025

Present:	Mark Bignell	MB	Chairman
	Andy Webster	AW	Secretary
	Arthur Bentley	AB	Classic Representative
	Liz Lawrence	LL	Rules Officer
	William Lawrence	WL	Paragliding Squad Manager
	Colin Jones	CJ	Paragliding Sites
	Sue Britnell	SB	Sponsorship
	Dave Crowhurst	DC	Classic Officer

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from CM.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 1 st May were proposed by WL and seconded by LL, subject to an amendment to minute 11.4 to include that a RSVP was received by Andy Shaw. AW to amend the minutes.	AW
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that Bill Bell did not have a problem with the panel funding UK competition sanction fees.	
3.2	<p>It was noted that payment of sanction fees for BAC1&2 confirmed acceptance that the previous criteria had been met, but the following concerns were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very little has been done to promote the paragliding nationals. - No accounts have been seen for the BAC events. - New pilots are being held back from joining the squads. - Only one new judge has signed up for the paragliding nationals judging seminar. <p>It was agreed that the sanction fees for BAC3&4 will be paid if 40% of the new pilots join the squad, and 40% of the new judges register on the UK judging register. MB to advise the BAC organisers.</p>	MB
3.3	MB to review AW's comments on the Exec report and update as appropriate. It was agreed that the report should also record that Andy Shaw had made a post about holding a UK FAI Cat1 World Championships without consulting the panel.	MB
4	Treasurer	
4.1	SB advised that there was currently £2k in the current account and £8k in the savings account. Also Bill Bell had advised that the 2025 grant will be paid shortly.	
5	Secretary	
5.1	AW to check if Grzegorz Maciula contact details are on a Whatsapp group to advise him of the March training camp fees.	AW
6	Media & PR	
6.1	There were no comments on CM's media report, and it was noted that CM had been working very hard on the paragliding nationals.	

11	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
11.1	WL reported that everyone flew well at the Albania competition, and there was one incident to report where a UK pilot flew into a tree on the landing field. There was a close battle between Sue Britnell and Myrianthe Ewington that was great to see.	
11.2	WL to look at comments made by AW to his draft response to Myrianthe Ewington's open letter on the Code of Conduct changes.	WL
11.3	It was agreed that when pilots sign up to the squad at the January registration they are automatically signing up to the Code of Conduct.	
11.4	It was agreed that Hanna Statham could claim £120 for assisting the UK team in Albania. Also Josie Ewington could claim £120 if she was not paid by the Albanian organisers for her official role. AW to contact Myrianthe Ewington about the decision on Josie. Going forward, judges are to be advised that full agreement should be sought for costs before an overseas training camp.	AW
11.5	WL to issue dates for the paragliding training camps for the remainder of 2025.	WL
11.6	It was discussed if changes should be made to the selection criteria formula, and the following comments were made; - AW felt that there was a lack of visibility of the workings. - WL felt that the current league rankings demonstrated that the formula was working. - Selecting the team off the WPRS would stop pilots attending the squad training camps. It was agreed to discuss 2026 / 7 squad selection criteria at the next meeting. AW to state the selection league date on the website.	AW
11.7	WL advised that he had sent an NAC form off to Bill Bell. The names were not in any specific order, and did not include Tom Ewington. Bill Bell has queried if the pilots are ok to fly in a Cat 1 competition. It was noted that there was no official NAC form on the website as stated in the Local Regulations.	
11.8	WL to advise pilots to register online.	WL
11.9	WL advised that if he takes his place he will be team leader.	
11.10	Concern was raised that a UK pilot was wearing official team kit stating GB team pilot when they had never been in the team. This was felt to be disrespectful to pilots who had fought hard to be in the team.	
12	Rules / Judging	
12.1	LL advised that following some editing errors, the June version of the Section 7C rules should be used. A squad discussion on the rule changes would be useful.	
13	AOB	
13.1	MB advised that the panel should not worry about Andy Shaw's announcement about an UK FAI Cat1 World Championships as he can't do anything without the panel and it would be 2029 at the earliest. It was queried if the panel should respond to the announcement explaining that Andy Shaw is not the UK spokesman on accuracy.	
13.2	Discussions took place as to whether the nationals should be held overseas, and the following was noted: - Combined British and Dutch paragliding XC nationals are held overseas.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The event could attract more overseas pilots. - Kossen would be an ideal site. - There could be a problem getting judges and equipment to an overseas event. 	
	Meeting closed at 22:19	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 3 rd July 2025.	

Secretary Report June 2025

May meeting actions

4.2 Advised Jayne Houston that a jacket had been ordered for her, and she has paid £55 in the BHPA Accuracy account.

4.4 Advised Kyle Tripp that he needs to pay Birdwings for the March training camp flights. I don't have Grzegorz Maciula contact details.

6.2 Found one post on Whatsapp where Andy Shaw was partly promoting the paragliding nationals.

7.3 Updated budget issued for the Classic Nationals following information provided by AB. Based on this suggest that the entry fee is £70 plus £10 camping fee.

9.10 Produced entry forms for the novice competition and pilots without FAI licenses, and put on the website.

11.5 Commented on WL's response to Myrianthe Ewington's open letter on the Code of Conduct.

Skywings

June – Spring squad training camps

July – Albania

August – Paragliding Nationals

Media & PR Report June 2025

Social going well so far. We're getting good engagement. Thank you to those of you who have really engaged and promoted

Website - no really change other than a news tab for admin related changes that people can appeal decision made within a 30 day period. (For example code of conduct changes) this is so the BHPA squad can be changed to a admin only usage not a chat group function like the chat is

Nationals

See email discussing current issues.

If a landing site is authorised we have the following resources

RBL stand

Army cadet volunteers

Food van

News segment in local chronicle

VIP and local MP invited

Bill and Marc Asquith shown interest an email has been sent asking for help with contact for site owners

Banners and boards from BHPA to be collected on weekend

RBL flag to be collected on weekend for photo shoot opportunity

Try get Simon to drive north wales site as an absolute back up option.

Sponsorship

Hi, all, apologies but I have made no progress on sponsorship and have not had the opportunity to approach anyone new since Albania.

Debbie Gilbert, trading as From Head to Toe Massage Therapy has agreed to attend the Nationals on Saturday and Sunday, and will offer massages from 20 mins duration. She checked with Abergavenny & Monmouth Councils and does not need a permit.

Treasurer

I had been waiting for a pin code for Barclays, which I received this week. I will arrange for Parki to handover to me, in the next couple of weeks.

Going forward, I would like to help with the Nationals, and then will continue with book keeping role but don't wish to be on the Panel beyond that. I don't need the stress in my life and based on most recent events it's only going to get worse.

Keep up with the good work, and good luck!

BHPAS MONTHLY REPORT- PARASCENDING (June)

1 The first EPAC competition of 2025 was successfully hosted by GIPs at their N Paris site during the weekend of 10-11 May. We had 2 teams representing UK; Birdwings (Dave Crowhurst, Richard Bissett and Gary Ounsworth) and Kent Scouts (Simon and Katie Sykes and John Lawrence). Simon, Katie and John achieved a podium position and were awarded the 3rd place team prize. Don Bodil and Jamie Robe and myself also competed as UK individuals but we all entered in multi nation teams.

At the completion of round 3 (final round) Dave C of Birdwings was in joint second place along with Pierre Asteix and Bruno Lautard (all on 7 cm), just 1 cm behind Alexandre Pares (GIPs), who was on 6cm. Unfortunately, Dave had difficult conditions on his 'jump-off' for second place and just missed out on a podium position, finishing in 4th place behind Alexandre, Pierre and Bruno.

Pierre, Bruno and Maud Serve were the team winners representing GIPS 'A', and the Individual winner was Alexandre Pares (GIPs Compaq).

2. I had a meeting with the QM (T) Dept on 15 May and secured the loan of the equipment listed below for use during our Classic National championships in August..

18ft x 24ft tent	qty 1
12ft x 12ft tent	qty 2
Lighting Set	(for above)
Camp beds	qty 12
6 ft Tables.	qty 4
chairs	qty 30
burco boiler	qty 1
Generators	qty 2
water container	qty 2

I have also secured use of the gym showers and authority for pack lunches.

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report June 2025

May squad weekend went ahead as was the French EPAC competition as the majority of squad registered pilots were attending that competition.

Point for discussion

- One pilots during the competition changed from a Parascending canopy to a Paragliding canopy, whilst this allowable in the rules of the competition, there should be a discussion and decision if the scores achieved on a Paraglider will count towards the Parascending league.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

None

Ongoing

Plan to review squad fees in July

May cost to panel £0 as all pilots registered for the competition. There will however be claims from the top 5 pilots in the league who attended the competition. My apologies for sending the information out late to pilots, but this has now been done so claim forms should be coming in to Sue.

Regards

Dave

Rules Officer report June 25

Action from previous minutes

- 9.7 – target risk assessment located, updated and emailed

Other actions

- Judging in France (Grand Prix)
- Discussion with Ed at French comp of including in next update of classic rules a specific requirement to stand down if wind is causing multiple consecutive relaunches – MD did not see eye to eye with CJ on this so rule addition would make existing usual process into a requirement.
- Commenting on changes to judging code and proof reading of updates to S7C (Basecamp)
- Revised judge training slides created and sent to Andy Cowley for comment

Judging

- 1 judge attended overseas paragliding squad training (Albania) and 2 attended classic squad training (French Grand Prix competition).
- Three new and one experienced judge now registered for seminar

Rules

- Revised FAI rules published. Many of the changes proposed, including those relating to the knock out, were not passed at the plenary. This has led to discussion of concerns from some pilots and officials that their representatives are not well versed in accuracy and are not voting as the accuracy community would wish, or that they do not know or have effective communication with their rep to advise them.
- Key changes for cat 2 affecting our Nationals
 - No signing for score (3.5). Clarification of process sought from AC (for judge training)
 - Masters category introduced (minimum age 55 years on 1st day of competition)
 - New requirements in section 7 common for uploading results to CIVL comps during the competition
- Other Cat 2 changes not relevant to our Nationals
 - Can have pad only or 1m target radius (which we will not be doing)
 - It also appears from colour coding that there have been changes to Complaint periods (7.2.1) but I think the colouring is a formatting error as the wording is unchanged from what was included last year. 7.1 (Objection) is also shown as a change but wording is the same as last year. Ditto for 5.4.3 Other measuring systems (which we won't be using).
- Main change that we need to be aware of for Cat 1
 - Eligibility (S7C 2.2.2) – Worlds top 700 WPRS, Continental top 900, 3 months before comp.
- It is anticipated that Andy Cowley becoming co-chair of Paragliding Accuracy Committee will lead to a renewed focus on judge quality and training. The Judging Group on Basecamp is currently very active and he has proposed a more effective structure of working groups.
 - Discussion on Basecamp has led to publication of further updated 7c (v2 dated 1st June 2025) as there were some errors of formatting and content in the published version e.g. references to signing for the score not all removed and Masters category omitted from Scoring (although defined in section 7 common). An updated version is permitted as it is correction, not changes to the rules.
 - There has been more extensive discussion and rewriting of the Judging code, including the outlining of a more structured set of training events to enable judges to progress. This is guidance not rules so does not need Plenary voting, only Bureau approval, and has been uploaded (v2 dated 1st June 2025)
 - Changes to the judging code will necessitate discussion and creation of syllabuses, training materials and processes for judge progression and quality control. Some materials have already been piloted.