

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 3rd July 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
	Dave Crowhurst	DC	Classic Officer
	Cherry McMahon	CM	Media & PR

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	No apologies.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 5 th June were proposed by CJ and seconded by AW.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that he was working on a BHPA Accuracy Coach badge scheme. This would be different to a BHPA Club Coach that is predominantly hill based.	
4	Treasurer	
4.1	WL advised that Matt Bignell, Andy Shaw, Waleed Chaudhry and James Scully had all ordered jackets, but not paid for them. WL to speak to Andy Shaw about his jacket. It was noted that the jackets are official team kit. Also Waleed Chaudhry and James Scully are currently not involved with the sport for personal reasons, and their jackets do not have names on so could be sold to someone else.	WL
4.2	The BHPA Competitions Ltd company was discussed, and it was noted that competitions could make a big loss or have a big insurance claim against them. MB to ask Bill Bell about the company structure.	MB
5	Secretary	
5.1	No comments were made on the report.	
6	Media & PR	
6.1	CM advised that she had been too busy with the paragliding nationals to do any social media of late. It was noted that the partnerships could raise the profile of the sport, and would be good to show future sponsors. It was suggested that a collection be held at the paragliding nationals re-run for the Royal British Legion.	
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	Comments on AB's report are in the 2025 Paragliding Nationals section.	
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	
8.1	DC advised that there was no June squad event as the military needed to use South Cerney on the planned weekend.	
8.2	It was noticed that numbers were dwindling as no Green Dragon members were attending. It was suggested that closer ties be made with parachute	

	clubs, however, DC advised that most parachutists have shown little interest in parasending and fly small canopies that are not suitable for towing. LL advised that the Scouts are encouraging more scouts to fly squares, but their availability is restricted.	
8.3	DC's recommendations on changes to the selection criteria were accepted. DC to update the selection criteria.	DC
8.4	It was noted that where there are combined weekends the selection competitions will be on separate days, and it was agreed that the squad managers should promote this more.	
9	2025 Paragliding Nationals	
9.1	WL advised that he had looked at the costs incurred at the SE Wales event and the budget for the re-run at South Cerney, and felt that the re-run could be carried out without an additional entry fee if similar numbers attended. A camping fee of £15 would be applicable to cover the costs of the portaloos and the military camping fee at South Cerney. WL to issue his costs spread sheet to the Panel. Panel members to encourage pilots, who had not attended the SE Wales event, to enter the re-run where the £90 entry fee would be applicable. It was noted that the Local Regulations included for a full refund if the competition was postponed and a pilot could not attend the re-run.	WL Panel
9.2	It was felt that there may be insufficient people to erect the military tent on the Friday, and it was not believed that the military would allow the tent to be left on the airfield until the classic nationals. It was agreed that a decision on the military tent could be made closer to the event. It was agreed that two tables and some chairs would be useful. AB to arrange.	AB
9.3	AB to arrange two Portaloos using the credit he has with the hire company.	AB
9.4	It was noted that Andy Cowley is not available to be Meet Director for the re-run. AB agree to take on the Meet Director role, however, William will perform most of the duties / briefings as at SE Wales.	
9.5	AB advised that he had left a message with Lee Bligh about having the Cloudbase winch available as a back-up. LL advised that the Scout winch has not been used for a long time. CJ to ask if a Rutland winch could be made available.	CJ
9.6	It was felt that Tesco meal deals may be the best option for officials food.	
9.7	LL advised that there were just enough judges attending the re-run, but more would be useful, and it would be nice to see all the new BAC judges. MB advised that Molly has non flying membership and could be available to judge. CM to put out a social media post about judging and other roles.	CM
9.8	It was agreed to replace reference to Gloucester hospital with Cirencester and Swindon A&E facilities in the Local Regulations and on the emergency procedure.	
9.9	CM & WL suggested the following be looked into for future events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scout Jamboree. - Buttermere Bash. - Run the competition as an event rather than a competition. - Have a four day event because of the weather. - Have a re-run at the classic nationals. - Have a cup series at different clubs. 	
10	Paragliding Sites	
10.1	CJ advised that he was in discussions / investigating the following sites / clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long Mynd 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rutland (Mick Roach had been very helpful) - N Wales - SE Wales - Mid Wales - Bulth Wells (Part of a campsite) - Border Trek (Has north & south facing sites) 	
10.2	CM requested that interested pilots be encouraged to register on the website.	
11	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
11.1	WL to circulate an updated response to Myrianthe Ewington's open letter on the code of conduct.	WL
11.2	WL to send out remaining 2025 squad training dates. The August back-up date will be the classic nationals. There will only be one December date.	WL
11.3	It was agreed that the current selection criteria philosophy be continued into 2026. WL to produce the 2026 selection criteria, and mention the overlap with the 2027 event that will be held in February.	WL
11.4	It was noted that 2025 selection cut-off will be at the end of July. WL advised that the NAC form had been sent off, and Myri Ewington and Thomas Ewington had registered for the event.	
11.5	It was noted that monthly squad events with back-up weekends will continue for this year, and there was a feeling that there were too many events in the summer months. WL to propose a system for next year.	WL
11.6	WL is not available on Saturday 19th July for squad training. CJ to take on the squad manager liaison role.	
12	Rules / Judging	
12.1	LL advised that the NAC hold the judges list, and she would like further guidance from Andy Cowley around processes for adding judges to that list and QA of the training they receive.	
12.2	LL advised that the latest Operating Procedures are not on Dropbox. AW to update.	AW
12.3	The updated 'Expense information for judges' was discussed. LL / WL to amend the wording.	LL, WL
	Meeting closed at 21:58	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 7 th August 2025. LL may not be available as she will be on holiday with unknown internet connection. AW to send Zoom invite.	AW

Treasurer Report

Bank:

Bank Balances: £9,954.63

Funding not yet received from BHPA

Squad Training Fees:

Jan: A Shaw now paid

April: No Birdwings fees invoice yet

June: Will & Kyle owe £20 each, chased 24/6; no GD fees yet (hill, but retrieve up hill)

Squad Jackets: (taken from Parki's last report – please confirm)

Jayne & Josie have paid for jackets. Do Matt B, Myri (or was this transferred to Josie which has been paid?), Will, Andy & Cherry still owe / did they have jackets?

Limited Company

I have received an email from Bill Bell regarding a recent Exec decision. I include extracts as follows:

“the BHPA Exec have decided to establish a wholly owned subsidiary company, *BHPA Competitions Ltd*, which will take responsibility for delivering all BHPA-sanctioned competitions.

The new company will operate at arm's length from the BHPA's core operations, with its own board and budget, but under the full ownership and oversight of the BHPA.

What the Creation of BHPA Comps Means for the Competitions Panels

The new company will provide a clear legal and financial framework for running competitions, offering important protection to both BHPA and the volunteers involved. It will limit personal liability for panel members in the event of financial shortfalls, insurance claims, or contractual disputes. As events become larger and more complex, it is essential that the structures supporting them are fit for purpose.

Competition panels will continue to operate much as they do now, with the same people, responsibilities, and close links to the flying community. The change is that events and related activities will formally run through BHPA Competitions Ltd, with clear lines of accountability and support. The working relationship between the BHPA and BHPA competitions Ltd will be set out in a service-level agreement to ensure shared understanding and continuity.”

Let me know if you would like me ask Bill any questions regarding this.

Secretary Report July 2025

June meeting actions

- 2.1 May minutes amended before publication on the website.
- 5.1 Unable to find Grzegorz Maciula contact details are on a Whatsapp group.
- 7.2 Classic nationals entry forms now on website.
- 9.3 Contacted Chris about target equipment for the paragliding nationals.
- 11.4 Contacted Myrianthe Ewington about the decision on funding of judges at the Albania squad training camp.
- 11.6 Paragliding selection league date added to the website.

Skywings

July – Albania Open

August – French Grand Prix

September – BAC3 / Paragliding Nationals

MONTHLY REPORT – PARASCENDING

JULY

1. With the fall-back dates for the Paragliding nationals now about to be used and the venue being South Cerney, I have made contact with the resident Regt for the loan of some essential equipment that can be used during the competition weekend. This equipment is to include qty 1 18 x 24 tent , chairs and some lighting.
2. Last year we erroneously paid for 3 portaloos for our Classic Nationals on two occasions.
Although the company could not find evidence of this, I had receipts to prove that I had done this. As I had paid for them by cash, when I had ordered the P'Loos, I agreed to tackle getting reimbursement from the company myself. After talking with the P'loo company, I agreed to accept the situation of Birdwings having 3 P'Loo units in credit (£210).
I used one credit for my Birdwings comp in Nov 24 and the remaining 2 toilets will now be used for the re-run of the PG nationals at S Cerney later this month. Once this has been attended, I will be claiming my reimbursement of £140 from the Panel funds.
3. I have added a copy of an email I received yesterday from the QM at S Cerney. I think it demonstrates just how much we are supported by the military there, and why it is important not to do anything on-site to disrupt the harmony that exists between US and THEM.

Good afternoon Arthur,

PSB contact details for my RQMS T - please engage with him at your convenience, we will support in any way we can.

WO2 M Harris (RQMS(T) | 55 HQ Sqn | 29 Regt RLC | Duke of Gloucester Bks | South Cerney | GL7 5RD |
Signal: 07769654212 | Email mark.harris162@mod.gov.uk

Kind Regards,
Mark

Regards,

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report July 2025

June squad weekend didn't go ahead after late notice from the military that access wasn't available, as I was travelling making other arrangements was not possible.

Accuracy safety:
Nothing to report

Near misses:
None

Ongoing
Plan to review squad fees in July. This will need to be deferred as insufficient squads have taken place

Regards
Dave

Rules Officer report July 25

Judging

- FAI Cat 2 Seminar was provided for 4 judges – Jayne as a refresher plus 3 new – Max, Denis and Jamie W. 1 more (Shamil) registered but unable to attend – believe he has already attended seminar at GD as he told me he judged BAC 1.
- 2 new judges (Max and Denis) judged in Wales. Max not available for fallback but Jamie and Denis are.
- Shamil volunteered for judging in Wales but was available on Sunday only so did not actually get to judge and is not available for the fallback.
- New judges did well but have not done enough to be signed off yet – hoping to sign 2 of them off at the fallback.
- 6 judges were on the target in Wales.
- Hanna has begun training as EJ.
- Would be helpful to have 1 (or ideally 2) more judges for fallback (I have 6 at present). Also need recorder, wind monitor and video operator. Would be a good opportunity for those officials that are being trained at BAC competitions.
- Andy Cowley advised that we need to clarify process for approving UK judge training and confirming that judges are competent to be added to the UK register of cat 2 judges.

Rules

- Local regulations updated for fallback date – attached for checking/comment. New parts are in blue. Daily schedule has been removed as it does not need to be specified in LRs but I will need to add it to the CIVL site when agreed. Some parts will probably be covered under agenda item 9.

Other actions taken

- Updates made to CIVL comps to show Paragliding Nationals fallback dates, location etc

Proposal

- Changes to expenses policy for judges (attached).
- I also couldn't find in current OPs anything about expenses for other competition officials and we do not have a written policy about expenses for official activities carried out by panel members e.g. site/club visits, assisting at competitions. I'm not sure we should be making these decisions on a case by case basis without written policy to guide us. Unless of course it all exists somewhere but I just don't know where it is or what it says.

Liz