

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 7th August 2025

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from LL and CM.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 3 rd July were proposed by WL and seconded by CJ.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that the BHPA Competitions Ltd company was to do with accounting.	
3.2	It was agreed to have a General Meeting, as detailed in the Operating Procedures, in the new year. This would be open to all BHPA members, and should be advertised in Skywings. It was felt that other competition panel members should be invited to counter false accusations by some that other panels are doing a far better job. A date and meeting format to be agreed at future panel meetings. MB to talk to Jenny Buck about the meeting.	MB
4	Treasurer	
4.1	AB requested that the South Cerney camping fee be referred to as 'stay on the airfield' as some people do not class sleeping in their car as camping.	
4.2	WL to advise his paragliding nationals costs.	WL
4.3	CJ to submit an expenses form for engraving the UK Paragliding Accuracy League trophy.	CJ
4.4	WL to arrange laser printing of the paragliding accuracy national individual trophy.	WL
5	Secretary	
5.1	No comments were made on the secretary report.	
6	Media & PR	
6.1	WL advised that CM was doing more of the same on Media & PR.	
6.2	WL advised that pilot feedback had been requested on the brochures, with the possibility of creating a second brochure aimed at general pilots who were not new Club Pilots. Pilots can feed back thoughts via the website.	
7	Classic Accuracy Nationals	
7.1	The following was agreed for the nationals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AB to arrange 3 builders portaloos. - AB to ask the military about showers and a generator. - AB to invite Iain Cooper and family to the BBQ at the competition's cost. 	AB AB AB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AB to arrange a Beef Rengdang for Sunday evening, and will require use of motor home freezers. - AB to arrange military pack lunches for the officials. - Panel to enquire if Simon Sykes is available to do passenger flights. - Practice flying will be available on the Friday afternoon. 	AB AB Panel
	AW to update the programme and publish it on the website.	AW
7.2	It was noted that some UK paraglider pilots were attending paragliding accuracy competitions at Wasserkuppe over the August bank holiday weekend, and attendance was expected to be down at the classic nationals.	
7.3	MB will not be attending, so AW to ask CH if he can do the scoring.	AW
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	
8.1	AB's proposal to change the selection league scoring system was discussed, but it was agreed to leave as is and review in the future.	
8.2	Merging the two squads was discussed, but DC advised that he wanted to concentrate on squares.	
9	2025 Paragliding Nationals	
9.1	WL advised that the nationals was a good event with 6 rounds completed.	
9.2	The BHPA Exec have advised that they are not happy with the Green Dragons mass exodus at the start of prize giving.	
10	Paragliding Sites	
10.1	CJ to hand out the brochure and ask for feedback when he attends sites.	CJ
10.2	CJ advised that the PGAWC event at Wasserkuppe was oversubscribed, so pilots need to sign up as soon as possible.	
11	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
11.1	WL advised that squad dates for the remainder of 2025 are now on the website.	
11.2	WL advised that he had responded to Myrianthe Ewington's open letter on the code of conduct. WL advised that the updates to the Code of Conduct detailed what a team pilot can do for individual sponsors, rather than what they can't do. It was also noted that as the biggest backer, the BHPA deserves good publicity.	
11.3	WL advised that Worlds invitation letters had been sent to the relevant pilots and responses had been received from Colin Jones, Sue Britnell and Andy Shaw. WL to put the invitation letters and responses in Dropbox. WL advised that he cannot go to the worlds this year. MB to see if he can go.	WL MB
11.4	<p>The inclusion of overseas pilots in the squad was discussed, and the following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only BHPA members can currently join the squad. - An overseas pilot can only fly for the UK if they have not flown in a Cat1 competition for another country in the past 2 years. - Some NACs may refuse to release a pilot. - If overseas pilots were allowed to join the squad and had no intention of flying for the UK then it would be unfair for them to get subsidised flying. - There may be a contradiction in the registration form wording; 'I may attend training events and competitions with the aim of the squad being to give all members the best possible opportunity of working towards being part of a world class UK team'. 	

	DC & LL to review the registration form wording.	DC, LL, WL
12	Rules / Judging	
12.1	With regard to LL's report comment that 'Membership status of those trained at GD is unknown', it was felt that a clear statement on membership is required from the panel.	
	Meeting closed at 21:55	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 4 th September 2025.	

Chair Report – Aug

I spoke to Bill Bell regarding the competitions ltd. This was done as the BHPA treasurer had seen that another society similar to the BHPA had got into problems with account auditing where there are sub groups. The situation was very similar to the BHPA and to reduce the risk and to avoid putting more pressure on the panels the company was set up.

There will be 3 people on the board, most likely exec members. There will not be any more funding because the company is set up. But any money we raise in the form of sponsorship will not effect the level of BHPA funding.

He did say that our accounts were always good and we set a good example.

He encouraged us to have an AGM for transparency.

He also is keen for everyone to use social media to big up the BHPA. He acknowledged that we were good and wished the other panels were at our standard. The worrying part is that paragliding membership is declining. Paramotor membership is increasing rapidly. We agreed that if we are going to get more eyes on our sport we need professional help with marketing. This applies to all aspects of paragliding.

Competition insurance remains an issue not helped by 13 serious incidents at the current Hang gliding CAT1 in Spain.

He wants more cross fertilisation of competition activities and thinks doing a bid for the World championships is a good idea.

He also said that our activities such as the leaflet to schools and the BAC is excellent work. We are the only panel that actively runs a succession planning process.

Treasurer Report August 2025

Bank:

Bank Balances: £6,915.30

Funding not yet received from BHPA

Squad Training Fees:

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

July: Cherry & Kyle owe £20 each, GD fees paid

Squad Jackets: (updated from Panel July 2025 minutes)

Matt B, Andy Shaw, Waleed Chaudry & James Scully had ordered jackets, and still owe. Waleed & James haven't had them therefore 2 available to sell.

Nationals:

Camping possibly owed by Cherry (or is this being waived) and Kevin (or did he stay offsite?)

Refunds owed to John Lawrence & Dale McMahon – Webbo following up.

Currently surplus sits at £1,337.65 before these refunds and camping income, and Birdwings fees are still due. Is anything owed for Trophies?

Worlds 2025

Entry fees paid €2,520, £2,225.76 through new TorFX currency exchange account.

Debtors

Summary of amounts owed, from above:

Will £20

Cherry £20 or £35?

Kyle £40 (chased on Whatsapp 3/8/25)

Can someone contact & chase:

Kevin £15 (assuming he camped: he's not in accuracy chat but assume there were contact details on his entry form)

Secretary Report August 2025

July meeting actions:

12.2 Latest Operating Procedures put in Dropbox.

Classic Nationals:

- Trophies ordered
- Paperwork completed

Future Skywings:

August – French Grand Prix

September – BAC3 / Paragliding Nationals

October – Classic Nationals

November – Dutch Grand Prix

December - Worlds

Monthly Report August - Parascending

1. I supported the July Classic Squad weekend and Re-Run of PG Accuracy Nationals.
2. Preparation for Classic Accuracy Nationals: Site booked from Friday 22 August to Monday 25 August. Birdwings Airsports is willing to support practice tows on Friday from 1400hrs. Qty 1 18 ft x 24 ft and Qty 2 12ft x 12ft tents and camp beds are being provided by the QMs dept in addition to: tables and chairs, lights for 18 x 24 tent, water jerrycans, and burco boiler. Generators will be provided IF POSSIBLE.

Abfabloos loos have quoted £384 for 3 toilets. That's £174 more than what we have been charged by them for many years. With the panel's agreement, I will cancel the booking and look elsewhere.

Teams: Simon (Snr) will be I/c veh tow, with the Scout L/R,

I will be using the Birdwings winch to launch the PGs.

Gary and Chris will be Square and PG launch marshals.

Liz will be I/ c judging team.

Simon (Snr) will be doing the usual BBQ on Saturday evening and I will be attempting to borrow a substantial BBQ grill from the QMs dept.

AND- Justine will be providing refreshments for apres flying with her usual supply of cool drinks.

Apologies for this late report.

Arthur

Classic Accuracy / PA squad report August 2025

July squad weekend went ahead in sweltering conditions with 3 PA pilots and 2 judges in attendance, as well as winch operator, launch marshal and line retrieve.

Shelters were provided at Winch, Launch and Target.

Use of a hand held anemometer on a pole was in use which wasn't ideal as this was at low level. Consideration of having all kit on site for all conditions needs to be discussed.

Item 8.3 of previous minutes. Arthur has made a proposal about the scoring so please see attached proposal to change the scoring criteria for the PA squad. Once discussed and agreed the final changes can be completed.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

None

Ongoing

Plan to review squad fees in July.

At present the charging of pilots is at -£239, which unless we have far more success in the remaining months with running events and increasing numbers, seems to be reasonably balanced (see figures below).

Jan (1 day)	March (2 days)	April (2 days)	July (2 days)
1 pilot	2 pilots	4 pilots	3 pilots
-£76	-£33	-£76	-£54

I personally feel that Jan figures, which is halved for the joint event where there were 6 PG and 1 PA (only doing 2 flights due to safety concerns) affects the overall.

I therefore propose that the current charging remains where the pilots pay the day rate and the first 4 flights per pilot are covered by the panel.

Regards

Dave

PA Selection Points proposal

Points will be awarded in the following manner.

Current wording

Each registered pilot taking part in the squad or any EPAC or domestic open competition will receive 2 points, an additional 1 point will be awarded for recording a score under the maximum in the competition. Additionally the number of pilots attending will then determine the available points, with the lowest placed pilot receiving 1 point, continuing on, up to the top pilot (i.e. if 6 pilots, then the top pilot will gain 9 points (2+1+6) for that competition). The pilots best points on an annual rolling basis will be counted as per the following criteria. (Points from the best number of training camp competitions count as follows: best 9 out of 12, best 8 out of 11 or 10, best 6 out of 9 or 8, best 5 out of 7, best 4 out of 6, best 3 out of 5 or 4. Points from 3 or less training camp competitions all will count.). A maximum of 2 competition scores will be included in the top point scores.

Proposal for change (*because the number of UK competitors differs at the comps*)

11 Points

Each registered pilot taking part in the squad or any EPAC or domestic open competition will receive 2 points, an additional 1 point will be awarded for recording a score under the maximum in the competition.

Additionally points at competitions will be awarded as follows: 11 points for the top Brit going down to 2 points for tenth place. Everyone else (if there are any), gets 1 point each. (i.e. the top pilot will gain 14 points (2+1+11) for that competition).

The pilots best points on an annual rolling basis will be counted as per the following criteria. (Points from the best number of training camp competitions count as follows: best 9 out of 12, best 8 out of 11 or 10, best 6 out of 9 or 8, best 5 out of 7, best 4 out of 6, best 3 out of 5 or 4. Points from 3 or less training camp competitions all will count.). A maximum of 2 competition scores will be included in the top point scores.

6 points

Each registered pilot taking part in the squad or any EPAC or domestic open competition will receive 2 points, an additional 1 point will be awarded for recording a score under the maximum in the competition.

Additionally points at competitions will be awarded as follows: 6 points for the top Brit going down to 2 points for fifth place. Everyone else (if there are any), gets 1 point each. (i.e. the top pilot will gain 9 points (2+1+6) for that competition).

The pilots best points on an annual rolling basis will be counted as per the following criteria. (Points from the best number of training camp competitions count as follows: best 9 out of 12, best 8 out of 11 or 10, best 6 out of 9 or 8, best 5 out of 7, best 4 out of 6, best 3 out of 5 or 4. Points from 3 or less training camp competitions all will count.). A maximum of 2 competition scores will be included in the top point scores.

Current method

Total Selection Points (July)				
Pos	Name	Tota' Points'	Tie Break Distance	Best Score - number of
	<			
1	D Crowhurst	38		
2	A Webster	35		
3	K Sykes	21		
4	R Bissett	20		
5	J Lawrence	19		
6	G Ounsworth	14		
7	S Sykes	12	38	
8	A Bentley	12	453	
9	D Bond	5		
10	K Tripp	3		

11 Points method

Total Selection Points (July)				
Pos	Name	Tota' Point.	Tie Break Distance	Best Score ar number of
	<			
1	D Crowhurst	68		
2	A Webster	66		
	K Sykes	34		
4	J Lawrence	33		
5	R Bissett	26		
6	S Sykes	23	38	
7	G Ounsworth	21		
8	A Bentley	19	453	
9	D Bond	7		
10	K Tripp	5		

6 Points method

Total Selection Points (July)				
Pos	Name	Total Point.'	Tie Break Distance	Best Score -* number of
	<			
1	D Crowhurst	43		
2	A Webster	41		
3	K Sykes	19		
4	J Lawrence	18		
5	R Bissett	16		
6	S Sykes	13	38	
7	G Ounsworth	11		
8	A Bentley	10	453	
9	D Bond	4		
10	K Tripp	4		

Sites report

Not much to report everything is as normal with site from what I'm aware.

Still in conversation with clubs and their sites which is ongoing.

Winds been a bit high lately so not had chance to visit and test newer sites.

Message to all pilots going germany make sure you sign up on the pgawc website and pay ASAP. Otherwise you may miss out on the place. (Pgawc)

Netherlands epac competition. I'll be flying and hanna is judging tba with Liz and nikki on position.

Question: can an epac competition also have a cat 2 status? If so would help attract more pilots to the epac events too?

Sites

Colin

Rules Officer report Aug 25

Actions from previous minutes

- LL/WL to amend wording of expenses report – sorry been a bit busy with nationals and I cannot remember what amendments were needed. Please can the panel look again at the document issued for the last meeting and provide specific guidance on what still needs to be changed or clarified.

Judging

- 1 new judge (Jamie Wicks) qualified at Nationals. Denis and Max both need to do more judging to be signed off as they were unable to attend the fallback.
- 1 judge trained at BAC attended the fallback (Molly) and continued her training supported by Hanna.
- In total there were 6 judges on the target at the fallback plus our new recorder/wind-measurer Becky – sufficient but not a full crew and no dedicated video operator.
- 3 judges (Jayne, Nikki and Hanna) have done sufficient judging already this year for their non-flying membership to be paid. Claims can be made now or at the end of the year. 3 more judges may qualify for at least partial payment by the end of the year. Membership status of those trained at GD is unknown - Molly was judging at fallback on day memberships as she was not asked to take out membership for BAC. Given the strong steer from BHPA on this is there any risk of comeback on the panel if they are judging without membership, especially if there were to be an incident.
- 2 judges attended classic squad and one attended paragliding squad this month.

Rules

- No action currently needed

Other actions

- I have been doing some analysis of impact of BAC competitions. It is incomplete as only 3 have taken place but headlines so far are:
 - BAC 1 2/18 pilots non-UK (although 1 or possibly both are UK based) – not counting pilots of overseas nationality but with UK FAI licenses. BAC 2 11/26 pilots non-UK (some UK-based). So **around the required 30%** for BAC 1&2 if taken across both competitions. Similar % for BAC 3. However only 1 overseas pilot, who is UK based, attended the Nationals so **not much impact beyond BAC.**
 - 12 new UK pilots (not seen in competitions before). 6 do not have FAI licenses. 4 only attended BAC 1. **4 have joined the squad (33%) which is approaching the 40% target** for BAC 3&4. 1 pilot who holds an Iraqi FAI licence has also registered for the squad (I remain unconvinced that he currently meets squad eligibility as based on the registration form which says 'You can fly in the UK Team if your FAI licence is issued by the BHPA and you have not represented another country in any FAI air sport activity within the last 24 months.'). **5 of the new UK pilots (plus the Iraqi squad member attended the nationals), 2 as novices, which is positive.**
 - Exact numbers of judges trained is unclear as seminar information not updated and judges not listed for all BAC competitions on CIVL. No information shared by GD. From the information I do have it appears that 9 new judges have been trained of which 1 has judged at the nationals – I could add her to the register but her logbook was incomplete so I don't know if she is qualified or still in training. **This is not even close to the 40% target** for BAC 3&4 and without information sharing and/or their attendance at events it is unclear how any of the new judges can be added to the register. AS told me that he cannot persuade others to come if they do not find the event appealing and that the panel is not reaching out effectively.