

# Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Present:	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
	Liz Lawrence	LL	Rules Officer
	Sue Britnell (part time)	SB	Treasurer
	Josie Ewington (part time)	JE	Team Manager

Item	Minute	Action
1	<b>Apologies</b>	
1.1	Apologies were received from CM, and MB had commented that he was on holiday.	
2	<b>Signing off last meeting minutes</b>	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 7 <sup>th</sup> August were reviewed. It was agreed to redact minute 9.3, and add WL to the action column for minute 11.4. The minutes were proposed by DC and seconded by AW.	
3	<b>Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers sponsorship</b>	
3.1	WL advised that he had made a decision to not accept any offer from Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers to sponsor the UK Team, and sought confirmation that he was allowed to make such a decision on behalf of the panel. There was general acceptance that each panel member has to act autonomously in their role, however, AW felt that contentious decisions should be made by the whole panel.	
3.2	<p>Josie Ewington was allowed into the meeting to make the case for accepting an offer from Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers to sponsor the UK Team, and stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At Wasserkuppe all UK Team pilots were in favour of Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers sponsoring the team, subsequently one pilot has reconsidered and advised that they were now not in favour.</li> <li>- A Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers offer has not yet been made, and Josie was seeking panel agreement to approach Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers.</li> <li>- Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers have a long history with sponsorship.</li> <li>- Who had made the decision to turn down potential sponsorship with Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers?</li> <li>- It is not in the best interest of the UK Team to turn down sponsorship.</li> <li>- What had the panel done to get sponsorship for the UK Team?</li> <li>- It has been difficult to get sponsorship at short notice for the UK Team, and letters with a presentation have been sent out to potential sponsors.</li> </ul> <p>WL told Josie that he had made the decision to not accept any offer from Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers to sponsor the team as squad manager, and then advised the panel.</p> <p>Josie then left the meeting to allow the panel to discuss further.</p>	

3.3	There was full panel agreement that any Green Dragons / Thermal Chasers offer for sponsorship should not be accepted due to Green Dragon member's behaviours this year. It was also agreed that the panel will review projected costs for this financial year to determine if more funding can be given to the team.	
3.4	Josie was called back into the meeting, and given the panel decision. Also it was explained that the decision would be backed up in writing. WL / LL to draft a written response for panel review.	WL, LL, Panel
4	<b>Chairman</b>	
4.1	It was noted that MB is to have a discussion with Jenny Buck about the General Meeting.	MB
4.2	It was noted that our Operating Procedures require 3 months notice for a General Meeting. If the meeting is announced on social media then the 3 months notice will not apply to the Skywings announcement, and a December piece in Skywings would be a timely reminder for a January meeting. Details to be finalised at the October panel meeting.	
4.3	It was also noted that the Operating Procedures state that pilots meetings should take place at the nationals, but in most recent years the nationals have not had a meeting. This year there was no meeting at the paragliding nationals although there was one at the classic nationals.	
5	<b>Treasurer</b>	
5.1	It was noted that there has been no further resolution on the squad jackets.	
5.2	WL to submit a claim of £290 for paragliding national costs including trophy materials, portable toilet / tent, and meeting travel costs. It was noted that as the FAI trophies were not used there will be a cost saving next year.	WL
5.3	LL requested that a definition for officials is required in relation to the funding arrangements stated in the Operating Procedures. AW to review.	AW
5.4	SB ran through her 2025/6 spending projection spreadsheet that will determine if additional funds can be made available for the UK Team. AW advised that the projection should be against the budget agreed in February rather than against the financial annual plan submitted to the BHPA in January. AW / SB to review the figures.	AW, SB
	WL advised that he had told Josie Ewington that Myrianthe Ewington will not be getting team kit, and should not be on team photos.	
6	<b>Secretary</b>	
6.1	There were no comments on the Secretary's report.	
7	<b>Media &amp; PR</b>	
7.1	It was determined that CM had only sent her report to LL.	
7.2	WL stated that a paragliding festival such as the Buttermere Bash would be good to promote accuracy. AW advised that an accuracy competition would be difficult to run at the Buttermere Bash, and WL advised that a small group of accuracy pilots could visit the site to fly and assess it.	
7.3	Regarding a proposed fun day, DC suggested that we would have to take an accuracy event to pilots local environment, as there is no draw for pilots, who are more interested in XC, to move from their local sites.	
7.4	Regarding Cherry's proposal for the panel to have a host club, it was noted that the panel and clubs need accuracy coaches.	
8	<b>Classic Accuracy</b>	
8.1	There was general agreement that the classic nationals went very well.	

8.2	AB advised that he had forgot to mention in his report that there is a parascending competition in Portugal in early October. DC and Jamie Robe are planning to go.	
8.3	LL advised that she had prepared an Official Roles proforma in conjunction with DC and AW, and this could form part of a planning list.	
8.4	The pilot meeting actions were reviewed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There only appeared to be two pilots who did not want to see the scores while signing for their score. A simple solution is required probably involving some form of cut-out. There was agreement that pilots should still sign for their scores.</li> <li>- Discussion took place regarding a person to assist the winch operator with observing pilot signals. It was noted that man power was normally short, and the launch marshal was too busy to assist with this activity.</li> <li>- The panel should produce an accident log book / sheet. DC to action.</li> </ul>	DC
<b>9</b>	<b>Classic Accuracy Squad</b>	
9.1	There were no comments on DC's report.	
<b>10</b>	<b>Paragliding Sites</b>	
10.1	CJ suggested that a weeks squad training be carried out at Wasserkuppe, before their competitions.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Paragliding Accuracy Squad</b>	
11.1	WL advised that the Worlds organisers had yet to make a decision on whether Tom Ewington could take part in the Worlds, and Josie had been informed of this.	
11.2	WL advised that he had been approached by Ed Hilleveld to help the Dutch run a Cat 2 event as they need FAI judges, and had suggested that there could be a joint UK / Dutch nationals. DC felt that a Cat 2 competition should be run first before a nationals. WL to further discuss with Ed Hilleveld, and provide a proposal for the panel.	WL
11.3	WL advised that the selection criteria for the Euros in Romania is on the website. WL to announce this on the Whatsapp group.	WL
11.4	It was noted that squad pilots want to see the full selection spread sheet on the website.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Rules / Judging</b>	
12.1	Panel to advise if any amendments are required to the Operating Procedures wording for judges and officials expenses.	Panel
12.2	It was agreed that LL should discuss on Basecamp that wind speeds be monitored 5 seconds after a pilot has landed as per the FAI parachute rule.	LL
	Meeting closed at 21:51	
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2025.	

## Treasurer report September 2025

Bank:

Bank Balances: £13,958

Funding of £7k received from BHPA 15<sup>th</sup> August

Squad Training Fees:

June: Kyle still owes £20, 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.

### **PG Nationals:**

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

Refund owed to Dale McMahon – Webbo following up. (?)

Claim for £290 received from WL – I have requested receipts if possible

### **PA Nationals**

LL advised possibly two more claims for expenses (JF & CH)

**Total Nationals: currently have a surplus of £534.32 across both competitions**

Worlds 2025

Entry fee contribution from Myri received, and Josie TL fee paid

### **Debtors**

Summary of amounts owed, from above:

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)

## 2025 – 2026 Projection and Worlds Funding Proposal

The attached projection is based on the current position as at 2<sup>nd</sup> September (surplus to date of £4266.29), and best estimates of further income and expenditure to March 2026.

- **Competition costs:** currently a surplus of £534, budget was a loss of £665, therefore £1,199 better than budget
- Squad Training: most difficult to predict, but assume make a small deficit between September and March. Most Cat 2 fees have already been paid, it is just the cost of the actual Squad weekends which we will incur, plus potentially some judges expenses. Based on projected costs of £1933 for full year, this is £2,432 better than budget
- Admin costs: the income is camping fees, and bank interest, £470 for full year. Budget was a cost of £1778. Therefore £2,248 better than budget
- Worlds: currently entry fees total £2040, I have assumed £65 x 7 for team clothing, and a payment of £50 towards expenses has been proposed. I assume this will include to Myri although she is self funding her entry fee, worst case £350 which is included in projection.
- Sponsorship has been confirmed in writing with Phillips Tyres of £100 per person attending, ie 5 x team pilots, Myri & Josie, but has been left out of these figures.

Based on the current Actuals and the projections explained above, there would be a surplus of £3,226 for 2025/26.

Webbo previously explained to me he expected to run down the current surplus brought forward of £9,692 over 7 years, however the proposed £50 per attendee payment just adds even further to the current surplus.

I would like to propose an increase in the funding payment to say £500 per pilot, to include the £100 sponsorship income. This would be an increase of £350 per pilot / TL, ie £2450 total assuming Myri also receives this, or £2100 excluding her.

These figures would still leave a surplus of £1,126 to £776 for the year, so over £10k carried forward. I do understand there are 2 x Cat 1 events within a few months (oct 2026 & February 2027), but cash flow would be sufficient with further BHPA funding in 2026 at the same level.

## Secretary Report September 2025

August meeting actions:

- 7.1 Classic nationals programme updated and published on the website.
- 7.3 Asked Chris Haynes if he could do the classic nationals scoring.

Future Skywings:

September – Paragliding Nationals / BAC3

October – Classic Nationals

November – Dutch Grand Prix / BAC4

December – Worlds

General Meeting format proposal:

November Skywings announcement for a January / February meeting.

Invite BHPA members to apply for positions.

Ask for proposals.

Zoom meeting? Agree protocol for speaking in turn.

Vote on panel positions where necessary.

Discuss and vote on proposals.

## **Media & PR report September 2025**

Socials are doing well. I am happy with the official posts and think they look quite smart. We have had quite a bit of consistent engagement with recent posts and I'm hoping to keep this going. I have started testing around with reels and videos and done a very quick one for the classics as a tester video. However, I plan to start editing stuff soon now that I have quite a few videos to you for it.

Nationals budgets-

I have yet to receive a quote for the trophies and as such cannot send that expense in. When I get it you will get it. I have sent a minimum of 5 chaser messages but this business does not seem to want to take my money yet.

World's socials plan.

I have sent out an email to the team pilots and Josie with requests for photos and answers to specific questions to create pilot profiles again this year as done with last year. They looked great last year and got a decent amount of views. They also allowed for a lot more attention and direction towards the big comp. I'm hoping to do the same this year. If I get videos from the pilots I will attempt to put a few together then.

Growth and development:

I have not done any further development on participation growth at this stage due to other constraint's but I plan to start up again soon. I will be getting in touch with BHPA to see how many of the leaflets have gone out in order to see what kind of numbers they are qualifying in a year. I also plan to send out more emails to schools and clubs.

I would like to propose a squad fun day for next year whereby we send out mass invites for a fun get to know weekend/ day where people can come try out accuracy, meet the community, train. For this I would like to have as many coaches, instructors and operators available to help. We can't get new people to try things out without these necessary people. But before I commence anything I would like the panels opinions and support as I will not be able to manage that as a one woman show.

I do believe Green dragons is doing well in their advertisement and enthusiasm for growth and whilst I may not support them as sponsors this year I do think we can learn from some of their actions. We won't get more people without putting in the effort to get new people unfortunately. I think it would be easier if the panel had a host club/ club of our own as base of operations to be able to work on this which is something Will and I have discussed previously together. What are the panels thoughts and opinions. It's definitely not a short term goal but a long term one.

That's all from me. Unfortunately I am burdened by having to work so I will not make it to the meeting. Please could someone summarise the points above after discussion so that I may get over all votes and views on the matter.

## ACCURACY PANEL MONTHLY REPORT

### SEPTEMBER – PARASCENDING

1. The Annual Classic Championship comp was successfully validated with 13 rounds completed. I think every aspect of the competition was a success and a lot of the success was down to the support from the military. Another outstanding feature throughout the weekend was the calm and enjoyable atmosphere that existed with everyone working together and even after the flights had finished for the day, there was plenty of socialising in the big tent, greatly assisted by our Dutch friends.
2. Our next main Classic event is the final leg of the Grand Prix hosted by Sky Rebels at their site in Terheijden NL (13-14 Sep).
3. The final Classic comp of the year is the annual Birdwings comp scheduled for 18 Oct. This will include the presentation of the award for the winner of the 2025 Classic Accuracy League.

Regards,  
Arthur

**Classic Accuracy / PA squad report September 2025**

August squad weekend didn't go ahead due to weather on Sat and lack of pilots to operate on Sunday.

Competitors/Judges/Operators meeting completed at PA Nationals/ EPAC. Notes sent separately

Accuracy safety:  
Nothing to report

Near misses:  
None

Regards  
Dave

## Competitors Meeting – 25/08/2025

Dave Crowhurst

At the Nationals I suggested to panel members present to hold a competitors meeting (also including operators and judges). Please find attached minutes for discussion at panel meeting.

- Consider a way that competitors cannot see the score when signing the scoresheet for a round, suggestions were a cover sheet that only shows the space for the pilot signing, or separate slips. Some pilots prefer not to see others scores, yet others do look at others scores.
- Issues with the tow and winch operators not seeing legs (go faster stop), possible consider launch Marshall repeating to the operator (not supported by operator as reliant on additional comms). Suggested an additional person at winch or in Vehicle is a better option. AB - A second person at the winch is very useful. One reason is - it is sometimes difficult to see the pilot asking for release. On a bright day the pilot often becomes a silhouette and unless the pilot demonstrates a FULL spread of the legs, with the legs visible outside of the silhouette, the legs often can't be seen. Also, a second pair of eyes AND ears is always a good thing when the noisy winch engine is running.
- The competition should be run with more specific roles being filled rather than being filled by pilots. Was explained that if unable to gain sufficient non flying officers then we have to make the best of what's available.
- A programmed lunch break should be implemented to give everyone a specific break on a long day of flying.
- Publishing scores on the WhatsApp group is problematic as not everyone is watching. Make use of proper noticeboard or other methodology perhaps both noticeboard and WhatsApp group.
- Judges IT system for scoring should be used. It was explained that this was due to judge allocated pulling out.
- There should be an accident book for the event.
- There should be a pro forma thank you sheet as some were missed out at the prize-giving. In hand by panel members

## **Paragliding Squad Manager**

I have put together the expenses report for the nationals best I can, I apologise for the delay and am also finding it hard to confirm some numbers if anyone is able to help.

- Site and winch cost for the weekend at SC including fuel
- Actual cost of lunches at SC
- Total cost of official's expenses for combined comps
- How many pilots paid the £15 camping fee at SC
- Confirm Portaloo costs, I believe it was £150 for the 2

As none of the CAT 2 trophies were used and we are yet to receive an invoice from the company, I'm recommending rolling those costs over to next year's comp.

Some of you are aware but at the classic nationals I was approached by Ed Hilleveld requesting assistance from me and Cherry regarding them organising their first CAT 2 comp next year. While discussing this I floated the idea of a joint Dutch and British nationals hosted by them which Ed is happy to explore. Does the panel support next years UK nationals being held in Holland?

My reasoning for supporting this plan is - increased attendance from European competitors, it provides us more winches/ operators, non flying meet director, still relatively low cost for UK competitors and helps fix our paragliding relationship with the Dutch after resent issues.

I have been sent an email regarding the refusal to allow GD and TC to sponsor the team from the Team Leader Josie. She requests this is discussed at the next panel meeting and that she be in attendance for this. She has also requested that we meet before the panel meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> for this discussion.

With regards to her request to join. I believe she should be welcome to state her case but not involved in the discussion and then brought back in for the result. I do not feel comfortable discussing it in front of non-panel members as it would be easy to misunderstand or misconstrue a poorly phrased sentence and would only lead to greater harm being caused.

Next months joint squad training is being cancelled due to Epac round 3 and I am also unavailable to organise it so only the back up date for the PG will be used.

Squad dates until the end of the year have been published on the website

I have had a response from the CAT 1, they have added josie as the team leader and confirm they have received the £200 for her. They have not yet approved Toms inclusion into the comp and have said they will make a decision soon.

Regards  
William

## Rules Officer report Aug 25

### Actions from previous minutes

#### July

- LL/WL to amend wording of expenses report.  
From Aug Rules officer 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 (attached) and provide specific guidance on what still needs to be changed or clarified. Not yet addressed.

#### Aug

- 11.4 Is this action for DC & LL or DC & WL?
- 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 – there is no name against this action or indication of where this statement will be published. Note: Molly now has BHPA membership.

### Judging

- There were 6 judges, including one new to classic judging, plus scorer and wind monitor for the Classic Nationals. 3 expenses claims have been authorised totalling £292.64
- Several UK judges are planning to attend the Dutch EPAC competition.
- Judges have been given the date for the Birdwings competition.

### Rules

- In classic accuracy the wind is measured for 5 seconds after the pilot lands. Is there a case for requesting that this is considered also for paragliding accuracy? Wind measured as over limits immediately after landing could have had an effect on the last part of the flight or could cause a fall if it caught the canopy before it was collapsed.
- Are there any points about FAI rules that need to be discussed on Basecamp and/or proposed by UK in preparation for the next Plenary?

Liz

## Judges allowances

The panel have agreed that allowances will be paid at the following rates for each qualified judge, unless sharing vehicle/accommodation with a competing pilot.

### For competitions

- £0.45 / mile travel allowance up to a maximum of £100 for any event.
- Accommodation for a maximum of two panel-run events per year - maximum £30, for camping fees or a contribution to other accommodation

To be approved in advance by the meet director.

### For squad training

- £0.45 / mile travel allowance up to a maximum of £100 for any event.

Ideally to be approved in advance by the squad manager.

As judges are only required for one day of a Squad Training weekend, accommodation costs are not generally applicable. If it is a joint squad weekend where competitions are over both days, or the distance travelled to attend is such that an overnight stay is needed and temperatures are too low for tent camping (defined as forecast to fall below 2°C between the hours of 8pm and 8am) an accommodation allowance, maximum £20 per event can be claimed by judges whose usual accommodation is a tent, with the approval of the squad manager.

If squad training is overseas and UK judges are specifically required (i.e. it is not a competition with judges provided) the maximum single event travel allowance plus a £20 contribution to accommodation will be paid. This must be agreed in advance.

### Annual mileage limits

Judges may claim up to £200 for travel in any one year, across multiple events but subject to the cap of £100 for any single event as above.

### Expenses for Judge development

Judges wishing to further their development by judging at overseas competitions may claim £80 for travel (unless driving with a competing pilot)/accommodation at each of two non-UK cat 2 competitions provided that these expenses are not being covered by the competition organisers.

Commented [LL1]: Suggested amount - hard to do it the same as pilots as how do you measure the comparative value of different cat 2 competitions to a judge

### BHPA membership

All target judges are required to have BHPA membership. The recorder does not require BHPA membership. In the case of judges who have non-flying membership (current cost £62 pa with a discount on renewal by direct debit and a £30 initial joining fee for new members) the panel will reimburse, at the end of the year the full cost for judges who judge for a minimum of 5 days at:

- both the classic and paragliding nationals, or
- a combination of one national championships and club or squad competitions

A 50% reimbursement will be given to judges who judge for a minimum of 3 days at:

- one national championships (3 day event), or
- one national championships (2 day event) and a club competition or squad competition or
- a club competition and squad competition or
- multiple squad competitions

Requests for judges for National Championships will be sent by the Rules Officer (or Meet Director) and, before the event, the MD will confirm the judging team for which expenses will be paid and send an authorised expenses form. Priority may be given to judges who can judge the full duration of a championships. Expenses will be paid by the accuracy panel on receipt of the completed form by the treasurer.

Requests for judges at squad training will be posted in the squad WhatsApp group. Ideally the squad manager will confirm in advance who will be receiving expenses, based on how many judges are available and are needed and the budget for the weekend and will send an authorised expenses form. Expenses will be paid by the accuracy panel (from the squad training budget) on receipt of the completed form by the treasurer.

Requests for judges for club competitions will be made by the Meet Director who will be responsible for confirmation of expenses and payment from the competition budget as these events are not panel funded.