

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 2nd October 2025

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies were received from CJ & DC.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 4 th September were reviewed, and it was noted that there was a duplication of the item number 12.1. Subject to the amendment, the minutes were proposed by LL and seconded by AB.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that the Cat 1 team composition rule had changed such that teams can have a maximum of 4 pilots from any sex. Also, MB advised that he is going out to the championships as the scorer.	
3.2	MB understood that the main complaint about CIVL is that competition officials are setting dangerous tasks in XC competitions. Accuracy has a good safety reputation, however, improvements can still be made through risk assessments, and the UK accuracy panel leads the way on this. MB also advised that the Paragliding Accuracy CIVL Subcommittee is to roll out a new structure soon.	
3.3	<p>MB advised that he had not been able to contact Jenny Buck about a General Meeting. The following was agreed on the General Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting will be via zoom. Participants will be muted, and will need to put their hand up to request to speak. - The meeting will take place on Thursday 29th January 2026. - The meeting will open with a panel presentation on what the panel does, what it has achieved and conclusions from the survey. CM to draft a presentation. - Participants will be invited to make proposals prior to the meeting. - The panel will advise which posts are vacant on the panel and in working groups, and will invite participants to join the panel or working groups at the end of the meeting. The panel will then vote on participants as per the Operating Procedures. - An announcement will be made via social media to give 3 months notice, and be repeated in December / January Skywings. AW to draft an announcement and agenda for panel review. Comments to be switched off on the social media post to prevent out of control discussion. 	<p style="text-align: center;">CM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AW</p>
3.4	<p>CM advised that there had been little interest in accuracy following the social media posts and issue of the brochure. The following issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most paraglider pilots are not interested in accuracy. - Pilots are aware of the division and politics in accuracy. - Accuracy is seen as a skill rather than a cool fun activity. - Accuracy is not promoted by most schools / instructors. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilots see accuracy as a single sport whereas pilots can do both XC and accuracy. <p>The following was suggested to promote accuracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go to club meetings. - Go to festivals to demonstrate accuracy. - Get more clubs involved with accuracy coaches. - Approach XC and Acro pilots for interest. - Organise an accuracy team at the BCC. <p>CM to formulate a plan with help from MB.</p>	CM
3.5	MB advised that he is working on a coaching syllabus, where there would be trainee, coach and elite coaches. It was noted that safety was very important, and coaches would have to pay more annual membership to cover insurance issues. Agreeing a technical approach may be difficult.	
4	Treasurer	
4.1	It was noted that Andy Shaw and Matt Bignell had ordered jackets, but not paid for them. Also team pilots who don't wear the official team kit at the opening and closing ceremonies will be subject to disciplinary action.	
4.2	It was agreed that squad pilots who owe squad fees will not be allowed to take part in future training camps until debts are paid. CM to investigate if a debt flag can be linked to the website rsvp.	CM
5	Secretary	
5.1	It was agreed that the operating procedures should be updated to state that panel members on official business can claim costs at the same rates judges and nationals competition officials. AW to update the Operating Procedures.	AW
6	Media & PR	
6.1	CM stated that she had made a post about the UK Team, and asked panel members to share and like it. It was noted that some team pilots had not engaged as well as others in providing photographs.	
6.2	CM advised that she and CJ still has brochures that can be issued.	
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	AB advised that the Birdwings competition will take place in mid October.	
8	Paragliding Accuracy World Championships	
8.1	MB was congratulated in organising the T shirts at short notice. MB to deliver the T shirts to pilots at the event.	MB
9	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
9.1	It was noted that LL, DC & WL are to update the squad registration forms with regard to eligibility of overseas pilots.	LL, DC, WL
9.2	WL to chase Ed Hilleveld about a joint Cat 2 Dutch UK nationals to be held in Holland. It was noted that Ed Hilleveld had approached LL and Nikki Bodill to judge at the event, and CM & WL to help run the event. Ed has advised that he has sponsors. WL advised that a good attendance is possible as Europeans can drive there, and the competition could be more than two days long. Also, it would be good for the UK to demonstrate that they can run joint competitions.	

10	Rules / Judging	
10.1	LL advised that the accuracy website does not currently state that judges need to be BHPA members. LL to action.	LL
10.2	LL advised that she had not had any communication with Sabina Mihailescu about judge training at the BAC events. The CIVL website gives CIVL IDs for the judges, but nothing else. MB to chase Sabina.	MB
10.3	LL advised that the judging criteria had not been met for funding the BAC3&4 sanction fees.	
10.4	LL queried the minimum age for a judge. It was noted that safeguarding rules would need to be followed where parents / guardians would need to be in attendance.	
10.5	Further to a comment made by Jayne Houston, LL advised that pilots with a medical history could fall ill at a competition, and it would be a good idea to advise the lead first aider of medical issues such as diabetes. It was agreed that the NHS number should be added to entry forms.	
11	BAC	
11.1	MB stated the following on the BAC series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It had been a success showing an improvement in pilot performance. - Future events should be at two other sites to increase participation from other clubs. Clubs would need mentoring. - A working group should be created to help it grow. 	
11.2	The following issues were raised with the BAC series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LL was not allowed to get involved, and there was an extra expense for using an overseas chief judge. - Overseas pilots were not returning as they wanted to compete at a flying site rather than a school training field. - It reduces the pilot numbers at the nationals and squad training. - It should be run by the NAC, but it is really a Green Dragons event, and Andy Shaw won't relinquish control. - If a competition went to another club it would be either Green Dragons on tour or no Green Dragons would turn up if the club had full control. 	
	Meeting closed at 22.33	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 6 th November 2025.	

Treasurer report from Sue Britnell for meeting on 2nd October 2025

Bank:

Bank Balances: £11,069

Squad Training Fees:

June: Kyle still owes £20, chased 24/6; no GD fees yet (hill, but retrieve up hill)

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

Squad Jackets: (no change)

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

PG Nationals:

Camping £15 owed by Cherry

Refund has been paid to Dale McMahon

PA Nationals

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

Total Nationals: currently have a surplus of £13 across both competitions

Worlds 2025

Sponsorship of £700 received from Phillips Tyres 12th September

SB & AW discussed the budget and forecast and estimated that £1700 was available for Worlds payments, totalling £700 with the Sponsorship received. Payments to 5 x team pilots and 1 x team leader of £400 each were made on 26th September (£2400 total)

Shirts have not yet been paid for. It would be good to know what the misunderstanding was regarding the TL not ordering these as expected.

Debtors

Summary of amounts owed, from above:

Cherry £35 squad fees and & £15 camping, to be offset by Brochure costs when claimed

Will £20 July squad fees

Kyle £40 (chased on Whatsapp 3/8/25)

Secretary Report October 2025

September meeting actions:

5.3 Further to LL's request that a definition for officials is required in relation to the funding arrangements stated in the Operating Procedures. I note that the Operating Procedures give examples of officials as meet director and launch marshal, and I think we should leave it at that.

5.4 Agreed projected 2025/6 spending with SB to see if further money could be made available for the CAT 1 event.

12.1 Regarding the judges expenses wording, I believe CM / WL suggested squad manager approval / sign off.

Future Skywings:

October – Classic Nationals

November – Dutch Grand Prix

December – Worlds / BAC4

Classic Rep Report

The European Accuracy Grand Prix was successfully completed on 14 September.

All 3 competitions were validated with UK teams Winning the main categories. Dave C won the Individual trophy with Katie getting 3rd and Scout Rebels (John, Katie and Simon) winning the Team category with Dave C, Andy W, Gary and Richard awarded 2nd place for Birdwings.

There were a few admin problems prior to the presentation but these will be addressed at the meeting in Calais.

Regards,
Arthur

Rules Officer report Oct 25

Actions from previous minutes

Aug

- 11.4 Not yet done
- 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. Does BHPA have a clear written policy on this for all competition panels to follow. Not addressed at previous meeting.

Sept

- 3.4 Note drafted for Josie explaining panel reasons for not seeking sponsorship from Green Dragons.
- 12.1 (refers back to July minutes) Amendment made as per October Secretary's report. Action completed.
- 12.2 LL has mentioned to Andy Cowley

Judging

- 3 UK judges attended the Dutch EPAC competition.
- Judges still being recruited for Birdwings competition – so far 2 definite, 2 probable, 4 confirmed as unavailable.

Rules

- Are there any points about EPAC rules that need to be discussed ready to be put forward to the EPAC meeting?

Proposal for discussion

It has been suggested that competition entrants and officials should be asked to provide, on a confidential basis for use by designated first aider, any relevant medical information that may be needed in case of accident or medical emergency. This is not about fitness to fly but about what needs to be known to manage any incident or to be communicated to ambulance crew.

Liz