

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 6th January 2026

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	There were no apologies.	
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 4 th December 2025 were proposed by AB and seconded by DC.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	CM with support from LL to draft a response to Tom Ewington's requested outcomes over minute 11.2 of the October minutes, with an emphasis on panel members being able to discuss matter freely. It was agreed that panel meetings can be recorded for the purpose of writing minutes, and deleted later. The recordings should not be made public as items can't be redacted where necessary, and there may be items of a confidential nature being discussed. In addition panel members should wear headphones if they are attending a meeting in a public space.	CM, LL
3.2	It was noted that BHPA members need to raise a proposal if they want to discuss something at the General Meeting. CM to update the Power Point presentation, and MB to run through the Power Point presentation at the meeting. It was noted that the latest agenda is on the Power Point presentation, and MB to publish it. MB has created a Dropbox sub folder for the General Meeting under the Panel header. The panel will have a pre-meeting half an hour before the General Meeting – LL to forward an invite. LL advised that seven pilots are currently registered.	CM MB LL
3.3	MB advised that Judith Freeman had shown an interest in joining the panel. There was agreement for her to join the panel, and the Safety Officer or Paragliding Representative with BAPA links may be a good fit for her. MB to let her know.	MB
3.4	All panel members agreed to continue with their roles, and for WL to be Vice Chairman. CJ also expressed an interest to be a trainee squad manager.	
4	Treasurer	
4.1	It was agreed to increase the clothing allowance from £210 to £250 in the annual financial plan. AW to update.	AW
4.2	Up front bulk buying of team clothing proposal is to be discussed after the General Meeting.	
4.3	CJ to claim postage costs for sending the paragliding league trophy to MB.	CJ
5	Secretary	
5.1	The amendments to the panel Operating Procedures were agreed. AW to upload to Dropbox and the website.	AW

6	Media & PR	
6.1	AW advised that he had published all known competition dates on the website.	
6.2	CM advised that a Microsoft paragliding squad registration form is on the website. CM will look at doing the same for the classic squad. MB to announce that the registration is open.	CM, MB
6.3	CM advised that the brochures had run out, and it was agreed to continue with them. CM / WL to review the brochure layout and include a QR code to the website.	CM, WL
6.4	CM queried why pilots were not coming through the Scout system. LL advised that the Scouts are running more square courses to try and encourage pilots to join the sport, but available time and distance to travel were big blockers. LL to investigate using Scout owned Romney Marsh as a flying site for the Scouts.	
7	Classic Accuracy	
7.1	AB will check if the South Cerney site fees are required up front. AB thought it was unlikely that the DIO will waiver site fees for the nationals, but will ask Ian Cooper to request a waiver on our behalf.	
7.2	AB advised that an EPAC meeting is planned for February, and noted that Sky Rebels will not be able to use the Terheijden site this year due to crop rotation.	
7.3	AB advised that South Cerney is available for the classic nationals. DC advised that he would like the classic nationals date to be changed from the August Bank Holiday date due to the clash with the parachuting worlds. AB to discuss competition date at the EPAC meeting as French pilots will also be attending the parachuting worlds.	
7.4	AB advised that following his flying retirement, he will still have to pay full membership to retain his qualifications. It was agreed to pay the difference between flying membership and non-flying membership to AB as he was maintaining his qualifications to support accuracy. AB to submit a claim.	AB
8	Classic Accuracy Squad	
8.1	DC advised that if the same system of training camp dates is used this year as last year, then he will not be able to attend seven of the weekends, so he has put a circular out to squad members to ask for their thoughts. DC hoped to have dates ready for the next panel meeting.	DC
9	Sites	
9.1	CJ advised that he has not been able to do much on sites as he currently does not have a car.	
9.2	CJ noted that Dave Roberts who operates in the Long Mynd area is planning to set up a winch / paramotoring school that will possibly involve a new site.	
9.3	CJ advised that he plans to join the Long Mynd committee which could help with sites.	
9.4	It was noted that Rutland Air Sports are not currently taking on any new civilian members, and this also seems to include veterans like John Lawrence.	
10	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	
10.1	MB advised that he will be the interim squad manager, and will come up with training camp dates for 2026.	MB

10.2	The response to the Letter of No Confidence was reviewed. DC to make amendments.	DC
10.3	No Local Regulations have been published for the Euros in Romania yet.	
11	Rules / Judging	
11.1	It was noted that Josie Ewington will be Event Judge, and there will be a Spanish Chief Judge at BAC1.	
11.2	LL advised that the proposal to monitor wind speed 5 seconds after pilot landing was supported by Andy Cowley.	
11.3	CM to chase Andy Cowley for comments on last year's paragliding nationals.	CM
12	Paragliding Nationals	
12.1	MB stated that Chris Haynes had said there was no problem holding the paragliding nationals in the Shropshire / North Wales area.	
12.2	It was noted that a minibus would be required for Llangollen, and a 4x4 is required for Gyrn Moelfre. WL to look at 4X4s. The Scouts and Jamie Robe's Land Rover were also suggested. CJ to also make enquiries with the Long Mynd Club members regarding vehicles.	WL CJ
12.3	It was noted that key officials are needed to put the competition on the FAI calendar. DC could possibly be available as the Meet Director, LL can be Chief Judge.	
12.4	LL to prepare the Local Regulations.	LL
12.5	MB to create a folder on Drop box. AW to add forms.	MB, AW
	Meeting closed at 22.20	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 5 th February 2026.	

Treasurer report from Sue Britnell for meeting on 6th January 2026

Bank:

Bank Balances: £11,085

Squad Training Fees:

June: Kyle still owes £20, chased 24/6 and again 12/11

July: Cherry (to be offset against Brochure costs) & Kyle owe £20 each

PG Nationals:

Camping £15 paid by Cherry to Arthur per minutes of Nov 25 meeting. Arthur has now banked, many thanks.

Debtors

Summary of amounts owed, from above:

Cherry £35 squad fees to be offset by Brochure costs when claimed

Kyle £40 (chased on Whatsapp 3/8/25 and 12/11/25)

Submission to BHPA

Now we are in the new calendar year the submission to BHPA needs to be made soon, i.e. request for funds as well as submission of 2025 year accounts. Please submit any budget requests to Andy or myself by end of January.

Secretary Report January 2026

December meeting actions:

3.2 Forwarded the General Meeting Zoom invite to the panel.

5.2 Operating Procedures updated with UK records wording.

9.2 Team Manager role in the Operating Procedures updated to include ensuring that team pilots complete incident reports.

9.3 Written response to Myrianthe Ewington's proposal to change the selection criteria formula to the WPRS.

Proposed Future Skywings:

January – 2025 final leagues, Accuracy awards, Records

February – WPRS, BAC

March – Season preview

Operating Procedures:

I have updated the Operating Procedures with amendments in red for panel approval

Financial Annual Plan 2026/7:

I have drafted out the above plan for comment. Will there be an EPAC meeting in January?
Will we be paying any BAC sanction fees?

Note that the 2026 Cat 1 figures are based on sending a seven pilots plus a manager to Romania. The 2027 Cat 1 figures are based on sending a five pilots plus a manager to Thailand. This is just my suggestion.

Media & PR Report

Merry Christmas and all the best in the new year to come !
Please find attached media report

First off the general meeting slides are almost complete. However, I require your review and assistance. There are a few slides in there not complete that need something added. So please review and send your feedback my way. I require this from each of you so please do not ignore. I will be posting the link soon for the meeting on socials and website.

Social- socials have been slow due to winter season. I did create a Christmas post that got some decent interaction and thank you to the panel members who did engage. There will be more to come for the new years posts I would appreciate if people could send over a list of their known events occurring in the new year for me to be able to advertise. This includes any that you intend on going to as well. I could also do with any dates and locations for our national competitions.

Website- the website is still doing well and being monitored. As stated previously the registration form for squad is now an online Microsoft form that I will be advertising. Please do assist me with this.

I have not yet sent out the brochures I aim to do this before the end of the year for the BHPA. However, I think a discussion is needed to see if we will order more for when we run out to be able to continue advertising. Especially since we have had no feedback from them at all or apparent interested.

Finally, as a last point, I am raising again on behalf of Tim E his points regarding the panel meetings I believe three meetings ago. This I have already raised in the panel chat prior to the meeting for people to think about but a formal answer will need to be created and an anticipation of a reaction from Tom depending on the outcome.

For ease this is his request

"I would like first and foremost for the panel members at fault to be formally identified and according to the operating procedures and code of conduct applied the appropriate disciplinary action. If those panel members remain unidentified I would like you to propose the recording of panel meetings to avoid this in the future. Those at fault shouldn't be present for the discussion of their disciplinary action. I would like to also ask that if it's likely that the panel will deny the proposition of recording meetings that this becomes a matter which can be voted on at the general meeting."

Thank you

Cherr

Monthly Report (January 2026)

Parascending

1. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has accepted the offer from Birdwings Airsports of a daily rate for airfield use of £125.00.

I have received this information from Ian Cooper, our Liaison Officer, but I am still waiting for the official document from DIO, which will give us the 'All Clear' to restart our weekend activity. I anticipate receiving this by the end of this month.

2. Classic Nationals 2026. It was agreed during the Dec panel meeting that the Classic Nationals be held during the August Bank Holiday period. Now that we know that we will have the use of South Cerney I propose that this will be the venue for this competition. Please be aware that although this 3 x day competition is used for the Classic National Championships and the UK leg of the Grand Prix, not everyone will be eligible for the Classic Championships and not everyone will have been to France for the French leg of the Grand Prix series or intend to compete in the Dutch leg of the Grand Prix. To maintain some incentive for ALL pilots I propose that an emphasis is on the fact that the 3 x day competition is an OPEN competition for ALL pilots, Square canopies or Paraglider wings, and trophies will be awarded in the main categories, regardless of what type of wing is being used. There was an incident just a few years ago when some of the paraglider pilots became quite vocal when it was announced that they would not be eligible to be awarded any trophies in the Classic Nationals competition.

Regards,

Arthur

PA squad report January 2026

December squad weekend was cancelled,
Presently no dates have been allocated for 2026, Squad Manager to contact pilots registered from last year to select dates as 2nd weekend every month hasn't been working and isn't suitable for myself for the majority of months this year. Dates will be set to avoid known published dates where possible.

Accuracy safety:
Nothing to report

Near misses:
Nothing to report

The Skydiving World Championships have been scheduled over the August Bank Holiday so clashes with the traditional Classic Nationals / UK EPAC dates.

9 pilots registered during 2015 (down from 13 in 2024)
4 weekends of squad took place with 8 cancelled, combination of late site cancellation, clash with competitions, weather and not having communications from pilots.

Communications

This is now on the website and I am unable to report on details (can a report come from the website on numbers of responses each event?).

There are still some communicating on WhatsApp so this has not been fully taken up by all pilots. In general, there is still a lack of communications for the weekends, in particular if not attending

New registration form for 2026 on Dropbox.

Regards
Dave

Rules Officer report Jan 26

Actions and matters arising from December minutes

- 3.2 – Currently 7 people registered for the GM – Andy W, Mark, Sue, Jobin, Myri, Ed, Dexter. Please can panel members register to get the link so I am not getting late requests to email it.
- 5.1 – information sent to CJ detailing in which months over last 3 years squad selection competitions were completed.
- 11.1 – main information has now been received from Sabina and forwarded to Elena so CIVL can be updated. No response to last few queries.
- Responded to Cherry's circulation of presentation for the GM

Judging

- No events requiring judging have taken place since last meeting
- Concerns raised with MB and Andy C re appointment of EJ for BAC 1 2026.

Rules

- Proposal to amend the rules to include measuring wind for a short period after landing as in classic accuracy and skydiving accuracy submitted on correct form to Andy C in response to his post on Basecamp requesting proposals.
- Very little other activity on Basecamp at present

Question: Are there any classic rules change proposals to be raised at the EPAC meeting?

Equipment

- No action needed.

Liz