

Minutes of the BHPA Accuracy Panel Zoom Call

Held at 20.00 on 5th March 2026

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

Item	Minute	Action
1	Apologies	
1.1	CM is on a hiatus.	
1.2	MB to check if Judith Freeman is available for Thursday panel meetings.	MB
2	Signing off last meeting minutes	
2.1	The minutes of meeting dated 5 th February 2026 were proposed by AW and seconded by DC.	
3	Chairman	
3.1	MB advised that responses to Tom Ewington's requested outcomes and the Letter of No Confidence had been issued.	
4	AGM Proposal	
4.1	The AGM proposal was discussed with the following comments made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The last AGM in 2019, where BHPA members voted on panel positions, caused great upheaval with four new members leaving soon after joining the panel. - Annual election of panel members would cause instability, and a three year term may be better. - BHPA members, with little knowledge of how the panel operates, may not vote in the best interests of the panel. - Ex panel members shouldn't leave the panel and then start shouting from the side lines. 	
4.2	It was agreed that further consideration was needed, before an official response is given to the proposal. AW to re-issue the proposal to panel members.	AW
5	Treasurer	
5.1	DC to draft a proposal regarding the suspension of squad pilots if they have outstanding squad fees.	DC
5.2	It was noted that the BAPA has its own bank account, and it was felt that BHPA members should be able to see the accounts.	
6	Secretary	
6.1	Regarding AW's proposal for the 2026 budget the following comments were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement needs to be made on how much reserves the panel should hold, before deciding to run down the reserves. - AB to forward the 2026 EPAC meeting expenses. - It was queried if a new pad was required. - It was agreed to use £248 for judges non flying BHPA membership, and there will be no overseas funding for judges. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AB's BHPA membership minus non flying membership should be added. - It was agreed to pay 50% of the £238 South Cerney annual site fee. <p>AW to update the budget for the next meeting.</p>	AW
6.2	It was agreed to accept AW's Cat 2 funding proposal that was the same as last year. It was noted that claims could exceed the proposed budget amount of £2,000, and this would have to be taken out of the reserves. If the reserves are used then a review will be made on the following years budget.	
7	Media & PR	
7.1	WL to check if the BHPA stock of brochures has been replenished.	WL
8	Classic Accuracy	
8.1	Following the EPAC meeting, DC to speak to LL about some minor changes to the rules wording.	DC, LL
8.2	AB suggested that the Birdwings competition be held on the August Bank Holiday, however, due to DC and LL not being able to make it, it was agreed that the Birdwings competition be held on the back-up weekend.	
8.3	AB to review the Scout insurance with regard to information sent to the DIO.	AB
8.4	AB's proposed fee structure to cover the DIO daily fee was felt to be reasonable.	
8.5	AW to re-send the details of team trophy stand to WL for him to look at making a base.	AW, WL
9	Classic Accuracy Squad	
9.1	It was agreed that the classic and paragliding squads should combine which will make the numbers up and be more financially attractive. Classic and paragliding competitions would be planned to be on separate days, however, they could be on the same day if the weather dictates. DC to advise Ben Woodcock to update the events page on the website.	DC
9.2	DC advised that four pilots had registered on the website. Richard Bissett and Jamie Wicks may not be able to attend training camps this year.	
9.3	DC advised that he will continue with the same squad fee system as last year.	
10	Sites	
10.1	MB advised that CJ is currently out of action to look at sites.	
11	Paragliding Nationals	
11.1	MB to have a word with Elena Filonova about paying the sanction fee. It was noted that pilots can register on the EMS system.	MB
11.2	MB to promote the event once the sanction fee has been paid.	MB
11.3	It was agreed to accept Simon Sykes Senior's offer to drive the Land Rover at the nationals.	
11.4	It was agreed to adopt Chris Haynes's suggestion of a maximum 8m/s take-off wind speed at launch. LL to amend the Local Regulations.	LL
11.5	WL to send a list of trophies that were left over from the 2025 event. AW to organise the remaining trophies.	WL, AW
12	Paragliding Accuracy Squad	

12.1	MB advised that Green Dragon pilots are going to a competition in Italy on the same weekend as the March squad training. This could mean that the squad training is put back a week to the classic weekend, noting that the one month notice for a selection competition would not be achieved.	
12.2	MB advised that he was not planning to hold any hill launch squad training weekends, and it was up to individual pilots to find hill launch sites.	
12.3	MB advised that he wants squad training to become a master class when the WPRS selection starts.	
12.4	It was agreed that the paragliding squad fees would be the same system as the classic squad.	
12.5	WL to bring the PATpad, Tablet, First Aid kit and other target equipment to the next training camp. It was noted that the PATpad needs an Android device, and the panel Tablet would work.	WL
12.6	MB to update the WPRS selection criteria wording with the comments made at the February meeting.	MB
12.7	It was noted that the panel needs to design the team kit. MB suggested the team has a polo shirt and a sports jacket. MB to further investigate the team kit.	MB
13	Rules / Judging	
13.1	LL advised that there were six new BAC1 judges who all had CIVL IDs and training from the Chief Judge. LL is liaising with Josie Ewington regarding the BAC1 judges' details.	LL
13.2	There was hearsay that Martin Heywood had advised that BAC1 judges could use Green Dragons insurance, and there was a feeling that the panel had not done enough to ensure that the judges had appropriate insurance. MB to investigate further.	MB
14	AOB	
14.1	MB advised that the CIVL Plenary was ongoing with the knock-out system, flying order and brushing trees being discussed. Brett Janaway has been briefed how to vote on accuracy matters.	
	Meeting closed at 22.28	
	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be 8.00 pm, Thursday 2nd April 2026.	

Treasurer report from Sue Britnell for meeting on 5th March 2026

Bank:

Bank Balances: £11,170

Squad Training Fees:

None outstanding – Kyle has now paid, thank you Mark for stepping in

Debtors

None

Creditors

From emails and reports I understand Arthur is to be partially reimbursed for BHPA membership, and Cherry is still owed for Brochure costs and also some postage. Please send your claims for reimbursement.

Submission to BHPA

Made in January, no feedback yet.

BAC / BAPA

According to CIVL, entry fees for April BAC (the only one I have checked) are to be paid to a bank account in the name of British Accuracy Pilots Academy, so I am satisfied that this is now operating separately from GD. Hopefully the panel will be given sight of accounts in due course.

Secretary Report March 2026

February meeting actions:

4.1 Re-issued GM minutes to panel members for approval, and published on the website.

Future Skywings:

March – Season preview

April – BAC 1

May - ?

June – BAC 2

Proposal 1 – 2026 budget

Based on an estimated £7,000 grant for this year and running down our reserves at £1,000 per year, I would propose £8,000 expenditure for 2026 as follows:

£465 EPAC Calais meeting (5.8%)
£500 Classic squad training (6.3%)
£500 Classic Grand Prix funding (6.3%)
£500 Paragliding squad training (6.3%)
£2,000 Paragliding Overseas Cat 2 funding (25%)
£3,000 Paragliding Cat 1 competition (37.5%)
£300 Judges non flying membership (3.8%)
£600 Electronic pad (7.5%)
£135 Website hosting fee (1.7%)

Proposal 2 – Overseas Cat2 funding

To encourage coaching, pilots are entitled to two lots of funding as follows:

- £50 where there are two or less UK pilots in attendance at a Cat 2 event
- £100 where there are three or more UK pilots in attendance at a Cat 2 event
- £100 where the competition is a pre-event for a Cat 1

ACCURACY PANEL –MONTHLY MEETING – PARASCENDING MARCH 2026

1. South Cerney is now available for use by Birdwings Airsports.
2. DIO have issued the 'External User' License to Birdwings and the first scheduled operating date for 2026 is 21/22 March.
3. Dates for the EPAC Grand Prix comps are:

France – 16/17 May (GIPs with practice days 14/15 May).

UK 11/12 Jul (South Cerney)

NL 12/13 Sep (site not yet allocated)

Arthur

PA squad report March 2026

Action 9.1; dates have been allocated for 2026

Action 9.2; Classic registration form now completed and is available on the website. As of 1/3/26 there are 4 registered pilots

Action 12.3; See first proposal below

Action 12.5; Version put on dropbox 6/2/26 as requested.

Accuracy safety:

Nothing to report

Near misses:

Nothing to report

Regards

Dave

Proposal document – Birdwings DIO fees

It was mentioned at the February meeting that financial support could be given to Birdwings as a result of significant site increases which the club will have to pass onto the club users.

There was mention that the panel would pay the DIO fees as the club regularly holds both PA & PG squad events, and further mentioned that this could be spilt between the Club, and the Scouts who also utilise this locations. Further comment was made that the scouts are unlikely to be able to make full use this year as no booking will be made for the early part of the year due to the uncertainty of the site availability.

Background:

All activities on the South Cerney site were stopped in late 2025, due to regulatory issues raised by the military.

Birdwings met with the military and were asked to produce various documents, and advised to expect a significant increase in fees for the use of the site.

The required documentation was produced and provided by Birdwings, the result being that there is an annual DIO charge, which covers a 12 month period, of £238 (TBC) is payable, and that daily fees would be increase to £125 per day.

Proposal 1:

The BHPA accuracy panel pays the DIO annual fee to support the use of this site for accuracy squad.

Proposal 2:

The BHPA accuracy panel pays 50% of the DIO annual fee, and the remaining 50% be paid by Birdwings.

It was originally suggested 50% by Scouts, however there may be complications in having others operating alone as the agreement is directly with Birdwings, including insurance agreements. Flying details can be sorted between parties, and this doesn't require Panel involvement.

Proposal document – Combined squads

It has been suggested that the squads combine which will make the numbers up and be more financially attractive for the panel supporting the events

Background:

With the increase of fees, it has been suggested that both PA & PG squads meet at the same time to keep costs down. This is driven by the increase in costs to the panel due to the increase in costs at flying sites

Proposal 1:

Both squads to diarise squad weekends at the same time for the year.

Considerations, PG will always be towing and there will be no hill flying. In the past Pilots have complained as if they fly both PA and PG then they are disadvantaged.

It will increase the number of pilots, so PA is more likely to operate

Without squads accumulating points for the British team, there is likely to be less PA pilots attending squad weekends

The above proposals added to dropbox

Rules Officer report Mar 26

Actions from February minutes

- 3.2 – Clean version of response to Tom provided
- 11.1 – Local rules for paragliding nationals completed and uploaded
- 11.2 – Scout Land Rover with Simon Snr as driver is available for the paragliding nationals. Cost is £75 per day plus all fuel and Simon's campsite fee.
- 13.2 – Judges' costs forecast (see below)
- 13.3 – Have asked Josie to confirm list of judges for BAC1 and requested contact information and BHPA membership details of all new judges (this year and last)

Judging

- No squad events requiring judging have taken place since last meeting
- According to comp entry on CIVL BAC1 introduced 6 new target judges (plus one who qualified at BAC4 2025), although not all have been listed as having attended the seminar and BHPA membership status of all is unknown.
- Enough judges for a full judging team have indicated they are available for the paragliding nationals, although it is always handy to have at least one reserve for a 3 day event.
- Currently there are 2 separate sets of judges, BAC events and panel events, with little overlap.

Rules

- Have contributed to discussions about how Brett should vote on accuracy proposals at CIVL plenary
- No requests for any actions regarding rules following the EPAC meeting

Equipment

- No action needed.

Judges' costs forecast

Most expensive scenarios

- 8 judges (full crew plus reserve) attending both classic and paragliding nationals (5 days total) max cost 8 x membership (currently £62) = £496 (with possible addition of a couple of £30 initial application fees if they are new members).
- 8 judges attend paragliding nationals plus another comp or squad events; a different 8 judges attend the classic nationals plus another comp or squad events. Total cost would then be £992

However

- 4 of the more active judges on the register do not claim for non-flying membership
- So far only two judges who judged at last year's BAC competitions (Hanna and Molly) have indicated availability for paragliding nationals (and Hanna is active enough to get her membership paid in most scenarios without inclusion of BAC judging). None of the new ones from this year have been invited (no contact info) and a maximum of 1 more judge would be needed.
- Of the judges currently listed for the paragliding nationals 4 would be able to claim full or part reimbursement (depending on other activity across the year) = £248
- There is less likelihood of most BAC judges attending the classic nationals, Birdwings comp or classic squad; judges for classic nationals are likely to be some/all of those who intend to judge at the paragliding nationals plus pilots, and the same for Birdwings.
- We may need to be flexible in applying the policy to those who have shown willing, if we are unable to complete 5 days of flying/judging across the 2 nationals.

My assessment is that, because of requirement to judge at a nationals, including BAC comps in the club comps category (but not panel comps as that would affect travel expenses) this year is unlikely to raise the membership reimbursement costs above £248 (4 memberships, compared with 3 ½ last year).

But the policy will need to be revisited next year to take account of whether new judges show interest in judging at the nationals and loss of opportunities to judge at squad training competitions.