

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 1300

at the offices of BMFA, Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE

Present:	Ian Marshall	-	Vice Chair, Dis Rep: Classics
	Tash Higman		
	Jason Kelleher	-	Discipline Rep: FS
	Mike Lewis		
	Gavin McLeod	-	Discipline Rep: CF
In attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer (COO) (to mid item 7.2)
	John Hitchen	-	Vice President & IPC Alternate Delegate (to mid item 16.
	Helen Lucas	-	Committee Secretary
	Michael Lovemore	-	Discipline Rep: Speed
	John Smyth MVO	-	Vice President & IPC Delegate (to item 16.3)
	Martin Soulsby	-	Chair of Council (to item mid 16.3)
	Weed Stoodley	-	Discipline Rep: Arts & VFS (to item 11)
	Liz Warner	-	Deputy Judges Coordinator
Apologies	Kate Charters		
	Jackie Harper	-	Discipline Rep: WS
	Brian Vacher	-	Chair

Item Minute

01/16 Declaration of Interest

Declarations of interest will be listed under the relevant items.

02/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 had been approved electronically by the Committee, ratified by Council, and published on the BPA website: <http://www.bpa.org.uk/member/agendas-and-minutes/>

03/16 Composition of the Competitions Committee 2016

The Committee confirmed for the official record the following, which had been agreed at the informal meeting immediately following the inaugural Council meeting for 2016 on AGM day, Saturday 30 January 2016.

Brian Vacher (elected by the Council)	Competitions Chair & Discipline Rep: CP
Tash Higman	
Jason Kelleher	Discipline Rep: FS
Mike Lewis	
Ian Marshall	Vice-Chair & Discipline Rep: Classics
Gavin McLeod	Discipline Rep: CF

Jason Kelleher proposed that the Committee co-opt Kate Charters as Judges Coordinator. However, this failed to find a seconder. Mike Lewis then proposed and was seconded by Tash Higman, that the Deputy be co-opted as Judges Coordinator. However, she was not willing as the decision would require discussion with the judges. The Committee wished to clarify the procedure for co-option of ex officio non-voting members, which was that recommendation/s are made to the Committee who then propose, second and vote to agree/reject such recommendations. Agreements are then brought to Council for ratification. As the decision was unprecedented the Committee asked that the Deputy Coordinator allow the Chair to inform Kate Charters and BPA judges of the decision, correct procedure for co-option and to ask if they would discuss the matter at the forthcoming Judges Seminar, to held on 16-17 April, and inform the Committee of any further recommendations for Judges Coordinator in order that they may be discussed at its meeting on 19 April.

Action: Chair & Committee Secretary

The following are co-opted as non-voting members to carry out the roles listed:

Jackie Harper Discipline Rep: Wingsuit
 Proposed: Tash Higman, Seconded: Gavin McLeod. Jackie had indicated previous to the meeting that she would be happy to accept the role.
 Mike Lovemore Discipline Rep: Speed
 Proposed: Tash Higman. Seconded: Mike Lewis
 Weed Stoodley Discipline Rep: Artistics & VFS
 Proposed: Mike Lewis. Seconded: Tash Higman

All Carried unanimously

04/16 Terms of Reference

The Vice-Chair queried why the Committee's quorum is 4, compared to other Committees which are 3. The response was that as Competitions Committee had the largest budget and was largely a funding Committee it removed any perceived bias towards a discipline should representatives of other disciplines not be available at the meeting.

05/16 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere

5.1 Competitions Coordinator

To officially note that there had been 10 applications for the role.

Noted

06/16 Report from IPC Plenary meeting 2016

John Smyth, as BPA Delegate to IPC, spoke to his paper and highlighted the main points:

- 2016 FAI World Parachuting Championships – Mondial, 10-21 Sep, Chicago
 To note the change of dates, and that event jumps would be decided by the Meet Director at the end of each day, dependant on rounds completed and weather forecasts. **Noted**
- 1st World Wingsuit Performance Flying Championships, 2-11 Nov 2016, Zephyrhills, USA
 To note an amendment to the date initially shown on the FAI website, as it was now to include the 1st FAI World Cup in Wingsuit Acrobat.
- 2nd FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving, 11-16 Oct 2016, Warsaw, Poland
 After robust discussion regarding the involvement with indoor skydiving by the BPA, as the governing body of Sport Parachuting, Jason Kelleher proposed that the Committee utilise the Bodyflight Bedford World Challenge to select teams or individuals to compete at the 1st category Indoor skydiving event for 2016 only, on the basis that they are over 16 years of age, and are eligible to apply for a FAI Sporting Licence i.e. full BPA membership and BPA 'A' licence or above. This was seconded by Tash Higman. **Carried unanimously**
 The Indoor delegation would not be party to the BPA Delegation Insurance as may be brokered by Romero Sports & Leisure. John Hitchen reported that he had been requested to be President of the IPC Jury at the Indoor event but would be happy to forgo the opportunity should the Committee so wish. However, the Committee were content that John should attend.

07/16 2015 World Air Games, Dubai

7.1 Head of Delegation report

John Smyth spoke to his report, received and circulated to the Committee the day before the meeting and reiterated that the skydivers as a whole were the largest delegation, and that Team GB were impeccable in their behaviour, including their support for the other GB representatives in the other World Air Games disciplines.

7.2 Team Manager report

Ian Marshall reported verbally regarding a number of issues, some recorded below:

1. The race track DZ was still under construction and that there were no team tents or facilities
2. Intermittent WIFI and 3G/4G resulting in communication issues as the majority of communications were sent via email.
3. 2 days were weathered out
4. Another team manager would have been of some benefit
5. The injury to Phil Symons. All wished him well
6. The closing ceremony was fantastic

Ian echoed John's sentiments and added that all the BPA delegation had behaved to the best standard. The Committee thanked John and Ian for their hard work.

08/16 Items taken from agenda order on behalf of the Artistics & VFS Discipline Rep

8.1.1 Competitions Budget and Action Plan (Items 10 & 11 respectively on the agenda)

Weed commented that there was no notable movement on the budget except that there was still two outstanding remittances to the British Team Fund, and reiterated the need for a robust system for collection. Martin Soulsby suggested that the specific amount for remittance is recorded in the October minutes and that the BPA Financial Administrator (Jonathan Gretton) then invoice the host PTOs.

Martin Soulsby queried judges expenses for the Armies. The Deputy Judges Coordinator responded that the APA cover the costs of the judges but that the competition was also used as a way for judges to keep current under the BPA system.

8.1.2 BPA Coaching Roadshows (Item 12 on the agenda)

Following discussion regarding a PTO setting up a roadshow and Coach, the Committee gave assurance that preferred coaches should be from the funded teams, in order for them to fulfil their 'pay-back' to the BPA for allocated funding. When the BPA Coaching Roadshow form is due to be circulated for 2017 the Committee would look at the form with a view to amendment, highlighting the aims of these events.

8.1.3 Specialised Judging Equipment Item 10.1 on the agenda)

This item was held over from the Oct and Nov 2015 Competitions Committee meetings and the Secretary informed the Committee that this had arisen due to the cost of specialised judging equipment and hire of technicians. Tash Higman proposed and was seconded by Jason Kelleher that the Committee do not create an additional target and budget but that the current target and budget is used if required. **Carried unanimously**

8.1.4 Protrack Hire (Item 10.2 on the agenda)

Mike Lovemore reported that as yet there had been no cost associated with the use of the Protracks, and that this was not expected to change. Mike would report back at the next meeting. **Agenda: next meeting**

09/16 Domestic Competitions 2016

9.1 BPA British Open Nationals in 4-way VFS, 20-22 Aug, Target Skysports

To formally record the new date and location of the VFS Nationals for 2016.

Noted

The VFS Discipline Rep, speaking of the Competitions Open Forum on the day of the BPA AGM 2016, where a competitor and she had expressed disappointment that it was not run with the FS Nationals as VFS is part of the same event plus, along with other elements highlighted, that Netheravon's aircraft they believed not to be best for VFS, given the choice available. Mike Lewis, at this meeting stated that by using only 1 type of aircraft the Committee could potentially push out other PTOs from bidding for the competition and that APA Netheravon was awarded the competition as they were able to host the meet successfully. The Committee had upheld Netheravon's bid for 2017 & 2018 who would be

subject to communicating dates and entry fees at the appropriate Committee meeting. In the future the bid form was to enable FS & VFS to be bid for together.

9.2 Nationals, Grand Prix & UKSL rules 2016

The Secretary reminded the relevant Discipline Reps and Committee members to complete as much of the admin and technical sections as possible. The draft rules were to be ready for circulation before the meeting in April where they were to be agreed before publication. John Hitchen reminded those present that training jumps must be separate, not part of the competition. The Competitions Coordinator should by then be in place and in training.

9.3 Date clash – Judges availability

The then Judges Coordinator had communicated to the CF Discipline Rep that as the CP and CF Nationals were ran over the same weekend that she had difficulties allocating judges to the meets as the majority of judges held both ratings. The CF and CP Discipline Reps would discuss the possible movement to another date with the relevant event hosting parachute training organisation.

Action: Discipline Reps – CF and CP

9.4 2-way VFS – Award Ceremony 2016

The Artistic Discipline rep had been disappointed that the team that had entered the meets at Dunkeswell and Hibaldstow had not received an end of year medal. The Secretary reminded the Rep that at the June 2015 meeting it was reported that due to the weather the meets had not gone ahead, and when the Committee were made aware that some jumps had taken place the response from the Judges Coordinator was that these were as training jumps. As there had been no positive response to the email request the award was not made. However, the Discipline Rep again reiterated that the team attended and were available at both events to compete.

10/16 BPA Judging Rules & Operating Procedure

A discussion was briefly held to allow Weed Stoodley to comment on her feedback before leaving the meeting.

Weed, speaking to her feedback that had been circulated with the agenda, stated that it was brilliant that the Judging forms 277, 277a and 277b were to be reviewed and possibly updated, and registered her disgust at some of the feedback as she believed it was not in the best interest of judging.

11/16 International Competitions 2016

11.1 FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships, 20-27 Aug, Farnham, Canada

To note the minor date change and that Bulletin 1 had not yet been released. All observers were asked to leave the meeting. Martin Soulsby made comment that all interested parties should provide CVs, which can then be added to in future years for future events. Mike Lewis recognised that further work was required on the new contracts. All observers then left the meeting.

11.1.1 Head of Delegation

Jason Kelleher proposed and was seconded by Mike Lewis that John Smyth attend as Head of Delegation. **Carried unanimously**

11.2 2016 FAI World Parachuting Championships, 10-21 Sep, Chicago, USA

11.2.1 Head of Delegation

1 CV, from Craig Poxon, and 2 others had requested that they be considered for the role. Tash Higman proposed and was seconded by Mike Lewis that John Smyth attend as Head of Delegation. **Carried unanimously**

The Committee discussed the need of Team Managers. Ian Marshall and Jason Kelleher then left the meeting. 3 CVs, from Craig Poxon, Ian Marshall and Jason Kelleher plus 1 request had been received and the remaining Committee decided after considering the size of the delegation and that the meet would be held over 2 dropzones, that 2 Team Managers were required. Mike Lewis duly proposed Ian Marshall, and was seconded by Gavin McLeod. Gavin McLeod proposed Craig Poxon, and was seconded by Tash Higman. As the meeting was currently inquorate the proposals were to be recommended to Council at its meeting later that evening.

Recommend to Council

The meeting then continued in open session.

John Smyth would email the Competitors through the Committee Secretary regarding the need to confirm their accommodation requirements.

Action: Head of Delegation and Committee Secretary

11.2.3 Competitor request – Lucy Westgarth

The Speed Discipline Rep explained that selection of the delegation had been on their placings at the 2015 Speed Nationals, in which Lucy had not competed, and that there were no spare slots. He would write an explanation to Lucy.

Action: Discipline Rep: Speed

11.2.4 1st World Wingsuit Performance Flying and Championships and 1st World Cup in Wingsuit Acrobatics, 2-11 Nov 2016, Zephyrhills, USA

As this now included Wingsuit Acrobatics, as agreed at IPC Plenary 2016, the Committee noted the extension of 4 days. Discussion followed that those already attending in performance may also be able to compete in the acrobatic discipline, or that 2016 Acrobatic Nationals could be the selection event. Further advice was required from the Wingsuit Discipline Rep – Jackie Harper, who was unable to attend the meeting today.

Defer until next meeting

11.2.5 Delegation Insurance

The Secretary would inform Romero Sports & Leisure, who had previously provided the delegation insurance, of the competitions and delegation numbers in order for them to receive a quote.

Action: Committee Secretary

12/16 International Competitions 2017

To note the World Cups in Speed Skydiving, Artistics, FS, and European Championships in CF, Artistics, Speed Skydiving and FS would be held in Saarlouis, Germany – 8-12 Aug 2017.

13/16 Competitions Budget and Action Plan 2015 to 2016

See item 8.1.1

14/16 Competitions Action Plan 1 Jul 2016 to 30 June 2017

The Secretary invited the Committee to consider targets to be discussed at its next meeting in April.

15/16 Skills Coaching Roadshows

The Speed Discipline Rep, commented on an email request circulated before the meeting. After due discussion the Discipline Rep would reply back to inform that BPA do not have the funds to cover private coaching roadshows, only for those that fall under the BPA remit.

Action: Discipline Rep – Speed Skydiving

The Rep then informed the Committee of 2 BPA roadshows that had been arranged

- Skydive Buzz Ltd, 23-24 April 2016
- BPS, Skydive Langar, 28-29 May

and that 1 was to be confirmed. The Chair of Council requested that all Reps were to ensure that all media outlets were covered in order to obtain maximum attendance.

16/16 Judging matters not already covered

16.1 Result prioritisation in the event of a tie

The FS Discipline Rep, speaking specifically of UKSL where 2 teams had tied in points, had queried the method of calculation which had placed 1 team above the other despite having competed at fewer competitions. He believed that in the interest of increasing participation and in fairness to all, another method of calculating the results in the event of a tie may be adopted. After a brief discussion Tash Higman proposed that in the event of a tie at the end of the UKSL season the team that has competed at the most events is awarded the end of year medal. This was seconded by Gavin McLeod.

Mike Lewis counter proposed that in the event of a tie at the end of the UKSL season the team with the highest position average, based on the total league points divided by the number of competitions entered, be awarded the end of year medal. Seconded by Jason Kelleher. As the votes for each proposal was tied the Vice-Chair cast his vote for the counterproposal.

Counterproposal carried

16.2 Awards Presentation Ceremony 2015 – issues arising

The Chair of Council, who was aware of the issues, retorted that this in turn came down to roles and responsibilities of the individuals. The Committee acknowledged that the procedure as detailed (min 11.1 Feb 2015 refers), which had been agreed due to the previous issues arising from incorrect information being provided too late to be processed comfortably in the time left, had not been followed, and again undue pressure had been placed on the BPA office with regard to team placings, team members and medal order in a timely manner. The Committee reiterated that the team names were to be recorded on a spreadsheet, and the team individuals only added when it was apparent who would be award winners. The collation of the required information would require the assistance of the Discipline Reps, as previously agreed. **Ongoing**

16.3 BPA Judging rules & operating procedures

The Committee noted that the proposal document had not been for general release as had been circulated to Committee only with the agenda for discussion by Committee, but had been forwarded by the then Judges Coordinator to some, but not all, judges for comment. The Committee recognised that this was against correct procedure, and on reading the feedback from those who had provided it the Committee recognised that there was a fundamental breakdown between the Committee, judges and their perception of the document. There was a trend through the provided feedback that would make it appear that the judges had given to personal opinions rather than the promotion of transparency through good governance. Tash Higman commented that the intention of the small circulation to the Committee was to check with the Committee before presenting to all judges either via email or at the Judges Training Seminar, however the then Judges Coordinator had not afforded the Committee the opportunity. The Committee recognised that the communication issues need to be addressed direct to the previous Coordinator by the Chair of Competitions. **Action: Chair**

Mike Lewis spoke of the proposal which is to document and agree the procedures that already exist in judging in an open and transparent form so it falls under the Code of Good Governance, in an auditable format. Improvements would be the next stage after documentation if required. Good Governance across the whole of the BPA was to promote objectivity and remove personal advocacy.

Tash Higman who has procedure documentation experience, in offering to document the procedures effectively takes the burden from the Judges Coordinator and judges, as such documents must be produced in order to achieve good governance.

The Committee agreed that the proposal document was to now go to all judges for discussion at the Training Seminar in April. **Action: Chair and Committee Secretary**

17/16 Any other business

17.1 Concerns regarding safety at Nationals

This subject was broached at the Competitions Open Forum held on 30 January 2016, and the Committee acknowledged the email received too late for circulation before the meeting. As there was not time to consider it properly the item would therefore be placed as a discussion point on the April agenda. **Defer until next meeting**

17.2 Sale of the BPA tuffet

Tash Higman proposed and was seconded by Jason Kelleher, that the Committee allow the sale of the tuffet to the BHPA, as communicated by Andy Houston of Texair. **Carried unanimously**

17.3 CF 4-way Rotation team – Mondial 2016

Gavin McLeod reported that due to the injury of the cameraperson team CRWSaders were no longer able to compete in the CF 4-way Rotations and there was no other team eligible to compete. Gavin McLeod proposed that, as CRWSaders were still available to compete in the CF 2-way, that an alternate be allowed. Seconded by Tash Higman. **Carried unanimously**

The meeting closed at 1742

Ratified by the Council on 16/03/16

Published on 17/3/16

Distribution: Competitions Committee/Council, Vice Presidents, Judges Co-ordinator & Deputy, Judges, Staff, Editor.

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 15 to 30 June 16

Target	From	To	By	How	Budget
1. World Class Performance	2015 medal winning performance	2016 Continued medal winning performance	Jun 2016 and on-going	Funded support to BPA selected teams based on performance in competition 2015	£166,573*
2. Coaching Road Show Events	2015 Supported events	2016 Continued support of events	Jun 2016	Run coaching road show events at BPA Drop Zones to support competitive interest and enhance members skills	£10,000
3. Judging Team	2015 UK pool of 20 Judges	2016 UK judging team retained/increased and improved ratings	Jun 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support all currency requirements under FAI rules Provide financial help with pre-season refresher training Supply judges to non-National UK events Encourage/train new judges to gain International ratings Supply of Judges Jackets & T-shirts 	£14,000
4. Retain, improve and maintain competition equipment in line with IPC requirements	2015 Current holding	2016 Equipment stock in line with IPC changes	Jun 2016	Purchase / Hire of equipment as rules evolve and dictate	£6,000
5. Delegation Uniform	2015 Delegation uniform	2016 Continued issue of uniform	Jun 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue of T-shirt generic BPA design Issue of BPA logo embroidered badges Supply Jackets & polo shirts Offer for tender design, manufacture and distribution 	£5000**
*Target 1: Includes carry forward from 2014/15					
**Target 5: Uniform will continue to be funded from the British Team Fund					



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Competitions Dates 2016

As at 9 Oct 2015

British Open Nationals 2016

Wingsuit Performance & Acrobatics	APA Netheravon	27 - 30 May 2016
Canopy Piloting	Skydive Buzz, Dunks	22 – 24 July 2016
Canopy Formation	Black Knights Parachute Centre	22 – 24 July 2016
Formation Skydiving 4-way	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	20 – 22 Aug 2016
Artistic, FS 8-way Speed Skydiving		27 – 29 Aug 2016
VFS 4-Way	APA, Netheravon	Provisionally 27 – 29 Aug
Classics Accuracy Only	Skydive Swansea	26 – 29 Aug 2016
Speed 8	UK Para, Sibson	17 – 18 September 2016

UKSL & Grand Prix 2016

GP Accuracy	Skydive Headcorn	14 – 15 May 2016
GP Canopy Formation	Skydive Langar	18 – 19 June 2016
GP VFS 2-way	APA Netheravon	9 – 10 July 2016
GP Canopy Piloting Meet 1	Skydive Buzz, Dunks	18 – 19 June 2016
GP Canopy Piloting Meet 2	Skydive Buzz, Dunks	17 – 18 Sept
UKSL Meet 1	Skydive Langar	7 – 8 May 2016
UKSL Meet 2	APA Netheravon	11 – June 2016
UKSL Meet 3	Skydive Hibaldstow	16 – 17 July 2016