

British Parachute Association

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Competitions Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 1300

at the offices of BPA, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

Present:

Tash Higman	-	Vice-Chair, Judges Coordinator (in the Chair)
Emma Hart	-	Discipline Rep: Arts (via Skype)
Ian Marshall	-	Discipline Rep: Classics
Georgie Vacher	-	Discipline Rep: FS
Mike Williams	-	Discipline Rep: WS

In attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer (COO) (to item 19)
John Hitchen	-	Vice-President
Helen Lucas	-	Committee Secretary

Observers

Vana Parker	-	Team: NFTO
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Apologies

Michael Lovemore	-	Discipline Rep: Speed
Gavin McLeod	-	Discipline Rep: CF
John Smyth MVO	-	Vice President & IPC Delegate
Brian Vacher	-	Chair
Michael Wilson-Roberts	-	Discipline Rep: VFS

Item Minute

13/18 Quoracy

The Chair confirmed the meeting quorate with 5 voting members present.

14/18 Declarations of any conflicts of Interest

To be declared as they arose.

15/18 Minutes

The Chair duly signed the copy as a true record of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2018, which had been circulated electronically to the Committee and Council and would be ratified at Council later that evening. The Minutes were published on the BPA website: <http://www.bpa.org.uk/member/agendas-and-minutes/>

16/18 Matters arising – In camera session. Tony Butler and John Hitchen invited to stay

16.1 Team NFTO – Grievance

The grievance raised on 9 Feb by NFTO was sent by the team too late to be included at the February meeting but was here given due consideration.

Ian Marshall proposed, and was seconded by Mike Williams, that the Committee uphold its decision to award team NFTO sponsorship of £7,442 (min 71.1 of the 28/11/17 meeting refers) and that the Chair respond in writing to NFTO addressing their points raised in their grievance, providing a full explanation. Seconded by Mike Williams.

Carried unanimously. Action: Secretary and Chair (BV)

17/18 **Heads of Delegation to International FCEs** – in camera session. Ian Marshall leaves.
Item taken from agenda order.

17.1 2nd FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championship, 26-31 Aug, Prostějov, Czech Rep

The Secretary would arrange for the role to be re-advertised through social media.

Action: Secretary

17.2 7th FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships, 3-7 Jul, Wrocław, Poland

Georgie Vacher proposed, and was seconded by Mike Williams, that Liz Warner attend as Head of Delegation.

Carried unanimously. Action: Secretary

17.3 18th FAI World Championship in CF, 23rd FAI World Championship in FS, 12th FAI World Championship in Artistics and 2nd World Championships in Speed Skydiving, 4-12 Oct, Gold Coast, Queensland

Georgie Vacher proposed John Smyth as Head of Delegation. Seconded by Mike Williams.

Carried unanimously

The Committee discussed that a large delegation will need a Team Manager. However, the initial notification had been for Head of Delegation only. Georgie Vacher proposed, and was seconded by Mike Williams, that a request for applications for Team Manager be placed on social media.

Carried unanimously, Action: Secretary

17.4 35th FAI World, and 9th FAI Junior World Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing Championships, 24-31 Aug, Erden, Bulgaria

Emma Hart proposed that Ian Marshall attend as Head of Delegation. Seconded by Georgie Vacher.

Carried unanimously

17.5 3rd FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving, 25-28 Oct, Zallaq, Bahrain

Emma Hart proposed and was seconded by Mike Williams, that John Smyth attend as Head of Delegation.

Carried unanimously

18/18 **Domestic Competitions 2018**

Item taken from agenda order

18.1 BPA National Championships in Wingsuit Performance & Acrobatics

The Judges Coordinator reported to those present that an issue had occurred that could potentially leave the judging panel, which should consist of 5 members, down to 3 members as the assumed Chief Judge had dismissed 2 of the panel, believing that both were not current in the WS discipline. The Coordinator had since had opportunity to assess the currency of 1 of those dismissed and had found that they had judged enough qualifying events to be current.

The Coordinator was not prepared to adjust the allocation spreadsheet without exploring all options which consisted of:

1. Asking Buzz Bennett, who is already on the panel to act as Chief of Judge Training in order to re-evaluate 1 judge whose currency had lapsed, alongside serving, taking the pressure off the assumed Chief Judge
2. Judges Coordinator to ask European judges to attend. However, this was considered a 'last resort'
3. To update the rules, to insert 'if five (5) BPA approved judges are not available, the minimum judging panel can consist of three (3) BPA approved judges or in extreme circumstances with the Meet Director's approval two (2) BPA approved judges and one (1) BPA trainee judge', which would be of no detriment to the competition.

The consensus of the meeting was that option 1 was the best way forward and the Judges' Coordinator would e-mail the assumed Chief Judge to get confirmation he was content to proceed with as few as three judges after his dismissals and the adjustment of the rules. Mike Williams proposed that the rules be adjusted to reflect the option of three judges for Acrobatic from a Panel of 5 judges'. Seconded by the Judges Coordinator.

Carried unanimously, WS Discipline Rep to update the WS rules

The Judges Coordinator would correspond with all judges reminding them that as Chief Judge, before dismissing judges from a panel before an event they must seek the advice of the Judges Coordinator and/or Discipline Rep.

The meeting then continued in open session.

19/18 **Domestic Competitions 2018**

19.1 **BPA Nationals Entry Form**

To note the email agreement of 2 March 2018 by the Competitions Committee, that the updated entry form is made available for download from the BPA website and be distributed to Skydive Swansea in good time for the BPA Nationals Championship in Accuracy.

Noted

19.2 **BPA Meet rules**

Georgie Vacher proposed, and was seconded by Ian Marshall, that subject to some small variations and the standardised Eligibility paragraph be placed in all Nationals rules, that the rules be approved.

Carried unanimously, Action: All Reps

19.3 **FS 8-way Trophy retirement**

A decision regarding the trophy appears to have been missed from the Oct 2017 Competition Committee minutes, for which the Secretary apologised. The Secretary required advice regarding ordering once the new BPA logo was agreed, and as the previous trophy had been sponsored by Thomas Sports whether they had been informed of the retirement and if they may wish to sponsor a new one. Further correspondence had been received from a team who wished the trophy to continue with the addition of an extension to the back of the shield. As this correspondence had not been circulated the Committee agreed that it should be discussed at its next meeting.

Agenda – June meeting

The Secretary would research the available options, including a new shield should one be required, and consider approaching Thomas Sports as to their wish to sponsor a new trophy.

Action: Secretary

19.4 **FS Nationals – Request to cover judges expenses**

After due discussion Ian Marshall proposed that whilst the Committee recognised the cost of judges was significant to the venue the terms of hosting an event cannot be changed mid-season. Therefore, when the bid forms are drafted to be circulated for 2019 event this is taken into consideration. Seconded by Mike Williams.

The Judges Coordinator would prepare a paper with a budget to allow the Committee to make informed decisions regarding judging costs and what the BPA can reasonably expect in return.

Action: Judges Coordinator

19.5 **Judges attending BPA events**

All competitions were covered except for a shortfall for the FS 4-way. The FS Rep proposed and was seconded by Mike Williams, that a portion of the judges' budget be allocated to provide judges from Europe to the FS 4-way Nationals.

Carried unanimously

The allocation was to cover reasonable travel expenses, accommodation and food expenses.

20/18 **International Competitions 2018**

20.1 **Heads of Delegation**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Ian Marshall was happy to accept the role of Head of Delegation to the Accuracy FCE.

The Team Manager role for the Australian FCE, and for Head of Delegation to the Wingsuit FCE was to be re-advertised, with applicants applying approx. 3 weeks from this meeting.

Action: Secretary

20.2 **1st FAI European Indoor Skydiving Championships, 11-14 Apr, Norway – Completed**

Those present thanked Liz Warner for her report as Head of Delegation, and congratulated Volto on placing Silver in FS 4-way Female.

The Secretary would address the issue of the uniform distribution.

20.3 **7th FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships, 3-7 Jul, Wroclaw, Poland** **2nd FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championship, 26-31 Aug, Prostejov, Czech Rep**

The Secretary reported that she had experienced difficulties in getting people to respond to the invitations which in turn made it difficult to invite would-be competitors from those eligible. The WS Rep reported that Ray Norton was to be invited, and that the Acrobatic team – Angry Birds, had had to pull out due to an unfortunate injury of Ellie Marshall. All wished her well. There was no other Acrobatic team to invite.

20.4 3rd FAI World Cup of Indoor Skydiving, 25-28 Oct, Zallaq, Bahrain

Due to the workload of the Secretary she had not had time to fully examine the emails from the Competitions Coordinator in order to produce a full list of acceptances.

Next agenda

20.5 35th FAI World, and 9th FAI Junior World Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing Championships, 24-31 Aug, Erden, Bulgaria

There was nothing to report at this time.

20.6 8th FAI World Championship in CF, 23rd FAI World Championship in FS, 12th FAI World Championship in Artistics and 2nd World Championships in Speed Skydiving, 4-12 Oct, Gold Coast, Queensland

A request for a Facebook group in order that the delegation could keep up with communications/news etc was requested by the FS Rep. It was noted that Directors were not encouraged to set up social groups on such media platforms, and that a group for this competition had already been set up.

21/18 Judging Matters

21.1 Proposed changes to Form 277 – BPA Judging Procedures

The Judges Coordinator proposed that the changes as per her document circulated with the agenda be accepted. Seconded by Ian Marshall.

Carried unanimously

22/18 Competitions Budget & Action Plan: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019:

The Committee were to consider what the required targets were for the new Action Plan in order to allocate appropriate budgets.

Agenda – next meeting

23/18 Competitions Budget & Action Plan: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 – appendix i

There were no issues with the budget breakdown as provided by the Chair.

23.1 Expenses Policy

The Chair explained to those present that, following a query from a judge, the £65, a benchmark rate, was to cover the cost of overnight accommodation, and that up to £20 could be claimed for the day. As this would affect those sponsored persons coaching at BPA Skills Coaching Roadshows the Secretary would communicate this to all judges and sponsored athletes. The FS Rep would amend the contract for 2019. **Action: Secretary and FS Rep**

[Secretary's Note: Following the meeting Martin Soulsby – Chair of Council, suggested that an email be sent from the BPA Financial Administrator – Jonathan Gretton, to all BPA volunteers]

The meeting moved in-camera. John Hitchen is invited to stay.

23.2 Unclaimed Sponsorship allocations

Further to the initial allocation of sponsorship funding to sponsored athletes and/or teams, a number of potential recipients of sponsorship have either declined the proposed sponsorship allocation or have not met the requirements for sponsorship and are therefore deemed to be ineligible for the receipt of sponsorship. This has resulted in £22,502.00 unallocated for the current competition season. Those present duly discussed:

- Reallocating to the sponsored teams, increasing their allocation
- Sponsoring lower placing teams to assist training.

After much debate the FS Rep proposed that a second round of allocations is made to those sponsored athletes and/or teams where added benefit can be demonstrated, and can be positively utilised within the timescale remaining, from an increase in the sponsorship levels previously offered. Unallocated monies will be returned to core BPA funds. Seconded by Emma Hart. **Carried unanimously, refer to Council**

The Committee echoed the sentiment of the FS Rep, that this had come about due to the various inferences that money should not 'float about' and should be used for the benefit of the teams with a view to better performance and attendance at Roadshows and BPA Nationals.

23.3 Sponsorship Timescales

A form was to be created to explain to those who may require it the various timeframes involved and required deadline for application etc.

Action: Secretary

24/18 All discipline roadshow dates and coaches

The Secretary would update the circulated spreadsheet with missed or new roadshows that had been communicated to her.

Action: Secretary

25/18 Any other business

25.1 BPA Membership Survey

Those present considered 4 points that they may want to raise in the survey

- Indoor skydiving
- Focusing funding on gold medals or larger delegations
- Whether 'Female' category is still relevant across all disciplines
- Should more funding go to roadshows

26/18 Date of next meeting - on Tuesday 12 June at 1300 at BPA HQ.

The meeting closed at 1705

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Distribution: Competitions Committee/Council, Vice Presidents, Acting Judges Coordinator & Deputy, Judges, Staff, Editor.

Competitions Action Plan: 1 July 17 to 30 June 18

Target	From	To	By	How	Budget
1. World Class Performance	2017 medal winning performance	2018 Continued medal winning performance	Jun 2018 and on-going	Funded support to BPA selected teams based on performance in competition 2017	£55,862* £69,600 £125,462
2. Coaching Road Show Events	2017 Supported events	2018 Continued support of events	Jun 2018	Run coaching road show events at BPA Drop Zones to support competitive interest and enhance member's skills	£4,670* £10,000 £14,670
3. Judging Team	2017 UK pool of 13 Judges	2018 UK judging team retained/increased and improved ratings	Jun 2018	<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 • Judging Equipment Specialists 	£30,000
4. Retain, improve and maintain competition equipment in line with IPC requirements	2017 Current holding	2018 Equipment stock in line with IPC changes	Jun 2018	Purchase / Hire of equipment / specialist equipment, as disciplines and rules evolve and dictate	£6,000
5. Delegation Uniform	2017 Delegation uniform	2018 Continued issue of uniform	Jun 2018	<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 	£5,000**
6. Targeted coaching support for National non-senior champion teams / competitors	2017 Coaching Support	2018 Coaching Support	Jun 2018	Coaching support for National Champion 2017 teams of all disciplines moving to progress to higher event that meet the criteria of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having won Nationals in 2017 • Have 60% of their team remain the same – including videographer (flexibility for Freestyle & Freely) • Compete in 2018 Nationals at a higher level 	£8,000 £3,000 £11,000
7. Heads of Delegation & Team Manager/s	2017 5 Officials	2018 Continued funded support	Jun 2018	Funded support for BPA Officials attending FAI 1 st Class events to cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry Fees • Reasonable Travel Expenses 	£8000***
*Targets 1 and 6: brought forward from the 2016/2017 Action Plan **Target 5: Uniform will continue to be funded from the British Team Fund ***Target 7: Reoccurring item					



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BPA National Championships 2018

Accuracy	Skydive Swansea	10-13 April 2018
Wingsuit Performance and Acrobatics	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	13-15 July 2018
Formation Skydiving 4-way Vertical Formation Skydiving	Target Skysports, Hibaldstow	24-27 Aug 2018
Artistic, FS 8-way Speed Skydiving		01-03 Sept 2018
Canopy Piloting	Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell	07-09 Sept 2018

BPA Grand Prix 2018 & BPA UKSL 2018

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Dates</i>
UKSL FS 4-way Meet 1	Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell	5-6 May 2018
UKSL FS 4-way Meet 2	Skydive Langar,	9-10 June 2018
UKSL FS 4-way Meet 3	Skydive North West, Cark	7-8 July 2018
GP Accuracy Meet 1	Skydive Headcorn	19-20 May 2018
GP Accuracy Meet 2	Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell	9-10 June 2018
GP Canopy Formation	Skydive North West, Cark	23-24 June 2018