

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.



*Minutes of the Comps Panel meeting,
Sat. 27th November 2004*

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.

Minutes of Pilots meeting held on Saturday, 27th November 2004.

Present:

Adrian Thomas,
Neil Roberts,
Calvo,
Mark Graham,
Gary Jackson,
Chris Harland,
Phil Mackereth,
Roger Braney,

& later, Mike Aston.

Apologies received from:

Steve Purdie,
Ulric Jessop,
Nico Preston,
Zabdi Keen.

Agenda for the Comps Panel meeting to be held at the Lion, junction 3 of M54 at 2.30 on Saturday 27th November 2004

1. Format of the Nationals.

Results of the pilot survey (to be tabled by Nico)
Implementation of the UK league proposal (Andy Plimmer)

Proposed formats (as per pilot survey)

2. Nationals 2005 locations and dates

Assuming status-quo format

Mayerhofen 27th May?

Piedrahita
British Open 10-16 July ?

PWC dates
Bulgaria Sopot 23-30 April
France Bourg St. M 4-11 June
Serbia Nis 2-9 July
Italy Cornizzolo 16-23 July
Portugal Sella Est 6-13 Aug

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.

3. Worlds Team Selection (the automatic places are given to the top 3 in the top 50 of the WPRS, and the male and female national champions. These are Bruce Goldsmith, Russel Ogden, Steve Ham and Abigail Barr). We have a team of 5+2 with the possibility of one extra - so one reserve.

Current WPRS top 10 UK men
position, recent change, points, name
7,11,291,Goldsmith Bruce
26,8,240,Ogden Russell
29,9,238,Ham Steve
32,8,236,Watts Mark
46,29,216,Thomas Adrian
64,15,199,Snowden Dave
79,18,187,Jessop Ulric
92,7,179,Fowkes Roger
157,32,143,Roberts Neil
162,29,141,Roberts Nick

Nationals result 2004 position, name, 2003 position, 2004 points.
1, GOLDSMITH, Bruce, 2, 8131
2, WATTS, Mark, 3, 6437
3, THOMAS, Adrian, 12, 6390
4, OGDEN, Russell, 1, 6133
5, ROBERTS, Neil, 7, 5724
6, HAM, Steve, 8, 5463
7, ROBERTS, Nick, 10, 5263
8, OLIPHANT, Simon, 15, 5194
9, ETHERINGTON, Steve, 21, 5055
10, FOWKES, Roger, 9, 4982

WPRS top 5 UK women
336,47,83,Barr Abigail,F
726,54,33,Burnham Louise,F
969,65,20,Macaskill Fiona,F
969,65,20,Moss Nicky,F
1114,78,15,Harland Nia,F

Top 5 nationals women
19, BARR, Abigail, 18
31, KEEN, Zabdi, 59
36, MOSS, Nicky, 53
39, BURNHAM, Louise, 51
40, MACASKILL, Fiona, 44

The Format of the meeting was as per Adrian's agenda but some items required more consideration than others.

1. Format of the Championship.

A questionnaire had been sent out to all pilots who took part in this year's competitions and a pilot forum was held in Castejon de Sos to find out what format the Championship should be. It was noted that other countries had many shorter competitions with the winner of the series being declared the National Champion. The French for example have twelve two-day weekend competitions & European team members get an annual salary. The prize money for third place in the European Championships was about £5,000.

The results of the questionnaire were as follows.

Q1. Competitions that Pilots had done.

11 had taken part in a PWC in 2004
19 had taken part in a PWC
16 had done 2004 British Paragliding Championship
21 had taken part in a previous Championship.
28 had taken part in another National Championship
33 had done another Open Competition in 2004
9 had competed in the British Paragliding Cup
16 had done something else.[Sorry!]

Q2. How many rounds in the Championship?

33 would prefer 3 rounds
19 would prefer 2 rounds
10 would prefer 1 round

Q3. Duration and location of the events?

23 pilots wanted a 4-day UK-based Competition
9 wanted a 7-day UK-based Competition
2 wanted a 9-day UK-based Competition
15 wanted a 7-day Non-UK Competition
41 wanted two 1-week Non-UK competitions
5 wanted other formats

Where?

I didn't have the results of the questionnaire but the two most favourite locations were;
Piedrahita Spain &
Mayerhofen Austria.

Q4. Pilots were asked to indicate where they would like more & less money spent ?

The majority of pilots were happy to spend more money on:

Transportation to take off
Retrieve
Ambulance
Meet Director / Organisation

And less money being spent on:

Wednesday party
Saturday prize-giving & party
Something else [Sorry!]
Trophies
Clothing

Q6. Asked if pilots thought the Competition was value for money?

Responses ranged from *fairly good to good* value for money.

Thus, it was decided that for next year, 2005 the Championship would remain with the two one-week foreign rounds and the four-day UK leg, held over a Bank Holiday. From the pilot forum in Castejon and the pilot questionnaire, there was an overwhelming vote to open the Championships up for all comers and not have the National pilots as present. Insurance and BHPA requirements dictates that we must have a minimum level of pilot qualification for entry into the Championship. This should be BHPA Advanced Pilot-rated or IPPI 5 or the equivalent. A further requirement to have achieved a goal task of 50Km was also agreed. I think! Making it the same as FAI Cat II comps. *Adrian Check please – Rog.* Mark mentioned that the IPPI card was not recognised in Spain. WPRS ranking would do as top 2/3rds of WPRS qualifies a pilot for Cat II events. *Phil* will place a piece in Comp Lines for the next issue of Skywings, detailing the changes to the Championship and the dates and locations for 2005.

Budget

Adrian mentioned that running 2 UK and 1 Foreign comps. made money but the last three years doing 2 foreign and 1 UK comps. We have only just about broken even.

Chris went on to give a financial breakdown on the Championships & the monies spent on Team training & other competitions this year and a proposed budget for 2005. The bottom line was that this year we “lost” about £8,000. This was made slightly better as we had a small reserve from previous years and the sponsorship money received from FPR, (Now Kroll FPR).

The budgeted & the actual cost for each competition was explained by Chris & is available from his sheets.

Highlights:

2004 Budget

Income	2004 Budget	2004 Actual
Championship No. of Pilots	55	40
Championship Entry Fee	£190	£190
<i>Championship income</i>	£10,450	£7,600
Open No. of Pilots	30	22
Open Entry Fee	£65	£65
<i>Open in Britain income</i>	£1,950	£1,430
June Open No. of Pilots	75	41
June Open Entry Fee	£115	£115
<i>June Open income</i>	£8,625	£4,715
September Open No. of Pilots	45	68
September Open Entry Fee	£115	£115
<i>September Open income</i>	£5,175	£7,820
BHPA income	£12,000	£12,000
XCLeague	£500	£ ???

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.

GPS Sales (No stock outstanding in 2004)	£0	£0
Clothes Sales	£2,000	£2,360
Sponsor Income FPR	£0	£5,000
Misc.	£150	£ ? 0
TOTAL INCOME	£40,850	£40,925
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£43,796	£48,918
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	--£2,946	--£7,993

Chris explained that there had been increases in transportation costs for Castejon, but the real problem was the lack of revenue from pilots in some of the comps, namely St. Andre & the Long Mynd. This with only 40 Nationals pilots and increases in other areas gave the final overspend figure of -£7,993, hence £8,000 down!

Other events, The European Championships, The Bleriot Cup and team Training Camps were ok and brought in on budget.

We have in the past had a policy to pay GB pilots to enter PWC's to enable them to get more WPRS points and therefore enable us to get a better position and team places in Cat I events, such as the Euros & the Worlds. It was agreed that we can no longer afford to do this at this time. (£1,248 was paid in 2003)

For 2005, we have to try to save money in all departments. **Phil** offered to sort out marshals & try and book flights as soon as the easyJet website had them listed. Flights can be booked for less than £50 return if booked early enough.

Accommodation for the organisation- Again, if booked early enough, a large apartment might save us money rather than a few hotel rooms.

Mark asked that if we were taking a trailer with the equipment to Austria, he might be able to take it from there to Spain for the next Comp.

Neil discussed the idea of hiring a coach in the UK, take all the equipment and offer it to Comp. pilots as a means of transportation to Austria with various pick-up points in the UK en-route.

Roger is trying to get the equipment shipped / transported to each event and will also get a quote from some coach operators for the above.

Calvo is not taking his van to the foreign legs so there will be one less vehicle for us to use.

Clothing. We need to make better use of the money. £600 was used for the Euros but pilots only received **one** T-Shirt !

Rash vests are good for sponsor photos as the logos are always in view.

As we are to change the Championship format, the clothing could be non-Championship specific and should be cheaper.

Medical Aid. At Castejon, Vicky indicated that she might be interested in helping again at another comp. **Mark** will ask her. Could we ask the towns where the comps are to be helped to provide more help in this area. E.g. Providing an ambulance on site, or having the helicopter / air ambulance located closer to us in the event of an accident.

It was thought that a problem this year was the competitions indicating that they were full when in fact we were about 60 pilots short. Thus we had to turn a number of pilots away when we could have accepted them. We need to maximise to nos. to avoid another year of

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.

loosing money. We budgeted for nearly full comps and lost out as above. Need accurate registration / payment. Gary mentioned that the BPC website (done by Simon Ford) so that a pilot is not in the comp. unless paid. Can we have something similar? Gary can advise, Mark can implement such a system on the website but needs to check with Ulric.

Cost of entry.

We had a discussion about giving a discount to pilots doing all three comps, but it was thought that it was far simpler not to have discounts.

A pilot doing all three opens this year would have paid £195.

Doing the same in 2005 would cost £370 based on Chris's figures. A fairly lengthy debate was then held about this substantial increase in Competition fees.

Gary mentioned that the BPC had made a profit from just one round of the Cup.

It was eventually decided that a figure of **£295** for all three rounds was the best we could hope for.

Phil asked for the money received from Sponsorship to be kept separate from the general kitty and used only for pilot development. Also, an itemized list kept of where the money was used to pass on to Kroll FPR if needed.

A vote was taken to reduce the amount of funding given to the British paragliding Cup for next year as the Cup was in a relatively secure financial position from 2004 competitions and we have no funds available! In 2004 we gave £1,180.

The vote was to not give anything in 2005 and see how it goes for 2006.

Training camp in Piedrahita before our comp.? *Neil / Adrian / Calvo.*

Adrian was impressed by the Polish Team in Castejon.

Neil asked about squad training. Bob's X-Alps training camp was very good.

Could we organise a training camp at Col de Blaine, using Bruce & Ulric, the week before the Bleriot Cup? It shouldn't be too expensive as easyJet flights and we could get a two-week deal for the mini-bus from Alpes de Province.

Mark mentioned that there were not many GB squad members in the Bleriot Cup Team.

Calvo thought we had made a mistake in the past by not using the team training event as a team building week. He would be available for the two weeks if needed. *Neil / Calvo* to sus out.

Steve Ham mentoring during the Dutch Open, a week before our comp. Calvo is Meet Director. Alan may be available to help marshal as he has now retired.

Gary asked about the fee for having a merchant account, £23 month. This was explained it was either £23 per month or a % of the money transacted through the account.

Calvo asked for two additional laptop computers to be sourced for 2005 as we presently rely on Comps. Panel members bringing their own machines to comps. He thought a budget of about £350 each should do and will look out for some. *Calvo to source 2 laptops.*

Maps for Austria. Can we ask Kelly if he has maps available for the comp.

Mark will have a look at the Spanish maps.

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.

Sponsorship

IN-Sport Sponsorship. Same as 2004 with Steve Purdie's *Airworks*, Zabdi's *Flying Freedom* and Mark Leavsley's *Leavsley Aviation*.

Phil wants the minimum level of sponsorship clearly defined to avoid having to add sponsor logos to the backdrop for everyone who donates relatively small (but no less important!) amounts.

FPR Sponsorship. Company has been bought buy a large American company, Kroll and is now known as Kroll – FPR. The MD is still confident that their sponsorship will be available for 2005 but Calvo, Phil & Neil may go & give a presentation to the new company bosses some time in New Year. Our national ranking has gone from 7th to 1st since FPR came in with sponsorship.

Phil / Calvo / Neil (& Rog if you need a hand) to organise a presentation for Sponsor.

Phil needs an invoice from us fro Kroll FPR for monies not yet received. *Gary will send Phil an invoice.*

Gary mentioned that the threshold for VAT was £58,000 & we should be careful and might need to organise the accounts differently. *Gary will set up a new account for Team with Neil as a 2nd signature.*

SportsMatch was mentioned as a means of getting some additional funding. This matches money obtained from new & existing sponsors. Need someone to have a look at this.

In the past, as an incentive 10% of any sponsorship was offered to the finder.

It was agreed that this should be retained Sponsorship as well.

2. Nationals 2005 locations and dates.

Mayerhofen Austria 27th May first week in June

The pilot questionnaire said *yes*. We need to set the date carefully to attract the local German/Austrian pilots. Chris's budget does not include it, but Kelly has indicated that the town will give us €2,000.

Another cost not included last year was the SMS. Each task cost about £20 - £30.

Can we task *Kelly* to find accommodation for the organisation.

Phil will check with Kelly if medical cost can be contributed to by the town and helicopter, what? / where?

Piedrahita

British Open 10-16 July ?

A week after the Dutch Open which Calvo is Meet Director.

Long Mynd, Shropshire England. Sat. 27, Sun. 28, Mon. 29, Tue. 30 August.

UK event at the Long Mynd again over the 2nd Bank Holiday in August. We could base it at the Inn on the green at Wentnor as in the past or, Mark Leavesley of Leavsley Aviation has moved to Bishops Castle & offered the use of his campsite and facilities. (I think he said he has moved there and is setting up his business and would be prepared to offer assistance)

Need to check what ?

3. **Worlds Team Selection.**

The team to represent GB in the World Championships in Brazil in 2005 was chosen as follows:

Men

1. Bruce Goldsmith * Auto entry*
2. Russel Ogden *Auto entry*
3. Steve Ham *Auto entry*
4. Mark Watts
5. Adrian Thomas

Reserve Neil Roberts

Women

1. Abi Barr *Auto entry*
2. Nicky Moss

Calvo will write to each successful and unsuccessful pilot and the Team selection will be announced in Comp Lines & the website.

Comps. Panel Members Roles.

Neil Roberts	Chairman / Team Manager for the Bleriot Cup / Squad Development.
Adrian Thomas	Vice Chairman / BPRS / Rules / FAI Section 7
Calvo	Team Manager / Meet Director / Civil Representative.
Gary Jackson	Treasurer
Phil Mackereth	Sponsorship / Pilot date base / Head Marshal / Comp. Lines
Chris Harland	Budget / Clothing / French Liaison
Roger Braney	Safety Marshal / Logistics
Mark Graham	Web site / Scoring
Nico Preston	Pilot data base / Registration
Steve Ham	Spanish Liaison
Steve Purdie	Weather / Safety / Scoring
Zabdi Keen	Women's development. We need to define this role more clearly.
Ulric Jessop	Scoring / XC League / software development
Brad	Brad agreed to have a go at organising social events at each comp & help Phil with prize-giving.

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association.
Competitions Panel Meeting, Saturday 27th November 2004.

Also

Mike Aston XC league / BHPA Records / UK track-log database

Richard Westgate XC League with Adrian.

It was agreed that at the next Comps Panel meeting we should discuss the selection criteria. It was noted that the automatic selection of the top 3 British pilots from the WPRS could select out of form pilots due to the timing of the meeting and pilots' competition scores not being in the system or old comps still being in the rankings.

Meeting finished at about 7:30pm.