

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

AGENDA.

Rules & Responsibilities;  
Venues 2008 / Format;  
Meet Director / Marshals / Team Manager;  
Squad Training;  
Comps. – What are we going to provide?  
Scoring PWC, Task-Dropping;  
Sponsorship;  
XC League;  
Finances;  
PWC Entry.

PRESENT:

Richard Bungay, Phil Mackereth, Adrian Thomas, Matt Church, Ulric Jessop, John Stevenson, Roger Braney, Russell Ogden, Kirsty Cameron, Steve Nash, Mark Hayman, Charlie Merrit, Steve Ham, Paul Russell.

[Richard (*Chairman*) decided to tackle some of the easier topics first so as not to take too much time].

PWC Entry-

*Mark Hayman* – Points now make it easier to gain entry into PWC competitions. We need to adopt a National strategy to maximise the number of GB pilots getting places. Calvo has already spoken to Xavier Murillo (PWC). Need to finish in at least the top 6 of our comps. to get PWC entry.

*Russell Ogden* – Only 9 or 10 GB pilots interested in doing PWC's:-

Craig Morgan,  
Mark Hayman,  
Russell Ogden,  
Mark Leavesley,  
Kai Coleman,  
Adrian Thomas,  
Innes Powell,  
Neil Roberts,  
Steve Etherington.

Action – Calvo will speak to Xavier.

Roles & Responsibilities-

*Adrian Thomas* agreed to remain as Treasurer of the Team Account.

*Russell Ogden* asked to step down from the Comps. Panel, but would still be available for advice and would like to help with squad / team-training & development.

*Kirsty Cameron* will take over as Comps Panel Treasurer. She will arrange a hand-over from Verena after this comp.

*Paul Russell* will take over the content of the website from Mark & Nicky.

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*Richard Bungay* volunteered to remain as **Chairman** for another year. There were no objections to this.

Vice – Chairman, Richard thinks that this should be UK-based. (Nicky resigned earlier this year). Craig had been approached but already on a number of committees here in the UK. Steve Nash put forward by Panel. Steve agreed after role defined by Richard.\* [see later note below].

Phil Mackereth (Comp Lines & in-house sponsorship) & Roger Braney (Safety Marshal & Equipment) are stepping down this year after 10 years. Panel thanked them for all their efforts.

**Secretary** - Role = to take accurate minutes at Comps Panel meetings. Charlie Merritt offered to do minutes for meetings.

Sponsorship Officer – Role = to look after existing sponsors and try and obtain future funding.

**Technical Officer** – Role = Technical (Scoring) Ulric happy to continue in this role.

*Mark Hayman* – Chris Trow could possibly be a great asset as he has worked on the registration data-base, retrieve & SMS check-in, as well as the gps down-loading and scoring computers. Perhaps his role could be defined as Technical Administrator.

Mark suggests we should ask Chris to see if he would be interested.

Social – role to organise events at the various comps, including the prize-giving.

Usually done by marshals, but would need help if tasking on the last day and busy.

Here in St. André, Valerie from Aeroglis has helped a great deal to organise things. In future events a co-ordinator is needed.

Comp Lines Editor – Role = to collect reports and news items from pilots about competitions and pass these on to Joe Schofield the editor of Skywings. Phil Mackereth has done this for the last few years and is stepping down at the end of the year. Mark Hayman asked – *No*. \* Charlie Merritt offered to be Vice Chairman if Steve Nash would consider the Comp Lines Editor role. All in agreement, Charlie is now **Vice Chairman** and Steve Nash is **Comps Lines Editor**.\*

Sponsorship – Nigel Prior is a good friend of Neil Speed of Lighthouse & will communicate on behalf of the Comps Panel to him. Need to keep his sponsorship separate from the Championships. John Stevenson will speak to Lighthouse and arrange a meeting with him and Nigel & Calvo & Adrian to discuss Team sponsorship. Nigel & John think that Lighthouse is keen to do more team stuff, but haven't been asked. We need to keep them informed if we want to keep them happy. We could have long-term commitment from them.

*Kirsty* – Budgets need to be formulated for each event.

*Kitt* - (Elemental) sponsors of the Bleriot Team. Steve Nash did a good job with this year's comp.

We need new sponsors. Charlie asked do we need someone to collect receipts from pilots for monies promised. Kirsty will collect receipts from the Championships & Adrian for the Team events.

*Steve Nash* – Phil has all the in-house sponsor details..

New sponsors for the Championships?

Phil will pass on to Steve all existing sponsor details.

*Russ* - Ozone probably happy to continue at 2007 level.

*Mark Hayman* – We need to be able to tell a potential sponsor what they will get for their support. *Phil* – It can sometimes be very difficult to know exactly what a sponsor is providing!

It is very difficult for a minority sport like paragliding to get into main -stream advertising, like newspapers, etc. Cat 1 events are better, see the ½ page in the

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Guardian recently, featuring Bruce Goldsmith. Someone (Nigel I think) asked if Neil [Lightspeed] had been told of the Guardian article as Bruce was pictured wearing sponsored clothing. See Nigel's email - *What the £\*@3!*

*Richard* – the communication within the Comps Panel needs to improve. Anything like the Guardian article should be flagged up and sent to sponsors asap.

Mark Hayman knows a sports reporter (Dave ?) and volunteered to speak to him. The web link to the Guardian article and French TV clip on the French Bleriot Blog & a DVD of the worlds in Manila as well as Australian TV should also be sent to sponsors.

It is not always easy for a pilot in the competition to have the time to write articles, take photos, report back to sponsors, etc.

*Russ* volunteered to try the sponsor liaison role as he knows most of the people in the sport & manufacturers.

*Richard* – The BPCup has many in-house sponsors providing lots of prizes. Richard will ask Liz (?) who does this role for the Cup if she would be interested in helping the Championships.

**XC League** - John Stevenson & matt Church still happy to continue in this role.

**Meet Director** – Calvo happy to continue in this role & CIVL Representative, but NOT happy to organise each event.

Steve Ham would organise an event if we decide on Spain in 2008.

**Safety Officer** – Richard thought that Innes might do this next year.

Mark Hayman is still happy to continue.

Innes happy to deputise if required.

Organisation of events.

- Location of events;
- Contact or local school;
- Organise logistics;
- Liaise with the FAI;
- Equipment.

Someone has seen some on-line software which John Stevenson & Richard will have a look at to see if any good.

Calvo has become a general organiser instead of just a Meet Director.

Adrian – we need to have a look at the recompense for the Meet Director's role.

Richard – Calvo is now in demand for other competitions, World events. We need to book him before he is committed elsewhere.

Others possibly available include Xavier, Mads (did the Nordics this year). But they would tend to turn up and just run the comp.

*Charlie* asked about a budget for 2007 ?

*Adrian* – the Championships over the last few years have been loss-making.

*Russ* – if the budget can stand it and no-one else wants to do it we should ask Calvo.

*Adrian* – we need to talk to Calvo & possibly, Rick & Chris to see if someone would consider taking on the role of competition organiser for a fee.

*Richard* – the Comps Panel need to sort out the events for 2008.

*Mark Hayman* – Difficult for some of the panel to organise as not available for up to 6 months of the year.

Richard will speak to Calvo, Rick & Chris.

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Team Manager. At the World Championships in Australia earlier this year we had no team manager due to not enough funds being available. This caused problems as Adrian could not do everything himself as well as take part in the competition. All the serious teams had a dedicated Team Manager and one other (helper). Calvo has done this in the past, but not this year due to funding. Most of the panel agreed that if the funds were available, then we should have a (Non-Flying) Team Manager at future events.

For the future, we need a budget and costings to present to a sponsor.

Scoring – [2-year trial] PWC scoring. A newer version is available. Mark Hayman reported that this new version had some problems in a competition in Turkey this year if no-one made it to goal.

Russ – short tasks = important to do super fast. There have been min distance problems.

The panel seem to agree that our version is ok.

Ulric can integrate our scoring RACE program with gps download formula for us to have control of the scoring. Ulric will provide the scoring formula to Adrian & Richard to check.

Stopped task – Absolves the Meet Director from any pressure to continue when conditions are not ok. In the PWC, when a task is stopped, the scoring is taken from the time the task was stopped – (minus ) 10 minutes.

Ulric will email some ideas to the panel to consider.

Task-dropping – [2007 was the first year that task-dropping had been used to determine the outcome of the Championships, 1 task being dropped after 5 valid tasks, and 2 after 8, and no more].

*Mark Hayman* – Task dropping not good for him, ok for fast racers. All we are doing is letting pilots off for having a bad day! The PWC allow pilots to drop 1 out of 3 tasks.

*Steve Ham* – we are not trying to create a PWC-style competition.

*Matt Church* – We have not had the Championship scores available in time for pilots to check and decide on tactics for the next task. The tasks have tended to be more XC than races.

*Russ* – we haven't had enough tasks for the task-dropping to have an effect yet.

*Richard* - suggested that we leave the task-dropping in place until after 2008.

*Adrian* – leave task-dropping in place for another year.

*Russ* – what would happen if the top 10 Champs pilots all do PWC events next year?

#### Format for 2008

*Russ* - The current format of 3 legs 1 UK & 2 abroad makes it difficult for many pilots with families and jobs to do all three.

*Steve Ham* – suggested 1 week UK and 1 week foreign.

*Mark Hayman* – 1 week UK & 1 week foreign & give a title to the winner(s) of each.

*Richard* – The BPCup (FAI Cat 2 event) could be the UK leg.

*Paul Russell* – The weather in the UK is often poor. We were fortunate this year.

*Charlie* – Thought that 5 or 6 Comps Panel members would like to drop one event.

*Phil* – Pilot questionnaires always say 3 separate events.

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*Steve Ham* – could if he wanted to attend a competition every week. One event would generate more entrants. Steve would prefer a week long event in the UK as he would book flights for a week even if the competition was only four days.

*Ulric* – Three events means that pilots have more options to choose from. Teachers are usually only able to take time off during the school holidays. More expensive flights.

A questionnaire will be drafted to ask the pilots at this competition what format they would prefer, but also ask how many events would they be likely to enter?

*Adrian* – Adrian preferred leaving the format the same for next year, rather than change at this late stage to give some stability.

The common view around the panel was to leave the format the same for 2008, but consider possibilities for 2009.

### Venues for 2008

*Richard* – Slovenia lots of pilots wanted to go there. Costs were thought to be quite expensive. We could ask Brett & Co, Toby to see if their local contacts could do it within our budget.

*Russ* – had done comps in Slovenia he thought that Tomlin & Kobin would offer limited tasks & not suitable for the British Championships. Slovenia is a lovely place but not for comps at the above places.

*Russ* – asked for a list of what we need for a successful competition location.

Lake Como, Italy was mentioned - retrieves easy. Previous enquiries about Como have proved too expensive. (£20,000 about 6years ago).

Castejon - Spain Charlie & others wanted to go back here. Steve Ham could help (Nicky & Mark ?) to organise but would need some expenses as it is a 12 hour drive from his place.

*Ager* – Spain back-to-back with a PWC. [*Ulric, Mark H, Steve H*] What time of the year? The week before the PWC? Might get some funding from the town & up to our standard of competition.

*[Included Neil Roberts email with PWC dates for info.]*

In the interest of avoiding PWC overlap can I provide you with the confirmed dates for PWC.

**Italy** : Poggio Bustone 3 to 10 may

**Switzerland** : Grindelwald 24 to 31 may

**Spain** : Castejon 14 to 21 june

**Bulgaria** : Sopot 2 to 9 august

**Brazil** : Castelo 27 september to 4 october

If these dates can be avoided or linked to geographically and time wise, the 6 to 8 top Brits doing PWC might be able to incorporate the British rounds as well.

May I suggest doing our Italian or Castejon comp the week before or after the PWC.

We may find other PWC pilots joining in, it would improve PQ for our comps.

Just a suggestion, I know how hard all this is.

Best wishes NEIL

Bulgaria ? PWC August 2 – 9 ? Small round hills !

Piedrahita – Spain ? Steve H indicated that the German Open might be taking place here next year.

Some of the meeting Russ, Ulic & Mark (*I think*) thought that the weather conditions in the Northern Alps are generally un-reliable at the time of year we organise comps., whereas the Southern Alps are usually ok.

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*Mark Hayman* – Thought that there should be a few mini-buses for the UK-leg in case the weather is poor.

*Richard* – cost of a mini-bus for a 4-day comp. in the UK is about £400 - £600, which would mean an extra £30 per pilot in fees.

*Phil* – mini-bus hire €400 per week here in St André, but more like €700 in France. Unfortunately, the Long Mynd round of the Championships came directly after the BPCup at the same venue where retrieves were available. Many pilots asking how the Cup could afford retrieves & the Championships couldn't!

*Richard* – (*BPCup – Organiser*) the Cup managed to keep costs to a minimum by using more volunteers.

*Steve Ham* – we need retrieves in the UK. No need for extras, food, bands, etc..

*Phil* – If we didn't have T-shirts where would we put the sponsors' logos?

*Nigel* – could ask Neil [Lightspeed] about clothing.

*Paul R*- agreed the cost of extras like food, etc should be looked at if it was a means to afford retrieves.

We need to have proper budgets for each round individually and keep a tighter control on costs.

Russ asked why the money the BHPA receives each year from the Sports Council, now *Sport England* goes to the BHPA rather than directly to us. [*Rog note: the grant from the former Sports Council has reduced over the last 10 year. It used to be divided between hang-gliding and us, but is now split:- accuracy, para-motoring and us and will only get less in the future*].

*Steve H* – we need to concentrate on the Competition itself, rather than clothing, food, social events, etc..

*Kirsty C* – Will have a look at the funding. If there is no money available then No extras.

*Steve H* – if we are not offering extras then where does the extra money go? Each event should be non-profit-making.

*Charlie* – Checked the actual cost of clothing from the Piedrahita round of the Championship. Event £17,000, T-shirts only £400.

The general consensus was that the UK round should have retrieves if we can afford it.

Squad-Training – Already covered earlier.

#### Other Bits

*Phil* – British Champion (Male & Female) should receive a free entry into the Championship the following year.

*Russ* – thinks this is a waste of money. Asked why *Ozone* as a long-standing sponsor of the Championships did not get as much recognition in Skywings particularly, as others who had only provided one money prize? I think it was down to the editor of Skywings and whatever articles he had at the time to publish.

XC League – Multipliers & non-UK flights need to be looked at by John & Co. before 1<sup>st</sup> November. FAI triangles score  $2x / 1 \frac{1}{2}$  ? Ours score different, should be the same. A minimum distance between turn-points was also mentioned to avoid pilots manipulating straight flights into triangles, eg. ridge runs. Most pilots now use optimization software to maximize each flight.

Standard format, defined goal?

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John S- better to have pilots thinking about declared goals rather than just taking off and flying.

*Russ* suggested a league with pilot's 3 best straight line distance flights. Purer form of comparison.

*Kirsty* – Something about Km & points for flights. John agreed to have a look at this. Richard & John & Co. to put a proposal to the panel before November 1<sup>st</sup>.

A pilot questionnaire was proposed to canvas pilots thoughts on locations, format, content of the Championships / competitions for next year.

[*Rog note: this was done at the prize-giving, not sure who collected them, possibly Richard*].

Finances – Adrian asked about money owed to the Team Account? Adrian had left the meeting at this time so it was decided to wait to discuss this un-till he was present.

Calvo – had already spoken to Chris Trow and he was already doing some work for us on the computer data-base and the scoring.

Meeting ended 13:10.

[*Rognote: Sorry it has taken me a while to compile - new training job at work, can't just read my Skywings and XC mag any more!*]