

BHPA COMPS PANEL MINUTES
26 JUNE 2008
LONG MYND

Present: Adrian, Richard, Kitt, Mark, Nigel, Steve, Paul, Matt, Alan, John, Rik, Chris, Tom, Calvo

SPONSORSHIP AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT

CB: We're now sponsored by Blu Eye sunglasses who will give us GBP 500 for each photo published in a magazine. The BHPA are giving us GBP 10K.

KR: We should use the Blu Eye money for squad development. Not Bob Drury boot camps, but subsidised FAI Cat 2 competitions or competition training with e.g. Kari Eisenhut.

AT: We should send people to PWC qualifying rounds.

NP: Let's get the money in the bank first.

CB: will talk to Blu Eye.

ST ANDRE PILOT SELECTION

RB: We've got 150 places available. We've allocated 130 as first come first served and will allocate the remaining 20 places according to WPRS points. Nico Preston is doing this.

AT: Bruce Goldsmith didn't get an email.

Bruce Goldsmith's email in the database was wrong, other pilots got them.

RB: Should we include new applicants in this ranking or should we put new applications at the bottom of the list? Is the goal to improve our overall pilot quality?

All: It is to improve pilot quality. Therefore, we include new applicants. We'll ask Nico to send a reminder email to those who haven't yet replied, give them 24 hours, and then do the next block according to WPRS.

FEMALE PLACES IN THE BRITISH TEAM

RB: We've now got an automatic process for male pilots but not for female places. We should have one.

CB: Calvo will propose that the entry requirement for Cat I comps is that you are in the top 500 of the WPRS or in the top 25 female pilots. The concern is about possible safety issues with lower ranked pilots.

MC: We have said that we expect potential Cat 1 pilots to have a PWC.

RB: Suggest top 400 in WPRS now, top 25 women, and can review depending on the PWC/FAI decision.

CB: Three issues: safety, funding, and the impact on the rest of the team.

TP: Frustrating for lower ranked male pilots to see even lower ranked female pilots get places at Cat 1s.

CB: Expect seven women total at the Euros, ten at the worlds.

MH: Asked how other countries made their decisions (if so few women expected).

AT: It should be a safety decision and be the same for both sexes.

PR: Female pilots are good for publicity.

KR: Worried about developing pilots too fast, cited an example where a Cat 1 came to early in a pilot's career.

CB: Any proposal must be non gender specific and must be more strict than what we have now.

A quick show of hands revealed that all were in favour of stricter criteria in principle. A second show of hands revealed that top 500 in WPRS had good support. RB will organise an email vote so that all panel members are involved in this decision.

FOREIGN VENUES FOR 2009

TP: Have spoken to Kelly. He's happy to organise it in Mayrhofen but will want to be paid for his time. Kelly mentioned cheap lift passes to launch and free retrieves by train paid for by the town.

RB: Very positive feedback about Pedro Bernardo, but we won't go back immediately. Definitely to be repeated though!

SH: Mentioned a take-off SW of Piedrahita as a possible destination. New airspace around Avila is annoying but not a problem for comps.

TP: Pieve (Italy) looks good. Kelly has good local contacts but it's too far away for him to organise.

Macendonia and Poggio-Bustone also mentioned but we have no local contacts. Calvo to make enquires at the Euros.

TP: to investigate St Jean de Montclar (FR).

UK VENUE FOR 2009

No problem going back to the Mynd. Other destinations include the Borders, Mid Wales, and Llandinham.

SIGN-IN/SIGN-OUT

MH: After the loss of the pilot at the Caslejon PWC we should use signatures.

All: agreement. Signatures are clear, easy to check, legally better, etc.

SCORING SYSTEM

MH: The PWC2008 scoring system is producing funny results for us. It's designed for comps where 80 pilots arrive in goal within a few minutes of each other. Both "winners" and "losers" of the system have stated that they didn't think it was a very good system for us. We should look to use something different in 2009.

Calvo will do some experiments with different scoring systems on non-flyable days at the Euros.

Others asked if we can put Ulric's software on the webpage so others can also experiment. RB to ask Ulric.