

British Parachute Association

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COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2000 at 1700
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Kieran Brady Paul Applegate Ian Midgley Lofty Thomas	-	Committee Chairman
In attendance:	Debbie Carter Lesley Gale Martin Shuttleworth Richard Tregaskes Glen Turnbull Sue Waterfield	-	Treasurer Editor, Skydive Magazine National Administrator Development Officer Administration Secretary
Observers:	Mike Allum Dave Hickling Craig Poxon John Smyth		
Apologies for absence:	Tye Boughen Tony Butler John Hitchen	-	Technical officer (in USA) NCSO

ITEM MINUTE

1 Minutes

Ian Midgley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Communications Committee held on 22 August be approved as a correct record. This was carried unanimously.

Approved

2 Matters arising

2.1 Profit on the magazine (minute 2)

Lesley Gale had circulated a paper containing the end-of-year financial information on Skydive magazine. She reported that the actual profit on the magazine for the year ended 30 June was £8290. This was considerably more than the £3000 profit that had been forecast a few months ago and far better than the original forecast of a loss of £2390. Ian Midgley considered the actual profit to be too much to carry forward to the magazine budget for the current year. If it was carried forward, he believed that the magazine budget should be

reduced with a corresponding reduction in the membership subscription. Lesley Gale said that carrying forward last year's profit on the magazine account, which was part of the BPA's funds, would enable further improvements to be made to the magazine and for the magazine website to be funded from the magazine budget. At present, the magazine website was a call on other BPA funds. The Chairman said that the Committee had already agreed to the principle of profit on the magazine being carried forward, and the appropriate time to consider the issue raised by Ian Midgley was when the magazine budget was being discussed.

The Chairman had only just received a copy of the end of year financial information on the magazine and held over further discussion until the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

2.2 Unauthorised access to the BPA Member Check facility (minute 4.2)

The Chairman reported that this issue had now been resolved.

No further action

3 August and October issues of Skydive magazine

Lesley Gale apologised for use of the photograph on the front cover of the August 2000 issue. It depicted a tube jump she had not realised at the time to be illegal.

The Chairman said that a number of complaints had been made to committee members about the August editorial that had suggested moving the Nationals abroad. Lesley Gale defended what she had written as promoting a healthy debate. She had discussed it before publication with John Smyth (Chairman, Competitions Committee). He had supported airing the view because it was shared by some competitors, but had warned that it would be controversial. The Committee considered that the editorial had crossed the line of acceptability because strongly articulated views on controversial issues were better suited to the letters page where various opinions could be given an equal platform. Reference was made to the editorial contract which specified that the magazine must not show bias against the Council of Management. After considerable discussion, the Chairman concluded by saying it would be helpful if the sharp edges were removed from future editorials to produce an introduction to the magazine with which, so far as possible, everyone could be happy.

The October magazine had included 4 additional pages making it the largest ever issue. It had also contained a 12-page feature on the British Nationals, giving a thoroughly comprehensive coverage of the championships. Ian Midgley congratulated Lesley Gale on the October issue of the magazine which he thought was the best so far, especially the club news section at the back.

Lesley Gale asked whether that the BPA may wish to consider publishing a small handbook on Head up Flying based on the series of articles in the magazine by Giles Fabris. Dave Hickling said that there was already the bones of such a handbook in use at Langar. Ian Midgley suggested, and it was agreed, that any proposal for a BPA handbook on Head up Flying should be put for consideration to the Development Committee rather than Communications.

Action: Lesley Gale

Computer map files produced by Visitmap were now being used in the Drop Zone Focus in the magazine. Lesley Gale said she would send these files to Glen Turnbull for inclusion on the Drop Zone pages of the BPA website.

Action: Lesley Gale

4 **December issue of Skydive magazine**

Lesley Gale outlined the planned features in the December issue of the magazine. This included profiles of three non-British athletes in the 'People in the Sport' feature. There followed a discussion about the balance of British athletes and athletes from other countries included in this feature. Lesley Gale believed that a good balance had been maintained over the year and would check to make certain.

Action: Lesley Gale

5 **Starter magazine distribution update**

John Curtis, an advertiser in the Starter magazine, was under the impression that not all centres were giving out the Starter magazines along with the P6's and had asked the reason for this. The distribution figures showed that most Drop Zones had agreed to issue the Starter magazine but there had been a 25% shortfall in Starter magazines compared with P6's issued by participating Drop Zones. The reason appeared to be that some centres had not put in place a reliable system to issue the magazines, whereas at other centres distribution was going well. A few centres had reported that first-time jumpers were leaving their magazines behind rather than taking them home.

Ian Midgley suggested that a new letter to Drop Zones to retarget distribution of the Starter magazines should be written in consultation with Chris Allen, and this was agreed.

Action: BPA Office

6 **Website update**

Ian Midgley reported that Glen Turnbull had completed nearly all the full year's plan for the website well ahead of schedule. This also meant that the budget had been used up more quickly than anticipated. Further, new pages on the Regionals and Nationals had been added which were not in the original plan and had therefore not been included in the budget. As a result, the budget had now been used up.

Therefore, Ian Midgley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that a recommendation to the Council should be made for an additional sum of £3000 to be made available to maintain the BPA website during the current financial year ending on 30 June 2001.

Carried unanimously

An article by Ian Midgley to update members on the development of the website had appeared in the October issue of the magazine. Glen Turnbull now had an internal facility to update pages and add new documents to the website, but not to create new pages. Lesley Gale mentioned that information on the website about competitors referred to the World Air Games 1997 and needed to be updated for the World Air Games 1999. Bristol Web Factory were to produce a monthly statistical report on the site, and by page. The BPA on-line shop was now up and running, and Ian Midgley tabled an example of the new one-jump voucher available from the shop.

7 **Magazine stand and open forum at the AGM**

After discussion, Lofty Thomas proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the BPA would pay expenses estimated at £350 for Lesley Gale and one other person to attend the BPA AGM 2001 to hold an open forum and run an exhibition space for the magazine.

Carried unanimously

In response to a request from Lesley Gale, Ian Midgley proposed and Lofty Thomas seconded a motion that £750 from the magazine budget should be used to buy a digital camera to take photographs of members at the AGM to build up a photographic bank for the magazine. Lesley Gale would purchase of the camera and arrange insurance (through the BPA office if appropriate) and the camera would remain the property of the BPA.

Carried unanimously

8 Nomination papers

Lesley Gale asked that any member who wished to mention her name in their nomination paper for election to the Council should contact her first.

9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 December 2000 at 1400 at BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1840.

Distribution:

Council/Committee
Vice Presidents
Treasurer
Technical Officer
NCSO
National Administrator
Development Officer
Financial Administrator
Editor - Skydive Mag