

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2000 at 1830
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	-	Chairman
	Mike Allum		
	Tim Andrewes		
	Paul Applegate		
	Kieran Brady	-	Vice Chairman / Communications Chairman
	Dona Crum		
	Mick Danby		
	Dave Hickling		
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	John Smyth	-	Competitions Chairman
	Lofty Thomas		
	Richard Tregaskes		
In attendance:	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Glen Turnbull	-	Development Officer
Observer:	Craig Poxon		
Apologies for absence:	Tye Boughen		
	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer (in the USA)
	Chris Clements		
	John Saunders	-	Safety and Training Chairman

ITEM MINUTE

44/00 Condolences

The Chairman gave the Council's condolences to the relatives and friends of Micky Munn who had passed away recently.

45/00 Minutes of last meeting

Ian Midgley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 August 2000 as a correct record, which carried unanimously.

Approved

46/00 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

The minutes of each of the following meetings had been circulated in advance.

46.1 Development Committee meeting on 22 August 2000

Ratification of the minutes was proposed by Ian Midgley, seconded by Tim Andrews, and carried unanimously.

Ratified

46.2 Safety and Training Committee meeting on 28 September 2000

STC had dismissed an appeal against disciplinary action it had taken against an Advanced Instructor arising from an incident at Eaglescott. The Advanced Instructor was free to appeal to the Council but had been away from the UK, returning only about now. The Council therefore agreed that it was fair to allow him until its next meeting, on 12 December, in case he wished to appeal.

Two jumpers had been seriously injured in separate incidents but both were now improving. Allegedly, one of the jumpers had had an epileptic fit under canopy. On being informed of the accident, the jumper's parents had disclosed that he had suffered from epilepsy since childhood. The jumper had failed to declare this on his medical form, so the Drop Zone had been unaware of the problem. Further investigation had revealed that the jumper had been grounded by another Drop Zone where he had shown signs of his condition and been asked to provide a doctor's declaration of fitness to parachute.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, the following motion. STC would be asked to put in place a system whereby Drop Zones notified the BPA of any jumpers who had been prohibited from jumping on medical grounds, and the BPA would pass on this information to other Drop Zones. This carried unanimously.

Action: STC

STC had considered a list of accident and incident reports. In some recent severe injuries, a common theme had been that the parachutists were attempting to get back to the PLA. The TO and NCSO were considering whether any recommendations could be put to STC to reduce the incidence of such injuries.

Action: STC

Paul Applegate proposed, and Dave Hickling seconded, that the minutes be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

46.3 Communications Committee meeting on 22 August 2000

Ratification of the minutes was proposed by Kieran Brady, seconded by Lofty Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Ratified

46.4 Competitions Committee meeting on 25 September 2000

John Smyth (Competitions Chairman) put forward the recommendation of the Competitions Committee for competitor funding to prepare for the World Air Games (WAG) in Spain in June 2001. Only two teams, XL and VMax, and one individual competitor, Dave Ballard, had met the BPA's toughest ever criteria for funding. Dave Ballard had decided he would not take part in the WAG, leaving only the two teams to be funded. Both teams had independently submitted business plans with detailed budgets, which had come to a similar total in both cases. The budgets had been critically analysed by the Competitions Committee and trimmed down to essentials such as coaching and jumping. This had effectively reduced by half what the BPA could be expected to fund in each budget. There remained a core expenditure of £30K per team which was essential to optimise their medal prospects. The UK Sports Council had made the BPA a grant of £25K for competitions but £10K of this needed to be set aside for other purposes (judges, regional competitions, etc) leaving £15K for competitor funding. The Competitions Committee was therefore unanimously requesting the Council to add £45K from BPA funds to make up the total to £60K.

There followed an extensive discussion of the amount of funding that should be made available to competitors who had met the funding criteria. Kieran Brady believed this should be determined when operational matrices and budgets were being set for the committees. The Chairman said that the way in which bids for Sports Council funding were made required a costed operational plan to be put forward. The Sports Council would then consider making a grant towards part of this expenditure in specified areas. This year, £25K of funding for competitions had been provided by the Sports Council, but this amount should not be taken to be the total BPA spend on competitions, but rather a contribution to it. When the Sports Council grant was taken into consideration, the amount now being requested by the Competitions Committee fell within the maximum expenditure on competitor funding set out within the operational plan that had been agreed by the BPA Council.

The consensus of the meeting was that funding our world-class competitors had the support of the membership, and that good performances would inspire everyone within the BPA and enhance the sport. John Smyth proposed, and Mick Danby seconded, a motion that XL and VMax should be funded at £30K each to prepare for and attend the World Air Games. The funding would comprise £7.5K each from the Sports Council grant, and £22.5K each from the BPA, making a total call on the Sports Council grant of £15K and on BPA reserves of £45K. The voting was:

For: 8+1 proxy vote = 9 Against 2 Abstentions 1 (Mike Allum)

Carried by a majority

The members who had voted against the motion stated that their vote had been against the way in which budget control was being operated for competitions expenditure.

The funding that had just been agreed would be supplied in tranches and the teams would be required account to the BPA to demonstrate that all expenditure was on items considered by the Competitions Committee as falling properly within the remit of BPA sponsorship, ie coaching and training. John Smyth thanked the BPA Council for its support of our top teams, who he was sure would be delighted.

In response to a question from Ian Midgley, John Smyth confirmed that a maximum of 4 judges (one per discipline) could qualify for BPA funding to the WAG but only if invitations were extended by the IPC.

The Council considered a fax from Chris Clements (tabled) which included a request for two additions to the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting on 25 September 2000. John Smyth said that he was content with the minutes as written, but would be pleased to speak to Chris Clements about her fax. John Smyth then proposed that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting on 25 September 2000 should be ratified. This was seconded by Tim Andrewes, and carried.

Ratified

The Council next considered a letter of appeal and supporting papers from Tim Porter on behalf of himself and Roddy Mackay, national champion freestyle jumpers who had not met the criteria for funding. They had already appealed to the Competitions Committee, who had declined their appeal on the basis that the judging at the qualifying nationals had been a little lenient. The Council discussed the appeal and the consensus was that Roddy and Tim needed to do more jumps to further improve their performance to reach the criteria for funding as set by the BPA.

Richard Tregaskes proposed, and Dave Hickling seconded, a motion that the Council support the decision of the Competitions Committee not to uphold the appeal of Tim Porter and Roddy Mackay.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman was concerned that the standard of New Age judging at a qualifying national meet appeared to have been more lenient than at an international event. Dona Crum said that this had been because the New Age disciplines had been struggling to find a benchmark. The answer was probably to have more compulsories as they were more amenable to standardisation in judging than the free routines.

Finally, John Hitchen gave a short report on plans for WAG 2001.

47/00 Reports on significant matters from today's meetings

47.1 Communications Committee

Kieran Brady (Communications Chairman) reported that the year's work on the website had already been completed and several additional features introduced over and above the original plan. This had largely been because Glen Turnbull, Development Officer, had been able to devote time to the site. As a result, most of the year's budget had now been spent, and a further £3K would be needed to maintain the site until the end of the financial year on 30 June. Maintenance and update of the site could now be done internally and only new features (new pages) needed involvement by the web design company, which would help to keep down ongoing costs.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that an additional £3K should be allocated to running the BPA website during the current financial year ending on 30 June 2001.

Carried unanimously

Kieran Brady reported that the profit on the magazine for the financial year ended 30 June 2000 had been £8,290, which had been more than double the original forecast.

47.2 Development Committee

Ian Midgley (Development Chairman) reported that, as agreed at the last meeting of the Council, BPA reserves had been invested in two capital bonds of £200,000 each. One was a three year bond which had previously achieved an average return of 10%pa, the other a 4-year bond which had achieved an average return of over 25%pa. Previous performance was, as with any financial product, no guarantee for the future. However, the capital was protected and expected returns were significantly higher than the deposit rate which currently stood at only 6%.

The Development Committee would move on at its next meeting to consider whether or not there was any scope for further investments, perhaps in shorter-term bonds. This would depend on a careful analysis of the amount of working capital needed by the BPA and its cashflow position.

Other matters of business had included:

- The BPA's FXCs had now been disposed of, yielding a profit of £501 for BPA funds.
- Richard Tregaskes had recently submitted the application to Sport England for lottery funding for the extension to the BPA's office building.
- Dave Hickling and Kieran Brady had agreed to join Chris Allen to form a working party to consider possible courses on commercial subjects such as marketing that might appeal to Drop Zone Operators, with a view to offering one or more courses this winter.

48/00 Reports from Club Representatives

Kieran Brady had visited Paragon Skydiving and Stirling Parachute Centre, Mike Allum had visited Wild Geese and Richard Tregaskes had visited Nerheravon and South Cerney.

Two jumpers at Wild Geese had asked for clarification of red and blue licences. It had been some while since information on this had appeared in Skydive magazine, and Dave Hickling offered to write an article for the magazine which he would send via John Hitchen.

Action: Dave Hickling

A jumper at Wild Geese had expressed concern about the 10 jump rule for display jumping in view of the weather conditions before their first display on St Patrick's Day on 17 March. It was possible to apply for an exemption to STC but Dave Hickling pointed out that this rule had not been introduced lightly.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their visits and reports.

49/00 Royal Aero Club

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that he had received proposals for six individuals or teams to be nominated by the BPA for various RAeC awards. He proposed that the six nominations, which he read out, should formally be made by the BPA Council. This was seconded by Ian Midgley, and carried unanimously.

Action: John Smyth

The year 2001 would be the centenary of the RAeC and a number of special events were planned. These would include an awards presentation ceremony at St James's Palace at which HRH The Duke of York was likely to be present, a display day and a centenary dinner. All nominating bodies were being asked to sell tickets for the dinner, which would be held on 3 November 2001 at the Hyatt Carlton Towers Hotel in London.

50/00 General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo)

Angela Hickling was the current BPA representative at GASCo. She had written to say that following the death of its Chairman last year, GASCo was proposing to rotate the Chairmanship between its member organisations from May 2001. It was understood that Mrs Hickling may prefer that a BPA Member with time to devote to the Chairmanship should be invited to join GASCo.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that a letter of should be sent to all Chief Club Pilots to seek to identify a pilot to represent the BPA on GASCo who would be prepared, if necessary, to become its Chairman.

Action: BPA Office

51/00 2001 competition bid form

In response to a question by Mick Danby, John Smyth apologised that the specification and bid form for next year's national and regional competitions had been issued to Drop Zone Operators before being put forward for consideration by the Council. This had been for the best of intentions, to give more time for a reply before the deadline of Wednesday 15 November. In discussion, John Smyth confirmed that no military centre would bid to hold a national competition if a civilian centre had done so.

52/00 Nominations for election to the Council, 2001

The Chairman reminded members of Council that those who wished to offer themselves for re-election to next year's Council had to submit their completed nomination forms, with a proposer and a seconder, for receipt at the BPA Office by no later than noon on Wednesday 1 November.

53/00 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 December 2000, following an Extraordinary General Meeting at 1830, at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2050.

Distribution:

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