

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 15 April 2003 at 1820
at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	Billy Gollan	
	David Hickling	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Ian Marshall	
	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman
	Jim White	
In attendance:	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Calvin Blacker	
	Ralph Fielding	
	Lesley Gale	
	Nigel Holland	
	Ian Midgley	

Item Minute

19/03 Minutes

The following errors were corrected in the unconfirmed minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 February 2003.

References in the heading of item 7.2 and the text of items 9.1 and 9.2 (all on page 2) to meetings on '2 December 2002' were corrected to read '3 December 2002'. In the text of item 9.2, the name 'Competitions Committee' to be replaced by 'Development Committee'.

Item 9.4.3 (page 3) – a full stop was placed after "...include WPC 2004". The rest of the sentence, reading 'and the World Air Games 2005' was deleted.

With the above corrections, Paul Applegate proposed, and John Smyth seconded, a motion that the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

Approved

20/03 Matters arising

20.1 Fliteline - page 2, minute 8.1

The Chairman reported that the Proprietor of Fliteline (PF) had recently written to indicate that he planned to attend the Council meeting in June. In the letter, he said he would have liked

to have come to this meeting, but his solicitor had not been available to come with him. The Chairman asked David Hickling to let David Turner know that PF planned to attend the Council meeting on Tuesday 17 June, and David Hickling agreed to do this.

20.2 World Cup 2002 entry fees – page 2, minute 8.2

The Chairman asked John Smyth to give an update on the repayment to the BPA of competitor fees for the self-funded World Cup 2002, which the BPA had paid on their behalf for ease of administration on entry. John Smyth reported that the payments were being received. With regard to the repayment due from 4-way FS team *Quiksilver*, the Army Parachute Association had indicated that it would cover £500 of the outstanding amount of £1098, with the balance due for repayment by team members themselves.

20.3 Action Plan 2003/4 – page 4, minute 11

The Chairman reported that the Action Plan for 2003/4 had now been submitted to UK Sport as a bid for exchequer grant-aid funding. A copy had been circulated to Members of the Council. The financial appendices would be added shortly: their preparation had been delayed because Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, had recently been away on unforeseen special leave for family reasons. The outcome of the BPA's funding bid was expected to be known during May.

The Chairman reported that in compiling the finished document, he had agreed with the Communications and Development Chairmen that it would be more logical, and give a better overall balance to the plan, for all targets involving the BPA website to be grouped in the Development matrix. This had involved transferring two BPA website targets from the Communications matrix to the Development matrix. The targets themselves, and their associated budgets, as agreed at the last Council meeting, remained unchanged.

The Chairman thanked Members of Council, staff and others within the BPA who had contributed to the drafting and preparation of the Plan. He asked that it should be used as a working document by all the BPA's committees for their working during the year from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004 inclusive.

21/03 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

21.1 Communications Committee meeting on 18 February 2003

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 18 February 2003 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

21.2 Development Committee meeting on 18 February 2003

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and Billy Gollan seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 18 February 2003, should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

21.3 Minutes of the STC meeting on Thursday 10 April 2003

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) reported on a correction to a typographical error in the unconfirmed minutes in which the result of a vote on page 5 had been incorrectly recorded as For: 11 and Against: 2. This was to be corrected to For: 13, Abstentions: 2.

John Hitchen also reported on the sad news that John Reynolds, a BPA instructor from Tilstock, had suffered a fatality whilst skydiving in Portugal. The Council joined STC in sending condolences to his family and friends.

David Hickling then therefore proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 10 April 2003 (with the correction on page 5 as noted above) be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

21.4 Minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 25 March 2003

21.4.1 Domestic competition rules 2003

John Smyth (Competitions Chairman) reported that the final draft of National and Regional competition rules for 2003 had been circulated to the Council for approval at this meeting. A few typographical errors had been discovered, and these had now been corrected.

The Chairman asked for clarification of the rule in the Artistic Nationals that specified a competitor, within any particular discipline, could enter in the A or B category, but not both. He asked how this reconciled with the Competitions Committee's desire to encourage the maximum number of competitors. John Smyth thanked the Chairman for this comment, which he said he would discuss with Nigel Holland (Artistic Disciplines Representative) who was not present tonight. John Smyth asked the Council formally to approve the rules for Nationals and Regional/Grand Prix competitions in all other disciplines, and authorise the Competitions Committee to finalise and issue the rules for the Artistic Nationals at its next meeting on Thursday 15 May.

21.4.2 Head of UK delegation to WPC Mondial 2003

John Smyth referred to the full Council the Competitions Committee's recommendation that John Hitchen should be appointed as Head of the UK delegation to the WPC Mondial in Gap, France, in September 2003. As the UK delegate to IPC and Chairman of the IPC Style & Accuracy Committee, the Competitions Committee considered it essential for John Hitchen to go to the world meet.

In the absence of any comments, John Smyth proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that John Hitchen be appointed Head of the UK Delegation to WPC Mondial 2003.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman thanked John Hitchen for agreeing to take on this responsibility.

21.4.3 CF coaching roadshows

Kieran Brady apologised to Ian Marshall for not yet having got back to him about possible dates for a CF coaching roadshow at Strathallan (Competitions minute 26.3). He said he would liaise with Ian Marshall outside the meeting.

Ian Marshall reported that a CF coaching roadshow had now been arranged at Hinton over the weekend of 26 and 27 July. This was aimed particularly at encouraging more women to take up competitive CF jumping, but was open to all BPA Members.

21.4.4 Ratification of minutes and competition rules

Jim White pointed out a correction to be made to Competitions minute 26 which stated that VMax had expressed an interest in holding a coaching roadshow at Netheravon after the WPC Mondial 2003. In fact, it had been the other way around, with Netheravon expressing the interest.

With the above correction to the minutes, John Smyth proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 25 March 2003, and the domestic rules for 2003 (except for the Artistic Nationals – see minute 21.4.1 above) be approved. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

22/03 Reports on meetings held earlier today

22.1 Communications Committee

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) reported that the Communications Committee had noted that the Magazine was performing to budget. The old BPA photocopier, which had now been replaced, had been given to the Magazine at no charge as it had been written off the BPA's assets and would otherwise have incurred a cost for disposal. The Committee had considered a costed written proposal by Lesley Gale to produce an A4 calendar for 2004 as

an insert to the December 2003 issue of *Skydive Magazine*. Finally, Eddie Jones was sorry to report that Bev Fairhurst was leaving the Magazine's staff to return to her roots the south west of England. He said that the Communications Committee had thanked her, both on behalf of the Council and the full membership, for the valuable contribution she had made to the Magazine, and had wished her well for the future.

22.2 Development Committee

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) reported that the Development Committee had discussed the compilation of the Freely coaching manual. There had been different interpretations of what the budget figure of £2K had been intended to cover. It was now clear that half of the budget of £2K had been to pay for production and distribution costs. This meant that only £1K was available to cover compilation costs. However, Kieran Brady now believed that the project could be completed within the agreed budget and would report further at the next meeting. The Development Committee had also discussed the Advanced Canopy Control Qualification / Syllabus and Coaching Qualification. Work on this was continuing slowly but steadily as part of an STC working group on all aspects of Canopy Piloting. Finally, a letter had been sent on 12 March 2003 to the International Paralympic Committee in Bonn asking whether skydiving may be eligible to apply for admission to the Summer Paralympic Games and, if so, how any such application should be progressed. The reply was awaited with interest.

23/03 Reports from Club Representatives

There were no reports from Club Representatives.

24/03 Report on Royal Aero Club Activities

John Smyth reported that there had not been a meeting of the Royal Aero Club Council since the last BPA Council meeting, so he had relatively little new to report. The RAeC Annual Awards ceremony would now take place at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, on 30 April 2003, when the BPA's Ronnie O'Brien and Debbie Carter would receive their awards. John Smyth reported that the RAeC Trust had awarded bursaries to seven young people. Some young skydivers had applied, but unfortunately none had been successful, with the bursaries being awarded to those involved with gliding or fixed-wing aircraft. Finally, the RAeC Trust had launched its Annual Photographic Competition for 2003, which the BPA was publicising through the Magazine and the BPA website.

Tony Butler reported that there was nothing further to report at this time on the RAeC project on the UK response to the future regulation of airports in Europe.

25/03 Application for Re-Affiliation: RAFSPA

There being no comments from Council members or staff, Paul Applegate proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the application for Re-Affiliation by RAFSPA, consequent on a change of Chief Instructor to Brian McGill, be approved.

Carried unanimously

26/03 Application for Association: Skydive Spain

There being no comments from Council members or staff, Ian Marshall proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the application for Association by Skydive Spain (submitted by Allan Hewitt) be approved.

Carried unanimously

27/03 Coaching Roadshows and the *Brit Chicks*

In an item that had originated since the agenda was issued, the Chairman referred to an e-mail that Adam Jones had circulated to all Council Members. This referred to an e-mail, about coaching roadshows, which had apparently been sent to the *Brit Chicks* (women's 50-way formation record holders) by Lesley Gale, just before she had left for her current holiday in the USA. In his e-mail to the Council, Adam Jones had set out his view that holding roadshows for *Brit Chicks* discriminated against male skydivers, and he asked that BPA activities should be available to all members, of both genders.

The Chairman said he would reply to Adam Jones but stressed that it was important that he should first discuss the matter with Lesley Gale, who was not due back in the UK until later in the month.

John Smyth confirmed that a competitions target in the next Action Plan was to encourage more women to compete. With the women's 4-way team *VMax* again World Champions, this was an appropriate time for such an initiative. John Smyth said that women were significantly under-represented in competitive skydiving in the UK. The intention was to hold discipline-specific roadshows using the achievement and motivation of the *Brit Chicks* as a catalyst. No separate budget had been allocated to encourage women skydivers to compete - it was all part of the overall roadshow budget. John Smyth said it was positive action for women, not discrimination against men. He confirmed that roadshows coached by women to encourage women competitors would also be open to men - indeed, male team *VNE* might help with the coaching, and the freefall videographers would almost certainly be men. There was general support around the table for John Smyth's comments.

The Council agreed that the Chairman should reply to Adam Jones on its behalf once he had had the opportunity to discuss the matter with Lesley Gale on her return from holiday.

Action: Chairman

28/03 Dates of future meetings

Tuesdays at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester (following meetings of the Communications and Development Committees, for those involved, during the afternoon):
17 June, 19 August, 21 October, 2 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 1858.