

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 17 June 2003 at 1840

at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

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

Item Minute

29/03 Minutes

John Smyth proposed, and Dave Hickling seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2003 be accepted as a correct record.

Approved

30/03 UK Sport exchequer funding

The Chairman reported the good news that UK Sport had agreed to exchequer funding of the BPA at the same rate as last year, equivalent to £40K for the year. However, UK Sport had changed its funding year, which would now run to 31 March instead of 30 June. UK Sport's grant to the BPA was therefore £30K for the nine-month period from 1 July 2003 to 31 March 2004.

UK Sport had advised that the BPA need not alter its planning timetable because of the change in the funding year. However, it had emerged during discussions with them that the UK Sport funding panel that had previously considered the BPA's Action Plan funding bid each April, would now meet only once a year each November. This was part-way through the BPA's Action Plan year. It meant that at the next funding round in November 2003, UK Sport would be considering funding for the BPA for the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. Only the first three months of this would be covered by the BPA's Action Plan. UK Sport had

indicated that its funding panel would use a progress report on the then current Action Plan to reach its recommendation, and that there was no need to submit the next Action Plan at this earlier date (six months earlier than usual).

The Chairman said that discussions between the BPA Office and UK Sport would continue to seek further clarification on this point. In particular, the BPA Council needed to be sure that the new timetable for consideration of funding bids by UK Sport would not place the BPA at any disadvantage because UK Sport had moved its funding year such that it was now out of phase with the BPA's planning and financial years.

31/03 Fliteline

The solicitors acting for the Proprietor of Fliteline (PF) had written to ask that this item (minute 68.02 refers) be deferred because the solicitor who had been involved with the matter, and wished to be present for discussion of the item, was on holiday. The date of the next Council meeting, Tuesday 19 August 2003 at 1830, had therefore been suggested as an alternative. No reply had yet been received. PF had sent a letter of apology that the item had had to be held over.

Action: Next meeting

32/03 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

32.1 Development Committee meeting on 15 April 2003

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and David Hickling seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 15 April 2003, should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

32.2 Communications Committee meeting on 15 April 2003

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 15 April 2003 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

32.3 Minutes of the STC meeting on Thursday 5 June 2003

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) reported that STC had, with regret, heard at its meeting of two fatalities. The Council joined STC in sending its condolences. David Hickling then proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 5 June 2003 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

32.4 Minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 20 May 2003

John Smyth proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 20 May 2003, be approved. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

33/03 Reports on meetings held earlier today

33.1 Communications Committee

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) reported that the Communications Committee had considered a letter of complaint from a civilian DZ operator concerning an advertisement placed by a military DZ operator in the June 2003 issue of *Skydive Magazine*. The letter had pointed out that the advertisement was in contravention of an agreement made in 1987 between civilian and military centres that military centres would not advertise. Eddie Jones confirmed that the advertisement had appeared in error. He believed that new management at the military centre may not have been familiar with the agreement. There had also been an error in that the advertisement had not been stopped at proof stage. He would reply to the civilian DZ to apologise and confirm that all parties would be made aware of the position to prevent a recurrence.

Eddie Jones also reported that the Communications Committee was planning to meet its targets in the new Action Plan year starting on 1 July 2003. The Committee had accepted a quotation of £425 (which was less than the Council-agreed budget) for the introduction of an e-commerce facility on the Magazine website for online subscriptions to the magazine. It had also authorised updates of the Magazine website, for which the estimated cost was £500, which again was less than budget. It had sought a firm quotation on the cost of converting the DZ Focus from hard copy to electronic copy. Finally, it had noted the progress of the planned 2004 members' calendar, with a photographic competition for the calendar having been publicised in the June 2003 issue of *Skydive Magazine*. The cost of the calendar (a copy of which would be issued free of charge to each full BPA Member) would be within the £5K budget already agreed by the Council.

33.2 Development Committee

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) reported that the Development Committee had heard a presentation from Nikolaus Boulting of RWDP Design Partnership [exhibition designers] about the proposed Airborne Assault Project (AAP) in association with the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. Mr Boulting was seeking the BPA's endorsement of AAP. The Development Committee had agreed to consider this, and would write to Mr Boulting to let him know that it would be a main agenda item for the next meeting on 19 August.

David Hickling had reported to the Development Committee on a possible increase in the BPA's third party insurance premium. The position would be clarified at a meeting with the underwriters that was due to be held at the end of June. The Committee had also heard that Kieran Brady had not yet been able to get back in touch with Tim Porter in relation to the proposed Freely coaching manual, and a report from Martin Shuttleworth on website development.

34/03 Reports from Club Representatives

Jim White had made a Club Rep visit to Bridlington and Peterlee. At Bridlington, he had been asked when IC2 would be introduced. The Chairman said that an IC2 rating might possibly be the outcome of work currently in progress by the Canopy Panel. This, and its relation to the existing IC1, were still the subject of detailed consideration. The Panel would make its recommendations as soon as it was in a position to do so.

At Peterlee, Jim White's visit had been during the recent FS Roadshow. This had been an excellent weekend and had generated many positive comments from those present.

Jim White also reported that he had visited RAPA last weekend, where everyone had seemed happy and no issues had been raised with him.

Calvin Blacker asked for further guidance on the role of Club Reps and the Chairman suggested he should discuss this with Kieran Brady, who was Club Reps Co-ordinator, outside the meeting.

Kieran Brady reported that he had visited Hibaldstow at the time of an instructors' course, and had also been at the Scottish Nationals at Strathallan. An issue that had been raised with him was how do people get on an Advanced Packing course? He said people had told him there appeared to be no register to sign on. He said would like to discuss this with Paul Applegate (Riggers' Chairman) at the next meeting.

A second issue that had been raised with Kieran Brady was one that had been raised with him before, that seemed to keep on coming up. It was that some photographs sent in for publication in *Skydive Magazine* were not used. Four or five people were now saying this. Lesley Gale said she kept a list of photographs submitted. Kieran Brady said he had told those submitting photographs that the resolution and technical quality of pictures was sometimes too poor for publication. He said that one member had replied, "What does it matter about technical quality? It's our Mag! Content is important too, not just quality." Kieran Brady had asked this member to send in some examples.

The Chairman thanked the Club Reps for their reports. He asked that reports should be made in writing, however brief, in order that they could be circulated in the previous Friday's post, ahead of the meeting. There would then be a much better chance that any issues raised could be answered at the meeting, for the Club Reps to report back to the Clubs concerned.

35/03 Report on Royal Aero Club Activities

John Smyth reported that the RAeC was continuing to do excellent work in representing UK interests in fighting proposals prejudicial to the UK and unnecessary bureaucracy relation to the new European Air Sports Agency.

Unfortunately, FAI had indicated that it proposed to increase RAeC's contribution (FAI subscription) by 81%. Were RAeC to agree to this, it would have to pass on the increase to the BPA and its other member bodies. It was understood that certain other countries might benefit from lower FAI contributions because the increase for the UK was a consequence of a new method of calculating payments that affected different countries in different ways. John Smyth confirmed that he would co-ordinate the BPA's response to the RAeC on this, and that he would liaise with the IPC, but that it was for RAeC formally to respond to FAI. The matter was so new it was still the subject of intense discussion within the RAeC, who saw it as nothing less than a threat to their survival.

Action: John Smyth

John Smyth reported that the RAeC was planning to change its meetings from their long-established London venue to a Midlands venue (not Leicester) later this year. John Smyth said he had never claimed travel expenses to attend RAeC meetings as he lived in London. When the meetings moved, he asked that Council should consider whether it wished to elect a RAeC representative who lived closer to the new meeting venue, so that the practice of not claiming travel expenses (or at least minimal expenses in future) could continue.

36/03 Applications for Re-Affiliation

36.1 Services Parachute Centre (NI)

There being no comments from Council members or staff, Jim White proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that the application for Re-Affiliation by the Services Parachute Centre (NI), consequent on a change of Chief Instructor to Graham Maclellan, be approved.

Carried unanimously

36.2 Skydive Redlands

There being no comments from Council members or staff, Calvin Blacker proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the application for Re-Affiliation by the Skydive Redlands, consequent on a change of Directors to James Swallow and Andy Montriou, and a change of Chief Instructor to Andy Montriou, be approved.

Carried unanimously

37/03 Staff salary review

Members of staff left the meeting for this item. An inflation-linked increase of 2.5% for staff, together with various other related issues that had been considered by a meeting of the Employment Subcommittee held just before the Council meeting, were agreed. The staff then re-joined the meeting.

38/03 BPA members' database

The Council noted correspondence between Simon Ward, a BPA member, and the BPA Office, relating to the Council's policy of not making the BPA membership database available for sale or rental for the use of third parties. No proposal was made to change this policy. Access to the membership could continue to be through advertisement in, or insert to, *Skydive Magazine*.

Debbie Carter noted that the 'opt-out of the mailing list wording' that appeared on the BPA membership renewal form was a legacy from the BPA credit card mailing that had been sent out some years ago. It had not been a specification of the new membership database program commissioned in 1999 that this information should be recorded thereon.

39/03 TV programme 'Drop the Celebrity'

The Council noted a letter to the BPA Office from Simon Ward relating to the ITV1 programme *Drop the Celebrity* that was due for first transmission later this month.

40/03 FANS scheme

Ian Marshall reported that he had recently signed up to the *Free Access for National Sportspeople* scheme in the south east of England, which gave him free or discounted rate membership of local gyms. Reference to the scheme had appeared in the June 2003 issue of *Skydive Magazine*, and he thought it might be of interest to other eligible BPA members.

41/03 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): 19 August, 21 October, 2 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 2030.