

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 11 April 2006 at 1900
at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	John Horne	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Paul Moore	
	John Page	
	Grant Richards	
	Mike Rust	
	Andy Scott	
John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman	
Elizabeth Stoodley		
In attendance:	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Lesley Gale	Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i>
	David Hickling	Insurance Committee (to item 21.2)
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	Tony Goodman	
	Ian Marshall	
	Mark Maynard	

Item Minute

20/06 Minutes

The following variations were made to the draft minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2006. Minute 11.2 Development Committee, second paragraph below the bullet points, the wording '...it appeared to that Simon Ward was seeking a free-of-charge promotional announcement on two prime pages of *Skydive Magazine*' was changed to '...it appeared to Members of the Council that...'. In minute 18, Airkix Wind Tunnel, the wording was amended to make it clear that the offer of 2 hours of time at the tunnel had been for the Council together as a group, not individually.

Andy Scott proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2006 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

21/06 **Matters arising**

21.1 Insurance (minute 9)

David Hickling (Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee) said that the Insurance Subcommittee sought guidance from the Council on which avenues to pursue. It appeared to him that the options were as follows:

- (i) Keep the status quo of all-embracing insurance, perhaps with a provision of some kind for foreign membership.
- (ii) Change to individually insured jumpers, with separate policies for DZs, packers, manifestors, riggers, etc. (Such an approach might restrict the movement of assets such as aircraft between one DZ and another.)
- (iii) Consider making personal accident insurance mandatory. This might be at two levels, for students and experienced jumpers.
- (iv) Allow foreign jumpers to jump at BPA Clubs & Centres without BPA Membership, but still require them to pay the insurance premium for the BPA policy.

Tony Butler said there was an additional item he would like to refer to the Insurance Subcommittee. This was that anyone could join the BPA from anywhere in the world and be covered for up to £100K. In the early 1990s, there had been an exclusion in the BPA insurance policy to prevent foreign jumpers with no link to a BPA Club from joining. Over the years, this exclusion had been lost by default, meaning that anyone could now join the BPA from countries where the BPA had no control whatsoever over the jumper or where s/he jumped. Tony Butler believed that the former exclusion should be re-instated as he believed its omission had been an oversight.

The Chairman asked for any other insurance options for the above list but none was forthcoming. David Hickling then recommended that the Council should concentrate on staying with the current insurance with minor variations to seek to accommodate the resolution passed at the AGM (minute 9 refers). Paul Moore saw this was akin to doing little or nothing and he believed that the first thing the Insurance Subcommittee should do was to brainstorm all options. Kieran Brady considered that the present insurance policy was as near perfect it could be, but said that nevertheless the Council must respond to the membership. He therefore supported both David Hickling and Paul Moore's comments – the BPA had a duty to investigate all insurance options, but at the end of the day, he would be surprised to find a better option than the current policy.

Kieran Brady said that, under the present policy, the BPA insurers did not differentiate between one Drop Zone and another. They did not take into account the safety record of each Drop Zone, nor factors such as for example which type of aircraft it operated. All DZs were treated equally by the BPA's umbrella policy. If DZs had each to take out an individual policy, the economy of scale and unity of cover would be lost and it would be likely that this would increase the cost of insurance, leading to higher costs for all involved in the sport.

Andy Scott suggested that, to capture the mood of the AGM, the Insurance Committee should look at a model whereby there was a base level of insurance for all, instructors then paid an additional premium, claimants paid an additional premium, and the membership continued to absorb the cost of DZ insurance (as with the current policy).

Paul Moore said it was important to stay focused on the resolution passed by the AGM. John Horne said that stepped premiums for various different types of jumper may be a way of achieving this. However, he recognised that if the premium for instructors increased significantly, the sport could find itself with a shortage of instructors. The knock-on effects of any variations in insurance therefore needed to be considered. Kieran Brady was concerned that the stepped approach may cost considerably more to manage. He believed that the current all-in-one policy must be cheaper than a policy with a number of incremental options.

Mike Rust agreed that the focus should be on the resolution passed at the AGM. He suggested that consideration should be given to a 'bolt-on insurance' for foreign jumpers to allow them to jump at BPA Drop Zones. The Chairman agreed that this might be a possibility, and pointed out that the insurers would almost certainly require the risk to be quantified by the BPA providing them with accurate statistics on the number of foreign jumpers at BPA Drop Zones. John Page said that this was information that had not been available to the Membership at the AGM.

David Hickling thanked the Council for its discussion and confirmed that the Insurance Subcommittee would endeavour to review the pros and cons of every suggestion. He then summarised the Council's terms of reference to the Insurance Subcommittee on this matter to be:

"Council directs the Insurance Subcommittee to investigate and report back on the feasibility (practicality, positives and negatives) of the following options for BPA insurance:

- (a) the possibility of base level insurance, who would be covered and to what limit
- (b) the possibility of bolt-on additional insurance for instructors, etc
- (c) the possible effects (if any) of (a) and (b) on other stakeholders, including Drop Zones."

Paul Moore believed that the broker should be involved. The Chairman agreed, but said that we, as the BPA, should carry out our own investigation first so that we could provide statistics to the broker that he could use to ask the underwriter about the effect on the cost of premiums.

The Chairman thanked David Hickling for the investigation that he and the other members of the Insurance Subcommittee were to carry out in accordance with the above terms of reference, and looked forward to the report back to Council.

Action: Insurance Subcommittee

21.2 New UK Alternate Delegate to the International Parachuting Commission (IPC) (minute 10.4)

Consequent on Bob Card standing down as Alternate Delegate to IPC for family reasons, the Council had asked the Competitions Committee to put forward a recommendation on a nominee for appointment as the new Alternate Delegate.

The Competitions Committee had recommended John Smyth, who was prepared to take on the role. The Chairman invited any other nominations, and there were none. Andy Scott therefore proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that John Smyth be and is hereby appointed UK Alternate Delegate to IPC. John Smyth abstained from the vote.

Carried nem con

The Chairman thanked John Smyth for taking on this new role, and wished him well in it.

21.3 Action Plan 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (minute 12)

Copies of the completed Action Plan 2006/7 document, as submitted to UK Sport as a bid for exchequer funding, had been circulated to the Council. The Chairman said that exchequer funding for the BPA of £25,000 had already been earmarked by UK Sport for the year. He asked that all Council Members should bring the Action Plan to each meeting of their Committees as it was a living document intended for use throughout the Action Plan year beginning 1 July 2006.

21.4 Royal Aero Club subscription (minute 13)

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that the BPA's cheque in payment of our subscription to the Royal Aero Club had unfortunately been lost in the post. A replacement cheque had been sent.

21.5 AGM 2007 (minute 16)

The Office had asked the hotel and events booking agency Expotel to make a search of its venues database for the facilities needed to host the BPA AGM. The search had identified three possible venues, all of which happened already to be booked on the planned date of the AGM, Saturday 20 January 2007. John Smyth knew one of the suggested venues but did not consider it to be of a sufficient standard, so the Council decided to discount it. Of the two remaining venues, the Council asked the Office to obtain comparative prices (including bar prices) and to enquire about availability during the previous week, on Saturday 13 January 2007.

The Council decided that, should no other suitable venue be found, the existing venue should be re-booked for Saturday 20 January 2007. The Council understood that, should the existing venue secure a firm booking from another client for the date that the BPA was provisionally holding, the hotel might oblige us immediately to decide whether to confirm or release the date. If faced with this situation, the Council's instruction to the Office was to confirm the booking, which would then at least allow more time to consider other possible venues for the 2008 AGM.

Action: BPA Office

21.6 HM The Queen's Garden Party (minute 17)

The Office confirmed that the nomination discussed by the Council had been made.

22/06 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

22.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2006

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and Mike Rust seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 21 February 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

21.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 February 2006

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) proposed, and Elizabeth Stoodley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 21 February 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

22.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 30 March 2006

John Horne asked a question with reference to item 6 of the STC minutes, about the currency of instructors' qualifications. He enquired whether insurance might be affected by the provision for STC to exercise the discretion to allow certain instructors to remain current, on an individual basis, who were no longer able to complete 60 jumps within the previous two years. Mike Rust said that there were a few instructors who taught well at ground school but, for personal circumstances, were not always able to keep up their jumping. The provision would apply to only a small number of instructors, mostly those who were more mature and who would no longer be able to instruct were they required to be current jumpers. It had been introduced to enable often highly experienced instructors in this position to continue to make a contribution to training the next generation of skydivers. This provision reflected the position in a number of other sports.

John Page then proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 30 March 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

22.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 28 March 2006

John Smyth (Competitions Chairman) summarised the main issues in the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 28 March 2006. A bid form for the Canopy Piloting and Classics (Style & Accuracy) Nationals 2007 would be put out shortly, several months earlier than usual. This was to secure early bids, because a Centre had expressed interest in hosting one or both of these meets, there having been no bids for this year's Nationals in either of these disciplines. The bid form would offer all Centres the opportunity to bid. The bid form for the 2007 Nationals in all other disciplines would be issued, as usual, in autumn, and the CP/Classics bid form would make this clear to avoid any misunderstandings.

John Smyth summarised his concerns over the arrangements for the first World Parachuting Championships in Canopy Piloting to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 23-27 August 2006. The DZ was to be in a park in central Vienna. Training jumps were to be at another DZ some 100 miles away. From a safety point of view, as well as good practice in competitions training, he considered it to be absolutely wrong that training jumps should not be available at the event DZ. He believed that IPC, under whose authority the meet was being organised, should take urgent action to resolve the problem. Canopy Piloting, as a discipline, had the potential to be one of the most exciting World Championships in our sport. Yet this first World Championships was at risk of being ruined by poor organisation.

The Chairman emphasised it was essential that competitors should be afforded the facility for 4 or 5 days of practice jumping at the competition site ahead of the start of the World Championships. John Hitchen said he was liaising with the appropriate people at IPC including the Chairman of the IPC Canopy Piloting Committee. John Smyth said that the UK delegation would not go to compete if it was dangerous to do so, but believed that IPC could and should resolve the matter to make sure of a safe and successful first World Championships.

Action: John Hitchen

Other matters highlighted by John Smyth were that Mark Calland, World Champion in Speed Skydiving (a discipline not yet recognised by IPC) had unfortunately suffered a road traffic accident. The Council wished him well in his recovery. John Smyth reported that Mark Calland had now recovered sufficiently to return to work, but had been advised by his doctors to withdraw from jumping. He would not therefore be able to take part in the BPA Speed Skydiving Nationals to be held at Target Skysports from 26-28 August 2006. John Smyth also reported that he was still awaiting a reply from BPA judge Frank Mallabone to a response he had sent to correspondence from Frank Mallabone considered at the last meeting (minute 10.4).

Kieran Brady said he had been pleased to note from the minutes that the BPA logo was to be added to the official UK delegation T-shirts for the World Parachuting Championships 2006.

John Smyth then proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 28 March 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

23/06 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today

23.1 Communications Committee

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) reported that the Communications Committee had:

- reviewed the April 2006 Magazine and found it to have been well received;
- reviewed drafts of the new articles for inclusion in the reprint of the Starter Magazine;
- agreed a schedule for phasing-out the distribution of printed copies of the minutes with the Magazine, and put in place arrangements for members requiring hard copies of the minutes, who could not easily download them from the BPA website, to obtain them from Clubs & Centres or the BPA Office;

- carried forward the completion date for 2005/6 Communications Action Plan Target 2 – to run a competition to further increase reader involvement with the Magazine – from June 2006 to December 2006;
- agreed the following updated policy for use of the BPA logo:

Terms and conditions governing use of the BPA logo

The BPA logo may be used on advertisements or promotional material that promotes sport parachuting in a positive manner and has no financial return for the vendor or promoter. Only BPA Affiliated Clubs & Centres and BPA Registered Display Teams may use the BPA logo on advertising or promotional material that promotes any sport parachuting activity from which the vendor or promoter may gain financially. The above terms and conditions may be varied only by the written authority of the BPA.

The Council agreed to the above policy for use of the BPA logo. The Chairman thanked Eddie Jones for his report.

23.2 Development Committee

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) reported that the Development Committee had:

- co-opted Julian Storey on to the Development Committee for 2006 as BPA Media Co-ordinator (in succession to Elizabeth Stoodley);
- held a discussion on insurance, leading to David Hickling (Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee) seeking direction from the Council (minute 21.1);
- been pleased to receive from Elizabeth Stoodley the draft of a new page for the BPA website advising skydivers on how to secure positive publicity in the media, which was Development Action Plan target for the current year that had now been nearly completed;
- agreed that the Development Chairman would, subject to the agreement of the full Council, pursue discussions with Simon Ward of the Airkix wind tunnel to progress the idea of establishing the Airkix fund to promote skydiving, funded by reduced fees charged to BPA Members each taking three friends to the Airkix wind tunnel at off-peak times.

Andy Scott (who was liaising with Simon Ward on behalf of the BPA) had already circulated an outline of Simon Ward's proposal for a joint initiative between the BPA and the Airkix wind tunnel, and it was this that the Development Committee had considered. In discussion, the Council took the view that what Andy Scott had brought to the table was a foundation on which the BPA and Airkix may be able to build an agreement. The precise details required full consideration and a meeting of the full Council was not an appropriate forum to seek to do this, hence the need for a meeting between the Development Chairman and Simon Ward.

In discussion, the Council noted that it was open to any organisation to propose to the BPA a promotional initiative of the kind that Simon Ward had done. Indeed, it was to be hoped that this might be the first of a number of such ventures, perhaps with a range of different organisations.

The Chairman said that close attention would need to be paid to the arrangements for the Airkix fund to promote skydiving. For example, the status of the fund would affect its tax liabilities including VAT. Charitable trust status was one possibility that might be considered. The criteria for expenditure from the fund, and who decided in individual cases, would also need to be clearly set out.

Kieran Brady said he would send a letter of thanks to Simon Ward for proposing the Airkix fund, and that he looked forward to discussing the detail with Simon Ward.

Action: Kieran Brady

In discussion of how to publicise the arrangement between the Airkix wind tunnel and the BPA, the Development Committee had considered the idea that some wording might be included on the front cover of *Skydive Magazine*. The Development Committee had decided that this would not be an appropriate way to announce the arrangement, although use of other parts of the Magazine was open to discussion. The Council agreed.

24/06 Reports from Club Representatives

There were no reports from Club Reps. The Chairman asked Club Reps kindly to try to visit their Centres now that the new season was under way.

Elizabeth Stoodley noted that there was currently a vacancy for Central Club Rep. She offered to take on this role if the Council so wished, as she was planning to visit a number of Clubs & Centres in her capacity as Artistics Disciplines Rep, and could combine the two roles. The Chairman thanked her for the kind offer, and accepted.

Action: Club Reps

25/06 Report on the Royal Aero Club

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that the RAeC had held its AGM last week. The new Chairman was Keith Negal of the Hang Gliders. He had indicated a wish to meet all RAeC member organisations by a familiarisation visit to their Council or AGM. The outgoing Chairman, Marc Asquith, had been elected a Vice President of RAeC. RAeC had taken on a Programme Manager as a new member of staff, who would also upgrade their website. The Hang Gliders had agreed to contribute to the cost of the extra salary. No request for such a contribution had yet been made to the BPA, but John Smyth said it should probably be expected in due course.

26/06 Application for Association

The application for Association from Freefall Addicts SL in Spain had been deferred from the last meeting pending clarification (minute 15 refers). The Office had been in touch with Freefall Addicts to seek the required clarification, and Freefall Addicts' reply had been circulated. The Council believed that there remained issues which needed to be resolved relating to potentially misleading wording on Freefall Addicts' website that might be taken to imply approval by the BPA of courses run by Freefall Addicts outside the UK. John Horne therefore proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the application for Association from Freefall Addicts should not be accepted. The vote was: For - 10 Against – 1 (Elizabeth Stoodley).

Carried – Application declined

John Horne would set out the decision, and the issues on which it was based, in writing to Freefall Addicts.

Action: John Horne

27/06 BPA Associated Organisations

Eddie Jones reported that the Communications Committee had decided to enlarge the disclaimer in *Skydive Magazine* about students trained abroad. Overseas organisations could not promise that the CCI of a British Club or Centre would accept the qualifications of students trained abroad. In the case of overseas organisations that were officially Associated to the BPA, this required a letter from the CCI of a BPA Affiliated Club or Centre stating that their students would be accepted. Associated Organisations needed to re-Associate annually, for a fee of £100.

The Chairman suggested that this would be an appropriate time to ask the Development Committee to review the terms and conditions for BPA Associated Organisations, and to report back to the full Council.

Action: Development Committee

28/06 Presentation sword for Outstanding Contribution to the Sport

Ralph Fielding, a Member of Council 2006, had identified a website that sold presentation swords and a print out of the pages about swords he considered to be suitable had been circulated in advance. John Page proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the British infantry pattern sword and case should be purchased, subject to the agreement of Jim

Crocker who had kindly agreed in principle to purchase the award trophy on behalf of the BPA.

Carried unanimously - Action: BPA Office

29/06 Disciplinary tribunals procedure – aide memoire

The Chairman had circulated this document in advance. It was intended to provide guidance to individuals sitting on BPA disciplinary tribunals by augmenting the new disciplinary procedure document approved by the Council on 6 December 2005 (minute 70/05) to take effect from 1 April 2006.

30/06 Report of the Panel of Inquiry into the suspected irregularities regarding the operation of Cessna 208B at JSPC Netheravon

The Chairman reported that, further to minute 57.6/05, Charles Shea-Simonds had recently written to him to say that he had instructed his solicitors not to proceed with any action in relation to the content of the above Report. John Horne was to arrange a meeting between Kieran Brady, the author of the Panel's Report, and Charles Shea-Simonds to seek to resolve the matter. He reported that both parties had agreed in principle to the meeting, which John Smyth had kindly agreed to chair.

Action: John Horne / John Smyth

31/06 Dates of next meetings

Tuesdays at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester: 13 June, 15 August, 10 October and 5 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 2050.