

British Parachute Association

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Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 3 December 2002 at 1650

at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Kieran Brady Chris Allen David Hickling Eddie Jones Craig Poxon		in the Chair Chairman of Council
In attendance:	Tony Butler Jon Gretton Martin Shuttleworth	- - -	Technical Officer Financial Administrator Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	John Hitchen Ian Midgley	- -	NCSO Development Chairman

Item Minute

34/02 Minutes

Eddie Jones proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 22 October 2002 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

35/02 Matters arising

35.1 Rise in insurance premiums (page 1, minute 28)

David Hickling reported on a trend of significant increases in premiums for Employers' Liability Insurance. This affected all businesses, particularly small ones. It was not specific to parachuting or airsports: Employers' Liability Insurance was a statutory requirement on all employers. He said that the Federation of Small Businesses was campaigning to try to moderate the rises in premiums because of the detrimental affect increased premiums would have on the small business sector.

The Chairman noted that Employers' Liability Insurance was a completely different type of insurance from the third party public liability insurance for sport parachuting that was provided to BPA Members and Clubs & Centres under the BPA's public liability policy. Clubs & Centres were independent organisations, many of them personal businesses, and broadly speaking they would need to have in place Employers' Liability Insurance if they employed staff.

The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to send out a confidential letter to DZ Owners to call attention to Employers' Liability Insurance. David Hickling kindly agreed to review the draft letter before it was issued.

Action: BPA Office

36/02 Reports

36.1 UK Sport

Eddie Jones thanked the Office for getting a mention of 4-way women's FS team VMax's World Cup Gold Medal in the UK Sport Newsletter.

36.2 Insurance

Tony Butler reported a premium increase of 23% from 1 April 2003 on the BPA's third party public liability insurance for sport parachuting. This was on top of the 25% increase last year, which had been due to the effects of terrorism on 11 September 2001. This year's increase was attributable to claims history, and to a number of outstanding claims that were awaiting judicial decisions. He had held detailed discussions with the underwriters, who had explained that the 'loss ratio' on the BPA account was too high at 64% compared with their target of 50%. The loss ratio was a measure of the reserves fund for payouts and was also a measure of the profitability of the account to the underwriters. In addition to specific outstanding claims, a more general reason for the loss ratio being higher than it should be was the more litigious nature of contemporary society.

David Hickling then proposed, and Craig Poxon seconded, a motion to recommend to the EGM that the subscription for Student Provisional Membership from 1 April 2003 should increase from £11.15 to a new rate of £12.30. This comprised the 23% increase in the insurance component, together with a 3% inflation-linked increase in the BPA component.

Carried unanimously

Tony Butler reminded the Committee that the increase in the insurance component was subject to the underwriters' normal proviso of there being no significant changes that might affect the premium between now and the time the new rate came into effect on 1 April 2003.

37/02 Development Action Plan 2002/3

Progress reports were made as follows.

- 1 *Enhance RAPS safety and equipment and review and update current RAPS front line instruction and techniques. With reference to targets 2 and 3 from in Safety and Training.*

David Hickling reported that he had given STC a full report on progress to date. Slow but steady progress was being made. The working party was concentrating on the practical issue of getting the student safely into the airflow. As such, attention was being focused on exits. Work was continuing, and David Hickling thanked Strathallan for its help with the practical aspects of the project.

Action: David Hickling's RAPS STC Working Party / STC

- 2 *Develop a Freestyle coaching qualification.*

Craig Poxon reported that he was progressing this after speaking with a prominent freestyle with experience of European and other international qualifications in this area. Craig Poxon would himself be standing down from the Council at the AGM and would pass on the file to the Chairman or to a nominated member of next year's Development Committee. The Chairman thanked Craig Poxon for the work he had done to date.

Action: Craig Poxon

- 3 *Develop an Advanced Canopy Control (i) qualification/syllabus (ii) coaching qualification*

Craig Poxon reported that a canopy control course had been run by Chris Lynch last month. He had discussed this project with Chris Lynch, who had requested payment from the BPA if he was to assist. However, Andy Ford had expressed an interest, and Craig Poxon would put him in touch with John Horne, who was chairing an STC working party on the risks of low turns.

Action: Craig Poxon

4 *Explore the feasibility of Skydiving becoming recognised as a Paralympic sport.*

The appropriate mechanism to progress this target was by the International Parachuting Commission making an application to the International Paralympic Committee. The Development Committee asked John Hitchen, UK Delegate to the International Parachuting Commission, to make enquiries about the level of support from delegates from other nations at the next IPC plenary meeting to be held on 1-4 February 2003. If this indicated sufficient support, the matter could then be further researched by the BPA and progressed formally through IPC.

Action: John Hitchen

38/02 Freely manual

Craig Poxon reported that further progress had been slowed because Giles Fabris, the originator of the material on which the manual was to be based, was currently in Canada. As Craig Poxon was standing down from the Council and this Committee, he would hand over his file on this project to date to the Committee Chairman or to a nominated successor on next year's Development Committee. The Chairman thanked Craig Poxon for the liaison work he had carried out so far.

Action: Craig Poxon

39/02 Banner advertising on the BPA website

Martin Shuttleworth reported that he had completely updated the document for potential banner advertisers on the BPA website to make it more informative and user-friendly. In particular, he had given information 'up front' about the Association's policy on what could *not* be advertised on the site - such as training students overseas and charity jumping - to avoid the previous inconvenient position of having to introduce this later on in negotiations.

40/02 Date of next meeting

Informal Action Plan meeting after the inaugural Council meeting on Saturday 18 January 2003 at the Hanover Hotel, Hinckley. First ordinary meeting to be held at 1600 at the BPA Office, Leicester, on the day of the Council meeting (to be arranged) in February 2003.

The meeting closed at 1720.