

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 16 August 2011 at 1834**

at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

<b>Present:</b>	Martin Soulsby	-	Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Adrian Bond	-	Communications Chair
	Kieran Brady		
	Alex Busby		
	Ian Marshall		
	Paul Moore		
	John Page		
	Craig Poxon	-	Development Chair
	Steve Saunders	-	Competitions Chair
	Weed Stoodley		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Jon Gretton	-	Financial Administrator (to item 51.2)
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
	John Smyth MVO	-	Vice President & IPC Delegate (to item 50.2.3)
<b>Observer:</b>	Cheryl Smyth	-	(to item 50.2.3)
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Richard Head		

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### Item Minute

#### 48/11 Congratulations

The Chairman congratulated Richard Head and his wife on the birth of their son. He also congratulated Weed Stoodley on her marriage.

#### 49/11 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on Tuesday 21 June 2011, had already been ratified electronically by the Council. The e-vote for ratification of the 2nd draft was: For - 8, Against - 1 (Alex Busby, in favour of the 1st draft).

**Ratified**

The ratified minutes had been published on the BPA website <http://www.bpa.org.uk/minutes> on 20 July. The Chairman had signed the master copy as the official record.

#### 50/11 Matters arising

##### 50.1 Replacement of old garage at the BPA Office (minute 33.1)

A paper from the Office (circulated) was considered. After discussion, Kieran Brady proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the Office should arrange for demolition of the old garage and its replacement, with one or two secure metal containers for data and equipment storage. This carried unanimously.

**Action: BPA Office**

Any additional storage space might yield more space in parts of the Office that were currently used for storage.

With regard to the parachuting and judging equipment, of varying age and serviceability, currently in the equipment store at the BPA Office, the Chairman asked Tony Butler (Technical Officer) and John Hitchen (NCSO) kindly to see what was no longer of use and could therefore be, in order, sold, given or thrown away.

**Action: Tony Butler & John Hitchen**

## **50.2 Alternate Delegate to IPC (minute 45)**

The Chairman welcomed John Smyth, UK Delegate to IPC, a Vice President of IPC, and a BPA Vice President, to the meeting.

### **50.2.1 FAI and the airsports commissions**

John Smyth reported that the airsports commissions were greatly concerned by FAI's spending plans. To help to provide the funding for FAI's projected additional spending, FAI was looking to use some of the funds held by the airsports commissions, whose accounts it managed. IPC held the largest of these funds. John Smyth said he hoped the matter could be resolved by negotiation between the airsports commissions and FAI. However, as a contingency in case a mutually satisfactory agreement could not be reached, a number of airsports commissions, led by Graeme Windsor, President of IPC, were considering the option of leaving FAI to set up independent international governing bodies for their own airsports. For sport parachuting, this would be a world parachuting association.

John Smyth said that the situation should be clearer by the time of the FAI General Conference in October this year. Another problem was that if a dispute between FAI and its media partner Flying Aces were not resolved, there might be no television coverage of the Airsports Mondial 2012.

Any split of IPC from FAI would also affect the Royal Aero Club, as the UK National Aero Club, the FAI's representative in the UK. It could mean that the BPA no longer needed to belong to the RAeC, and to pay its subscription, most of which RAeC in turn paid to FAI. If IPC did leave FAI, IPC would need to find premises and staff to convert itself into a nascent world parachuting association, so that the subscription currently paid to RAeC would instead be paid direct to the new international association. The Chairman noted that this would be a break with tradition, and John Smyth said he hoped a way could be found to ring-fence IPC's funds so that IPC would remain in FAI. However, IPC needed to know the British position.

Kieran Brady then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that if IPC's funds continued to be threatened by its remaining as part of FAI, the BPA would support IPC leaving FAI.

**Carried unanimously**

In discussion, Paul Moore (President, EPU) said that EPU paid a subscription to Europe Air Sports (EAS), which in turn paid a subscription to FAI. John Smyth said this funded FAI's technical commissions, which would continue to be part of FAI notwithstanding what might happen to the airsports commissions. EPU's constitution set out that it was responsible for lobbying on technical issues such as airspace regulation in Europe, which was distinct from IPC's remit that majored on competitions. The two therefore had distinct roles.

### **50.2.2 Election of a new UK Alternate Delegate to IPC**

John Smyth outlined the duties and responsibilities of the IPC Alternate Delegate. He said that he would be delighted to work with either of those whose names had been mentioned, Tony Butler (Technical Officer) and Paul Moore (Council Member and EPU President). Tony Butler restated his position that, as a member of BPA staff, he would undertake the role if required. Paul Moore confirmed that he would be pleased to take on the role if elected. It was noted that, some years ago, the Council had taken the view that at least one of our two IPC Delegates should be on the BPA staff, better to assure attendance, etc. Views around the table differed as to how much weight should be given to this today.

The Chairman asked Paul Moore and Tony Butler to leave the room. After further discussion, a vote was taken. The vote was: For Paul Moore – 1; For Tony Butler – 7; Abstain –1.

**Tony Butler elected as UK Alternate Delegate to IPC**

Paul Moore and Tony Butler then rejoined the meeting. The Chairman announced the result. He thanked Paul Moore for standing.

### **50.2.3 Thanks to John Hitchen**

At the request of IPC President Graeme Windsor, John Smyth said he was delighted to pass on IPC's most grateful thanks to John Hitchen who, during his 20 to 30 years as UK Delegate or Alternate Delegate to IPC, had commanded great respect for his knowledge and contributions, and would be sorely missed. He also added his own thanks.

The Chairman thanked John Smyth for his contribution to tonight's meeting, and for kindly presenting the prizes at the Nationals events held at Hibaldstow last weekend. John Smyth then left the meeting.

## **51/11 Finance and membership**

### **51.1 Draft accounts for 2010/1**

The audited draft accounts for the financial year 1 July 2010 to 31 July 2011 had been circulated in advance.

Paul Applegate proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion to approve the audited accounts for publication to the membership to be considered for formal adoption at the General Meeting on Tuesday 6 December 2011, subject to:

- (a) checking whether the advertising revenue for the BPA calendar was correctly stated as nil (page 5 of the draft);
- (b) correcting lists of directors to take account of the change from Council 2010 to 2011 at the AGM in January 2011.

**Carried unanimously**

### **51.2 Management accounts and membership statistics**

A summary of management accounts and membership statistics to 31 July 2011 had been circulated with the agenda by Jon Gretton (Financial Administrator). The membership statistics, which covered the first four months of the membership year, 1 April to 31 July 2011, were:

<i>4 months</i>	<i>2011/2</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>% variance</i>
Full renewal	4,057	4,033	24	1
Full conversion	308	351	-43	-12
Temporary (inc Jsat)	2,243	2,220	23	1
Student Provisional	21,292	22,040	-748	-3

The meeting noted that conversions to full membership, and student provisional membership, were both down on the previous year, by -12% and -3% respectively.

Jon Gretton (Financial Administrator) tabled a paper setting out the BPA action plan budget for the year ending June 2012. This was based on a division of the funds remaining after expenditure on core activities. The division was on the established formula of:

	%
Competitions	55
Communications	5
Development	5
Contingency/investment 10%+25%	35

Alex Busby questioned why a small amount was set out for safety. The Office confirmed that expenditure on safety was core expenditure that did not show in this budget. In addition, the underwriters Liberty International continued kindly to sponsor a risk management fund of up to £15,000 per annum for BPA safety activities. Weed Stoodley confirmed that the small allocation for safety had been included in the action plan budget in error, but the size of the error was not significant enough to alter this year's percentage allocations (above).

Subject to the above, John Page proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion that the action plan budget be adopted.

**Carried unanimously**

Weed Stoodley said that many core items for which the different Committees had budget responsibility were not included in this action plan budget. For example, the budget for the core activities of the Magazine and its website was overseen by the Communications Committee.

Jon Gretton would supply Committee Chairs with periodic updates of expenditure against budget for their Committees. This would enable the budgets to be monitored over the course of the financial year.

**Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)**

**52/11 Minutes of Committees**

The minutes of each of the following meetings, except STC, had already been circulated, electronically ratified by the Council, and published on the BPA website. Minutes of the STC meeting had been circulated and would tonight be considered for ratification.

**52.1 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 June 2011**

There were no questions.

**52.2 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 June 2011**

There were no questions.

**52.3 Competitions Committee meeting on Tuesday 21 June 2011**

There were no questions.

**52.4 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 4 August 2011**

There were no questions on the STC minutes. John Page proposed, and Alex Busby seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on Thursday 9 June 2011 should be ratified.

**Carried unanimously**

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) reported that two members had had their ratings suspended today, pending an investigation. This followed infringements of the BPA Operations Manual being called to the BPA's attention as an illegal activity by the CAA. One member had had their examiner and advanced instructor ratings suspended; the other their advanced instructor and tandem instructor ratings. The alleged infringements related to tandem jumping from a balloon near Stroud.

**Noted**

**53/11 Headline issues from Committee meetings today**

**53.1 Communications Committee**

Adrian Bond (Communications Chair) reported that at its meeting this afternoon, the Communications Committee had:

- 1 Noted that Eddie Carroll had removed the BPA logo that he had used without authorisation on his USA-based website, and that his application for renewal of his membership had now been processed.
- 2 Learned of the reasons why 8 Golden Tickets for a year's free BPA membership (issued as an insert to the April magazine) had remained unclaimed. No systematic problem or general issue for the BPA had been discovered, it being all down to individual circumstances or actions, for example throwing the inserts away unread.
- 3 Continued to assist Editor Liz Ashley in streamlining the complimentary Magazine mailing list.
- 4 Noted that automatic receipts had been received from 56% of members' e-mail addresses to which the July 2011 BPA e-Newsletter had been transmitted. It had not yet been possible to establish a custom from address, which might increase this rate, in time for transmission of the last BPA e-Newsletter, but the Committee hoped to have this in place before the next e-Newsletter in September 2011.
- 5 Received generally positive feedback about the new BPA website constructed by Archant Dialogue that had gone live on 4 July 2011. The Office had found it significantly easier to update than the former BPA website. There was however an issue with Archant Dialogue running the paid-for advertisements through a system called Adtech. One long-established advertiser, an Affiliated Centre, had declined to continue to advertise on the new BPA website because they said that the Adtech system prevented the Centre's own website, linked to its advertisement, from benefiting in the Google rankings. Two other advertisers on the old BPA

website had to date declined to advertise on the new one, and the Committee was seeking to find out why. The loss of three out of five advertisers was likely to have a significant effect on advertising income for the BPA website, as no new advertisers had yet been secured.

- 6 Outlined plans for migration of the existing BPA membership database to the new web-based database constructed by Archant Dialogue. Once in place and working, it would enable trials to start of online renewals, etc. Staff in the BPA membership services section were coming up to their annual 'golden window' in the autumn to familiarise themselves with, and to test and validate, the new database.
- 7 Been pleased to note that work was on course to progress all of the Communications Action Plan targets for the year.
- 8 Progressed plans for the BPA AGM to be held on Saturday 28 January 2012 at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, Greater Manchester BL6 6SF. Alex Busby had been developing the afternoon seminar programme. The menu was being finalised for the BPA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in the evening. Tickets were expected to cost about £25 each. All living past Chairmen would be among those invited as the BPA's guests. The format would be that of a formal dinner with a celebratory feel, with the theme of 'Bond and his baddies' for those who wished to don fancy dress.
- 9 Continued to liaise with the Marriott Hotel, Leicester, on plans for the AGM on Saturday 26 January 2013. Selected drinks would cost £2.75 each, with 20% off the rest of the standard bar tariff.
- 10 Thanked Archant Dialogue for their help in designing vinyl banners for the BPA and *Skydive the Mag* for use at BPA events including the BPA 50 Boogie at Langar. The Committee had also offered these to Clubs & Centres at cost price of £30+VAT each, plus delivery.

Kieran Brady recorded his thanks to Adrian Bond for his significant contribution to developing and refreshing AGM Day each year.

### **53.2 Development Committee**

Craig Poxon (Development Chair) reported that at its meeting this afternoon, the Development Committee had:

- 1 Progressed the **Development Action Plan 2011-2** targets, including:
  - (a) **First-aid courses for DZ staff** Kieran Brady had discussed with BPA Member and first-aid trainer Tolga Kavak, arrangements for a pilot one-day certification course on first-aid for Drop Zone staff. The cost would be £100 per course member. Initially, a small pilot course would be run at the BPA Office. This would then be evaluated before, if appropriate, being rolled out to be run at Drop Zones that required it. Jelf Manson Insurance Brokers had kindly agreed in principle to meet the cost of first-aid courses for DZ staff as part of their sponsorship of BPA risk management activities. Alex Busby noted that he was attending another first-aid course at a cost of £63 a head and would be interested to compare the content and his debrief with that of the planned BPA course.
  - (b) **Updated BPA Articles of Association** Weed Stoodley and Martin Shuttleworth (Secretary-General) had considered the helpful response of Jim Crocker, Vice President, on the draft updated BPA Articles of Association. Jim Crocker's comments had been taken into the working draft and it had been returned to its drafter, Co-operatives UK Legal Services, for consideration. The Council fully supported the view of the Development Committee that the procedure for the election of the Council should be enshrined in the Articles, and not set out in standing orders that it would be possible to alter without the formal approval of a general meeting of members. The timetable now was to seek approval of the Council in October to include consideration of updated Articles on the agenda for the AGM on Saturday 28 January 2012, and to approve the final draft in October for publication to members as in insert the December 2011 issue of *Skydive the Mag* and online.
  - (c) **Video conferencing for use between meetings** John Page had investigated this and had reported it would not be cost effective.

- (d) New database and online membership** As already reported by the Communications Committee (bullet point 6, minute 53.1), migration to the new BPA database was planned for this autumn. Once done, it would pave the way for trial of online membership renewal.
- (e) Possible development of online application for student membership** The multitude of issues surrounding this would be discussed at the DZO meeting on Tuesday 1 November 2011.
- 2 Discussed ways of seeking to encourage more members to take out and use the BPA credit card, both of which generated revenue for the BPA. One idea was to use spare advertising space on the BPA website to promote the BPA credit card.
  - 3 Received with thanks a grant of £1003 from UK Sport, administered by S+RA, towards the cost of BPA representation at the IPC Plenary Conference in early 2012.
  - 4 Noted work the S+RA had published on best practice in the governance of Sports National Governing Bodies. This included the recommendation of a formal induction for new Council members. The BPA staff had agreed to plan a short presentation to next year's Council ahead of its first ordinary meeting.
  - 5 Planned for the annual insurance review meeting in November, which was held before the insurers advised of the renewal premium for 2012. Tony Butler said there had been a number of new and potential new claims this year. Whilst none of the claims was likely to be exceptional, in aggregate they mounted up, and overall he was sorry to report that it had not been a good year. We were currently in year one of our second two-year agreement with Jelf Manson Brokers and Liberty International Underwriters.
  - 6 Noted that a number of other brokers had approached the Office to quote for insurance, including the BPA's former broker, who was now with a different firm. These approaches, cumulatively, may suggest to the Development Committee that the BPA might consider issuing a tender for insurance from 2013. However, the current broker had suggested that little benefit might be gained from this because all brokers would be fishing in the same pool of underwriters, which could lead to embarrassment for the BPA as it had done in the recent past in the case of insurance for the national team. However, the Development Committee needed to be sure that the full underwriting market was being trawled to assure the best value insurance for members. Further discussions with various parties would therefore be required before the Committee could reach an informed decision on its recommendation to Council on how best to proceed after 2012. That said, the Committee considered the service and support to the BPA and its various risk management activities being provided by Martin Mansley of Jelf Manson insurance, our current broker, to be outstanding.
  - 7 Arranged for this year's Drop Zone Owners and Operators meeting to take place on Tuesday 1 November 2011 at the new venue of Waltham-on-the-Wolds Village Hall, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 4AG. David Hickling had suggested the venue when our usual venue had not been available. A call for items had been issued to DZOs and a working draft of the agenda had been prepared that would be developed until it was issued about two weeks before the meeting. All Council members were welcome to attend, and should let the Office know in advance for catering numbers. The cost of venue hire and a hot lunch would kindly be met by Jelf Manson Insurance Brokers, who planned to be in attendance.
  - 8 Discussed a paper about rolling membership (already circulated to the full Council) prepared by the Office in response to Richard Head calling to Council's attention a discussion thread on the independent web discussion group on UKS, ukskydiver.co.uk. Richard Head was not present tonight, but he had indicated to Craig Poxon that the document enabled him to answer the questions that had been raised by a member. In summary, rolling membership from the anniversary of first converting, could put up the cost of the sport's third party public liability insurance because the membership year and the insurance would no longer correspond. The Office had suggested a possible solution to the issue that had been raised on UKS of considering lifting limitations on the number of Temporary Memberships that an individual could take out. However, this required further consultation before an informed recommendation could be made to the Council. An item on rolling membership had also been included on the agenda for the DZO meeting on Tuesday 1 November, as Richard Head had requested.

- 9 Responded to a request from the Office for advice on the upgrade of the hardware and software of the Office computer system. John Page had kindly offered to conduct a review of needs.

### **53.3 Competitions Committee**

#### **53.3.1 Procedure for selecting a Head of Delegation**

Steve Saunders (Competitions Chair), reported that the Competitions Committee wished, in response to a request from Council at its last meeting (Council minute 36.3.2.3), to recommend the following procedure for the appointment of a Head of an official UK Delegation to an international competition.

- 1 The Competitions Committee would consider, well before the meet, the names of BPA members who had suitable qualifications to be enable them to fulfil the role of Head of Delegation at a particular international competition.
- 2 The Committee would then recommend to Council the names of those both eligible and available, if invited.
- 3 Subject to the approval of the names by Council, the Committee would extend the invitation in a timely fashion, well in advance of the meet. A reserve Head of Delegation would be arranged in case the person confirmed in the role had to drop out for any reason.

**Agreed**

#### **53.3.2 Report on today's meeting**

Steve Saunders (Competitions Chair), reported that at its meeting this afternoon, the Competitions Committee had:

- 1 Congratulated Team Airkix Freestyle, Pixie Mcleod-Hodgson and Al Hodgson, on taking Bronze at the World Cup and European Championships in Artistics & FS held at Saarlouis, Germany, from 1 -7 August 2011. Freely Team Kinetic also put in a creditable performance to finish fourth.

Weed Stoodley proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, that the Council should award a certificate of Merit to Pixie Mcleod-Hodgson and Al Hodgson for their Freestyle Bronze Medal in the World Cup 2011.

**Carried unanimously**

- 2 Been saddened to note, from the report on the World Cup by Ash Kemp, our Head of Delegation, of two incidents involving members of the UK delegation, in one of which a German child was injured during an exuberant tussle with members of other delegations over the fun flag. Ash Kemp had investigated and apologised, and those of our delegation who had been involved had apologised to him, and in his report he had said he considered no further action to be necessary. However, Steve Saunders said that the Competitions Committee was acutely aware that members of our delegation were representing the UK and the BPA on the world stage, and wanted to make sure that full consideration was given to this unfortunate matter. Therefore, Steve Saunders would write in his capacity of Competitions Chairman to those who were known to be privy to the incidents to determine the identities of those involved and ask them to explain their behaviour. He would keep Council closely involved in case Council may wish to invite them to attend a future meeting to explain themselves.

**Action: Competitions Chairman**

- 3 Invited Kate Charters to be Head of our Delegation of five competitors for the Canopy Piloting World Cup to be held at Klatovy, Czech Republic, from 22-27 August 2011.
- 4 Held an informal discussion, prior to the meeting, about how better to inform the BPA Office by providing the information on competitors etc required for the Office to register members of our delegation at international meets. This would involve the discipline reps and the Heads of Delegations. Measures to seek to lessen the work by the Office on procurement, sorting and dispatch of team uniform would also be pursued.
- 5 Received an insurance payment of £225 after deduction of an excess of £250 for the BPA air compressor/generator used for inflating an accuracy tuffet that had been stolen from the Classics Nationals 2011 at Peterlee. The Committee had ordered a replacement in time for the BPA 50 Boogie at Langar (minute 57).

- 6 Agreed to issue the bid form for next year's Nationals, UKSL and Grand Prix. The three-year hosting arrangement for the FS & Artistics Nationals had now completed its run. Centres would be encouraged to bid to host some disciplines together, such as Classics & CF, where pooling of costs may be more beneficial. The bid forms for 1 year would be issued to all Clubs & Centres, with the option for them to bid to host from 2013 onwards for a maximum of 3 years, for all disciplines.

The Council discussed John Page's suggestion of stating on the bid form that a bid for competitions in all disciplines to be hosted together would be well received. However, the consensus was that this would not be likely to be an effective solution, based on the experiment of holding week-long combined Nationals in the year 2000. This had not been repeated as most members preferred competitions to be at the weekend when fewer were normally at work.

**54/11 Strategy**

The Chairman again invited Council Members to comment on the strategy paper he had circulated before the last meeting, based on telephone interviews he had conducted with various stakeholders. He was calling a meeting of the strategy working group (the chairs of main committees and the TO, NCSO and Sec-Gen) on the morning of Tuesday 11 October, the day of the next Council meeting.

**Action: Strategy Group**

Meanwhile, the Office reported that the British Gliding Association (BGA) and the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) had co-located in a new unit on the Meridian Business Park, Leicester, near Junction 21 of the M1. They were both keen to explore with the BPA and the British Model Flying Association (BMFA), the concept of an alliance of Leicester-based airports associations that might share intelligence and co-operate on administrative matters of common benefit as well as for example, back office functions. This might perhaps include the possibility of sharing some services and eventually perhaps even co-location should all of the bodies so decide. One advantage might be an economy of scale that might help to contain costs. However, the first step was for the respective staffs to get to know each other and to this end two BGA staff were to visit the BPA Office on Tuesday 23 August. Kieran Brady said that in weighing all factors, he believed it to be important for the BPA fully to maintain its operational independence for the benefit of the sport.

**55/11 BPA 50 Boogie at Langar**

The Chairman had been circulating weekly progress updates to the Council over the last few weeks. He thanked all involved for their contributions to the team effort of organising the celebratory events on the ground, whilst Langar looked after the parachuting operations. The Chairman said that former Chairmen had been invited to a reunion in the BPA marquee at Langar at 1500 on Saturday 10 September, to which Vice Presidents, current and past staff and Editors had also been invited. He invited all Council Members to attend. Other DZs had been invited to liaise with Langar if they wished to arrange to fly in. A promotional leaflet produced by Langar was tabled. The organisation was going well and everyone was looking forward to the event. Alex Busby said his initial reservations about event having too short a lead-time had now been dispelled, and well done to all involved.

**56/11 European update**

Paul Moore (President, European Parachuting Union) said that EPU would need a European venue for its meeting early next year. It had usually been held at the same venue as the IPC meeting, but next year IPC would meet outside Europe, in South America. After discussion, the option of hosting the meeting at De Vere Whites Hotel / Reebok Stadium, Bolton, on Friday afternoon 27 January 2012 - the day before the AGM - was considered as a possible solution. Direct trains ran from Manchester Airport to Horwich Parkway station close to the venue. Paul Moore would liaise with Adrian Bond (Chair, AGM Steering Group) on the arrangements.

**Action: Paul Moore & Adrian Bond**

**57/11 Aviation update**

Kieran Brady (Pilots' Chair) reported on Civil Aviation Authority proposals to 'clarify legislation' on radio communications systems that could incur additional costs for our sport without conferring any benefit. He would lobby the CAA to accommodate current practice in sport parachuting that had evolved to optimise safety.



CAA had also put out a document to general aviation pilots on the need to put the aircraft's nose down to recover from a stall spin. Kieran Brady reported that this would be inappropriate in a parachuting aircraft because it might throw a parachutist who was exiting over the tail. Again, he would lobby CAA to recognise the specific issues relating to parachuting aircraft.

**Action: Kieran Brady**

**58/11 Correspondence**

**58.1 Patronship**

The five-year period of Patronship of HRH The Prince of Wales was due to come to an end in January 2012. The Chairman had written to the Prince's office to thank him for his support, and to ask whether he would be prepared to continue as Patron for a further period. An acknowledgement had been received to say that this would be raised with the Prince at a diary meeting and we may expect a reply in about six weeks' time.

**Reply awaited**

**58.2 BCPA request for donation of a raffle prize**

A letter (previously circulated) had been received from Ailwyn McGeoch, BCPA Chair, dated 27 June, asking the Council to consider donating a prize such as a free-of-charge BPA membership to be raffled at the BCPA Nationals on 20-24 July 2011. The Chairman had sent a holding reply on 4 July (also previously circulated) asking that such requests should be sent in good time for consideration, as this request had been received a few days after the last Council meeting and had sought a reply before the next one, here tonight. The Council agreed to consider the request in relation to the BCPA Nationals 2012 and asked the Office to diarise the matter as an item to be brought forward to the Council meeting to be held in April 2012. BCPA would be advised accordingly.

**Action: BPA Office**

**59/11 Skydive Weston**

The Chairman reported on the situation concerning Skydive Weston, which had been declined renewal of its lease to operate because of a military review of use of the site and other RAF bases as a consequence of the government spending review. Arrangements that might allow Skydive Weston to continue in some form on the same site had been delayed and were not certain. Tony Butler (Technical Officer) said that when RAF 22 Training Group, the new military operator, had applied for their BPA Affiliation (minute 29), they had indicated that they would offer facilities to civilian jumpers at weekends. The Council was naturally disappointed that this had, to date, not happened. Tony Butler and John Hitchen (NCSO) would seek to clarify the situation with RAF 22 Training Group and if they deemed it appropriate, the Chairman would write.

**Action: Chairman, Tony Butler & John Hitchen**

**60/11 Aerial stunt filming**

The Chairman read aloud a letter of thanks dated 12 August from Chris Flanagan, Manager of Flight Operations Inspectorate (General Aviation) at the Civil Aviation Authority. The letter thanked the BPA and Kieran Brady (Pilots' Chair) in particular, for providing expert advice and safety oversight during recent aerial stunt sequence filming for the film 'Magnus Rex'. It said Kieran Brady's commitment had been particularly appreciated as it had been entirely voluntary and had been of particular assistance to the CAA's Flight Standards Officer in his regulatory oversight of an activity that had been subject to a CAA Permission.

**61/11 General Aviation Awareness Council**

A press release from the General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) concerning the government's National Planning Policy Framework had been circulated by the Office to Drop Zones. A response by Ian Rosenvinge of Peterlee Parachute Centre, which suggested that the BPA might appoint a Council Member with a watching brief for DZ Defence, had already been circulated to the Council with a copy of the press release. Tony Butler (Technical Officer) said that someone undertaking such a role would need to be such as Ian Rosenvinge himself, who had built up a good knowledge of this area in the work he had done to safeguard his own DZ against planning encroachment. This had benefited the sport as a whole. Paul Moore said he was not sure that Ian Rosenvinge would wish to take on the role himself, although he was always willing to provide advice. Tony Butler reminded the Council that progress had been made: additions to CAP 764 and the BPA Operations Manual covered incursion from wind turbines. The press release and Ian Rosenvinge's suggestion would be considered at the DZO meeting on Tuesday 1 November.

**Refer to DZO meeting**

**62/11 BPA 50 celebrations**

Adrian Bond said the CCI at his local DZ had asked why the BPA had decided to hold a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boogie at one location, rather than spread the available funding around all Clubs & Centres for each DZ to celebrate in its own way. The Council believed a national Boogie to be most fitting for the BPA as a national association and noted that all Clubs & Centres had been offered the opportunity to bid to host it.

**63/11 Dates of future meetings**

At 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester, on Tuesdays 11 October & 6 December (after a General Meeting).

The meeting closed at 2225.