

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 22 February 2011 at 1830

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

Present:	Martin Soulsby	-	Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Adrian Bond	-	Communications Chair
	Kieran Brady		
	Alex Busby		
	Richard Head		
	Ian Marshall		
	Paul Moore		
	John Page		
	Craig Poxon	-	Development Chair
In attendance:	Steve Saunders	-	Competitions Chair
	Weed Stoodley		
	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
Apologies for absence:	Tony Knight		BPA European Liaison Team
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
	Liz Ashley	-	Editor, Skydive the Mag
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	John Smyth MVO	-	Vice President

Item Minute

06/11 Minutes

The Council had already ratified the minutes of the following meetings electronically. The minutes of the General Meeting and AGM were still subject to formal approval by the membership.

- General Meeting – Tuesday 7 December 2010 at 1830
- Council – Tuesday 7 December 2010 at 1845
- AGM – Saturday 22 January 2011 at 1038
- Inaugural meeting of Council 2011 – Saturday 22 January 2011 at 1210.

The minutes had all been published on the BPA website. The Chairman signed the master copy as correct for the official record.

Ratified electronically

07/11 Matters arising

7.1 Management accounts (minute 87.1)

Clarification of what was included under the 'Mag' heading would be deferred until the next meeting when Jon Gretton (Financial Administrator) would be present.

Deferred

7.2 Special resolution (minute 90.2)

The special resolution at the AGM had been carried. This had updated the Memorandum & Articles of Association to allow electronic communication with members about official BPA Ltd company documents (notices and minutes of general meetings, accounts, election information, etc). A full update of the Articles was in preparation (minute 12.2).

7.3 Application for Affiliation: RAF Parachute Association (minute 93.10)

A letter had been circulated dated 25 January from Martin White, Chief Instructor at the Royal Air Force Parachute Association, advising that they had put their application for Affiliation on hold until about June 2011, when they would re-submit it.

Noted

08/11 Finance and membership

A summary of management accounts and membership statistics to 31 January 2011 had been circulated with the agenda by Jon Gretton (Financial Administrator). The membership statistics were:

	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>% variance</i>
Full renewal	4,399	4,460	-61	-1
Full conversion	637	650	-13	-2
Temporary (inc Jsat)	2,514	2,552	-38	-1
Student Provisional	40,330	37,747	2,583	7

Noted

09/11 IPC

A report on the 52nd International Parachuting Commission (IPC) meeting held in Bar, Montenegro, from 26-30 January 2011, had been circulated with the agenda. John Smyth (UK Delegate to IPC) and John Hitchen (UK Alternate Delegate to IPC) had attended, along with Annette Williamson as Secretary. The report had been considered by the Competitions Committee, together with an e-mail from John Smyth, which thanked Paul Moore, Kieran Brady and Tony Knight for their work on airports regulation in Europe, which was highly regarded by IPC. John Smyth also paid tribute to the esteem in which our UK judges were held across the world, including Bob & Kate Charters and Karla Cole. Karla Cole had been confirmed by the IPC Plenary as a voting member of the IPC judges' committee.

The Council thanked our delegates for their report and recognised the hard work of our judges and our task team on protecting the future of our sport against possible adverse effects of pan-European airports regulations.

John Hitchen reported that the IPC Plenary meeting in 2012 would take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He believed that travel would be expensive, and consequently it might be appropriate for us to manage with a single representative on that occasion.

Noted

10/11 European update

10.1 European Parachuting Union (EPU)

Paul Moore (President, EPU) reported on the third annual EPU meeting, which had been held at the same location as the IPC meeting. We had given a presentation on the trial of Tandem Accelerated Free Fall (TAFF) in the UK. It had emerged that similar programmes were running, or had run, in other European nations, including the Netherlands. The next meeting of Europe Air Sports would be held on 25 -26 March 2011. The Council agreed that Tony Knight, Kieran Brady and he should attend, as previous meetings had proven to be invaluable.

Paul Moore noted that EPU meetings had hitherto been held in the same location as IPC meetings. However, this would not be the case in 2012 when IPC met in South America, so EPU would need to settle on a suitable European venue.

10.2 EASA rulemaking review

Tony Knight, who was co-ordinating the BPA's responses to consultation on the European Air Safety Agency (EASA) rulemaking review, presented a report on the current position. He had not circulated a paper in advance, but would subsequently produce a written report.

Tony Knight reported that the progress of the new pan-European air safety regulations remained slow because of its bureaucratic gestation process. However this consultation was important for us, and BPA was taking the lead (through EPU) on sport parachuting. BPA was the only European sport parachuting body to have responded to detailed consultation. Our aim remained to protect our sport from harmful legislation being introduced without consideration for sport parachuting. A good start had been made, but it was necessary to keep up the momentum.

The Chairman asked whether EPU members could be asked to contribute to the cost of responding to the rulemaking review. Paul Moore said this would not currently be possible, as most of the EPU subscription income had to be paid in turn as EPU's subscription to Europe Air

Sports. In discussion, the Council confirmed that it was important for the UK to remain at the helm of this work as EASA rules may more closely resemble continental arrangements than ours, potentially leaving the British system out on a limb unless we remained at the heart of the formation of the new regulatory regime. That said, it was understood that EASA would give each member state's national airspace regulator – in our case the CAA – discretion on how to interpret the provisions in their own country.

The Chairman thanked Tony Knight for his presentation, Kieran Brady for making additional points, and Paul Moore for his work in leading EPU.

11/11 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 here be considered for ratification.

11.1 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 7 December 2010

There were no questions.

11.2 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 7 December 2010

There were no questions.

11.3 Competitions Committee meeting on Tuesday 7 December 2010

There were no questions.

11.4 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 10 February 2011

Weed Stoodley raised concern about STC's decision on wrist-mounted video for tandem (STC minute 7) because it had been carried by a small majority of 3 (11 to 8) and the Chairman of STC had expressed his concern that such cameras might be a distraction. After lengthy discussion, Weed Stoodley proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion to refer back this item to STC for further discussion. The vote was: For – 7, against – 3, Abstain – 1 (Alex Busby).

Carried

Paul Moore then proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that STC's decision to sanction the use of such equipment, subject to certain conditions, should be suspended until the matter had been further considered by STC. The vote was: For – 10, Abstain – 1 (John Page).

Carried

Craig Poxon asked that the paper on handycams be distributed to Council and STC before their next meetings.

Action: BPA Office

Steve Saunders asked about the background of an e-mail invitation sent from the Office to attend a meeting of the working party on the lifing of kit. It had been sent to a member on the day of the meeting at too short notice for the recipient to attend. Tony Butler (Technical Officer) stated that invitations to riggers, packers etc, had been sent well in advance of the meeting. Paul Applegate said that the meeting had not been organised by the Riggers' Subcommittee but by Rick Boardman, who chaired the equipment lifing working party. He said it had now been re-named the 'Working Group - Equipment Inspection Policies' and was still to come forward with its recommendations.

John Hitchen reported on typographical errors in the list of updates to the Operations Manual appended to the draft STC minutes. He confirmed that these would be corrected before the minutes were issued.

With the exception of minute 7 on wrist-mounted video to tandem, John Page proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2011 should be ratified.

Carried unanimously

12/11 Headline issues from Committee meetings today

12.1 Communications Committee

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

- Noted that Edward Carroll BPA 116942 had, to date, not removed the BPA logo from his website www.vegasextremeskydiving.com where it was being used without authorisation. Per minute 89.1 of the Council meeting held on 7 December 2010, a letter had been sent on 29 December 2010 asking him to remove the logo in order that he would be eligible to renew of his membership from 1 April 2011.
- Received a report from Archant Dialogue that the new BPA website they were building would soon be ready for internal testing of its online database facility. The membership services staff at the BPA Office had provided initial feedback, but they were now busy with renewals and would not themselves be able to resume trialling until later in the year.
- Received a report that the 2011 edition of the Skydive Starter Mag was due to go to press during the third week in March.
- Agreed on a point raised by Craig Poxon that the BPA should always adopt the correct terminology in its magazines and other publications, for example references to 'FAI Licences' in the Starter Mag should read 'FAI Certificates'.
- Considered possible Magazine and other Communications Committee contributions to BPA 50 (minute 13).
- Discussed ideas for possible inclusion in the Communications Action Plan 2011/2, which the Committee would put forward to the April meeting of the Council.
- Received a report from Adrian Bond (Chair, AGM Working Party) on the debrief on the AGM 2011 held with the Coventry Hilton. The consensus of feedback from members who had attended was that the event had been successful except for (i) the poor quality and quantity of food at the evening buffet, and (ii) a number of cases of theft from vehicles in the car park. Adrian Bond had secured a reduction in the underwriting cost of the evening buffet (as ticket sales had fallen shy of the guaranteed minimum upon which the hotel had insisted). The evening entertainment had been well received, with the hypnotist building an appreciative audience as his act had progressed. Although the hotel had said it believed it had sufficient stock of the beers on offer at the discounted price of £2.50 a pint, it had run out and had had to obtain further supplies from the Hilton Warwick. However, Adrian Bond's pre-arrangement with the Hotel that, should stocks of the designated discount beers run out, the discount price would be extended to another brand, came into play whilst the hotel had been temporarily out of stock of the discounted beers. The Hotel reported at the debrief that it had sold some 25 barrels of beer over the weekend (at 88 pints per barrel), the most it had ever sold at one event.
- Started to plan for the AGM in January 2012 to be held at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, and to find a venue in Central England for the AGM 2013.

12.2 Development Committee

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

- Decided not to pursue any further the suggestion of a display skydive at the London 2012 Olympics because of airspace restrictions at the time of the games.
- Considered data retention policy as part of a data protection audit. This had raised the issue of the garage at the back of the BPA Office and, although not within the remit of the Development Committee but rather general BPA business, the Office would find out the cost of having it demolished and replaced with a secure storage facility.
- Reviewed the trial of the arrangement by which up to two temporary memberships may be taken out by individuals who had not been full members during the previous membership year. The Committee had decided to retain this provision as it may encourage membership and retention. John Page had kindly offered to design a new application form. There were about 200 temporary memberships taken out during each membership year.
- Discussed ideas to celebrate BPA 50 (minute 13).

- Reviewed progress in achieving the Committee's current year's Action Plan targets, and started to plan next year's, 2011-2, for recommendation to the April meeting of the Council.
- Noted that on the current year's Action Plan, the window had now passed for the introduction of online renewals for the new membership year. Issues of functionality and how the data was displayed were currently being worked through, which were likely to require another visit by Phil Sumner, Archant Dialogue's web developer, to liaise with membership services staff at the BPA Office. However, the workload at the Office was now building up to peak level with renewals, so it would be later in the year when staff would be able to resume the trials. The target would therefore be carried forward into the next Action Plan Year, 2011-2.
- Discussed another Action Plan target for the current year, the provision of safety material for DZ safety events. This was now being co-ordinated by Alex Busby. A former CCI had offered to help. Tony Butler said that USPA had also kindly offered use of its materials, with acknowledgement. This target was also likely to carry forward into the next Action Plan year.
- Received an update on a further Action Plan target for the current year, which was to research the provision of first-aid training on DZs. This target was being pursued by Kieran Brady, who had identified a suitable training provider. Tony Butler confirmed that the BPA insurers Jelf Manson Brokers & Liberty International Underwriters, had kindly agreed, in principle, to cover the cost of a first-aid training day at a number of DZs around the UK.
- Noted that the final Action Plan target for the current year, updating the BPA Memorandum & Articles of Association, had been partly achieved, see minute 7.2. The AGM had agreed a minimal update to allow electronic communication with members on company business of BPA Ltd. A wholesale draft update of the document, in the new form of Articles-only, was now complete and awaiting any comment from the legally-qualified Vice Presidents before being progressed to a final draft for Council approval and thence put before the membership.
- Considered two new targets for the forthcoming 2011-2 Action Plan: (a) to investigate video conferencing for communications between meetings; and (b) to consult with Clubs & Centres on the possibility of developing an online system to issue Provisional Memberships.

12.3 Competitions Committee

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

- Started to consider its Action Plan 2011-2, for recommendation to the Council in April.
- Received a 'thank you' from the parents of the late Martin Gardiner, for arranging to have the Martin Gardiner Shield re-presented at the AGM.
- Considered arrangements for a competitor, now a BPA member, who was the only British competitor in the World ParaSki Championships taking place in Austria from 28 February - 5 March 2011.

After discussion, the Chairman asked Steve Saunders to find out more about the background of the competitor before conferring on him the full benefits accorded to official BPA international competitors at FAI events.

Action: Competitions Chair

13/11 BPA 50

This year was the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the BPA. The Committees had already discussed ways to celebrate this significant anniversary. Further ideas were now aired around the table.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Steve Saunders seconded, a motion that the Council should set aside a budget of £10K to mark and celebrate the anniversary BPA's half century.

Carried unanimously

The Council confirmed that this budget was in addition to any funding from their Action Plan budgets that any or all of the Committees may wish to use for BPA 50 projects.

The Council agreed to adopt a special version of the BPA logo, BPA 1961-2011, 50 Years, for use on the web, letter paper and compliment slips.

Agreed

Kieran Brady proposed, and Richard Head seconded, a motion to give 50 full memberships free-of-charge in celebration of BPA 50.

Ian Marshall made a counter-proposal, seconded by Steve Saunders, instead to give 50% off 50 full memberships. The vote on the counter-proposal was: For - 3, Against – 7, Abstain – 1.

Not carried

A vote was then taken on the original proposal, for 50 free memberships. The vote was: For – 7, Against – 1, Abstain – 3 (Paul Applegate, Ian Marshall & Steve Saunders).

Carried

The winners of the 50 free memberships would be selected randomly. Life Members and Council Members, etc, would be ineligible. Tony Butler suggested that eligible full membership renewals should be limited to those who had renewed before the end of May, to encourage prompt renewal. The Council referred to the Communications Committee the tasks of promoting the 50 free memberships, and of selecting the lucky winners.

Refer to the Communications Committee

Ideas of other ways to celebrate BPA 50 had come from the Committees. Possibilities included commissioning articles for the Mag from members who had been active during the early years, a series of articles by a 'name' in the sport from each of the five decades, reprinting the first ever (1964) issue of the Mag and/or articles from it, organising a BPA 50 celebratory jump, holding a lunch for the longest-standing members, giving a 50th anniversary medal at the Nationals, running a competition for the most inventive way of celebrating the BPA's half century, publishing a history of the BPA and the sport over the last 50 years, appointing an honorary archivist or archivists, installing an honours board (listing the Chairmen of Council by dates of their office) in the BPA board room, theming the AGM 2012 to celebrate BPA 50, publishing a feature on the top 50 moments over the last five decades, and publishing a 50th anniversary celebration issue of the Mag in December 2011.

The Chairman thanked the table for coming up with this plethora of ideas. He said that resources of time and money meant we could sensibly adopt only a few, so it was a question of selecting the best. After discussion, Council agreed to invite the Chair of the Communications and Development Committees to circulate a list to their Committee to recommend to the full Council, a balanced shortlist of proposed anniversary projects, each with a budget.

Action: Communications & Development Chairs

14/11 Action Plan and longer-term planning

The Chairman said that a limitation of the annual Action Plans that had long been recognised was that their one-year time horizon was short, although recognition of this had in many cases led to targets that ran over several years, with annual milestones. He now proposed that a working group should be established to consider long-term strategy and report to Council. The group might comprise the Chair and Vice Chair of Council, Committee Chairs (or their nominees) and staff. As an input to the work of the group, the Chairman was conducting a series of interviews by 'phone with key BPA stakeholders.

The Council was content that the Chairman should convene and chair a meeting of a Strategy Working Group constituted as set out above.

Action: Chairman

15/11 Report on the Royal Aero Club

The Council congratulated winners of Royal Aero Club Awards for 2010, as announced at the AGM. They were:

RAeC Silver Medal

Al & Pixie Hodgson, Team Airkix Freestyle

RAeC Certificate of Merit

Kieran Brady

Dean Fisher

Stuart Morris

The awards would be presented at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, on Wednesday 11 May 2011. Also for presentation at that ceremony would be the FAI Diploma in Outstanding Airmanship to Germano Alvares da Silva in memoriam, and the BPA Jim Crocker Trophy for an Outstanding Contribution to Sport Parachuting to Brian Laithwaite in memoriam.

The Chairman acknowledged receipt of a letter from Al & Pixie Hodgson thanking Council for their nomination. He thanked John Smyth MVO for continuing as BPA Delegate to RAeC and for sending an update on the above by e-mail.

16/11 Cyprus Parachute Centre

Steve Saunders reported that he had been contacted by a member who had gone to Cyprus last December and been denied jumping at the Cyprus Parachute Centre (CJSATC), being told it was closed to civilians. The Chairman said he would contact the centre for clarification.

[Post-meeting note: The Chairman reports back that the Centre advised him that access to military sports facilities for non-military personnel on the island had been restricted at the request of the Government of Cyprus. This had affected a range of sports, not just ours. The position was likely to change quite soon, and the Cyprus Parachute Centre advised any civilian jumpers who wished to jump there to contact them in advance for an update.]

17/11 Dates of future meetings

At 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester, on Tuesdays 19 April, 21 June, 16 August, 11 October & 6 December (after a General Meeting).

The meeting closed at 2210.