

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 6 December 2011 at 1843**

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		
	Richard Head		
	Ian Marshall		
	Paul Moore		
	John Page		
	Craig Poxon	-	Development Chair
	Steve Saunders	-	Competitions Chair
	Weed Stoodley		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Liz Ashley	-	Editor, Skydive the Mag
	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Jon Gretton	-	Financial Administrator (to item 82.2)
	Helen Lucas	-	Administration Secretary (to item 85.2)
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General
<b>Observers:</b>	Karen Bain	}	Council 2012 candidates
	Mark Skarratts		
	James Swallow		
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	John Smyth MVO	-	Vice President & IPC & RAeC Delegate

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### Item Minute

#### 79/11 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on Tuesday 11 October 2011, had already been ratified electronically by the Council. The ratified minutes had been published on the BPA website <http://www.bpa.org.uk/minutes> on 7 November. The Chairman signed the master copy as the official record.

#### 80/11 Matters arising

##### 80.1 RAF Weston-on-the-Green (minute 65.6)

The Chairman had not yet received a reply from Wing Commander Mark Smith of the Royal Air Force who had acknowledged receipt of the Chairman's letter on 10 October.

**Awaiting reply**

##### 80.2 Venue and date for EPU meeting 2012 (minute 65.3)

Paul Moore (President, European Parachuting Union) reported that, because of a lack of acceptances to his invitation, there would not now be a meeting of the EPU at around the time of the BPA AGM and at the same venue.

**No further action**

### **80.3 Investments (minute 66.2)**

Alex Busby raised an issue, which the Chairman asked to be taken under item 82.2, Investments.

**Refer minute 82.2**

### **80.4 BPA request for renewal of Patronship by HRH The Prince of Wales (minute 65.5)**

Clarence House had telephoned to confirm that a reply would follow in due course.

**Awaiting reply**

### **80.5 New computer system for BPA Office (minute 68.2, para 3)**

Weed Stoodley pointed out that the stated cost of approximately £9K was at variance with that of approximately £12K as set out in minute 43 of the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held earlier on the same day. Council noted that the correct total, approximately £12K, was that shown in the Development Committee minutes. The Office said that discussions with the supplier were continuing to clarify precise hardware and software requirements, which might affect the total cost, as might the delay between quotation and purchase.

**Ongoing**

## **81/11 Correspondence**

### **81.1 Correspondence with Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator**

At the last meeting (minute 68.3), Steve Saunders had reported on an issue in relation to ensuring the correct listing of a BPA international judge that had arisen at the meeting of the Competitions Committee. Kieran Brady had offered to try to mediate to see if the matter could be resolved informally. If not, the Council voted unanimously on action to be taken which would start with a letter from the Chairman that would require the matter to be put right within ten days, otherwise the Council would itself take remedial action.

It had unfortunately not been possible to resolve the matter informally, and the Chairman had accordingly written to Kate Charters, Judges-Co-ordinator, as agreed at the last meeting. Kate Charters had resolved the matter in accordance with the Council's request.

Subsequent to this, Kate Charters had sent an e-mail to the Council, dated 1 November, which included an attachment about the role of Judges' Co-ordinator and how it had evolved. The Chairman had replied on 7 November, copying this to Council and to the judges. The Council had also received e-mails from a number of individual judges, to which the Chairman had replied. All correspondence had been circulated to the Council in advance of this meeting.

The Council endorsed the Chairman's letter of 7 November to Kate Charters as being an accurate statement of the Council's position, and a comprehensive reply.

The Chairman reported that, at this afternoon's meeting of the Competitions Committee, part of which he had attended, Steve Saunders (Competitions Chair) had emphasised the need for a better working relationship between the judges and the Committee. The judges' meeting on AGM Day, Saturday 28 January, would include preparing up-to-date documentation on judging matters, including the issue that had generated the recent correspondence with the Council. Steve Saunders had emphasised the need to deal with this objectively, not subjectively involving personalities. Paul Moore said he was concerned by what he believed to have been a campaign on social media websites to orchestrate anti-BPA sentiment, and said he would like to see those who had taken part in this called to the table to account for their actions. As usual, Steve Saunders had also invited all judges to come to the competitors' meeting on AGM Day.

The Chairman endorsed the Competition Chair's call for all parties to work more closely together on judging matters, and to document key matters of procedure for future reference.

**Refer to Competitions Committee**

### **81.2 Correspondence with a member of the British delegation to WPC 2011**

Pursuant to Council minute 53.3.2, item 2, of 16 August 2011, concerning the report of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held that day, Steve Saunders (Competitions Chair) had written to the members of the British delegation to the World Cup 2011 who had been identified as having taken part in high-spirited behaviour at social events at the World Cup. Such behaviour by some members of the British delegation and others had led to incidents.

One of the recipients of Steve Saunders' letter had written to Council, enclosing witness statements, to clear his name. The Chairman reported that this member had attended this

afternoon's meeting of the Competitions Committee, at which a modification to the wording of Steve Saunders' letter had been mutually agreed.

**Action: Competitions Chairman**

## **82/11 Finance and membership**

### **82.1 Management accounts and membership statistics**

A summary of management accounts and membership statistics to 31 October 2011 from Jon Gretton (Financial Administrator) had been circulated with the agenda. The membership statistics, to month 7 of the membership year, 1 April to 31 October 2011, were:

<i>7 months</i>	<i>2011/2</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>variance</i>	<i>% variance</i>
Full renewal	4,408	4,323	85	2
Full conversion	532	568	-36	- 6
Temporary (inc Jsat)	2,653	2,385	268	11
Student Provisional	40,140	37,601	2,539	7

The Council noted a 7% year-on-year increase in Student Provisional Memberships, compared with a year-on-year decrease of - 6% in conversions to full membership.

The Chairman asked that the entry for the Airkix Fund should be removed from future summaries of the management accounts, as the project associated with this had now been completed.

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

### **82.2 Investments**

Alex Busby repeated the concern he had expressed at the Development Committee that the investments had been made by the finance group, when he was expecting the group to report back to full Council on the strategic options for the investment of funds with a view to securing a higher return, that may involve some element of investment risk.

The Chairman, who with the Treasurer, Financial Administrator and Weed Stoodley, comprised the finance group, apologised for the misunderstanding. He said the group had acted in good faith when making the investments of the funds ready to invest, in the belief that the group had been tasked by Council with doing this, rather than holding off investment and reporting back to Council on the options. Debbie Carter (Treasurer) said that particular investment vehicles were available typically for only a few weeks, and to seek to manage individual investments - as contrasted with setting an investment strategy - was not something that the full governing committee of an association such as ours, that met only once every two months, was realistically in a position effectively to do. For this reason, the Treasurer said she had never brought an investment decision to the table at full Council: it was simply not a practical way to operate.

Alex Busby called again for what he believed had been agreed at the last meeting: a report on strategic investment options. Kieran Brady then proposed, and Alex Busby seconded, motion to ask the Finance Group to review various options for various investment strategies with a range of risk profiles, and to report back. This carried unanimously.

**Action: Finance Group**

The Council agreed that the outcome of this review of its investment strategy would be effective from whenever funds for investment next became available.

The Chairman invited Council Members to contact the Finance Group if they had any ideas or suggestions about the investment of BPA reserves.

**Action: All Council Members**

## **83/11 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.

### **83.1 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 October 2011**

There were no questions.

### **83.2 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 October 2011**

There were no questions.

### **83.3 Competitions Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 October 2011**

There were no questions.

### **83.4 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 24 November 2011**

The Council discussed STC minute 8, Permissions, item iii, concerning a permission that STC had given in response to an application from a CCI on behalf of their Club Chief Pilot to continue flying parachuting sorties above the age of 70. STC had given a permission for the duration of one year to the pilot, who was in possession of a current Class 1 commercial medical, and who had been supported by two Pilot Examiners.

Alex Busby, who was a member of STC, said his view was that STC should not have given this permission without the active support of Dr John Carter, BPA Medical Adviser.

Tony Butler (Technical Officer) reported that there had been considerable correspondence on this matter since the STC meeting. He had therefore decided, in consultation with Kieran Brady, Pilots' Chair, to recommend the formation of a working group to review the evidence that had been submitted by those of contrasting opinions on whether or not permissions should be considered for parachuting pilots over 70 years of age. The working group would report to STC. He confirmed that this would not affect a permission already given, namely the one under discussion now.

A copy of an e-mail from Chris Allen, a Vice President, was tabled, which suggested that Council could not properly ratify this STC decision without explaining why STC had apparently ignored the advice of the BPA's Medical Adviser.

The Council noted that what Chris Allen was referring to was the STC minute which recorded that Dr John Carter, BPA Medical Adviser, had not objected to STC granting a permission for the applicant to continue parachute flying beyond the age of 70, but he had not actively supported it. Tony Butler said that this needed to be read in the context of another statement recorded earlier in the same STC minute in which Dr Carter had reported that the Club for which the pilot worked had not approached him for any advice with regard to this request prior to the meeting. Tony Butler said that Dr Carter's position was that he had not had advance notice of, and therefore the opportunity to research, the matter.

Paul Moore asked if this issue was insurance-driven. Tony Butler (Technical Officer) replied that it was not.

After further discussion, the Chairman said that the Council had discussed STC's decision and the reasoning behind it, and was satisfied that it was a fair decision based on the evidence before STC. Council therefore had no reason to seek to delay or deny ratification of this minute.

John Page then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to ratify the minutes of the STC meeting held on Thursday 24 November 2011, and to adopt the Technical Officer's recommendation in consultation with the Chair of the Pilots' Committee, to establish a working party to report to STC on issues surrounding the upper age limit for parachute pilots. The vote was: For - 9, Against - 2.

**Ratified**

## **84/11 Headline issues from Committee meetings today**

### **84.1 Communications Committee**

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

- 1 Received a positive response from members to the BPA e-Newsletter for November 2011.
- 2 Noted concerns of staff in the BPA Office that the functionality of the current database that was used by the Office to support the provision of essential day-to-day membership services was not yet fully replicated in the new database that had been developed by Archant Dialogue. Phil Sumner, web developer at Archant Dialogue, had said that the new online database had probably around 85% of the functionality of the current BPA database. The current database had been developed some years ago by BPA member Mike Gorman. In order not further to delay implementation of the new database, Phil Sumner had suggested that, if Mike Gorman's help could be secured, it might be possible to run the two databases in tandem for a transitional period, such that the Office could continue to use the full functionality of the existing database, and the renewals facility of the new online database could be linked with it.

The BPA staff had said they were not happy that all of the functionality of the existing database had yet been included in the specification of the new one, and had hoped that Phil Sumner could spend more time at the BPA Office to achieve this.

Tony Butler (Technical Officer) said that the staff believed that development of the new database had started the wrong way round - by beginning with online renewals, rather than by first replicating the functionality of the current BPA database, and then working out from that to include online membership.

Short-term progress now depended on seeking Mike Gorman's co-operation with a temporary arrangement to allow the Office to continue to use the current BPA database, whilst allowing at least a limited facility for online renewals using the new online database, with the two databases 'talking to' each other.

- 3 Adrian Bond and Martin Shuttleworth (Secretary-General) had visited Archant Dialogue in Norwich on Thursday 24 November to progress the Communications Action Plan Target of improving public relations for the sport. Zoë Francis-Cox, Editorial Director of Archant Dialogue, had been extremely helpful in suggesting a number of initiatives in which Archant Dialogue could help. These included people-centred double-page features on local skydivers in Archant's lifestyle magazines, many of which were published for particular counties or regions. Each such article might include a fact box on skydiving, together with contact details of the local DZs. If DZs were willing to donate a free jump, a prize might be associated with such a feature, which Archant confidently expected would engage readers. In all, the range of Archant lifestyle magazines were read by some half a million people each month, and the value of the pages in monetary terms was reckoned to total something over £40K.

Another suggestion by Archant Dialogue was to run feature articles on skydiving in their photography and pilots magazines, each taking the specialism of the magazine as a perspective on the sport.

Further ideas by Archant Dialogue were the possibility of offering subscriptions to 'Skydive the Mag' via a commercial website called Subscription Save; 'Skydive the Mag' as an iPad app edition; and a smartphone app for members to upload skydiving photos to the Mag website, Facebook, etc.

Adrian Bond said these were exciting ideas to be considered by next year's Committee for the Communications Action Plan 2012-3. Martin Shuttleworth said they offered the step-up in BPA communications that had been in prospect when the BPA had started to work with Archant Dialogue, it bringing to the table the insight and expertise of a professional media company.

- 4 The AGM working party had met this morning. Plans for the AGM 2012 on Saturday 28 January at De Vere Whites, Reebok Stadium, Bolton, were progressing well. The contract to hold the AGM 2013 at the Leicester Marriott Hotel had now been signed.
- 5 Selected a photograph from three shortlisted by Liz Ashley, Editor of 'Skydive the Mag', to appear on the BPA membership card for the new membership year beginning on 1 April 2012.

#### **84.2 Development Committee**

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

- 1 Been pleased to learn from Tony Butler that his negotiations with the insurers had led to a year-on-year reduction of 5% in the premium for the BPA third party public liability insurance underwritten by Liberty Mutual Underwriters.
- 2 Heard from Tony Butler that the broker we had been dealing with, Martin Mansley, had recently left Jelf Manson Insurance Brokers. BPA's contact there now was with their Mark Seels, who was already known to us.
- 3 Recommended to the Council that there should be no restrictions on taking out successive student provisional memberships.

John Page then proposed, and Alex Busby seconded, a motion that there should be no limit on the number of student provisional memberships any eligible individual might take out.

**Carried unanimously**

- 4 At the suggestion of a former jumper, inaugurated a BPA certificate to recognise members who had been active jumpers for 50 years or more. The plan was to publicise this in the April Mag. CCIs would evaluate members' eligibility for the certificate.
- 5 Held a successful meeting for Drop Zone Owners and Operators at Waltham Village Hall, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, on Tuesday 1 November 2011, which had been attended by 34 DZOs and their nominees together with, guest speakers, the BPA insurers, various Council members and staff. Notes on the meeting together with the analysis of participants' meeting evaluation forms, which had been positive, had been circulated to the full Council. The Development Committee had considered a number of items referred to it by the DZO meeting, including 6 (e) below.
- 6 Progressed the Development Action Plan 2011-2 targets, including:
  - (a) New database and online membership. See 84.1.2 above.
  - (b) DZ safety events. There had been little interest from DZs in the proposed BPA resources pack for DZ safety events, as DZs that ran such events were using resources they already had in place. The Committee had therefore decided to take forward promotion of safety by means of canopy skills coaching roadshows. This would be included in the Development Action Plan for 2012-3.

Weed Stoodley suggested that if any funds remained from BingoLotto, these should be applied to this project. The Council agreed.

- (c) First-aid courses for DZ staff. Three other facilitators would now be invited to tender because the original one had not provided timely information on the planned course.
  - (d) BPA Archive. Two members had kindly offered their services to plan and develop a BPA archive. They were prepared to work with each other, and both were enthusiastic.
  - (e) Possible development of online application for student provisional membership. This had been discussed at the DZO meeting on Tuesday 1 November, which had been keen for the BPA to progress this. Indeed, some DZOs had been asking for such a facility for some time, and one Centre had expressed its keenness to participate in a trial in which data was returned to the BPA electronically. This would be a Development Action Plan target for 2012-3.
- 7 Received a report from John Page about the new computer hardware and software for the BPA Office, which was due to be installed.
  - 8 Been contacted by a carbon offsetting company, which the Committee had suggested might wish to advertise in the BPA Mag or on the BPA/Mag websites.

### **84.3 Competitions Committee**

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

- 1 Considered the matter already reported at Council minute 81.2 (see page 2).
- 2 Considered funding allocations to the World Parachuting Championships (WPC) Mondial in Dubai 2012, based on performance criteria. Funding had been allocated to the following teams: Kinetic and Volare in Freestyle; Satori, in 4-way FS; and Airkix Freestyle in Freestyle. Teams that had not met the performance criteria for funding on this occasion included Brit Chicks and Bodyflight in 8-way and women's 4-way FS.
- 3 Discussed recommendation of a Head of Delegation for WPC 2012 Mondial in Dubai. John Smyth (Vice President and UK Delegate to IPC) had expressed an interest in taking this role but had asked to be allowed to delay any commitment until after the IPC plenary meeting in February 2012. This was in case he were to be invited to attend in an official IPC capacity, in which case he would be unable to combine this with the role of Head of UK Delegation. The Committee had also considered that, because the WPC 2012 Mondial would be operating from a split Drop Zone, it may be appropriate to appoint two Team Managers in addition to a Head of Delegation.

- 4 Settled on a protocol by which to select Heads of Delegation for future class 1 international meets. This would be to invite expressions of interest, supported by details of relevant experience, from (in no particular order) those who had been HoD before; Council members; discipline reps; judges; and WPC competitors.
- 5 Agreed on the need to develop closer relations between the Committee, the Judges' Co-ordinator and the judges. The BPA was fortunate to have a brilliant judging team. AGM Day on Saturday 28 January 2012 would provide an opportunity for the judges and the committee to meet for discussions.

The Chairman of Council welcomed this. He said there was a lack of detail around some aspects of the judges' role. He believed it to be important for the arrangements to be adequately documented.

## **85/11 Strategy Working Group**

### **85.1 Strategy**

Notes on the meeting of the Strategy Working Group held on Tuesday 11 October had been circulated between the time of the last Council meeting and this one. The Chairman checked that Council was still content with its decisions on BPA strategy as set out in minute 72 of the last meeting, and in the notes on the meeting of the Strategy Working Group. Council confirmed that this was the case.

### **85.2 Premises**

With regard to one strategic objective, to determine whether the current BPA office premises were fit for purpose, a summary of some of the options had been circulated in advance for consideration by the Council. This included a number of possibilities including

- (i) refurbishment and/or extension of the existing office premises;
- (ii) move locally to other accommodation;
- (iii) possible co-location with other Leicester-based airsports bodies such as the British Gliding Association and the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, which had already co-located at Meridian Business Park in Leicester, and were keen to progress discussions with the BPA.

The Council decided to keep all options open. Martin Shuttleworth (Secretary-General) said it was important to consult with staff. The Council agreed that Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, should be invited to join Adrian Bond and Martin Shuttleworth on the Premises Working Party. The Council looked forward to receiving a further report in due course.

**Action: Premises Working Party**

## **86/11 Report on FAI, IPC and the Royal Aero Club**

A copy of a report received by e-mail from John Smyth, UK Delegate to IPC and BPA Delegate to RAeC, had been circulated in advance. In it, he confirmed that IPC funds were now ring-fenced within FAI, and thanked David Roberts (Chairman, RAeC) for his help in assuring this. In John Smyth's report, he had also thanked Paul Moore for kindly donating his expenses as an FAI judge at the World Cup 2011 in Canopy Piloting, to his local air ambulance charity.

## **87/11 FAI National Licence / Parachutist Certificate**

A paper by Tony Butler (Technical Officer) had been circulated in advance. FAI had advised the BPA that UK National Parachuting Certificates should not be called 'FAI National Certificates' but 'BPA National Certificates'. FAI had indicated that they were agreeable to their logo continuing to appear, as long as it was smaller than the BPA logo. John Smyth, UK Delegate to IPC, had said he would seek to clarify FAI's position at the IPC plenary meeting in February 2012. The Council agreed to this, providing the BPA did not run out of stock in the meantime.

Alex Busby proposed, and Steve Saunders seconded, that from 1 April the document should be known as 'BPA National Parachute Licence', and that all previous FAI Certificates should remain valid for their usual, stated, period of validity.

Craig Poxon made a counter-proposal to adopt the name 'BPA National Parachutist Certificate'. This failed to find a seconder.

The original proposal, for the name 'BPA National Parachutist Licence' was then put to the vote.

**Carried unanimously**

**88/11 Nominations for Royal Aero Club awards 2011**

This item was held in camera, with only elected members and staff in the room. The Council considered BPA nominations for Royal Aero Club awards 2011, which had to be submitted in a few days' time. The Chairman, after prior consultation with John Smyth, a BPA Vice President and BPA Delegate to RAeC, put forward a nomination for a Bronze Medal, the draft citation for which was tabled. Craig Poxon proposed, and Alex Busby seconded, a motion that Council should make this nomination to RAeC.

**Carried unanimously**

Kieran Brady then proposed a nomination for (subject to consultation with John Smyth) a RAeC Certificate of Merit. John Page seconded this nomination.

**Carried unanimously**

Kieran Brady offered to source information for the citation, which would be put into the appropriate format by the Office in consultation with John Smyth.

**Action: Kieran Brady & BPA Office**

**89/11 The BPA Jim Crocker Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Sport parachuting**

After discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and Steve Saunders seconded, a motion that Helmut Cloth of Airtec GmbH, inventor and manufacturer of the Cybernetic Parachute Release System (Cypres) automatic activation device, which had saved the lives of some 3000 sport parachutists worldwide over a period of 20 years, should be awarded the Jim Crocker Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Sport Parachuting.

**Carried unanimously**

Paul Moore offered to source information for the citation.

**Action: Paul Moore**

The Office would write to let Helmut Cloth know about his award, and invite him to the AGM to be recognised. However, subject to the agreement of the RAeC, the intention was to make the formal presentation of this BPA award at the next RAeC Awards Ceremony, which was expected to be held during spring 2012, details yet to be announced by RAeC. The office would liaise with RAeC on this. The meeting then resumed in open session.

**Action: BPA Office**

**90/11 European Parachute Union (EPU) update**

See item 80.2 (page 1). Paul Moore sought Council's approval for Kieran Brady and himself to attend the AGM of Europe Air Sports to be held on 24-25 March 2012.

**Agreed**

Paul Moore reported that subscriptions were due to EPU by March 2012, and that EPU had then to pay its own subscription to Europe Air Sports.

**91/11 Aviation update**

Kieran Brady reported on a regulatory consultation document he had received today that had highlighted the importance in airsports of risk assessment and safety management systems. Kieran Brady said it was reassuring to note that these were the programmes that the BPA had been progressing in sport parachuting for many years, co-ordinated by Tony Butler (Technical Officer) and John Hitchen (NCSO).

He also called attention to a CAA presentation to DZOs, CCIs and CCPs to be held on the day before the AGM, Friday 27 January 2012, at the AGM venue. Further information would be issued to Clubs & Centres by the Office shortly.

**92/11 Staff**

This item was held in camera with only elected members present. The Council agreed a Christmas bonus for the staff in recognition of their work during the year. On returning to the room, Tony Butler, on behalf of the staff, thanked the Council for this kind gesture.

**93/11 The BPA Taz Causer Award for Skydiver of the Year 2011**

The Office apologised for there having been some confusion between nominations for this award, which was for an experienced skydiver whose achievements during the current calendar year were worthy of special recognition, and nominations for the Mike Forge Trophy for New Skydiver of the



Year. Different arrangements applied to the two awards. Only CCIs and Advanced Instructors were eligible to make nominations for the Mike Forge Trophy, and the winner was decided by the TO & NCSO. Nominations for the Taz Causer Trophy were invited from the membership, and came before Council each December for a winner to be decided.

This year, only one nomination of an experienced skydiver, eligible for consideration for the Taz Causer award, had come before Council. This had been circulated in advance. The nomination was considered against the award criteria. However, the Council did not believe that the nomination met the published criteria. The Council therefore decided by a show of hands of 7 to 4 that, in order to preserve the standard and integrity of the award, the Taz Causer Skydiver of the Year Award would not be made for this year, 2011.

**Not awarded this year**

**94/11 Item of special business from Ian Rosenvinge for AGM**

A copy of an e-mail received today from Ian Rosenvinge of Peterlee Parachute Centre was tabled. It concerned the financial arrangements for the British Open National Parachuting Championships. The Chairman said that the BPA had a longstanding policy for some 25 years that the Nationals were run at no cost to the BPA, with the entry and jump fees paid by competitors to host Centres meant to cover all costs. Since last year, BPA had met the costs of medals awarded at the Nationals. Steve Saunders (Competitions Chair) said that the Competitions Committee was willing to pay for judges at Nationals, but to do so, a higher entry fee or levy payable to the BPA would need to be charged. At present, the BPA received a £5 per entry, and £1 per jump, levy payable to the National Team Fund, which was ring-fenced in the BPA's accounts, and not available for general expenditure on competitions.

The Office reported that, under companies law, members had to be notified in writing of Ian Rosenvinge's proposal, which would be taken under item 2, special business, of the AGM agenda (under which item a special resolution to adopt updated Articles of Association, had already been circulated to Members with the December 2011 issue of 'Skydive the Mag'). The BPA would therefore incur a printing and postage cost to circulate this new item of special business.

Kieran Brady said that the issue raised by Ian Rosenvinge was not, in his view, one that should properly be brought to the AGM, but a matter of policy management that should most appropriately be looked after by the membership's elected representatives on the Competitions Committee, reporting to the full Council.

John Page proposed that, in the event that Ian Rosenvinge could not be persuaded to withdraw his item of special business from the AGM, Council should formulate a commentary to go out to the membership with Ian Rosenvinge's proposal to set out the wider issues that had prevented the Competitions Committee, to whom Ian Rosenvinge had already presented a proposal of this nature, from agreeing to it. Alex Busby seconded the proposal. The vote was: For - 9, Against - 0, Abstain - 2 (Paul Moore & Steve Saunders).

**Carried**

**95/11 Date of next meeting**

The inaugural meeting of Council 2012 would be held at lunchtime, immediately after the AGM and presentation ceremony, at De Vere Whites, Reebok Stadium, Bolton, Greater Manchester BL6 6SF, on Saturday 28 January 2012.

The meeting closed at 2235.