

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2000 at 1840
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	-	Chairman
	Mike Allum		
	Paul Applegate		
	Kieran Brady	-	Vice Chairman / Communications Chairman
	Chris Clements		
	Dona Crum		(apologies for late arrival)
	Mick Danby		(apologies for late arrival)
	Dave Hickling		
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	John Saunders	-	Safety and Training Chairman
	Lofty Thomas		
	Richard Tregaskes		
In attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Glen Turnbull	-	Development Officer
Observers:	Matthew House		
	Ian Marshall		
	Ashley Nicholas		
	Craig Poxon		
Apologies for absence:	Tim Andrewes		
	John Hitchen		
	John Smyth		

ITEM MINUTE

54/00 Council nominees 2001

As was customary, new nominees for next year's Council had been invited to attend as observers. The Chairman welcomed those who were present - an apology for absence had been received from David Tyler.

55/00 Minutes of last meeting

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 October 2000 as a correct record, which carried unanimously.

Approved

56/00 Matters arising

56.1 Safety and Training Committee Meeting 28 September 2000 (minute 46.2)

No appeal to the Council had been received from the Advanced Instructor against disciplinary action arising from an incident at Eaglescott. He had been advised in writing of the date of this meeting and his right to appeal.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the Council take this as no appeal.

Carried unanimously

56.2 GASCo (minute 50)

Tony Butler reported that there had been a misunderstanding at the last meeting, and that Angela Hickling was in fact prepared to continue as the BPA representative on GASCo. It had not therefore been appropriate to progress the action to find a replacement.

57/00 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

57.1 Development Committee meeting on 17 October 2000

Ratification of the minutes was proposed by Ian Midgley, seconded by Mike Allum, and carried unanimously.

Ratified

57.2 Safety and Training Committee meeting on 7 December 2000

John Saunders (STC Chairman) highlighted a proposal by STC that the Council should consider the fact that a parachutist may have brought the sport into disrepute and that it may wish to consider suspending his membership. The CAA were conducting their own investigation. David Hickling proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the matter be left open until the outcome of the CAA investigation was known.

Carried unanimously

John Saunders reported that a BPA Member had attended STC with his legal representative in connection with a Panel of Enquiry Report into a fatal accident. It was considered likely by some that such representation may become more common in future, particularly in view of the Human Rights Act 1998. The Chairman said that although there wasn't any case history to suggest the Human Rights Act would encompass the Association, it was important that the Association's disciplinary procedures should be able to accommodate any developments in an efficient and effective manner. He asked that STC with the technical staff should review the BPA's disciplinary procedures.

Action: STC

John Saunders proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, that the minutes be ratified. This carried with one abstention (Chris Clements).

Ratified

57.3 Communications Committee meeting on 17 October 2000

Ratification of the minutes was proposed by Kieran Brady, seconded by Ian Midgley, and carried unanimously.

Ratified

57.4 Competitions Committee meeting on 15 November 2000

Competition dates for 2001 had been set as follows:

Nationals

FS

Target Skysports,
Hibaldstow

Fridays to Sundays 20-22 and 27-29 July
2001

Classics/CF

British Skysports, Bridlington

Fridays to Sundays 3-5 and 10-12 August 2001

New Age

Peterborough Parachute Centre,
Sibson

Friday to Sunday 17-19 August 2001
continuing if necessary Friday to Sunday
24-26 August 2001

Grand Prix (formerly Regionals)

FS

Wild Geese leg

Saturday and Sunday 19-20 May 2001

Hibaldstow leg

Saturday and Sunday 16 -17 June 2001

Langar leg

Saturday and Sunday 1-2 September 2001

Classics/CF

Bridlington leg

Saturday to Monday 5-7 May 2001

Brunton leg

Saturday and Sunday 14-15 July 2001

Wild Geese leg

Saturday and Sunday 15-16 September 2001

Chris Clements asked that the Competitions minutes be clarified on page 4 to make it clear that she had not supported the decision not to re-issue bid forms to clubs and centres in the south, none of which had made a bid.

The Chairman raised the issue of the senior 4-way FS team MIG, the overall regionals champions due to be presented with their medals at the AGM. Because of exceptional circumstances involving injuries and a very serious illness of one team member, the team had had to use a second alternate. Even with jumps involving the second alternate discounted, the team would still have won. The team that came second had asked the Competitions Committee to award 7 rather than the usual 6 medals, but the Competitions Committee could not agree to this as it would create a precedent. There remained, however, a genuine wish to acknowledge the esprit de corps of the team that triumphed over trying circumstances.

After discussion, Paul Applegate proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, a motion that all 7 Members of Team MIG, including the second alternate, should be awarded a Certificate of Merit at the AGM.

Carried unanimously

58/00 Reports on significant matters from today's meetings

58.1 Communications Committee

Kieran Brady (Communications Chairman) reported that budgets had been set for the Magazine next year. A change in staff might present a few short-term delays in maintenance of the website. Committee members had been asked to make proposals for a realistic and

achievable action plan that would be considered and costed at the first meeting of the new year.

47.1 Development Committee

Ian Midgley (Development Chairman) reported that, after careful forecasting, the Committee was recommending to the Council that a further £250K of BPA funds be switched from a deposit account to a suitable higher interest bond. This would leave the BPA with sufficient working capital and cashflow to meet its foreseeable needs. In the event of unforeseen expenditure, funds could be withdrawn from the new bond/s. Kieran Brady said the penalty for leaving investment of these funds until April would be a significant loss of investment income.

The Chairman pointed out that the 2001/2 action plan had yet to be costed but was assured by Kieran Brady that projected expenditure had taken account the cost of meeting targets in the last action plan. The Chairman asked that the paper presented to the Development Committee should be circulated to all members of the Council.

Ian Midgley proposed, and Mike Allum seconded, a motion that a further £250K of BPA funds be invested without delay in suitable higher interest bond/s.

Carried unanimously

Ian Midgley next reported that the Development Committee recommended that a new style of membership card should be introduced at the 2001 renewal. This would be laser printed in colour at the office. The cost of the card was similar to the existing one, but the new version would require one-off set-up costs for which the Committee had set a budget of £3,500 to include new computer software to generate the reports to print, together with a new laser colour printer. Ian Midgley proposed, and Dave Hicking seconded, a motion that the new cards should be introduced from the next renewal providing the new system could be up and running in time.

Carried unanimously

Lesley Gale suggested that a higher specification colour printer might be considered which could also print larger A3 size sheets as well as the standard A4 size. This would enable it to be used to print the safety posters that were being planned as part of next year's safety action plan matrix. It was agreed that this would be considered when the specification for the colour printer was being selected.

59/00 Reports from Club Representatives

Richard Tregaskes had offered to visit Cornwall Parachute Club and had been advised that the Club might close next year.

He also reported that Tony Makepeace, a judge, had suggested that digital video cameras should be used for judging because they could be linked with Omniskore. This was a technical issue for the Competitions Committee.

Action: Competitions Committee

Kieran Brady had visited the Wild Geese Skydive Centre and the Services Parachute Centre at Shackleton Barracks, both in Northern Ireland. He had been impressed with both centres, and the discussions had been useful. There remained a few questions which could not be fully answered on the day, and to which he planned to send a written reply once all the information was available. Kieran Brady had also arranged to visit Peterlee Parachute Centre over the coming weekend and planned a further centre visit after the AGM.

The Chairman thanked all Club Representatives for their hard work during the year in providing a link between the Council and the centres. There was often time pressure on the

representatives at weekends, and Lesley Gale suggested that next year, each centre might be advised of the contact details of its nearest Council member/s.

60/00 'You and the Athlete' Conference

Mike Allum had attended a Sport England conference called 'You and the Athlete'. This had emphasised the importance of making maximum use of experienced athletes for intensive coaching of up-and-coming performers to develop the next generation of elite athletes.

61/00 Royal Aero Club liaison

The RAeC Medals and Awards Subcommittee meeting had been re-scheduled and was taking place in London this evening. John Smyth was representing the BPA, which had made five nominations for RAeC awards.

62/00 Patron

The Chairman had circulated a copy of a letter he had written to St James's Palace to enquire whether the Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, would consider hosting a reception for the BPA now that his current period of Patronship was drawing towards its final year. The letter had suggested that guests associated with some of the Prince's charities that had raised funds through parachute jumps might be among those to be invited. It had also enquired whether any indication could be given of whether the Prince would be prepared to continue as Patron of the BPA for a further period.

63/00 Development Officer

The Chairman thanked Glen Turnbull, who was leaving his post of BPA Development Officer, for his work over the past six months, and on behalf of everyone on the Council, wished him well for the future.

64/00 Staff Christmas Bonus

Staff, observers and others in attendance left the room for this item. After discussion, Mike Allum proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that a Christmas bonus, similar to last year, should be given to the staff in appreciation of their contribution to the smooth running of the Association.

65/00 EGM

Ashley Nicholas, a BPA Member and accountant, said he believed the EGM should be dispensed with and its business transferred to the AGM. He considered the EGM to be neither extraordinary - its business was similar each year – nor general, because it was held in Leicester on a Tuesday evening which he considered to be less convenient for Members to attend than the Saturday morning of the AGM.

The Chairman said that the EGM was open to all members and publicised well in advance by a notice in the Magazine. The AGM was intended as a time for learning and celebration and a previous AGM had voted for certain financial business to be conducted separately at an EGM each year. The Association's Memorandum and Articles of Association had therefore been amended to put into effect this decision by the membership. Ashley Nicholas was, to the best of the Chairman's knowledge, the first Member ever to express concern about the arrangements for the EGM. If he could attract sufficient support for his views, he could of course change things through the normal democratic process within the BPA.

Ashley Thomas therefore proposed that the EGM should be discontinued and its business transferred to the AGM. The proposal failed to find a seconder.

66/00 Thanks to the retiring Council

At this last meeting of the year 2000 Council, the Chairman thanked all members for their hard work for, and support of, the Association during another busy year. The result of the election to the new Council for the year 2001 would be announced at the AGM in January. Two Members of the current Council, Mike Allum and Tye Boughen, had decided not to offer themselves for re-election. The Chairman paid tribute to them both, Tye Boughen for his many years of sterling work on the safety of the sport and Mike Allum who he considered to

have been one of the best BPA Club representatives of all time. The Chairman wished good luck to all those who were standing for election to next year's Council.

Ian Midgley expressed the Council's gratitude to Chris Allen for his Chairmanship of the Association during the year.

67/00 Date of the inaugural meeting of the year 2001 Council

Saturday 20 January 2001, at 1230 approximately (immediately after the AGM) in Room 18 (Ground Floor) of the Hanover Hotel, Hinckley.

The meeting closed at 2045.

Distribution:

Council, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Technical Officer, NCSO, National Administrator, Development Officer, Financial Administrator, Editor - Skydive Mag