

British Parachute Association

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THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2001 at 1840
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	-	Chairman
	Tim Andrewes		
	Paul Applegate		
	Kieran Brady	-	Communications Chairman
	Chris Clements		
	David Hickling		
	Ian Marshall		
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	Craig Poxon		
	John Saunders	-	Safety and Training Chairman
	John Smyth	-	Vice Chairman / Competitions Chairman
	Lofty Thomas		
	Carl Williams		
In attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Tony Knight	-	Liaison Officer to CAA
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Observers:	Colin Fitzmaurice		
	Chris Jones		Chairman, DZDF
	Charles Ross		
	Kenneth Taylor		
Apology for absence:	Dona Crum		

ITEM MINUTE

07/01 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Members of the new Council to their first full meeting of the new session.

08/01 Council Membership of Lesley Gale

The Chairman referred to a letter from Lesley Gale dated 12 February stating that she had, with regret, decided to resign from the Council. This was because of a provision in part of the BPA's governing instrument. Paragraph 4 of the Memorandum of Association stated that no Council Member may be paid a salary or fee on a regular basis. Whilst Lesley Gale's election

had been perfectly legal, the Memorandum of Association had obliged her to choose between giving up her contract with the BPA as Editor of Skydive magazine, or standing down as a voting member of the Council. After careful consideration, Lesley Gale had concluded that the membership would be best served by her remaining as Editor.

The Chairman said it was regrettable that this had not come to light at nomination stage, and proposed that in future a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association should be sent on nomination to all candidates for election to the Council.

He also proposed that (i) Lesley Gale should continue to be invited to attend Council meetings, without a vote, to speak for those who had voted for her; and (ii) Richard Tregaskes [who had come sixteenth in the election], should be invited to be co-opted onto the Council.

John Saunders said that before a vote was taken, it was important for all Members of Council to have time to study the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was therefore agreed that further consideration of this item be held over until the next meeting.

Action: Next meeting

09/01 Minutes of previous meetings

Ian Marshall proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the following four meetings be approved, and this carried unanimously.

EGM – Tuesday 12 December 2000 at 1830

Council meeting – Tuesday 12 December 2000 at 1840

34th AGM – Saturday 21 January 2001 at 1035

Inaugural Council meeting of 2001 – Saturday 21 January 2001 at 1130

with a correction - the elected Club Representative (Midlands) on page 2 was Ian Midgley, not Ian Marshall.

Minutes Approved

10/01 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the EGM or the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12 December 2000.

AGM minutes - Lesley Gale pointed out that the name of Mike Tyler had been omitted from team *Carpet Eaters* in the presentation ceremony following the AGM (page 4 of the minutes).

Minutes of the inaugural Council meeting – page 4, item 3 – AGM. John Saunders said he had been surprised by the Hanover Hotel's £1 car park surcharge that had appeared - without proper notice - on accommodation accounts. The office had already complained verbally to the General Manager of the hotel about this, and it would now be followed up in writing. Chris Clements questioned whether the discount on the accommodation rate was sufficient for the volume of business that the BPA had brought to the hotel. Ian Midgley reported that the Development Committee had this afternoon approved use of the same venue for next year as most members appeared to have been generally content with it. The hotel had proposed significant price increases for next year, but these had already been negotiated down by the office, which would determine whether there was any further scope for negotiation on the room rate before the booking was confirmed.

Action: BPA Office

11/01 Drop Zone Defence Fund (DZDF)

Chris Jones, Chairman DZDF, outlined the purpose of this fund which was to assist in the event of a Drop Zone being threatened with closure. The fund currently stood at a little over £12K and by its constitution be matched pound for pound by any Drop Zone using it, which

gave a total of about £25K. This would not go far in meeting today's high legal costs. The DZDF Committee had therefore decided to invest £1K by a grant to the General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC), which was a pressure group with proven success. In return, GAAC had offered DZDF a seat on its Council which Chris Jones had accepted, (but was prepared to offer to a nominee of the BPA Council if it so wished). The DZDF Committee believed that the burden of Drop Zone protection should fall not solely on the minority of BPA Members whose contributions to the Fund were so gratefully received, but on the whole skydiving community. Chris Jones had therefore been mandated by the DZDF Committee to petition the BPA Council to match its grant to GACC.

After discussion, Ian Midgley proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that a one-off payment of £1K be made by the BPA to DZDF. The vote was 10 in favour, with 1 abstention.

Carried - Action: BPA Office

Tim Andrewes asked whether it might be possible for DZDF to take out an insurance policy as this might be a cost effective alternative to building up the size of the fund. Chris Jones said he would take back the suggestion to his Committee. He thanked the BPA for its contribution, and the Chairman thanked him for attending.

12/01 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

12.1 Development Committee meeting on 12 December 2000

Ian Marshall suggested that a Certificate of Achievement should be introduced as this would sometimes be more appropriate than a Certificate of Merit. John Smyth reported that the Competitions Committee was thinking along similar lines. Ian Midgley invited a written proposal for consideration by the Development Committee.

Action: Ian Marshall / Competitions Committee

There had been insufficient time for the office satisfactorily to complete trials of a new style of membership card to be able to introduce them for this year's renewals, which were already underway. It was now planned to introduce the new cards next year.

Chris Clements suggested that the BPA car window stickers should include the full name of the Association rather than just the logo, in order better to promote the Association to the wider public. Ian Midgley said that the stickers for this year had already been printed but invited Chris Clements to put her proposal to the Development Committee for next year.

Ratification of the minutes was proposed by Ian Midgley, seconded by Lofty Thomas, and carried unanimously.

Ratified

12.2 Safety and Training Committee meeting on 15 February 2001

An incident involving a jump by a Display Team Leader in breach of the Operations Manual had resulted in him landing on a roof. STC had permanently removed his Display Team Leader's rating and prohibited him from acting again as a jumpmaster on any parachuting sortie. Ian Marshall stated that in his opinion this sanction had been lenient in view of the seriousness of the breach.

Tony Butler reported that Skydive Wales were using Pembrey Airfield for the time being, and the ratified minutes would be amended to reflect this.

John Saunders proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the minutes be ratified, which carried unanimously.

Ratified

12.3 Communications Committee meeting on 12 December 2000

With the names of observers present being changed to read Craig Poxon and Matthew House, ratification of the minutes was proposed by Kieran Brady, seconded by Ian Midgley, and carried unanimously.

Ratified

12.4 Competitions Committee

The Competitions Committee had held an informal meeting on AGM day that had resulted, instead of meeting notes, in a draft Action Plan Matrix that John Smyth would table later in this meeting. The first formal meeting of the Competitions Committee of the current calendar year would be held next week, on Tuesday 27 February at 1830. This would enable the rules for the Nationals and Grand Prix to be published before the start of the competitions season.

13/01 Reports on significant matters from today's meetings

13.1 Communications Committee

Kieran Brady reported that the meeting of the Communications Committee scheduled for this afternoon had had to be postponed because an earlier meeting of the Development Committee had overrun. The Communications Committee had therefore been re-scheduled to meet next week. He also gave notice that a change in the hosting arrangements for the BPA and Magazine websites was being made to save money, which would bring the sites closer together. These changes were expected to take effect before the next Council meeting.

13.2 Development Committee

The Council congratulated Lofty Thomas who had been presented with a medal by the Regional Sports Council for Yorkshire, as runner-up in a regional award for the management of sport. Ian Midgley, who had put forward this nomination, called on Members in other regions to do the same by nominating likely candidates for similar awards in their own region.

Ian Midgley reported that the Development Committee had voted to co-opt Richard Tregaskes to the Committee for the year 2001 in order for him to progress his work on the BPA's application to the Sport England lottery fund for a grant to extend the BPA offices. His expenses in attending meetings would be paid by the BPA.

Most of the Development Committee's meeting today had been devoted to consideration of the Action Plan Matrix, which would be put forward to the Council in the next item.

14/01 Action Plan: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

The Chairman emphasised the importance of the annual Action Plan to further the sport. It served both as the vehicle by which to gain backing from the UK Sports Council and as a focus for the work of the Committees during the year, to be referred to as a progress check at each meeting. The Chairman said that each of the targets agreed today needed to be presented in the required format of a matrix item with a paragraph of supporting text, by no later than Tuesday 6 March in order that the overall plan could be submitted to UK Sport by the end of March. UK Sport would then decide on the amount of funding they would make available to the BPA, which they normally announced during May.

14.1 Competitions Action Plan

John Smyth tabled the Competitions Action Plan. In response to a question from Kieran Brady, he said that the budgets were intended to be flexible according to the amount of funding available. In response to a question from Kieran Brady, John Smyth confirmed that the Competitions budget would be resubmitted to the Council for review after the UK Sport decision on funding was known.

The Chairman reminded the Council that UK Sport had only resumed funding for competitions last year. UK Sport did not give reasons but in his view this welcome development had been because realistic funding criteria had been set by the BPA (based on performance equivalent or better to fourth place at the last world championships). He believed that the BPA had an obligation to add to any contribution by UK Sport to make up payments to teams and

individuals who had met these tough funding criteria to the full amount set out in the Action Plan budget.

The Council next considered each of the five competitions targets, as follows.

- 1 Target 1: To win a medal at the IOC-sponsored World Games in Japan by sponsoring team XL. Budget: £5K.

This would help to capitalise on the BPA's previous investment of £30K to prepare XL for the World Air Games in Spain (The British Olympic Association had declined the BPA's request for a contribution to funding). It would also enable the NCSO to attend as Head of the GB delegation. The event would be particularly significant because it was IOC-sponsored, which meant that there could be a real chance of skydiving being included as an Olympic sport within the next decade.

Competitions target 1 proposed by John Smyth, seconded by Tim Andrewes.

Carried unanimously

- 2 Target 2: To enhance coaching for junior and intermediate teams by a roadshow at Drop Zones. Budget: £20K.

This was part of a long-term strategy to develop talent for future competitions, although it would not be mandatory previously to have been a competitor to benefit from training at a roadshow. There followed a discussion about whether coaching came within the area of responsibility of the Development Committee or the Competitions Committee, and the consensus was that it lay properly within both. However, the Development Committee's remit was wider, as the Competitions Committee focused on competitors and potential competitors.

Competitions target 2 proposed by John Smyth, seconded by Ian Marshall. Vote: For – 10, Against – 1, Abstention – 1.

Carried

- 3 Target 3: More camera persons to increase the camera pool at National Competitions. Budget: £5K.

John Smyth reported that this too was part of a long-term strategy to increase the number of skilled camera persons.

Competitions target 3 proposed by John Smyth, seconded by Chris Clements. Vote: For - 11, Against - 1.

Carried

- 4 Target 4: Enhance coaching for senior teams. Budget £20K.

John Smyth explained that senior teams were often forgotten when it came to training camps. After discussion, reference to such training camps being 'in the UK' was deleted from the proposal. Kieran Brady pointed out that top international coaches were coming to Strathallan's event in August and the Chairman said that the opportunity should be taken for senior teams to benefit from this at little if any cost.

Competitions target 4 proposed by John Smyth, seconded by Chris Clements. Vote: For – 9, Against – 3.

Carried

- 5 Target 5: To increase further the internationally-qualified judges in all disciplines. Budget: £15K.
John Smyth said this was vital given the cancellation of judges' training seminars at the World Air Games 2001. John Hitchen said he would investigate, with the Competitions Committee, the feasibility of hosting an international judges' seminar in the UK.

Competitions target 5 proposed by John Smyth, seconded by Kieran Brady.

Carried unanimously

14.2 Safety and Training Action Plan

John Saunders tabled STC's Action Plan, comprising five targets.

- 1 Target 1: Increase the number of instructors from 468 to 500. Budget: £20K

Proposed by John Saunders, seconded by Tim Andrewes.

Carried unanimously

- 2 Target 2: Purchase a computer projector for instructor courses and safety meetings. Budget: £4K.

Proposed by John Saunders, seconded by Ian Midgley.

Carried unanimously

- 3 Target 3: Produce a malfunctions/safety video to improve student training. Budget £25K.

Proposed by John Saunders, seconded by Paul Applegate.

Carried unanimously

- 4 Target 4: Produce 2 or 3 safety posters for centres and reproduce them as advertisements in magazines for other aviation sports. Budget: £5K.

Proposed by John Saunders, seconded by Ian Midgley.

Carried unanimously

- 5 Target 5: Hold 3 instructor development seminars. Budget: £6K.

Proposed by John Saunders, seconded by Ian Midgley.

Carried unanimously

14.3 Development Action Plan

Ian Midgley said the following three targets had been proposed by the Development Committee.

- 1 Target 1: Publish an instruction manual on head-up flying (freeflying). Budget: £5K.

Proposed by Ian Midgley, seconded by Lofty Thomas.

Carried unanimously

- 2 Target 2: Carry out a survey of the Membership by questionnaire. Budget: £1K.

Proposed by Ian Midgley, seconded by Tim Andrewes.

Carried unanimously

- 3 Target 3: Consult Drop Zones on their facilities development plans with a view to the possibility of formulating a scheme whereby the BPA might make available grants to Affiliated clubs and centres to assist with the cost of development projects that met criteria to be specified.

Proposed by Ian Midgley, seconded by Lofty Thomas

Carried unanimously

14.4 Communications Action Plan

Kieran Brady said the Communications Committee had met briefly immediately before the Council meeting specifically to consider its proposals for the Action Plan. The Committee had identified one target, which was to continue work on the development of the BPA and Skydive Magazine websites. Budget: £9K. This target was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Paul Applegate.

Carried unanimously

14.5 Administration Action Plan

Five targets had been included in the draft matrix, as follows.

- 1 Target 1: Upgrade and extend the office e-mail system and web access. Budget: £4K.
- 2 Target 2: Introduce new style membership cards. Budget: £4K.
- 3 Target 3: Computerise pilot records and card generation. Budget: £3K.
- 4 Target 4: Improve office security. Budget: £2K
- 5 Target 5: Improve computer backup procedures. Budget: £1K.

All five administration targets together were proposed by Ian Midgley, and seconded by Ian Marshall.

Carried unanimously

15/01 Reports from Club Representatives

There were no reports to consider.

16/01 Royal Aero Club

The Council congratulated the following BPA Members who were to receive RAeC awards:

Silver Medal	Adrian Nicholas
Bronze Medal	Tony Knight
Prince of Wales Cup	V Max (women's 4-way FS team)
Certificate of Merit	John Carter
Nexus Trophy	Lesley Gale.

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that the RAeC's Centenary Awards Ceremony was to be held on 2 April at St James's Palace from 1800 to 2030, and tickets were available at about £20 each from the RAeC office (tel: 0116 253 1051).

The RAeC was inviting members of airsports governing bodies to the RAeC Centenary Dinner and Dance to be held in London in the autumn. Tickets would probably cost about £20 to £30. On a show of hands, 6 or 7 members of the BPA Council indicated they would be interested, which would be sufficient to reserve a table.

Finally, John Smyth reported that the BPA's annual subscription to RAeC was now due and proposed that, subject to confirmation by the BPA office that the increase on last year was in line with inflation, it should be paid. Ian Midgley seconded the proposal.

Carried unanimously

17/01 Bogus seller of parachute jumps

Ian Marshall reported on a bogus seller of parachute jumps who had recently been operating in South East London. He had been offering jumps with a leading display team at £20 each. A group of prospective jumpers had arrived at a Drop Zone last weekend wrongly believing that they had been booked in for sponsored jumps for charity. After discussion, the Council advised that the best course of action would be for the Drop Zone to report the matter to the police, as it appeared that the bogus seller had committed multiple offences of fraud.

18/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 24 April 2001 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2130.