

British Parachute Association

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THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2001 at 1830
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		
	John Smyth	-	Vice Chairman / Competitions Chairman
	Lofty Thomas		
In attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Observers:	Colin Fitzmaurice		
	Tom Hartland		
	Richard Tregaskes		
Apologies for absence:	Dona Crum		
	Ian Midgley		
	Craig Poxon		
	John Saunders		
	Carl Williams		

ITEM MINUTE

25/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2001

Paul Applegate proposed, and John Smyth seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2001 be approved, and this carried unanimously.

Approved

26/01 Matter arising: Council membership of Lesley Gale (minute 8)

The Chairman referred to minute 8 which set out the a proposal he had made at the last meeting. Voting had been held over until this meeting to allow time for Council Members fully to familiarise themselves with the precise wording of the BPA's Memorandum and Articles of Association. The relevant extracts had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of his suggestion that Lesley Gale should continue to be invited to attend Council meetings, without a vote, to speak for those who had voted for her in the Council election. This was then formally proposed by John Smyth and seconded by Ian Marshall.

Carried unanimously

At the last meeting, there had also been a proposal that Richard Tregaskes, who had been co-opted onto the Development Committee, should also be invited to be co-opted onto the Council. However, Richard Tregaskes said he was unfortunately unable to accept this invitation because of his present business commitments.

27/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2001

This had been a special meeting convened at short notice near the start of the foot and mouth epidemic, to consider its actual and potential effects on skydiving in the UK. John Smyth proposed, and David Hickling seconded, a motion that the minutes be approved and this carried unanimously.

Approved

28/01 Matter arising: The effect of a prolonged closure on Drop Zones (minute 27)

John Smyth reported that he had spoken to Jim Crocker, Chairman of the RAeC Parliamentary Committee. Jim Crocker and his Committee planned to lobby Members of Parliament about the need for government compensation for those whose livelihoods had been affected by restrictions on air sports to help reduce the risk of the spread of foot and mouth disease. However, their view was that the most effective time to do this would be once the terms of the government's compensation package to farmers had been settled. Then it would be timely to remind government that it was not only within the farming community that livelihoods had been affected. It had to be recognised that compensation was a long-term goal and to lobby for it too soon might be counter-productive because in public perception farming had to take priority over leisure sports. The Council took note of this wise counsel and hoped that the RAeC's lobbying would prove to be effective.

Action: Ongoing

The Chairman reported that most of the Drop Zones that had been closed or severely restricted in their operations had now re-opened, sometimes at alternative temporary locations. The general picture appeared to be that most Drop Zones were slowly returning to normal, and it was likely that this trend would continue over the next few weeks.

Among the centres that had remained entirely closed for the longest periods, and without any temporary re-location, were Border, Black Knights and Merlin, all in the north of England. Tim Andrewes said he understood that Black Knights had recently been given permission to re-open, but Border remained closed with no indication of when operations might resume. Bob Parry of Black Knights had written to the BPA to enquire of the position on compensation for loss of income. The Chairman said that the first call of centres that rented land on farms should be the landlord. The other possibility, of government compensation, was being pursued by the RAeC as already reported, and by CCPR. Tim Andrewes said that neighbouring Drop Zone Operators had been very supportive and fortunately he had been able to reduce his DZ's outgoings to an absolute minimum. He hoped that the problem would pass within the next six weeks, but if not Border would find itself in extreme difficulty.

In answer to a question, Tony Butler indicated that STC had given a number of centres temporary clearances to use specific alternative locations only for the duration of the foot and mouth restrictions.

29/01 Minute of Postal Vote of Council called on 9 March 2001

The minute of the postal vote of the Council, for John Smyth to be funded (between £1K and £1.5K) to attend the World Air Games 2001 as GB Delegation Administrator, was noted.

The Chairman apologised for the need to hold a postal vote. This had arisen because John Smyth had planned to go unfunded but had found shortly before the deadline for registration that he could no longer do so.

The postal vote to fund John Smyth had been carried with one vote against. Chris Clements said she had voted against because although she supported the decision, she believed that the situation that led to it might have been avoided by broadening the invitation to other people. This was a matter for discussion by the Competitions Committee in relation to future GB delegations.

John Smyth thanked the Council for its support, and said that it appeared that the total cost would fall well below the maximum of the allocated range.

30/01 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

30.1 Development Committee meeting on 20 February 2001

In the absence of Ian Midgley, Kieran Brady proposed, and David Hickling seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 20 February be ratified and this carried unanimously.

Ratified

30.2 Safety and Training Committee meeting on 5 April 2001

In the absence of John Saunders, John Hitchen (who had chaired the meeting) highlighted key items from the minutes.

An Instructor whose ratings had been withdrawn by STC following the report of a Panel of Enquiry, had appealed against this decision. STC had considered the appeal and voted, with only one abstention from a member of the Panel, in favour of upholding its original decision. It was not known whether or not the Instructor would now wish to make a further appeal: if so, it would be to the Council.

Ian Marshall pointed out a typographical error in the appended report on the Instructors' course in February. The total number of candidates was out by one.

Paul Applegate proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 5 April 2001 be ratified, and this carried unanimously.

Ratified

30.3 Communications Committee meeting on 20 February 2001

Kieran Brady proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the minutes of the short meeting of the Communications Committee held on 20 February 2001, be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

30.4 Competitions Committee meetings on 27 February and 27 March 2001

John Smyth highlighted key issues from two meetings of the Competitions Committee that had been held since the last Council meeting.

30.4.1 World Games – Akita, Japan, August 2001

XL had been invited to compete in the IOC-sponsored World Games in Akita, Japan, from 16-26 August. A budget of £5K had been included in the 2001/2 Action Plan Matrix for the team's participation in this event. The Plan had been submitted to UK Sport but it would be next month before UK Sport's decision on funding was known. August was the height of the tourist season in Japan and the organisers had advised XL to book their flights now to avoid disappointment. The entry fee was extremely modest (because of IOC sponsorship) and by

far the main cost was travel. If XL failed to register, a German team was ready and waiting to take their place.

Although the event was IOC-sponsored and all NOCs had been asked to support their national teams, John Smyth had twice approached the British Olympic Association for funding and had on each occasion been advised that support was reserved for Olympic sports only.

John Hitchen confirmed that the Akita event would have a high profile as IPC was funding substantial media coverage (on extreme sports television programmes / channels). IPC hoped to get a payback in sponsorship.

After discussion, John Smith proposed that the BPA should underwrite XL's participation by guaranteeing funding of up to £5K even if it was not provided by UK Sport, subject to the team displaying clearly visible evidence of sponsorship by BPA and UK Sport. Lofty Thomas seconded this proposal.

The voting was: For – 7, Against – 1.

Carried

There was a discussion about BPA badges and it was suggested that something attractive might be produced, perhaps based on the GB delegation's special logo for the World Air Games.

The Competitions Committee had wanted John Hitchen to go to the World Games in Akita as Head of Delegation. John Hitchen had reported that in his view it was cost-prohibitive, as the entry fee for a Head of Delegation was not subsidised like that of competitors and there was also the cost of flights. The Competitions Committee, and now the full Council, respected his view.

30.1.2 Omniskore at the FS Nationals

The Chairman noted that currently only Bob Charters was able to set up Omniskore. He said it should not be difficult to set up for someone with knowledge of computers – the operating instructions were on the Internet. He asked that local jumpers who worked in computers should be asked to help if they could, and John Smyth said he would pass on this suggestion to Helen Swallow at Target Skyports, Hibaldstow, the host DZ.

30.1.3 Coaching Roadshows

John Smyth reported that some 40 jumpers – including 20 from the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade teams – had been due to go to the first Coaching Roadshow in CF that had been organised by Ian Marshall to take place at Headcorn at the end of March. Unfortunately, restrictions due to the foot and mouth epidemic had forced the event to be postponed to a date to be arranged. A smaller Classics Coaching Roadshow had taken place at Bridlington earlier this month, but only local jumpers had attended. The foot and mouth situation had disrupted future planning and delayed this year's programme to later in the season.

Kieran Brady would discuss, after the meeting, his offer to host Coaching Roadshows at Strathallan with the discipline representatives present. He was also expecting to hear from Dona Crum.

30.1.4 World Air Games, Spain: 22 June-2 July 2001

GB Delegation T-shirts were being printed with a purpose-designed logo by Sarah-Jayne Thomas. There would be a package of two short-sleeved and one long-sleeved T-shirt for each competitor and accompanying person. One of the short-sleeved shirts for each person had been kindly supplied by Airtec GmbH, manufacturers of the Cypres AAD, and was being overprinted with the GB delegation identity with Airtec's approval. Sponsorship of £100 towards the cost of the other shirts had been kindly provided by APA Netheravon, to whom the Council extended its most grateful thanks. The shirts would be sold as a package of 3 costing about £16-£17.

30.1.5 Ratification of minutes

John Smyth proposed, and Chris Clements seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meetings of the Competitions Committee held on 27 February and 27 March 2001 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

31/01 Reports on meetings held earlier today

31.1 Communications Committee

Kieran Brady reported that the Communications Committee had reviewed the workload involved in producing *Skydive Magazine* with Lesley Gale, Editor. The Committee had agreed that Lesley Gale should take on full-time secretarial assistance in view of the increased workload following the growth in the number of pages in each issue since she had become Editor. The cost of this would come entirely from the existing magazine budget, and no additional funding would be involved. Kieran Brady would consult with the Chairman about the new assistant's employment particulars, bearing in mind that Lesley Gale was self-employed. The Committee had also started to think about the bigger picture for the long-term future of the magazine.

The BPA and Skydive Magazine websites had both been transferred to a new host ahead of further development.

31.2 Development Committee

In Ian Midgley's absence, Kieran Brady reported that he had chaired this afternoon's meeting of the Development Committee. The Committee had reviewed the first course for Drop Zone Operators which had been held in February. Only 6 people had attended, but had found the day to be genuinely useful. The possibility of planning a second course, on IT for next February, would be considered in October as the summer was the wrong time of year for DZO courses. On another item, Richard Tregaskes had been co-opted to the Development Committee pursue the BPA's application for Sport England lottery funding for an office extension. The latest news was that there were more forms to complete!

32/01 Reports from Club Representatives

Closures and restrictions due to the foot and mouth epidemic had prevented Chris Clements and Craig Poxon from making any visits to clubs in their Southern Region.

Kieran Brady reported that Lofty Thomas had attended the presentation at Peterlee of a BPA Certificate of Merit to Nicola Henderson, an adventurous teenager without hearing or speech and only limited sight, who had done a tandem jump. Kieran Brady had planned to attend too, and combine it with a club visit, but had been asked to delay because of the foot and mouth epidemic. However, with Lofty Thomas's help, the presentation had been a great success and well covered by the local media through the assistance of the charity Sense, which supported people with sensory deprivation. Ian Rosenvinge of Peterlee had been delighted with the occasion and it was clear that special events like this helped to bring the BPA and the clubs even closer together.

Kieran Brady reported that Wild Geese's student DZ was closed because of the foot and mouth epidemic and that they had made an application for their main DZ at Moevins also to be cleared for students. However, STC had not agreed to this and as a result Dave Penny had made a complaint. It was clear that this was an issue that had a long history and Kieran Brady passed the matter to the Chairman for attention.

The Chairman asked Club Representatives to set out in writing, however briefly, any significant issues arising from Club visits and to send these to the office so they could be circulated ahead of a Council meeting. This would give Council Members time to consider matters that had been raised, and so aid informed decisions.

33/01 Royal Aero Club

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that the RAeC's Centenary Awards Ceremony had been held on 2 April at St James's Palace. Five awards had been presented by HRH The Duke of York to BPA Members. Good representation from the partners of award winners, the BPA Council and staff had helped to make the presentation ceremony the best ever. In fact, the event had been dominated by skydivers who had imbued the evening with a young and vibrant atmosphere that had been enjoyed by all who had been present. John Smyth thanked everyone in the BPA who had contributed to such a fantastic evening.

There had, however, been a concern about the allocation of tickets to award winners. Team VMax had won the Prince of Wales Cup and although there had been five members of the winning team (and a sixth new member), the RAeC had issued a complimentary ticket for only one person to represent the team. Other team members had been expected to buy their own tickets. When he had heard of this, John Smyth had initially disbelieved it but, on checking with RAeC only to find it was the case, he had immediately contacted Chris Allen who had agreed that the BPA should pay. John Smyth had the full support of the Chairman and Council to raise this issue as a matter of principle at the next meeting of the RAeC.

The date of the RAeC Centenary Dinner had been fixed for Thursday 15 November at the RAF Club in London, in the presence of HRH The Duke of York. The cost of tickets had still to be finalised but would probably now be about £35-£40. It would be an excellent opportunity for Council Members to meet those from the governing bodies of other airsports and promised to be a memorable evening.

34/01 Action Plan: 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

The Action Plan had now been published and a copy sent to UK Sport as an application for funding. The Plan was not confidential, but the budgets were not final and should not therefore be published at this stage. The budgets would be revisited once the decision on funding from UK Sport was known – this was expected to be in time for the next meeting. The Chairman requested that the Action Plan should be used as a working document to be referred to at every committee meeting during the year.

35/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19 June 2001 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1955.

Distribution: Council, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Staff, Editor - Skydive Mag