

British Parachute Association

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THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2001 at 1740
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	-	Chairman
	Tim Andrewes	-	Competitions Vice Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Kieran Brady	-	Communications Chairman
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	Craig Poxon		
	Lofty Thomas		
	Carl Williams		
In attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Bob Card	-	Vice President
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer (from item 46)
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Apologies for absence:	Dona Crum		
	Chris Clements		
	David Hickling		
	Ian Marshall		
	John Smyth	-	Vice Chairman / Competitions Chairman

ITEM MINUTE

36/01 Resignation from Council of John Saunders

The Chairman noted with regret John Saunders' decision in his letter dated 21 May (circulated) to stand down from Council and as Chairman of STC because of the time commitments of his new full-time employment. Kieran Brady proposed a vote of thanks to John Saunders and this was unanimously endorsed by all present. His contribution would be greatly missed but the Council fully understood the reasons for his decision, and sent him best wishes for the future. The Chairman would write to John Saunders to convey these sentiments.

Action: Chairman

Chairmanship of STC for the remainder of the current year would be considered later in the meeting (minute 42 refers).

37/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2001

Subject to the correction of the name 'Ian Marshall' to read 'Ian Midgley' in the apologies for absence, Ian Midgley proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2001 be approved, and this carried unanimously.

Approved

38/01 Matters arising

38.1 DZ closures due to Foot and Mouth Disease (minute 28)

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from the Royal Aero Club which had suggested that farmers would receive government compensation first, and that any government payments to other affected groups would be far less certain. It therefore appeared to be unlikely that parachute centres would qualify for compensation. The Inland Revenue had made a provision for delayed payment of tax by businesses affected by foot and mouth disease, and the BPA office had sent details to the Clubs that had been most severely affected. A similar provision was understood to apply to VAT. Border Parachute Centre was now believed to be the only centre still closed, and Tim Andrewes (DZO) reported that grants were available from his local Business Link for re-training and promotion. Re-training grants would help to enable his instructors etc to maintain their jump numbers despite the prolonged closure of the DZ.

38.2 Cost of team tickets to the RAeC Awards Ceremony (minute 33)

The Chairman's correspondence with Jim Crocker of RAeC had been circulated. The RAeC's position remained that the economics of their Awards Ceremony enabled them to provide only one complimentary ticket per winning team, much as though they would like to provide more. The RAeC had not accepted the BPA's suggestion that they would benefit from additional tickets sales to family and friends that would be likely to result from issuing a complimentary ticket to each member of a winning team. The Chairman hoped that, for the avoidance of doubt, the RAeC would in future set out its policy on complimentary tickets in the documentation inviting submissions for awards.

39/01 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

39.1 Development Committee meeting on 24 April 2001

Kieran Brady proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 24 April 2001 be ratified and this carried unanimously.

Ratified

39.2 Safety and Training Committee meeting on 7 June 2001

John Saunders had stood down as STC Chairman before this meeting (minute 36 refers) and it had therefore been chaired by John Hitchen who was in attendance now to answer any questions. There being no questions, Paul Applegate proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 7 June 2001 should be ratified and this carried unanimously.

Ratified

39.3 Communications Committee meeting on 24 April 2001

Kieran Brady proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Communications Committee held on 24 April 2001 be ratified and this carried unanimously.

Ratified

39.4 Competitions Committee meeting on 15 May 2001

Tim Andrewes pointed out an inconsistency in minute 30 concerning the number of senior competitors who had attended the Classics Grand Prix at Bridlington on 5-6 May. This would be corrected at the next meeting of the Competitions Committee and therefore the wording 'Katherine Andrewes had been the only senior competitor to attend' would be omitted from ratification.

The Chairman reported that, at the date of the meeting on 15 May, Dona Crum had not renewed her BPA Membership for the year beginning 1 April 2001 and had therefore not been entitled to vote. She had since renewed, on 22 May. (The last Council meeting had not been affected because Dona Crum had not been present.) It was confirmed that the office had in place a system to remind Council Members about the need for renewal, which had operated normally this year. However, the responsibility for timely renewal rested with the individual. Kieran Brady noted that the same issue had arisen with others during the last few years. Lesley Gale pointed out that Article 59 in the BPA's Articles of Association safeguarded business transacted in such circumstances. The Council asked that the matter be raised at the next meeting with Dona Crum present to clarify the reason for the delay.

Action: Next meeting

Tim Andrewes reported that there had been no tied votes at the meeting of the Competitions Committee on 15 May, and that the number of voting Members present had been comfortably in excess of a quorum. He therefore proposed that the minutes of this meeting should be ratified, apart from the inconsistency in minute 30. Paul Applegate seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Ratified

Tim Andrewes reported further to minute 28.2, Classics Nationals, that Dave Johnston (host DZO) remained concerned that too few competitors would enter this year's competition at Bridlington for him to recover the cost of judges and medals. His preliminary enquiries had indicated that possibly as few as 10 competitors were planning to enter. Chris Clements (Classics Discipline Representative) had helpfully issued a letter to Clubs to elicit support and a publicity sheet from Bridlington itself had also just been circulated. Dave Johnston would have to decide, within the next few weeks, whether or not it would be financially viable for him to continue with the Classics Nationals.

Kieran Brady said that he was running an Accuracy Coaching Seminar at Strathallan at the same time as the Classics Nationals. He had already offered to cancel this in support of the Classics Nationals. Alternatively, should Bridlington decide not to run the Classics Nationals, Strathallan would be prepared to host it on the original dates. The Chairman thanked Kieran Brady for this offer but said that, should the need arise for relocation of the Classics Nationals, in fairness to all centres it should first be offered to other Clubs that had originally put in a bid and then, if necessary, all other Drop Zones should be invited to bid.

Kieran Brady noted that in Competitions minute 29.3 it had been recorded that Bryan Dyas had enquired why the Scottish Nationals were always held at Strathallan. The Competitions Chairman had correctly said that this was not a BPA meet. Kieran Brady stated for the record that the Scottish Parachute Club was formed in 1960, the first Scottish Nationals was held in 1961 (a year before the formation of the BPA), and the Scottish Sport Parachute Association was formed in 1972. It was therefore absolutely the case that the Scottish Nationals belonged to the Scottish Parachute Club, which was now trading as Skydive Strathallan. If Brian Dyas wished to put in a bid to Strathallan, Kieran Brady said he would be delighted to sell him the rights to run the Scottish Nationals in any particular year, but that a loss of between £4K to £6K should be anticipated, depending on the size of the meet.

Pursuant to Competitions minute 31, World Air Games (WAG), Chris Allen reported that he had today spoken by telephone to John Smyth who was at the WAG training camp at Armilla Air Force Base, Granada, Spain. XL had been able to make only 5 jumps since their arrival last Saturday, due mainly to problems at air traffic control. Style and Accuracy had not yet been set up. VMax were due to arrive today. There had been significant problems with accommodation, which fortunately John Smyth had been able to resolve ahead of our teams' arrivals. This was in sharp contrast to another national delegation that had reportedly to wait at the DZ for some 8 hours for their accommodation to be settled.

40/01 Reports on meetings held earlier today

40.1 Communications Committee

Kieran Brady reported that the Communications Committee had considered a report on the progress of *Skydive Magazine* and discussed with Lesley Gale suggestions for the future. Options for printing, in due course, a further run of *Skydive Starter Magazine* - to replace present stocks as they became exhausted - had also been discussed in outline and would now be costed. The Editorial contract had been considered at its first routine annual review. The consensus was that it had been an effective document for all parties to which only minor variations were required before the contract was agreed for a further year. Finally, the Committee had received a report on the BPA website which had been free from significant problems since its transfer to new hosts earlier in the year, and was now undergoing further development.

40.2 Development Committee

Ian Midgley reported that the 2001/2 Development Plan had been discussed and tasks allocated amongst Members of the Committee. The BPA computer system had recently picked up some viruses through e-mail which may have involved the website. The viruses had soon been removed and the BPA office computer network was now clean, and anti-virus software had been installed to help to prevent a recurrence. One of the signs of the type of computer virus involved was that the virus itself sent spurious e-mails with random content and attachments, so if any such mails were received from the BPA, they should immediately be reported to the office.

Lofty Thomas was shortly to attend a conference in Leeds on planning for the Commonwealth Games 2002 to be held in Manchester. The Development Committee had proposed, subject to the Council's agreement, that Lofty Thomas should suggest that a parachute display team should open the Games, as had been done at the Seoul Olympics. The Council supported the idea of putting forward this suggestion. If it was well received, financial arrangements would need to be discussed with all interested parties.

Action: Lofty Thomas

41/01 Action Plan 2001/2 – Exchequer Funding from UK Sport

The Chairman was pleased to report that UK Sport had made an exchequer grant of £45,000 (which was the same as last year) to the BPA in support of the Action Plan for the year from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 inclusive. UK Sport had, again as last year, specified that the grant comprised £20,000 for safety and £25,000 for competitions. The Chairman thanked all Members of Council and its Subcommittees for the work they had undertaken in preparing the successful bid to UK Sport.

42/01 Chairmanship of STC

The Chairman reported that John Hitchen had acted as Chairman of STC following John Saunders' decision to stand down in late May (minute 36). Council now had to make provision for the rest of the year. As there had been no other nominations for Chairman of STC at this year's inaugural meeting of Council, Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that John Hitchen should be co-opted as a Member of Council for the remainder of the year (until the AGM in January 2002) in order that he could continue as Chairman of STC until that date. John Hitchen confirmed that he was prepared to take on this additional duty if the Council so wished.

Carried unanimously

The Chairman thanked John Hitchen for his help.

43/02 Reports from Club Representatives

A written report from Chris Clements on her visits to Devon & Somerset PC and Netheravon was noted with thanks.

Kieran Brady had visited Hibaldstow last weekend, where the FS Grand Prix had been due to take place but had been postponed until next weekend because of bad weather. The DZ had

expressed disappointment that, although John Hitchen from the BPA had been present, apparently no member of the Competitions Committee had contacted it ahead of the competition, or been present for the event. Kieran Brady said that it would be helpful for the Competitions Committee to set out its policy in this area. Hibaldstow had also noted that, although it had been keen to host a Coaching Roadshow – the concept of which it warmly supported – it had not yet been approached to host one and had had to initiate contact.

The Chairman said that the points raised with Chris Clements during her visit to Devon & Somerset PC about competitor funding, and with Kieran Brady at his visit to Hibaldstow as set out above, would be considered by the Competitions Committee.

Action: Refer Competitions Committee

Kieran Brady further reported that those to whom he had spoken at Hibaldstow had been content with the BPA website and the Starter Magazine. Some misgivings had been expressed to him about too much foreign coverage in Skydive Magazine, but when invited to quantify this no firm evidence had been offered. It could therefore only be concluded that this was more a perception than a reality, perhaps even a positive manifestation of loyalty to the home nations!

The Chairman thanked Chris Clements and Kieran Brady for making these visits.

44/01 Royal Aero Club

The Chairman said that no report on RAeC matters would be made this evening as both the BPA's Delegate and Alternate Delegate to RAeC, John Smyth and Ian Marshall, were at the World Air Games in Spain.

The question of the BPA's nominations, through RAeC, to IPC for 2002 was discussed. Tim Andrewes asked why this item had been included in the agenda as Council had passed a motion a few years ago that the present nominations would stand unless there was a reason for any proposed change to be voted upon. The Chairman confirmed that there had been no proposal for any change. Kieran Brady therefore proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the present nominations should remain: John Hitchen as Delegate and Bob Card as Alternate Delegate.

Carried unanimously

Ian Midgley then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the present nominations should remain in place until there was any specific reason to reconsider them.

Carried unanimously

(Note: Annual nomination to IPC is required of the BPA by RAeC and the item was included on the agenda on receipt of the request from RAeC purely as a matter of good practice.)

45/01 BPA Safety Statement

The Chairman referred to the discussion document *Should the BPA publish a Safety Statement?* that had been circulated with the agenda. Tony Butler explained that the BPA had received a number of requests for risk assessments on sport parachuting, and more were expected in the future as the risk assessment approach became more significant. A safety statement was a way of seeking to express the link between risk assessments and the BPA Operations Manual, which set out measures for the control of risk in the sport.

Craig Poxon had invited comment from BPA Member Martin Elliott who had particular knowledge of the general area of risk assessment. Martin Elliott who had sent a very helpful response to the discussion document, for which the Council was most grateful.

The Chairman said that this was an important area and one in which any actions by the BPA had to be carefully considered. It was important that the BPA liaised with other sports through bodies such as UK Sport and CCPR so that, so far as was possible, it adopted a consensual approach rather than ploughed a lone furrow.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the BPA staff should continue to investigate risk assessment for sport parachuting and report back in due course.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office

Craig Poxon asked whether the discussion document might be posted on the BPA website to invite further comment. Tony Butler believed this would be premature as much was likely to become clearer as a result of the further investigation that the Council had just commissioned.

46/01 Staff Liaison Officer

The Chairman reported that, it being for them to choose, the staff had invited Ian Midgley to succeed John Saunders as Staff Liaison Officer. Ian Midgley had accepted and the Chairman thanked him for taking on the role.

47/01 Staff salary review

Staff members in attendance left the meeting for this item. After discussion Ian Midgley proposed with the agreement of the Treasurer, and Carl Williams seconded, a motion that a pay increase of 3%, in line with inflation, should be made to all BPA staff, to be effective from the start of the BPA's new financial year on 1 July 2001.

Carried unanimously

Ian Midgley said that, during the year ahead, he would seek to compare BPA staff pay rates so far as was possible with comparable posts in similar organisations so that the Council could take any findings into account at next year's staff salary review.

48/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 21 August 2001 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1835.