

# British Parachute Association

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## THE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**TUESDAY 21 AUGUST 2001 at 1805**  
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Allen	-	Chairman
	Tim Andrewes		
	Paul Applegate		
	Kieran Brady	-	Communications Chairman
	Ian Marshall		
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	Craig Poxon		
	John Smyth	-	Vice Chairman / Competitions Chairman
	Lofty Thomas		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Beverly Fairhurst	-	Skydive Magazine (from item 51.1.2)
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine (from item 51.1.2)
	Jon Gretton	-	Financial Administrator (to item 51)
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Chris Clements		
	Dona Crum		
	David Hickling		
	Carl Williams		

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## ITEM MINUTE

### 49/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2001

Ian Midgley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2001 be approved, and this carried unanimously.

**Approved**

### 50/01 Matters arising

#### 50.1 Resignation of John Saunders (minute 36)

The Chairman confirmed that he had written a letter of thanks to John Saunders.

#### 50.2 Late renewal of a Membership (minute 39.4)

Consideration of this item was held over until the next meeting.

### **50.3 Commonwealth Games 2002 - Suggestion of a parachute display (minute 40.2)**

As agreed at the last meeting, Lofty Thomas had written to the organisers of the Commonwealth Games to be held in Manchester in 2002 with the BPA's suggestion that a parachute display might form part of the opening ceremony. He had received a reply (copy circulated) to say that the suggestion had been passed to the production company that was handling the opening ceremony. If he heard nothing more within two months, he would write a follow up letter. The Chairman confirmed that the intention was for any display to be funded from the budget allocated by the organisers of the Games for their opening ceremony and not by the BPA, and this should be made clear in any correspondence.

**Action: Lofty Thomas**

### **51/01 Draft Accounts: 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001**

The draft audited accounts for the year 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 had been circulated. Lesley Gale had requested the figures for *Skydive Mag* and *Skydive Starter Mag* to be separated out, and Jon Gretton would ask the auditors to do this, and arrange for the revised page to be circulated.

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

Debbie Carter confirmed that, in relation to the missing figure to be added at note 7 to the accounts, the value of the BPA's investment bond with Clerical Medical as at 30 June 2001 was nominally £600,000, although only approximately £550,000 would have been realised had it been encashed on that date because of charges for early surrender.

After further discussion and clarification of various figures, Ian Midgley proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the accounts be adopted.

**Carried unanimously**

### **52/01 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

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

#### **52.1 Safety and Training Committee meeting on 9 August 2001**

##### **52.1.1 Student and Exert Cypres AAD**

The Chairman, Chris Allen, declared an interest in this matter. Therefore John Smyth, Vice Chairman of Council, took the chair for this item only. John Hitchen (Acting Chairman, STC) outlined the meetings, discussions and correspondence which had taken place both within the BPA, and with Airtec (manufacturers of the Cypres AAD) about the pros and cons of using the Expert Cypres AAD on student equipment. A motion that the Student Cypres AAD should be used on student parachute equipment, as per the manufacturers' recommendations, had been carried at STC. However, the voting had been 3 for, 0 against with 8 abstentions. STC itself had recorded its concern over the high number of abstentions, because many of the CCIs present had believed it to be impossible to make an informed decision from the information available. The Council shared concern over the high number of abstentions at STC, and noted a proposal by fax from Council Member and CCI Dave Hickling that the issue should be referred back to STC for further consideration. Chris Allen had set out a number of questions for STC to ask Airtec, which he would pass to John Hitchen, as he believed the answers would help to cast more light on the matter.

After further discussion, Ian Midgley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the matter be referred back to STC to re-appraise the evidence and endeavour to reach a decision which commanded more representative support from the CCIs.

For - 7    Against - 0    Abstentions - 1 (Chris Allen)

**Carried**

##### **52.1.2 Fatal accidents**

The Council gave its condolences to the relatives and friends of two parachutists who had lost their lives in parachuting accidents.

The first accident had been to a first-time jumper at Tilstock on 23 June 2001. John Hitchen thanked Chris Allen, Tim Andrewes and John Saunders for forming a Board of Inquiry, which

had now reported. As a result, STC were to include unstable exits within a Panel of Inquiry to consider injuries to first-time student jumpers, including RAPS. A letter had just been issued to CCIs seeking volunteers to join the Panel of Inquiry, which would take as broad a view as possible and seek information from other parachuting associations around the world. The Council recognised the significance of this project, and the need for it to be adequately funded in order that the work could be undertaken thoroughly and for the findings to be available at the earliest opportunity.

The second fatality had been on 25 July 2001 when an experienced and current military parachutist and instructor had made a late riser turn at a demonstration and had impacted with the ground at an estimated 70mph, some 18" from the crowd line. STC had carried a motion that a Panel of Inquiry need not be convened in this case. The fatality was also the subject of a military inquiry.

#### **52.1.3 Fitness to parachute forms**

In response to a question from the Chairman, Tony Butler confirmed that changes to the 'fitness to parachute' forms as set out in item 7 of the STC minutes would be included in routine liaison with the BPA's insurers.

#### **52.1.4 Ratification of minutes**

Subject to referral back to STC for further consideration of the use of Student and Expert Cyprus AADs for student parachutists (minute 52.1.1), Paul Applegate proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting of 9 August be ratified and this carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

#### **52.2 Competitions Committee meeting on 10 July 2001**

John Smyth presented the minutes, which had included a summary of the World Air Games (WAG) 2001 that had been more fully covered in the August Magazine. He reported that he was proposing to introduce performance indicators to ensure that funds spent on skills coaching roadshows were achieving best value for the BPA. The performance indicators would be based on the numbers attending and jumping at each roadshow event, and would enable future resources to be carefully targeted to achieve maximum benefit. He would welcome any feedback outside the meeting on roadshow events to date, as the Competitions Committee was to review the situation at its meeting next week. With regard to a FS skills coaching roadshow held at one Drop Zone the weekend before the Nationals were held at an adjacent Drop Zone, this was now understood by all concerned to have been nothing more than an unfortunate and entirely unintentional clash of dates.

John Smyth proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 10 July 2001 be ratified and this carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

On behalf of the competitors at WAG, Ian Marshall thanked John Smyth, John Hitchen and Martin Shuttleworth for their hard work on behalf of the British delegation.

#### **52.3 Communications Committee meeting on 19 June 2001**

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Communications Committee held on 19 June 2001 be ratified and this carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

#### **52.4 Development Committee meeting on 19 June 2001**

Ian Midgley proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 19 June 2001 be ratified and this carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

## **53/01 Reports on meetings held earlier today**

### **53.1 Communications Committee**

Kieran Brady reported that the Communications Committee had extended the present Editorial contract by agreement with Lesley Gale until the next meeting in October, because certain information required for the new contract was not yet available. The Magazine had made a profit of £8K in the financial year ended 30 June 2001. Discussions had taken place about the development of the BPA and Magazine websites. Finally, Lesley Gale had introduced Beverly Fairhurst, her new Editorial Assistant, who was also in attendance tonight.

### **53.2 Development Committee**

Ian Midgley reported that the Development Committee was progressing the Freely Manual. It had also discussed the question of banner advertising on the BPA website, and concluded that this was acceptable, at the discretion of the committee, normally as long as it was promoting services or equipment for use in the UK (ie, not advertising facilities or courses abroad) - the purpose of the BPA website being to promote skydiving in the UK. Advertising prices would be further considered at the next meeting, as some feedback had been received to suggest that the commercial rates that had been proposed were too high for the UK parachuting community.

The Development Committee had established a working party comprising Ian Midgley, Kieran Brady, Tony Butler and Jon Gretton to draft guidelines on the eligibility of Council Members and others for expenses on BPA business other than Council meetings (for which the policy was well established). Tim Andrewes kindly offered to join this working party to provide a competitions perspective.

Finally, Ian Midgley reported that when a vote had been carried by the Development Committee on his proposal to keep to the previously agreed budget of £2K for the maintenance and development of the Magazine Website, it had been on the understanding that the budget period was until the end of March 2002. In fact, the financial year ran through to 30 June 2002. There was therefore a likelihood that this item would go over budget by the end of June and that an additional amount, possibly £750, might need to be added. Kieran Brady confirmed that any such amount that might be agreed could come from the existing Magazine budget.

## **54/01 Appeal against a decision by STC on 7 December 2000**

STC, at its meeting on 7 December 2000, had unanimously accepted the recommendations of a Panel of Inquiry into incidents involving Jeff Chandler. These were that his advanced, tandem and rigger ratings were revoked, and he would not be allowed to apply to have any of these ratings reinstated for a minimum of three years, at which time he must go through the instructor and rigger ratings courses as per the BPA Operations Manual. Jeff Chandler had subsequently appealed to STC against this decision. His appeal had been unsuccessful.

Jeff Chandler had now appealed to the Council against the decision by STC. A dossier comprising the Panel of Inquiry's Report, relevant extracts from STC minutes, and correspondence with the BPA to and from Jeff Chandler had been circulated with the agenda. In his letter of appeal to the Council, dated 9 July 2001, Jeff Chandler had stated that he would not be able to come to a meeting in Leicester to present his appeal in person.

The Council discussed the appeal. STC had followed the appropriate procedures in establishing the Panel of Inquiry and considering its recommendations. The Inquiry had been conducted fairly and without any evidence of bias, and Jeff Chandler had been offered the opportunity to present his case both in person and in writing. In his appeal to the Council, Jeff Chandler had not set out any reasonable basis on which STC's decision could be questioned. Some Council Members believed that the basis of the appeal was difficult to comprehend and that had Jeff Chandler chosen to appear in person he could perhaps have explained it more clearly. Lofty Thomas said that historically consideration of appeals had been deferred until the next meeting if the appellant had been unable to appear. However, the Chairman said that the dossier that had been circulated contained evidence that Jeff Chandler had declined

the invitation to present his appeal in person, and that the Council had to respect that choice by considering the appeal now rather than leaving it in abeyance. Lofty Thomas said he believed that if an appellant did not appear, the status quo should remain.

Ian Midgley proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that as there was no basis for Jeff Chandler's appeal against the STC decision to be accepted by the Council, the appeal should therefore be declared unsuccessful. The voting was:

For - 5    Against - 0    Abstentions - 3

**Carried**

Lofty Thomas and Ian Marshall wished to place on record that they had abstained from voting because they were unhappy that Jeff Chandler had not appeared in person. Kieran Brady stated that he had abstained from voting because he did not understand Jeff Chandler's letter of appeal.

#### **55/01 Reports from Club Representatives**

A written report from Chris Clements in absentia on her visit to Hinton was tabled and noted with thanks.

Craig Poxon gave a verbal report on his visit to North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris. There had been positive feedback about the way teams had conducted themselves at competitions. There had also been a suggestion that a skills coaching roadshow in canopy *control* (not canopy formation) might be considered - to go beyond IC1 in canopy handling. Paul Applegate said that as there was no formal rating for coaches specifically in canopy control, coaching should be available as part of the normal coaching package at any Drop Zone rather than as a special event. However, John Smyth believed that there was an opportunity to include canopy control in the Competitions Committee's skills coaching roadshow programme ahead of the first BPA Swoop Canopy Competition, which was already at the early stages of planning and may be ready to go ahead next season. This would be to build on standard coaching and further hone the skills of potential competitors. Craig Poxon would report this back to the Centre.

**Action: Competitions Committee**

#### **56/01 Royal Aero Club**

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that the RAeC Parliamentary Committee had put forward two requests for government compensation through the General Aviation Awareness Council for losses due to the effects of foot and mouth disease. However, it had not been hopeful of compensation being paid outside the farming industry. Tim Andrewes (Border Parachute Centre) reported that his centre had now re-opened after a long closure due to foot and mouth restrictions, and that he had been successful in obtaining some compensation from the foot and mouth recovery fund. The Council was delighted to hear this news, and John Smyth asked Tim Andrewes to contact Jim Croker (Chairman, RAeC Parliamentary Committee) to provide details.

**Action: Tim Andrewes**

John Smyth reported on the RAeC Centenary Dinner which was planned to be held at the Royal Air Force Club, London, on Thursday 15 November at a cost of about £40 per head. The RAeC had asked whether organisations sponsoring delegates would be prepared to foot the bill for their Council Members to attend as the intention was to promote informal discussion between opposites in the various national airsports organisations. After discussion, the Council agreed that it would be pleased to attend if the RAeC covered the cost of tickets, but that it would not be a justifiable call on BPA funds. Therefore, it would be at the discretion of individual Council Members to decide whether or not to commit themselves to the cost. A straw poll suggested that, of those present tonight, John Smyth and Ian Marshall (BPA Alternate Delegate to RAeC) would be likely to attend.

**57/01 AGM Saturday 19 January 2002**

Tim Andrewes proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the offer by the rock band *Grounded* (who were all BPA Members) to play at the dance after the AGM Dinner at an estimated cost of about £250 to £300 in expenses only for the hire of lights and amplifiers should be accepted with thanks.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairman said that it was important to keep the Chairman's Review of the Year fresh and interesting and he had sought to exploit the existing format of a Powerpoint presentation just about as far as it would go. He therefore suggested something new - that a short video (of say 3 to 5 minutes' duration) should be prepared by each committee to set out its achievements during the preceding year. Each video might include contributions from individual committee members, or just the Chairman. The Competitions Committee would have the opportunity to include competitions footage. The BPA had its own video camera and therefore the videos should be relatively easy to produce. The Chairman said he would be pleased to prepare a list of points that needed to be considered in making a video. He asked all committees to think about how they could prepare a short video, and he assured Tim Andrewes, who was sceptical, that it was an idea worth trying and that any possibility of embarrassing poor videos would be avoided by mutual help and advice.

**Action: All Committees**

**58/01 Future policy on sending hard copies of e-mails in the weekly Council post**

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Dona Crum who was not present to speak to it. It was therefore held over until the next meeting.

**59/01 Withdrawal of an Associate (non-jumping) Membership**

The Chairman reported that Associate Membership of the BPA had automatically been withdrawn from an individual who had been arrested in a club/airfield car park and subsequently convicted for the possession of a class A controlled drug with intent to supply. This was in accordance with the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual, Section 11, Paragraph 2, sub-paragraph 2.4 which states: 'Possession or use of illegal drugs/substances by a BPA Member at a Club or within a dropping zone will automatically lead to the withdrawal of his/her membership and all that entails'. The individual had been advised of their right to appeal in writing within six months.

**60/01 Team Sebastian XL**

The Chairman showed the Council a framed photograph of the 4-Way FS National Champion Team *Sebastian XL* which the team had given to the BPA with a dedication for its support and encouragement. The Council expressed its thanks to the team, and would arrange for the photograph to be displayed at the BPA Office.

**61/01 British Team Fund**

John Smyth forecast a funding crisis for the National Team within the next 2 to 4 years. He said he was considering making a formal proposal at the next AGM for an extra £5 for the British Team Fund to be added to all BPA Memberships, including Student/P6 memberships. He recognised that the latter would need to be collected by Drop Zones.

The Chairman pointed out that student/provisional membership fees were set at the EGM in December rather than the AGM in January, which considered non-provisional membership subscriptions. He believed that a proposal add a non-discretionary contribution to British Team Fund the student/provisional membership fee might generate strong feelings from Drop Zone Operators. He therefore suggested that John Smyth should consult DZO's in a personal capacity to gauge their response.

**Action: John Smyth**

**62/01 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 23 October 2001 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2015.

**Distribution:** Council, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Staff, Editor .