

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 11 December 2001 at 1840**  
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Allen	-	Chairman
	Paul Applegate		
	Tim Andrewes	-	Competitions Vice Chairman
	Kieran Brady	-	Communications Chairman
	Chris Clements		
	David Hickling		
	Ian Marshall		
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	Craig Poxon		
	Lofty Thomas		
	Carl Williams		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Beverly Fairhurst	-	Skydive Magazine
	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood		Development Officer
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Barrie Buck	-	Council 2002
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Andy Houston	-	Council 2002
	John Smyth	-	Vice Chairman / Competitions Chairman

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## Item Minute

### 75/01 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2001

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2001 be approved, and this carried unanimously.

**Approved**

### 76/01 Matters arising

#### 76.1 Late renewal of a Membership (minute 64.1)

As the Member concerned was not present, the Chairman reminded all Council Members that it was their own personal responsibility to renew their membership in good time for the start of the new membership year on 1 April. This applied even when no payment was required (for example, free Associate Membership for judges), because the renewal form still had to be completed and returned to the BPA Office.

#### **76.2 Commonwealth Games 2002 - Suggestion of a parachute display (minute 64.2)**

Lofty Thomas reported that he had received no response to his follow-up letter to the organisers of the Commonwealth Games 2002 to ask whether they had yet reached a decision on the BPA's suggestion of holding a parachute display as part of the opening or closing ceremony. As he was standing down from the Council, the Chairman asked Craig Poxon kindly to send a reminder letter.

**Action: Craig Poxon**

#### **76.3 On-year selection for Classics (minute 65.2.4)**

Chris Clements asked the Chairman to explain why he had said at the last meeting that on-year selection would make it 'extremely difficult' to obtain funding for Classics competitors from UK Sport. The Chairman said that this was because the ethos of UK Sport was for selection to be followed by a planned and structured period of training. If Classics competitors were selected on-year, only a couple of months or so before the world meet, this would in his view be most unlikely to allow sufficient time for training in terms that might justify funding from UK Sport.

#### **76.4 National Team 2003 (minute 65.2.5)**

Ian Marshall reported that *Team X* would select its one remaining team member at a training camp in April. Publicity on the team had been sent to Lucie Wood at the BPA Office.

#### **76.5 CF Coaching Roadshow (minute 65.2.7)**

Chris Clements said she endorsed what John Smyth had said about the need to increase the profile of women in the sport.

#### **76.5 Membership questionnaire 2002 (minute 67.2.1)**

Kieran Brady said that only the Chairman and Lesley Gale had contacted him by 30 November with questions for next year's Membership Questionnaire. He asked Committee Chairman to get in touch with him before Christmas, if only to ask for the questions used last time to be repeated.

**Action: Development, Competitions and STC Chairmen**

#### **76.6 Policy on sending hard copies of e-mails in the Council post (minute 71)**

Dona Crum was not present to speak to this item and no-one else wished to speak on it. Therefore, it could not be considered.

### **77/01 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

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

#### **77.1 STC meeting on 6 December 2001**

Tony Butler reported that a fatal accident to a first jump RAPS student on 18 November 2001 had been covered in detail in the STC minutes.

Paul Applegate proposed, and Dave Hickling seconded, a motion that the minutes should be ratified and this carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

#### **77.2 Competitions Committee meeting on 4 December 2001**

Tim Andrewes briefly summarised the business discussed at this meeting.

Chris Clements said that she did not agree that a point made by Tim Andrewes in minute 70.1 of the Competitions minutes (concerning the effect of on-year selection on who was invited to go to the Classics World Cup of Champions in 2002) had been valid. As the comment about validity had been attributed to the Competitions Chairman, the Chairman of Council suggested that Chris Clements should ask for the matter to be raised at the next meeting of the Competitions Committee.

With reference to Competitions Committee minute 70.2: Selection for the Classics, Chris Clements outlined why she had strongly objected to the term 'abuse of process' that had been used at the meeting, and wished her objection to be recorded. The Chairman said that this

too was a matter that she should raise at the next meeting of the Competitions Committee, as was Chris Clements' question of why funding for senior teams could be considered only after a decision on on-year or off-year selection for the Classics had been taken (Competitions minute 76).

The Council noted that Coaching for Senior teams was within budget and would be progressed as per Competitions minute 76.

Ian Midgley was concerned that at the Competitions Committee there had been a question about the apportionment of an expenses claim it was thought that he may have put in (Competitions minute 78). In fact, he had put in *no expenses claim whatsoever for the meeting in question*, and asked for an apology from the Competitions Chairman for including an unfounded issue in the minutes. There followed a discussion about this and another question about an expenses claim by a Member of the Competitions Committee that had been recorded in the same minute. The Chairman summarised by saying that it was proper that Council Members should be accountable, and he realised that the Competitions budget had been under particular pressure. However, the best way to proceed with questions and problems on expenses claims was to check with the office. This would often provide full clarification without the need to progress the issue formally and risk causing unwarranted embarrassment as had unfortunately been the case this evening.

Tim Andrewes then proposed, and Carl Williams seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee on 4 December 2001 be ratified. The vote was: For - 9; Against - 1 (Ian Midgley).

**Ratified**

#### **77.3 Communications Committee meeting on 23 October 2001**

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting on 23 October 2001 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

#### **77.4 Development Committee meeting on 23 October 2001**

Ian Midgley proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 23 October 2001 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

### **78/01 Reports on meetings held earlier today**

#### **78.1 Communications Committee**

Kieran Brady reported that the Communications Committee had agreed the *Skydive Magazine* contract fee per issue, and settled the budget for 2001/2. The budget indicated that the Magazine could possibly record a relatively modest deficit to help to attain its targets. However, a carry forward of the profit of £9.9K achieved by the Magazine this year would offset any loss next year and still leave the Magazine with a profit of around £3K. The Committee also heard updates on the BPA and Magazine websites, and on plans for the second issue of the Starter Magazine to be printed next year.

#### **78.2 Development Committee**

Ian Midgley reported that two banner advertisements by Affiliated Drop Zones were soon to be displayed on the home page of the BPA website, with links to the advertisers' own websites. This would be for an initial 4 month trial period, and would generate £1060 in advertising income. Contracts with the advertisers had been worded so that the BPA could remove the advertisements at any time in the event of major problems. On other items of business, consultation with Drop Zones had shown there to be some interest in a possible Drop Zones Development Grant Scheme, which the Development Committee would consider next year. Consultation on possible further courses for Drop Zone Operators had revealed there to be too little interest to warrant running any further courses, at least for the time being.

**79/01 Expenses for attending STC meetings**

A letter of request from Brian Dyas (already circulated) that the Council consider making CCIs eligible to claim travel and, where necessary, accommodation expenses for attending STC meetings, failed to find a proposer. Dave Hickling said that the cost of attending STC meetings should be budgeted as part of the normal operating costs of a Drop Zone. The Office would convey the Council's position on this to Brian Dyas.

**Action: BPA Office**

**80/01 Reports from Club Representatives**

Kieran Brady reported that he had offered to visit Skydive St Andrews as Club Rep, but that his offer had been declined.

He then tabled copies of two faxes from Steve Swallow of Target Skysports, Hibaldstow. The first concerned RAPS. Dave Hickling, Chairman of STC's RAPS Working Party, confirmed that a tremendous amount of work was being carried out on this. Brian Dyas's questionnaire to instructors had produced quite a good response, which would yield valuable information. Steve Swallow had suggested in his fax that the levy on the Nationals should be spent on the RAPS work. The Council confirmed that this would not be possible as the levy was specifically a competitions levy for the British Team Fund. In any case, it was not necessary because the BPA Council had already made full provision for adequate funding (minute 65.5.3 refers). Dave Hickling said that seeking to rush the work would be unlikely to produce the quality of outcome that was necessary. Kieran Brady said that he would re-assure Steve Swallow that the BPA was already doing everything it reasonably could to investigate this issue, and that adequate funding arrangements were in place.

**Action: Kieran Brady**

Steve Swallow's second fax concerned competitions. In it he made a point about the desirability of scheduling Skills Coaching Roadshows for the weekend immediately before the Nationals, at the same Drop Zone. Tim Andrewes said that it was too early to have firm dates for next season's Roadshows - as the venues and dates for the Nationals had been ratified only tonight - but that the Competitions Committee had already taken fully into account Steve Swallow's comments, which he had originally made during the summer, and would do all in its power to adopt them subject, of course, to the availability of coaches.

Steve Swallow had also made a point about the scheduling of the FS Nationals and a FS Regionals at adjacent Drop Zones a few weeks apart. Tim Andrewes said that the Nationals and Regionals were entirely independent competitions and that such scheduling, which was not in fact a clash, was an inevitable consequence of timetabling constraints. Finally, Steve Swallow had expressed concern that the Grand Prix was to revert to the name 'Regionals' and that the Competitions Committee had decided to issue re-bid forms for Regionals for which no bids had been received, namely (i) Southern Regionals in FS, Classics and New Age and (ii) Central Regionals in Classics. The original bid form had left the name of the competition open and had particularly called for bids from Clubs and Centres in the South. Only one Southern bid had been received (which had been allocated the Southern Regionals in CF). The Competitions Committee had therefore decided at its meeting on 4 December to use the name Regionals next year (which, due to a technicality, represented the status quo after a tied vote) and to re-issue a bid form for those Regionals for which no bid had been received on the original form.

As the above points were specific to competitions, John Smyth would be invited to confirm the above in a reply to Steve Swallow.

**Action: John Smyth**

Chris Clements suggested that guidelines for DZ Reps might be useful. It was recalled that Mike Allum had in fact prepared such guidelines some years ago, but they appeared no longer to be in circulation. The Office would try to locate a copy for next year's DZ Reps.

**Action: BPA Office**

**81/01 Royal Aero Club Report**

In the absence of John Smyth (Delegate to RAeC) who was away working, Ian Marshall (Alternate Delegate) outlined recent matters discussed by the RAeC. These included (i) stakeholder control for NATS, which was being semi-privatised, (ii) John Smyth's representations about the poor organisation of the Parachuting events at the World Air Games 2001, and (iii) possible mandatory use of Mode S for general aviation, which was being investigated on behalf of the BPA by Tony Knight.

The Chairman reported that John Smyth had put in two nominations for RAeC awards, details of which he would be pleased to give after the meeting to anyone who wished to know.

**82/01 Wild Geese Change of Student PLA to Killykergan DZ**

An application for re-affiliation by Wild Geese Skydiving Centre had been circulated. This was consequent on a change of student PLA to Killykergan DZ. Tony Butler reported that it was a standard application for re-affiliation with which he saw was no problem. Ian Midgley therefore proposed, and Tim Andrewes seconded, a motion that the application be approved.

**Carried unanimously**

**83/01 AGM 2003**

There was a need to book the AGM venue earlier than usual to secure the first choice of date. The Office had negotiated with the current Hotel that it would peg its 2002 room hire, accommodation and dinner prices for 2003. Ian Midgley therefore proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, be booked for the 2003 AGM on Saturday 18 January 2003.

**Carried unanimously - Action: BPA Office**

**84/01 Re-write of Reserve Packing and Rigging Manual**

The Council noted that four years ago, in accordance with that year's Action Plan Matrix for STC/Riggers, Allan Hewitt had agreed to re-write the Reserve Packing and Rigging Manual. STC, Riggers and the Development Committee had duly authorised an advance payment of £7050 to Allan Hewitt for this work. Unfortunately to date, no re-written manual had been received, despite a renegotiated deadline date for submission by the end of October 2001.

Kieran Brady therefore proposed, and Ian Midgley seconded, a motion that notice be issued to Allan Hewitt that he is required, within a period of 31 days, *either* to deliver to the BPA Office the re-write of the Reserve Packing and Riggers Manual to a standard acceptable to the Riggers Committee, *or* to return to the BPA the advance payment of £7050 that was paid on 30 November 1998. The vote was: For - 9; Against - 0; Abstention - 1 (P Applegate).

**Carried**

**85/01 BPA policy on charity jumping**

Tony Butler (Technical Officer) said that he would be asking the Council to consider its policy on charity jumping. He wished to raise the subject now so Council Members had time to think about it. The Chairman said this might be the subject of a special meeting, or at least a main agenda item at future Council meeting.

Tony Butler explained that both he and John Hitchen had become concerned that it appeared almost every time there was a fatal accident or serious injury, the media reported that it had involved a 'charity jumper'. In his opinion, this was not good for the sport, and may lead to outside agencies putting pressure on the CAA to place more restrictions on so-called charity jumping. The CAA knew that the BPA was doing all that it could to safeguard jumpers. However, recent accidents with first-time RAPS jumpers had naturally focused attention on this type of jumper. The BPA had never encouraged charity jumps. The question now was whether the BPA should go one step further and publicly distance itself from charity RAPS jumps, with the aim of persuading charity jumpers to consider only tandems. Charity jumpers' prime motivation was usually to earn sponsorship money for their charity - they often had little or no inherent interest in parachuting. The Technical Officer's opinion was that RAPS training might better be restricted to those who had a the genuine interest and motivation to really want to skydive.

**Action: Discuss at future meeting**

**86/01 Staff Christmas bonus**

Staff left the room for this item. After discussion, Ian Midgley proposed, and Ian Marshall 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.

**Carried unanimously**

**87/01 UK Sport funding review**

The Chairman reported that he had replied, at extremely short notice (which unfortunately did not allow time for a full Council circulation), to a consultation paper issued by UK Sport on a review of their funding arrangements. UK Sport had also issued a questionnaire calling for various factual information, which he had partly filled in and was being completed by the Office. This would be used by UK Sport to help rank sports in order of priority for funding.

In essence, UK sport was considering whether to amalgamate exchequer and lottery funding. The Chairman said that were this to happen, it would be bad news for parachuting. In the Chairman's reply to UK Sport, he had identified broad areas of the new funding framework proposed by UK Sport into which parachuting could fit, and had where possible identified specific activities that might help the BPA to bid for funding. The whole consultation project was of a very short duration, with the outcome expected in February 2002. The Chairman advised that it should not change the BPA's normal timetable for next year's Action Plan, which should be prepared as normal.

**88/01 AGM 2002**

Arrangements for part of AGM Day 2002 were discussed.

**89/01 Chairman's thanks to the Council 2001**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all Members of the Council, and to the staff, for their hard work during another busy year. This final meeting of the 2001 Council was the last one for those who had not offered themselves for re-election in 2002, who were: Tim Andrewes, Chris Clements, Dona Crum, Lofty Thomas and Carl Williams. It was worthy of special note that Lofty Thomas had decided to retire from the Council after serving continuously since 1973, apart from the year 1990 when his nomination form had missed the deadline!

Kieran Brady thanked Chris Allen for his excellent Chairmanship during the year, and said he hoped that Chris Allen would consider standing for Chairman again next year.

**90/01 Council 2002 and Action Plan 2002/3**

There was no need for a ballot for next year's Council, as there had been only 12 nominations for the 15 seats. 8 Members of the 2001 Council would be continuing, and the 4 new Council Members would be Barrie Buck, Andy Houston, Eddie Jones and Jim White.

The Chairman asked all those who would be serving on the Council 2002 to think, ahead of the AGM, of items for the Action Plan Matrix for 2002/3 as work on this had to begin immediately the new Council took office. Each item should comprise a statement of where we are now, where we want to be (the target), and a ball-park budget. Targets should be realistic and achievable within the one-year period of the plan.

Chris Clements said it was important for the incoming Council to be made known to the Membership, as the usual information on each candidate for an election had not been published. Lesley Gale said she planned to include an article on the 2002 Council in the February issue of *Skydive Magazine*, and Chris Clements was happy with this.

**91/01 Date of next meeting**

Inaugural meeting of the 2002 Council - Saturday 19 January 2002, in Room 18 immediately after the AGM (starting at 1030) at the Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, Leics.

The meeting closed at 2010.

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