

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 21 October 2003 at 1830
at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Calvin Blacker	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	Ralph Fielding	
	David Hickling	
	Nigel Holland	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Ian Marshall	
	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman
	Jim White	
In attendance:	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i>
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
Observer:	Charles Hurd	
Apologies for absence:	Billy Gollan	

Item Minute

52/03 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 August 2003 be accepted as a correct record.

Approved

53/03 Matter arising: Published accounts (page 1, item 44)

Lesley Gale confirmed that, as suggested at the last Council meeting, colour pie charts had been used to illustrate the published accounts.

54/03 UK Sport Exchequer funding

The Chairman reported that Anna Gray of UK Sport's Performance Services had visited the BPA Office on Monday 6 October 2003 to meet himself, Tony Butler and Martin Shuttleworth. It had been a familiarisation visit as she had recently taken responsibility for liaison with air sports. UK Sport's change in its funding period, which would now run from 1 April to 31 March, had been discussed. Anna Gray had confirmed that this would have no effect on the BPA's established timetable for submitting an annual Action Plan each March, to run for the period from 1 July to 30 June. The new arrangements did, however, mean that the UK Sport Funding Panel, into which she reported, would meet each November and would in future base its judgments not on a promise of actions to come in the following year's plan, but on the achievements of the previous year's plan, together with progress to date on the current year's plan.

Anna Gray had complimented the BPA on the clarity of its documentation, and also on the way that each year's Action Plan built on the outcomes of the previous year's, which had helped to build up a longer-term picture. The Chairman said he had given Anna Gray a copy of the *Skydive Starter Magazine*, which he had found useful to help explain to her the different disciplines within the sport. It appeared that Anna Gray would now be the regular liaison officer with the BPA and it was encouraging that she had taken the trouble to visit the BPA Office.

In summary, therefore, it was now clear that there would be no change to the established timetable sequence for the preparation of next year's Action Plan.

55/03 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

55.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 19 August 2003

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 19 August 2003 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

55.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 19 August 2003

Nigel Holland asked about the expected level of demand for a secure e-commerce facility for Magazine subscriptions to be purchased online via the Magazine website. Lesley Gale said she had received a significant number of e-mails from outside the UK that had expressed an interest in such a facility.

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 19 August 2003 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

55.3 Minutes of the STC meeting on Thursday 9 October 2003

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) reported with regret that there had been two fatalities since the last STC meeting - Grant Hager at Bridlington, from a low turn, and Esmond Liggett at Netheravon, from a no pull. The Council expressed its condolences.

John Hitchen summarised STC minute 10(i) concerning the fatal incident at Hinton, after which parachuting had continued (Council minute 45.3 refers). STC had confirmed that the provisions set out in Form 146, Incident Procedures, applied. David Hickling requested the Council further to consider the matter. The Chairman held an in-camera session with only voting Members and staff present. He then invited Tony Butler, Technical Officer, to explain what had happened on the day in question. The crux of the issue was the status of Form 146. Some - including the CCI - may have believed that Form 146 [which stated that parachuting must cease in the event of a fatal (or suspected fatal) accident] comprised a set of guidelines. However, Form 146 was cited in the Operations Manual, and therefore carried the full force of the Operations Manual. It was now clear to all parties that the provisions in Form 146 were mandatory. Tony Butler said that both he and John Hitchen, NCSO, were satisfied that everything possible had now been done to clarify the position. This was clearly stated in the STC minutes that were about to be ratified. The Chairman declared the in-camera session to be over, and those who had left the meeting room returned.

John Hitchen then reported on STC's consideration of a request by Allan Hewitt that had come to them via the Riggers' Subcommittee and the Council (minute 45.3 refers). Allan Hewitt's request was to be permitted to run BPA courses for packers, riggers, examiners, etc, at his Drop Zone in Spain. On a show of hands on the question of whether such courses should be held outside the UK or a UK sovereign base, STC had voted: For - 2, Against - 7, Abstentions -10.

Following a discussion, David Hickling proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the Council should support the majority decision of STC that **no** BPA courses should be permitted to be run outside the UK and UK sovereign bases overseas. Kieran Brady

emphasised that he had canvassed opinion by speaking to several riggers and packers. This had informed his view. He said that he enjoyed a good working relationship with Allan Hewitt and his view was based purely on the policy issue involved.

Ian Marshall then made a counter proposal, seconded by Paul Applegate, that BPA riggers and packers, etc, courses **should** be permitted to be held at other locations. A vote was taken on this counter proposal. The voting was:

For - 2 Against - 5 Abstentions - 2 **Not carried**

The loss of this counter proposal meant Council's decision was to permit courses for riggers, packers, examiners, etc, to be held only in the UK and at UK sovereign bases overseas.

David Hickling then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 9 October 2003 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

55.4 Minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 23 September 2003

John Smyth highlighted various matters in the above minutes. Most of the repayments to the BPA of competitors' entry fees for the World Cup 2002 in Spain had now been received. The Chairman noted that the prepayment of fees by the BPA had effectively been a loan to competitors. He observed that the BPA had, by custom and practice, charged interest on any approved loans. John Smyth said that it had not been intended to enter into a loan arrangement but that is what it had become in cases where repayments had been delayed. A lesson had been learned and in future competitors would be required to pay their entry fees up front - as had happened with the Mondial 2003.

The Council confirmed its congratulations to the UK women's 4-way FS team *VMax* on becoming World Champions at the Mondial 2003. Andy Ford, camera flyer with *VMax*, was the only team member who had not already been honoured by the grant of Life Membership of the BPA by this Council. John Smyth therefore proposed, and Calvin Blacker seconded, a motion that Andy Ford should be awarded Life Membership of the BPA.

Carried unanimously

Calvin Blacker asked John Smyth to explain the IPC system used for scoring the competence of judges, which he duly did. Karla Cole had obtained an extremely good score for her judging at her debut world meet, the Mondial 2003. Council congratulated her on this achievement. John Smyth said he would propose to the next meeting of the Competitions Committee that the BPA should award Karla Cole a Certificate of Achievement.

The Chairman was delighted to note that, because John Hitchen had accepted an invitation to become a Jury Member at the Mondial 2003, the organisers had refunded his entry fee in full, and it was thought likely that some of his other costs would also be re-imbursed. John Smyth confirmed that, if John Hitchen had not been available to be a Jury Member, the Mondial organisers' next choice would have been Bob Card. This too was a great honour for the UK.

The advice of UK Sport had been sought on late drugs test on a *VMax* team member, taken by the French authorities after the team had drunk celebratory champagne in front of a crowd of over 500 people. UK Sport had said that it was unlikely that the sample would have been tested for alcohol in these circumstances.

Land Rover had kindly supplied a Discovery vehicle to assist with UK Delegation transport at the Mondial. John Smyth proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the BPA should issue Land Rover with a Certificate of Appreciation for this support.

Carried unanimously

John Smyth also reported that Kate Charters, Judges' Co-ordinator, had welcomed the IPC's more open policy for access for FAI judges to judge at international meets, and had agreed with the Competitions Committee that there was now no point in her going to lobby the IPC meeting in Portugal in January 2004.

The low level of media interest in *VMax's* triumph was discussed. It was important that BPA Members realised that the lack of coverage was not due to any lack of information being supplied to the national and regional media by the BPA. The Chairman had done this personally by e-mail within half an hour of their victory. The problem was one of what the media chose to cover. The fact was that good news such as this, because it was not from a major spectator sport, was ignored. Nigel Holland said he did not have the name of the member of staff at the BBC who had declined, in lurid terms, to air news of *VMax's* victory. The Chairman said this made it less likely that an effective letter of complaint could be sent to the BBC, and asked that he should see in draft any such letter that Nigel Holland might prepare. Since the news coverage had been so lamentably poor, the BPA was now trying a features-based approach on *VMax*, which was less time-dependent and might therefore offer more scope for success.

The Competitions Committee had nominated *VMax* in the team category in The Sunday Times' Sportswoman of the Year Award.

Kieran Brady congratulated *VMax*, the Competitions Committee and John Smyth. John Smyth paid tribute to *VMax* and to the rest of the UK Delegation at the Mondial 2003 who had done their country, their Association, and their governing Council, proud.

John Smyth then proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 23 September 2003 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

Finally, John Smyth referred to a misunderstanding with Jon Gretton (BPA Financial Administrator) that had resulted in overpayment to a funded team that had recently come to light. This was being resolved.

56/03 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier this afternoon

56.1 Communications Committee

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) reported that the Communications Committee had:

- agreed with Lesley Gale the annual contract for Editorial Services, Oct 03 to Oct 04;
- approved the budget for *Skydive Magazine* for 2003/4;
- noted that the e-commerce facility for online Magazine subscriptions should go live on the Magazine website within the next two weeks or so;
- approved a budget of up to GBP 1500 maximum for the web-based electronic DZ guide (compared with an original budget of GBP 2500);
- completed the selection of images to appear in the BPA Calendar 2004, the preparation of which was running on time and on budget

56.2 Development Committee

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) reported that the Development Committee had heard updates on progress towards meeting the targets set out in the current Development Action Plan, three of which had already been achieved. The Committee had also heard about a new proposal for an affinity scheme, and had asked for more specific information to be made available for consideration at its next meeting.

57/03 Reports from Club Representatives

A report by Calvin Blacker on his visit to Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, had been circulated. The report had raised a number of issues to which the Chairman had replied. The Chairman's reply had also been circulated, and Calvin Blacker confirmed that he had passed on relevant information from the reply to the jumpers at Hibaldstow who had originally asked the questions. Calvin Blacker also confirmed that he was happy with both the questions he had been asked, and the replies that he had been able to pass on. The Chairman thanked Calvin Blacker for submitting his report.

There were no other reports from Club Representatives.

58/03 Report on Royal Aero Club Activities

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reminded the Council that the deadline for making nominations for RAeC awards 2004 was 30 November 2003. He said he intended to nominate team *VMax* for of the RAeC Gold Medal in the light of their 2003 World Title. He asked for any other suggestions for nominations to be made to him either tonight or within the next two weeks, which would allow him time to prepare the necessary citations. One suggestion was made from around the table, which John Smyth noted. John Smyth said that he would arrange for the list of RAeC awards, together with an outline of the criteria for the award of each, to be included in the next Council post.

John Smyth reported that the RAeC Awards Committee would meet at 1200 on Saturday 6 December 2003 in Telford, Shropshire. This would be followed by a meeting of the full RAeC Council at 1500. He said that RAeC meetings had usually been held in London, where he was himself based, and therefore he had not needed to put in a mileage claim to the BPA for travelling expenses. However, he would need to put in a claim for travel to Telford and back. The Chairman confirmed that this was fully in order as the RAeC was an official body on which John Smyth was the BPA's duly elected representative.

In discussion it was noted that the FAI had a set of awards, including the Leonardo da Vinci Award. The Chairman asked John Hitchen, in his capacity as UK Delegate to IPC, to find out from the FAI statutes the nomination criteria for the Leonardo da Vinci award, with a view to considering whether or not it might be appropriate for the BPA to nominate *VMax*.

Action: John Hitchen

59/03 Entertainment for the Annual Dinner Dance 2004

The skydivers' rock group *Grounded*, which had performed without charging a fee at BPA Dinner Dances in recent years, had now disbanded. The Chairman invited suggestions of other possible bands, etc, to be made to the Office ahead of the next meeting, at which the question of whether or not to book a band for the 2004 Dinner Dance, or to have only the disco, would be discussed.

Action: Next meeting

60/03 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 2 December 2003 (immediately after the EGM at 1830) at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester (following meetings of the Communications and Development Committees, for those involved, during the afternoon).

The meeting closed at 1950.