

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 15 June 2004 at 1830

at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Chris Allen Paul Applegate Calvin Blacker Kieran Brady Tony Goodman David Hickling Nigel Holland Eddie Jones Ian Marshall Andy Scott John Smyth Elizabeth Stoodley Jim White	Chairman Development Chairman Communications Chairman Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman
In attendance:	Tony Butler Debbie Carter Martin Shuttleworth	Technical Officer Treasurer Secretary-General
Observers:	P Marsden Andy Montriou Bryan Poole	Skydive Jersey Skydive Jersey (arrived at 1850) Skydive Jersey
Apologies for absence:	Lesley Gale John Hitchen Ian Midgley Brian Vacher	Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i> NCSO

Item Minute

30/04 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Tony Goodman seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on 20 April 2004 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

31/04 Matter arising

31.1 BPA Membership of Nigel Holland and Ian Midgley (minute 18)

Both Nigel Holland and Ian Midgley had now renewed their BPA Memberships. Ian Midgley had apologised for his absence today as he was convalescing from an operation. Nigel Holland apologised for his delay in renewing, which had been due to a shortage of funds because he had changed jobs and his new employer had experienced problems in getting his first salary payment through to him. The Chairman accepted the apology.

32/04 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

32.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 20 April 2004

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and Calvin Blacker seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 20 April 2004 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

32.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 20 April 2004

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) proposed, and Calvin Blacker seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 20 April 2004 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

32.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 June 2004

This STC meeting had been chaired by Tony Goodman (Vice Chairman, STC) because John Hitchen (STC Chairman) had been out of the country on business.

Correspondence from Elizabeth Stoodley proposing Brian Vacher for membership of the Canopy Handling Review Panel had been circulated to both STC and the Council. Tony Goodman said that the composition of such a Panel was properly a matter for STC. Considerable discussion followed, during which Tony Butler said that it was open to the Panel to co-opt, or to invite to any meeting, any Member who, in the opinion of the Panel, might be in a position to contribute to its work. The Chairman emphasised that the work of the Panel covered all levels, and that the Panel had recently come forward to STC with a canopy handling progression system comprising four levels, from CH1 to CH4. CH4 was the highest level of competence. The Chairman, speaking as a Member of the Panel, said that he was well aware that Brian Vacher may have a very useful contribution to the work of the Panel at CH4 level. Indeed, the Chairman had already been in touch with Brian Vacher about this, and Brian Vacher had kindly supplied relevant information to the Panel. However, this did not mean that it was appropriate to invite Brian Vacher to become a Member of the Panel, because his competence lay at the expert end of the spectrum. There were many issues relating to the development of skills at a more basic level that required input from others, in particular from qualified instructors.

Elizabeth Stoodley asked why she had apparently received no support from STC having raised her concerns about the composition of the Canopy Review Panel and STC's oversight of its work. Tony Goodman, responding for STC, said this was because the Panel, and STC, were both functioning effectively and wished simply to get on with their work without interventions of this nature.

Paul Applegate proposed, and Tony Goodman seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 8 April 2004 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Bryan Dyas dated 11 June addressed to the Council. The letter was an appeal to reduce the severity of a sanction imposed by STC at its meeting on 10 June. This incoming letter had in fact crossed with the formal letter of notification of the sanction sent by the BPA Office to the Member concerned on the same date, 11 June, which had duly advised him of his right of appeal to the next meeting of STC.

32.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2004

John Smyth proposed, and Jim White seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 4 May 2004 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

32.5 Competitions Committee meeting held on Wednesday 9 June 2004

David Hickling said that he would have valued consultation on the change of Cark's 4-way FS Grand Prix dates from 5-6 June to 28-30 August 2004 because the new dates clashed with

the *Brit Chicks* build-up weekend. John Smyth apologised that the Competitions Committee had not consulted, because it had not considered that there would be a problem in view of the fact that there were now twice as many 4-way FS Grand Prix meets as last year and that if there was to be any minor affect, it would be felt by Cark.

John Smyth then turned to the main business of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 9 June, which had been further to consider its plan to hold Canopy Piloting Nationals this year. The view of the Committee had been that by holding a Canopy Piloting Nationals, the expertise demonstrated by the highly skilled competitors would percolate down to Club jumpers. The new Canopy Handling progression system (CH1-CH4) had not been developed at the time of the Competitions Committee's proposal, at its meeting on 4 May, to hold the first Canopy Piloting Nationals in 2004.

However, Chris Allen, BPA Chairman, had kindly attended the Competitions Committee's next meeting on 9 June to outline the new Canopy Handling Progression System and to set out the case for its introduction to include competitions at the higher end (CH4 level). Chris Allen had made a strong case that the new progression system should be in place *before* the first Canopy Piloting Nationals were held. This was because he was concerned that young or less experienced jumpers might well seek to emulate the high level canopy skills they would see demonstrated at competitions, and without the new progression system in place, there would be no route for them to receive structured and systematic training to enable them to develop canopy handling skills safely and progressively. Next year, in 2005, however, a Canopy Piloting Nationals would form a key component in the roll-out of the new Canopy Handling Progression System, with particular reference to the CH4 level that was appropriate to competitors.

John Smyth explained that the Competitions Committee, who had between its members some 100+ years' experience in the sport had, after carefully listening to the case put forward by Chris Allen, had an extensive discussion about how best to introduce competitions in Canopy Piloting, and on the process of team selection for the Second World Cup in Canopy Piloting to be held at the Florida Skydiving Centre from 29 October to 3 November 2004. Although the Committee had, as was plain from the minutes of its earlier meeting on 4 May, been particularly keen to press forward with the introduction of a Canopy Piloting Nationals this year, it had considered that the BPA Chairman had made a cogent and convincing argument to delay the Canopy Piloting Nationals until next year, 2005, so that they could form part of the roll-out of the new BPA Canopy Handling Progression System. In the absence of a Nationals this year, the Competitions Committee had agreed that selection of the UK team to compete in the Canopy Piloting World Cup 2004 would be by means of the UK Pro-Swoop tour, dates for which were already in the diary. John Smyth said that he would like the BPA to send a full delegation to the Canopy Piloting World Cup.

John Smyth said he was now comfortable with the above outcome, which had involved approaching the discipline of canopy handling from a broader perspective than competitions alone. However, it was clear that competitions had an integral part to play in the introduction of the new Canopy Handling Progression System, and he congratulated the Canopy Handling Panel and STC on the development of this world-leading new progression system.

John Smyth then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 9 June 2004 be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

The Chairman then considered a letter to the Council dated 2 June from Brian Vacher, about canopy piloting competitions. In his letter, Brian Vacher had proposed to hold a Canopy Piloting Nationals in 2004. In the light of the foregoing discussion, this proposal failed to find a seconder.

In his letter, Brian Vacher had also made a proposal by proxy relating to his CD, a copy of which he had circulated to the Council ahead of the meeting. The CD contained a canopy piloting programme and information on the discipline from all over the world, which Brian

Vacher proposed formally to be submitted for use by the BPA Canopy Handling Panel. The Chairman said that it would be inappropriate for the Council to seek formally to direct STC or its Canopy Handling Panel to accept the CD as it was, but that the CD should be forwarded in the normal manner for the attention of the Panel who would no doubt be very grateful for the input and take full account of the material in the course of its work. There being no other comments, there was no seconder for Brian Vacher's proposal.

33/04 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier this afternoon

33.1 Communications Committee

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

- Reviewed a copy of the recent reprint of the Starter Mag had been updated with a new cover and minor revisions, including the replacement of most photographs of traditional round parachutes. The actual costs had reduced significantly from budget an additional £2.7K of advertising income that meant the cost to the BPA of the print run of 30,000 had been only 10p a copy (£3000 in total).
- Achieved all of its Action Plan targets for the year 2003/4 except for the electronic Drop Zone Focus, which was progressing well. The first pages in the new format should be uploaded onto the BPA website before the end of June 2004.
- Started to plan work on its Action Plan targets for 2004/5. This included the membership survey questionnaire, intended to gain guidance from the Membership, for which Eddie Jones called for suggested questions from Council Members, Committee and Staff, ideally to be with him before the end of October 2004. It also included plans for the 2005 BPA calendar, for which good photographs of UK skydiving were still required - another request would be put in the next issue of *Skydive Magazine*.

In discussion, Andy Scott asked whether the issue and return dates of the membership survey questionnaire could be brought forward so that the Competitions Committee could have available the analysis before finalising the FS competitions rules for 2005. Eddie Jones said that unfortunately this would not be possible because it had already been agreed that the questionnaire was to be printed as part of the membership renewal form (to be inserted in the February 2005 Magazine) to encourage Members to complete and return it. The Chairman suggested that Andy Scott might send his questions to the Membership about FS competitions for publication in the Mag and on the BPA website, as this would be likely to yield feedback early enough for it to be taken into full account before next year's competitions rules were formulated.

Action: Andy Scott

33.2 Development Committee

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) reported that the Development Committee had:

- Heard a report from David Hickling that it was proving difficult to identify insurers who could team up with any group of BPA Affiliated Centres that might wish to participate, over the provision of Personal Accident Insurance to jumpers: however, David Hickling was continuing his search.
- Received an encouraging report from Elizabeth Stoodley, who was making good progress in developing positive publicity for skydiving, particularly in local newspapers.
- Considered the way in which the BPA handled the media after fatalities and incidents, and confirmed the established procedure to be appropriate.
- Achieved most Action Plan targets for the year ending on 30 June 2004; and was on course with work on the new 2004/5 targets starting on 1 July 2004.

34/04 Reports from Club Reps

A report by Tony Goodman (Southern Clubs Rep) had been circulated with the agenda. He reported that he had to date visited three of the four Clubs for which he was the Club Rep - Netheravon, Headcorn and Dunkeswell. His visit to Headcorn had not been for a normal club weekend but had been during a FS Grand Prix, and he thanked Andy Scott and Brian Vacher for their assistance with questions on competitions that he could not himself have answered. Questions about the rationale underlying the recommendations of the Insurance Committee had been asked at Headcorn, and the Council believed that summaries subsequently published in *Skydive Magazine* and on the BPA website now covered these points. Tony Goodman reported that was due to visit his fourth club, London Parachute School, during the first weekend of July 2004.

The Chairman thanked Tony Goodman for his helpful written report on his Club visits, and commented favourably on the letter of introduction that Tony Goodman had sent to each Club ahead of his visit.

Ian Marshall reported that when he was recently at the Black Knights Parachute Centre at Cockerham, they had told him that they never had a visit from a Club Rep. Andy Scott, who was the current Club Rep (but who had not been so during previous years) said that he already had a visit date arranged for 3-4 July 2004, the weekend of a FS 8-way Grand Prix would be held at Black Knights.

35/04 Report on Royal Aero Club Activities

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) reported that the RAeC AGM had been held on 3 June. Unfortunately, both he and Ian Marshall (BPA Alternate Delegate to RAeC) had been out of the country at the time, and so he had asked Jim Crocker to represent the BPA.

John Smyth had just received the draft minutes of the RAeC meeting by fax and reported on the key issues discussed. The first was that the RAeC had given an update on its continuing negotiations with Europe Air Sports over the affect on the UK of pan-European regulation of airports. It was likely that RAeC would be asking each member organisation to contribute £200 to raise a fund of £1K to fight for the interests of UK airports. John Smyth said he would bring to the table any such request once it was received, and he hoped that the Council would consider it favourably. Tony Butler suggested that RAeC might consider approaching the FAI for funding of this nature, unless it had already done so.

The second key issue for the BPA that had been discussed at the RAeC AGM had been drug free sport and anti-doping, and in particular the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) code. The RAeC had not considered the WADA code to be relevant to UK airports. John Smyth reminded the Council that the BPA was fully signed up to UK Sport's Drug Free Sport Rules and Procedures. The BPA had asked UK Sport to advise on the compatibility between the WADA Rules and the UK Sport Rules, and a reply was still awaited because the UK Sport Drug Free Sport Directorate was so busy in preparation for the Olympics.

The Chairman asked John Smyth to confirm to the RAeC that the BPA Council distanced itself from any statement that implied, or might be taken to imply, that the BPA was not in full support of measures to ensure Drug Free Sport Parachuting. Until the BPA received a reply from UK Sport, it could not comment specifically on the WADA documentation, but the BPA remained fully committed to supporting UK Sport's Drug Free Sport Rules and Procedures.

Action: John Smyth

36/04 Staff

The staff pay review was held in camera, with staff members and others having left the room.

The Chairman reported on the recommendation from a meeting of the Employment Subcommittee that had been held earlier in the day. After discussion, Ian Marshall proposed, and John Smyth seconded, a motion that the rate of pay of the employed BPA staff should be increased by 2.75% to take account of inflation. The increase would be effective from 1 July 2004, the start of the new financial year.

Carried unanimously

The staff and others then returned. The Chairman announced the Council's decision and Tony Butler, on behalf of the staff, thanked the Council.

The Chairman reported that Sue Waterfield, BPA Administration Secretary, had suffered injuries to her spine at a private leisure jump (not in the course of employment of her office post at the BPA) at Langar on 31 May 2004. She was being treated in the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. The Council wished her well in her recovery, and asked that some flowers should be sent with their best wishes.

Action: BPA Office

37/04 Application for Affiliation: Skydive Jersey Ltd

This application had been circulated. The Technical Officer and NCSO had visited the Drop Zone and STC had considered it to be suitable for parachuting albeit with some stringent conditions attached because the Drop Zone was located on a beach. It was now for the Council to decide if it wished to take on a new Affiliated Centre on the Island of Jersey. A number of members of Skydive Jersey Ltd were present to answer questions. As there were no questions, the Chairman asked the members of Skydive Jersey to leave the room so that the remainder of the item could be held in camera.

The Chairman reported that Jersey was a Crown Dependency and he had been in correspondence with Mr M R Lanyon, Director of Jersey Airport, who was in charge of the Jersey equivalent of the CAA. Mr Lanyon had asked if he could use the BPA Operations Manual and CAP 660 to regulate sport parachuting in Jersey. It had been agreed that, were the BPA Council to approve the Affiliation of Skydive Jersey Ltd, the Jersey Government would pay the BPA a fee of £5K plus expenses for each visit to audit Skydive Jersey Ltd.

With regard to insurance, the Chairman said that ideally the BPA should not be taking on any new risks; however, it had not proved possible for Skydive Jersey Ltd to be put on the Jersey Government's insurance. The Council had two options: either (i) to Affiliate the Centre and take on the risk, or (ii) not to Affiliate the Centre and put the Centre's insurance brokers in touch with the BPA's brokers. In discussion, the Council noted that STC had cleared the Jersey DZ for parachuting, and Paul Applegate said that Skydive Jersey would be sending its rigger - who already held USPA tickets - to the UK for training.

Kieran Brady then proposed, and Calvin Blacker seconded, a motion that the application by Skydive Jersey Ltd be accepted.

Carried unanimously

The Members of Skydive Jersey Ltd then returned to the room to be advised of the Council's decision, for which they wished their thanks to be recorded.

38/04 Date of meetings in 2004

Tuesdays at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester:
24 August, 19 October and 7 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 1947.