

# British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way  
Glen Parva  
Leicester  
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271  
Fax: 0116 247 7662  
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk  
www.bpa.org.uk



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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 16 August 2005 at 1825**  
at the BPA Office, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Adrian Bond	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	Tony Goodman	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	John Page	
	Andy Scott	
	Jim White	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i>
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Stuart Meacock	Skydive Sibson
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Ralph Fielding	
	Nigel Holland	
	Ian Marshall	
	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman
	Elizabeth Stoodley	

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## Item Minute

### 41/05 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2005 be approved as a correct record subject to an alteration requested in an email (circulated) from Elizabeth Stoodley in minute 35.2 'Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7 June 2005', on page 4, paragraph 3, line 5, to be changed to 'Elizabeth Stoodley believed that it would be appropriate for the Competitions Committee to reconsider what action should be taken.' This carried unanimously.

**Approved**

### 42/05 Matters arising

#### **42.1 Trophy for outstanding achievement in the sport (minute 33.1)**

The Office had circulated details of presentation swords and customised award trophies of a contemporary design. A note had appeared in the August issue of *Skydive Magazine* inviting any design students or colleges to submit ideas. The Council decided to defer this item until the next meeting when any response to the invitation in the Magazine could be considered.

**Action: Next meeting**

**42.2 Insurance at the Rhine Army Parachute Association (RAPA) Drop Zone at Bad Lippspringe in Germany (minute 33.3)**

The Chairman reported that no further communication had been received from the firm of German solicitors representing certain experienced German skydivers who jumped at Bad Lippspringe. A letter from RAPA Commandant Major Paul Moore dated 31 July 2005 had been circulated and acknowledged, and was currently with the BPA's insurers for consideration.

Eddie Jones proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the Council should again extend the provision whereby, due to the exceptional circumstances at RAPA, Paul Moore should continue to be authorised, at his discretion, to issue more than one BPA Temporary Membership to any individual experienced German jumper at his Drop Zone.

**Carried unanimously**

**43/05 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

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

**43.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 14 June 2005**

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Eddie Jones (who had chaired the meeting in Kieran Brady's absence) proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 14 June 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**43.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 14 June 2005**

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 14 June 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**43.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 11 August 2005**

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) called attention to a typographical error in the result of the vote at the bottom of page 6, in which the number voting for the motion should have been 12, not 14 as shown in error. A further typographical error was corrected in item (iv) on page 3, on malfunction/deployment problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above, in which the erroneous reference to '409 male and 9 female' was corrected to read '40 male and 9 female'.

Paul Applegate sought and received from the Chairman clarification that, in ratifying these minutes, the Council was accepting STC's decisions as documented in its minutes: but that this did not preclude those affected by the decisions from making an appeal.

Paul Applegate then proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 11 August 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**43.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20 July 2005**

Andy Scott proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 20 July 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

The Council congratulated FS 4-way women's team *Airkix* - Clare Scott, Amanda Kemp, Emma Hammersley, Julia Foxwell and Andy Wright (camera) - on setting a new FS 4-way women's world record in round 2 of the FS 4-way Nationals at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, on Sunday 31 July 2005. The record claim was pending formal ratification by FAI.

Andy Scott reported on the FS Nationals, which had taken place since the last meeting of the Competitions Committee. The meet had been held, as planned, over the two weekends of 30 July - 1 August and 6-8 August and, despite some bad weather, all rounds had been completed so the reserve weekend had not been required. However, the schedule for 4-way to complete and 8-way and Artistics to start during the second weekend had led to complaints

from one team, which appeared not to have taken cognisance of the provisions set out in the rules. Andy Scott had therefore, after consultation with the Drop Zone, set out draft proposals to the Competitions Committee for a more prescriptive solution to the consequences of bad weather holds to be included in the rules from next year. The aim was to remove any possibility of misinterpretation and make the arrangements crystal clear. He reported that everyone involved in organising the meet had done a good job and the Council recorded its thanks to Steve Swallow, his family and staff from Target Skysports, and to John Hitchen, Meet Director, and the judges.

Andy Scott reported that a British Team, *Optic*, had won the Intermediate (Single A) Class title in last year's European Skydiving League finals. The British delegation had been the only competitors who had not had a uniform. Andy Scott therefore proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that a sum of £250 from the British Team Fund should be used to purchase customised T-shirts, bearing the BPA logo, for the British delegation to the European Skydiving League finals, to be held in Spa, Belgium, on 2-4 September 2005.

**Carried unanimously**

The Council asked Andy Scott to ensure that the design on the T-shirts was appropriate.

**Action: Andy Scott**

John Page said that, except when they had been part of a bigger British delegation at World Championships, our international Classics Competitors had not had a team uniform in recent years. He believed that the availability of a team uniform should be extended to British competitors in all disciplines at international meets. The Chairman said this was a matter for the Competitions Committee - the only reason Andy Scott's proposal had been taken direct at the full Council this evening was because it related to a meet that was due to be held before the next meeting of the Competitions Committee.

**Action: John Page to refer to the Competitions Committee**

#### **44/05 Accounts for the financial year 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005**

The draft audited accounts for the Association for the financial year from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 had been circulated. Debbie Carter (Treasurer) tabled a revised draft of page 5. She explained that the revised draft showed members' third party insurance premiums collected and paid to the brokers so that insurance premiums were not treated in the same way as other income, such as subscription income, as this gave a fairer picture. Excluding minor variations because of different payment and accounting dates, the money the BPA collected in insurance premiums was paid out to the brokers as an aggregate insurance premium; it was not income for the Association but money collected by the Association for and on behalf of the insurer.

The outturn was a surplus on the year of £34K, an apparently similar outcome to the previous year 2003/4. However, Debbie Carter reminded the Council that no teams had been funded in 2004/5, and therefore the £18K spent on team funding in the previous year had been spent on other things in 2004/5.

At the request of Lesley Gale, the Council agreed to ask the auditors to separate out advertising income for the Magazine and the BPA calendar, and to change the allocation of a small sum under Magazine costs to another head. Neither of these variations affected the column totals shown in the draft accounts.

Kieran Brady then proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion that the draft accounts should be published in the October issue of *Skydive Magazine* so that they could be considered for formal adoption at the EGM to be held on 6 December 2005.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **45/05 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today**

##### **45.1 Communications Committee**

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

- noted that the financial outturn of the Magazine for the financial year ended on 30 June 2005 included an underspend of approximately £8,721 (subject to confirmation in the audited accounts);
- noted that about 2,500 completed membership survey questionnaires had been returned with 3,700 renewal forms, giving a response rate of 68%, compared with the response rate of 25% for the survey in 2002. (The reason was almost certainly that this year's survey had been printed, for the first time, as an integral part of the renewal form.) This excellent response rate had presented the BPA Office with a huge task in analysing the returned questionnaires, and the Committee was now looking at options to outsource some of this work;
- approved costs for, and commissioned, the production of a new gatefold A4 publicity leaflet to promote skydiving to non-skydivers.

##### **45.2 Development Committee**

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

- gratefully received a completed draft of the Freely Manual prepared by Paul Floyd in consultation with other experienced Freelyers. The Committee would now be consulting on the draft and invited comments before referring it to STC for consideration for formal approval. The Chairman would write to Paul Floyd to thank him;
- noted that the change of hosts of the BPA website had proceeded satisfactorily and that the opportunity had been taken to incorporate a technical update to help make the top navigation bar work on a greater range of Internet browsers;
- liaised with the operators of the two proposed UK wind tunnels on promotional material for skydiving;
- deferred until the next meeting further consideration of contractual arrangements governing the operation of the BPA Shop franchise by UK Parachuting Ltd of Norfolk.

#### **46/05 Reports from Club Representatives**

Elizabeth Stoodley had circulated a report with Jim White on her visit to Skydive St Andrews, the content of which was noted. There were no outstanding issues for the Council. Tony Goodman reported that he had visited Dunkeswell and Redlands but because of bad weather he had not had the opportunity to meet the jumpers. Andy Scott said he had visited Langar and Hibaldstow where he had been asked similar questions to those on his visits last year, mainly about competitions funding.

#### **47/05 Report on the Royal Aero Club**

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) was out of the UK and would report to the next meeting.

The Chairman said that he had received a copy of a letter from Marc Asquith, Chairman of the RAeC, to Max Bishop, Secretary-General of FAI, regarding the RAeC's concerns about the adoption of the WADA Anti-Doping Code for airports. The final paragraph of this letter, which our Chairman read aloud, recorded that the BPA had asked to be noted as dissenters from the RAeC's concerns. This conveyed the BPA's position as supporting the adoption of the WADA Anti-Doping Code for sport parachuting. The BPA's position had therefore been correctly stated to FAI. The Chairman expressed the hope that the RAeC would not express its concerns about anti-doping to UK Sport, or the BPA may be obliged to clarify its position again.

**48/05 2012 Olympics**

Correspondence from Jim Crocker, Calvin Blacker and Nigel Holland had been circulated regarding the possibility of the BPA seeking to include parachuting in some form in the 2012 Olympics . Suggestions included trying to include parachuting as a demonstration sport or in a display as part of the opening or closing ceremonies. The matter had been briefly discussed by the Competitions Committee (Competitions minute 51), which had referred the matter to the full Council.

John Hitchen reported that demonstration sports were regulated by the International Olympic Committee in association with the relevant world sports federations. FAI/IPC were already clear that, unfortunately, there was no prospect of sport parachuting being a demonstration sport in the 2012 Olympics.

There was, however, a possibility that a parachute display might be proposed for the opening or closing ceremony. In discussion, the Council noted that some display teams might be planning themselves to suggest this to the British Olympic Committee. The Council believed that a co-ordinated, sport-wide approach by the BPA would be most likely to succeed. To this end, Tony Goodman kindly volunteered, and the Council duly appointed him, to act as the BPA's Olympic Display Officer. The Chairman asked Tony Goodman, as a first action, kindly to contact all registered Display Teams on behalf of the Council to emphasise that a co-ordinated approach was to be made by the BPA and that teams should not seek to contact the Olympic organisers directly. Tony Goodman said however that he would certainly welcome any ideas and suggestions from teams that might be included in the BPA's proposals.

**Action: Tony Goodman**

The Council noted that any display would have to be of the highest professional standard and would require meticulous planning. The Chairman suggested that the idea of a display might be set out as a goal in the next BPA Development Action Plan, with an appropriate budget. There would of course need to be liaison by the BPA with the UK Olympics Organising Committee to propose that a parachute display be included. This would be done once Tony Goodman had contacted the display teams and received feedback from them.

**Action: Development Committee**

**49/05 Prize draw at AGM 2005**

Correspondence relating to a prize draw organised by Nigel Holland at the AGM 2005 had been circulated. A prizewinner had contacted the BPA Chairman some six months later because she had still not received her prize from Nigel Holland. The prize draw had not been organised by the BPA but Nigel Holland was a Council Member and the prize draw had been promoted by a flier placed on each seat at the AGM. The Chairman said that Nigel Holland was concerned that the involvement of the Chairman and Council in this matter meant that he was being picked on. The Chairman said that he would have taken the same action, to try to get the prizewinner her prize voucher, irrespective of who had organised any prize draw at the BPA AGM. The prizewinner had recently received her prize voucher, but the Chairman was calling the matter to Council's attention to consider the BPA position apropos of any future prize draws or similar competitions.

Members of the Council were acutely aware that, on accepting a seat at the Council table, everything a Council Member did reflected on the Association - whether or not the Council Member was engaged in BPA business at the time. Council Members bore a considerable weight on their shoulders, and it was not realistic to expect to be 'off duty' - in accepting a seat at Council, the role and responsibilities were taken on until that individual stood down. The permanently on-duty nature of a BPA Council Member was especially important when attending an official BPA event such as the AGM, where Council Members were present and on show to the Membership as the Directors of the Association.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the Chairman should write, on behalf of the Council, to Nigel Holland to record the Council's concern at the delay in

supplying the advertised prize to a prizewinner at a draw promoted at the BPA AGM, and to ask him to ensure that such a problem did not recur.

**Carried unanimously**

In further discussion, the Council was pleased to note that exhibitors at the AGM, and the prize draws and competitions that they may from time to time conduct, were usually well organised and promptly honoured. The idea of requiring permission from the BPA for competitions or prize draws to be held was considered, but the consensus was that it would be impractical to operate. However, the suggestion of including some form of waiver in the official programme sheet to state that the BPA was not involved with the organisation of any commercial competitions or prize draws that may be promoted at the AGM, was considered a possible way forward.

**Action: BPA Office**

**50/05 Report of the Panel of Inquiry into the suspected irregularities regarding the operation of Cessna 208B at JSPC Netheravon**

**50.1** A copy of the report, together with correspondence between Charles Shea-Simonds, Chief Pilot of JSPC Netheravon, and the Association, had been circulated in advance. Hard copies of an email received today (16 August) from Charles Shea-Simonds were tabled. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow reading time for the email.

**50.2** In his correspondence, Charles Shea-Simonds had asked the Council to remove three sentences or paragraphs from the report. The report had been accepted by STC. Charles Shea-Simonds apologised that he could not be present for the meeting, but he had only recently become aware of the date and had a previous commitment.

**50.3** With regard to the section of the report headed 'Background', Charles Shea-Simonds had requested that the sentence referring to Nick O'Brien in the first paragraph be removed. No proposal to do this was forthcoming from the table. Andy Scott then proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, that, as a clarification, it should be recorded that Nick O'Brien flew the aircraft on the second day, 28 September 2004. The Chairman advised that the appropriate place to record this clarification would be in the Council minutes. The voting was:

For - 7, Against - 1 (Elizabeth Stoodley by proxy), Abstain - 1 (Kieran Brady) **Carried**

**50.4** With regard to paragraph 2 of the section of the report headed 'Panel findings' concerning Islander restraints, which paragraph Charles Shea-Simonds had asked to be removed, Kieran Brady, Chairman of the Panel, said that no new evidence had been presented to cast doubt on the content of this paragraph. Eddie Jones then proposed, and Tony Goodman seconded, a motion that the paragraph remain unchanged. The voting was:

For - 6, Against - 2 (Jim White; Elizabeth Stoodley by proxy), Abstain - 1 (Kieran Brady)

**Carried**

**50.5** Council then considered paragraph 2 of the section of the report headed 'Other observations', about the choice of Chief Pilot for the Club, which Charles Shea-Simonds had asked to be removed. Andy Scott believed that paragraph 2 should be deleted because he did not consider its content to be a matter for the Panel. Tony Butler, BPA Technical Officer, said that when the BPA carried out Club Inspections this was typical the kind of observation that the BPA might make.

**50.6** Eddie Jones proposed, and Tony Goodman seconded, a motion that paragraph 2 of the section of the report headed 'Other observations' should remain unchanged.

**50.7** Andy Scott made a counter-proposal that paragraph 2 of the section of the report headed 'Other observations' should be removed. A vote was then taken on this counter-proposal as follow

For - 3 (including Elizabeth Stoodley by proxy), Against - 5, Abstain - 1 (Kieran Brady)

**Not carried**

**50.8** The counter-proposal having been lost, a vote was then taken on the original proposal, that paragraph 2 of the section of the report headed 'Other observations' should remain unchanged. The vote was:

For - 5, Against - 3 (including Elizabeth Stoodley by proxy), Abstain - 1 (Kieran Brady)

**Carried**

**50.9** Eddie Jones observed that there appeared to be two reactions from those who came before Panels of Inquiry. One was to admit their mistake and seek to redress it. The other was to seek to deny everything and try to obfuscate the issue. He then proposed a vote of thanks from the Council to the Members of this Panel of Inquiry and to the staff involved.

**50.10** Kieran Brady offered to write a 'letter of comfort' to Charles Shea-Simonds, whom he said he had never met. The Chairman said that it was up to Kieran Brady if he wished to do this in a personal capacity. The Chairman would write to advise Charles Shea-Simonds of the Council's decisions.

**Action: Chairman**

**51/05 Club Audit**

Tony Butler tabled documents relating to a BPA Club inspection/audit that had taken place on 18 May 2005. Exceptionally, the Club had not yet addressed certain outstanding issues. Tony Butler had advised the Club in writing that if the matter remained unresolved by this Thursday, 18 August 2005, he would be left with no option but to consider asking the CAA to suspend the Club's P&E. Because the circumstances were so exceptional, Tony Butler said he wished to seek the support of the full Council for any action he might be obliged to take.

Jim White stated that the Club had already prepared a letter of reply that would satisfactorily answer the outstanding issues. John Page said he was grateful for this assurance, but in response to the Technical Officer's request, he proposed a motion that the Council supported the Technical Officer (TO)/National Coach and Safety Officer (NCSO) in any action they may consider it appropriate to take in the event that the reply from the Club was either not forthcoming by the due date, or was received but was not considered by the TO/NCSO to be satisfactory. The vote was:

For - 5; Against - 0, Abstentions - 3 (Kieran Brady, Eddie Jones, Jim White)

**Carried**

**52/05 Instructor course**

John Hitchen sought, and was given, the Council's approval to write to parachute centre to confirm whether or not it wished to continue with the arrangements for a future BPA Instructor course. John Hitchen said that he would be pleased to deliver the course but, for the sake of the course members, needed to be sure it would still be welcome in the light of strong emotions raised over a disciplinary matter involving certain personnel at the centre.

**53/05 Red Letter Days**

Stuart Meacock (Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson) called the Council's attention to the booking agency Red Letter Days having gone into administration owing his centre, and several other parachuting centres, considerable sums. He believed that Red Letter Days was now trading as a new company and may be advertising tandem parachute jumps when, so far as he was aware from telephoning other BPA Affiliated Centres, no UK parachute centre was currently a supplier to the new Red Letter Days. He asked that the BPA should make representations to the appropriate authority.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the BPA Office should send a letter to all UK Clubs & Centres to establish the facts. If it appeared that the UK parachute industry was suffering a significant loss, and that the 'new' Red Letter Days was advertising UK parachuting experiences yet no Club or Centre was supplying them, then the BPA should make appropriate representations.

**Carried unanimously**

**54/05 Dates of future meetings in 2005**

Tuesdays 11 October and 6 December (after the EGM) at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 2135.

Issued: 8 September 2005

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