

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 6 December 2005 at 1840**

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

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Adrian Bond	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	Ralph Fielding	
	Tony Goodman	
	Nigel Holland	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Ian Marshall	
	John Page	
	Andy Scott	
	Elizabeth Stoodley	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	Lesley Gale	Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i>
	David Hickling	Insurance Committee (to item 69.2)
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
<b>Observer:</b>	Roy Clarke	Council 2006 nominee
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman
	Jim White	

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## Item Minute

### 66/05 Minutes

Eddie Jones requested that the draft minute 58.6 should be corrected to read as follows:

**58.6** Eddie Jones proposed that the Council should accept the recommendations in the Panel of Inquiry Report [as had been accepted by STC] without any changes. This failed to find a seconder.

Nigel Holland then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2005, with the above correction, should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

**Approved**

### 67/05 151-way women's World Record

The Chairman conveyed the Council's congratulations to the 151-way women's World Record formation and in particular to all of the Brit Chicks who had taken part in it. The Council was delighted with the early day motion of congratulations that had been supported by over 100 MPs in the House of Commons.

**68/05 Insurance**

This was a new item, which the Council agreed to consider first whilst David Hickling, Insurance Chairman, was present. David Hickling reported that an ad hoc meeting of the Insurance Committee had been held immediately before the Council meeting. This had been to consider the cost of BPA insurance for Joint Services Adventurous Training (JSAT) students. These on-duty military personnel were covered by the Ministry of Defence in terms of Employers' Liability insurance, but still paid pro rata the full premium for BPA insurance cover. The military was seeking a reduction in premium to reflect the lower residual risk once MoD cover had been taken into account. The military were questioning the value that JSAT students received from their premium and some within the military were now questioning whether JAST students should remain within the BPA. The Council believed that JSAT students should stay within the BPA so that the BPA continued as one voice to represent all sport parachuting within the UK. David Hickling assured the Council that if it were possible to negotiate with the insurers a lower premium for JSAT students, this would in no way disadvantage non-military sport parachutists.

John Page proposed, and Tony Goodman seconded, a motion that the Insurance Committee be authorised to negotiate with the insurers on the above.

**Carried unanimously**

**69/05 Matters arising**

**69.1 Trophy for outstanding achievement in the sport (minute 57.1)**

Unfortunately Wilkinson Sword, manufacturers of the presentation sword favoured at the last meeting, had recently announced that they were no longer in a position to supply presentation swords. Sword designs from two other manufacturers (details tabled) were therefore considered. Ralph Fielding said he knew of a shop in Nottingham that sold swords. The Council decided to wait to see whether Ralph Fielding could find out about any further options. In discussion, the Council clarified that it was seeking a two-handed sword to mount the flat on a display panel, and a hand guard could be difficult to accommodate. The award was to be awarded periodically at the RAeC Awards Ceremony: it was not intended to be an annual award. If possible award holders would receive a smaller version of the sword trophy to retain in perpetuity.

**Action: Ralph Fielding**

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

The Chairman reported that he had spoken by telephone to Major Paul Moore, Commandant of RAPA. The BPA's insurance broker had provided RAPA with a quotation for RAPA's own customised insurance policy as a Club, which would also cover the BPA. RAPA had yet formally to respond to the quotation.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the Council should again extend, until the next ordinary meeting of the Council in February 2006, 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**

**69.3 Report of the Panel of Inquiry into the suspected irregularities regarding the operation of Cessna 208B at JSPC Netheravon (minute 57.6)**

The Council noted the letter from Colonel Arthur Gibson, Vice Chairman of the Army Parachute Association, dated 17 November 2005 (received on 23 November) and the Chairman's reply of 2 December. Kieran Brady, Chairman of the Panel, said that Colonel Gibson had not yet got in touch with him, as the Chairman's letter had invited.

**69.4 From UK Sport – Non-Olympic Investment Framework (minute 61.2)**

The Chairman's robust letter of 1 December 2005 urging UK Sport to reconsider its proposed cut in investment in non-Olympic sports such as sport parachuting, had been circulated. If our national delegation performed well, as we expected, at the World Parachute Championships in 2006, this would give us the ammunition to fight harder. In the meantime,

the Chairman asked that the Committees and Council should continue to prepare the next annual Action Plan in the normal manner. He asked that all Council Members should start to think now about projects for next year. New nominees for Council 2006 would also be invited to contribute. The percentages of funding allocated to each functional area would remain the same as this year, and Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, would be asked to apply these percentages to the available funds to calculate a budget for each area of activity.

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

#### **69.5 The Phil Gibbs Trophy (minute 61.3)**

A letter from Phil Gibbs, received by email on 8 November, had been circulated. The Council confirmed that it had never in the past adopted the trophy sent in by Phil Gibbs, and was unfortunately not in a position to do so now. The trophy itself was of an entirely different nature to the special trophy planned for outstanding achievement in the sport (minute 69.1), which was to be awarded on a periodic basis at the RAeC Awards Ceremony, not at the BPA AGM. There was no present need for another trophy to be awarded at the BPA AGM.

The Council agreed that the Chairman should write back to Phil Gibbs to confirm, with regret, that the trophy he had submitted on a speculative basis was not required by the Association.

**Action: Chairman**

#### **70/05 Disciplinary procedures**

The Chairman had prepared and circulated a draft of the proposed rules and procedures for tribunal proceedings of the kind that the Council had unanimously agreed to adopt (minute 64 refers). Ian Marshall congratulated the Chairman on a job well done. The Chairman recommended that the new procedures should be introduced from 1 April 2006, the start of the new membership year, and therefore the start of a new contract between the Association and each Member. The Chairman said he would draft an aide memoire of guidance for the tribunal to complement the procedures.

In discussion, the Chairman confirmed that the intention was to seek to run the tribunal procedures at no cost, apart from the reimbursement of travelling and subsistence expenses for tribunal members, in just the same way as expenses were reimbursed to members of Panels of Inquiry under the current system. Tribunals had the power to award costs either way. If a respondent lost their case the costs would normally be for the cost of the tribunal plus a contribution to the cost of the investigation. However, as with most sporting tribunals, legal costs would not normally be awarded. It was important to remember that tribunals were not a court of law, but a sporting tribunal. The intention was for the BPA to continue to govern its sport as it always had done, but with more robust procedures that better reflected contemporary law and good practice.

Ian Marshall reflected that respondents who lost their appeal within the new BPA tribunal system, could still go to law. The Chairman said this was absolutely the case. But he said that two recent published cases from the Court of Appeal showed that if a sporting association's tribunal process was demonstrably fair, just and reasonable, the courts would be reluctant to interfere with due process in the governance of a sport.

The Council thanked the Chairman for setting out the new procedures so clearly and asked that there should be liaison with other stakeholders about their introduction. The Chairman asked that the new procedures should be circulated for information to the CAA, Drop Zones, Vice Presidents and BPA Liaison Officer to the CAA, and any comments invited well ahead of 1 April 2006.

**Action: BPA Office**

The Chairman emphasised the importance of adopting the new procedures on 1 April 2006, as he had received a number of concerns and complaints about the present system. It was essential for the BPA to move forward and embrace best contemporary practice. This had been underlined by a Sports Law Conference that the Chairman had attended on behalf of the Association in London on 30 November.

Ian Marshall formally proposed, and Elizabeth Stoodley seconded, that the BPA's new disciplinary tribunal procedures should be adopted with effect from 1 April 2006, subject to the CAA's acceptance of these procedures as part of the Exposition.

**Carried unanimously**

**71/05 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

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

**71.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 October 2005**

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 11 October 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**71.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 October 2005**

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 11 October 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**71.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 1 December 2005**

With reference to STC minute 4 iii, Ian Marshall congratulated the AFF instructor for his quick thinking in cutting away a student's main when the student had had a bag lock and had made no attempt to carry out his reserve drills.

John Page then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 1 December 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**71.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 November 2005**

John Page said he had written to John Smyth, Competitions Chairman, after the meeting to say he believed that the Committee's discussion about nationality criteria had been concluded too quickly. The outcome had been a successful motion, passed by 3 votes in favour to 2 against, to 'dispense with the residency requirement and leave eligibility for UK nationality as being determined solely by an individual's right to hold, or be eligible to hold, a UK passport.'

The Chairman said he was concerned that the phrase "eligible to hold a UK passport" would put the BPA office in the untenable position of seeking to judge whether an individual was eligible for a UK passport or not. The BPA Office was not the Passport Office, and the Chairman knew from research he had himself conducted how difficult and complicated, if not impossible, it might be to determine whether an individual was 'eligible' for a UK passport. He recommended that it would be better simply to say 'hold a UK passport'. Then all issues of eligibility were firmly placed where they belonged, with the Passport Office. Ian Marshall said that this wording had been adopted by the Competitions Committee because it would require competitors at the British Nationals (but not of course the Open Nationals) to hold a UK passport if they wished to qualify for selection to represent the UK, and this would inevitably include competitors who did not meet the performance criteria for selection. The Chairman said that competitors who were at or near the standard for selection would already know this, and that they should sensibly obtain a passport in advance of selection.

Elizabeth Stoodley proposed, and Adrian Bond seconded, a motion that competitors in the British Nationals must hold a UK passport. The vote was:

For – 5                      Against – 6

**Not carried**

John Page then proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion to refer back the issue for further consideration by the Competitions Committee. The vote was:

For – 6                      Against – 5

**Carried**

Nigel Holland requested three changes to the Competitions Committee minutes (i) that the reference to the 'number of judges in Freestyle events' in Competitions minute 70 be changed to

'judging in Freely events'; (ii) that a sentence be added to minute 71.2 to record his pointing out that the dates for the Artistic Nationals in August 2006 clashed with the end of the Canopy Piloting World Championships 2006, which meant that a number of competitors in the CP World Championships whom he named would not be able to take part in the Artistic Nationals; and (iii) a typographical error in minute 72.2 be corrected where erroneous reference had been made to 'selection at the Artistic Nationals 2006' which should be corrected to read '2005'.

Kieran Brady expressed his disappointment with Competitions minute 71.15 about the Scottish Nationals. He raised a number of issues about the scheduling of competitions, including the closeness of date of the Grand Prix on 13/14 May 2006 to the long established dates for the Scottish Nationals on the late spring bank holiday weekend at the end of May.

Andy Scott (Competitions Vice Chairman) said that the Competitions Committee had carefully avoided scheduling a Grand Prix on the traditional date of the Scottish Nationals so as to avoid any clash of dates. Moreover, competitors had told him they did not want to compete over bank holiday weekends because they wished to use the 3-day weekend for training. The number of Grand Prix meets had been reduced, as competitors had indicated that they wished to attend other competitions too. This left room for the Scottish Nationals. Grand Prix meets were awarded purely on the basis of bids received – the Committee had no preconceived notion of location. Finally, Andy Scott clarified to Kieran Brady that Grand Prix dates were set to *match* ESL dates, not to avoid them, as ESL was a series of meets held concurrently in different European nations using a common dive pool so that one nation's performance was directly comparable with another's.

Kieran Brady said he was not happy with the way the selection of Grand Prix dates had been handled by the Competitions Committee, he believed that the information he had been given had been inconsistent, and he was disappointed that the Competitions Committee had not telephoned him to discuss the matter.

The Chairman asked that, as the Competitions Chairman John Smyth was not present tonight, Kieran Brady's comments should be taken into account by the Competitions Committee in order to help resolve for the future any misunderstandings that may have arisen.

Andy Scott then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 1 November 2005 should be ratified, with the three corrections made by Nigel Holland listed earlier in this minute, but excepting the decision on nationality criteria (competitions minute 75), which had been referred back by the Council for further consideration by the Competitions Committee. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

Andy Scott proposed, and Nigel Holland seconded, a motion that Certificates of Merit should be awarded at the AGM to (i) team *Arikix*, for their World Record in 4-way women's FS at the FS Nationals 2005 and for coming fourth in the World Cup in Eloy in October 2005; (ii) the 14 Brit Chicks who had taken part in the World Record women's 151-way formation; and (iii) the six BPA Members who had taken part in the recent 85-way CF World Record Formation.

**Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office**

Nigel Holland reported on Artistic Events world record attempts in which BPA Members were planning to participate, but was advised by the Chairman that decisions on the award of Certificates of Merit could not be taken in advance.

## **72/05 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today**

### **72.1 Communications Committee**

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

- considered a possible review of the charges to advertisers for purchasing advertising space in the *Skydive Magazine* with a view to ensuring that income was optimised;
- noted that the BPA Calendar 2006 had been issued and had been well received;
- noted that the December 2005 issue of *Skydive Magazine* had been generally well received apart from a number of complaints about the editorial to the 'Club News' section, written by Lucie Fenton, Editorial Assistant. that had made apparently disrespectful comments about the BPA Council. Lucie Fenton had apologised if her editorial had come over that way and said it had not been what she had intended. She accepted the piece had been badly written and both she and Lesley Gale, Editor, had apologised; and the Committee had accepted the apology.

### **72.2 Development Committee**

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

- further considered the detail of the terms for a letter of agreement with UK Parachute Services Ltd to govern the franchise of the BPA Shop that they operated;
- approved a suggestion to add links from the BPA website to the websites of any BPA-registered Display Teams that required such a link;
- confirmed, during a discussion on wind tunnels, that the Committee welcomed approaches from any organisation that could offer something that would benefit BPA Members; but that in so doing, it could not compromise the Association's adherence to the principles of data protection, and in particular Council's policy of not passing personal data on our Members to third parties;
- agreed to consider, in the next calendar year, the analysis of the BPA membership survey questionnaire 2005, including possible financial savings by variations to the distribution channels for minutes whilst at the same time continuing to ensure that ratified minutes are easily accessible to the Membership. In reply to a question from Elizabeth Stoodley, Eddie Jones said that the Committee did not consider it appropriate to make a decision today purely on the allure of cost saving, as there were many factors to consider about the accessibility and availability of minutes to the whole Membership to ensure that whatever decision was taken was a correct and properly considered one.

## **73/05 Report on the Royal Aero Club**

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) had been unable to attend the last RAeC Council meeting, where Jim Crocker (BPA Alternate Delegate to RAeC) had represented the BPA. John Smyth had, however, attended the earlier meeting of the RAeC's Awards Committee and was delighted to report, in his circulated paper, that the BPA's nomination for John Curtis to receive the RAeC Bronze Medal had been successful. The Council congratulated John Curtis on his award, which would be presented at the RAeC Awards Ceremony in spring 2006.

The main issue to note from the RAeC Council meeting had been the defeat of a proposal to vary the terms and arrangements for the issue of FAI sporting licences ('FAI stamps'). The BPA had not supported the proposal and was pleased that it had been defeated.

## **74/05 Application for Association**

Eddie Jones reported that Paul Mayer of the Bodyflight Wind Tunnel in Bedford had expressed an interest in the possibility of Bodyflight applying to become a BPA Associated Organisation. The Chairman said that this should be considered in the New Year, in particular the definition of the term 'BPA Associated Organisation' and any possible insurance

implications, as the BPA insurance policy did not cover BPA Members in any activities in or associated with wind tunnels.

**75/05 Date of next meeting**

As this was the last Council meeting of 2005, the Chairman thanked all Council Members for their contributions to the meetings of the Council and its Subcommittees, and for their hard work for the Association between meetings. He also thanked the staff for their efficient day-to-day running of the Association under the policies of the Council. He wished good luck to everyone standing for election to the Council in 2006, and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

The next meeting, for those elected to Council 2006, would be the inaugural meeting of Council 2006 to be held in Room 18 of the Hinckley Island Hotel immediately after the AGM and presentation ceremony, on the morning of Saturday 21 January 2006.

The meeting closed at 2055.