

British Parachute Association

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The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 21 February 2006 at 1830

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

Present:	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	John Horne	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Mark Maynard	
	Paul Moore	
	John Page	
	Grant Richards	
	Mike Rust	
	Andy Scott	
	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman
	Elizabeth Stoodley	
In attendance:	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Lesley Gale	Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i>
	David Hickling	Insurance Committee (to item 9)
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	Tony Goodman	
	Ian Marshall	
Observers (to item 9):	Robin Durie	
	Colin Fitzmaurice	
	Stuart Meacock	
	Mike Smith	
	James Swallow	

Item Minute

06/06 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members of the Council 2006 to their first ordinary meeting.

07/06 Minutes

7.1 EGM - Tuesday 6 December 2005

Kieran Brady proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2005 be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

7.2 Council meeting - Tuesday 6 December 2005

John Page proposed, and Mike Rust seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2005 be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

7.3 AGM - Saturday 21 January 2006

Eddie Jones proposed, and Mark Maynard seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Association's thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21 January 2006 be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

7.4 Inaugural Council meeting 2005 - Saturday 21 January 2006

Paul Applegate proposed, and Mark Maynard seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Inaugural Council meeting 2006 held on Saturday 21 January 2006 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

08/06 Matters arising

No matters arising were raised.

09/06 Insurance

A special resolution put forward by Ludwig Schmude (Membership number 128063) had been passed by the Membership at the AGM (AGM minute 2). This was:

"To allow experienced German Parachutists, who are residents of Germany and provided they have valid German licences and insurance cover, to be allowed to jump on BPA DZ's without a mandatory BPA Membership".

The insurers had subsequently advised that they were not in a position to alter the BPA's insurance policy specifically to cover experienced German parachutists who met the above criteria, as this would be unlikely to satisfy European regulations. Instead, the policy would have to be opened to cover residents of all EU countries. The additional risk would require an additional premium. This additional premium would have to be paid by BPA Members, as the experienced jumpers from other EU nations would not be making a contribution to the cost of the insurance. The insurers had indicated how the cost of additional premium would be calculated, and it came to approximately £20 to £30 extra payable by each full BPA Member for the year beginning on 1 April 2006. This would have to be added to the subscription of £112.60 approved at the AGM (AGM minute 3), which included an insurance component of £61.31 (unchanged from 2005/6, based on no change to the policy).

The Council did not believe that the Membership could reasonably have foreseen that the resolution carried at the AGM would affect the cost of insurance by adding £20 to £30 to the membership subscription rate that had been passed later in the AGM. This left the Council in some difficulty.

That difficulty had been compounded because the existing policy only applied if all jumpers at any given BPA Affiliated Drop Zone were BPA Members. If any individual was allowed to jump without BPA Membership – and who was therefore not a contributor to the cost of the policy – no jumper at that Drop Zone, or any other party to the policy, would be covered. The Chairman had written to call this to the attention of Clubs & Centres of this on 30 January 2006.

The BPA policy was unique in that it did not simply cover the jumper – it additionally covered many other parties including riggers, packers, manifestors, jumpmasters, the Club or Centre itself and the BPA as a body corporate. The policy was, therefore, entirely different in nature from policies in continental Europe that protected the jumper only. This was the key to the difficulty, and therefore the high cost, of seeking to allow non-BPA Members from Germany to jump at BPA Drop Zones – it would invalidate the BPA insurance policy, which was predicated on the inclusivity of BPA Membership. The resolution at the AGM for reciprocity (experienced German parachutists to jump at British Drop Zones on their insurance, as experienced British

parachutists may jump at German Drop zones on British insurance) was hard to implement in the BPA because the German and British insurance policies were entirely different in nature.

The Chairman said that the Association's new contract with its members started on 1 April 2006, the beginning of the new membership year. Any variations that the Council may decide to make to the insurance policy to give effect to the resolution passed at the AGM, with the associated increase in premium demanded by the insurers as a consequence, had to be settled before then. The Chairman reminded the Council that the quotation of no increase in insurance that had been accepted by the membership at the AGM as part of the 2006/7 membership subscription, had been conditional on there being no variations to the policy or large claims before the renewal date of 1 April 2006. The insurers were perfectly within their rights to charge higher premiums for any variation in policy that would increase their risk, and the resolution carried at the AGM would do just that.

Kieran Brady said that because of the ramifications to Drop Zones, David Hickling, Chairman of the Insurance Subcommittee, had held a meeting with Drop Zone Operators earlier today. The present position was that DZ Operators would not allow non-BPA Members to jump at their centres because this would make the insurance policy for other jumpers, and for their centre, null and void. He asked the Council to consider whether it might be appropriate to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and/or to hold a postal vote of the Membership to determine whether or not the additional insurance premium of about £25 payable by each full BPA Member to give effect to the resolution passed at the AGM, would be acceptable to the membership.

The Chairman supported the suggestion of holding an EGM with a facility to vote by post. However, this would have to be done before 1 April 2006. In discussion of the logistics of organising a postal vote, it became clear that there was insufficient time available.

A possible way forward that the DZ Operators' meeting had supported was that the group of experienced German skydivers represented by Ludwig Schmude, should be allowed to jump at RAPA on payment of the insurance component only of the BPA subscription, and be excused from paying the BPA component or the Magazine component (they would not receive a Magazine). This approach was contained in Ludwig Schmude's second proposal to the AGM, which was never considered because his first proposal had carried. As such, Kieran Brady said that the BPA could be fairly confident that this approach would address the concerns of the experienced German skydivers whom Ludwig Schmude represented.

David Hickling identified two different elements of the issue. One was the situation of experienced German parachutists local to Bad Lippspringe who wished to jump on their own insurance. The other was the apparent wish of the Membership, as expressed at the AGM, to open the doors to Europe. He said that the BPA had a robust insurance policy in place, that had been carefully evolved over the years, and to seek, before 1 April 2006, major structural changes in the policy - such as splitting it out between jumpers and other parties, to make the policy more compatible with the type of policy held by jumpers in the continental Europe - could leave the BPA without insurance if the underwriter walked away. The brokers had been unable for some years to identify any other underwriter who was prepared to take on the BPA's insurance account, once they had seen the loss ratios. There was therefore the longer-term issue of opening the doors to Europe that the Insurance Committee had been mandated by the membership to address. Stuart Meacock welcomed this approach because the resolution passed at the AGM had no time line attached to it. David Hickling said that the question was, in the meantime, could something be done for the experienced German jumpers at Bad Lippspringe?

The Council supported the approach suggested by David Hickling, which it believed to be in the best interests of the membership in moving forward with the AGM resolution without putting at risk continuance of the insurance policy with no increase in premium from last year, which had also been passed by a vote at the AGM. The Council therefore tasked the Insurance Subcommittee with reviewing the BPA insurance policy, in consultation with the insurers, with the aim of thoroughly researching and investigating variations to the policy that

would allow reciprocity with experienced parachutists in other EU nations and open the doors to Europe. The Council recognised that any changes could not realistically take place before the 2007/8 Membership year and that any resultant rise in the Membership subscriptions would need to be agreed by the Membership, probably at an AGM, beforehand. The Council asked the Insurance Committee to keep it informed of progress through the Development Committee.

Action: Insurance Subcommittee

Eddie Jones then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion to allow experienced German parachutists to jump at Bad Lippspringe only either:

- (i) by paying the BPA insurance premium only (to cover Bad Lippspringe and the BPA, etc), without having to pay the BPA or Magazine elements of the BPA subscription; or
- (ii) by continuing to allow Paul Moore to be authorised, at his discretion, to issue more than one BPA Temporary Membership to any individual experienced German jumper at his Drop Zone.

For the purposes of (i) and (ii) above, 'experienced' was defined as the German equivalent of Category 8 with at least 100 jumps.

Paul Moore (Commandant of RAPA, Bad Lippspringe) abstained from the vote.

Carried nem con

The Chairman said that the Council's decision would give breathing space without the need to call an EGM or for there to be any increase in the insurance component of the BPA Membership subscription in the year beginning on 1 April 2006.

The Chairman said he would write to Clubs & Centres to advise them of the position, as a follow-up to his letter of 30 January 2006.

Action: Chairman

Lesley Gale asked for a statement for publication in *Skydive Magazine*.

Action: BPA Office

10/06 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees

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

10.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 December 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 6 December 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

10.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 6 December 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 6 December 2005 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

10.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 2 February 2006

John Hitchen reported on STC's approval of FS students' and coaches' manuals, which had been written by Aaron Faith and Julia Foxwell, who STC had thanked and to whom Council now added its own thanks. The manuals were available for downloading from the new 'Training manuals' page of the BPA website.

STC had asked to see a copy of the new BPA disciplinary tribunal procedures, and John Hitchen said he would arrange to circulate a copy. Kieran Brady reported that some STC Members had been concerned by the lack of consultation with STC over the new procedures. The Chairman said that it had first been necessary to ensure that the new procedures would satisfy the CAA, from whom a relatively positive response had been received.

Paul Applegate reported that he had apologised on behalf of the Council to David Hickling who had expressed to STC his concern that the Council had heard, and decided a different penalty upon, a CCI's appeal against an STC decision that had been based on the recommendation of a Panel of Inquiry without David Hickling, as a member of the Panel, having been aware of it. [The Chair of the Panel and the Chairman of STC had, however, attended the Council meeting at which the appeal had been heard.]

Mike Rust then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 2 February 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

10.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2006

John Smyth, Competitions Chairman, confirmed that the Competitions Committee had actioned the Council's request to reconsider the eligibility criteria for selection for the British team (Council minute 71.4/05 refers). In accordance with the Council's guidance, the Committee had now said that the criterion was to hold a British passport. This applied to all competitors (100% of a team).

The Committee was tonight putting forward recommendations to the Council that the following persons should be appointed official positions in the British delegation to the World Parachute Championships 2006. These were John Hitchen as the Head of Delegation and John Page as the Team Manager for the Classics and CF WPC in Stupino, Russia; John Smyth as Head of Delegation at the FS and AE WPC in Gera, Germany and the CP WPC in Vienna, Austria; Andy Scott as the Team Manager for the FS and AE WPC in Gera, Germany; Grant Richards as the Team Manager for the CP WPC in Vienna, Austria. The Council accepted these recommendations nem con.

Competitions judge Frank Mallabone had written a letter to the Council dated 7 February 2006. This had been considered by the Competitions Committee, which had met before the Council meeting, and a holding reply had been sent by the Competitions Chairman, which had also been circulated to the full Council. John Smyth explained the Committee's reply to the six specific points that Frank Mallabone had raised in his letter, the reply being set out in the minutes of the Competitions Committee. The Council endorsed the reply to Frank Mallabone, which would be formally ratified as part of the minutes.

In response to the final point made by Frank Mallabone in his letter, the Chairman of Council re-affirmed the Association's full support and funding of up to £30K for 4-way FS women's National Champion team *Airkix*, which had met the rigorous performance criteria for funding by achieving a performance equivalent to fourth place or better at the last world meet – which meant that they had a realistic prospect of bringing home medals from WPC 2006. The Competitions Chairman apologised to team *Airkix* and to the Council that a technical oversight in the rules (now updated), because our Nationals did not have a separate female 4-way FS event, had provided the basis for Frank Mallabone to request the Council to reconsider its funding of team *Airkix*. The Council saw absolutely no case to do this.

The Chairman noted that Bob Card had stood down as UK Alternate Delegate to IPC for family reasons. He had already written to Bob Card convey the Council's most grateful thanks for his sterling contribution to international in sport parachuting. The Council invited the Competitions Committee to recommend to the Council a new nominee as Alternate Delegate to IPC.

Action: Refer to Competitions Committee

The Chairman congratulated Andy Scott, Lesley Gale and all the other BPA Members who had taken part in the World record 400-way formation over Thailand earlier this month. Certificates of Merit had been sent to those in the British contingent.

John Smyth then proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 15 February 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

Ratified

11/06 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today

11.1 Communications Committee

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

- received *Skydive Magazine* for February 2006 and considered it to be a good issue;
- agreed appropriate updates to the *Skydive Starter Magazine* to allow a cost-effective reprint of 30,000 copies;
- formulated the Communications Action Plan 2006/7 for recommendation to the full Council.

11.2 Development Committee

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

- co-opted Adrian Bond on to the Development Committee for 2006 to continue with his work on the re-launch of the BPA Affinity Credit Card;
- agreed a draft contract for the BPA Shop franchise and forwarded this to Grant Richards of UK Parachute Services Ltd, the franchisee;
- formulated the Development Action Plan 2006/7 for recommendation to the full Council.

There followed discussion about liaison with the two UK wind tunnel operators. Kieran Brady reported on email correspondence before the AGM with Simon Ward of the Airkix wind tunnel. Kieran Brady, Eddie Jones, John Smyth and Andy Scott had met for discussion at the AGM and had agreed that, to improve liaison and avoid any future misunderstandings, it would be helpful to appoint someone to liaise between Simon Ward and the Development Committee. Andy Scott had been offered, and had accepted, this role.

Andy Scott had copied an updated proposal from Simon Ward to the Council, which offered BPA Members free-of-charge wind tunnel time if they bought three paying friends, who would be entitled to a discount on normal rates. Andy Scott informed the Council that Simon Ward had told him that he wished to launch this as a joint initiative between the Airkix wind tunnel and the BPA, and as such it appeared to Members of the Council that Simon Ward was seeking a free-of-charge promotional announcement on two prime pages of *Skydive Magazine*. In response to a question from the Chairman, Lesley Gale said that the space requirements in the Magazine that Simon Ward had in mind for the announcement would be worth about £1K if sold as advertising space.

John Page said that the membership might perceive it as partisan for the BPA to enter into a joint promotional venture with one wind tunnel when the BPA was liaising with both UK wind tunnels.

Eddie Jones said he believed that the proposal from Simon Ward should be referred to the next meeting of the Development Committee for consideration. Andy Scott indicated that this would be acceptable.

Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) reported that the matter had been discussed at the DZ Operators' meeting today and, as BPA Affiliated Clubs and Centres who paid for their own advertising in *Skydive Magazine* and on the BPA website, they believed that wind tunnel operators should do the same.

Andy Scott said that the offer from the Airkix wind tunnel would disappear if it was not taken up. The Chairman said that there were many aspects of such a proposal to consider, not least those of Drop Zone Operators, and that it was therefore essential for the proposal to be given detailed consideration by the Development Committee.

Action: Refer to Development Committee

12/06 BPA Action Plan: 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

The Chairman reported that UK Sport had, as a result of lobbying from the BPA and other non-Olympic sports National Governing Bodies (minute 69.4/05), reviewed its plan to cut off BPA funding after 2006/7 and had now increased funding from £12.5 to £25 K for 2006/7 and 2007/8, together with £12.5K for 2008/9, following which funding would then stop. This gave the BPA more time both to continue its campaign against cuts in UK Sport's exchequer grants to non-Olympic sports, and to seek alternative sources of income to make up the shortfall.

The Chairman invited the Council to consider for approval the draft Action Plans in each of the Association's areas of operation. Once approved, the plans would be consolidated into a single document as part of the requirements to secure promised funding from UK Sport. He said that this may entail some editing of the Plan to cast it into the appropriate format for UK Sport, but that each target and its associated budget would remain true to what the Council was voting on tonight.

12.1 Safety and Training Action Plan 2006/7

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 12.1.1 Produce 1-2 safety posters relating to parachuting aircraft safety - budget £4K
- 12.1.2 Train Club and Team personnel in the conduct of risk assessments - budget £3K
- 12.1.3 Produce a new BPA Parachuting Pilot manual - budget £5K.

Andy Scott then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the above STC Action Plan, with the three targets stated and a total budget of £12K, should be approved.

Carried unanimously

12.2 Competitions Action Plan 2006/7

The targets and their associated budgets were:

- 12.2.1 (a) Coach up-and-coming, non-senior, teams; (b) Coach National Champions in all disciplines – budget £20K
- 12.2.2 Retain the level of UK National and International judging expertise at establishment - budget £5K
- 12.2.3 Support Heads of Delegation and Team Managers to the World Parachute Championships 2006 – budget £1.5K
- 12.2.4 Set aside funds to Invest in the British Delegation for the World Parachute Championships 2008 – budget £30.8K.

John Smyth then proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion that the above Competitions Action Plan, with the four targets stated and a total budget of £57.3K, should be approved.

Carried unanimously

12.3 Communications Action Plan 2006/7

The targets and their associated budgets were:

From 2006/7 Action Plan expenditure:

- 12.3.1 Reduce expenditure on printing and posting hard copies of BPA minutes – budget £250 (offset against a saving of £5K)
- 12.3.2 Study the feasibility of enhancing the Magazine website – budget £500
- 12.3.3 Design and print a leaflet to advertise skydiving to the public – budget £1400 (recouped from sales to Drop Zones, etc)
- 12.3.4 Design and print a poster to promote skydiving – budget £1K (recouped from sales to Drop Zones, etc)

From routine expenditure:

- 12.3.5 Publish a BPA Skydiving calendar 2007 - budget £2K

Andy Scott suggested that a target for articles on safety in the Magazine might be added, to complement the safety evenings in the Development Committee's Action Plan (minute 12.4). Eddie Jones confirmed that articles on any skydiving subject, including safety, were always welcomed by the Editor. Whilst he would welcome the kind of articles Andy Scott had in mind, he did not consider it appropriate to set them as a target in the Action Plan.

Eddie Jones proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the above Communications Action Plan, with the five targets stated and an Action Plan budget of £3150 (against an available budget of up to £3391, leaving £241 unallocated in this financial year), and running costs of £2K, should be approved.

Carried unanimously

12.4 Development Action Plan 2006/7

The targets and their associated budgets were:

12.4.1 Convene a subcommittee of the Development Committee to review and enhance the BPA's income streams following the projected end of UK Sport exchequer funding in 2009 – budget £1K

12.4.2 Support and encourage Clubs & Centres to run more safety evenings - budget £1K.

Kieran Brady then proposed, and Mark Maynard seconded, a motion that the above Development Action Plan, with the three targets stated and a total budget of £2K (against an available budget of up to £3391, leaving £1391 unallocated in this financial year), should be approved.

Carried unanimously

12.5 Administration Action Plan 2005/6

The targets and their associated budgets were:

12.5.1 Upgrade the computer system /membership database at the BPA Office - budget £2.5K

12.5.2 Train staff in the use of new software programs - budget £1K

12.5.3 Repair the ceiling to the BPA Boardroom, redecorate and install a ceiling-mounted fixture for a Powerpoint projector and screen - budget £ 4.5K

12.5.4 Provide job-related personal development for BPA staff – budget £1.5K.

Eddie Jones proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the above Administration Action Plan, with the four targets stated and a total budget of £9.5K, should be approved.

Carried unanimously

13/06 Report on the Royal Aero Club

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) sought, and was given, approval by the BPA Council formally to nominate Jim Crocker (a Vice President of the BPA) to continue as Chairman of the RAeC Parliamentary Committee.

Agreed

John Smyth reported that the RAeC had increased the BPA's annual subscription renewal by 7.6% to £5675 (2005/6: £5233). In view of the important work that RAeC was doing in fighting for the interests of UK airports against a background of increasing European regulation, and because of the need for the BPA to belong to RAeC as the UK National Aero Club in order for the BPA to enter FAI/IPC international competitions, John Smyth proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the subscription renewal should be approved for payment.

Carried unanimously

14/06 Applications for Re-Affiliation

Five applications for re-Affiliation had been circulated, as follows.

14.1 RAFSPA change of name to Skydive Weston, change of Directors to Steve Scott and Ashley Kemp, change of CCI to Steve Scott.

14.2 Cyprus Combined Service Parachute Centre, change of CCI to Steve Thomas.

14.3 UK Parachute Services Ltd change of CCI to Jason Thompson.

14.4 Skydive London change of Directors – Bryan Poole no longer a Director, Richard Johnson remains a Director. Also change of Chief Pilot.

14.5 Services Parachute Centre (NI), change of CCI to Mick Nealis.

The Chairman asked the BPA staff if they had issues to raise on any of the above and they had none. Paul Applegate therefore proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, that the above five applications for Re-Affiliation should be approved. John Page and Grant Richards abstained from the vote as the re-Affiliation of their own centres was being voted upon.

Carried nem con

15/06 Application for Association

Consideration of an application for Association from Freefall Addicts SL in Spain was deferred pending clarification.

Deferred – Action: BPA Office

16/06 AGM 2007

John Page proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the AGM 2007 should be held on Saturday 20 January 2007.

Carried unanimously

The Hinckley Island Hotel had offered to peg its accommodation and room hire prices for 2007. The Council asked the office to research the price and availability of alternative venues and report back to the next meeting in April.

Action: BPA Office / Next meeting

17/06 HM The Queen's Garden Party

The Chairman reported that he had received an invitation from the office of TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall for the BPA to nominate in confidence one person for an invitation to attend a Royal Garden Party during the summer. The letter specified that the nominee must not have attended a Royal Garden Party before. The Chairman said that he had already had the pleasure of attending a Royal Garden Party where he had had the honour of meeting HM The Queen. This letter was discussed, and an invitee was proposed by John Horne, seconded by John Page and carried unanimously; and a reserve invitee was proposed by Elizabeth Stoodley, seconded by Andy Scott and carried unanimously.

18/06 Airkix wind tunnel

Andy Scott reported that Simon Ward of the Airkix wind tunnel in Milton Keynes had offered the 2 hour session for the Council to familiarise itself with wind tunnel operation. Kieran Brady asked that the Council's thanks for this offer should be conveyed, but he did not believe it to be appropriate for Council members to accept it. Elizabeth Stoodley agreed, especially in view of the joint venture that Simon Ward was proposing between his wind tunnel and the BPA (minute 11.2). John Horne said it could be seen as churlish to decline such a generous offer. The Chairman asked if it would be possible for the tunnel time to be passed on to students, but Andy Scott said this was not an option. The Chairman therefore requested that further consideration should be deferred until after the Development Committee had reported back to the Council on the joint promotional venture that Simon Ward was proposing between the Airkix wind tunnel and the BPA.

Deferred

19/06 Dates of next meetings

Tuesdays at 1830 at the BPA Office, Leicester: 11 April, 13 June, 15 August, 10 October and 5 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 2150.