

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 13 June 2006 at 1838**

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

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	Tony Goodman	
	John Horne	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Ian Marshall	
	John Page	
	Grant Richards	
	Mike Rust	
	Elizabeth Stoodley	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Adrian Bond	
	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Mark Maynard	
	Paul Moore	
	Andy Scott	
	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman

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## Item Minute

### 32/06 Apologies for absence

The Chairman reported that John Smyth had been on his way to tonight's meeting when he had come across a criminal incident in which he had intervened as an off-duty police officer. This unfortunately meant that he might not be able to get here in time for the meeting. The Chairman also reported that Mark Maynard, who had been unable to attend the last meeting because his father had been ill, had tendered his apologies for tonight's meeting because his father had died. The Council recorded its condolences.

### 33/06 Minutes

Paul Applegate proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 April 2006 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

**Approved**

### 33/06 Matters arising

#### 33.1 AGM 2007 (minute 21.5)

The Hinckley Island Hotel had advised the BPA Office that another client wished to book its meeting facilities on the day of the BPA AGM, Saturday 20 January 2007. As a result, the BPA Office had had to confirm our provisional booking at the Hinckley Island for the AGM, in

accordance with the Council's instructions (minute 21.5). The Office had circulated a memorandum setting out the significantly higher cost of another nearby hotel that had quoted to host the AGM. The Office would continue to look for other possible venues at a comparable price. However, the Office had advised that from the searches it had carried out to date, it appeared that it might be quite a challenge to equal or better what appeared to be the competitive price charged by the Hinckley Island.

**33.2 Application for Association Freefall Addicts SL (minute 26)**

No reply had been received to John Horne's letter of 20 April 2006 (circulated).

**33.3 Presentation sword for Outstanding Contribution to the Sport (minute 28)**

The Office reported that the supplier had been unable to offer a small number, perhaps 10, of miniature versions of the presentation sword for the award holders to retain in perpetuity (the trophy sword being handed back for the next recipient). The Council noted this and agreed to consider some other form of keepsake. The Council approved a draft e-mail to Jim Crocker, who had kindly agreed to sponsor the award trophy, to whom it again expressed its thanks.

**Action: BPA Office**

**33.4 Panel of Inquiry into the suspected irregularities regarding the operation of Cessna 208B at JSPC Netheravon**

The Chairman reported that he understood from John Smyth that a meeting between Kieran Brady and Charles Shea-Simonds, at which John Smyth would also be present, had been arranged for this Thursday, 17 June 2006, at 1700.

**34/06 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

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

**34.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 April 2006**

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 April 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**34.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 11 April 2006**

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 April 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**34.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 1 June 2006**

**34.3.1 Skydive Jersey rescue boat**

The Chairman referred to the item about the rescue boat in use at Skydive Jersey (page 3 of the STC minutes). He said he could understand the concern set out in the paragraph above the vote about the capacity of the boat being 7 persons when the capacity of the aircraft was 10 persons. The Chairman noted that the STC vote that had carried the arrangements for the rescue boat had been 4 in favour, 1 against with 8 abstentions. He also noted that Skydive Jersey's CCI had not been present, and that the STC minutes had recorded that some of the voting members of STC had abstained because they had felt they had not known enough about the operation of Skydive Jersey.

The Chairman asked whether the Council was prepared to ratify the STC minutes, in the light of the above. Tony Butler (Technical Officer) said that he and John Hitchen (NCSO) supported the amendment that had been carried at STC. He said that there were already a number of restrictions in place at Skydive Jersey. He explained that (i) the water did not get significantly deep until a considerable distance from the shore, (ii) all parachutists had to have flotation gear, and (iii) only tandems and experienced jumpers were permitted. He compared these arrangements with those at another costal centre.

John Horne and Ian Marshall expressed doubts. Ian Marshall said that shallow water presented risks. The Chairman said he was concerned that some members of STC had indicated that they did not have sufficient knowledge of operations at Skydive Jersey to reach an informed view. In a situation such as this, it was the responsibility of the person or organisation putting forward the proposal to ensure that sufficient information was provided. Mike Rust said he had voted against the proposal at STC.

Elizabeth Stoodley proposed, and John Horne seconded, a motion that this item in the STC minutes should not be ratified that the matter should be referred back to STC for further consideration because the Council was concerned with the high number of abstentions in the STC vote.

Kieran Brady pointed out that the Jersey Boogie was taking place now, and that the arrangements approved by STC might well already be in place. He therefore made a counter-proposal, which was seconded by Eddie Jones, that the Council would ask STC to address the issue more broadly by reviewing its policy on number of places in parachuting aircraft and water-borne rescue craft of centres operating near water. The vote was:

For: 6; Against: 4 – John Horne, John Page, Mike Rust, Elizabeth Stoodley

**Carried – Action: Refer to STC**

The Chairman, who favoured more immediate action to reconcile the difference in capacity between the aircraft and the rescue boat, said that he personally wished to disassociate himself from the above decision. He invited the Council Members who had voted against the motion to associate themselves with his comment if they so wished.

*Note:* Tony Butler left the meeting to telephone Andy Montriou, CCI of Skydive Jersey. He returned to report that Skydive Jersey was operating rescue boats in accordance with its old system, and *not* the revised system that had been discussed by the Council tonight.

#### **34.3.2 Instructor currency**

Eddie Jones highlighted item 6a, Changes to the BPA Operations Manual, on page 7 of the STC minutes. This had regard to the change requiring Advanced Instructors and Instructor Examiners to have completed at least 40 descents in the 5 years preceding their renewal application. He noted that what had been agreed at the previous STC meeting (Council minute 22.3 refers), had been changed at this one. Mike Rust explained that the above was fine-tuning the earlier STC decision.

#### **34.3.3 Wing loadings**

The Chairman called attention to item 6b, Changes to the BPA Operations Manual, on page 7 of the STC minutes, which concerned wing loadings. He asked whether it was reasonable that the BPA should follow canopy manufacturers' recommendations on wing loadings in some cases, but override them in others. Ian Marshall said that there was a range of factors that had to be considered, including the possibility of commercial rather than technical considerations affecting some manufacturers' recommendations. The Chairman made, and Kieran Brady and Elizabeth Stoodley supported, a suggestion that the Council should refer back to STC an amendment to the wording [of the first part of the NB, in STC minute 6b] so that it should cover published manufacturers' advice not just for a higher wing loading, but for *higher or lower* wing loadings.

John Page proposed that the Council should ratify STC's minutes and ask STC further to consider canopy manufacturers' recommendations on wing loadings.

Mike Rust made a counter-proposal to let the matter rest as per STC's decision. The vote was: For – 6; Against – 0; Abstentions – 4.

**Carried**

#### **34.3.4 Ratification of minutes**

Paul Applegate then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 1 June 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

#### **34.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2006**

Ian Marshall reported that the BPA accuracy tuffet had now been sold in accordance with the Competitions Committee's decision. Texair had kindly donated an inflatable tuffet, and the proceeds from the sale of the old BPA tuffet would be used to buy a petrol-driven blower to inflate the new tuffet, with the balance to be invested in the Classics disciplines.

Elizabeth Stoodley pointed out an error in minute 26.2.2 on page 4 of the Competitions Committee minutes, which referred to prizes from sponsors for the Artistic Nationals, and should have referred to the Freefly Grand Prix. This would be corrected before the minutes were published.

The Chairman read aloud an e-mail he had received from Francesca Shashkova requesting that she and Esther Reynolds, as reigning women's' Classics National Champions, should be allowed to retain their trophies as there had been no entrants to the women's competition for National Champions in Classics this year. The Council noted that the Competitions Committee had already considered the matter (Competitions minute 31 refers), and the Chairman would reply by reference to this minute.

**Action: Chairman / BPA Office**

Ian Marshall then proposed, and John Page seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Competitions Committee held on 16 May 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

### **35/06 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today**

#### **35.1 Communications Committee**

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

- reviewed the June Magazine but would be unable to discuss it with Lesley Gale, Editor, until the August meeting because she had been unable to attend today's meeting;
- delivered the print run of 30,000 copies of the updated Starter Magazine. Because of a slight increase in advertising revenue, and a refund from the printers for their mistake in not giving the cover a gloss coating, the printing had in fact been done at no net cost to the BPA;
- achieved all but one of the targets in the Communications Action Plan for 2005/6, having delayed the completion date for the remaining target – a photographic competition in the Magazine – until December 2006.

#### **35.2 Development Committee**

##### **35.2.1 General report**

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

- received a report from John Page, who was continuing to work on the preparation of display material on skydiving for the Bedford wind tunnel;
- noted that the new page for the BPA website on Display Parachuting, to include links to the websites of BPA registered Display Teams, was now being constructed;
- noted that a meeting between the Development Chairman, Simon Ward and John Smyth, to discuss Simon Ward's Airkix proposal (Council minute 23.2 refers) had been arranged to take place on Friday 16 June;
- discussed an e-mail from an unverified source raising an issue about the activities of Julian Storey, BPA Honorary Media Co-ordinator, as a councillor on his local authority

(which was nothing to do with the BPA, although his BPA role had been mentioned in a local newspaper report). Julian Storey was aware of the e-mail, and had responded by e-mail both to the source of the comment about him, and to the Development Committee. Unfortunately, Julian Storey had been unable to attend today's meeting to discuss the matter, and the Committee would therefore be writing to him to emphasise how important it was that he should attend the next meeting in August;

- been pleased to note that Mike Rust had arranged the first safety evening at NLPC Chatteris, which had started the ball rolling on highly beneficial safety evenings. The Committee had also awarded a grant of 2 x £100 to APA Netheravon to help meet the cost of bringing external contributors to two safety evenings.

### **35.2.2 Insurance**

Kieran Brady reported that the Development Committee had also considered insurance. After discussion with David Hickling, Chairman of the Insurance Subcommittee, the Development Committee had recommended to the full Council that the BPA should continue with the same 'umbrella' insurance policy next year, except that the Insurance Subcommittee should continue to investigate and seek some sort of reciprocal arrangement with jumpers from other EU nations to adequately cover them to jump at BPA Affiliated Drop Zones. The Chairman said that there was no rush to decide next year's policy now, and that because David Hickling and Paul Moore were not present tonight, it would be better for the Council to ratify the recommendation from the minutes of this afternoon's meeting of the Development Committee, which would come forward for consideration at the August Council meeting.

The Council was grateful to David Hickling for the paper on insurance (circulated) that he had researched and prepared. The Chairman said he would write to David Hickling, on behalf of the Council, to thank him for his hard work in preparing this paper. The Council looked forward to hearing, in due course, the outcome of discussion of the paper by the Insurance Subcommittee. The Council's thanks to David Hickling were due all the more because of the emotive nature of the issue, which had generated some strong opinions that had been vociferously if not hurtfully expressed. The Council wished to let David Hickling know that it considered his measured, analytical approach to be entirely necessary to reach properly reasoned recommendations on insurance.

**Action: Chairman**

### **35.2.3 Car mileage rate**

Kieran Brady proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to increase the BPA car mileage rates by the sum of 3p a mile to cover increases in the cost of fuel, effective from 1 July 2006.

**Carried unanimously**

## **36/06 Reports from Club Representatives**

Elizabeth Stoodley tabled a written report on her visits as Central Club Rep to BKPC Cockerham on 21 May, Target Hibaldstow on 10 June, and Langar, her home DZ. A range of issues had been raised by Members, including competitions selection and funding policy, skills coaching roadshows, British record attempts, STC rule changes, the Magazine and insurance. She said that there were no specific issues that needed to be put to the Council for a decision.

Eddie Jones tabled a written report on his visits as Northern Club Rep to Errol, St Andrews and his home DZ, Strathallan. He had met in all some 200 Members, including a contingent of BCPA jumpers. Again, points covering a wide range of issues were raised and clarified, including insurance, the Magazine and wind tunnels.

One issue that a Member had raised with Eddie Jones was that it was possible to alter documents in Word format downloaded from the BPA website. Eddie Jones had made the BPA Office aware of this, and the Office was exploring the possibility of publishing certain BPA forms, in particular the medical declaration forms, on the BPA website as 'locked' documents to safeguard the content.

**Action: BPA Office**

Discussion of the Club Reps' visits highlighted that some Members were asking 'What has the BPA ever done for us?'. An important part of the BPA's work was 'behind the scenes' and probably not very evident to the average jumper, but without this work – for example in key areas such as regulatory matters with the CAA, insurance and risk management – the sport would be unable to carry on. Mike Rust suggested that an article in the Magazine might be helpful to explain the nature of the BPA's contribution to the sport. The Chairman asked Mike Rust if he was kindly volunteering to write the article, and Mike Rust said he would endeavour to draft something during the winter.

The Chairman thanked Elizabeth Stoodley and Eddie Jones for their reports.

**37/06 Report on the Royal Aero Club**

John Smyth reported in absentia that the Council of the Royal Aero Club was due to meet next week. He would report on this to the next meeting of the BPA Council.

**38/06 Application for Re-Affiliation: Skydive St Andrews**

Eddie Jones proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, the change of CCI at Skydive St Andrews to Alan Wilkinson.

***Carried unanimously***

**39/06 Staff annual salary review**

The Chairman reported that the Employment Subcommittee had held a short meeting shortly before tonight's Council meeting to consider the annual staff salary review from 1 July 2006. Over the last few years, the Council had set salary increases in line with inflation. As a result, there was anecdotal evidence that rates of pay at the BPA appeared to be lagging behind the average for broadly similar jobs in the locality. The Committee therefore asked the Secretary-General to undertake a comparative review of rates of pay at the BPA with the advertised rates for broadly similar jobs in the area local to the BPA Office, and to report the findings to the Employment Subcommittee so it could include them in its deliberations and make an appropriate recommendation to the full Council at its August meeting. The Council's review of staff salaries in August meeting would be backdated to 1 July 2006.

***Action: Secretary-General***

**40/06 Tamsin Causer**

The Council expressed its condolences at the untimely death of Tamsin 'Taz' Causer, four-times skydiving World Record Holder, as the result of a deployment collision over Empuriabrava in May 2006.

**41/06 Rescue**

Andy Scott had circulated a note, and Ian Marshall reported, that the USA parachutist Chris Gay had made a courageous rescue of Maria Russell, who had also been involved in the accident that had sadly led to the fatality of Tamsin Causer (minute 40). John Page proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion that the Council should award a Certificate of Appreciation to Chris Gay, and that the Chairman should write a letter of appreciation of the brave rescue that Chris Gay carried out, to the Chairman of the USPA. Also, that the Council should award a Certificate of Appreciation to Karen Brennen who swam out to help in the rescue effort after the accident.

***Carried unanimously – Action Chairman / BPA Office***

Ian Marshall reported that he was seeking to assemble a detailed account of the rescue in order that the Council could consider the possibility of nominating Chris Gay for public recognition.

**42/06 Dates of next meetings**

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

The meeting closed at 2012.