

# British Parachute Association

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## The Council

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Tuesday 15 August 2006 at 1908**

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

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Allen	Chairman
	Paul Applegate	
	Kieran Brady	Development Chairman
	John Horne	
	Eddie Jones	Communications Chairman
	Mark Maynard	
	Paul Moore	
	Grant Richards	
	Mike Rust	
	Andy Scott	
	Elizabeth Stoodley	
<b>In attendance:</b>	The appellant in minute 45 (to item 45)	
	Adrian Bond	
	Debbie Carter	Treasurer
	Jon Gretton	Financial Administrator (for item 46)
	Tony Butler	Technical Officer
	Martin Shuttleworth	Secretary-General
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Tony Goodman	
	John Hitchen	NCSO
	Ian Marshall	
	John Page	
	John Smyth	Vice Chairman/Competitions Chairman

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## Item Minute

### 43/06 Congratulations to Team Airkix – World Champions

The Council gave its heartiest congratulations to Team Airkix - Claire 'Sparky' Scott, Amanda Kemp, Emma Beyer, Julia Foxwell and camera flyer Andy Wright - who had won the Gold Medal and become World Champions in the women's 4-way Formation Skydiving at the World Parachuting Championships 2006 in Gera, Germany, from 6 to 11 August 2006.

This was a tremendous achievement for the Team, the UK, and the Competitions Committee.

### 44/06 Minutes

Kieran Brady proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2006 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

**Approved**

**45/06 Matters arising**

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

The Office had circulated a paper to report that other sword designs had become available for purchase as a trophy because the former tooling of Wilkinson Sword had now been taken over by another company. After consideration of the options, the Council re-confirmed its decision to select with the British Infantry pattern 1897 sword in a presentation box, as agreed at the last meeting. Jim Crocker had kindly agreed to meet the cost of this new trophy.

**Action: BPA Office**

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

Kieran Brady reported on a meeting he and John Smyth had had with Charles Shea-Simonds on Thursday, 17 June 2006. Discussion had centred on a paragraph in the Report of the Panel of Inquiry, relating to fulfilment of the role and responsibilities of a Club Chief Pilot. Charles Shea-Simonds was unhappy with the inclusion of this paragraph.

The Chairman adjourned the Council meeting to allow Council Members to read an e-mail from John Smyth, who could not be present tonight, which included, *inter alia*, reference to this matter.

Kieran Brady said that, at the meeting with Charles Shea-Simonds, he had explained the background to the wording of the observations in the paragraph. He said he had invited Charles Shea-Simonds to produce documentary evidence to show that the premise on which the paragraph had been written was flawed, in which case Kieran Brady would be eager to correct it. However, no such evidence had yet been supplied, and it was now nearly two months after the meeting had taken place. Kieran Brady said that without evidence to the contrary, he had no basis on which to call into question the observations in the Report of the Panel.

The Chairman said that STC had voted to accept the Report of the panel of Inquiry, as had the Council. Mike Rust proposed, and Mark Maynard seconded, a motion that it was now time to draw a line under the matter. The vote was:

For – 9,      Against – 1 (John Horne)

**Carried**

**45.3 Rescue (minute 41)**

The Chairman had written a letter (circulated) to Glenn Bangs, President of the United States Parachute Association (USPA), in appreciation of the brave in-air rescue by USPA Member Chris Gay of British Parachutist Maria Russell. A Certificate of Appreciation had been prepared for Chris Gay, and also for Karen Brennen as set out in minute 41.

**Completed**

**46/06 Accounts for the year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006**

Two versions of the draft accounts had been tabled. One included a re-valuation of the BPA Office premises and the other did not. Debbie Carter, Treasurer, explained that if a re-valuation was included in the accounts, there would be a requirement to carry out further valuations at regular intervals in future years. There was, however, no compulsion to carry out a re-valuation. The Council saw no pressing need to include a re-valuation and decided instead to include a note in the accounts to state that the office property was now worth more than its book value.

Elizabeth Stoodley asked whether the apportionment of staff costs to each functional area of the BPA's activities was the fairest way to present these costs. Debbie Carter said that it gave an accurate picture because it was based on the amount of time that staff spent working on each area. Elizabeth Stoodley believed that there may be scope to improve the layout of the accounts. The Chairman suggested that the established format of presentation should be retained for this year, with a view to considering ideas for an improved layout in next year's accounts. He therefore asked Elizabeth Stoodley kindly to liaise with Debbie Carter outside the meeting. He did however note that in his view, it may be prudent to keep to a settled

format, which made year-on-year comparisons easier, unless there were compelling reasons to change.

Eddie Jones then proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion that the Council hereby accept the draft accounts for publication to the Membership.

**Carried unanimously**

**47/06 Appeal against a decision of STC**

A BPA Member was in attendance to appeal against the decision of STC on 1 June 2006 to ground him permanently from parachuting. Papers for the appeal had been circulated to the appellant and to Council Members in advance.

The Chairman invited the appellant to state his case, which he did. The Chairman then invited questions to the appellant from members of the Council.

The Chairman advised the appellant, who was nearly 70 years old, that his CCI had grounded him not because of the single issue that he was wearing his gloves incorrectly, but because it had been just of several manifestations of situations that had caused the CCI concern for the parachutist's safety.

The appellant then left the room, at the request of the Chairman, for the Council to consider the appeal in camera.

The Council considered that the appellant's explanation of the gloves issue, however thorough, had failed to address the CCI's more general concerns. In effect, the CCI had assessed the risk of allowing the appellant to continue to parachute to be unacceptable. There had been no indication that the level of risk would diminish. The concern was for the appellant's safety, and the action taken by STC in permanently grounding the parachutist had been for the same reason. STC's decision had been unanimous. The Council supported STC's decision to protect the appellant. The appellant had said that he wished to stop parachuting at a time of his own choosing, but the Council was not in a position to accede to this request. The Council considered that the only decision that it, as responsible governing body, could take was permanently to ground the parachutist for his own safety and the safety of others. John Horne formally proposed, and Paul Moore seconded, a motion to uphold STC's decision permanently to ground the parachutist for safety reasons. The vote was:

For – 9, Against – 0, Abstain - 1 (Mike Rust, who had voted at STC)

**Carried**

The appellant was invited to rejoin the meeting and the Chairman advised him of the outcome. The appellant thanked the Council for its consideration and left.

**48/06 Ratification of minutes of Subcommittees**

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

**48.1 Development Committee meeting on Tuesday 13 June 2006**

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Kieran Brady (Development Chairman) proposed, and Elizabeth Stoodley seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 13 June 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**48.2 Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday 13 June 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 13 June 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

**48.3 Safety and Training Committee meeting on Thursday 3 August 2006**

John Hitchen (STC Chairman) was out of the country, leading the UK Delegation at the World Parachuting Championships in Classics & CF in Stupino, Russia. Tony Butler therefore offered to answer any questions relating to the STC minutes, but there were none. Mike Rust

then proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the minutes of the STC meeting held on 3 August 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously.

**Ratified**

#### **48.4 Competitions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2006**

In the absence of any questions or requests for clarification, Andy Scott (Competitions Vice Chairman) proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Competitions Committee meeting held on 11 August 2006 should be ratified. This carried unanimously

**Ratified**

Andy Scott (Delegation Manager, WPC 2006 Gera) reported on the World Parachuting Championships in FS and Artistics, which had been held at Gera, Germany, from 6-11 August 2006. John Smyth had stated in his e-mail of 14 August that he had been immensely proud of the whole British Delegation at WPC 2006 Gera and that it had been his privilege to have been Head of Delegation to such a group of dedicated athletes and supporters. All of our teams had been a credit to their country.

The Council had already noted with delight (minute 43) that our women's 4-way Formation Skydiving Team *Airkix* had taken the World Championship. Kieran Brady proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Council award a Certificate of Achievement and Life Membership of the BPA to each Member of Team *Airkix* (Claire Scott already held Life Membership as a previous World Champion).

**Carried unanimously**

Andy Scott then proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that Team *Airkix*'s coach, Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld, should be awarded a Certificate of Achievement for his help in enabling the team to increase its average score per round from around 15 to a world-beating 19.

**Carried unanimously**

Andy Scott reported on another individual whom he believed deserved special recognition. The Chairman said that the individual had made a significant contribution to the sport over a sustained period of time. The Council was in the process of inaugurating a new award, for an Outstanding Contribution to the Sport (minute 45.1), for which he hoped that Andy Scott, and others, would put forward this individual's name at the appropriate time.

On a less sanguine note, the Chairman referred to reports that a Member of the BPA who was a coach for another nation's delegation at the World Parachuting Championships at Gera had been hurt during the end-of-meet party due to an alleged act of violence. The Chairman said that matter was under investigation by the police and other authorities. Although more than one Council Member had sought discussion both from the table and by e-mail in absentia, the Chairman said that it would be inappropriate for the Council to consider the matter pending the outcome of these investigations.

### **49/06 Reports on Committee meetings held earlier today**

#### **49.1 Communications Committee**

Eddie Jones (Communications Chairman) reported that a short meeting of the Communications Committee had:

- been presented with mock-ups of draft posters and handbills, which Committee Members had taken away for consideration and consultation with a view to making decisions at the next meeting;
- been presented with a draft of next year's Magazine budget, prepared by Lesley Gale, Editor of *Skydive Magazine*, which would be considered at the next meeting when Lesley Gale would be present.

## **49.2 Development Committee**

### **49.2.1 General**

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

- received from Lesley Gale the posters on skydiving, including a location map of BPA Clubs & Centres, to be framed for display at the Bedford wind tunnel;
- noted that there was a new section on the 'links' page of the BPA website for links with the websites of BPA Registered Display Teams;
- held a discussion with Julian Storey, BPA Media Co-ordinator, to clear up a personal issue that had generated publicity in his local press but which did not relate to his volunteer work for the BPA;
- received a report from Julian Storey on the press releases he had issued on behalf of the BPA. In answer to a question from the Chairman of Council, the Office confirmed that Julian Storey had been busy in circulating various news releases to the media about Team Airkix, the new British World Champions in women's 4-way FS (minutes 43 and 46.4);
- discussed how to encourage take-up of the small BPA grants available through the Committee for Clubs & Centres to hold safety evenings;
- received a verbal update on insurance matters from David Hickling, Chairman, BPA Insurance Subcommittee;
- considered the proposal (circulated) for the Airkix Fund, which had been discussed with Simon Ward, Chief Executive of the Airkix wind tunnel in Milton Keynes, by the Development Chairman and John Smyth, BPA Vice Chairman and Competitions Chairman. He would now report on the outcome.

### **49.2.2 The Airkix Fund proposal**

Kieran Brady reported that the Development Committee was keen in principle to progress the proposal (circulated) from Simon Ward of the Airkix Wind Tunnel to establish an Airkix Fund for the benefit of skydiving.

The Committee had, however, been unable to agree to two specific requests made in the Airkix proposal document, viz:

- 1 The Committee still did not agree to giving over the cover of an issue of *Skydive Magazine* to promote the launch of the scheme to establish the Airkix Fund.
- 2 The Committee was still unable to supply personal data on BPA Members (name, date of birth, membership number, etc) as this was governed by the Data Protection Act 1998 and the BPA had made it clear to Members that their personal data would not be made available to third parties, however carefully selected. A significant proportion of Members had signified that they would not consent to their data being made available to third parties even should the policy of the BPA Council change, so there was no scope for a membership list to be made available to Airkix. There was, however, a BPA Member Check facility on the BPA website which required the Member's name and date of birth to be entered to confirm current membership.

Kieran Brady said that he had been concerned to hear the view expressed that the Development Committee had 'dragged its heels' over its consideration of the proposal for the Airkix Fund. The proposal now being considered was different to what had been proposed, and considered, before.

He said that what the Committee now needed, subject of course to ratification by the full Council, was for a contract between the BPA and Airkix to be prepared, based on the principle

set out in the proposal but filling in the missing details to set it out as a professional, business-like, arrangement.

In answer to a question from John Page, Kieran Brady said that an arrangement of the nature of the one now being discussed was not exclusive. It was always open to any other company or organisation to make a similar – or indeed a different – proposal to the BPA, and all proposals received would be carefully considered.

Kieran Brady then formally proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that the Council was, in principle, in agreement with progressing the proposal by Airkix for the establishment of an Airkix Fund to benefit skydiving, by means of a special Airkix Offer to BPA Members: and that the next stage was to proceed to set out the proposed arrangement as a draft contract between Airkix and the BPA, together with an associated budget. The vote was:

For – 9, Against – 0, Abstentions – 1 (Mike Rust, to avoid any conflict of interest)

**Carried**

Elizabeth Stoodley kindly volunteered to word the draft contract and its associated budget, and the Office offered to assist.

**Action: Elizabeth Stoodley**

The Chairman said that he could not put a timescale on the drawing up of the contract. It might be possible to complete it in time for the Airkix Offer to be launched in the October 2006 issue of *Skydive Magazine*, although he could not guarantee this.

**50/06 Reports from Club Representatives**

Eddie Jones reported that he had visited the Wild Geese Skydiving Centre in Northern Ireland. There had not been time to hold an open forum, but there had been interest in the current debate about insurance. There had also been questions about the Magazine. The Centre had been pleased with the BPA Tandem Instructors course that it had hosted recently.

Paul Applegate reported that the new Cornwall Parachute Centre was now operational, and had got off to a good start.

**51/06 Report on the Royal Aero Club**

John Smyth (BPA Delegate to RAeC) had reported in his e-mail of 14 August (circulated) that a date and venue for the RAeC Awards Ceremony had now been settled - Wednesday 4 October 2006 Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1. The Duchess of Bedford would present recipients, including the BPA's John Curtis, with their awards.

The Chairman noted that it was now time to consider nominees for this year's RAeC awards. He asked that the names and key points for a citation of any possible nominees should be made to John Smyth by no later than the date of the next Council meeting on Tuesday 10 October.

**Action: All Council Members**

John Smyth also reported that there was a good deal of RAeC activity to seek to protect the interests of airports in the UK in the light of pan-European regulatory developments.

**52/06 Staff annual salary review**

The staff left the meeting for this item to be held in camera. The Employment Subcommittee had met immediately before this Council meeting and the Chairman reported on its recommendations. This was for a cost-of-living increase for all staff, together with additional adjustments in some cases to better reflect local average market rates, on which data had been obtained (and which had delayed this report from the June meeting). Eddie Jones proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the recommendations of the Employment Committee be accepted, backdated to 1 July 2006, being the normal salary review date. Tony Goodman had lodged with the Chairman his written proxy vote in favour.

**Carried unanimously**

The staff then returned to the meeting, and the Chairman reported the outcome. Tony Butler thanked the Chairman on behalf of the staff.

Eddie Jones paid tribute to the staff for the effective day-to-day running of the Association, and for their loyalty, as many staff had served the Association for a good number of years. He asked Council Members to pass on their appreciation direct to staff members whenever they could. The fact that the Association generally ran so smoothly carried the risk that the staff might come to feel taken for granted, but it was only through their continuing hard work that the Association functioned as efficiently as it did on a day-to-day basis, providing the infrastructure of support to the Membership and its Council of Management.

**53/06 Application for Re-Affiliation**

The Devon & Somerset Parachute School had applied for Re-Affiliation by its new name of Skydive UK Ltd. It also had a change of director and CCI, to Jason Farrant. The staff had no comments. John Horne proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the application should be accepted.

**Carried unanimously**

**54/06 Taz Causer Award**

An e-mail from Hazel Causer, the mother of Tamsin 'Taz' Causer, who had died in a parachuting accident in May 2006 (minute 40), had been circulated. In this, Mrs Causer had kindly offered to provide a trophy together with a small annual cash prize which she had suggested might be awarded to, perhaps, the Skydiver of the Year. She believed that such an award might complement the existing Student of the Year and Instructor of the Year awards.

Andy Scott supported this as a good idea to ensure that Taz Causer's memory lived on. He proposed, and Elizabeth Stoodley seconded, a motion to accept Mrs Causer's kind offer of a trophy in memory of Taz Causer.

**Carried unanimously**

The Chairman thanked the Council for this decision. He asked Council Members to consider, between now and the next meeting, a mechanism for nominating a 'Skydiver of the Year' to receive the trophy. He said that the nomination arrangements should be easy to understand and not too bureaucratic. Mrs Causer would be invited to present the trophy to its inaugural recipient at the AGM on Saturday 20 January 2007.

After discussion, the Chairman summarised the Council's view that it would be inappropriate for the BPA to accept Mrs Causer's kind offer of a small cash prize for award with the Trophy each year. It was the honour of receiving a BPA award that counted, and attaching even a nominal cash sum to an award of this nature might, however unintentionally, not resonate fully with the spirit of BPA awards.

**55/06 BPA Office premises maintenance**

Martin Shuttleworth reported for the information of the Council that one of the two water supplies to the BPA Office (which had used to be two separate premises) had suddenly failed over a week ago. Severn Trent Water had made an excavation in the road outside and had concluded that the problem was not with the public supply, but was the BPA's responsibility, as the blockage appeared to be under BPA land or buildings. The loss of supply had also affected the premises of an adjacent business. Severn Trent had quoted a cost of approximately £500 for one excavation to seek to identify and remedy the fault, or £1000 should two excavations be required. Until the nature of the problem had been identified, it was unclear whether the BPA's office insurance would cover this cost, although the brokers had advised that it was probably unlikely.

**56/06 Dates of next meetings**

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

The meeting closed at 2110.