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The Council

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the year 2009 Council held on
Saturday 10 January 2009 at 1258
at the Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire

Present:	Paul Applegate Ray Armstrong John Horne Paul Ledden Ian Marshall Paul Moore Craig Poxon Grant Richards Steve Saunders Andy Scott John Smyth Martin Soulsby Weed Stoodley
Apologies for absence:	Adrian Bond Jim Crocker Alex Wilson
In attendance:	Tony Butler - Technical Officer Debbie Carter John Hitchen - NCSO Martin Shuttleworth - Secretary-General
Observers:	20, including Debbie Carter, Phil Gibbs & David Hickling

Item Minute

01/09 Election of Officers, etc

[Note: Adrian Bond and Alex Wilson had lodged various proxy votes. These are not itemised because all were in favour of decisions made by the Council nem con.]

1.1 Election of Chair

Tony Butler took the Chair for the election of a Chairman. He invited nominations.

Paul Applegate proposed, and Paul Ledden seconded, a motion to elect John Smyth as Chairman of Council. John Smyth said he was willing to accept the nomination. Tony Butler asked if there were any other nominees, and there were not.

John Smyth elected Chairman of Council

John Smyth duly took the Chair.

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

The Chairman called for nominations for the office of Vice Chairman. Andy Scott proposed, and Martin Soulsby seconded, a motion to elect John Horne as Vice Chairman of Council. John Horne said he was willing to accept the nomination. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominees, and there were not.

John Horne elected Vice Chairman of Council

1.3 Election of Treasurer

The Chairman called for nominations for the office of Treasurer. John Horne proposed, and Ian Marshall seconded, a motion to elect Debbie Carter as Treasurer. Debbie Carter said she was willing to accept the nomination if no elected Member of Council wished to be Treasurer. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations, and there were not.

Debbie Carter elected Treasurer

1.4 Election of Chair of STC

The Chairman invited nominations for the office of Chair of STC. Ian Marshall proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to elect John Hitchen as Chairman of STC. John Hitchen said that, as a member of BPA staff, he was both duty-bound and pleased to accept the nomination. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations, and there were not.

John Hitchen elected as STC Chairman

1.5 Election of Chair of the Communications Committee

The Chairman invited nominations for the office of Chair of the Communications Committee. Grant Richards proposed, and Weed Stoodley seconded, a motion to elect Adrian Bond as Chairman of the Communications Committee. Adrian Bond had signified in writing that he was willing to accept the nomination.

The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations. John Horne proposed, and Andy Scott seconded, a motion to elect Martin Soulsby as Chairman of the Communications Committee. Martin Soulsby said he was willing to accept the nomination.

The Chairman said that it was normal now to invite both nominees to make a short statement. As Adrian Bond was not present, and had not specifically briefed his proposer or any other Council Member to speak on his behalf, the meeting decided that the fairest way forward was to go straight to a secret ballot.

Adrian Bond had lodged a number of proxy votes but none had specified this vote. The view was expressed from around that table it could reasonably be imputed from Adrian Bond's other proxy votes that he would vote for himself as Communications Chairman. Phil Gibbs (a former Chairman of Council) advised the Chairman that a proxy vote by Adrian Bond for himself should not be admitted without a proxy precise to this vote. Debbie Carter said it should first be established whether a proxy vote by Adrian Bond for himself would make any difference to the outcome or not. The Chairman asked the staff, who had now counted the ballot papers, and they advised that it would make no difference.

The result of the ballot was: Adrian Bond - 3 votes; Martin Soulsby - 9 votes.

Martin Soulsby elected as Communications Chairman

Adrian Bond had indicated inter alia in writing that should he not be elected as Communications Chairman, he would still like to remain as a Member of the Communications Committee.

1.6 Election of Chair of the Development Committee

The Chairman invited nominations for the office of Chair of the Development Committee. Andy Scott proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion to elect Craig Poxon as Chairman of the Development Committee. Craig Poxon said he was willing to accept the nomination. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations and there were not.

Craig Poxon elected as Development Chairman

1.7 Election of Chair of the Competitions Committee

The Chairman invited nominations for the Chair of the Competitions Committee. Martin Soulsby proposed, and Paul Applegate seconded, a motion that Andy Scott should be elected as Competitions Chairman. Andy Scott said he was willing to accept the nomination. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations and there were not.

Andy Scott elected as Competitions Chairman

1.8 Election of Delegate to RAeC

Andy Scott proposed, and John Horne seconded, a motion that John Smyth be elected as BPA Alternate Delegate to RAeC. This carried unanimously.

John Smyth elected as BPA Delegate to RAeC

1.9 Election Alternate Delegate to RAeC

Ian Marshall proposed, and John Horne seconded, a motion that Jim Crocker be elected as BPA Delegate to RAeC. This carried unanimously.

Jim Crocker elected as BPA Alternate Delegate to RAeC

1.10 Co-options to Council

The Council co-opted John Hitchen (STC Chairman), Debbie Carter (Treasurer) and Jim Crocker (Alternate Delegate to RAeC) as non-voting Members of Council.

The Council co-opted the British Collegiate Parachute Association (BCPA) to the Council as a non-voting parachuting society.

The agenda itemized co-option of APA and RAFSPA. Paul Moore asked why RAPA was not also listed and Tony Butler said he believed the reason was lost in history. Paul Moore asked that the item be deferred until the first ordinary meeting in order that he could check the position with his colleagues and come back with an up-to-date proposal that reflected the current structure of sport parachute clubs/organisations within the military.

Action: Paul Moore / Next Meeting

1.11 Election of Club Reps 2009

The Council also decided to defer election of Club Reps until its first ordinary meeting on Tuesday 17 February.

Action: Next meeting

02/09 Dates for Council meetings 2009

A suggested schedule of dates for Council meetings 2009, showing how they dovetailed with the planned dates of STC meetings, had been set out on the agenda.

After discussion, the following schedule of dates for Council meetings was agreed.

<u>(STC dates in 2009)</u>	<u>Council dates in 2009 (at the BPA Office at 1830)</u>
<i>(Thursday 5 February)</i>	Tuesday 17 February
<i>(Thursday 9 April)</i>	<u>Wednesday 22 April</u> (because the RAeC awards ceremony was to be held on the previous evening)
<i>(Thursday 11 June)</i>	Tuesday 23 June
<i>(Thursday 6 August)</i>	Tuesday 18 August
<i>(Thursday 1 October)</i>	Tuesday 13 October
<i>(Thursday 26 November)</i>	Tuesday 8 December (following the EGM).

Carried unanimously

04/09 Sport England Regional Representatives

Three of the ten BPA representatives for the Sport England regions had advised the Office that they were not in a position to continue in their roles in 2009. They were:

Name	Region	First elected
John Page	South West	2008
Mick Matthews	West Midlands	1993
Grant Richards	East	2006

John Horne proposed, and the Council gave, a vote of thanks to the above for their service to the BPA in this capacity.

Grant Richards outlined the role as acting as a conduit for enquiries about sport parachuting from within a region, and keeping an eye open for initiatives or opportunities that could benefit or otherwise affect our sport. The Council decided to defer further consideration of this matter to its first ordinary meeting on Tuesday 17 February.

Action: Next meeting

The BPA representatives to Sport England regions who were willing to continue were:

Name	Region	First elected
Stuart Morris	North West	2001
Lofty Thomas	Yorkshire & Humberside	1986
David Hickling	East Midlands	1986
Martin Soulsby	South	2008
John Smyth	Greater London	1996
Ian Rosenvinge	North East	2003
Ian Marshall	South East	1998

05/09 Committees of the Council – Communications, Competitions and Development

Grant Richards proposed that meetings of the above Committees should all be held on the day of Council meetings in order to make maximum use of time and other resources. He proposed that the Committees should meet at the same time, before the evening Council meeting, and that each member of Council should belong to just one Committee.

In discussion, a number of Members of Council said that they wished to belong to more than one Committee or at least to be able to attend more than one Committee, even if they were a voting Member of only one.

The Chairman said that Grant Richards' proposal had been well made and had struck a chord with the Council. He believed there was a way in which the essence of Grant Richards' proposal for better use of meeting time and resources could be achieved, yet allowing the greater flexibility that some Council Members wanted that would enable them to be take part in more than one Committee whilst still abiding by the principle that no Committee should have a voting majority on Council (which restricted each Committee to a Chair plus up to six voting members).

Debbie Carter (Treasurer) said that meetings she had attended had tended to over-run and she recommended the introduction of agendas with scheduled times against each item to prevent late running.

Grant Richards said he would be content for a modified version of his proposal to be considered at the first ordinary Council meeting.

The Chairman agreed, and said that the composition of Committees 2009 would be formally ratified at the next Council meeting. However, this should not delay the Committees forming and progressing their work for the year. He asked all Council Members to volunteer to serve on at least one Committee by contacting the Chairman of that Committee.

Action: Next meeting

06/09 Action Plan 2009/10

The Chairman said that among the first tasks of all Committees was to draft the one-year Action Plan for their area of responsibility. The Action Plan was for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 inclusive. The draft plans for each Committee would then go to the full Council for ratification and consolidation as part of a unified organisational Action Plan. As UK Sport no longer funded the Action Plan – only Olympic Sports now benefiting from its exchequer funding – the Action Plan was for use only within the BPA and no longer had to be submitted to UK Sport by the early deadline they had formerly set. The Action Plan would therefore be confirmed at the second ordinary Council meeting of the year, on Wednesday 23 April. This allowed each Committee to formulate its draft Action Plan at its first meeting on Tuesday 17 February.

Action: All Council Members / Committee Chairmen

07/09 Insurance

David Hickling (Chairman, Insurance Working Group) updated the Council on insurance. As the Chairman had reported to the AGM, a quote of 20% less than the current premium had been received from a new insurer for the same policy with suitable claims handling arrangements. The Insurance Working Group had therefore recommended this policy to Council 2008, to whom full details had been circulated. Two or three other insurers were still finalising their quotes but David Hickling emphasised that even were a cheaper quote to be received, it would require careful scrutiny to assure that it adequately mirrored in all respects the present insurance arrangements. The Insurance Working Group would report back to Council 2009 with its final recommendation once any other quotes submitted in reasonable time had been carefully considered. A decision would be required before the next meeting because the membership renewal forms, which set out the overall subscription payable for the membership year 2009/10 (which included the insurance element), needed to be printed in time for distribution to Members with the February issue of 'Skydive the Mag'.

David Hickling indicated that he wished to stand down as Chairman of the Insurance Working Group once the arrangements for insurance for the year beginning 1 April 2009 had been settled. The Chairman thanked David Hickling and his Working Group for their hard work in this area and congratulated them on having secured a quotation for the existing cover from a new insurer with a year-on-year reduction of 20% in the premium payable by both provisional and non-provisional Members.

Action: Insurance Working Group / Council

08/09 Letter from Jim Crocker

The Chairman reported that Jim Crocker had handed him a two-page letter to table at this meeting which he had given to BPA staff just before start of the meeting. However, when they had taken the letter to the hotel reception to be photocopied, the hotel staff had in error overprinted the second page with a copy of the first, making the original of the second page illegible for copying. The Chairman therefore asked the Office to contact Jim Crocker for a copy of the letter and to circulate it in the Council post.

Action: BPA Office

09/09 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17 February 2009 at 1830 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester (following meetings of the Competitions Committee at 0930, Communications Committee at 1400 and Development Committees at 1600).

The meeting closed at 1335.