

British Parachute Association

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2000 at 1500
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present: Ian Midgley - Committee Chairman
Mike Allum
Kieran Brady
Dave Hickling
Lofty Thomas
Richard Tregaskes

In attendance: Jon Gretton - Financial Administrator
Debbie Carter - Treasurer
Martin Shuttleworth - National Administrator
Glen Turnbull - Development Officer
Sue Waterfield - Administration Secretary

Observer: Craig Poxon

Apologies for absence: Tye Boughen
Tony Butler - Technical Officer (in USA)
John Hitchen

ITEM MINUTE

D29/00 Minutes

Mike Allum proposed, and Richard Tregaskes seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 22 August 2000 be approved as a correct record. This was carried unanimously.

Approved

D30/00 Matter arising

30.1 Office computer cabling (minute 24)

A cabling company that had already worked on the BPA telephone system had recommended that the telephone system should be run through the proposed new category 5 cabling, along with the computer network. This would incur an additional cost of approximately £600 for the existing number of telephone points. The final cost would depend on the number of outlet points required.

Richard Tregaskes proposed, and Mike Allum seconded, a motion that the telephone system should be included in the category 5 cabling upgrade, at a total estimated cost of around £3,000.

Carried unanimously

D31/00 Investment of BPA funds

The Chairman reported that, following ratification by the Council, the planned investment of BPA funds had now taken place. £200,000 each had been invested in two capital-protected HSBC investment bonds, one for a 3 year term and the other for a 4 year term. On previous performance, which was not a guarantee for the future, the 3 year bond had achieved an average growth rate of 10% pa and the 4 year bond an average growth rate of 27% pa. This compared with the deposit rate of about 6%pa that BPA funds were currently earning. The Chairman said that he would consider putting a note in the magazine to highlight this investment to members.

Action: Chairman

The Treasurer suggested considering the possibility of making further higher-rate investments, such as for example in shorter-term bonds, with the facility to call on funds if required in an emergency. Kieran Brady proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the Treasurer and Jon Gretton should report back to the next meeting on the amount of funds that might be available for investment - bearing in mind the BPA's need for working capital and cashflow - and investment products that might be suitable.

Carried unanimously

D32/00 Updating FXC's

The Chairman reported that all of the BPA's FXC's had now been purchased by Drop Zones. The sales had made a profit of just over £500, which would be credited to BPA funds.

Action completed

D33/00 Commercial courses for DZ operators

A paper from Chris Allen was considered, which summarised findings to date, including costs, on possible providers of courses to DZ operators on various commercial subjects. Chris Allen had asked that two nominees from the Development Committee should join him to form a small working party to develop a pilot course programme. It might be possible to run two or perhaps three courses at the Leicester office next year, and it was proposed to start in January with a course on marketing.

The Committee believed that it was essential that the courses should focus on the specific needs of DZ operators. Dave Hickling and Kieran Brady therefore agreed to join the working party as they both had first-hand knowledge of the kind of approach that would be required. The Committee agreed that expensive courses and consultants who knew little or nothing of DZ operation should be avoided. A call for possible tutors from within the BPA had been included in the October magazine, and it would be interesting to see what response this might generate.

Action: Working party

D34/00 Areas of responsibility

34.1 Advertising

Kieran Brady reported that he had again received a lot of material to filter, especially about the web, but there was nothing of special relevance to bring to the Committee's attention.

34.2 Coaching for the future

In Tye Boughen's absence, there were no coaching matters to be discussed.

34.3 UK Sport

Mike Allum reported on a recent UK Sport publication that reported the findings of its surveys on how lottery money should be spent – should it be targeted only on high-priority sports, or spread across a wider range of sports to give a greater opportunity for more medals? A workshop in Cambridge was to be held by UK Sport, and the Committee agreed that Mike Allum should attend on behalf of the BPA to find out whether there had been any change to the criteria for funding.

34.4 Insurance

Dave Hickling reported that the STC had considered a jump that had been outside the normal remit of sport parachuting, and had therefore not been covered by the BPA's insurance.

34.5 Sport England/CCPR

Richard Tregaskes reported that he had now submitted the bid for lottery funding from Sport England for the proposed extension to the BPA offices.

Sport England were offering a free seminar on sports sponsorship and, after discussion with Richard Tregaskes, Glen Turnbull planned to attend.

34.6 Regional Representatives

At the last meeting, Lofty Thomas reported that he had received a request from the Federation of Yorkshire Sports for a member of their Executive Committee to come to a BPA meeting to help them better to understand the work of the BPA. He had extended an invitation for them to come to a meeting at the BPA office but the Yorkshire Federation had said that it would be inappropriate for them to attend a national meeting. Therefore, he had offered to hold a meeting at a Drop Zone within the region and he was awaiting their reply.

Lofty Thomas proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that a deaf, dumb and blind girl who had done a jump at Peterlee should be awarded a Certificate of Merit.

Carried unanimously

Kieran Brady, as Regional Representative, said he would be happy for Lofty Thomas to present the Certificate.

D35/00 BPA one-jump voucher

Ian Midgley tabled an example of the one-jump voucher now available from the BPA Shop, and advertised on the website. Tony Knight would provide a report each quarter on the number of vouchers sold and the regions to which the vouchers had been sent.

D36/00 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 December 2000 at 1600 at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1540

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