

British Parachute Association

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2000 at 1550
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

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

In attendance: Tony Butler - Technical Officer
Jon Gretton - Financial Administrator
Debbie Carter - Treasurer (from item 40)
Martin Shuttleworth - National Administrator
Glen Turnbull - Development Officer

Observers: Matthew House
Craig Poxon

Apologies for absence: John Hitchen

ITEM MINUTE

D37/00 Minutes
Kieran Brady proposed, and Mike Allum seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 17 October 2000 be approved as a correct record. This was carried unanimously.

Approved

D38/00 Matters arising

38.1 Updating FXC's (minute 32)

The Chairman reported that the profit was £480, not £500 as stated before, as a payment of £20 had been made to Cornwall Parachute Centre.

38.2 Certificate of Merit (minute 34.6)

Kieran Brady reported that he had agreed with Ian Rosenvidge at Peterlee that the Certificate of Merit for Nicola Henderson, the deaf, dumb and partially sighted teenager, would be mentioned at the AGM but presented at Peterlee, where she had done her tandem jump.

D39/00 Further investment of BPA funds

Jon Gretton tabled a financial forecast showing that a further £250K could be transferred from a deposit account to investment bonds over the next 3 years and still leave the BPA with sufficient operational funds. Investment bonds would generate a significantly higher return than the deposit account.

Kieran Brady proposed, and David Hickling seconded, a motion that the Committee should recommend to tonight's meeting of the Council that further £250K of BPA funds be transferred as soon as possible from the deposit account to investment bonds.

Carried unanimously

D40/00 Commercial Courses Working Group

The minutes of a conference call meeting of a working group comprising Chris Allen, Kieran Brady and David Hickling had been circulated. The outcome was that a company called Focus Solutions had been commissioned to run a course for Drop Zone Operators on marketing and advertising. Focus would charge was £950 + VAT + expenses for a one-day course, in which 12 respondents from the survey of Drop Zone Operators had expressed an interest. Ian Midgley reported that Chris Allen had now arranged for Focus to create a questionnaire, which will go to drop zone operators to ascertain which aspects of marketing would be of most interest for the course.

Action: Focus Solutions

D41/00 Sponsorship

Glen Turnbull had circulated correspondence with Freefall Adventures, who had agreed in principle to sponsor the GB team to the World Air Games 2001. However, the amount of sponsorship was not yet known and it was therefore difficult to determine what specific benefits could be offered in return. The Development Committee endorsed the view of the Competitions Committee that overall team sponsorship had to be negotiated with full sensitivity to the sponsors who were already committed to some of the individual teams, which included some long-term relationships. Kieran Brady proposed, and Mike Allum seconded, a motion to set out a range of figures in brackets of £5,000 to Freefall Adventures and ask in which bracket their offer came. This carried unanimously.

Action: Development Officer

Hollis Directory of Sponsorship had sent out details of their advertising rates. No proposal was forthcoming from any Member of the Committee that the BPA should take out paid advertising in this publication.

D42/00 New style of membership card

The Committee discussed the introduction of a new style of membership card which could be printed in colour at the BPA Office. The new card would not require a plastic wallet, and the overall cost per card was similar to the existing one. There would however be one-off costs of about £3,500 for new computer software and a colour laser printer, but the printer could also be used to enhance other work at the office. After viewing early sample printouts of the new card, Richard Tregaskes proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the new style of card should be introduced from the next renewal, subject to the satisfactory installation and trial of the necessary software and hardware. This carried unanimously.

Action: BPA Office

The Committee noted that Lesley Gale had kindly offered to help in the selection of a suitable background photograph for the front of the card, and knew a designer who may also be able to make a professional input into the design of the card. This was important as there was a lot of text to be included which all had to be legible.

D43/00 Areas of responsibility

43.1 Advertising

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

43.2 Coaching for the future

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

43.3 UK Sport

Mike Allum had nothing to report.

43.4 Insurance

David Hickling reported that he had been delighted to hear from Tony Butler that there was unlikely to be a rise in insurance premiums at the next renewal, which was especially good news as an increase had generally been expected. The stability in premiums next year was because the BPA had taken a long-term view and built up a good relationship with its present insurer, and Tony Butler was congratulated on his contribution to this. A saving was also being made as the BPA planned to become its own broker with effect from 1 April 2001. Kieran Brady proposed, and Richard Tregaskes seconded, a motion that any funds that might accrue from negotiated rebated commission or similar insurance-related commissions should be set aside as an insurance emergency fund. This carried unanimously.

Action: BPA Office

Kieran Brady asked that terms of reference for the fund should be drafted for consideration by the Committee next year. David Hickling agreed, subject to his being voted on the Committee again next year, to chair a small group comprising Kieran Brady and Tony Butler to prepare a draft. The earliest any rebate was likely to be received was April 2002.

Action: David Hickling

43.5 Sport England/CCPR

Richard Tregaskes reported that he hoped to receive an initial response from Sport England in January or February 2001 to the BPA's application that he had submitted for lottery funding for an office extension.

He also referred to the availability of 4 year grants from Sport England to 'high achieving' governing bodies, and was continuing to monitor information on this to determine the criteria that had to be satisfied.

43.6 Regional Representatives

Lofty Thomas referred to the Yorkshire-based Volunteers in Sport programme, and suggested that it might be considered for inclusion in the next Action Plan Matrix.

D44/00 Action Plan Matrix

The Chairman asked for suggestions for next year's Action Plan to be forwarded to the BPA marked for the attention of the Chairman of the Development Committee 2001. One of the first tasks of the new Committee would be to draft the 2001/2 Action Plan for development of the sport.

D45/00 Student Provisional and Temporary Membership Subscriptions

After discussion of options put forward by the Treasurer, Lofty Thomas proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion to recommend to the EGM that Student Provisional and Temporary Membership subscriptions should be increased by 3% in line with inflation. This carried unanimously. Because Insurance Premium Tax had now increased from 4% to 5%, the 3% increase would be divided 2% to the BPA and 1% to cover the increase in IPT. The

new rates from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 to be recommended to the EGM would therefore be £9.85 for Student Provisional Membership and £10.50 for Temporary Membership.

Action: EGM

D46/00 AGM exhibition

The US Drop Zone Skydive Cross Keys had expressed an interest in taking a stand at the exhibition at the AGM. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that that this would fall outside the scope of the exhibition, which was intended for displays of parachuting equipment and services, and that regretfully a space could not therefore be offered.

Action: BPA Office

D47/00 BPA car window stickers

A quotation had been circulated for car window stickers featuring the BPA logo, with a view to including a complimentary sticker with each full membership card issued in 2001/2. The cost of each sticker was between 10p and 15p + VAT, according to the quantity ordered. Kieran Brady proposed, and Richard Tregaskes seconded, a motion to purchase a supply of car window stickers to issue without charge to full Members with their membership cards in 2001/2. This was carried unanimously.

Action: BPA Office

D48/00 Thanks to Committee Chairman and Members

Kieran Brady thanked Ian Midgley for his Chairmanship of the Committee during the year. Ian Midgley thanked all of the Members of their Committee for their input and said that in his opinion this had been the best Development Committee he had known. He believed that the membership had been represented fairly, through the wide spectrum of different views expressed constructively around the table.

D49/00 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be the first meeting of the year 2001 Development Committee, to be held on a date to be arranged in February 2001.

The meeting closed at 1710.

Distribution:

Council
Vice Presidents
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Technical Officer
NCSO
National Administrator
Financial Administrator
Development Officer
Editor, Skydive Mag