

British Parachute Association

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on
TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2001 at 1705
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Kieran Brady	-	Acting Chairman
	Chris Allen	-	BPA Chairman (from item 14)
	David Hickling		
	Lofty Thomas		
	Richard Tregaskes		
In attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Lesley Gale	-	Editor, Skydive Magazine
	Jon Gretton	-	Financial Administrator
	John Hitchen	-	NCSO
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	National Administrator
	Lucie Wood	-	Development Officer
Apologies for absence:	Debbie Carter	-	Treasurer
	Ian Midgley	-	Development Chairman
	Craig Poxon		
	John Saunders		
Observer:	Colin Fitzmaurice		

ITEM MINUTE

D10/01 Chair

The Chairman had invited Kieran Brady to take the chair in his absence.

D11/01 Minutes

David Hickling proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 20 February 2001 be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

D12/01 Co-option of Richard Tregaskes

The Chairman welcomed back Richard Tregaskes, who this year had been co-opted onto the Development Committee to continue his work on an application to Sport England for lottery funding for an office extension. Richard Tregaskes reported that he was awaiting a meeting date with Sport England for advice on how to recast the application to improve its chances of being accepted. The Chairman thanked him for his continued efforts on this project.

Ongoing

D13/01 Reports

There were no reports on advertising, coaching, UK Sport, CCPR, Sport England or insurance.

On Regional Representatives, Lofty Thomas reported that the visit of Frank Carter, a representative of the Federation of Yorkshire Sport, had yet to take place to Merlin Parachute Centre. This was because Mr Carter ran a rugby club and had asked for the visit to be scheduled after the close of the rugby season.

Ongoing

D14/01 Commercial courses for DZ operators

The first commercial course for Drop Zone Operators (DZOs), on marketing, had taken place on Tuesday 27 February 2001. Four Drop Zones had been represented by six delegates. Feedback from those attending had indicated that they had found the course to be genuinely useful.

The cost of running the course had been about £1,800 against an income of £200 from the fees paid by those attending (four DZs at £50, for up to two delegates each), making a net cost to the BPA of £1,600.

David Hickling said that the course had been a good idea but that the take-up by only four of the twenty-four civilian DZs had been disappointing. He did not consider that the amount of subsidy required from the BPA had been a cost-effective means of spending the membership's money, and believed that as most DZs were commercial operations, they should stand on their own feet.

The Chairman then invited Chris Allen to join the meeting. Chris Allen explained that this had been the first commercial course for DZ Operators that the BPA had run. The topic of marketing had been identified by last year's survey of DZOs to be one of the most requested for such a course. Plans for a second course, on Information Technology – which had also been identified by DZOs as a topic of interest – had been postponed because of the foot and mouth epidemic. Chris Allen said that in his view now was the wrong time of year to consider the possibility of running a second course. He considered that by far the best time for any such course would be next February, for which planning would need to start this autumn.

Chris Allen suggested that, in the autumn, DZOs might be consulted on the proposed IT course and invited to state what they would most like it to cover. The course content could then be tailored to meet these specific identified needs. At the same time, a minimum number of participating DZs should be set in advance as the target level of response for the proposed course to take place.

The Chairman thanked Chris Allen for his advice and, after brief discussion, the Committee decided to defer further consideration of the item until its October meeting.

Action: October 2001 Meeting

D15/01 RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team

Chris Allen reported that Graham Liggins, Manager of the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team, had approached the BPA to suggest that a BPA advertisement might be placed in the Team's brochure in exchange for 15 complimentary BPA Memberships for Team Members. Chris Allen had acknowledged receipt of the request and pointed out some probable difficulties with it, in particular that if the BPA agreed to the proposal, it could create a precedent for other military display teams. Further, it was individual Drop Zones themselves, rather than the BPA, that would be most likely to benefit from advertising, and Chris Allen had suggested that Graham Liggins should therefore contact clubs and centres direct.

After discussion, the Committee fully supported the rationale behind Chris Allen's reply to Graham Liggins, and considered that the BPA was unfortunately not in a position to facilitate Graham Liggins' request.

No further action

D16/01 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19 June 2001 at 1600 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

The meeting closed at 1725.