

# British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way  
Glen Parva  
Leicester  
LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271  
Fax: 0116 247 7662  
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk  
www.bpa.org.uk



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## Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 21 August 2001 at 1600**  
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

<b>Present:</b>	Ian Midgley Kieran Brady Craig Poxon Lofty Thomas	Development Chairman
<b>In attendance:</b>	Chris Allen Paul Applegate Tony Butler Debbie Carter Beverly Fairhurst Lesley Gale Jon Gretton John Hitchen Martin Shuttleworth Lucie Wood	BPA Chairman (for part of item 26 only)  Technical Officer Treasurer Skydive Magazine Editor, Skydive Magazine Financial Administrator NCSO National Administrator Development Officer
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	David Hickling	

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### ITEM      MINUTE

#### D22/01    Minutes

Lofty Thomas proposed, and Craig Poxon seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 19 June 2001 be approved as a correct record, and this carried unanimously.

**Approved**

There were no matters arising.

#### D23/01    Matter arising: Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony (minute 19)

As agreed at the last meeting, Lofty Thomas had written to the organisers of the Commonwealth Games to be held in Manchester in 2002 to suggest, on behalf of the Committee, that a parachute display might be held as part of the opening ceremony. He had received a reply (copy circulated) to say that his letter had been passed for consideration to the production company that was organising the ceremony. If he heard nothing more within two months, he would send a follow up letter. The Chairman thanked Lofty Thomas for this.

**Ongoing**

**D24/01 Reports**

Lofty Thomas reported that he had attended the Sport England Yorkshire Regional Sports Convention, and had passed details to Craig Poxon, who was responsible for liaison with Sport England. There had been interesting discussions about regeneration, which had included issues relating to recovery from the imposition of restrictions on rural sports as a precaution against the spread of foot and mouth disease.

Craig Poxon had attended the AGM of the CCPR in London last month. He reported that the business had been largely of the formal procedural nature to be expected on such an occasion.

There were no further reports.

**D25/01 Freestyle/Freefly Manual**

Following from consideration at the last meeting (minute 20.1), Craig Poxon reported that he had discussed the Committee's Development Action Plan Target 1 'To publish an instruction manual on Freestyle/Freeflying' with Giles Fabris, who had said he would be happy to help on an expenses-only basis, although he was due to emigrate soon. Giles Fabris was not in favour of introducing any new rules, and Tony Butler confirmed that this was why the existing BPA form setting out the requirements for FF1 was headed 'guidelines'. It was these guidelines that the manual needed to cover.

Craig Poxon had also spoken with the Meacocks and Tim Porter. Tim Porter had said that he had made a suggestion of preparing a Freefly video about two years ago, which had not been taken up by the Development Committee at the time. The Committee confirmed that then, as now, its view was that it was better to concentrate on a manual rather than a video, as a video was very much secondary to a manual.

The Chairman thanked Craig Poxon for the co-ordination work he had undertaken to date. He asked him to continue to liaise closely with Tony Butler and John Hitchen as the project developed, to ensure that it remained on course to meet the target set out in the Action Plan.

**Ongoing**

**D26/01 Banner advertising on the BPA website**

Banner advertising on the BPA website had been offered at commercial rates to Affiliated and Associated organisations on a first refusal basis, so that any advertising not taken up could be offered more widely. A number of respondents had expressed interest in such advertising. However, several other replies (of which copies had been circulated with the agenda) had raised strong concerns about the policy of casting the net for advertising more widely as this might include overseas Drop Zones or companies taking students to train outside the UK. Concerns had also been raised in some of the replies about charging commercial rates for advertising to organisations linked with the BPA.

There followed an extensive discussion of the issues, during which Chris Allen was invited to join the meeting. The Committee stated that the purpose of the website was to promote skydiving in the UK. It therefore agreed with concerns that paid advertising might be used to promote Drop Zones or courses outside the UK, which would conflict with the purpose of the website.

Kieran Brady proposed, and Lofty Thomas seconded, a motion that the acceptance of advertisements for the BPA website would be at the discretion of the Development Committee, but that, as a guide, this would normally exclude advertising by or for non-BPA Drop Zones and organisations taking British students to train outside the UK.

**Carried unanimously**

No problem was foreseen in accepting advertising from parachuting equipment, service or kit suppliers, whether based within or outside the UK, as long as their products could be used for skydiving within the UK. Advertisements for non-core products (products not

specifically related to skydiving) such as for instance cars or energy drinks, would be very welcome and were to be encouraged.

The Committee agreed that the cost for advertising might need to be reviewed and that a discount on normal commercial rates might be considered for Affiliated Clubs and Centres. However, the opinion was also expressed that it might be better to go to the wider market first at the commercial rate. This would avoid the possibility of paid advertising generating more competition between Affiliated Drop Zones, which already had equal exposure on the DZ pages of the website. However, the Chairman supported the idea of Affiliated Drop Zones being able to take paid advertising on the website, and it was suggested that this was much akin to the Magazine where all DZs had an entry, and some placed paid advertisements as well. The important point was that all Affiliated DZs had to have an equal opportunity to place an advertisement - this had already been offered, and two DZ's had come back to express an initial interest.

Possible discounts for Affiliated Clubs and Centres on the normal cost of advertising would be considered at the next meeting.

**Action: Next Meeting**

In the meantime, the availability of advertising would continue to be promoted to other eligible advertisers - parachuting equipment manufacturers/suppliers and non-core advertisers.

**Action: BPA Office (Lucie Wood)**

A BPA Associated Organisation had asked for a free listing of all Associated Organisations on the BPA website. In discussion of this request, it was pointed out that the fee of £100 per year for Association with the BPA had originally been calculated on the basis of the promotional value of a regular listing in the Magazine. A suggestion that the annual cost of Association should be increased so that these organisations might also be listed on the BPA website failed to find a proposer. This would be conveyed in a reply.

**Action: BPA Office (Lucie Wood)**

**D27/01 Guidelines on expenses**

Tony Butler said that would be helpful for claimants, and for the office, to have guidelines on the payment of expenses to Council Members and others for business other than attendance at Council meetings, for which a well-established policy was already in place. The new guidelines might cover activities such as Club Reps visits, attendance at competitions, and so on. The Committee agreed that this would be helpful, and to convene a working party to prepare draft guidelines for consideration by the Committee. The Chairman, Kieran Brady, Tony Butler and Jon Gretton agreed to serve on the working party. The Council at its meeting tonight would be informed of the establishment of the working party, in case any other Member wished to join, for example to give a competitions perspective. [Notes: (1) At the subsequent Council meeting, Tim Andrewes (Vice Chairman, Competitions Committee) agreed to join the working party. (2) It may be sensible for the working party to convene on the same afternoon as the next meeting of the Development Committee/Council.]

**Action: Expenses Working Party**

**D28/01 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 23 October 2001 at 1600 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester.

(Note: A draft letter to DZ Operators about DZ Development grants had just been circulated to the Committee by Chris Allen, and would be a main agenda item for consideration at the next meeting.)

**Action: Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 1710.

**Distribution:** Council, Vice Presidents, Staff, Editor