

British Parachute Association

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Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday 19 February 2002 at 1600

at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Ian Midgley Kieran Brady David Hickling Eddie Jones Craig Poxon	Development Chairman
In attendance:	Chris Allen Paul Applegate Beverly Fairhurst Lesley Gale Jon Gretton Ian Marshall Martin Shuttleworth Lucie Wood	BPA Chairman <i>Skydive Magazine</i> Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i> Financial Administrator (from item 4.5) National Administrator Development Officer
Apologies for absence:	Tony Butler Debbie Carter	Technical Officer Treasurer

Item Minute

1/02 Minutes

The Chairman welcomed Members of the Development Committee 2002 to their first formal meeting of the year. Kieran Brady proposed, and David Hickling seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on 11 December 2001 be approved as a correct record, and this carried unanimously.

Approved

2/02 Areas of responsibility

The Chairman said that this year, instead of being a standing item on the agenda for each meeting, individual Committee Members would be asked to highlight issues relating to their own area/s of responsibility as and when they arose.

The Chairman agreed to continue to review any advertising or promotional material sent to the BPA, and David Hickling agreed to continue to cover insurance issues. Craig Poxon agreed to continue to cover Sport England, and Eddie Jones kindly agreed to take responsibility for covering UK Sport and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR).

3/02 Reports on areas of responsibility

David Hickling reported that some insurance premium payments for his aircraft had as much as doubled in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the USA. Chris Allen asked whether there might be any advantage in Drop Zones approaching the insurance market collectively. David Hickling said that there were only a few insurers in this specialist market, and naturally they talked to each other. It was therefore unlikely that a collective approach would lead to a significant saving. Kieran Brady remembered that something along these lines had in fact been tried some years ago, but that there had not been sufficient advantage to continue with it.

4/02 Development Action Plan 2002/3

4.1 Draft targets to date

An informal meeting of the Committee had been held after the inaugural Council meeting on Saturday 19 January 2002 to start work on preparing the Development Action Plan for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. At this meeting, it had been decided that it would not be feasible to include Drop Zone Development Grants in the next Action Plan, and therefore this idea would not be progressed. Other ideas had been discussed and a summary showing the two possible targets that had emerged had been circulated with the agenda. These were (1) Develop a Freefly coaching qualification - budget £2K; and (2) Develop an advanced canopy control (a) qualification/syllabus; and (b) coaching qualification - budget (for a and b) - £2K. These were now confirmed as targets, and additional possible targets were considered as follows.

4.2 Implementation of STC's recommendations on RAPS

David Hickling called attention to his working party on RAPS safety. Although the cost of this investigative work, and preparation of an updated RAPS training programme, had been included as costed targets in the STC Action Plan, the subsequent stage of implementation had not. He suggested that this might now added as an additional target in the Development Action Plan. Kieran Brady supported this, and said in his view a realistic budget allocation would be £150K. There followed considerable discussion on how practicable it would be to set out what David Hickling had suggested within the format required for the Action Plan. It was concluded that it would be possible to include it, with quite specific drafting, which David Hickling kindly agreed to prepare.

David Hickling therefore proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that a target to be included in the Development Action Plan 2002/3 was: Enhance RAPS safety and equipment and review and implement updated RAPS front-line instruction techniques (following on from Safety and Training targets 2 and 3) - budget £150K.

The vote was: For - 4 Against - 1

Carried

4.3 Establish a fund to help meet the cost of sign interpreters for deaf students

The Chairman of Council had called the attention of the Development Committee to correspondence he had received from Tim Powell, who was deaf, who had asked for the BPA's financial assistance to help fund a sign interpreter at an AFF school he was due to attend at Langar in April. The Chairman of Council had explained his reply that the BPA did not currently have a budget for such expenditure, and had suggested that Tim Powell might get in touch with an experienced deaf skydiver through whom it might be possible to find contacts to arrange a sign interpreter at a lower cost. The correspondence had been referred to the Development Committee in order for the Committee to consider whether or not it might be appropriate to include a budget provision in the next Action Plan for expenditure of this nature.

After discussion, the Committee decided that it would be prudent to refer this matter to STC for advice. Safety was paramount for all skydivers, including deaf people - and people with other disabilities - who might wish to take up skydiving. The Development Committee sought guidance from STC on whether or not STC considered it to be appropriate, from a safety perspective, for the Development Committee to consider requests for funding such as the one the Chairman of Council had received.

Action: Refer to STC for advice

The Committee asked the BPA Office to find out about arrangements for contacting sign interpreters, with a view to informing Drop Zones. (Note: Enquiries by the BPA Office have found that there is now an online UK Communication Support Directory of the Royal Association for Deaf People (www.royaldeaf.org.uk), which contains a listing of interpreters by region.)

With this as background, David Hickling proposed, and Kieran Brady seconded, a motion that the BPA was unfortunately not in a position to contribute to funding a sign interpreter for Tim Powell.

Carried unanimously

However, the BPA Office was always willing to put students who were deaf in touch with known deaf skydivers in order that the students may tap into first-hand advice and experience.

4.4 Explore the feasibility of Skydiving being recognised as a Paralympic sport

Chris Allen (Chairman of Council) joined the meeting to outline his suggestion that the above target might be considered for inclusion in the Development Action Plan 2002/3, with a budget of say £500. This was for the Development Officer to research precisely what would be required to get skydiving recognised, through IPC, as a Paralympic sport; and find out what categories of disability were covered by the Paralympics. He said that there were probably already sufficient disabled skydivers participating in the sport in the UK and in other countries to make it appropriate to consider the idea of skydiving becoming recognised as a Paralympic sport. If it turned out to be a realistic ambition to seek recognition, and this could be achieved, it could lead to increased funding from UK Sport and greater public awareness of skydiving as a sport. Chris Allen emphasised that this target was quite different from issues of encouraging disabled people to become participants in the sport, and of training disabled people to become skydivers, both of which were likely to raise significant questions of safety, as had already been mentioned in the previous item.

Craig Poxon then proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the target 'Explore the feasibility of skydiving being recognised as a Paralympic sport' with a budget of £500 should be included in the Development Action Plan for 2002/3.

Carried unanimously

4.5 Summary of Development Action Plan Targets for 2002/3

The Chairman summarised each of the four agreed targets and associated budgets that the Development Committee was to put forward for ratification by tonight's meeting of the full Council, viz:

1. Enhance RAPS safety and equipment and review and implement updated RAPS front-line instruction techniques (following on from Safety and Training targets 2 and 3) - budget £150K.
2. Develop a Freefly coaching qualification - budget £2K
3. Develop an advanced canopy control (a) qualification/syllabus; and (b) coaching qualification - budget (for a and b) - £2K.
4. Explore the feasibility of skydiving being recognised as a Paralympic sport - budget £500.

5/02 Freefly Manual

Craig Poxon reported that he had been in correspondence with Giles Fabris, but was having difficulty in obtaining material from him in a format suitable to achieve the BPA's target (for the current year, 2001/2) of publishing a Freefly Manual. David Hickling said that Giles Fabris had left boxes of notes at Langar, and invited Craig Poxon to access these, as they may be of help to the project.

Action: Craig Poxon

6/02 Banner advertisements on the BPA website

Lucie Wood reported that, although two Affiliated Centres had taken up banner advertising on the BPA website (minute 46/01), no skydive-related organisation had yet done so, although two had expressed an interest. One was already an advertiser in *Skydive Magazine*, and had asked whether this would entitle them to a discounted rate.

After discussion, Kieran Brady proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that Lucie Wood should be given the flexibility to negotiate advertising rates for the BPA website with the objective of maximising advertising income to the Association from this source.

Carried unanimously

7/02 CF Coaching Manual

Ian Marshall had come to the meeting with the pleasant purpose of presenting to the Chairman the final draft of the new BPA CF Coaching Manual. Ian Marshall had prepared this with the help of Aaron Jones of the Red Devils and input from CF coaches up and down the country, who had commented on some 60 copies of an earlier draft that had been circulated at the AGM last month. He said he had passed a copy of the final draft to the TO and NCSO for final review, and that the manual would also be going forward for consideration by STC. Ian Marshall reported that the first course, which would be the only 'official' course, was likely to be held in May or June 2002. Successful candidates would earn their 'Canopy Formation Coach' qualification. Kieran Brady warmly welcomed the manual and thanked Ian Marshall, Aron Jones and all of the crew jumpers who had contributed, for their excellent work in preparing it. The Chairman said that this was an example of the BPA at its best. There followed a vote of thanks by the Development Committee for this excellent contribution to the development of coaching within our sport.

8/02 Dates of future meetings in 2002

Tuesdays at 1600 at the BPA Office, Leicester: 23 April, 18 June, 20 August, 22 October, 10 December.

The meeting closed at 1710.