

# British Parachute Association

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## Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 20 April 2004 at 1600**  
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

**Present:** Kieran Brady Development Chairman  
Calvin Blacker  
Tony Goodman  
Eddie Jones  
Elizabeth Stoodley

**In attendance:** Nigel Allen For item 12.1  
Tony Butler Technical Officer  
Robin Durie For item 12.1  
Jon Gretton Financial Administrator  
John Hitchen NCSO  
Martin Shuttleworth Secretary-General

**Apologies for absence:** Chris Allen  
David Hickling  
Ian Midgley

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### Item Minute

**10/04 Minutes**

Calvin Blacker proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Tuesday 17 February 2004 be approved as a correct record.

**Approved**

**11/04 Matters arising**

**11.1 Retrospective expenses claim by Tony Knight (minute 2.2)**

The Chairman reported that this matter had now been satisfactorily settled.

**No further action**

**11.2 Request by SkyVenture for a banner advertisement on the BPA website**

The Chairman said he had not been in recent contact with Simon Ward but would be pleased to discuss the matter further if Simon Ward was still interested.

**12/04 Reports on areas of responsibility**

**12.1 Insurance**

The Chairman reported that the Insurance Committee had met at Langar on Tuesday 30 March under the Chairmanship of David Hickling. The minutes of the meeting had been circulated. The Committee had recommended two variations to the coverage of the BPA public liability insurance policy (i) withdrawal of foreign cover; and (ii) withdrawal of cover for parachute demonstrations from the next renewal on 1 April 2005. The Committee had also

agreed to investigate the possibility of further promoting personal accident insurance for first-time jumpers to take out at Drop Zones. All of these measures were designed to help to reduce the number of claims and potential claims on the BPA policy, and thereby to seek to contain future rises in the premium. The Chairman urged caution not to expect instant results or a reduction in premium next year. The BPA had to demonstrate that it had lowered the risk to which its insurers were exposed by reducing the number of claims. Once this showed in the claims history, it might help at least to stabilise the premium.

In response to a question, Tony Butler summarised the position on the use of AADs, which was an STC issue not directly related to this review of insurance. He also explained the intention to ask Dr John Carter to prepare some statistics on the number of injury reports from each centre, weighted over say 1000 jumps, so that they were comparable. This might yield information on the relative safety performance of each Club or Centre and help to highlight where attention was needed. However, Dr Carter had indicated that the number of injuries was so small relative to the number of jumps that the results might not be statistically significant. A possible way around this might be to analyse data accruing over a number of years. Dr Carter was in the process of considering how to calculate meaningful figures that might be used as part of a proactive risk management strategy.

Tony Butler outlined the position on Joint Services Adventurous Training (JSAT) courses, which involved sport parachuting for on-duty military personnel. Robin Durie (second in command) and Nigel Allen (CCI) of APA Netheravon were in attendance for this item. Tony Butler said he had been assured verbally that because JSAT students were on duty they were covered, as Crown employees, by Ministry of Defence insurance. Therefore, they did not need to pay the insurance premium element of BPA membership. Although this arrangement was new for JSAT students, similar arrangements had been in place previously when a Club or Centre had its own insurance, so this was nothing new, merely the continuation of a facility that had existed for some time. Chris Allen, Chairman of Council, was understood to be seeking further clarification of the basis of the arrangement for JSAT students, and Tony Butler invited Nigel Allen and Robin Drurie to attend tonight's meeting of the full Council, which would be chaired by Chris Allen, when the matter would be further discussed.

### **12.2 Media liaison**

Elizabeth Stoodley (BPA Media Co-ordinator) reported that she had e-mailed Clubs & Centres and Competitions Discipline Reps to publicise her new role. An item had also appeared in *Skydive Magazine* for April 2004. She reported some success in getting coverage in a number of local newspapers of the presentation of the RAeC Gold Medal to team *VMax* by HRH The Duke of York. The relevant newspaper extracts had been circulated. It also looked likely that there would be local press coverage for Dave Tyler who was involved in the EU Enlargement celebrations. The Chairman congratulated Elizabeth Stoodley on making an excellent start in her new role of Media Co-ordinator.

### **12.3 Other areas of responsibility**

There were no reports on other areas of responsibility.

## **13/04 Progress with the current year's Development Action Plan, 2003/4**

### **13.1 Target 1: History of parachuting and the BPA**

This remained a longer-term project, which might roll over into the next Action Plan year.

**In progress**

### **13.2 Target 2: New homepage for the BPA website**

**Achieved**

### **13.3 Target 3: New team contacts webpage**

**Achieved**

### **13.4 Target 4: Add an interactive coaching page to the BPA website**

Following from the two online coaching webpages in summer 2003, the aim was to go live with a coaching webpage again during the summer season 2004.

**In progress**

**13.5 Target 5: Add a page of information on travel insurance to the BPA website**

A draft of the content of this page had been circulated with the agenda. The page would be uploaded to the BPA website as per the Action Plan target before the next meeting.

**In progress**

**14/04 Freefly Manual**

Tony Butler had circulated a draft of the FF1 section of the new Freefly Manual. This had been prepared by Paul Floyd. The draft would now be referred by STC for formal approval. The Committee considered that Paul Floyd had done an excellent job, and looked forward to seeing the corresponding section for FF2 so that a complete manual could be published. The Chairman thanked John Hitchen for kindly liaising with Paul Floyd, and would write to Paul Floyd to pass on the Committee's thanks.

**Action: Chairman**

**15/04 Correspondence**

Jim White had forwarded a copy of correspondence he had received from Ian Cessford suggesting that a photograph might be included in the BPA Membership card. The Committee believed that because FAI Certificates (Licences) contained photographs there was no need for the BPA Membership card also to do so.

**No further action**

**16/04 Dates of future meetings**

Tuesdays at 1600 at the BPA Office, Leicester: 15 June, 24 August, 19 October and 7 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 1640.