

British Parachute Association

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Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 15 June 2004 at 1600
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Kieran Brady Calvin Blacker Tony Goodman David Hickling Eddie Jones Elizabeth Stoodley	Development Chairman
In attendance:	Paul Applegate Tony Butler Lesley Gale Jon Gretton Martin Shuttleworth	Technical Officer Editor, <i>Skydive Magazine</i> Financial Administrator Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Debbie Carter John Hitchen Ian Midgley	Treasurer NCSO

Item Minute

17/04 Minutes

Eddie Jones proposed, and Calvin Blacker seconded, a motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Tuesday 20 April 2004 be approved as a correct record.

Approved

18/04 Matters arising

18.1 Page 2, minute 13.4 BPA website: Interactive coaching page

The interactive coaching webpage had not yet returned for summer 2004 because promised content was still awaited from coaches.

In progress

18.1 Page 2, minute 13.5 BPA website

A new page on travel insurance for skydiving had been added to the BPA website since the last meeting.

Achieved

19/04 Reports on areas of responsibility

19.1 Insurance

David Hickling reported that he had contracted three different insurance companies about the possibility of marketing personal accident insurance to individual jumpers through any drop zones that might wish to offer such a facility. Only one of these companies had shown any enthusiasm, but he was concerned this company might paradoxically be rather too keen on applying pressure on jumpers to purchase such insurance.

The Chairman said that, with regard to personal accident insurance, all depended on the one-to-one relationship between the jumper and the insurance company or its agent. It was not a group or BPA relationship. He asked what would happen when the sales agent was not present to sell the insurance cover, and said it was difficult to foresee a route that it might be appropriate for the BPA to endorse. David Hickling said that he would speak to a fourth insurance company and would report back if they showed interest.

Action: David Hickling

Tony Butler reported that he was in the process of organising a further meeting with the brokers of the BPA's third party insurance policy. This would provide an opportunity to discuss the variations in cover that had been proposed by the Insurance Committee, viz not continuing with insurance for displays and cover outside the UK. The Chairman confirmed that the current status of these variations was as proposals for consultation with the membership (via the BPA website and *Skydive Magazine*) and the underwriters, who would also be represented at the forthcoming meeting.

In response to a question from Elizabeth Stoodley, the Chairman confirmed that the Insurance Committee had made no proposal to vary the present person-to-person insurance coverage as set out in the BPA policy.

19.2 Media liaison

Elizabeth Stoodley (BPA Media Co-ordinator) reported that she had received a number of offers of help with media projects from members and others with various media-related skills. These offers were currently being logged and would be considered in the light of possible projects as and when opportunities arose.

Elizabeth Stoodley had managed to obtain good local press coverage in Buxton, Macclesfield and Stevenage with the news of team Misstral's selection to represent the UK in the women's 4-way Formation Skydiving at the World Parachute Championships in Croatia in September 2004. The coverage had been by the press in the team members' own locales, and had been the main front page story, complete with colour photographs, in the Buxton Advertiser - to the surprise and delight of the team member concerned! Further good news press releases were planned, including about the Brit Chicks 2004 record attempt.

A discussion then took place about relations with the media after a parachuting accident or incident, and in particular how the BPA handled enquiries from the media. This arose because some journalists were now contacting Elizabeth Stoodley for information on accidents or incidents, no doubt because of her role as BPA Media Co-ordinator, which they might learn about through the BPA website. After full consideration, the Committee agreed that the established practice of referring all such enquiries to the Technical Officer or NCSO had worked well. Tony Butler said that he was generally satisfied with the fidelity of the media's reporting of his comments. Eddie Jones confirmed that he had never seen anything inappropriate reported in the press that had originated from the BPA Office. The Committee concluded that there was no reason to change the established system. It believed that the BPA should not seek proactively to manage news about serious incidents and fatalities, but should be an authoritative source of information about the procedures to be followed, etc.

19.3 Other areas of responsibility

There were no reports on other areas of responsibility.

20/04 Progress with the current year's Development Action Plan, 2003/4

20.1 Target 1: History of parachuting and the BPA

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

In progress

20.2 Target 2: New homepage for the BPA website

Achieved

20.3 Target 3: New team contacts webpage

Achieved

20.4 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 (see minute 18.1).

In progress

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

Achieved

21/04 Next year's Development Action Plan, 2004/5

21.1 Target 1: Start a new page on the BPA website on National Skydiving Records

Work on this would start next month. A Member had e-mailed the office to express concern that the new page might duplicate information already on the Guinness World Records website, but Calvin Blacker (who had made the suggestion for the new page on the BPA website) said that he did not believe this would be the case.

Work to begin in July 2004

21.2 Target 2: Host an open forum meeting for Drop Zone Operators

This was a winter activity, for a one-day meeting probably in November 2004 or February 2005.

For action later in 2004

21.3 Target 3: Create a new role as Media Co-ordinator

Elizabeth Stoodley had already been involved in this new role for two or three months, having been keen to start early!

Achieved

21.4 Target 4: Improve the quality and quantity of media coverage of skydiving in the UK

See minute 19.2. Elizabeth Stoodley had already made considerable progress in securing good news stories about skydiving in various local newspapers. Continuing this success would depend on her receiving newsworthy items from the Membership. To this end, calls for appropriate stories had been made in *Skydive Magazine* and on the BPA website, where examples of coverage obtained to date had been posted to help to encourage Members to send in news items.

On target

22/04 Dates of future meetings

Tuesdays at **1630** (please note this new start time, 30 minutes later than usual) at the BPA Office, Leicester: 24 August, 19 October and 7 December (after the EGM).

The meeting closed at 1620.