

British Parachute Association

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Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 12 June 2007 at 1615
at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	Adrian Bond John Horne David Ibbotson Eddie Jones Paul Ledden John Page Grant Richards Mike Rust Weed Stoodley	(in the Chair) Chairman of Council
In attendance:	Paul Applegate Tony Butler David Hickling John Hitchen Ian Marshall Martin Shuttleworth	Technical Officer Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee NCSO Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Robin Durie Paul Moore Julian Storey Alex Wilson	Development Chairman Media Co-ordinator
Observers:	Kieran Brady Martin Crossley Craig Poxon	

Item	Minute
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17/07	<u>Minutes</u>
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There was one correction: David Hickling's name was listed under 'in attendance' instead of 'present' because as Insurance Subcommittee Chairman he was a co-opted Member of the Development Committee. John Horne then proposed, and Grant Richards seconded, a motion that the minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17 April 2007 should be approved as a correct record. This carried unanimously.

Approved

18/07	<u>Matters arising</u>
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18.1	<u>The Airkix Fund (minute 12.1)</u>
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John Page reported that Robin Durie and he had yet to meet Simon Ward of the Airkix wind tunnel for an update on the Airkix Fund. The meeting had been delayed because all three had been out of the country at one time or another during recent weeks.

Action: Development Chairman & John Page

18.2 Credit card charges (minute 12.6)

The Chairman thanked Jon Gretton, BPA Financial Administrator, for the memorandum he had circulated setting out the lower charges by the bank he had negotiated for payments received by credit card.

Weed Stoodley proposed, and Eddie Jones seconded, that a note should be added to the payment section of the membership renewal form to state that debit card was the preferred payment method, because it cost the BPA less to process a payment received by this method than by credit card or cheque.

Carried unanimously – Action: BPA Office (Jon Gretton)

19/07 Reports on areas of responsibility

19.1 Insurance

David Hickling (Chairman, Insurance Subcommittee) reported that the Insurance Subcommittee had met earlier today. He had been in correspondence over a number of issues with the current brokers, HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd, and had received their reply only this morning. The BPA had asked a series of questions about possible minor variations to the policy, and there were further questions yet to be raised. This was whether it would be possible to obtain differential premiums for student tandems and student static line squares that reflected the difference in exposure to risk between the two. A number of Drop Zone Operators were keen to get an answer on this, subsequent to discussions at the meeting of DZ Operators that had been organised by the BPA on 12 April 2007.

David Hickling reported that he was reasonably confident that he could obtain an alternative quotation for insurance next year, so that there could well be a choice for the BPA for the first time in several years. However, the possible alternative insurers were likely to require money up front rather than payment of a small deposit with the rest as phased payments in arrears. Under these possible alternative arrangements, student premiums may be higher, but there may be lower premiums for experienced jumpers. The broker who was proposing these arrangements had not yet confirmed who the underwriter would be.

Paul Applegate had forwarded details of another different insurance contact that David Hickling said he would explore.

David Hickling said there was no great desire to change the current insurers because the BPA's present umbrella policy safeguarded the sport under wide-ranging cover. Current Council policy therefore, was to pursue continuation of this all-embracing cover.

The Ministry of Defence had sent a letter asking the BPA to consider increasing its £2m limit of policy cover. This was in the light of a current claim that could potentially exceed the limit, and go on to involve the Ministry of Defence. David Hickling said that he did not believe the current insurers would be prepared to give a blanket increase in cover from £2m to £5m, although they might be willing to consider it for individual Drop Zones. If an increase in the limit could be obtained it would be likely to cost more, possibly a lot more, and it was not clear that this would be an appropriate way forward for the BPA. Indeed, one suggestion at the DZ Operators' meeting had been significantly to lower the limit to discourage large claims, this being one of the possible variations about which David Hickling was in correspondence with HSBC. A letter of acknowledgement had been sent to the Ministry of Defence, with a reply promised in due course after the matter had been fully considered.

In summary, David Hickling said that at present he was optimistic that the BPA would be able to obtain insurance for next year, but that he did not see much prospect of a significant overall reduction in price for a continuation of the same type of umbrella policy. If the Committee and Council preferred some other form of cover, he invited them to say.

The Chairman thanked David Hickling and the other members of the Insurance Subcommittee for their continuing hard work on the complex issue of insurance.

19.2 Media

The Chairman asked Julian Storey, Media Co-ordinator, kindly to provide a written report if he was unable to attend a meeting, as was the case today.

Action: Julian Storey

20/07 Development Action Plan: 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

20.1 Research methods of membership recruitment and retention

Development Chairman Robin Durie and Paul Moore were planning work on this target.

Action: Development Chairman & Paul Moore

20.2 Investigate replacement of reduced exchequer funding

John Horne reported that he had briefed two skydivers he knew who worked in the City about the BPA's need to raise extra revenue to make up for the shortfall and subsequent loss of exchequer funding. They had said they would report back to him with ideas and suggestions. He had also researched a number of websites for golf clubs and other sporting associations, which had revealed a number of possible ways in which funds might be raised. The Income Streams Review Committee yet to arrange its first meeting for the new Action Plan year starting on 1 July.

Action: Income Streams Review Committee

20.3 Support and encourage Clubs & Centres to run more safety events

The availability of funding to Clubs & Centres for safety events would be promoted after the start of the new Action Plan year on 1 July 2007..

Action: BPA Office

The Office reported that Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, had expressed an interest in seeking a grant (which would be from the current Action Plan year, ending on 30 June), for a safety briefing it was organising on Friday 15 June. However, they had not yet sent a formal application to request a specific figure.

20.4 Research functional (back-end) development of the BPA website for members and the general public

Adrian Bond said he was planning to meet with Robin Durie to discuss this target, and its co-ordination with the Communications Action Plan target to update the front-end of the website.

Action: Development Chairman & Adrian Bond

21/07 Dates of next meetings

Tuesdays at 1600 at the BPA Office, Leicester: 14 August, 9 October and 4 December 2007.

The meeting closed at 1640.