

British Parachute Association

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Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 18 August 2009 at 1530
at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester

Present:	John Horne Paul Applegate	Vice Chairman of Council - in the Chair
In attendance:	Adrian Bond Tony Butler Debbie Carter Lesley Gale Jon Gretton Martin Shuttleworth	Technical Officer Treasurer Editor, Skydive the Mag Financial Administrator Secretary-General
Apologies for absence:	Ray Armstrong John Hitchen Paul Ledden Paul Moore* Craig Poxon Grant Richards Weed Stoodley*	NCSO Development Chairman

- at a meeting of the Competitions Committee running concurrently.

Item Minute

40/09 Chair

Craig Poxon, Development Chairman, was currently on an BPA AFF Instructor course. In his absence, he had asked John Horne, Vice Chairman of Council, to chair the meeting.

41/09 Quoracy

The Chairman noted that, because Adrian Bond was not a voting member of this Committee, the meeting was not quorate (quorum = 3 voting members present, per Form 174, Development Committee terms of reference). Therefore, no votes would be taken at this meeting.

42/09 Minutes

The Committee noted that the minutes (circulated) of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2009 had already been approved by the Committee, ratified electronically by the Council and published on the BPA website <http://www.bpa.org.uk/minutes>

43/09 Matters arising

43.1 Mag article (minute 30.2)

Lesley Gale (Editor) confirmed she had been in touch with Chis Jones, Chairman of the Drop Zone Defence Fund (DZDF) about an article on DZDF that would appear in the February 2010 issue of the Mag. This would coincide with the start of the membership renewal period. The renewal form offered renewing members the opportunity to make a discretionary donation to DZDF. The Mag article would help members better to understand the purpose of DZDF. The Chairman noted that members were also offered the opportunity, on renewal, to make a discretionary donation to the British Team Fund. He would mention this at tonight's meeting of

the full Council, and suggest that the Competitions Committee might wish to include an outline of the British Team Fund in the same issue of the Magazine.

Action: Chairman

43.2 Suggestion of a display skydive at the London 2012 Olympics (minute 30.3)

The Chairman said there was no update yet.

Action: Development Chairman

43.3 BPA representatives to Sport England Regions (minute 30.4)

No volunteer had yet come forward as a result of the Office's request to Cornwall and Dunkeswell, the two Centres within the region. The Committee decided to ask again, this time simply for a member to act as a PO box to scan any relevant post.

Action: BPA Office

43.4 Request for a sponsored link on the BPA website (minute 38)

The Committee decided that the links page on the BPA website should continue to be reserved for official and not-for-profit organisations, clubs and societies. Commercial links were available through banner advertisements. The Office would advise the Member who had asked to place a sponsored link.

Action: BPA Office

43.5 BPA Shop (minute 49.2.2)

The Chairman said it remained inappropriate further to discuss the BPA Shop without Grant Richards, who was co-holder of the franchise, present.

Ongoing

44/09 Reports on areas of responsibility

44.1 UK Sport / Sport England / BPA Regional Reps to Sport England

The Chairman reported that a university skydiving club had drafted what appeared to him (as BPA liaison officer with the home countries sports councils) and the BPA secretariat to be an excellent application for funding under Sport England's small grants programme. They did not know the outcome. He said that Sport England's small grants programme was capped at £10K per applicant body. Applicant bodies had to be not-for-profit community sports groups. Therefore, university skydiving clubs appeared to be in a position to apply, and the Office had advised BCPA of this possible funding opportunity, asking them to spread the news to their member clubs.

44.2.1 Liaison with CCPR

Ray Armstrong and BPA staff had had a constructive meeting with James Stibbs, CCPR's Head of Communications, at the BPA Office on Thursday, 25 June. A summary of points discussed had been circulated.

44.2.2 BingoLotto benefiting sport through CCPR

Adrian Bond reported the latest news was that BingoLotto was due to re-launch in September 2009. It promised to be bigger and better than before, with tickets on sale from Tesco tills for the first time. It was hoped that this would, in turn, generate more funding for sports through CCPR, including for our sport.

Ongoing

44.3 Insurance

Tony Butler (Technical Officer) reported he had had a second meeting with a Member who was now working as an insurance broker. The underwriter who had accompanied the broker was part of a group, another part of which had last year quoted for the BPA's insurance.

45/09 Update of Memorandum & Articles of Association

The work-in-progress draft of the updated Memorandum & Articles of Association had been circulated before the meeting. There remained a number of points on which Weed Stoodley and Martin Shuttleworth were continuing to liaise with the specialist legal adviser at Co-operatives UK Legal Services.

Arising from the legal adviser's suggested updates, there were a number of issues on which clarification from the BPA was required, and these were discussed. The principal issue was whether to refer to the small company exemptions from statutory financial audit for which the BPA was eligible, as it came within the legal definition of a small company. Debbie Carter (Treasurer) said she believed that the BPA should continue to carry out an annual financial audit,

which currently cost about £3K per annum, in the interests of transparency. However, as this was no longer a statutory requirement, the Committee agreed to suggest to the full Council at its meeting tonight to propose to the legal adviser that the updated Articles should be silent on the

matter of financial audit, and that Council should make bye-law (which can be revoked by Council not requiring a approval general meeting) to hold an annual independent financial audit.

Action: Refer to full Council

46/09 The Airkix Fund: CH/CP video

The Chairman reported that Martin Soulsby had advised him that all jumps for this video had been completed, and the footage was now being edited. The Chairman had authorised a payment of £400 to cover the cost of the jumps. This would be paid pro tem from BPA funds, with the amount made good from the Airkix Fund with Airkix's agreement once the project had been completed. The Committee hoped that the video could be showcased at the AGM at the Blackpool Hilton on Saturday 16 January 2010.

Ongoing

47/09 Safeguarding vulnerable groups

The Chairman said he and BPA staff were continuing carefully to monitor developments as the Independent safeguarding Authority's (ISA) new vetting and barring scheme (VBS) was phased in. Some 11.3 million people worked with vulnerable groups, so it was an enormous undertaking for the ISA. He said that advice he had received suggested that sport parachuting was unlikely to be classed as a 'regulated activity' under the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This did not mean that the Act would not affect in our sport, but that its most onerous provisions for regulated activities would be unlikely to apply.

The sports sector was currently awaiting publication of government guidance of the implementation of the new statutory provisions in sport. The Chairman said he planned to make a presentation at the DZ Owners & Operators' meeting on Tuesday 27 October (minute 48) with the latest information then available. He said that because of the imperative of the timetable for phasing-in contrasted with the fact that official guidance for sport had not to his knowledge yet been published, it was a case of 'hurry up and wait'.

Action: Chairman

48/09 BPA meeting for Drop Zone Owners & Operators

This had now been arranged for Tuesday 27 October 2009 at Walcote Village Memorial Hall near Lutterworth in Leicestershire (M1 Jct 20), from 1030 until approximately 1600. The Office had sent a call notice by e-mail to Clubs & Centres. The BPA's brokers, Mansons Insurance Brokers, had kindly agreed to meet the £65 cost of venue hire, together with the cost of lunch and refreshments for those attending. Agenda items to date included:

- European regulations (Tony Knight)
- Safeguarding vulnerable groups (see minute 47)
- Starter Mag (Communications Committee)
- Insurance (Mansons would be in attendance for at least part of this item)
- Discussion in principle of the idea of a possible BPA tandem agency (see minute 49.2).

The Committee also suggested that Dr John Carter, BPA Medical Adviser, should be invited to give an update on parachuting declarations of fitness and other medical matters if he was available. The Office would check.

Action: BPA Office

As was customary for such meetings, the Office would put out a note of agenda items to date and ask DZOs for any more before the agenda was formally issued.

Action: BPA Office

49/09 Development Action Plan: 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

49.1 Implement stage 2 of the new BPA website and database

The debrief on stage 1 had been held with Hcoms, the contractors, on Monday 27 July at the BPA Office. The Development Chairman had attended and the Office thanked him for having made a particularly valuable contribution to the meeting using the synergy between his technical expertise in computer programming and his knowledge of the BPA's requirements. Notes on the

debrief meeting had been circulated. A briefing meeting with Hcoms and BPA staff for the start of stage 2, online renewals, was due to be held at the BPA Office on Monday 21 September.

Ongoing

49.2 Explore the viability of the BPA developing a tandem bookings agency as an arm's length commercial activity

This idea would be discussed with Drop Zone Operators and Owners at the DZOs meeting to be held on Tuesday 27 October 2009 (minute 48).

Action: Development Chairman

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

Tony Butler confirmed he had forwarded a copy of the USPA Safety Day pack to Weed Stoodley, who had signified her agreement to continue with this project even though she could not currently attend meetings of this Committee because they clashed with those of the Competitions Committee.

Action: Weed Stoodley

49.4 Keep up-to-date with developments in statutory safeguarding of vulnerable groups

See minute 47.

Ongoing

49.5 Take further initiatives in membership promotion and retention

The Chairman reported he had spoken to Craig Poxon, who had been delighted with an excellent rate of response (over 500 replies) to his e-mail survey of lapsed members. Craig Poxon was currently analysing the replies, with a view to presenting them to the next meeting.

Action: Development Chairman / Next meeting

49.6 Put updated Memo & Articles of Association to AGM 2010

See minute 45.

Ongoing

50/09 Members' affinity programmes

50.1 Masons Insurance Brokers

Mansons Insurance Brokers had expressed an interest for a speaker to make a presentation to the next meeting of this Committee about membership affinity benefits they could offer to BPA members. The Committee agreed to include this as an item on the agenda of its October meeting.

Action: Next meeting

50.2 Sports Financial Services

An e-mail from David Shirley of Sports Financial Services had been circulated in advance. Sports Financial Services offered life insurance at 'normal' rates to members of the British Mountaineering Council, and were interested in offering something similar to BPA Members. They sought a link on the BPA website, and had offered to pay the BPA a commission for each new policy sold through that link.

The Committee noted the offer, but believed it to be important to maintain the BPA's independence from recommending any particular provider of personal insurance. That said, the Committee gave its encouragement to Sports Financial Services to make known their service to the BPA membership through the normal commercial channels, such as advertising in the BPA Magazine and/or website (if the BPA website, subject to agreement by this Committee of the copy and URL link). It would also be open to them to ask for a free-of-charge space at the AGM day exhibition on Saturday 16 January 2010. The Office would inform David Shirley of this.

Action: BPA Office

51/09 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 1530 at the BPA Office, Glen Parva, Leicester

The meeting closed at 1700.

Ratified electronically by the Council and published on 4 September 2009.