



British Parachute Association Ltd
The National Governing Body for Sport Parachuting

Election of Elected Council Members (Non-Executive Directors of BPA Ltd)

Candidates' election statements

- Please carefully consider the candidate statements before voting. Each candidate's contact details are given should you wish to contact them.
- The brief for the candidate statement was 'The candidate statement should identify the candidate's key competences (legal, financial, business etc) that can be applied to the formulation of strategic policy and direction of the National Governing Body for Sport Parachuting.'
- There are nineteen (19) candidates for ten (10) elected seats on BPA Council. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. The information about each candidate is as they themselves have supplied. Candidate statements reflect their own personal views and not necessarily those of BPA Ltd. Candidates are responsible for the factual accuracy of their statements.
- Please use online voting if you can – it's quick and easy, and saves the BPA paying the return postage! **You may vote for up to ten (10) candidates - you may vote for fewer, but not more, because there are 10 elected seats on Council.**
- In the event of a tied vote for the 10th and final elected seat on Council, the independent election administrators Mi-Voice will draw lots to declare the winner of that seat, and include it in their declaration of the result.
- The result of the ballot, as received from Mi-Voice, will be published on the BPA website bpa.org.uk on the afternoon of Thursday afternoon 12 January 2017 and formally declared at the BPA AGM at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RJ at 10:30 on Saturday 28 January 2017. In addition, the appointment of two Independent Non-Executive Directors recommended by the Nominations Committee of Council, in accordance with Article 12, is on the AGM agenda.

Please read the candidate statements carefully before casting your vote.

Thank you for voting.

CODE?

mi-voice
democracy enabled

Election of BPA Council 2017



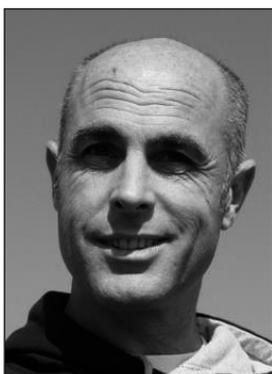
Paul Applegate

BPA member	15431
Proposer	Adrian Bond
Secunder	Martin Soulsby
Address	Bicester
Home drop zone	Weston-on-the-Green
BPA member since	1973
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Rigger

I bring a range of skill and experience to the table, in particular, as an Advanced Rigger and Chair of the BPA Riggers' Committee. Rigging is my full-time occupation and I run my own company, delivering a full range of rigging services. I have a wealth of experience in instructing and competing at the highest level and this has given me a detailed understanding of how successful DZs run and how the BPA decisions and policies impact on the membership and the sport. I have been an active member of Communications and Development Committees and the staff representative during 2016.

The link role between the staff and Council is a key one and has given me the opportunity to understand the effect Council decisions have on the permanent office staff. It has been particularly important during the development and implementation of the refurbishment plan for the BPA Headquarters building. This work will serve to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and future-proofing of the accommodation, and has taken into account the needs of the Association and the staff.

Council relies on having a good mixture of experience and innovation, long serving and new, ideas people and the cautious type. I bring a selection of these qualities, and at a time of major change in the governance of our Association, I offer what I believe to be a valuable thread of continuity and stability.



Mark Bayada

BPA member	566391
Proposer	Wez Westley
Secunder	Jackie Harper
Address	Amesbury
Home drop zone	Army Parachute Association
BPA member since	1992
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Chief Instructor, Army Parachute Association

I have been involved in sport parachuting since 1992. I am a Parachute Rigger, Authorised Pilot and Instructor Examiner and have assisted the BPA in several panels of enquiry and working groups. I believe that this, together with my experience gained from running parachute centres, jumping, competing and organising national and international events in the UK and abroad, give me the knowledge required to help drive the BPA forward, allowing it to progress in this fast-developing sport whilst maintaining our excellent safety record.

Election of BPA Council 2017



Gordon Blamire

BPA member	940205
Proposer	Brian Vacher
Second	Max Hurd
Address	Salisbury
Home drop zone	Goskydive.com
BPA member since	2003
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Drop Zone Operator

As a governing body, the BPA is responsible for promoting and developing sport parachuting in Britain. The world of skydiving and aviation is changing quickly. It's crucial that the BPA moves with the times. I believe there has recently been good development in the culture and management of the BPA, but there is still much to be done. After serving 2 years on Council, I've learnt a lot and am excited by what I still have to learn. I'm really impressed by the great intentions of those involved in the BPA and its development.

I still feel that the BPA could do more to improve safety and return better value to its members and customers. 20 years of skydiving and 8 years as a BPA drop zone operator has given me a good understanding of the issues involved in governing, managing and promoting skydiving. My business experience, particularly in skydiving, will continue to add value to the BPA, its Council and the members. My goal is to contribute where I can to have a financially viable sport with longevity that brings joy and added life experience to all that engage in it.



Adrian Bond

BPA member	883034
Proposer	Brian Vacher
Second	Paul Applegate
Address	Preston
Home drop zone	Black Knights
BPA member since	2003
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

I have been in the sport a little over 13 years spending 12 of those years on the BPA Council, an active member of the Communications & Development Committees throughout, currently Chair of the Communications Committee.

Having a commercial background in developing and growing a number of successful businesses, I have been able to apply these skills and expertise to benefit the Association to be able to reduce costs whilst improving quality and the development of communication to not only those in the sport, but the wider public too.

So, what has been achieved this year?

Activity has been to continue to raise the profile of the sport through media development, with a number of headline PR campaigns being sent each time to 147 recipients around the world.

Led and developed the tenders for BPA Skydive the Mag and associated publications and the new BPA family of websites due in 2017.

BPA Skydive the Expo - Negotiated an extension of a further 2 years from 2018 at the current venue.

Consulted with members on BPA mission, values and identity.

Developed a co-ordinated approach to production and pre-AGM publication of the BPA Annual Report and Accounts.

2017

BPA Skydive the Expo will be bringing more innovation and entertainment with a further promotional video, new exhibitors, more speakers, more prizes and a great time to rock out with skydiving friends old and new.

Continue to further develop further membership engagement and raising the profile of the sport.

Development and launch the new family of BPA websites.

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Election of BPA Council 2017



Kate Charters

BPA member	258907
Proposer	Ruth Cooper
Secunder	Clem Quinn
Address	Peterborough
Home drop zone	None
BPA member since	1981
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

I have been a BPA member for many years and I have been the judges' co-ordinator for the last 15 years which is almost a full-time unpaid job. I hold every FAI rating in every parachuting discipline there is and I am the only one in the world who does. Learning about all disciplines enables me to train new judges and also enables me to answer / advise competitors on any issues they have.

I am well known in the parachuting world here in the UK and around the world and hopefully my reputation is a good one.

My reason for standing for Council is I think it is time to step up to being a voting member for the benefit of the members/competitors and judges because although I am on the Competitions Committee I do not get a vote as only co-opted. I believe very much in the BPA but also think it is time to be more forward thinking.

Please vote for me and I promise to be a Council member for and on behalf of the judges and the membership.



Brian Cumming

BPA member	866840
Proposer	Hinesh Patel
Secunder	Matt Cunningham
Address	London
Home drop zone	Skydive Langar
BPA member since	2003
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Co-host Radio Skydive UK podcast. AFFI at Skydive Langar. Co-owner www.uk-skydiver.co.uk www.askmeaboutskydiving.com

I've now been a member of Council for three years. I ran initially with a pledge to look out for the 'ordinary' member, to make sure they aren't forgotten. I stand by that pledge and I would like Council to listen more to you and all of the membership.

Before becoming an instructor I worked in finance for a decade and I now run two small startups. While I appreciate that Council has to be methodical and follow due process, I find it to be unnecessarily slow to make decisions. I also find Council's miserly approach frustrating. Budgets are allocated to develop our sport, to communicate in greater depth and breadth, all to benefit you - and yet often go unspent. We should explore options further in order to provide a better experience to you.

I wish to help make the BPA more robust, to help make the BPA fit for the 21st century. I feel that this is an important time to contribute towards shaping Council and the entire governance structure of our Association for the future. I am excited by what the future holds.

I wish to challenge things 'that have always been done that way' but I will not make changes just for the sake of change. I will avoid the herd mentality and make decisions based on common sense. I will be sure to remember the ordinary BPA member in my decisions. #MakeBPAGreatAgain. Vote Brian.

Election of BPA Council 2017



Linley Ewing

BPA member	1266730
Proposer	Brian Cumming
Secunder	Richard Wheatley
Address	Omagh
Home drop zone	Wild Geese/Langar
BPA member since	2012
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	CSI/TI

I started skydiving in 2012 and I imagine I was described as an "awful student" when I was learning. Taking 18 months and 52 jumps to get my A licence! What I never did was give up... although I did come close! Since I qualified in 2014, I have found myself more involved with skydiving than anything I've ever done. I've become an FS Coach, CSI and a tandem instructor. I love skydiving, I love going to dropzones, meeting new people, learning new things, and helping others learn, and for me one of the great things about doing it is because I get to do it in the UK, under the BPA. I spent 2 months living at Skydive Chicago this summer and learnt a lot about how the USPA operates. I think the idea of the BPA is great. As an association it does a lot of great things for us. But things can always be done better. I want to get more involved and find out how I can make the BPA better. I love helping students and new skydivers. I want as many people to experience what we do as possible, so I want to help with the learning process that is improving our number of signups, increasing retention rates and getting people involved! I believe I can contribute to the Council by bringing a fresh mind to the table, with a lot of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Vote for Linley! #getyourskydiveon #getmycouncilon #voteLinley



Danny French

BPA member	1031672
Proposer	Brian Cumming
Secunder	Rebecca Bradley
Address	Norwich
Home drop zone	Beccles
BPA member since	2007
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Tandem and AFF Instructor

I fell in love with skydiving 7 years ago and, since my first jump, I haven't looked back. The majority of my time has been spent enjoying 4-way FS and a little bit of freefly. I always enjoyed FS coaching and about 2 years ago I started to look more at what I could give back to the sport... I started this process by becoming an AFF and a Tandem instructor so that I could help others into this amazing world of skydiving. It only made my passion for the sport grow more.

When I am not skydiving, I work offshore on gas platforms in the North Sea. Just like in skydiving, safety in the Oil and Gas industry is paramount... if you elect me onto Council, I will be able to share the good practices from the Oil and Gas industry to ensure that we all fully understand why incidents have occurred and to prevent them from repeating.

Safety doesn't have to be boring. One solution might be short simple YouTube videos with a few sentences of explanation at the end about what factors caused the incident and how to prevent them from happening again. I'm tired of seeing #BSBD.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, Vote Danny.

Election of BPA Council 2017



Tash Higman

BPA member	697580
Proposer	Mary Barratt
Secunder	Weed Stoodley
Address	Reading
Home drop zone	Nethers/Headcorn
BPA member since	1997
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

I did my first of over 1,300 jumps at Netheravon in 1997. Since then I have jumped on belly big-ways (up to the 151-way JFTC record in 2005), took 12 years to progress from FF1 to FF2 and have picked up competition CF again in 2016 after a 7 year gap. I am an FS Coach and have FAI Judge ratings in CF, FS and Speed. I have lived in and jumped under the regulations of the DFV in Germany, PASA in South Africa and the USPA, giving me an insight into how other organisations handle challenges similar to those faced by the BPA.

During my year on Council in 2016 I supported the Good Governance strategy by documenting existing BPA judging processes. With guidance from staff and other Council members, I would like to continue to use my process management experience to improve documentation of other processes. This is not a task directly visible to members, but will help with the continued smooth running of the Association.

Outside skydiving I am a qualified accountant with an MBA with over 20 years experience in Operational Change. I have always had an interest in how the BPA is run but my professional career prevented me from devoting the time and energy I believe is necessary to properly serve the membership. I am now semi-retired and would like to use my experiences as a fun-jumper, competitor, coach, judge and operations professional to benefit the wider membership.



Jason Kelleher

BPA member	1051180
Proposer	Jack Bradford
Secunder	Ian Marshall
Address	Woking
Home drop zone	All UK
BPA member since	2007
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

I have been driving progressive change on Council for two years now. My passion to continue only increases. Outside of skydiving, I am Commercial Manager on a £200m+ Construction Project. I possess significant financial skills and am a strong leader who drives positive behaviours through a variety of methods. I engage well with stakeholders and gain a rounded view on issues before forming an opinion. I am not afraid to admit when I make mistakes. I have a knack for implementing agreeable solutions. I have other skills, but those are my most notable.

This election is CRITICAL. Please do not underestimate that. Experience in skydiving does not give someone skills to be a Director. We are already losing Mike, Gavin and Jack - each of whom has been phenomenal for progressing the BPA. We could lose 4/5 more "progressive thinkers" who tend not to receive votes because their names are not widely known. I will be voting for people with business skills, not those with history. I will not vote for someone just because I recognise their name from the Mag. The decision on who represents you ultimately belongs to you, and rightly so. But if you have any questions or comments, please: phone me - 07557 100 430; e-mail me - jasonkelleherbpa@gmail.com; or see my views (a little bit awkwardly) - <http://bit.ly/2gLadAZ>

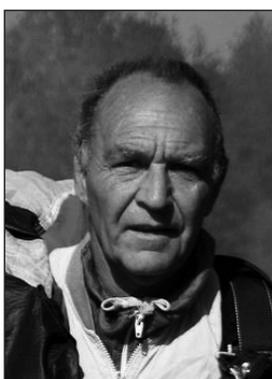
Election of BPA Council 2017



Justinas Kubilinskas

BPA member	936473
Proposer	Michael Hitchcock
Seconder	Lee Sample
Address	Peterborough
Home drop zone	Sibson
BPA member since	2007
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Camera Flying

I feel that I am a forward thinking and vocal character who is very passionate in my views. I'm a full-time camera flyer, advanced packer and keen fun jumper at Sibson DZ who's been in skydiving for the majority of my life. I started off as a sportie in Lithuania and then transitioned to full-time skydiving three years ago. I am extremely safety orientated but certainly not afraid to shake up the status quo and as a Council member I would stand for the instigation of real progression.



Ian Marshall

BPA member	11128
Proposer	Martin Harris
Seconder	Jason Snailham
Address	Surrey
Home drop zone	LPS
BPA member since	1970
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

Thank you to all of those that have voted for me in the last 26 years, I thought at the beginning of the year, with the new articles & code of good governance the BPA had got into the 21 Century.

Now that has begun there is still a long way to go, the Office continues to do great work, however there is still a shadow cast over total transparency of information to Council. That's not to say it is all bad, but it only takes one thing to leave a bad taste. It is your Council that makes and takes the democratic and legal responsibility for all decisions made. Not just the Chairman and Office alone.

That's what happened this year until we uncovered it. The smoke screen was not thick enough to cover over full transparency. If the membership is not very careful in who is elected this year, we could see an 'executive' committee formed in the future that calls the shots over Council. As it is far easier to get a majority of yes Councillors with 10 than 15; the 2 new independents would take some time to find out what is going on.

If you don't vote for me, it has been a privilege to have served you. Also it would be very nice to sit in the newly refurbished BPA office that we now have. Vote for Tash Higman, Jason Kelleher, Ian Rosenvinge, Brian Vacher, Craig Poxon & Adrian Bond as he organises the AGM party.

Election of BPA Council 2017



Yassi Molazadeh

BPA member	1262629
Proposer	Dilys Price OBE
Seconder	Kate Lindsley
Address	Teddington
Home drop zone	Netheravon & Langar
BPA member since	2012
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

As a devoted skydiver, experienced lawyer and determined candidate, I strive to improve our Association's practices whilst advocating for preservation of fun within our sport. I believe that I can achieve this through active participation at board level, which includes contributing new ideas and offering my specialist legal knowledge and skills.

Over the past two years, in my role as a BPA Council Member and Director, I advised and assisted the Board on ad-hoc legal matters. I also made considerable progress in accomplishing the objectives I set out to achieve as a candidate. Notably I have raised issues with our out-dated policies. At present, I am engaged in the legal review of our Disciplinary and Grievance procedures, aiming to make the rules clear, transparent and fair.

Recently, I obtained the approval of the Development Committee to create a mentoring programme that will benefit, amongst others, both experienced and new skydivers. Through this scheme, I intend to improve retention of members (especially female skydivers returning from a period of absence due to family commitments), facilitate skills sharing and exchange of expertise and set the path for aspiring trainers. I hope this also inspires more female skydivers to take on leadership roles. Following its launch in January and pending election results, I will continue to develop and supervise the programme.

I am confident that my creative skills and legal expertise will be valuable assets to the BPA in formulating its strategic policy and direction as the National Governing Body for Sport Parachuting.



Andy Pointer

BPA member	1142485
Proposer	Rob Spour
Seconder	Kris Cavill
Address	Hibaldstow
Home drop zone	Hibaldstow
BPA member since	2010
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Full-time Instructor at Skydive Hibaldstow

I joined the BPA in 2010 as an AFF student and since then skydiving has slowly (at first) but surely become my life. I'm now a full-time instructor at Skydive Hibaldstow. Working and jumping at a centre of this size has developed into more than a hobby, job or career. It has developed into a way of life.

I feel that the wealth of experience I gain on a daily basis at Hibaldstow could provide a valuable perspective to the Council, and hopefully help to steer the Association during this time of real, tangible development.

In terms of my personal accomplishments to date, I am a Formation Skydiving Coach, Category System Instructor, Tandem Instructor, AFF Instructor, and Camera Flyer. My work last year was recognised when I was awarded BPA Instructor of the Year 2015 at the AGM last January.

While I was at University working toward a BSc in Psychology, I started and ran a skydiving club for the Students' Union and became involved with the BCPA. The club helped me gain some experience with working on a committee and shaping procedure and, at an early stage, taught me how passionate I was about skydiving, and about helping people gain access to this exhilarating sport we all choose to be a part of; be it professionally, recreationally, or competitively.

Since starting skydiving I've watched the sport and Association grow into what I feel is a much more accessible and progressive organisation, and I'd like to be a part of it.

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Election of BPA Council 2017



Craig Poxon

BPA member

Proposer

Secunder

Address

Home drop zone

BPA member since

Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA

530023

Benjamin Reed Smith

Alex 'Buzz' Busby-Hicks

London

Chatteris

1997

Part-time AFF/tandem instructor and videographer

After having been on Council continuously since 2008 these things get harder to write! Whilst my roles on Council stay broadly the same (Vice-Chair of the Association, Chair of the Development Committee since 2011, Alternate Delegate to the Royal Aero Club) I am pleased to be a part of an exciting and continuously evolving body. Due to our Good Governance initiative, this year's election is extremely important with the reduction of membership seats on our board to ten plus the introduction of two independents, with whom I greatly look forward to working.

I endeavour to continue furthering our strategic aims of member retention and the pursuit of excellence but also strive to do what's best for the Association and its members.

A notable achievement for my committee this year was tendering for a replacement to our ageing membership database which will be delivered next year.

Outside of skydiving, I still design and write software, for the same London-based, stock market listed, multi-national independent market intelligence, performance and media valuation company with responsibilities for critical customer-facing services across many time zones, and the delivery of quality products to tight schedules, cost and functionality requirements.

The birth of my daughter this year has resulted in fewer jumps personally, but most of them are spent instructing or filming, though I try to participate in most disciplines when I can. I was fortunate, and also extremely proud, to be a team manager for the British delegation at the Mondial in Chicago.



Ian Rosvinge

BPA member

Proposer

Secunder

Address

Home drop zone

BPA member since

Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA

82116

John Horne

Paul Dorward

Durham

Peterlee

1977

CI/DZO Peterlee Parachute Centre

I have served as a full member of BPA Council for the past 3 years, on our Safety and Training Committee for 19 of the last 20 years, as well as lesser periods on the Development, Communications and in the past Competitions Committees. I have had formal legal and financial training as well as 20 years of business experience in the Skydiving Sector as a DZ Operator.

My main focus with our Association for these past three years has been on the introduction of Good Governance and a Review of our Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures. There is still much work to be done in these areas as we transition to the adoption of Good Governance, including a full Review of all our Committee Structures and I wish to continue to serve the Membership by maintaining the momentum to see those matters through to implementation.

Election of BPA Council 2017



Martin Soulsby

BPA member	146072
Proposer	Mark Whitehead
Secunder	Ian Matthews
Address	London
Home drop zone	Hibaldstow
BPA member since	1983
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

For the last 5 of the 6 years I have been fortunate enough to be Chair of Council the BPA has had the following strategic goals:

- Retaining existing members, which has led to an increase of on average 5% year on year, with record numbers of members.
- Pursuit of excellence; which has led to the governance changes for Council.
- The refurbishment of the BPA offices - which opened in early December, now a fantastic facility for staff and the membership.

In 2017 with the new makeup of Council, with 10 elected members and 2 independent members, it is a perfect opportunity to develop a new strategic plan which should be focused on the branding of the BPA and British skydiving, the structure and terms of reference of the BPA committees and still the retention of members.

For the first time in a number of years a lot of the exciting challenges our Association faces are ones we have the power to overcome and to deliver a better Association to all our members. Council is now changing its focus to a more strategic and financial oversight role, with more responsibility for delivery delegated down to the Committees.

Using the strategic and commercial skills I developed in my day job and, I hope, demonstrated during my time on Council, I would like to continue working with the staff and the new Council on the transformation of our Association and the services delivered to you the members.



Brian Vacher

BPA member	566766
Proposer	Ben Dawson
Secunder	Carol Beaumont
Address	Abingdon
Home drop zone	Sibson
BPA member since	1993
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	Flight-1 Canopy Coaching

I have been in the sport that I love since 1993. I have been fortunate enough to make it my career for the last ten-plus years, developing canopy programmes and teaching canopy control to sport and military clients through Flight-1. I have been actively competing at a national and international level since 1999 in Canopy Piloting. I joined the Performance Designs Factory Team at the end of 2008, which has allowed me to witness many different aspects of our sport internationally. I have been on Council now for two years as Chairman of the Competitions Committee. I would like to continue in this role to help the BPA develop further in the areas of competition, specifically help facilitate objective funding and future judging procedures.

Election of BPA Council 2017



Georgie Vacher

BPA member	1015942
Proposer	Lucy Maycock
Secunder	Ben Dawson
Address	Abingdon
Home drop zone	Netheravon
BPA member since	2007
Business activities that may involve sport parachuting and/or the BPA	None

I started skydiving in 2007 and have competed in 4-way FS and Canopy Piloting at a national level. I'm an AFF Instructor and have updated both the BPA FS Progression Manual and the FS Coaching Manual back in 2012. I have a keen interest in competitive skydiving across all disciplines. Using my skills from my professional career within aviation I hope to bring technical experience to the procedures used in our sport whilst offering active support to the BPA national teams in the competition arena.

Registered office: British Parachute Association Ltd, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

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