

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 4 August 2011 at 1900

at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Gary Stevens	-	Skydive UK Ltd
Bruce Johnson	-	Skydive London
Dave Wood	-	Cornish PC
George McGuinness	-	Skydive GB/Jersey
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Chris McCann	-	UK Para (Sibson)
Mike Rust	-	NLSC

Apologies: Paul Applegate, Mark Tether, Andy Clark, Ian Roseninge, Dane Kenny, Pete Sizer, Nigel Allen, Alex Busby.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	BPA Technical Officer
John Page	-	Vice-Chair STC/Council
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Member A, Jonno Horne, Emma Green, Mandy McGuinness.

ITEM MINUTE

1. **MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 9 JUNE 2011**

It was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 9 June 2011 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 9 JUNE 2011**

Page 6, Item 7iii – (Permissions). The subject of ground instructors was a main agenda item.

Page 7, Item 8iii – (A.O.B). This item was held in camera and all observers were asked to leave the meeting.

The Chairman reported that at the previous meeting, STC requested that the Tandem Instructor who had disciplinary action taken against him in South Africa, be invited to attend this meeting to explain himself to CCIs. This was so that he understood the enormity of the

mistakes that he had made in the past and that he was also aware of the Committee's concerns regarding this matter. This did not preclude him from attending a BPA Tandem Instructor Conversion Course.

The Tandem Instructor concerned was present that evening and provided CCIs with a detailed account of his actions that had resulted in the disciplinary action for which he deeply regretted. The Committee were satisfied with his explanations and that he had recognised his past mistakes.

The Chairman invited the observers to return to the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 9 JUNE 2011

The Chairman reported that the meeting of the Riggers Committee scheduled for that afternoon had not taken place as the Committee had not been quorate.

The Chairman stated that Paul Applegate, Chair of Riggers was not present at STC that evening, but he had stated that he had nothing to report from the previous meeting and he had therefore proposed that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 9 June 2011 be accepted. This was seconded by Richard Wheatley.

Carried Unanimously

4. INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 25 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 19 male and 6 female. One Student made a bad exit and grazed his arm on the aircraft step. One Student hurt his back on a fast opening. The other injuries were on landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 23 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, 21 male and 2 female. Three of the reports were to jumpers performing intentional fast low turns, two of them were taking part in organised canopy courses, and two of the three were seriously hurt. There were also several other low turn injuries. Two jumpers were hurt after one made a late turn and landed on another parachutist who had just landed. One sustained minor head injuries and the other bruising.
- iii) There had been 13 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 8 male and 5 female, including a report of a Student whose pack opened in the aircraft. The Student landed with the aircraft without further incident.
- iv) There had also been 46 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 45 male and 1 female.
- v) Since the last meeting there had been 17 Tandem Injury Reports received. (8 male and 9 female). One involved a Student who was injured because the instructor fumbled with the secondary flare toggles and landed without fully flaring. This instructor has had problems in the past: in 2009 he made a Tandem jump and was unaware that he had not deployed the drogue. His CCI had grounded him from making any further Tandem jumps until this STC meeting. Since the incident, the instructor had handed in his Tandem Instructor rating. About a third of Tandem injuries in 2011 have involved Students who were over 60 years of age and a number have also involved disabled Students.
- vi) Since the last STC there had been 16 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received. 2 of the reports were regarding the same instructor who had a line over on one occasion and a spinning canopy on the other. In both instances the report stated that the instructor carried out a 'mid-air transfer', which goes against the emergency drills recommendations. The instructor was contacted and stated that he had cutaway first and then deployed his reserve and his interpretation of a mid-air transfer was incorrect.

- vii) Two reports had been received of AAD firings. The first involved a Student jumper with 6 jumps who made several attempts to find the main ripcord whilst trying to get stable. The FXC fired and he landed safely on the PLA. The second involved a jumper with 767 jumps, whose Vigil fired at the normal opening height of the jumper. It was discovered that the Vigil had not been switched off after jumping at another Club.

The CCI of the jumper concerned gave the meeting further background details of the 'Vigil' incident and stated that the jumper had travelled from overseas over a two day period and had not realised that his Vigil unit was still switched on. Because the unit was continuously changing or sensing movement, it had not switched off. The jumper concerned had then jumped and his AAD had fired at a high altitude. He emphasised that jumpers need to be aware that AAD units should be switched off when travelling.

- viii) There had been 16 reports received of 'off landings' at clubs, including 3 Tandems.
- ix) Three reports had been received of display misfires. One 'off landing' and 2 injuries.
- x) There had been 4 reports of parachutists losing things on exit, in freefall or on deployment. 2 helmets, 1 altimeter and 1 shoe.
- xi) A report had been received of a Tandem Student who was found with a camera hidden in his hand prior to exit.
- xii) A report had also been received of an aircraft infringement whilst jumpers were in freefall and another where an aircraft damaged its wing-tip whilst turning at the end of the runway on wet grass in a cross-wind and a little too fast. The wing tip made contact with the ground.

5. SUGGESTED CHANGES TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

- i) The Chairman reported that at the last meeting Mark Tether had brought up the subject of ground instructors. Following that meeting, Mark Tether had submitted a proposal together with additional notes, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman stated that the proposal circulated with the agenda had been Mark Tether's draft proposal. He stated that the actual proposal was tabled to those present and that the only difference was to the specific wording of the proposed changes. Also tabled to those present was a further re-wording of the proposed changes produced by the Technical Officer for consideration, should the Committee support Mark Tether's proposal.

The Chairman stated that he believed that at the last meeting CCIs seemed to be more in favor of dealing with these types of request on an individual basis.

Mark Tether had proposed that ground instructors be permitted and had proposed a change to the BPA Operations Manual.

This proposal generated some discussion. It was felt by CCIs present that although they agreed with the reasoning behind the proposal, they felt that it was an area that required further consideration, as there were many other factors that still needed to be considered, including limitations imposed on ground instructors.

Following further discussion, Mark Tether's proposal failed to find a seconder.

Because the Committee were in principle in support of incorporating a ground instructor into the current system. Mike Rust stated that he would look at this subject in more depth over the winter months. He stated that he would also liaise with Mark Tether and welcomed any further input from CCIs.

- ii) A paper by the Technical Officer had been circulated with the agenda suggesting changes to the BPA Operations Manual concerning revision training.

A note from Ian Rosenvinge was also circulated to those present with his comments on the proposal.

The Technical Officer stated that it had been suggested that the timescales referred to should be changed from 'days' to weeks and months, as per other dates already in the Operations Manual. Also that para 3.1.3. should include the written exam.

It was therefore proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Mike Rust that the following amendments be made to the BPA Operations Manual with the above suggested changes:

SECTION 5 (TRAINING), Paragraph 3 (Revision Training). Change, to read:

3. REVISION TRAINING

3.1. AFF and the Category System

3.1.1. Revision training must take place prior to a Student Parachutist's first descent of the day. The type of revision training will be as required by the CCI and must be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.

3.1.2. Should a gap exceeding 1 week and up to a maximum of 1 month lapse since the last recorded Revision Training Session, a practical and theoretical assessment (including exits and malfunctions) must be undertaken and if appropriate a written examination. This is to be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.

3.1.3. Should a gap exceeding 1 month and up to a maximum of 3 months elapse since the last recorded Revision Training Session, the basic training syllabus must be revised, including a written examination. The duration of this revision training will be as required by the CCI. This is to be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.

3.1.4. Should a gap exceeding 3 months elapse since the last recorded Revision Training Session, the full basic training syllabus must be revised, or complete retraining may be required. This will be as required by the CCI and is to be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.

3.2. Tandem

3.2.1 Revision training must take place should a gap of 1 week or more elapse since initial training, or the last recorded revision training. The type of revision training will be as required by the CCI and must be recorded.

3.2.2. Should there be a gap of 1 year or more since initial training, or the last recorded revision training, a full re-brief must take place.

Carried Unanimously

6. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

The BPA wished to thank UK Parachuting, Sibson, for hosting the Tandem, AFF and Pre-Advanced Assessment Instructor courses, from the 27 – 30 June 2011. The course report had been circulated with the agenda. There was one recommendation from the course that required STC ratification:

'That David Pratt and Sarah Hall be given six-month extensions to their Accelerated Free Fall Basic Instructor ratings'.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Gary Stevens that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman requested that candidates on Tandem Courses should bring their own suspended harness handles and pads in the future if possible.

7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Mark Tether had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that Nathan Connolly be given a six-month extension to his AFFBI rating from the last week in August 2011. Mark had stated that Nathan had not been able to attend a course due to being a member of the Red Devils Display Team and their commitments.

It was proposed by Mark Tether (proxy) and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Circulated to those present was a copy of an e-mail from Ian Roseninge requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Paul Hardy. Paul had been unable to attend the centre between April and July due to illness. Ian had provided full details of this request.

It was proposed by Ian Roseninge (proxy) and seconded by Dave Wood that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) Circulated to those present was a letter from Chris McCann requesting an extension to Damian Hewitt's AFFBI rating. Chris had provided full details of the request.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Stuart Meacock that Damian Hewitt be given a six month extension to his AFFBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B

- i) A letter from Dave Wood had been circulated with agenda requesting a variation to the restrictions at the Cornish Parachute Club. Dave had requested a change to the minimum jump requirement.

Currently a minimum of a 'B' certificate was required to jump at the DZ and the change would be for Club trained FAI A Certificate holders with 35 jumps to be permitted to jump at Perranporth PLA/DZ, with restrictions in place. (Visiting skydivers would still require a 'B' certificate).

The following restrictions would be in place:

- a. FAI A Certificate holders would not be on the first lift of the day.
- b. Their maximum wind speed would be 15knts.
- c. A radio would be worn for a minimum of 5 jumps (36 – 40)
- d. The CCI or his deputy would be present at the Club. (Dave Wood or Ben Wood).

Dave Wood had included details of the Club's safety record with regards to off landings.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by George McGuinness that the above request be accepted

Carried Unanimously

- ii) The Chairman reported that Phil Cavanagh had sent in a letter, which arrived too late to be included on the agenda as, it may require a change to the Operation Manual. However, the Chairman stated that STC may wish to consider, for a possible future meeting, that Phil would like the Tandem Student Medical Certificate requirement to be increased from 40 years to 50 years. Phil would also like consideration to be given to there being a maximum age limit.

The Chairman stated that if STC felt these were worthy of further consideration, he believed it may well be worth setting up a small working group, to include John Carter (BPA Medical Adviser) to look at Phil Cavanagh's suggestion and to perhaps also include Tandem parachuting for the disabled and other relevant areas.

The Technical Officer reported that about a third of Tandem injuries in 2011 had involved Students who had been over 60 years of age and a number had also involved disabled Students, which he believed was of concern.

Following some discussion, it was felt by those present that there were many factors that needed to be considered and it was therefore agreed that a Working Group be set up, chaired by John Page to look into the Tandem Student Medical Certificate and the various aspects that had been discussed.

In the meantime, the advice from the TO and NCSO was that Centres should carry out individual risk assessments for all disabled Tandem students.

- iii) A letter from Dane Kenny had been circulated to those present, together with various maps, requesting that RAF Leeming be cleared as a DZ/PLA for the Pilgrims Parachute Club (OS Sheet 99, grid ref: SE 304 893). It was the intention that RAF Leeming would only be used a few times each year. Dane had asked that it be cleared subject to the DZ/PLA being inspected and approved by the NCSO and/or TO.

It was proposed by Dane Kenny (proxy) and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above request be accepted

Carried Unanimously

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 29 September 2011

BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

8 August 2011

Distribution: Chairman BPA, Council, CCIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, CAA, Editor – Skydive,
File

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 4th August 2011 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 5 (TRAINING), Paragraph 3 (Revision Training). Change, to read:

3. REVISION TRAINING

3.1. AFF and the Category System

- 3.1.1. Revision training must take place prior to a Student Parachutist's first descent of the day. The type of revision training will be as required by the CCI and must be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.
- 3.1.2. Should a gap exceeding 1 week and up to a maximum of 1 month lapse since the last recorded Revision Training Session, a practical and theoretical assessment (including exits and malfunctions) must be undertaken and if appropriate a written examination. This is to be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.
- 3.1.3. Should a gap exceeding 1 month and up to a maximum of 3 months elapse since the last recorded Revision Training Session, the basic training syllabus must be revised, including a written examination. The duration of this revision training will be as required by the CCI. This is to be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.
- 3.1.4. Should a gap exceeding 3 months elapse since the last recorded Revision Training Session, the full basic training syllabus must be revised, or complete retraining may be required. This will be as required by the CCI and is to be recorded in the Student Parachutist's Training Record Card or Log Book.

3.2. Tandem

- 3.2.1. Revision training must take place should a gap of 1 week or more elapse since initial training, or the last recorded revision training. The type of revision training will be as required by the CCI and must be recorded.
- 3.2.2. Should there be a gap of 1 year or more since initial training, or the last recorded revision training, a full re-brief must take place.