

British Parachute Association

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STC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 30 September 2010 at 1900

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

Present:

John Page	-	Vice-Chairman STC
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Alex Busby	-	Tilstock
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Jason Farrant	-	Skydive UK
Nigel Allen	-	Skydive South Coast
Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Mike Rust	-	NLSC
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Paul Hollow (from item 5(vii))	-	Target Skysports

Apologies: John Hitchen had asked John Page (Vice-Chairman STC) to take the chair for this meeting as he, Jason Thompson, Chris McCann & Ray Armstrong were all conducting a Tandem & AFF Course at Sibson. Other apologies had been received from Andy Goodall, Dane Kenny, George McGuinness, Andy Clarke, Matty Holford and Paul Applegate.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Paul Moore, Gordon Blamire.

ITEM MINUTE

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2010

Dane Kenny's apologies had not been included in the previous Minutes. Dane had been unable to attend the meeting as he was out of the country at the time.

It was proposed by Steve Scott and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 5 August 2010 with the above amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2010

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – Incident Reports. The Vice Chairman reported that the draft report by Kieran Brady, the Chairman of the Working Group looking into the qualifications and training of pilots flying foreign registered aircraft had been received. The

final report, together with the WG's recommendations would be presented at the next meeting. He stated that prior to this, a draft copy of the report would be distributed to Club Chief Pilots for their consideration.

Page 6, Item 5, Incidents – (iv). The proposal regarding flight checks was a main agenda item. The Vice Chairman reported that the Club concerned had also implemented new flight line procedures.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2010

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dennis Buchanan that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee meeting of the 5 August 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

The Vice-Chairman reported that the Riggers meeting held that afternoon had not been quorate therefore, any decisions requiring a vote had been deferred until the next Riggers meeting. He stated that Paul Applegate had tendered his apologies for not being present at the STC meeting that evening.

Pete Sizer reported that the Riggers present that afternoon had discussed correspondence from Andy Hughes with regard to main deployment bags that use magnets to close the "mouth" of the bag (ie. Instead of bungee/grommet mouth locks): specifically the mPod bag. Comprehensive tests carried by Andy Hughes had shown that this particular bag could deploy out of sequence.

Pete Sizer reported that one of the problems with these bags was that if it was manufactured for a particular canopy, it may not be the correct dimensions for the actual container. There was concern that if the container received a bit of a jar as the canopy cleared the container, it could leave the canopy out with the lines still stowed in the pocket.

The Riggers wished to draw this matter to the attention of Mpod owners and that they ensure that the bag was not just the correct size for the canopy but that it also fitted the container properly as well. Pete Sizer reported that much of the discussion at Riggers concerned the drawbacks of the various designs of deployment bags. It was felt that the subject of deployment bags in general would make a good educational article for inclusion in the BPA magazine and the Riggers Chairman had agreed to liaise with the magazine Editor on this.

Stuart Meacock advised the Committee that he was the owner of one of the Mpod deployment bags. He stated that so far he had carried out 150 jumps without a problem.

4. FATALITY – SKYDIVE GB, BRIDLINGTON

The Board of Inquiry Report Resume into the fatal accident involving Ryan Brown from the Skydive GB display team had been circulated to CCIs with the agenda. The Board of Inquiry comprised of the Technical Officer and Instructor Examiner Gary Small.

At approximately 19.40 hours on Sunday 22 August 2010, Ryan Lee Brown, an FAI 'C' Certificate parachutist with 337 jumps boarded a Cessna 206 at the Skydive GB parachute centre, along with four other parachutists. All were members of the Skydive GB parachute display team. The team were to carryout a display onto the playing fields at the Bridlington Sports and Community Club, Bridlington.

The estimated weather conditions for the display were surface winds of approximately 0 - 5 knots from an easterly direction with scattered clouds above 5,000ft

The aircraft climbed to approximately 2,000ft AGL over the arena, where a WDI was released, in order to ascertain the parachutists' exit point.

The aircraft then climbed to approximately 4,000ft AGL and 'ran in' over the top of the arena (which measured approximately 195 metres by 165 metres, with adequate overshoot areas).

Once the aircraft was at the exit point the parachutists commenced their exit procedures. All five parachutists exited individually at approximately 3-second intervals. Ryan was third to exit. All parachutes deployed normally.

The parachutists then flew their parachutes in a 'stack' type of formation, in order to stagger their landings.

The first team member to land was the team leader. He landed successfully near the centre of the PLA. He was followed shortly after by the second jumper, who also landed successfully on the PLA. At about this time Ryan was seen to be flying his canopy near the western edge of the playing fields. He was then observed to fly his parachute over the centre of the PLA towards a metal fence and trees at the eastern edge of the playing field. At approximately 200ft he was seen to initiate a radical left turn, impacting with the ground after an approximately 270-degree turn. The remaining parachutists landed in the arena without further incident. Ryan was airlifted to Scarborough Hospital, but died later that evening from his injuries.

This had been Ryan's first display. He had completed his display training earlier on the day of the accident.

The Conclusions of the Board were that Ryan made an uneventful free fall descent, deployed his main parachute at a suitable altitude and remained close of the intended landing area until he commenced the final into-wind approach. At approximately 200ft he may have felt that he was going to overshoot the landing area and may have believed that he would strike a high (approximately 3 metres in height) metal fence, or trees and bushes that were located ahead of him on the eastern side of the playing fields. He then initiated a radical turn to the left of approximately 90 degrees, followed by a slight hesitation, he then continued the radical left turn for a further 180 degrees, possibly in an effort to turn back towards the centre of the landing area. Ryan then struck the ground at high speed before the parachute was able to recover from the turn.

The Board do not know why Ryan made such a radical turn so close to the ground, as he could possibly have used the brakes of his parachute to slow down the forward speed and land short of the fence or trees. He could also have made smaller turns of 45-90 degrees left or right and possibly landed in a safe area. The playing fields were bordered on all sides by the high metal fence, therefore when he initiated his 90-degree radical left turn he may have noticed the fence to his left causing him to continue the turn a further 180 degrees. At which point he did not have enough altitude to recover from the turn.

As this had been Ryan's first display jump, it was unlikely that he had previously been in a position where he had needed to take radical action to avoid a hazard. He may have also felt personal pressure to try to land near the centre of the PLA.

The Board believe that by initially positioning himself a little high on his final approach to land near the centre of the arena, he made an incorrect decision, by initiating the radical left turn.

The Recommendations of the Board were that parachutists should be reminded of the dangers of performing radical manoeuvres close to the ground.

It was proposed by Steve Scott and seconded by Mike Rust that the Board of Inquiry Report, including its recommendations and conclusions be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Vice-Chairman reported that following a Board of Inquiry it is Council policy that a Panel of Inquiry be instigated to look into any peripheral aspects of a fatality and in this instance the Board felt that as this was Ryan's first display, a Panel should consider display training etc amongst other areas. He stated that a Panel had now been formed and consisted of the following members: John Page, Dave Clarke and Bryn Chaffe.

Once the Panel had completed their findings they will produce their report and if the Panel have any recommendations to make, these would be part of the report.

5. INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 13 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 10 male and 3 female. One Student hurt his shoulder on exit because he got his arm caught in the rigging lines. All the other reports were landing injuries.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 15 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, 11 male and 4 female. Including one parachutist who ruptured an eardrum in freefall. One who broke his wrist having tripped over his jumpsuit bootie. Another who dislocated his shoulder on deployment and another who broke her finger on a hard CF docking. The remainder were landing injuries.
- iii) There had been 12 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 11 male and 1 female.
- iv) There had also been 44 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 38 male and 6 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 10 Tandem Injury Reports received, including an Instructor who had a minor landing injury. 4 male and 6 female. .
- vi) There had also been 13 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received since the last meeting.
- vii) Several reports had been received of AAD firings. One was a jumper with 484 jumps who had problems locating his throwaway toggles (pushed in pocket), who deployed his main low, at which time the Cypres fired. Another was the premature firing of an FXC at about 7,500ft. Another was a jumper with 38 jumps who lost altitude awareness and deployed low, his Cypres then fired. One report was of a Student Cypres firing in the aircraft as the aircraft was descending. There was also a double AAD firing when two jumpers jumping together lost altitude awareness, pulled low and their Cypres's fired. One of the jumpers sustained injury on landing. Both landed two canopies each. One of the jumpers had 43 jumps, the other 45 jumps. One was the holder of an FS1 and the other was a Category 8 jumper.

The TO stated that he had written to Centres several months ago clarifying the rules with regard to the grading system.
- viii) There had been 13 reports received of 'off landings'. One on a display and 12 at clubs.
- ix) A number of reports had been received of various items coming off in freefall. Three helmets and 2 shoes.
- x) Two reports had been received of canopy collisions shortly after deployment. One jumper broke an arm and the other suffered a bruised leg. Both landed safely on the PLA.
- xi) Two reports had been received involving aircraft. The first was a Cessna 182 that, after dropping parachutists, landed and hit bushes at the side of the runway, spun into a field, damaging the wing. The second concerned an AFF Instructor who was open by 2,500ft and encountered a helicopter that flew directly underneath him. The incident had been reported to the CAA.

Mike Rust reported that he was the Instructor concerned in this incident and that the CAA had asked him to complete an Airprox Report. The CAA had then been in touch with him again to report that they had located Mike and the actual helicopter on radar and they had been able to bring this incident to attention of the helicopter pilot involved. Copies of the Airprox report form were made available to those present for information.

- xii) A report had been received of a parachutist (a BPA Advanced Instructor) who was seen to deploy at around 1,000ft. The CCI who submitted the report believed that the low opening was intentional. The NCSO will discuss the matter with the parachutist concerned.

6. PROPOSED CHANGE TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the previous meeting, the Committee had been informed that following the Tandem jump where an AAD had not been switched on, the TO would be making a proposal that Tandem Instructors would be required to obtain an independent flight line check, to include a visual check of the AAD.

A paper by the TO had been circulated with the agenda with the suggested change to the Operations Manual:

SECTION 1 (CONDUCT AND CONTROL OF SPORT PARACHUTING), Paragraph 4 (Ground Control Organisation), new sub-para 4.1.4. to read:

- 4.1.4. Tandem Instructors must be checked by a suitably qualified JM1 parachutist. The check must include a visual check of the AAD.

Note: Previous sub-paras 4.1.4. – 4.1.5. now become sub-paras 4.1.5. to 4.1.6.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Alex Busby that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Carried

7. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

- i) The Vice-Chairman stated that the Association wished to thank BPS, Langar for hosting the Course, which took place from the 9 – 18 August. The course report had been circulated with the Agenda and was for information only.
- ii) He also stated that an AFF and Tandem Instructor Course was being held during the week of STC at UK Parachuting (Sibson). The Association wished to thank the Club for hosting the course. The course was still to be completed at this time.

8. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Dennis Buchanan had been circulated with the agenda requesting a 12-month extension to the CSBI rating of Marcus Barrington. His rating had expired at the end of August 2010. Dennis Buchanan provided the meeting with further details of the various reasons for requesting a 12-month extension. He stated that Marcus had been unwell and because the Centre currently only had two RAPS Courses between now and the new year, which did not allow Marcus enough time to be fully prepared to attend the next available CSI Courses.

Some concern was expressed by those present with regard to the granting of 12 month extensions, but CCIs present understood the reasons for this request.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Dennis Buchanan and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A letter from Jason Thompson had been circulated to those present requesting an extension to the Tandem BI rating of Zuz Tillner. Jason had requested a 12-month extension, following her course failure in April 2010. Her TBI rating had expired at the end of August 2010. Jason stated that he had asked for an extension of 12 months due to Zuz already having attended a TI Course and also due to the winter period coming up.

It was proposed by Jason Thompson (proxy) and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above permission be accepted.

For: 10 (incl 1 by proxy)

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4

Carried

9. **A.O.B**

- i) A letter from Steve Scott had been circulated with the Agenda regarding the mandatory carrying of knives by FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists and above. Steve had requested STC opinion as to whether the Committee believe the rule was necessary, as he had doubts and concern about the ability of some 'A' Certificate parachutists of recognizing the correct reserve rigging line to cut in the event of a line over on the reserve.

There followed a lengthy discussion on this matter. The TO stated that he could not be certain when this rule first came into being, but from memory he believed it originated from a Panel of Inquiry and his understanding was that the carrying of a hook knife was there to assist others and not necessarily for a parachutist who had a line over on a reserve canopy. He stated that he could not recall an incident where a hook knife had caused a problem to an inexperienced parachutist.

Steve Scott stated that in his opinion further guidance with regard to the carrying of knives should be included in the BPA Operations Manual.

CCIs discussed various situations where they believed a hook knife could be a useful aid. It was felt by those present that this subject could perhaps make a useful brief on an Instructor Course.

The TO asked CCIs to submit their suggestions to him and he would endeavour to draft something for further consideration.

- ii) A letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the Agenda stating that Skydive South Coast had successfully operated a Tandem and FAI 'B' Certificate parachuting operation for over 18 months. The designated Parachute Landing Area was rectangular in shape, 900m long west to east and 300m wide north to south.

Nigel had proposed that FAI 'A' Certificate holders and Students are permitted to jump. Student Parachutists must plan to land facing in a westerly or easterly direction. Therefore all Student parachutists are only permitted to jump when the wind is in a westerly or easterly direction or when the wind is less than 5 knots in a northerly or southerly direction.

In addition there would only be one solo student exiting the aircraft per pass and all solo students will be equipped with a radio.

The TO stated that he and the NCSO had no problem with this request.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above request be accepted with the above stated restrictions.

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

- iii) The Vice-Chairman reported that Canopy Handling videos were now available for CCI's to take with them that evening. He stated that these were the videos that had been mentioned at the previous meeting and had been produced on behalf of the Development Committee and funded by the Airkix fund, to be used in conjunction with the CH1 Manual. The CH video was shown to CCI's, after which the Vice Chairman asked for comments from those present.

STC members expressed some disappointment that they had not been involved at any stage during the production process of the video. Although CCI's present believed the video to be a useful coaching tool, they had a number of concerns with regard to some of the content, which they felt could be misinterpreted by a Student if the video was available as a stand alone training aid. It was therefore felt by those present that the video should only be used under the supervision of a coach or Instructor.

The Committee understood that there had only been a limited budget available for this project and it was felt that if STC had been involved at some stage they could have perhaps explored the possibility of obtaining further funding.

The Vice-Chairman stated that it had been the intention that the video be put on to the BPA website. He asked CCI's for a show of hands to indicate whether or not they felt the video was suitable to be uploaded onto BPA website.

There was one CCI in favour, one CCI who abstained and 12 CCI's who were against the video being uploaded onto the website in its current format because of the concerns they had expressed during earlier discussion.

- iv) Mike Rust advised STC that the trials on the TAFF system were continuing and reported positive feedback on the trials so far.
- v) Paul Hollow reported that he would be standing down as CCI of Target Skysports, Hibaldstow from the beginning of November 2010. STC wished Paul well in his future endeavours.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 25 November 2010
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

Issued: 15 October 2010

Distribution:

Chairman BPA
Council
CCI's
All Riggers
Advanced Packers
CAA
Editor – Skydive
File

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 30th September 2010 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 1 (CONDUCT AND CONTROL OF SPORT PARACHUTING), Paragraph 4 (Ground Control Organisation), new sub-para 4.1.4. to read:

4.1.4 Tandem Instructors must be checked by a suitably qualified and briefed JM1 parachutist. The check must include a visual check of the AAD.

Note: Previous sub-paras 4.1.4. – 4.1.5. now become sub-paras 4.1.5. to 4.1.6.