

British Parachute Association

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STC COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 25 November 2010 at 1900

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

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
John Page	-	Skydive London
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Mike Rust	-	NLSC
Andy Goodall	-	JSPC (N)
Ray Armstrong	-	Skydive GB
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Alex Busby	-	Tilstock
Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
Chris McCann	-	UK Para (Sibson)
Matty Holford	-	Silver Stars
Jason Farrant	-	Skydive UK Ltd
Kieran Brady	-	Strathallan
Paul Applegate	-	Chairman Riggers

Apologies: Dave Wood, George McGuinness, Pete Sizer, Ian Rosenvinge, Jason Thompson, Carl Williams, Paul Moore (Council)

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO
Karel Goorts	-	Aviacom SA
Arnold Camfferman	-	Aviacom SA

Observers: Paul Stockwell, Dave Major, Chas McNeil.

ITEM MINUTE

1. **MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 30 September 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – (Incident Reports). The report by Kieran Brady the Chairman of the Pilot's Working Group was a main agenda item.

Page 2, Item 4, Fatality – (Skydive GB Display Team, Bridlington Sports & Community Club, Bridlington). The Chairman reported that the Panel of Inquiry report should be available for the next STC meeting.

Page 5, Item 5xii - (Incident Reports – resume). The Chairman reported that he had now spoken to the Instructor concerned. The Instructor concerned had stated that he had not intentionally deployed his main canopy at a low altitude, but said he was under his canopy by 2,000ft. However, he did say that he normally deployed at 3,500ft and that he lost altitude awareness whilst carrying out FS coaching jump.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

The Chairman reported that the meeting of 30 September 2010 had not been quorate, therefore the Minutes did not require formal acceptance by STC. He also reported that the Riggers meeting held that afternoon had not been quorate. He stated that those items requiring a formal vote would be deferred until the next Riggers meeting.

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Riggers present had discussed the BPA Safety Notice (1/10) issued on 17 November 2010 concerning Aviacom 'Argus' AADs, which stated:

"Following two incidents, one on the 25 July 2009, in Chrcynno, Poland, and the other on or about 3 Sept 2010 in Evora, Portugal, where the Argus AAD cutters failed to cut through the reserve parachute closure loops, it has been decided that any rig fitted with an Argus AAD could not be jumped until the problems regarding these AADs could be discussed, by both the Riggers' Sub-Committee and STC at the meetings held today."

The Chairman of STC reported that the BPA had received a great deal of paperwork and conflicting information regarding these incidents and therefore he had felt as a precautionary measure, it had been necessary to issue a BPA Safety Notice until a full discussion could take place by both the Riggers' Sub-Committee and STC at their respective meetings today.

Paul Applegate stated that the two representatives from the manufacturers of the Argus AAD (Aviacom SA) had also been present at the Riggers meeting that afternoon and were also present at the STC meeting.

Paul Applegate stated that following much in depth discussion with the Argus manufactures, those Riggers present had agreed to recommend to STC that they consider issuing a Safety Information Bulletin rescinding BPA Safety Notice 1/10. A draft copy of the suggested Bulletin was circulated to those present for consideration.

Karel Goorts from Aviacom reported on the two incidents in question and gave the meeting some background information, which had lead to Aviacom issuing their Product Service Bulletin (SB AMMO050910/2, 5 Sept 2010) as a precautionary measure regarding cutter replacement until they could carry out further tests.

Karel Goorts, then went on to explain the actions taken by the company so far, and he also gave details of their proposed testing programme together with their plans and targets for the future.

The representatives from Aviacom were then asked to leave the meeting whilst STC further deliberated the matter.

Following in-depth discussion, it was felt by those present that the BPA was not in a position to be able to carry out comprehensive research or testing of equipment used within sport parachuting. That was the responsibility of the equipment manufacturers. Although a number of CCI's present still had concerns with regard to the use of the Argus AAD.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Richard Wheatley and seconded by Matty Holford that a BPA Safety Information Notice be issued stating that rigs fitted with Argus AADs may now be put back into service provided the Argus AAD is fitted with a cutter

manufactured after the beginning of September 2007 and may only be fitted to equipment authorised by both the AAD manufacturer and container manufacturer and fitted in a manner acceptable to them.

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Carried

The representatives from Aviacom SA were invited back to meeting and the Chairman advised them of STCs actions. They thanked the Committee members and then left the meeting.

Paul Applegate advised those present that Bill Sharp had put in a request to the Riggers Committee to host a BPA Rigging Course at RAPA (Germany) from the 3 – 7 January 2011. He stated that as the last two Riggers meetings had not been quorate, he asked if STC could formally ratify this request.

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Stuart Meacock that Bill Sharp's request to run a BPA Rigging Course be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate also reported that the meeting had been given details of the availability of new release handles on side snap ejector hooks for Tandem student harnesses.

Mike Rust commented on the subject of side adjusters, particularly on new Next Tandem equipment. He stated that the attachment ring on the main harness is slightly larger in diameter than normal and that Tandem Instructors should ensure that side adjusters are snapped on properly as sometimes the locking gate does not always engage. Mike stated that he had reported this problem to the manufacturers.

4. INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 17 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 12 male and 5 female. 3 on exit or deployment and the remaining 14 were landing injuries.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 8 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, 3 male and 5 female. Including one who perforated an eardrum in freefall. One who bruised his shoulder on exit. The remainder were landing injuries.
- iii) There had been 9 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 7 male and 2 female. One incident involved a freefall Student with 51 jumps, who had been jumping a ripcord deployed rig, but who picked up a throwaway rig by mistake. This was not spotted on the flight line and the Student jumped the rig. Upon deployment the Student pulled, realised he had a throwaway and released it. Resulting in a normal deployment.
- iv) There had also been 26 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 24 male and 2 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 11 Tandem Injury Reports received. 8 male and 3 female.
- vi) There had also been 6 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received since the last meeting.
- vii) There had been 15 reports received of 'off landings'. All at clubs.
- viii) A report had been received of a helmet coming off in freefall.
- ix) Two reports had been received of canopy collisions shortly after deployment. Both landed safely on the PLA.

5. PILOTS WORKING GROUP REPORT

The report from the Working Group formed to consider flying requirements for pilots of foreign registered aircraft had now been completed and had been sent in draft form to Club Chief Pilots and Pilot Examiners for comment. The final report had been circulated with the agenda.

Kieran Brady gave the Committee some background information with regard to formation of the Working Group and he was also able to answer any questions in relation to the Report.

The report contained a number of recommended amendments to Section (Flying) of the Operations Manual:

Paragraph 1.1.5 *NB (3) should be deleted.*

Paragraph 3.3 Should be headed '**Pilot qualifications to fly foreign registered aircraft**' and should include the following text.

'Pilots wishing to fly foreign registered aircraft in the parachute-dropping role should have had some form of formally certified training carried out, either in the country of registration or in the UK, by a type rating examiner or equivalent, which culminates in a type rating, or similar qualification which applies specifically to the type of aircraft being flown. Evidence of this training must be contained in the pilot's folder at any Club where he or she acts as pilot in command of a parachute-dropping aircraft. The BPA will be the final arbiters of the suitability of the qualification.

N.B.(1) The pilot of a foreign registered aircraft who is not qualified and experienced in parachute dropping will, in addition, be required to complete the training programme outlined in 1.1.4. (above) and the tests outlined in 1.1.5 (above).

N.B.(2) The pilot of a foreign registered aircraft who is qualified and experienced in parachute dropping in the country of registration will, in addition, have to complete a test in accordance with 1.1.5 above.

N.B.(3) Where the requirements of a state of registration differ or are in conflict with the regulatory requirements of the BPA the more stringent shall apply.'

Kieran Brady reported that following the draft report being circulated, the WG had held a meeting with the operators of several foreign registered aircraft at the DZOs meeting on the 9 November. Following which Martin Crossley from NLSC, Chatteris and the CCP of Skydive UK, had written to him detailing their current pilot requirements, to which Kieran had replied confirming they were acceptable to the BPA and that they met the requirements of the proposed changes to the BPA Operations Manual.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Mike Rust that the above changes to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Kieran Brady and the members of the Working Group for the work they had carried out.

6. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

- i) The Association wished to thank UK Parachuting, Sibson for hosting the AFF & Tandem Instructor Course, which took place from the 27 September – 1 October. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.
- ii) BPA Instructor Course 4/2010 had been held at Target Skysports from the 8 – 17 November. The Association wished to thank the Club for hosting the course. The course report had been circulated to those present and there was one recommendation that required STC ratification:

That Gary Chapman be given a six-month extension to his CSBI rating.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above recommendation be accepted

Carried Unanimously

7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Andy Goodall had been circulated with the agenda requesting 6-month extensions to the CSBI ratings of Ross Foster, Chris Davidson, Danny Kelly, Jimmy Graham and Jimmy Peace. All were members of the Red Devils and had not been able to prepare for the CSI course due to a very busy display season. Andy Goodall had also requested that Dave Pratt be reinstated as a CSBI and given a six-month extension to the rating, as his rating had expired in August 2010. Dave Pratt had been unable to attend a CSI course due to work commitments.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Andy Goodall and seconded by Jason Farrant that the above requests be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A letter from Jason Webster, team leader of the Red Devils had been circulated with the agenda requesting permission to carry out a display into the Tower of London in early December. The display had been conducted a number of years ago into the moat area, which is 185 meters long and 40 meters wide. As it is less than 50 meters in width STC permission was required.

It was the intention that four experienced members of the team would take part, all of who had completed more than 150 public display descents each. Three of the four jumpers have over 300 public displays to their credit.

Jason Webster's letter had provided full details of the proposed display.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Andy Goodall and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) A letter from Noel Purcell had been circulated with the agenda requesting six-month extensions to the AFFBI ratings of Oliver Burgin and Christopher Brook, as neither had been able to attend an AFFI course in the 12-month period.

It was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Chris McCann that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B

- i) The Technical Officer reported that when references to round main parachutes for Students had been removed from the Operations Manual in 2008, the bracketed section (below) had been inadvertently left in. It was therefore proposed that it be removed.

BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL, SECTION 12 (DOCUMENTATION), Paragraph 1 (Personal Documents), Sub-para 1.9. Parachute Packing Certificates. Reads:

'Issued by the BPA office, application having been countersigned by a BPA instructor or rigger (AR or AI in the case of front mounted reserves) who has tested the applicant in the required packing procedure.'

It was proposed by Dennis Buchanan and seconded by Matty Holford that the proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Mike Rust reported that the trial on the TAFF at NLSC had so far been successful, which he hoped STC would, next year, accept as a mainstream method of training alongside AFF and static line.
- iii) The Club Annual Return forms had been sent to Clubs and it was requested that the completed forms be returned as soon as possible after the end of Club's operations this year.
- iv) The Chairman asked CCIs if they had anyone they wished to nominate for the Mike Forge Trophy (New Skydiver of the Year), they should send details of their nomination to the Technical Officer before the end of the year.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to STC members for their support throughout the year and from the staff at the BPA he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 10 February 2011
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

Issued: 8 December 2010

Distribution:

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

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 25th November 2010 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 9 (FLYING), Paragraph 1 (PILOTS), Delete sub-para 1.1.5. N.B.(3).

SECTION 9 (FLYING), Paragraph 3 (AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE AND DOCUMENTATION), new sub-para 3.3 (Pilot qualifications to fly foreign registered aircraft), to read:

Pilots wishing to fly foreign registered aircraft in the parachute-dropping role should have had some form of formally certified training carried out, either in the country of registration or in the UK, by a type rating examiner or equivalent, which culminates in a type rating, or similar qualification which applies specifically to the type of aircraft being flown. Evidence of this training must be contained in the pilot's folder at any Club where he or she acts as pilot in command of a parachute-dropping aircraft. The BPA will be the final arbiters of the suitability of the qualification.

N.B.(1) The pilot of a foreign registered aircraft who is not qualified and experienced in parachute dropping will, in addition, be required to complete the training programme outlined in 1.1.4. (above) and the tests outlined in 1.1.5 (above).

N.B.(2) The pilot of a foreign registered aircraft who is qualified and experienced in parachute dropping in the country of registration will, in addition, have to complete a test in accordance with 1.1.5 above.

N.B.(3) Where the requirements of a state of registration differ or are in conflict with the regulatory requirements of the BPA the more stringent shall apply.

Note: Previous Sub-Paragraph 3.3. (Documents) will become Sub-Paragraph 3.4.

SECTION 12 (DOCUMENTATION), Paragraph 1 (PERSONAL DOCUMENTS), sub-para 1.9. (Parachute Packing Certificates), change to read:

Issued by the BPA office, application having been countersigned by a BPA instructor or rigger who has tested the applicant in the required packing procedure.