

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 10 February 2011 at 1900

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

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Mark Tether	-	JSPC (N)
Ray Armstrong	-	Skydive GB
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Martin White	-	Skydive Weston
John Page	-	Skydive London
Jason Thompson	-	UK Para (Beccles)
Dave Wood	-	Cornish PC
Chris McCann	-	UK Para (Sibson)
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Nigel Allen	-	Skydive South Coast
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Paul Applegate	-	Chairman Riggers

Apologies: Matty Holford, Andy Clark, Alex Busby, Mike Rust, Jason Farrant, Carl Williams, Dane Kenny.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Paul Moore	-	Council
Craig Poxon	-	Council
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Advisor
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Ben Wood, Steve Clarke, Mat Knight, Andy Goodall, Paul Stockwell, Louise Cliff, Rick Boardman, Nick Johnston, Gordon Blamire, Colin Fitzmaurice, Chas McNeil, Dave Jelly.

ITEM MINUTE

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 25 NOVEMBER 2010

It was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Kieran Brady that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 25 November 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 25 NOVEMBER 2010

Page 5, Item 7 – Permissions (i). The Chairman reported that at the last meeting a request had been agreed that Dave Pratt's CSBI rating be re-instated and that he be given a six-month extension. He stated that the request should have been for his AFFBI rating. The office has therefore re-instated Dave's AFFBI rating and had extended this for 6 months. There were no objections from those present.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 25 NOVEMBER 2010

The Chairman reported that the meeting of 25 November 2010 had not been quorate, therefore the Minutes did not require formal acceptance by STC.

Paul Applegate stated that he had nothing to bring to the Committee's attention from the Riggers meeting held that afternoon.

4. PILOTS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 22 JANUARY 2011

Kieran Brady was able to answer any questions relating to the Pilots' Meeting Minutes. He gave the meeting details of the CAA Airworthiness Communication regarding the Management and Recording of Aircraft Defects, a copy of which had been circulated with the Minutes. Also included was a sample Deferred Defect Record Sheet. Kieran stated that Clubs should start using this sheet or a sheet that incorporated a minimum of what is included on the sample sheet.

Kieran stated that anyone who had any further queries or required advice on completing the sheet should contact him direct.

It was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the Minutes of the Pilots' Sub-Committee meeting of the 22 January 2011 be accepted as a true record

Carried Unanimously

5. INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 3 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 2 male and 1 female. All were landing injuries.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 2 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, 1 male and 1 female. Both were landing injuries.
- iii) There had been 3 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 2 male and 1 female.
- iv) There had also been 9 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 8 male and 1 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 2 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received.
- vi) One report had been received of an AAD fire. This was a Vigil AAD, which an experienced jumper had set to Tandem mode by mistake and the AAD fired about the same time as the jumper deployed his main.
- vii) There had been 3 reports received of 'off landings'. All at clubs. One involved a jumper with 110 jumps who landed off on a night jump and took about an hour to walk back to the club. The emergency services were called and arrived just before the jumper got back.

- viii) Two reports had been received of items coming off in freefall. One was a camera and the other a shoe.
- ix) One report had been received of a canopy entanglement, on a CF jump. One jumper cutaway.
- x) On the 28th November 2010 an Airvan failed to gain height on take-off and made an emergency landing in an adjacent field. There were eight parachutists on board and the pilot, who broke his leg on landing. Other than very minor injuries, no one else was injured. However, the aircraft was a 'write-off'. The parachutists had to evacuate out of the pilot's door as the damage to the aircraft prevented the side door from opening. The Chairman of the Pilots Committee and the Technical Officer initially started an investigation, but because the accident is being investigated by the AAIB, the BPA investigation has been put on hold until the AAIB have completed their investigation.

6. **DISPLAY FATALITY PANEL OF INQUIRY**

The Chairman advised those present that the report from the Panel of Inquiry following the Board of Inquiry into the Fatal Accident of Ryan Brown had been circulated with the agenda.

John Page, the Panel Chair was present that evening and was able to answer any questions regarding the Panel Report.

The Chairman advised those present that the report contained a number of recommendations, including a proposed amendment to Section 13 (Displays) of the Operations Manual, Paragraph 4 (Equipment), New sub-para 4.4. to read:

- 4.4. Ancillary equipment such as cameras, flags, smokes etc should not be carried by jumpers for at least their first 5 display descents.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by John Page and seconded by Mark Tether that the above amendment be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

There was also a further two recommendations from the Panel, which were as follows:

- a. That the Chairman of STC write to all Display Team Leaders reminding them of the importance of wing loading considerations. This letter should include specifically: *"Although a jumper may be current on a particular canopy the suitability of that canopy and the experience of the person jumping it must be taken into consideration."*
- b. That a BPA form be made available to annotate jumpers qualifications and currency. It is not suggested that this form be made mandatory but as a guide for Team Leaders to use if required.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Chris McCann that the Panel of Inquiry report be accepted, including the above recommendations.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the members of the Panel.

7. **WRIST-MOUNTED VIDEO FOR TANDEM**

A letter from Mark Tether containing a proposal for the use of wrist-mounted cameras for Tandem Instructors had been circulated with the agenda. Mark had stated that with the significant reduction in size of video equipment over the past few years he believed wrist-mounted cameras for Tandem Instructors (TIs) posed an acceptably low risk.

Mark Tether had proposed the following criteria:

- a. Only a TI approved by a CCI may use a wrist-mounted camera. (A logbook endorsement is required) The type of camera and its mount must be inspected and approved by the CCI. The height of the camera must not be more than 50mm and the width and depth should not protrude over the hand.
- b. TI must be fully briefed by the CCI or CCI nominated TI on the requirements to use the camera.
- c. TI must have a minimum of 500 Tandem descents and have completed 100 Tandem descents in the previous 12 months.

The Chairman reported that Mark Tether had prepared a guideline for the procedures to be adopted in the use of carrying out Tandem descents wearing a wrist-mounted camera, which was available for consideration at the meeting.

The Chairman reported that correspondence on this item had also been received from Gary Small and Andy Montriou, copies of which had been circulated to those present.

Mark Tether reported that as he had only recently taken over as CCI of Netheravon, Andy Goodall, the former CCI would be therefore be making a short presentation to the Committee, with regard to his proposal.

Andy Goodall gave the meeting details of his previous Tandem experience. He then presented the wrist-mounted camera to the Committee and the reasons for the proposal.

Following Andy Goodall's presentation, there then followed a lengthy debate on the pros and cons of the use of hand cameras for Tandem Instructors.

Many CCIs agreed that technology with the sport and the sport itself had come on a long way over the years and they expressed their support for the proposed use of the hand camera. Several CCIs stated that they believed it was a commercial decision, which in no way enhanced safety.

The Chairman expressed his concerns particularly with a number of Tandem incidents over the last 12 months. He stated that he believed that the camera was just another distraction for the Tandem Instructor and it worried him that it did not enhance safety.

Many CCIs present also shared this opinion that hand cameras would be a distraction to Tandem Instructors.

Following further discussion and deliberation, it was proposed by Mark Tether and seconded by Jason Thompson that the use of wrist-mounted cameras be accepted with the above proposed criteria and that the Operations Manual be amended as appropriate.

For: 11 (incl 2 by proxy) Against: 8 (incl 2 by proxy) Abstentions: 1

Carried

NOTE: BPA Council has suspended this Operations Manual amendment until it has been re-discussed at the next STC Meeting on the 7th April 2011.

8. **PERMISSIONS**

- i) A letter from Mark Tether had been circulated with the agenda requesting a six-month extension to the CSBI rating of Frank Millerick.

Mark Tether had reported that Mr Millerick had been unable to attend a CSI course due to military freefall display team commitments.

It was proposed by Mark Tether and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A letter from Jason Thompson had been circulated with the agenda requesting a six-month extension to the AFFBI rating of Damian Hewitt.

Jason Thompson had stated that Damian Hewitt had attended an AFF Instructor Course in September 2010. Damian's AFFBI rating was due to expire at the end of February 2011 and this extension would allow him to attend another AFF Course this coming year.

It was proposed by Jason Thompson and seconded by John Page that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) A letter from Matty Holford had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Robert Brown be permitted to attend a CSBI course to be assessed to see if he may have his qualification of CSI reinstated. The Committee were advised that Robert Brown's CSI rating had expired in 2007.

Matty Holford had stated that military commitments and a back injury had put Robert out of the sport for two years. Earlier this year Robert was declared fit and he had started to jump regularly. He had been posted back to the Silver Stars in October 2010 and had since sat in on many courses to refresh himself.

It was proposed by Matty Holford (proxy) and seconded by Nigel Allen that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. A.O.B

- i) A letter from Chris McCann had been circulated to CCIs subsequent to the agenda being sent out. Chris had stated that currently there was no section in the Operations Manual that outlined the requirements to become a coach in any of the disciplines. He had therefore made two proposals, which were dealt with separately:

- a) Chris McCann had proposed that an *N.B.* included in the Operations Manual, Section 2, under the Grading System, informing readers that the qualifications for becoming an FS Coach can be found on BPA Form 134.

The TO stated that if STC felt that this to be a reasonable request, he believed that the information could also be included under all the relevant Grades.

It was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Mark Tether that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b) Chris McCann had also proposed that the jump qualification for becoming an FS coach be reduced from 300 jumps to two hundred jumps.

Chris stated that a jumper could become a Basic Instructor after 200 jumps and two years in the sport, which he believed involved a great deal more responsibility, ie initial training, first freefalls brief etc.

Following some discussion, Stuart Meacock put forward a counter proposal that the jump requirement for becoming an FS coach should be a minimum of 200 FS jumps.

This proposal failed to find a seconder.

The Committee then voted on Chris McCann's original proposal, which was seconded by Ray Armstrong.

For: 13

Against: 3

Abstentions: 0

Carried

- ii) The Chairman reported that BPA Instructor Course 1/2011 had just been completed that afternoon and had been held at the North London Skydiving Centre. The Association wished to thank the Club for hosting the course. A Copy of the Course Report had been circulated to those present.

The Chairman reported that there was one recommendation that required ratification by STC:

That Conrad Brown and Sebastian Muntz be given six-months extensions to their CSBI ratings.

It was proposed by Martin White and seconded by Mark Tether that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Date of next Meetings: Thursday 7 April 2011
Thursday 9 June 2011
Thursday 4 August 2011
Thursday 29 September 2011
Thursday 24 November 2011

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

Issued: 24 February 2011

Distribution:

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AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 10th February 2011 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), new N.B.s:

Sub-para 6.2.2. new N.B.(5) to read:

N.B.(5) The qualifications to become a CH coach may be found on BPA Form 134B.

Sub-para 6.3.2. new N.B.(4) to read:

N.B.(4) The qualifications to become a CP coach may be found on BPA Form 134C.

Sub-para 6.4.1. new N.B.(3) to read:

N.B.(3) The qualifications to become a FS coach may be found on BPA Form 134.

Sub-para 6.5.1. previous N.B. becomes N.B.(1) new N.B.(2) to read:

N.B.(2) The qualifications to become a CF coach may be found on BPA Form 134A.

Sub-para 6.7.4. previous N.B. becomes N.B.(1) new N.B.(2) to read:

N.B.(2) The qualifications to become a FF coach may be found on BPA Form 134D.

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 6 (Cameras), previous sub-para 6.2. becomes 6.3. new sub-para 6.2. to read:

6.2. Tandem Instructors with a minimum of 500 Tandem descents, 100 of which must have been in the previous 12 months, may use a wrist mounted camera, provided that:

6.2.1. The height of the camera does not exceed 50mm and that the width and depth does not protrude over the hand.

6.2.2. The TI has CCI approval (a logbook endorse will suffice) and has been fully briefed by the CCI or a CCI nominated TI on the requirements to use the camera.

NOTE: BPA Council has suspended this Operations Manual amendment until it has been re-discussed at the next STC Meeting on the 7th April 2011.

SECTION 13 (DISPLAY PARACHUTING), Paragraph 4 (Equipment), new sub-para 4.4. to read:

4.4. Ancillary equipment such as cameras, flags, smokes etc should not be carried by jumpers for at least their first 5 display descents.