

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNTY ARMS, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2000

Present:

Jhn Hitchen	-	NCSO/Acting Chairman
David Hickling	-	BPS
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
Trevor Dobson	-	Target Skysports
Brian Dyas	-	Skydive St Andrews
Dave Wood	-	RAFSPA
Ian Cashman	-	JSPC (N)
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies Jhn Saunders was unable to attending that evenings meeting and had asked the NCSO to ' Chair' the meeting on his behalf as Tye Boughen (Vice Chairman) was also unable to attend the meeting. George McGuinness, Karren Farr, Chris Lyall, Carl Williams, Ronnie O' Brien, Tony Knight.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Jhn Carter	-	BPA Medical Advisor
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Dave Morris, Alan Wilkinson, Tony Goodman, Jhn Harding, Colin Fitzmaurice, Dave Ballard, Rick Boardman, Duncan Haynes, Mike Carruthers.

ITEM

It was with great sadness that the NCSO had to advise STC of the death of Micky Munn, who had died early that morning following a short illness.

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 10TH AUGUST 2000

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Dane Kenny that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 10th August 2000 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 10TH AUGUST 2000

Page 1, Item 2 – Foreign AFF/Tandem Instructor Working Group. The Committee was advised that this Working Group would have a proposal for the next meeting.

Page 2, Item 2 – Fatality – Tim Bettin. The Committee was advised that the Panel of Inquiry following the Board of Inquiry had just completed their Report. Because it involved possible disciplinary action it could not be dealt with that evening.

Page 3, Item 3 – Riggers. No proposal had been received from RAF Detachment HQ with regard to military personnel jumping RAF safety fitter packed equipment.

Page 4, Item 4 – Fatal Accident – Headcorn. The Panel of Inquiry following the Board of Inquiry, had completed their Report and it would be discussed as a main Agenda Item.

Page 6, Item 6 – Panel of Inquiry – Eaglescott. The Committee was advised that some of the Recommendations of the Panel of Inquiry were changed by STC at the last meeting, therefore the persons involved needed to be given the opportunity to appeal against STCs' decision. The parties involved had been written to advising them of STCs decision. Only Jeff Chandler had written back (to the Chairman of the BPA and Chairman of STC) wishing to appeal.

The Committee was advised that Jeff had sent his apologies for not attending the meeting. Mr Chandler' s letter was circulated to those present for STC to consider, as STC' s decision from the last meeting needed to be ratified.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Ian Cashman that STCs' changes to the Panel' s Recommendations be accepted:

For: 7

Against: 0

Absentions: 1

Carried

Page 7, Item 7 – 1999 Injury Statistics Report. The Working Group that STC decided should be formed was in the process of being formed and STC would be kept informed of its progress.

3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 10TH AUGUST 2000**

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 10th August 2000 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

4. **INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME**

The Committee was advised that there had been two very serious injuries within the last couple of weeks. The first concerned a BPA instructor; Michelle Pollard from Headcorn who was competing in a 4-way F.S. competition at Sbson on Saturday the 16th September. The free fall part of the descent went without incident. Michelle deployed her canopy, which opened normally. She was deep and decided to take an ' off landing' . She landed on a sloping stubble field, approximately 45% off the wind line. The landing appeared to be hard. When the DZ crew arrived, Michelle was unconscious and her full-faced helmet was seen to be damaged. She was taken to the local hospital and was later transferred to Addenbrookes Hospital in a critical condition. At this time Michelle' s condition was still critical. She has not regained consciousness and had been transferred to a special neurological unit.

The second incident involved an experienced jumper; Mike Cole who had 215 jumps. Mike had completed an 11-way F.S. jump at Langar on Saturday 23rd September. He was flying back to the landing area and continued to run down wind until approximately 30-40ft and started to make a radical turn, impacting with the ground very hard. He remained unconscious and was airlifted to hospital, where he remains in a serious condition, he had been taken off the ventilator for a short while. After the incident it was discovered that he had been grounded at Hilaldstow, because he had collapsed at the Centre, until he had been cleared to jump by his doctor. He had not told BPS, so they did not know that he should not have been jumping.

David Hickling gave the meeting an update on Mr Cole' s condition and stated that he had spoken to a member of Mike' s family that afternoon. Although he remained in a serious condition and had still not regained consciousness. Mike had now been taken off the ventilator and they remained optimistic of him making a recovery.

David Hickling expressed his concern of the fact that Mr Cole' s grounding had not been communicated to other Clubs and Centres.

On behalf of STC both jumpers were sent the Committee' s best wishes for a full recovery.

The Committee was advised that due to the increase in the number of injuries caused by low hook turns the NCSO and TO had looked back through previous injury reports and were concerned to find that there were a number of injuries where the cause was due to either a ' Deep Spot' or where the jumper had indicated they were a long way from the landing area and had turned low in an effort to get nearer to the landing area.

The NCSO and TO had felt that there seemed to be a pattern forming that was cause for concern and that it was perhaps something that needed further investigation.

- i) There had been 44 Student injuries since the last meeting, 26 male and 18 female. One Student sustained a sore chest and shoulder after his reserve pilot chute caught on the door-frame as he was moving into the door and he was pulled from the aircraft. He landed safely under two canopies. Another Student banged her head getting into the aircraft for a Tandem jump. A Student hurt his eye after the ' shot cord' on a training vest broke and hit him in the eye. The rest of the injuries were landing injuries, including one Student who sprained his shoulder after getting dragged trying to collapse his canopy. 31 of the injuries were on ram-air canopies and 10 were on round/conical canopies.
- ii) There had been 9 injuries reported to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last STC. 8 male and 1 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 13 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 9 male and 4 female. All were on ram-air canopies.
- iv) There had been 23 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 20 male and 3 female.

- v) There had been a significant number of Tandem Incident/Injury reports receive since the last meeting, 26 in total. Fifteen were malfunctions/deployment problems. One in particular was cause for concern. An instructor lost his trainer on exit, he did not deploy his drogue, remained in free fall, pulled his drogue release handle and cutaway, he then deployed his reserve just prior to the CYPRES going off. He had no reasonable explanation for his actions. His CCI had grounded him until this meeting.

This incident needed further discussion and it was agreed by those present that this discussion should be held 'in camera'. All observers with the exception of the BPA Medical Advisor and Instructor Examiners present were asked to leave the meeting room whilst this item was being discussed.

The CCI gave the meeting further details of the incident and stated that the Tandem Instructor concerned had been unable to be present at that evenings meeting because he was on military exercise.

This incident generated a great deal of discussion by those present. The Committee was gravely concerned with this incident and felt that the Instructor should present himself to STC to explain the incident in more detail.

It was therefore proposed by Dane Kenny and seconded by Bryan Dyas that the Tandem Instructor concerned rating remains suspended until he presented himself to STC.

Carried Unanimously

The NCSO advised those present that there would be a Tandem Instructors' meeting at the BPA AGM in January.

The observers were then invited to return to the meeting where John Hitchen continued with the resume of incident/injury reports received since the last meeting.

Seven of the Tandem reports were injuries. One instructor (Chris Lyall) broke his leg, when a Student landed on it. The other injuries were to the Students, including 5 fractures. The rest were minor injuries.

- vi) Three reports had been received of AAD firings. All Category 7 jumpers. All lost altitude awareness and all deployed their mains as their FXCs fired.
- vii) There had been a few 'display misfire' reports received. One involved the rope between the flag and the weight catching a member of the public, causing an abrasion to his neck. This is an area of displays, which will be discussed at the next Display Team Leaders meeting. Another incident involved a jumper making his first display jump, who fractured both his ankles and his tibular and fibular jumping onto a concrete arena. The APA is investigating this.
- viii) There had also been a few reports received of canopy entanglements and a couple of 'off landing' reports.

- ix) A report had been received where an aircraft engine stopped at 6,000ft.. The jumpers including two Tandem pairs exited safely, but a long way from the airfield. The pilot changed tanks and the engine was restarted. The Committee was advised that this incident would be discussed at the next Pilots Committee Meeting.

5. PANELS OF INQUIRY/WORKING GROUPS

a) **PANEL OF INQUIRY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO THE FATAL ACCIDENT OF NIGEL THOMAS**

This Panel report was circulated to CCIs only, with the STC agenda. The BPA wished to thank the Panel members for their work on the Panel. The Panel members were; Tony Goodman (Chairman), Carl Williams and Martin Williams. Tony Goodman was present at the meeting to answer any questions.

The Committee was advised that the Report of Panel, including the Conclusions and Summary need to be formally accepted by STC:

‘ Conclusions

After much discussion it was decided that in the opinion of the Panel it is unnecessary to make recommendations with regard to changing the Operations Manual, and the rulings with regard to the use of AAD’ s and Audible Altimeters, as Nigel had both. Though in the opinion of the Panel, skysurfers should not jump without them. The Panel believe this incident was nothing more than a tragic accident. It has however highlighted certain points that CCI’ s should be made aware of.

- i) Skysurfing boards, like cameras tend not to be checked on the flight line, which was the case in this instance.
- ii) The Panel found nothing wrong with the board but believes particular attention should be made by CCIs to the construction of homemade boards, foot bindings and board release systems. The sky surfing board and foot bindings in question were looked at by members of the Panel and although the board was homemade the foot bindings and board release system was found to be manufactured by a professional company who deal in sky surfing equipment. To this end the Panel agreed that the board release system in this case was of an acceptable standard.
- iii) Having studied Nigel’ s log book it was found that he was fully qualified in all aspects of sky surfing to undertake the said decent. He had in fact travelled abroad to obtain professional training from a world class sky surfer. Although he was relatively inexperienced in this discipline, he had possibly received a higher degree of safety information and training than a lot of current sky surfers.

Summary

The Panel believe that this was a tragic accident and that no recommendations need be made for a change to the requirements of the Operations Manual. However, it is possible for a skysurfer to receive a flight line check and not have the board checked, therefore CCI’ s should consider having a system for the standardisation of flight line checking of all sky surfers, whichever level of experience they may be at, paying particular

attention to home-made boards, foot bindings and board release systems and if in doubt CCI' s should seek expert advice.'

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Dane Kenny that the Panel report be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

6. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

The BPA wished to thank Target Skysports for hosting Instructor Course 4/2000, from the 14th – 24th August and also RAFSPA for hosting the AFF and Tandem Instructor Course from the 4th – 8th September. The reports from both Courses had been circulated with the Agenda.

There were two recommendations from the course at Target Skysports to be voted on:

' That Chris Taylor and Mark Harris be given six month extensions to their Category System Basic Instructor ratings'

It was proposed by Brian Dyas and seconded by Trevor Dobson that the above recommendations be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Committee was advised that since the course at RAFSPA, Graham Ribbons had completed his remaining Tandem jumps and had been awarded his Tandem Instructor rating.

7. PERMISSIONS

a) A letter from Nick Johnston was circulated with the Agenda requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Janne Johnston.

It was proposed by Dane Kenny and seconded by Brian Dyas that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b) A letter from Pat Walters was circulated with the Agenda requesting an extension to the CSBI rating of Richard Barron.

Mr Barron had been involved in a motorcycle accident in February of this year and also military commitments had prevented him from being able to do any teaching for most of the year.

It was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Ian Cashman that Richard Barron be given a six month extension to his CSBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

c) David Hickling gave the meeting details of his request, which was circulated with the Agenda requesting permission to train a one-handed Student (Peter Richards) on a RAPS course.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Brian Dyas that the

above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- d) A letter has been received from Nick Harrison, which was circulated to those present requesting an extension to the CSBI rating of Sean Bell.

Mr Bell was awarded his CSBI rating in February 1999, but suffered a serious skydiving accident later in the year, which caused him to lose 8 months off work. He resumed skydiving and instructing in October of that year. He applied for an extension to his CSBI rating in February 2000, which expired in August.

It was proposed by Dane Kenny and seconded by Trevor Dobson that Sean Bell be given a six month extension to his CSBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

- e) Circulated to those present was a request from John Horne for permission for Nigel Allen to attend the first part of the requirements for upgrading to Instructor Examiner, being short of the required two years as an Advanced Instructor. This request was also supported by Ian Cashman.

It was proposed by Ian Cashman and seconded by Brian Dyas that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- f) Circulated to those present was a request by Dave Morris for permission to parachute onto the top of an Ordnance Survey balloon and parachute off of the balloon. Mr Morris' paper included a full Technical Appraisal and Risk Assessment.

Dave Morris was present at the meeting to give STC full details of his request.

This request generated a great deal of discussion by those present.

The Committee raised no objections with the planned descent and Mr Hickling stated that he did not have a problem with this taking place at Langar. However, the Committee agreed that the planned descent did not come under the heading of 'Sport Parachuting' and would not therefore be covered by the BPA insurance.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by David Hicking and seconded by Dane Kenny that STC support Dave Morris' request to apply for a special parachuting permission from the CAA. This was on the understanding that he would not be covered by the BPA liability insurance for the planned descent.

Carried Unanimously

- g) A letter had been received from Ian Cashman, which was circulated to those present requesting an extension to the CSBI rating of Phill Elston.

The Committee was advised that due to various work commitments, Mr Elston had been unable to attend a CSI Course since gaining his CSBI rating in November 1999.

It was proposed by Ian Cashman and seconded by Dave Wood that Phil Elston be given a six month extension to his CSBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

- h) A letter had been received from Karen Farr, which was circulated to those present requesting an extension to the CSIB rating of Ian Anderson.

The Committee was advised that Mr Anderson had been unable to attend a CSI due to work commitments.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B.

- i) A letter from David Hickling was circulated with the Agenda requesting clarification on the use of computers such as ProTracks in place of log books.

Mr Hickling stated that it was not always possible to check the number of jumps by visiting jumpers if they are using certain computers to log their descents. Some jumpers using computers do not carry a log book and CCI's are unable to check that they are cleared to pack their own parachute. The Operations Manual states:- a Log book entry would be sufficient.

It was pointed out that there was no rule to say how jumps are logged, but it should be up to the jumper to show, if requested, details of jumps etc.

The Technical Officer stated that on an instructor course the BPA would expect a computer print out and or confirmation from the CCI that the jumps are correct.

A number of suggestions were put forward that CCI's may wish to consider ie, that the annotating of the jumper being "cleared to packing their own parachute" could become part of the qualification for IC1 or it could be endorsed in the jumpers FAI Licence. These suggestions would need a great deal of thought.

It was felt by those present that most CCI's had addressed this problem at their Centres and they could not see an immediate solution at the moment unless someone wished to make a proposal.

The Committee felt that the onus was on the jumper to produce documentary evidence (especially if they are going to travel to different centres/abroad etc. of their qualifications etc. If they can't then it was up

to the CCI to tell them that they can't jump until they provide this proof" !

- ii) A letter from Pat Walters was circulated with the Agenda requesting that he be given his Examiner rating back after eight years.

It was pointed out to those present that usually anyone who no longer has an Examiners rating has been willing to attend the two courses to re-qualify.

It was felt by those present that eight years was a long time and perhaps Pat would benefit from attending at least one Course and to let the Examiners decide if he should be given the rating after that course

A counter proposal was put forward by Dane Kenny, seconded by Brian Dyas that Pat Walters attends one Instructor Course as a Trainee Examiner and if the Examiners on that Course are happy then they can award Pat his Examiner rating.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) A letter from Brian Dyas was circulated to those present requesting clarification of the STC minutes of the 10th February 2000, when is PLA/DZ was cleared for all Categories of Parachutist, as he intends carrying out AFF and Tandem as well as other types of parachuting. The NCSO was happy to clarify that when he inspected the site he took AFF and Tandem into consideration and recommended that it be cleared for all 'class' of parachuting, with the restrictions agreed.

The Technical Officer advised the meeting that when PLAs are reced they are cleared for all types of parachuting unless otherwise stated.

Mr Dyas highlighted a discrepancy in the BPA Operations Manual as under Section 5 (Training), Paragraph 3 (AFF and RAPS), Sub-para 3.2 states that clubs wishing to operate AFF or RAPS programmes must obtain approval of the STC.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Brian Dyas that sub-para 3.2 be deleted from the BPA Operations Manual at it was no longer relevant.

Carried Unanimously

Date of next meeting -

Thursday 7th December 2000
County Arms, Glen Parva, Leicester.
7.00 pm.

2nd October 2000

Distribution

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