

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNTY ARMS, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2001

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Acting Chairman
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Ian Cashman	-	JSPC (N)
Andy Guest	-	Devon & Somerset
Brian Dyas	-	Skydive St Andrews
Trevor Dobson	-	Target Skysports
Tim Andrewes	-	Border
Andy Paddock	-	Silver Stars
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Ronnie O' Brien	-	PPC
Mike Bolton	-	Skydive Redlands
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies Mick Nealis, Karen Farr, Carl Williams, Dave Emerson, Andy Dixon, John Fisher, Tony Knight, Dennis Buchanan, Nick Johnston, Dave Wood.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: John Curtis, Bernadette Whitaker, Alan Wilkinson, Richard Wheatley, Colin Fitzmaurice, Lisbeth Harris.

ITEM

The Committee was advised that John Saunders had resigned from Council because of work commitments and had also resigned as Chairman of STC. John Hitchen had therefore been asked to 'chair' this meeting. John Hitchen stated that he felt sure that STC would join him in wishing John Saunders well in his new career.

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 5TH APRIL 2001

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by David Hickling that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 5th April 2001 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5TH APRIL 2001

Page 2, Item 2 – Matters Arising – 1999 Injury Statistics Working Group. The Working Group had held a meeting that afternoon and the Group Chairman; Ian Rosenvinge was able to provide STC with an update of that meeting. Mr Rosenvinge advised the Committee that a final report from the Working Group

would be circulated to STC prior to the next meeting.

Page 3, Item 5 – Instructor Course. The Committee was advised that the AFF/Tandem Course had now been completed with the final two Tandem candidates on the Tandem phase of the course having successfully finished. The two candidates; Mark Harris from Peterborough and Jay Traisnel of the Silver Stars, had both been awarded their Tandem Instructor ratings.

John Hitchen commented that on more and more Tandem Instructor Courses candidates were turning up with equipment and equipment documentation that was incorrect. This often delayed the Course and caused problems for all concerned.

Page 6, Item 8 - A.O.B (a). At the last STC a couple of instructors had to obtain STC's permission to re-gain their ratings, as they had not filled in the instructor's part of their renewal applications the previous year. In the last couple of months there had been instances of clubs believing jumpers to be BPA members, because the club had sent the renewals to the BPA, but some credit card numbers or cheques had not been accepted and therefore the membership renewals could not be processed. Therefore, if membership applications were sent in by clubs, it should not be presumed that the applicant was a member of the BPA until their membership certificate had been physically checked.

Page 7, Item 8 - A.O.B (c). The item regarding WDIs would be dealt with as part of the main Agenda.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 5TH APRIL 2001

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 5th April 2001 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME

Prior to giving the regular statistical information regarding the Incident/Injury reports received since the last meeting, there had been a few incident/injuries that were reported on individually:

The first concerned a static line Student who was making his first descent, on the 7th April. His exit from the Cessna 206 was initially flat but then deteriorated into about a 45° head down position during deployment. His legs were observed to entangle with the canopy lines. He appeared to have a line over type malfunction, which caused the canopy to rotate, which it continued to do throughout the descent. He was seen to initiate his reserve drills at about 1500ft, which were observed to have been carried out in the correct sequence.

The main canopy did not clear and the reserve was seen to start to deploy, (the pilot chute, bag and some lines). The reserve did not entangle with the jumper or the main. It remained in that configuration until just prior to the jumper hitting the ground. The main parachute was also seen to gradually collapse and reduce in size. There was very little canopy above the parachutist when he landed. He contacted

the edge of a tree, a grassy slope and then a soft grassy area a few feet from the slope. There was no doubt that he was very lucky, possibly due to the area where he landed. He was rushed to hospital and after a few days was released. He had relatively minor injuries.

The second incident concerned a Tandem incident on the 29th April. The Tandem pair had a normal freefall descent and opening, but whilst the canopy was on finals the right side folded under, which caused the canopy to make just over two complete turns. The turns were quite slow, but the rate of descent increased dramatically, impacting the pair onto the side of their bodies. Both were taken to hospital. The Tandem Instructor left hospital the same night, he only had minor injuries, but the Tandem Student was badly injured with a fractured spine. The NCSO carried out an investigation and believed the canopy collapse may have been caused by wind shear.

The third incident was another lucky escape for the parachutist involved. This involved a Category 8 jumper with 75 jumps. He deployed his canopy after an uneventful 3-way FS descent. His canopy was seen to be mis-shapen and was descending too fast. At some point the canopy was observed to stream, open and then spiral. The slider was half way up the lines. He was seen to disappear into a dip with a partially inflated canopy. No attempt was made to cutaway or deploy his reserve. The jumper only sustained a dislocated shoulder and broken nose.

- i) There had been 31 Student injuries reports received since the last meeting, 20 male and 11 female. 30 of the injuries were on landing. One was to a Student who fell climbing over a stile. 24 of the injuries were on ram-air canopies and 6 were on round/conical canopies.
- ii) There had been 14 injuries reported to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last STC. 9 male and 5 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 13 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 10 male and 3 female. All were on ram-air canopies.
- iv) There had been 41 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 37 male and 4 female.
- v) There had been 21 Tandem Incident/Injury reports received since the last meeting, 11 were malfunctions or deployment problems. 1 was an 'off landing' . 9 were injuries, 2 of them to the instructor and 7 to the Students.
- vi) Two reports had been received of AAD firings, both at the same time. A free flying coach and his Student lost altitude awareness and deployed their mains low. As the mains opened their CYPRES AADs fired.
- vii) A few reports of canopy entanglements had been received, all whilst taking part in 'Canopy Formations' .
- viii) Two reports had been received of parachutists dropping equipment. One jumper lost his Factory Diver helmet while looking out the aircraft door at 8,000ft. The other was where a jumper had twisted risers on opening which dislodged his full faced helmet.
- ix) A few reports had been received of display misfires.

x) Also received had been a small number of 'off landing' reports. All at Clubs.

xi) There had also been a few reports involving aircraft. One involved of a parachutist moving about in the aircraft causing a reserve pilot chute to 'pop'. Another where two AADs fired as the aircraft descended. Another where a Parachutist knocked the emergency fuel cut-off lever, causing the starboard engine shut down. The engine was restarted without further problem. One report concerned a problem of an engine running rough in Cessna 206. The aircraft landed without problem.

5. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 02/2001

The BPA wished to thank the Skydive Strathallan for hosting Instructor Course 02/2001, from the 14th – 24th May 2001. The Club had just been refurbished and the facilities were excellent.

The Committee was advised that Billy Golan, the DZ Operator at Errol, was injured on the first lift of the CSI course. It was hoped that he has a speedy recovery.

The Course Report had been previously circulated with the Agenda. There were two Recommendations that needed to be voted on:

'That Andrew Bee and Billy Golan are given six month extensions to their CSBI ratings'

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

Carried Unanimously

6. PANEL OF INQUIRY REPORT

Panel of Inquiry Following the Board of Inquiry into the Fatal Accident of Colin Graham

This item was discussed 'in camera'.

The Committee was advised that a copy of the Panel of Inquiry Report had been circulated with the Agenda, to CCI's only.

The BPA wished to thank the Panel members for their work on the Panel, Chaired by Tony Goodman, with Nigel Allen and Andy Paddock as the other members.

Andy Paddock was present at the meeting and was able to answer any questions.

Mr Andrewes was present at the meeting and was able to answer a number of questions from the Committee. After some discussion Mr Andrewes was asked to leave the meeting whilst STC considered the Panel's Report and its Recommendations.

STC made a number of comments with regard to the Panels Recommendations and a lengthy discussion ensued, after which the Recommendations of the Panel were voted on:-

A. That CCI's need to look carefully at all the pros and cons of the two main

types of emergency drills. They must then decide as to which method is the most suitable for their environment and ensure that all centre/club instructors are fully familiar with the method to be used.

It was proposed by Ian Rosvenvinge and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- B. That the CCI and reserve parachute packer at Border Parachute Centre be written to by the NCSO and be reminded of their responsibilities for ensuring that AAD servicing schedules are not exceeded. The CCI should also put into place a system for ensuring that schedules can not be exceeded in the future.

It was proposed by Ian Cashman and seconded by Ian Rosvenvinge that the above recommendation be accepted.

For: 12

Against: 2

Abstentions: 0

Carried

Mr Andrewes was then invited to return to the meeting where he was advised of STC' s decision. All observers were invited back to the meeting.

7. PROPOSED/SUGGESTED CHANGES TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

- A. A letter from Pete Sizer had been circulated with the Agenda, following a discussion on WDIs at the last STC meeting. Mr Sizer had proposed that the Operations Manual be amended so that it was not necessary to throw a WDI except before static line jumping takes place.

It was therefore proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by David Hickling that the BPA Operations Manual be amended as follows:-

Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), paragraph 2.3. (Wind Speed and Direction). sub-paras 2.3.2 – 2.3.3 a-e. Change to read:

2.3.2. Further information about wind speed and direction will be obtained using Wind Drift Indicators (WDIs) or meteorological forecasts.

2.3.3. This information will be obtained:

- a. Before parachuting begins.
- b. Following a significant change in wind speed or direction.
- c. Following any break of more than thirty minutes caused by winds in excess of the limits laid down. (see 2.1. above).
- d. After parachutists have failed to land in the intended landing area and a faulty 'spot' or bad canopy control is not suspected.
- e. A WDI must be thrown before the start of Static Line Student jumping.

Carried Unanimously

The Committee was advised that Meteorological forecasts could be obtained

by contacting METS Free at the following website address:-
www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/fcharts.html

- B. A paper by the Technical Officer and the NCSO had been circulated with the Agenda asking STC to consider not implementing the jump number requirement for Advanced Instructors who had held the rating for a minimum of 10 years. The reasons behind this suggestion was that an Advanced Instructor who is a CCI does generally not make as many descents as other jumpers at the club, as he/she tends to want to stay on the ground more, watching all aspects of the operation. Also, it would be a great pity to loose the expertise of these Advanced Instructors/Examiners from either becoming or remaining a CCI, or from continuing to assist on Instructor Courses etc. because they do not jump as often as they used to.

This matter was discussed at some length. It was generally felt by those present that Advanced Instructors who were CCIs needed to remain current and be objective to how the sport is run and they felt that they could not do this if they were not actively involved in the sport.

If an Advanced Instructor/CCI had not met the currency requirements to renew their ratings, they could apply to STC for an exemption against the rule as had happened in the past and STC would deal with such requests on an individual basis.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Mike Bolton that the currency requirements for Advanced Instructors/CCIs be changed. This failed to find a seconder.

8. PERMISSIONS

- a) A letter from Pete Sizer was circulated with the Agenda requesting permission for Headcorn jumpers to make their annual jump into Bewl Reservoir. The request was to permit FAI 'A' Certificate (Red) parachutists, with a minimum of 60 jumps, to make the descent. Also requested was permission against the round reserve and the five pre-declared jump rule for displays. The currency rule would still be adhered to.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Pat Walters that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b) Also circulated with the agenda was another letter from Pete Sizer requesting a second extension to the CSBI rating of Chris Carroll. The request was for the extension to be until the CSI course in August.

Mr Sizer advised those present that this was a second request for Chris as the original request was granted in December, but dated from then and therefore, expired before the actual CSI Course in August.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c) Circulated to those present was a request from Ross Featherstone (Club

Chief Pilot at Hinton) for a Bell 206 helicopter pilot, John Woodhouse, to be exempt from the requirement to be examined on three sorties by a BPA BELL 206 pilot examiner, as he has been unable to locate one. This request was supported by Tony Knight – Chairman of the Pilots' Committee. Mr Woodhouse had 2800 hrs total and 1000 plus hours on the Jetranger and was also a current CAA Helicopter Instructor. He would still be instructed and briefed by the CCI – Dave Emerson and checked out by the CCP. This request was also supported by Dave Emerson.

It was proposed by Dave Emerson (proxy) and seconded by Tim Andrewes that the above permission be accepted.

For: 13 Against: 1 Abstentions: 0

Carried

- d) A request had been received from Phil Cavanagh for a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Jim Hynds, as his CSBI rating had expired in May.

It was proposed Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Trevor Dobson that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- e) Circulated to those present was a letter from Dennis Buchanan requesting permission for Pete Findlay to attend an AFF instructor course, though his CSI rating lapsed at the 31st March 2000. Mr Buchanan had requested that Mr Findlay be exempt from attending an AFF BI Course due to his long standing Instructor rating and his length of time in the sport.

Pete Sizer asked what examination paper Mr Findlay would take during the AFF Course. Mr Hitchen advised those present that he would sit the normal AFF examination.

Mr Sizer then tabled a counter proposal that Mr Findlay be permitted to attend the AFF Instructor Course, but that he take the CSI (Operations Manual) examination paper on the Course. This proposal failed to find a seconder.

Mr Buchanan' s original proposal, seconded by Dane Kenny was then voted as follows:-

For: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Carried

- f) Circulated those present was a request that Goodwood Airfield be cleared, subject to an inspection by the NCSO or Technical Officer, for Intermediate and Experienced Parachutists and also for Tandem Parachutists. Goodwood had been cleared in the past for parachuting. Mr Williams was unable to attend STC as he was in Spain, but Pete Marsden was present at the meeting and was able to provide details on Mr William' s behalf.

The Committee was advised that the intention was that Goodwood was cleared on behalf of Skydive Wales and would only operate when Skydive

Wales were not operating at their PLA/DZ in Wales.

It was proposed by Carl Williams (proxy) and seconded by Tim Andrewes that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- g) Brian Dyas gave the meeting details of his request for permission for the Skydive St Andrews display team (the Saints – Team Leader; Alan Wilkinson) to carry out a water display using old equipment which was not fitted with ram air reserves.

It was proposed by Brian Dyas and seconded by Andy Guest that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- h) Circulated to those present was a letter from Mick Nealis requesting the reinstatement of Andrew Cole' s CSI and AFF Instructor ratings. Mr Cole lived and worked in Germany and due to an oversight he had not renewed his BPA membership last year and had only jumped only at German DZ' s, but had remained current in all aspects of his ratings.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above permission be accepted, with the proviso that Mr Cole' s rating renewal as signed up by his CCI and one Examiner in the normal manner.

Carried Unanimously

9. A.O.B.

- a) A letter from Brian Dyas was circulated with the Agenda requesting that the requirement at Skydive St Andrews; that Static Line Students be limited to one on a pass, be change to:- That ' first time' Static Line Students be limited to one on a pass. Mr Dyas was able to provide further details of his request to those present.

A letter from Bob Charters in support of this request was also circulated to those present.

There were some CCIs present who were not familiar with the airfield and who had previously not seen the original maps of the airfield and they felt that these should have been submitted again as it was pertinent to this request. Some CCIs present also felt that there should be a restriction in place with regard to the specific type of aircraft used.

Following discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Brian Dyas and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above request be accepted.

For: 2

Against: 3

Abstentions: 9

Not Carried

- b) Circulated to those present was a letter from Mick Nealis proposing a PLA/DZ, that was near to the the current PLA/DZ at Bad Lippspringe be cleared as an alternative PLA/DZ for all types of parachuting. The PLA/DZ was visited by the Technical Officer during a resent Club Inspection visit and he supported this request. A map and photo of the proposed PLA/DZ was circulated to those present.

It was proposed by Mick Nealis and Trevor Dobson that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c) The Technical Officer had sent a letter to all Clubs from Airtec giving details of Airtec' s policy with regard to the fitting of CYPRES Student/Expert AADs on Student parachute equipment, which is; ' that they strongly recommend that all students under direct supervision of instructors, such as static line students and AFF students jumping with instructors have equipment fitted with the Student CYPRES and not the Expert CYPRES' . The letter was sent to CCIs for information.

The BPA Operations Manual states; under Section 6 (Equipment), Para 8 (Parachute Packing), sub-para 8.4. ' Where manufactures' requirements conflict with those of the BPA, the BPA requirements will apply.'

At this time the BPA does not have any requirements to say whether or not it is permissible for an Expert CYPRES to be fitted to Student equipment. Some BPA Clubs do have Student equipment fitted with the Expert CYPRES. They have them fitted because the CCIs of those Clubs believe them to be safer for their particular operation.

Also circulated to those present was a letter from Chris Allen. A report from Mick Nealis, who had visited Airtec on behalf of the BPA, to get some background information, together with a letter from Helmut Cloth giving further information.

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Ronnie O' Brien and seconded by David Hickling that the status quo remains for those Clubs wishing to continue to have the Expert CYPRES on their Student equipment until the next STC meeting.

For: 12 Against: 1 Abstentions: 1

Carried

The Chairman stated that he would write to all CCIs requesting further input from those who had knowledge of the CYPRES AAD in an effort to explore the best way forward and with a view to compiling a report.

The Chairman also stated that he would also explore the possibility of setting up a meeting with Helmut Cloth in an effort to obtain further clarification from him with regard to use of the Expert CYPRES AAD.

Date of next Meeting:- Thursday 9th August 2001
At 7 p.m.
County Arms, Leicester

12th June 2001

Distribution

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