

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2002

Present:

Jhn Hitchen	-	Chairman
Dave Wood	-	RAFSPA
Alan Wilkinson	-	Skydive St Andrews
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Ian Cashman	-	JSPC (N)
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Nick Jhnston	-	British Skysports
Peter Sizer	-	Headcorn
Ronnie O' Brien	-	PPC
Mike Bolton	-	Skydive Redlands
Andy Paddock	-	Silver Stars
Bill Sharp	-	RAPA
Doug Peacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

Apologies: George McGuinness, Mick Nealis (Bill Sharp represented Mick at this meeting), Dane Kenny, Dave Emerson (Doug Peacock represented Dave at this meeting), Tony Goodman (in hospital), Tony Knight.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Rick Boardman, Kim Newton, Mike Carruthers, Peter Connor, Colin Fitzmaurice, Dave Lewis, Karen Messenger, Andy Pollitt, Jhn Curtis.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 6TH DECEMBER 2001

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by David Hickling that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 6th December 2001 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 6TH DECEMBER 2001

Page 1, Item 2 – (Matters Arising – RAPS (Iain Johnson) Panel of Inquiry). An update regarding this Panel of Inquiry will be covered as a main agenda item (Item 6).

Page 2, Item 2 – (Matters Arising – Fatality – Topcliffe). This Panel of Inquiry is also covered under Item 6 of the agenda.

Page 4, Item 4 – (Fatality – Hibaldstow). An update regarding this Panel of Inquiry will be covered under Item 6, along with the other Panels.

Page 7, Item 6 – (Body/Equipment Entanglement Drills). This is a main agenda item (Item 7).

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 6TH DECEMBER 2001

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Bill Sharp that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 6th December 2001 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate then gave the meeting a resume of the Riggers meeting held that evening and stated that the Committee had discussed and accepted a proposed change to the BPA Operations Manual, regarding the issuing of Approved Packing Certificates, which was circulated with the Riggers' Agenda.

The meeting was advised that at the Rigger' s Sub-Committee meeting of the 6th December 2001, it was felt that Tandem Instructors should be able to issue and endorse Approved Packing Certificates for Tandem main canopies, provided they are qualified themselves. The present rule states that only CSIs and above can issue/endorse the packing certificates. The committee felt that AFF instructors should also be permitted to issue/endorse packing certificate and that the current rule had not been intended to prevent AFF or Tandem instructors from issuing/endorsing certificates, but was intended to prevent Basic (Category System, Tandem or AFF) Instructors from doing so.

Therefore, the Riggers Committee recommended that the Operations Manual be amended as follows:-

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 9 (Packing Certificates), be changed to read:

9. APPROVED PACKING CERTIFICATES

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes and round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers). Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers and/or parachute instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs), provided those instructors have their own packing certificates endorsed for the equipment they are signing for. (In the case of round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers, the certificates may only be issued and/or endorsed by Advanced Instructors or Advanced Riggers). (BPA Form 111).

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pat Walters that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate also advised those present that during discussions with regard to reserve sealing methods that evening, it had been noted that the BPA Operations Manual still stated that only Riggers and Advanced Packers may seal reserves.

Mr Applegate informed the Committee that at the Riggers Meeting of the 6th August 1998, Riggers had discussed and accepted a proposal that all fully qualified BPA reserve packers may, if they wish, seal their reserve re-packs, as long as the sealing method used is one that is approved by the BPA and the seal identifies the packer.

The Technical Officer stated that he would include the above amendment with the amendments to the BPA Operations Manual, which would be circulated with the Minutes.

Paul Applegate advised those present that at the previous meeting the Committee had accepted a proposal as put forward by John Harding to use a new half-netted reserve pilot chute on Zerox containers for Static Line use. He stated that Riggers had discussed and accepted a request that evening that the above pilot chute be also accepted for use in Student Free Fall mode.

It was therefore proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Karen Farr that the above pilot chute as previously presented be accepted for use in Student Free Fall mode on Zerox equipment.

Carried Unanimously

4 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PILOTS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 19TH JANUARY 2002

The Chairman advised those present that the Pilots' Sub-Committee meeting was held at the AGM and that the Minutes had been circulated with the STC Agenda. He stated that if anyone had any questions relating to the Minutes, the Technical Officer had been in attendance at the meeting.

There being no matters arising, it was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Ian Cashman that the Minutes of the Pilots Sub-Committee Meeting of the 19th January 2002 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 3 Student injuries reports received since the last meeting, 2 male and 1 female. All on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 2 Injury reports to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists received since the last STC. 1 male and 1 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 5 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 4 male and 1 female, all were on ram-air canopies.
- iv) There had been 11 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 8 male and 3 female.

- v) There had been 3 Tandem Incident/Injury reports received since the last meeting, one was a minor Student injury. The other two were deployment problems.

The Chairman referred to Bill Booth' s presentation at the AGM. He advised the Committee that Bill had done some extensive research on packing and he had come up with some quite interesting statistics. One centre for instance had made approx 7,500 jumps and virtually not experienced any malfunctions. That Centre was flat packing at the time, they then introduced pro-packing and immediately started to get incidents. The Chairman felt that CCl's may wish to consider the above statistics especially with regard to the packing of Tandem Vectors.

- vi) There had been 1 report of an AAD firing. This involved a cameraman filming a canopy deployment. The other parachutist did not deploy until 3,000ft. The cameraman who was filming on his back then turned over and as he deployed his CYPRES fired.
- vii) A report had been received of a Protec helmet coming off a Student during a backloop exercise. Two others involved jumpers who landed in trees, an experienced parachutist and a Student. Neither of the jumpers was injured.

6. BPA PANELS OF INQUIRY

A) RAPS Panel of Inquiry (Chaired by David Hickling)

David Hickling advised STC that the Panel had had now met three times. He stated that quite a lot of work had been done on reserve pilot chutes and poundage pulls. A pilot chute from one manufacturer showed very good results

Ian Robertson had produced a proto-type of a main deployment bag and a test programme would start soon. He stated that there were some nice new features on this bag and that the initial inspection of the bag looked very good.

Headcorn have been able to do some different types of exits and the Panel had looked at video which the centre had produced with some very encouraging results.

The Committee was advised that David Hickling had produced a summary of the various entanglement drills, which had been sent to him by Clubs and Centres. As previously stated not all clubs had replied following a request to CCl's for information on what drills are taught around the country. He asked if those clubs who had not done so could do so that he could re-issue the information.

Dave Hickling stated that he was very impressed with the work that people were putting in on these projects and he thanked everyone for their contributions so far.

The Chairman of STC also thanked David Hickling and his panel members for the work that they had carried out so far.

B) Panel of Inquiry Following the Hibaldstow Board of Inquiry

Ian Rosenvinge advised those present that the Panel had met again that afternoon and he briefed STC on the progress so far. He stated that the Panel would be having a further meeting before they put their full conclusions and recommendations to

STC. He also stated that some of the areas of consideration for the Panel had overlapped areas already being considered by the Panel of Inquiry looking into RAPS and liaison had taken place between the two Panels.

Mr Rosenvinge advised those present that other than the requirements that the NCSO and TO made with regard to the Student talkdown, which was that the individual in question undertake no further talkdown until he had been re-briefed and tested by his CCI. The Panel fully supported this action. The Panel had found no other breaches of the BPA Operations Manual or of the Clubs SOPs.

It was proposed by Alan Wilkinson and seconded by David Hickling that the above be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

C) Panel of Inquiry Following the Board of Inquiry into the Fatal Accident of Steven Cooper

The Committee was advised that the Report of this Panel went out to CCIs with the meeting agenda. Tony Goodman who had chaired the Panel was unable to be present that evening as he was in hospital. The other two members of the Panel; Pat Walters and Dennis Buchanan were present.

It was proposed by Pete Szer and seconded by Mike Rust that the Panel Report be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The remainder of this item was dealt with 'in camera' and all observers were asked to leave the meeting.

The Chairman advised those present that the Panel had made a number of recommendations, which did not need to be voted on, but should be noted by CCIs:

- i) The BPA minimum opening heights have been revised over the years, and are considered suitable for the types of parachuting taking place. However, the minimum opening heights are precisely that; the minimum.
- ii) That CCIs regularly check their instructors' teaching, to ensure that the content of the instructors' lessons are standardised and are as required by the CCI. CCIs should also ensure that their instructors are teaching inline with current teaching practices.
- iii) CCI's should consider their exit altitudes carefully for parachutists, as small aircraft, such as step exit aircraft are likely to lose a considerable amount of altitude once the engine has been cut back and the parachutist climbs out, especially if the parachutist is large and heavy. CCIs must take this into account when deciding on the exit heights for Student Parachutists. The Panel believe that the exit height for Student Parachutists carrying out 3-5 seconded delayed openings, should be 1,000ft above the intended canopy opening height.
- iv) The Panel feel that the current minimum requirements for progression to free fall tends to be treated as the norm and therefore more Students are being progressed to free fall when they may benefit from more static line

jumps, in order to confirm their stability when operating the ripcord. The Panel would therefore Like STC to consider raising the minimum number of static line descents before being progressed onto free fall.

The Chairman stated that no specific number of extra static line descents have been recommended by the Panel. Even though David Hickling' s Panel on RAPS in general has many areas it is looking into. This might be something for them to consider, along with the types of exits they are studying.

It was proposed by Dennis Buchanan and seconded by Doug Peacock that the above recommendation be considered by the Panel of Inquiry looking into RAPS parachuting in general.

Carried Unanimously

- v) This incident has shown that the activation tolerances of the FXC 12000 can vary greatly. Therefore, the Panel believe that increasing the FXC AAD activation height settings for RAPS Student Parachutists to 1,500ft at Clubs who currently set them at 1,000ft should be considered by the CCIs. With the manual setting on the FXC, it has the ability to give that extra margin of safety.

David Hickling stated that the FXCs that we currently use have are calibrated to be most accurate at 1,000ft. There is a tolerance, but they are fine-tuned to fire at 1000ft. He felt that if clubs decide to raise the setting height of the FXC they will need to get them calibrated at the new exit height to be most accurate.

Although FXCs are designed to be used at different altitudes and many centres set them at 1,500ft, it was felt by those present that CCIs considering increasing the FXC height settings may wish to contact the FXC servicing facility first.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Panel also recommended some disciplinary action to be taken, which were discussed and voted on separately:

- i) That Ian Haylock (the instructor who cleared Steven Cooper for free fall and carried out his ' First Free Fall' lesson) is to teach only under the direct supervision (of a CCI nominated instructor) whilst teaching Student Parachutists up to and including category eight, until he has attended a Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI) course and passes the CSI (closed book) written examination. If this recommendation is accepted by STC, he should be given twelve months from the date of acceptance to complete the above.

The Chairman advised the Committee that a letter had been received from Ian Haylock regarding the Panels recommendations concerning him, a copy of which was circulated to those present.

Following some discussion on the above recommendation, it was proposed by Ronnie O' Brien and seconded by Dave Wood that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) That Andy Dixon (Merlin CCI at time of fatality) has all his BPA instructor ratings withdrawn for a minimum period of ten years. If at the end of that period he wishes to re-apply to become an instructor, he must first obtain STC approval and then attend the relevant instructor course(s). The Panel also recommend that he never be permitted to act as a CCI again.

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

The Chairman pointed out that in the past persons involved in disciplinary action have often been required to contribute to the Panel costs. He stated that this Panel costs have been in excess of £1000 and STC may wish to consider this.

Following consideration by the Committee on this matter, it was proposed by Ronnie O' Brien and seconded by Pete Sizer that STC recommend to the BPA Council that Andy Dixon be required to pay the sum £1000 towards the costs of the above Panel.

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Carried

The Chairman thanked the Panel members for their work on this Panel.

The observers were then asked to return to the meeting.

7. BODY/EQUIPMENT ENTANGLEMENT DRILLS

At the last STC meeting the NCSO & Technical Officer submitted a paper concerning Body/Equipment Entanglement Drills.

STC decided that these drills must be taught during initial RAPStraining courses, but no decision was reached as to whether a standard drill should be taught, or whether it should be left to CCIs.

David Hickling had prepared a paper detailing the various drills taught by the clubs that had replied to a request from him for information. This paper was circulated with the agenda. David Hickling stated that so far only 13 clubs had replied following a request to CCIs for information on what drills are taught around the country, which he felt was a bit disappointing as at the last STC it was decided that entanglement drills should be taught. He asked if those clubs who had not done so could do so that he could re-issue the information.

Following some discussion on this matter it was agreed by those present that a statement be put in the minutes that it is accepted by the Committee that CCIs decide what body/equipment entanglement drills will be currently taught during RAPStraining courses.

8. PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the last STC Meeting Dave Wood stated that he would be making a proposal for this STC Meeting concerning military descents in respect of jump numbers for FAI qualification.

The current rule states that military static line will not count towards an FAI Certificate. Dave believes that military 'square' static line jumps should count, as they are similar to RAPS type jumps. He would therefore like the BPA Operations Manual to be changed as follows:

**SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS),
Paragraph 3 (FAI – British Standard – Certificate –Red), N.B.(1), Change to read:**

N.B.(1) Military static line descents using round/conical parachutes will not qualify in respect of jump numbers.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by David Hickling that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. PERMISSIONS

- a) A letter had been received and circulated to those present from Roy Bannerman, team leader of the Golden Lions, requesting for permission to carry out a display where the area is smaller than the BPA Operation Manual requirements. Mr Bannerman's letter gave full details of the request for the display to be held at Port Patrick in Scotland and also included the names of the team members taking part in the display and their qualifications as follows:-

Roy Bannerman	3000 jumps
Derrick Blyth	2500 jumps
Darren Brown	1100 jumps
John Mikkelsen	750 jumps
Allan Hamilton	535 jumps

It was proposed by Ian Cashman and seconded by Alan Wilkinson that the above permission be accepted under the conditions as set out in Mr Bannerman's letter.

Carried Unanimously

- b) Circulated to those present was a letter from Ian Cashman requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Richard Molloy. Mr Molloy had sustained an injury causing a 6-month lay off from work and he intends to attend the CSI Course in May.

It was proposed by Ian Cashman and seconded by Dave Wood that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c) A letter had been received from Dane Kenny and circulated to those present requesting that Brian McGill's instructor rating be renewed, even though he is short of the required 60 jumps in the previous two years rule. The Committee was advised that Mr McGill had been unable to achieve the required number of descents due to injury. To date, from April 2000 he had made 28 descents, attended an exam course as an examiner last year and is an active member of staff of the Pilgrims Parachute Club and Display Team.

It was proposed by Dane Kenny (proxy) and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- d) Circulated to those present was a letter from Alan Wilkinson requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Graham Harris, to allow him to attend the CSI Course in August. Mr Harris was due to attend the CSI Course in February but due to his work commitments he was now unable to attend this Course or the one in May. It was noted that this would be Mr Harris' third extension to his CSBI Rating.

The Chairman advised those present that a letter of support had been received from Brian Dyas.

It was proposed by Alan Wilkinson and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- e) Mike Rust gave the meeting details of his request that Steve Plank' s instructor ratings be renewed, even though he is short of the required 60 jumps in the previous two years rule.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Pat Walters that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- f) The Chairman gave the Committee details of a request from Nick Everett for a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Christian Hinchliffe.

It was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Mike Rust the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman advised those present that in the past few days he had received a number of requests for permissions to be included that evening. He asked that CCIs try to get in these requests as early as possible so that the information can be circulated with the agenda.

10. A.O.B.

- a) Circulated to those present was a letter from Andy Paddock for Rab Lundie to regain his Category System Instructor rating. Rab' s rating ran out on the 31st March 1997 (5 years ago).

The Committee was advised that Mr Lundie had recently joined the Silver Stars as Team Manager and is a former member of the Golden Lions Free Fall Team and also spent several years on Netheravon senior staff. Rab has at present over 1700 jumps and was an instructor from 1991 to 1997. He now sees an ideal opportunity to regain his rating, which he allowed to lapse through heavy work commitments.

Following some discussion on this item, it was proposed by Andy Paddock and seconded by Ronnie O' Brien that Rab Lundie attend the next available Instructor Course and that he be assessed by the Examiners on the Course as to what rating he gets.

Carried Unanimously

- b) The Chairman asked that any Clubs who are still to send in their Annual Returns for 2001, should do as soon as possible, together with their CAA Permission applications.

Date of next Meeting:- Thursday 11th April 2002
At 7 p.m.
County Arms, Leicester

11th February 2002

Distribution

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