

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2006

Present:

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| John Hitchen | - | Chairman STC |
| Kieran Brady | - | Skydive Strathallan |
| Pat Walters | - | Tilstock |
| Paul Hollow | - | Target Skysports |
| Pete Sizer | - | Headcorn |
| Stuart Meacock | - | PPC |
| Steve Scott | - | Skydive Weston |
| Jason Thompson | - | UK Parachuting |
| Dave Wood | - | Cornish PC |
| Jason Farrant | - | Skydive UK Ltd |
| Mike Rust | - | NLPC |
| John Page | - | Skydive London |
| Doug Peacock | - | Hinton Skydiving |
| Paul Applegate | - | Chairman Riggers Committee |

Apologies: Nigel Allen, Ian Rosenvinge, David Hickling.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Paul Yeoman, Rick Boardman, Phil Elston, Dave Major.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Chairman advised those present of an amendment to Page 2 of the previous minutes concerning the Clearance of Swansea Airport as a DZ/PLA. Item (b) stated *Southern PLA – cleared for Tandem Students and FAI ‘C’ Certificate (Red) holders*. This should have read; *Tandem Students and FAI ‘B’ Certificate (Red) holders*.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 28 September 2006 with the above amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

Page 2, Item 2 – Matters Arising. The Chairman reported that the DZ/PLA at Swansea Airport, cleared as an alternative DZ for the Silver Stars, would now be DZ/PLA for a new Club, to be called Swansea Skydiving. He stated that the Club would operate once it had been Affiliated by Council.

Page 3, Item 3 – Riggers Minutes. At the previous meeting, the Riggers Committee had proposed and accepted a statement regarding the fitting of AADs, which read: *Where AADs*

are to be fitted, both the AAD manufacturer and the rig manufacturer must be in agreement as to the fitting of the AAD, and instructions as to the installation/fitting must be available. This is to take effect by the next re-pack'

This statement had caused a number of problems. Therefore the Riggers Committee had amended the statement at that evening's meeting, to read:

'Where electronic AADs are to be fitted, instructions as to the installation/fitting, acceptable to the AAD manufacturer, must be available. However, it is the responsibility of the installer/fitter to ensure that the manufacturer of neither the AAD or container object'.

Page 3, Item 4 – Fatality, Headcorn. The Chairman advised those present that the Panel of Inquiry that was formed after the Board of Inquiry into the death of David Karley had now completed their Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. The Chairman advised that Mike Rust who had chaired the Panel was also present that evening to answer any possible questions.

The Report summary stated that:

'This accident was very unfortunate and the Panel have come to their conclusions with very careful consideration.

Having studied the notes and questioned staff at the Headcorn Parachute Club, the Panel are unable to make any criticism of the Parachute Club and staff.

However, CCIs and Instructors involved in Student training are reminded to make sure that all Students are aware that not carrying out drills correctly can result in very serious consequences. Also, all CCIs should review their radio student talk-down procedures.'

The Chairman gave members of STC several minutes to read the report, after which he stated that the report needed to be accepted by STC.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by John Page that the Panel of Inquiry Report is accepted

Carried Unanimously

Page 4, Item 5 – Incident/Injury Reports (iii). The Chairman reported that the Association had received no further information regarding the AFF rigs, which had experienced pilot chutes in tow.

Page 12, Item 9 – A.O.B (c). The Chairman reported that Paul Hollow had now assessed Tracey Bartley, as STC agreed, for re-instatement of her CSI rating. She was of an acceptable standard and Paul has endorsed her rating application. Paul Hollow had produced a report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 28 SEPTEMBER 2006

Paul Applegate had reported earlier in the meeting (item 2 – Riggers Minutes) that the Riggers Committee had discussed the subject of fitting AAD's to equipment. He stated that he had nothing else to report to STC.

There being no further matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pat Walters the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 28 September 2006 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had been 8 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 6 male and 2 female. One of the reports was for a Student who became 'light-headed' under canopy and did not make a controlled landing. Suffering minor grazes. The others were all landing injuries, on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 8 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate or above parachutists. All male.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 6 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 5 male & 1 female.
- iv) There had been 22 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 18 male and 4 female.
- v) There had been 15 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. 7 male and 7 female, including an instructor. The majority were minor injuries, or Students feeling unwell or fainting under canopy. One of the injuries was to an experienced parachutist acting as a Student on a Tandem Instructor course. The trainee Tandem Instructor landed incorrectly and the other parachutist fractured a vertebrae.

The Chairman stated that there had been quite a few incident reports this year of Students passing out under canopy. He stated that Tandem Instructors should consider as to whether they were tightening Students leg straps up too tightly.

- vi) There had been 7 Tandem malfunction/deployment problem reports received since the last meeting.
- vii) There had been one report of an AAD firing received. A Category 8 parachutist with 33 jumps, deployed his main parachute low, resulting in his FXC AAD firing.
- viii) Two reports had been received of parachutists catching reserve pins in the aircraft, deploying their pilot chutes. On both occasions the aircraft door was closed. Another report had been received where a parachutist's main pilot chute deployed as he was moving to the door. He exited with his lines out of the container. The parachute deployed without a malfunction.
- ix) One report had been received of a parachutist who lost his camera helmet in freefall.
- x) Eleven reports had been received of 'off landings'. All at Clubs, including a number of Tandems and a Student who landed in a tree.
- xi) One report had been received of a canopy entanglement. The jumpers were carrying out CF.

5. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

The Chairman reported there had been two Instructor courses since the last STC meeting.

a. AFF/Tandem Course – UK Parachuting

The Association wished to thank UK Parachuting, Old Buckenham, for hosting the Course, from the 2nd – 4th October.

A Course report had been circulated with the STC agenda. On the Tandem Course one candidate was unsuccessful because, on the final jump she injured the experienced parachutist acting as a Tandem Student.

The Chairman reported there was one recommendation from the Course that required STC acceptance:

‘That the candidate who failed the Tandem Instructor Course should be required to make a number of jumps acting as a Student, until her Chief Instructor is satisfied that she has the correct perception and is flaring the Tandem canopy at the correct height to give a safe landing. The Chief Instructor has offered to act as the Student, and when he is satisfied with the landings, it is recommended that the candidate be re-evaluated, by an independent Examiner nominated by the NCSO, jumping with an experienced parachutist acting as Student, before being awarded Tandem Instructor status.’

The CCI advised the Committee that the candidate had now made a number of Tandem jumps with himself acting as Student. He was now satisfied that she was ready for evaluation and stated that it was his intention to act as the ‘Student’ when the candidate was evaluated by an independent Examiner.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above recommendation from the Course Examiners be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b. Instructor Course 4/2006 – North London Parachute Centre

The Association wished to thank North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris for hosting the Instructor Course, from the 6th – 16th November. The Course report had been circulated to those present for information. There were no recommendations.

6. PERMISSIONS

- a. Circulated to those present was a letter from Pete Sizer requesting that John ‘Dave’ Hartley be given a six-month extension to his CSBI rating.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Circulated to those present was a letter from Nigel Allen requesting that Daniel Schmidt be given a six-month (second) extension to his CSBI rating, which expired on the 30th August 2006. It was noted that he would also require his CSBI rating re-instated. .

It was proposed by Nigel Allen (proxy) and seconded by John Page that Daniel Schmidt’s CSBI rating be re-instated and that he be given a 6 month extension to his CSBI rating from that evening.

Carried Unanimously

7. A.O.B.

- a. The Chairman stated that the Annual Returns had been circulated with the Agenda. He requested that CCIs complete them and send them to the BPA offices as soon as possible after the end of their jumping year.

- b. The Chairman reminded CCI's that if they have a skydiver at their club who they wished to nominate for the Mike Forge Trophy (New Skydiver of the Year), the nomination needed to be in by the end of the year.
- c. The Chairman advised those present that it was the intention, starting early next year, that STC Agendas and Minutes would be sent electronically to CCIs, DZ Operators etc. However, a hard copy would be sent to the actual clubs.
- d. The Chairman asked CCIs if anyone would be interested in making a presentation at the BPA AGM in January. He stated that if anyone was interested, could they please advise the BPA office by the end of the year at the latest.

The Chairman advised those present that unfortunately, the Chairman of the BPA, Chris Allen, had found it necessary to resign as Chairman, due to heavy work commitments. He stated that he was sure that all of STC would join with him in thanking him for all the work he had done on the memberships behalf over the years and wish him all the best for the future.

The Chairman wished to express his thanks to all CCIs for their support throughout the year and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and he hoped that as many CCIs as possible will attend at the BPA AGM on the 20th January 2007.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 1 February 2007
 At 7 p.m.
 At the BPA offices.

24 November 2006

Distribution:

C. Allen - Chairman BPA
CCI's
Council
All Riggers
Advanced Packers
CAA
Lesley Gale (Editor – Skydive)