

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Steve Thomas	-	C.C.S.P.C
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Nigel Allen	-	A.P.A/J.S.P.C(N)
Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
Mick Nealis	-	Services(NI)
John Page	-	Skydive London
Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting
Mike Rust	-	N.L.P.C
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Mike Bolton	-	L.P.S
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Paul Moore	-	R.A.P.A/J.S.P.C(L)
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
David Hickling	-	B.P.S, Langar
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies: Doug Peacock, Reg Green, Dave Openshaw, Dave Wood, Carl Williams, Kieran Brady.

In Attendance: Tony Butler - Technical Officer

Observers: Hans Donner, Christian Ivory, Ray Brewer, John Carter.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 2 AUGUST 2007

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by David Hickling that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 2 August 2007 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 2 AUGUST 2007

Page 2. (Item 2 – Matters Arising – Bridlington Panel of Inquiry). The Chairman stated that it was reported at the last meeting that the Tribunal, following the Panel of Inquiry into the fatality at Bridlington, had been set up. The Tribunal took place on the 6 August 2007 and made the following decisions:

‘That the DZ Operator and Jumpmaster, be sent a letter reminding him of his responsibilities as a DZ Operator. That he be banned from acting as a DZ Operator for a period of 12 months. That he be banned from acting as a Jumpmaster or carrying out flight line checks for a period of 12 months.

The CCI and CCP, has his Advanced Instructor rating removed and is prevented from reapplying for a period of 2 years, at which time he must attend both parts of the Advanced Instructor Course. That his Pilot Examiners rating is removed for a period of 12 months and that his Club Chief Pilot position is removed for a period of 12 months.

That his CSI and AFF ratings were reinstated under the following conditions: That he may not carry out any parachuting activities without a BPA Advanced Instructor being physically present on the DZ. (This restriction does not apply to ground school, but does apply to positions such as DZ controller and any and all aerial activities, including flying).

That the Pilot of the aircraft at the time of the fatality has a life ban from all BPA parachute flying activities.

With regard to the DZ Controller, the Tribunal was troubled by his lack of concern to ensure that he was insured at the time. Although his membership application was submitted to the BPA offices 2 days after the incident, no actual breach of BPA rules could be attributed to him. Therefore no disciplinary action was taken.

All periods of disciplinary action were from the date of the incident, 7 March 2007'.

The Chairman informed those present that the pilot has notified the Association that he wishes to appeal the decision.

Mick Nealis queried the right of the pilot from appealing, as he was not a BPA member.

Page 4. (Item 6 - Shropshire Display Panel of Inquiry). The Panel of Inquiry was a main agenda item.

Page 5. (Item 9 – A.O.B - a). The Chairman stated that it had been agreed that STC would be updated with regard to Paul Hollow's progress. Paul Hollow, who was present at the meeting, stated that he was now back at work full time and he hopes that he would be jumping again by late spring next year. Paul thanked the Committee for their support following his injury and also thanked Gary Small and the staff at Hilbaldstow for their help during that period.

Page 6. (Item 9 - A.O.B – b). The Chairman informed those present that at the last meeting Dave Wood (Cornish Parachute Club) requested that RAF St Mawgan Airfield, Cornwall, be cleared for FAI 'C' Certificate holders and Tandem parachutists only. This request was for a temporary clearance only. STC agreed that subject to successful inspection by the NSO, TO or nominated examiner, the airfield could be cleared for six months from the end of September. The Technical Officer inspected the airfield on the 4 September and cleared two areas for use by Tandem parachutists and FAI 'C' Certificate jumpers, or above. The locations are; OS Sheet 200, Grid ref: 872 646 and OS Sheet 200, Grid ref: 856 641.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 2 AUGUST 2007

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 2 August 2007 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman of the Riggers Committee had nothing significant to report on the Riggers Meeting held that afternoon.

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There were 22 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 16 male and 6 female. 2 involved Students who passed out under canopy until landing. One landed on a caravan, breaking an ankle and the other landed on the PLA, cutting his lip and bruising his nose. 2 more involved Students who dislocated their shoulders in freefall. One was an AFF Student; the instructor deployed his main canopy. The Student deployed the reserve on the other. All landing injuries were on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There were 9 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 6 male and 3 female. One involved a free flyer that collided with a cameraman filming a 4-way Freefly jump. The cameraman was uninjured, but the Freefly jumper broke his nose and fractured a vertebra. Another involved a jumper who injured his shoulder during exit. The rest were landing injuries.
- iii) Since the last meeting there were 9 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 8 male and 1 female. 2 of the problems were Students becoming entangled with equipment, causing malfunctions. One was a clean cutaway, the other involved the Student cutting away and deploying the reserve whilst still attached to the main, with the reserve deploying into the main. Fortunately the reserve fully deployed.
- iv) There were 43 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 34 male and 9 female.
- v) There were 18 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. 7 male and 11 female. 3 were Students who dislocated their shoulders in freefall. The Chairman stated that these types of injury are happening on a regular basis. The Medical form already states that 'recurrent weakness or dislocation of any limb' may lead to a dangerous situation. If a Tandem Student has had a dislocated shoulder before, it may be better if they keep their arms crossed. Four of the injuries were to the Tandem Instructors, 3 of which were minor. The remaining injuries, to Students, were mostly landing injuries.

The serious Instructor injury occurred due to a malfunction, where the inner drogue bridle line broke. The reserve was deployed, but the main still being attached resulted in the two canopies flying, at times in a 'down-plane' configuration. The instructor was unable to release the main, resulting in a very hard landing. The instructor sustained extensive back injuries and the Student broke his ankle and wrist. The Chairman stated that he was sure the Committee would wish to send their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

Nigel Allen gave further details regarding the above incident and stated that he felt the Tandem Emergencies Aide Memoir may need updating with regard to some procedures. This generated a great deal of discussion as to the different drills for various problems/malfunctions. It was generally felt that because of the number of different Tandem rigs in use, the whole subject of emergency procedures for the different equipment needed looking into. Discussion also took place regarding the packing and maintenance of Tandem equipment, considering the hard use this type of equipment receives.

Following further, in-depth discussion, the Chairman stated that he would convene a Working Group to consider these aspects of Tandem Parachuting.

There were a further 9 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received. 3 of them were brake toggles becoming stuck (locked on) and a number with tension knots. After a cutaway from a malfunction, one of the reports noted that a line on the reserve canopy snagged around one of the 'L' brackets connecting the lines and riser, causing a rotation. This was eventually cleared by 2000ft.

Finally, a Tandem jump was being carried out from a Skyvan. The tailgate retaining clip had not been correctly closed, resulting in the tailgate descending towards the Tandem videoman. He left immediately without a problem, shouted to the Tandem pair to exit straight away, which they did. However, the Tandem Instructor did not deploy his drogue and remained in freefall until he deployed the reserve. There was no clear explanation for the instructor's actions. He has since given up his instructor ratings. David Hickling was able to advise the meeting of the problem regarding the tailgate retaining pin.

- vi) There were 2 reports received of AAD firings. One involved a 'first time' Student Parachutist who had a bad exit, and whose arms went through the rigging lines, resulting in a distorted canopy. The Student did not carry out his reserve drills until approximately 1,000 ft. after which his AAD fired. The second involved an instructor whose AAD fired in the aircraft, whilst it was descending, after dispatching Students.
- vii) One report was received of a canopy entanglement, during a CF jump.
- viii) Six reports were received of 'off landings', all at clubs.
- ix) There were 3 reports received involving aircraft. The first involved a Nomad aircraft that had an engine failure and landed with 13 people on board. The aircraft had insufficient reverse power and braking and overran the runway. It came to rest in an adjacent field. Some of those on board sustained some minor injuries, sprains, bruising etc.

Another report involved the Perspex sliding door window on an Islander popping out when it was being opened. The final report was an aircraft 'near miss' where an aircraft over flew a DZ and went between two groups of skydivers.

5. SHROPSHIRE DISPLAY PANEL OF INQUIRY

The Panel of Inquiry Report following the Board of Inquiry into the fatal accident of Iain Firkins had been circulated to CCIs with the agenda.

The Panel was 'chaired' by Reg Green, who unfortunately could not be present at the meeting, as he was out of the country. However, the other two Panel members, Steve Scott and Jason Thompson were present and were able to answer questions. The display team leader, was also present.

The Chairman informed those present that the report needed to be accepted by STC and that the various recommendations could be voted on separately.

It was then proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Mike Rust that the Panel of Inquiry Report be accepted.

For: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (John Page)

Carried

The Panel had made a number of recommendations that would result in changes to the Display Section of the Operations Manual. The recommendations were:

- a. Team Members. All team members are to revalidate as per the BPA Operations manual section 13, paragraph 3.2 – 3.3 from the 31st March every year and this must be recorded in the parachutists log and signed by the Team Leader and CCI.

Section 13 (Displays), Paragraph 3.2. (FAI ‘C’ Certificate Holders), sub-para 3.2.1. Change to read:

- 3.2.1. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 5 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist’s log and signed by a team leader or CCI.

Section 13 (Displays), Paragraph 3.3. (FAI ‘B’ Certificate Holders), sub-para 3.3.1. Change to read:

- 3.3.1. Must have a minimum of 100 descents. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 10 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist’s log and signed by a team leader or CCI.

After some discussion, it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by David Hickling that the above amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Currency. All display parachutists must have completed a minimum of 100 descents in the 2 years prior to the display being carried out, of which 20 must have been within the 3 months prior to the display, of which 5 of them must be on the same canopy and size which is to be used on the parachute display.

Section 13 (Displays), Paragraph 7 (Currency), sub-para 7.2. Change to read:

- 7.2. All display parachutists must have completed a minimum of 100 descents in the 2 years prior to the display being carried out, of which 20 must have been within the 3 months prior to the display and of which 5 of the 20 must have been on the same type and size of canopy which is to be used on the display.

Some further discussion took place, after which it was proposed by John Page and seconded by Steve Thomas that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Discussion then took place with regard to the implementation dates for the above amendments. After discussion it was decided that the amendments to Section 13, Paragraphs 3.2.1. and 3.3.1. at (a) above, would start from the 1st January 2008 and that the amendments to Section 13, Paragraph 7.2. at (b) above, would take effect immediately.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by John Page that the above be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Panel also made a recommendation regarding the team leader:

- c. Disciplinary Action. The Panel recommended disciplinary action should be considered regarding that of the Team Leader.

At this stage the Chairman asked the observers to leave. The Team Leader made a number of points, but the Chairman informed him that these points should be put to the Tribunal.

At this time there was some confusion as to whether STC should be voting regarding the implementation of a Tribunal. The team leader was asked to leave whilst this was discussed further. During discussion it was pointed out by John Page that the BPA Procedures for a Tribunal did require STC to request that it be convened.

It was therefore proposed by Mick Nealis and seconded by Pete Sizer that a Tribunal be convened to consider disciplinary action regarding the team leader.

For: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (John Page)

Carried

Discussion regarding the Tribunal system then took place. It was generally felt by the majority of those present that the system appeared to be over complicated and generally unwieldy and it was felt that Council should review the system.

At this stage the team leader and observers were invited to return.

The Chairman thanked the Panel members for the work carried out on the Association's behalf.

6. CORONER RECOMMENDATIONS – 2006 HEADCORN FATALITY

The Chairman stated that following the Inquest into the Death of David Karley, which took place on the 13 August 2007, the Coroner made a number of recommendations, to both the Headcorn Parachute Club and the BPA.

Details of the Coroner's recommendations had been sent out with the agenda. The Chairman informed the meeting that they would be discussed individually:

- a. *Consideration be given to amending the training documents handed to novice parachutists to provide a clearer explanation of the difference between twists in lines and other more serious problems to reduce any chance of the two being confused.*

The Chairman stated that the Association already requires that Clubs separate 'Nuisance Factors', which includes 'twists' so that they are not part of the introduction to the 'Malfunctions' lesson, specifically to reduce the chances of confusion.

- b. *The Coroner recommended that the written examination undertaken by novice parachutists to include the question "What should you do to correct twists in the lines?".*

The Chairman stated that most Clubs already have a question on the written examination papers of a similar nature. However, Clubs should review the content of their examination papers and satisfy themselves that the subject is adequately covered.

- c. *The Coroner recommended that Headcorn Parachute Club's talk down and jumping procedures be amended to state that novice parachutists who experience any problem with their parachute deployment, be they nuisances or malfunctions, should be*

continually observed by the ground instructor in charge of the jumps and radio instruction given as appropriate until the problem is resolved and that subsequent jumps from the aeroplane should be delayed until that time.

Pete Sizer was able give the meeting details of the actions taken by Headcorn in response to the Coroner's recommendation.

- d. *Consideration should be given to the instructor in the aeroplane overseeing the jumps having an established line of communication with the ground through the pilot particularly for the reporting of any parachute issue for novice parachutists.*

The Chairman informed those present that that instructors dispatching Student Parachutists already have an established line of communication with the ground through the pilot for the reporting of any parachute issue for novice parachutists. Also, no Student parachuting may take place if radio communication is lost.

- e. *Headcorn Parachute Club and any other parachute clubs that have a large distance between their telemeters and the land zone positions should seek to establish at least one other non-radio means of communication between them in order to make best use of the ground to parachutists radio contact.*

Pete Sizer gave those present details of Headcorn's procedures. The Chairman stated that Clubs should ensure that there is an effective method of communication between the DZ controller and the person carrying out radio talk down, if they are different persons.

7. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

The Chairman stated that most members are aware of the problems Ian Rosenvinge has had at Peterlee regarding wind turbines. Ian stated that he would like the Operations Manual to make some reference to obstacles over 90metres AGL. Ian stated that obstacles of 90metres or higher AGL are considered by the CAA to be enroute Air Obstacles. They also pose a significant risk to parachutists in that in an emergency situation, such as an AAD fire or self pull at 750ft. Falling parachutists may not yet have had the opportunity to take control of their canopies and so avoid them. Ian also stated that the company wishing to have the wind turbines erected at Peterlee had already quoted that there is no reference to such in the Operations Manual and accordingly see no reason why they should not construct two 111metre high wind turbines within the Peterlee DZ. Therefore Ian requested that the **BPA Operation Manual, Section 7 (Parachuting Landing Areas/Dropping Zones) be amended to include a new paragraph 1.9 (Aerial Hazard), to read:**

1.9. Aerial Hazard

This is a hazard, which could carry special risks to parachutists and other aviators. Obstacles in excess of 90 metres AGL, such as large wind turbines or radio masts, which protrude in to airspace, are classified as aerial hazards. These hazards are not permitted within the PLA and if located within the DZ, restrictions would likely be placed on the parachuting operation.

It was then proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Nigel Allen that amendment be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

The Chairman informed those present that there had been two instructor courses held since the last STC meeting.

- i) The first was Instructor Course 3/2007, held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, from the 30 July – 8 August. The Association were grateful to Target for hosting the course. The Course Report went out with the agenda. He stated that there were recommendations that need to be accepted:

It was then proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Steve Thomas that Tony Kirk-Burgess and David Hartley are given six-month extensions to their Category System Basic Instructor ratings.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) The second course was an AFF & Tandem Course held at North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris, which took place from the 17 – 21 September. The Association thanked the Centre for hosting the Course. However, because of poor weather, none of the candidates were able to complete all of their jumps during the week.

At the time of the meeting, only five candidates had successfully completed their jumps and been awarded their ratings:

AFF: Andy Braye, JSPC (Netheravon & Red Devils), Claire Scott and Phil Hartree, (Skydive Weston). Tandem: Ali Milne, BPS Langar and Chris Southworth, Target Skysports.

9. PERMISSIONS

The Chairman stated that an e-mail had been received from Doug Peacock, who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting, requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Sally Uren, which expires on the 30 November. Sally wishes to attend the next available AFFI course, of which there are no more planned this year. The next course is in the New Year.

It was then proposed by Doug Peacock (proxy) and seconded by Steve Scott that the above be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

10. A.O.B.

- i) The Chairman stated that Dave Openshaw had written informing STC of two minor hazards on part of the PLA at Bad Lippspringe. These minor hazards have been on the PLA for some time. One is a small fence around a football pitch and the other is the 'swoop' pond. Paul Moore informed those present that the fence was less than a metre in height. The Chairman stated that it is a requirement that the BPA are informed of changes to the PLA/DZ. He stated that Dave has also altered his Club SOPs requiring all parachutists below FAI 'B' Certificate, or foreign equivalent, to have suitable flotation aids. This changed restriction is more onerous than the previous restriction. Therefore, none of the above needed STC approval, but is for information.
- ii) Mike Bolton stated that he was considering proposing at the next STC meeting that the present requirement that Category System students may be converted from ripcord

to throwaway be brought down from the current Category 8 requirement to possibly Category 6. Mike stated that he wished to obtain an opinion with regard to the Committee's thoughts on the matter. There did not appear to be significant opposition and it was suggested that Mike submits his proposal for the next meeting.

Dates of next Meeting: Thursday 22 November 2007
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

28 September 2007

Distribution:

Chairman BPA
Council
CCIs
All Riggers
Advanced Packers
CAA
Lesley Gale (Editor – Skydive)
File

AMENDMENTS TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC Meeting of the 27th September 2007, the following Sections of the BPA Operations Manual were amended as follows:

SECTION 7 (PARACHUTING LANDING AREAS/DROPPING ZONES, New Paragraph 1.9. to read:

1.9. Aerial Hazard

This is a hazard, which could carry special risks to parachutists and other aviators. Obstacles in excess of 90 metres AGL, such as large wind turbines or radio masts, which protrude in to airspace, are classified as aerial hazards. These hazards are not permitted within the PLA and if located within the DZ, restrictions would likely be place on the parachuting operation.

SECTION 13 (DISPLAYS), Paragraph 3.2. (FAI ‘C’ Certificate Holders), sub-para 3.2.1. Change to read:

3.2.1. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 5 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist’s log and signed by a team leader or CCI.

SECTION 13 (DISPLAYS), Paragraph 3.3. (FAI ‘B’ Certificate Holders), sub-para 3.3.1. Change to read:

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SECTION 13 (DISPLAYS), Paragraph 7 (Currency), sub-para 7.2. Change to read:

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