

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2010

Present:

John Page	-	Vice-Chairman STC
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
Nigel Allen	-	South Coast
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Chris McCann	-	UK Para (Sibson)
Jason Farrant	-	Skydive UK
Jason Thompson	-	UK Para (Beccles)
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
Andy Goodall	-	JSPC (N)
Paul Hollow	-	Hibaldstow
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Paul Applegate	-	Chairman Riggers

Apologies: John Hitchen, Pat Walters, Jim White, Alan Wilkinson, Dave Wood, Mike Bolton, Pete Sizer, Matty Holford, Andy Clark, Carl Williams.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Dave Howerski, Maddy Heath-Kelly, Les Cooper, Gordon Blamire, Rick Boardman.

ITEM

In the absence of John Hitchen, Vice-Chairman of STC, John Page took the Chair for this meeting.

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 8 APRIL 2010

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Dane Kenny that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 8 April 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 8 APRIL 2010

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – (Incident Reports). The Working Group looking into the qualifications and training of pilots flying foreign registered aircraft had still to complete their report. Kieran Brady stated that he had discussed various aspects of the report with several people and that shortly he would be circulating a paper to CCIs asking for input.

Page 2, Item 2, Matters Arising – (AOBii). Mike Rust reported that the TAFF system had now begun. He stated that the results were very small at the moment, but it was looking good for the future.

Page 3, Item 5, (Proposed Changes to the BPA Operations Manual). The item relating to Foreign (Non- BPA Instructors was a main agenda item). The TO reported that this had been brought to STC because a British citizen with a foreign Tandem rating had indicated that he would initiating proceedings against the BPA under the Race Relations act, in that he was being treated unfairly to foreign instructors. On advice and in consultation with the BPA Chairman, it had been decided to write to the instructor concerned and permit him to be assessed as per the requirements (at the time) for foreign instructors.

Page 5, Item 8 – (A.O.B.c). The NSCO and TO had checked the suitability of the binoculars when they carried out the Club inspection/audit at Skydive South Coast last week and they believe that they are suitable for the task.

Page 6, Item 8 – (A.O.B.d). Mike Rust reported that the Centre had not completed the feasibility of the static line hang-up situation as yet, but hoped to do so shortly.

Page 7, Item 8 – (A.O.B.i). Mike Rust reported that he had spoken to the manufacturers with regard to the Next Tandem Drills. He stated that the manufacturers were happy with the BPA drills, but with one minor amendment. An amended Form 204(d) would be circulated to CCIs with the Minutes and the Tandem Instructor Manual would also be updated.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 8 APRIL 2010

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee meeting of the 8 April 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate stated that he had nothing to report from the meeting held that evening.

4. FATALITY - LANGAR

The Vice-Chairman reported that it was with great regret that he had to advise STC of a double fatality, at British Parachute Schools, Langar, which occurred on Friday 4 June. The parachutists involved were Brian Laithwaite and Emma Bramley.

At about 3.30 p.m. Brian and Emma took part in a 6-way FS jump from about 13,000ft. The freefall portion of the jump went without incident. At approximately 4,500ft the 6-way separated, tracked away and deployed their canopies. All canopies were open higher than 2,000ft AGL and all canopies appeared to be fully deployed. Shortly after deployment Brian and Emma's canopies were seen to collide. It appeared that Emma's parachute initially wrapped around the lower part of Brian's body, which caused her canopy to collapse and become further entangled.

Emma was seen to be rotating below Brian. At about this time a reserve canopy was observed to have been deployed, but did not inflate. The only fully inflated canopy to be seen was Brian's main canopy. The other canopies appeared to be severally entangled.

Initially Brian's main canopy was observed to be flying correctly. However, at a height of between 100-200ft Brian's canopy appeared to dive towards to ground and remained like that until impact.

A BPA Board of Inquiry was immediately instigated and consisted of the NCSO and Technical Officer.

When the equipment was examined, Brian's reserve canopy had been deployed, however, neither his cutaway pad or reserve handle had been pulled. Emma's reserve was partially deployed, but the majority of it remained in the free-bag. Emma's cutaway pad was still in place, but was off the Velcro and the Teflon cable had moved approximately 2 inches. Her reserve ripcord could not be found.

The equipment was severely entangled. Both reserve bridle and deployment bags were wrapped around Emma's main canopy and Emma's main bridle and deployment bag were through Brian's reserve lines.

A resume of the Board of Inquiry report will be presented at the next STC meeting.

The Vice-Chairman and members of STC expressed their sincere condolences to the family and friends of both Brian and Emma.

5. INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME (Previously Agenda Item 4)

- i) There had been 23 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 15 male and 8 female. Two were Students who dislocated their shoulders, one possibly in freefall and the other on deployment. One Student twisted a knee exiting an aircraft mock-up. One felt light-headed and distressed in the aircraft and landed with the plane. One hurt her neck on deployment. All others were landing injuries.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 21 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, 13 male and 8 female. There had been a couple where the parachutists had been badly injured. One involved an experienced jumper who had a pilot chute in tow. He deployed his reserve, which opened fully. The main then inflated and became entangled with the reserve. He then cutaway his main, but the main bridle snagged with the reserve slider, which collapsed most of the reserve canopy. He landed with very little canopy. He sustained serious injuries. Another was an experienced jumper who carried out a low turn, also sustaining serious injury, which may result in a leg being amputated. Two reports involved mid-air collisions, one resulted in a dislocated shoulder, the other resulted in a damaged shoulder. One report involved a jumper who hit the aircraft doorframe on exit and broke or dislocated his shoulder. Another jumper broke a finger carrying out FS points and another jumper, an instructor, caught her head on a static line whilst dispatching, causing a cut. The remaining reports were landing injuries.
- iii) There had been 16 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 13 male and 3 female.
- iv) There had also been 46 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 40 male and 6 female. One involved a jumper landing his canopy and then noticing that the connector link had come open and bent, the lines had just remained attached. Another involved a jumper who landed his canopy and noticed that a rear riser suspension line had become unattached.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 17 Tandem Injury Reports received, including an instructor who had a hard opening. 7 male and 10 female.
- vi) There had also been 14 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received. Two from the same instructor. This instructor has made approximately 1,050

Tandem descents since gaining his rating and has had 8 malfunctions. This works out to be one every 130 Tandem jumps. The national average is about one every 620 Tandem jumps. This is around 5 times the national average. This has been discussed with the CCI of the instructor concerned and his CCI had written to the BPA stating that he had reviewed all the reports and the majority of them were dissimilar in nature. He has carried out a number of actions and requested that he be permitted to manage the issue at this time. He believed that the instructor had been very unlucky and neither he nor the instructor took the issue lightly. The situation will continue to be monitored.

There followed some discussion with regard to this matter and much concern was expressed by those present. However, there was no objection raised by those present to the CCIs request that he continue to manage situation.

- vii) One report had been received of an AAD fire. A Student deployed his main canopy low, at which time the Cypres also fired.
- viii) There had been 10 reports received of 'off landings' at clubs.
- ix) One report had been received of a camera coming off in freefall and of a camera helmet coming off.

6. NON BPA INSTRUCTORS (Previously Agenda Item 5)

The Vice-Chairman reported that at the last STC meeting a proposal had been put forward to amend the Operations Manual with regard to foreign instructors. The proposal failed to attract support. Therefore, Mike Rust had agreed to submit a revised proposal for this meeting. Mike's proposal had been circulated with the agenda, together with proposed non BPA AFF and Tandem Instructor syllabus forms and proficiency forms. Mike was able to provide the meeting with further details:

It had been proposed that the BPA Operations Manual, Section 4 (Instructors), Paragraph 12 (Foreign Instructors), be changed to read:

12. NON BPA INSTRUCTORS

Non BPA rated AFF and/or Tandem Instructors wishing to make AFF or Tandem instructional descents at BPA Affiliated Clubs must be 'full' members of the BPA, have a good knowledge of the English language, successfully complete a written examination on the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual, have received a Methods of Instruction and a BPA Incident Procedures lecture, given by at least a BPA Advanced Instructor. Prepared and delivered (to a CCI) the relevant 'ground school' for the rating being applied for. Have a written recommendation from a CCI prior to attending a BPA Tandem and/or AFF Instructor Conversion Course. Successfully carry out the relevant 'ground school' on the course and be evaluated in air as directed by the Instructor Examiners on the course (at least two descents). He/she must also fulfil the specific requirements to attend, below:

12.1. Accelerated Free Fall

- 12.1.1. Hold an current AFF instructor rating acceptable to the sport parachuting governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained.
- 12.1.2. Hold a current BPA Declaration of Fitness to Parachute/Doctors Certificate (BPA form 114).

- 12.1.3. Have completed a Foreign AFF Proficiency card (BPA Form 254a).
- 12.1.4. Hold a current Parachuting Aeronautical Ground Radio Operators Licence.
- 12.1.5. Hold a BPA Canopy Handling (CH) coach qualification.
- 12.1.6. Have a minimum of 100 AFF instructional descents.
- 12.1.7. Have at least 1,000 descents and 10 hours of free fall time.

12.2. Tandem

- 12.2.1. Hold a current Tandem instructor rating acceptable to the sport parachuting governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained.
- 12.2.2. Hold a current BPA Tandem Instructor Medical Certificate (BPA form 116).
- 12.2.3. Hold a BPA packing certificate for the main Tandem parachute to be evaluated on.
- 12.2.4. Have completed a Foreign Tandem Proficiency card (BPA Form 254b).
- 12.2.5. Have a minimum of 100 Tandem instructional descents.
- 12.2.6. Have at least 800 descents and 8 hours of free fall time.

N.B(1). Following successful completion of the above the instructor will be awarded a BPA Tandem and/or AFF rating as applicable.

N.B(2). Non BPA AFF Instructor Syllabus may be found on BPA Form 153a.

N.B(3). Non BPA Tandem Instructor Syllabus may be found on BPA Form 153b.

N.B(4). Other BPA instructor ratings such as Advanced Instructor do not have non-BPA equivalents, therefore non BPA instructors wishing to obtain ratings other than AFF or Tandem must complete the appropriate BPA course(s).

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted, together with the Syllabus and proficiency forms (Forms: 153a, 153b, 254a & 254b).

Carried Unanimously

The TO pointed out that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manuals would not affect those foreign rated instructors already in the BPA system.

Mike Rust asked STC to join with him in expressing his thanks to Gary Small for all the work that he had also contributed to this item.

7. INSTRUCTOR COURSES (Previously Agenda Item 6)

a. AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course – Target Skysports

The Association wished to thank Target Skysports, Hibaldstow for hosting the course, which took place from the 26 – 28 April. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.

b. Tandem Instructor Course - Cyprus

The Association wished to thank the Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Centre, for hosting the course, which took place from the 3 – 7 May. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.

c. Instructor Course 2/2010 – Skydive Strathallan

Again the Association wished to thank Skydive Strathallan for hosting the course, which took place from the 17 – 25 May. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.

8. PERMISSIONS (Previously Agenda Item 7)

a. A letter from Mike Rust had been circulated with the agenda requesting a six-month extension to the BI rating of Glen Staley.

Mike Rust had advised that Glen was booked onto the November CSI Course, but due to work commitments he unfortunately been unable to attend an earlier course.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above permission be accepted

Carried Unanimously

b. A letter from Andy Goodall had been circulated with the agenda requesting permission for three named BPA members to carry out a parachute display into an arena that is less than 50 metres wide.

Andy Goodall advised those present that he had now withdrawn this request as the display in question was no longer taking place.

c. A second letter from Andy Goodall had also been circulated with the agenda requesting an extension to the CSBI rating of Spencer Hogg whose rating had expired on 31 May 2010. Andy had stated that Spencer could not attend a CSI course sooner due to military commitments. Andy had requested the extension of Spencer's CSBI rating until the CSI course in November 2010.

It was proposed by Andy Goodall and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. A.O.B (Previously Agenda Item 8)

a. A letter from Nigel Allen had been previously circulated with the agenda giving details of two additional minor hazards within the PLA at Old Sarum Airfield. A

wooden fence 80 metres inwards from the southern side of the PLA and a small packing tent that is to be erected.

Also, Skydive South Coast had a restriction that they may only operate when an Advanced Instructor was present, which they would like removed. Nigel's letter had given further details of the request.

The Committee were advised that the NCSO and the TO had carried out an inspection/audit on the 3 June and they had raised no objection to the request and believe the additional minor hazards should have no significant effects on the operation.

Following some discussion it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above requests be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Circulated to those present was a letter from Steve Scott requesting an exemption to the age requirements for initial parachute pilot training. Steve gave the meeting further details of his request and stated that he was 56 years of age and had 440 hours flying and had held a PPL SEP since 2005.

To a question raised by Kieran Brady as to whether Steve had completed any training while he was still 55. Steve stated that he had not.

It was proposed by Steve Scott and seconded by Mike Rust that the above request be accepted.

For: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Kieran Brady & Phil Cavanagh)

Carried

- c. Circulated to those present was a letter from Jason Thompson seeking advice as to how Steve Taylor could regain his BPA AFF rating. Steve's rating had expired on the 31 March 2005.

Jason Thompson reported that Steve was currently working full time as an AFF Instructor in San Diego. He had completed over 10,000 jumps. 5,000 of these were AFF. He was currently doing 500+ AFF jumps per year.

Jason stated that Steve would be coming over to the UK at various times during the year and then in 2011 he would be back in the UK full time.

The Committee noted Steve's experience. However, it was felt by those present that 5 years was a long period of time not to have held a BPA rating and they needed to be sure that Steve was fully up to date with current BPA requirements prior to regaining a BPA rating.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Dane Kenny and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that prior to Steve Taylor being reinstated as a BPA AFF Instructor he be evaluated on the contents of the BPA Operations Manual and assessed on his AFF ground school by an independent BPA Examiner nominated by the NCSO or TO.

Carried Unanimously

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 August 2010
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

11 June 2010

Distribution:

Chairman BPA

Council

CCIs

All Riggers

Advanced Packers

CAA

Lesley Gale (Editor – Skydive)

File

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 10th June 2010 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 12 (Non BPA Instructors). Change to read:

13. NON BPA INSTRUCTORS

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12.2.2. Hold a current BPA Tandem Instructor Medical Certificate (BPA form 116).

12.2.3. Hold a BPA packing certificate for the main Tandem parachute to be evaluated on.

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12.2.6. Have at least 800 descents and 8 hours of free fall time.

N.B(1). Following successful completion of the above the instructor will be awarded a BPA Tandem and/or AFF rating as applicable.

N.B(2). Non BPA AFF Instructor Syllabus may be found on BPA Form 153a.

N.B(3). Non BPA Tandem Instructor Syllabus may be found on BPA Form 153b.

N.B(4). Other BPA instructor ratings such as Advanced Instructor do not have non-BPA equivalents, therefore non BPA instructors wishing to obtain ratings other than AFF or Tandem must complete the appropriate BPA course(s).