

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2008

<u>Present:</u>	John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
	Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
	Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
	Stuart Meacock	-	Skydive Airkix
	Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
	John Page	-	Skydive London
	Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting
	Mike Rust	-	NLPC
	Ray Armstrong	-	Skydive Brid
	Chris McCann	-	BPS, Langar
	Tony Goodman	-	Silver Stars
	Dave Wood	-	Cornish PC
	Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
	Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
	Nigel Allen	-	JSPC (N)/APA
	Doug Peacock (<i>from item 4</i>)	-	Hinton Skydiving
	Ian Rosenvinge (<i>from item 4</i>)	-	Peterlee
	Dave Skinner (<i>from item 6d</i>)	-	LPS
	Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies: Mark Tether, Dennis Buchanan, Dave Hickling (Chris McCann represented Dave at the meeting), Andy Montriou, Dane Kenny, Carl Williams, Jason Farrant.

<u>In Attendance:</u>	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Dave Major, Rick Boardman, Phill Elston, Chris Gilmore, Mick Nealis, Martin Harris, Paul Yeoman, Hans Donner.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 7 FEBRUARY 2008

With a correction to the Minutes to add Phil Cavanagh to the list of those present, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Paul Hollow that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 7 February 2008 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 7 FEBRUARY 2008

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – Tandem Working Group. The Chairman advised those present that the Tandem Working Group had held another meeting that afternoon. Mike Rust reported on the areas that the Working Group had been looking at and stated that they had produced Tandem Emergency Sheets for all types of Tandem rigs used in the UK. He stated that they should have a number of proposals for consideration by STC at the next meeting.

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – Shropshire Display Fatality. The Chairman reported that the Tribunal to consider the Panel of Inquiry recommendations was held on the 28 February 2008. The Panel had concluded that a number of Breaches of the BPA Operations Manual had taken place. The Tribunal had decided that one breach had been proven: BPA Operations Manual, Section 13, Paragraph 7, sub paras 7.1-7.2

7.1. *Team Leaders are responsible for ensuring the currency of all team members, prior to any display.*

7.2. *All display parachutists must have completed a minimum of 60 descents in the 2 years prior to the display being carried out, of which 10 must have been within the 3 months prior to the display.*

The Tribunal decided on the following disciplinary action with regard to the Team Leader:

- a. That the team leader be suspended from taking part in parachute displays, or holding any position of authority within a display team including that of team leader, jumpmaster, display jumper or DZ controller, for a period of five years, from the 28 February 2008.
- b. That the team leader's instructor rating be suspended until he attends the formal lessons on a Basic Instructors' Course. No BPA fee to be charged
- c. That the team leader pays the travel costs of the Board, the Panel of Inquiry and the Tribunal (£1,043.41) within twelve months of the 28 February 2008.

The Chairman reported that the team leader had since indicated that he wished to appeal against the decision of the Tribunal.

The Tribunal Chairman, Mick Nealis was present at the meeting to answer any questions relating to the Tribunal.

Page 4, Item 6, Oxygen Requirements. This subject was being dealt with as a main agenda item.

Page 4, Item 7a, Permissions. The Chairman reported that following concerns raised by a member of Council with regard to the decision made at the last STC for an exemption for a pilot aged over 70, he had written to Clubs clarifying the arrangements for consideration of such exemptions. In the letter he had explained that applications for similar exemptions made to STC would require advice to be sought from the BPA Medical Adviser and at least two Pilot Examiners support. He also stated that this rule would be covered in the new Pilots Manual, which was due to be submitted for STC approval shortly.

Page 5, Item 7b, Permissions. The Chairman reported that the foreign Tandem Instructor given permission to attend the Netheravon Instructor Course to obtain a BPA rating had not turned up for the Course.

Page 5, Item 8 - A.O.B. The Chairman advised those present that the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) had recently issued a newsletter, a copy of which had been circulated to those present giving an update with regard to progress so far. The Chairman stated that it appeared the implementation date would now be 12 October 2009 and that STC would be kept advised on any further information on this subject as we received it.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 7 FEBRUARY 2008

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 7 February 2008 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate stated that he had nothing to report from the Meeting held that afternoon.

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had been 20 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 14 male and 6 female. 2 of the injuries were on exit or deployment. The remaining 18 were landing injuries.
- ii) There had been 8 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate or above parachutists. 5 male and 3 female. All were landing injuries.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 6 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. All male.
- iv) There had been 23 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 18 male and 5 female.
- v) There had been 3 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. 1 male and 2 female. There had also been 2 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problems reports received.

There had also been a Tandem incident where a Tandem pair landed at the base of cliffs very close to the sea. Both the NCSO and Technical Officer visited the Club concerned. It was felt that the problem most likely occurred due to Instructor error. However, in an attempt to prevent a similar occurrence, the CCI had made a number of changes to procedures:

- a. A WDI will be thrown prior to the first Tandem lift of the day at a predicted opening point, if the wind conditions are above 10kts, from the inland quadrant of 070° round to 270°. The WDI should help to check the current wind strength and direction. This will assist the centre staff in confirming the current wind conditions, which are predicted on the Met office spot wind sheet.
- b. The position and stowage of the floatation aids for tandems are to be reassessed.
- c. When the wind is in the quadrant 070°- 270° no visiting Tandem Instructors or visiting jumpers will be on the first lift of the day.
- d. All visiting Tandem instructors are to be fully briefed on local wind conditions and made aware of their responsibilities regarding floatation aids.
- e. Jumpmasters, where feasible, will be required to leave the aircraft with the last group.

The CCI was present at the meeting and provided further details of this incident to the Committee.

- vi) Three reports had been received of AAD firings. One was to an experienced parachutist with 1906 jumps, who deployed at approximately 2800ft, but his FXC fired. He cutaway his main and landed under his reserve. The second involved a jumper with 25 jumps who pulled low as he was struggling to reach the toggle. His Cypres fired, but the reserve remained in the container. He landed without further incident under his main. The third report involved a jumper with 1750 descents whose Cypres fired as he was completing a radical turn at approximately 950ft. He only noticed that the reserve had deployed after being dragged upon landing.
- vii) Two reports had been received of canopy entanglement, during CF.
- viii) Eight reports had been received of 'off landings'. All at Clubs.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

- a. A letter from Mike Rust had been circulated with the STC agenda proposing that anyone under the age of 18 is not allowed to take part in any form of parachute training.

Mike's letter also stated that anyone who was already in either the RAPS or AFF system would be exempt from this, which would mean that within 2 years there would be very few people below 18 jumping. Mike had also suggested that military personnel would be exempt from this rule e.g. JSAT courses for adventure training at Netheravon.

Circulated to those present were comments on this subject from: Andy Scott (BPA Council/Chairman of Competitions Committee), Martin Harris (LPS), Ian Rosenvinge (Peterlee) & Paul More (Council/RAPA). Also letters from Mark Tether (RAPA), David Hickling (BPS) & Maggie Penny (Wild Geese), together with a further letter from Rick Boardman.

The Chairman allowed the Committee time to peruse these comments prior any discussion.

Mike Rust then gave the meeting details of his proposal and stated that he had seen the performance by young people change over the years and it seemed in his opinion that less and less young people had the same survival skills these days and he was concerned that if an accident did occur, where would the Association stand legally. Mike stated that the parents or guardian of 16 – 17 year old are required to sign a letter of consent together with a declaration of fitness allowing their son or daughter to parachute. Mike stated that we don't trust the person to actually sign these documents themselves. However, we are quite happy to say to them if they have a malfunction, they need to make a decision to carry out reserve drills.

Mike gave a number of analogies where young people were not permitted to undertake certain activities until they were 18, ie drink in a pub. He also stated that he believed the government were looking at increasing the minimum age for driving in the UK.

Mike then invited comments from those present.

Some members present stated they had also seen changes in the training of 16 – 18 year olds and that they had to be stricter with them. However, they did not feel that they should be excluded from participating in the sport. They believed there was no evidence that there was any greater risk to under 18s than over 18s and we should be encouraging people to take up the sport.

Ian Rosenvinge asked if there were any injury statistics on 16/17 year olds.

Dr Carter advised the Committee that the 16 – 19 yr age group had the lowest injury rate of any age group. The TO also advised that of the 34,000 plus students trained in 2007 only 4.45% were under 18.

Following further discussion on this proposal, it was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above proposal be accepted.

For: 2 Against: 16 (incl 3 by proxy) Abstentions: 0

Not Carried

During the discussion on the above proposal, a number of questions arose with regard to other paperwork that an under 18 year may have to sign for on a Course, ie they sign to say they've completed their training, test paper etc. and would this be considered to be legal without the signature of a parent or guardian.

Some discussion then ensued with regard to the standard membership agreement form, which some members stated that they considered a number of areas of the form to be misleading.

It was agreed by those present that this should be looked at and at the same time to also ensure the parental/guardian agreement encompassed everything else that an under 18 year old had to sign for on a Course.

- b. Letters from Nigel Allen and Jason Webster (Red Devils – Team Leader) had been circulated with the agenda, requesting a change to the Operations Manual with regard to Night and Water Displays. The current rules are that an Advanced Instructor must organise and be present during water and/or night jumps. The request was that for water or night displays, a team leader with additional qualifications may replace the Advanced Instructor.

It was therefore proposed that the Operations Manual be amended as below:

Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), Paragraph 8 (Water Jumps), sub-para 8.3. be changed to read:

- 8.3.** DZ control must be organised by an Advanced Instructor, or for the purpose of a water display, suitably qualified Team Leader (see Section 13, paragraph 1.6), who must be present during the entire programme.

Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), Paragraph 9 (Night Jumps), sub-para 9.3. be changed to read:

- 9.2.** DZ control must be organised by an Advanced Instructor, or for the purpose of a night display, suitably qualified Team Leader (see Section 13, paragraph 1.6), who must be present during the entire programme.

Section 13 (Display Parachuting), Paragraph 1 (Team Leader), new sub-para 1.6. to read:

- 1.6.** A Team Leader may carry out the duties of an Advanced Instructor for the purpose of night and water displays providing the Team Leader has:
- 1.6.1. FAI 'D' Certificate
 - 1.6.2. A minimum of 100 display descents
 - 1.6.3. A minimum of 5 water display descents
 - 1.6.4. A minimum of 5 night display descents

Nigel Allen then gave the meeting details of this request on behalf of Jason Webster and stated that the proposal was all about enhancing safety in that giving the Team Leader the responsibility would take the burden off the Advanced Instructor, who may not know the Display Team and who also may in some circumstances have less experience of night and water jumps than the Team Leader.

Some discussion then ensued regarding the merits of this proposal. Some members felt that the Team Leader should remain on the ground during the display. It was pointed out however, that this was not the present requirement for the Advanced Instructor to remain on the ground during a display.

However, there was strong opinion amongst those present that the person organizing a water/night display should remain on ground even though this was not a requirement now and that perhaps STC members should give this matter further consideration.

It was felt by those present that some prudent points had been made during the discussion on this proposal. A number of CCIs felt that if this request had been solely for Jason Webster they would have supported the request. The majority of CCIs present felt that they were unable to support a carte blanche request for all Team Leaders.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 4

Against: 9

Abstentions: 2

Not Carried

- c. A paper from the Technical Officer had been circulated with the agenda regarding a proposed change to the Operations Manual for the use of oxygen, but following further consultation with the CAA, a revised proposal had been circulated to CCIs yesterday. Kieran Brady, Chairman of the Pilots' Committee provided further details.

It was therefore proposed that the Operations Manual be amended as follows:

SECTION 8 (PARACHUTING LIMITATIONS), Paragraph 5 (Maximum Altitude), Change to read:

5. MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

5.1. Parachutists

5.1.1. Normal parachuting will not take place above Flight Level (FL) 120.

5.1.2. Parachuting will only take place between Flight Level 120 and 150 without oxygen, provided that:

- a. Parachutists are not above FL100 for more than 30 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- b. Parachutists are not above FL120 for more than 6 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- c. The aircraft commander monitors these flight levels and time limits.
- d. If the flight level or time limits are exceeded, the drop will be aborted and all parachutists will land with the aircraft.

5.2. Pilots

See Section 9 (FLYING), paragraph 5.6. (Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements).

- 5.3.** Members who wish to parachute above FL150 (with oxygen) will need STC and CAA approval and must submit their plans and details of their equipment in advance (via a CCI).

SECTION 9 (FLYING), Paragraph 5.6. (Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements), Change to read:

5.6. Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements

5.6.1. During any period when the aircraft is flying above FL100 up to and including FL130 oxygen must be used by all flight crew for that part of the flight at those FLs that is more than 30 minutes duration; and

5.6.2. During any period when the aircraft is flying above FL130 oxygen must be used by all flight crew of the aircraft.

N.B. References: ANO 2005, Article 54A and Schedule 4 Scales L1 & L2

Some discussion ensued with regard to this proposal and Kieran Brady was able to clarify a number of points raised by those present.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman thanked Kieran Brady and Dr Carter for the work they had carried out on this item.

6. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting STC's approval for a 6-month extension to Darren Smith's CSBI rating. Nigel's letter stated that Darren's CSBI extension expired in February 2008. Due to a back injury he had been unable to commit to a CSI course.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Mike Rust that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Another request from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda, for a 6-month extension to Edward Blakey's CSBI rating. Due to the Red Devil's busy display season, Edward had been unable to commit to a CSI course, however he was now booked on the May 2008 Course.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c. A letter from Paul Hollow had been circulated with the STC agenda requesting a 6 month extension to the TBI rating of Andy Wesley which expired at the end of February this year.

Paul's letter stated that Andy attended his TBI course in February 2007 and then a TI course last summer, but withdrew after a couple of jumps. At the time, he only had the minimum number of jumps required for the course but, after a couple of jumps, felt that he was not ready or prepared enough. Since then, he has completed almost a further 400 jumps and now feels he is ready to attend a TI course again. He has already secured a place on the June TI course.

It was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above request be accepted.

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Carried

- d. A letter had been circulated with the agenda from Jason Webster, Team Leader of the Red Devils requesting permission to carry out a display onto a PLA narrower than the Operations Manual minimum requirement.

Jason's letter stated the Red Devils wish to carry out a display at Worcester racecourse on the 8 of June 2008. The arena is 300 meters long and 25 metres wide and would require the jumpers to land closer than fifteen meters to the crowd line.

An appropriate risk assessment has been made and would load the display with only experienced Display jumpers, who have completed more than fifty display descents each. Also he would not allow any CRW greater than a two stack to land in the arena itself. In addition to that, if the wind were more than 5mph across the racecourse, the jump would not take place. The racecourse has large over shoot areas.

The Chairman advised those present that Jason had apologised for not being present this evening, but he was out of the country training with the Team.

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

Carried Unanimously

- e. A letter from Ray Armstrong had been circulated with the Additions to the Agenda requesting that Ian Chapman has his CSI and AFF instructor ratings re-instated. These ratings had expired on the 31 March 07.

The Committee was advised that Ian was mobilised for operations in Afghanistan in September 2006. Up until that time he was regularly jumping at Bridlington, doing mostly AFF. After his mobilisation period ended it was winter and he had to get his business up and running again. He is very keen to renew his skydiving career after his military service in Afghanistan.

Ray Armstrong gave the meeting details of this request after which, it was proposed by Ray Armstrong and seconded by Mike Rust that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- f. A letter from Stuart Meacock was also circulated with the additions to the Agenda requesting an exemption for Steve Truglia to jump a United Parachutes Technology Sigma system for his high altitude record freefall attempt later this year.

Stuart provided further details of this request and stated that although the launch site and date had not been set, Steve was about to receive his Sigma from UPT and wished to start training for his record attempt. Stuart stated that Steve would not be using the Sigma system for Tandem skydiving and that Steve's training would be closely supervised by either himself or Dave Morris. Stuart reported that Steve had over 1200 jumps to date.

Some discussion ensued regarding this request and Stuart was able to clarify a number of points raised by those present. It was clarified that this was not a request for the actual High Altitude jump and that all jumps would be carried out under the requirements of the Operations Manual.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by John Page for Steve Truglia to jump a United Parachutes Technology Sigma system whilst training for his high altitude record freefall attempt later this year. This was with the proviso that Steve only uses the equipment only after he has carried out suspended harness drills with a BPA Tandem Examiner.

Carried Unanimously

- g. Circulated to those present was a copy of an e-mail from Ian Rosenvinge requesting an Exemption to the CSBI rating of Marcus Speed. Ian's e-mail stated that Marcus was an enthusiastic and currently active CSBI at his Centre. His CSBI rating is due to expire in May 2008, 6 months after his 1st attempt at the CSI course. However due to his forthcoming final year degree course exams and military commitments he would likely have a lull in his participation at the Centre and be unable to resume his preparation for a further CSI course before the summer. Ian therefore envisaged him attending a CSI course late Summer or Autumn 2008.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Pete Sizer that Marcus Speed be given an extension to his CSBI rating until the end of 2008.

Carried Unanimously

7. A.O.B.

a. Instructor Courses

The Chairman reported that since the last STC meeting there had been two Instructor Courses held. Both reports had been circulated to those present.

Instructor Course 1/2008 - JSPC (Netheravon)

The Association wished to thank Joint Services Parachute Centre – Netheravon for hosting the Course, which ran from the 11 – 28 February 2008.

There was one recommendation from the Course Examiners that required STC acceptance:

‘That David Hartley be given six-month extension to his Category System Basic Instructor rating.’

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Mike Rust that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

AFF/Tandem Instructor Course – BPS, Langar

The Association wished to thank British Parachute Schools - Langar for hosting the Course, which ran last week, from the 31 March – 4 April 2008. The report was for information only.

b. **Pilot's Group**

Kieran Brady gave STC an update on the work carried out by the Pilot's Working Group, including a number of meetings that had been attended. He stated that Mike Westwood had joined the Working Group since the last meeting.

Kieran reported that Tony Knight had produced a 1st draft of the Pilots Manual, which was being considered by the Working Group. He stated that he would keep STC advised on its progress.

- c. The Chairman reported that Ian Robertson (Wobby) had informed the BPA that he had retired from the sport at the end of March 2008. He stated that Wobby had been a parachutist and rigger for many decades and had made a large contribution to the sport. Wobby had sent his best wishes to both STC and Rigger Committee members. The Chairman and STC members wished him all the best for the future.

Dates of next Meeting: Thursday 5 June 2008
 BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
 at 7.00 p.m

14 April 2008

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 10 April 2008, the following Sections of the BPA Operations Manual were amended as follows:

SECTION 8 (PARACHUTING LIMITATIONS), Paragraph 5 (Maximum Altitude), Change to read:

5. MAXIMUM ALTITUDE

5.1. Parachutists

- 5.1.1. Normal parachuting will not take place above Flight Level (FL) 120.
- 5.1.2. Parachuting will only take place between Flight Level 120 and 150 without oxygen, provided that:
 - a. Parachutists are not above FL100 for more than 30minutes before leaving the aircraft.
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 - c. The aircraft commander monitors these flight levels and time limits.
 - d. If the flight level or time limits are exceeded, the drop will be aborted and all parachutists will land with the aircraft.

5.2. Pilots

See Section 9 (FLYING), paragraph 5.6. (Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements).

- 5.3. Members who wish to parachute above FL150 (with oxygen) will need STC and CAA approval and must submit their plans and details of their equipment in advance (via a CCI).

SECTION 9 (FLYING), Paragraph 5.6. (Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements), Change to read:

5.7. Flight Crew Oxygen Requirements

- 5.7.1. During any period when the aircraft is flying above FL100 up to and including FL130 oxygen must be used by all flight crew for that part of the flight at those FLs that is more than 30 minutes duration; and
- 5.7.2. During any period when the aircraft is flying above FL130 oxygen must be used by all flight crew of the aircraft.

N.B. References: ANO 2005, Article 54A and Schedule 4 Scales L1 & L2