

# British Parachute Association

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## Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Thursday 9 February 2012 at 1900**

at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

**Present:**

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Nigel Allen	-	Skydive South Coast
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Mike Rust	-	NLSC
Chris McCann	-	UK Para (Sibson)
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS Langar
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
John Page	-	Skydive Jersey
Gary Stevens	-	Skydive UK Ltd
Brucie Johnson	-	Skydive London
Alex Busby-Hicks	-	Tilstock
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Phil Collett	-	22 Trg GP RAF
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
Jay Webster	-	JSPC (N)/APA
Paul Applegate	-	Chairman Riggers Committee

**Apologies:** Dave Wood, Martin White, Matty Holford, Kieran Brady, Andy Clark.

**In Attendance:**

Tony Butler	-	BPA Technical Officer
Paul Moore	-	Council
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

**Observers:** Dave Major, Paul Stockwell.

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### ITEM    MINUTE

1.    **MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 24 NOVEMBER 2011**

It was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 24 November 2011 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

2.    **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 24 NOVEMBER 2011**

**Page 2, Item 2 – Matters Arising.** The Chairman reported that no further information had been obtained regarding the connector link problem, as the Instructor concerned had still not been able to be contacted. He stated that unless CCI's wished him to pursue the matter

further he concluded that the only way forward with this item was to draw a line under it. No objections were raised by those present to this.

**Page 4, Item 6 – Proposed changes to Operations Manual.** The Chairman reported that Georgie Roles was still working on the revised FS Manuals and when finished they would be presented to STC.

**Page 6, Item 8 – Permissions (iii).** The Chairman reported that the Working Group formed to consider the Current BPA Authorised Parachute Pilot Upper Age Limit Requirements held its first meeting on the 18 January 2012. The Working Group members were; Kieran Brady (Chairman), Tony Knight, James Swallow, Mike Westwood, John Carter, Tony Butler and Gareth Thomas (who later withdrew due to work commitments). STC would be kept up to date on their progress.

### **3. RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 24 NOVEMBER 2011**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Riggers Meeting.

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Phil Collett that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee meeting of the 24 November 2011 be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

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

### **4. PILOTS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

As Kieran Brady had been unable to attend STC this evening due to ill health, Tony Butler was able to answer any questions relating to the Minutes from the Pilots meeting held in January, which had been previously circulated to Clubs this week, together with a number of attachments from the CAA.

It was proposed by Kieran Brady (proxy) and seconded by Brucie Johnson that the Minutes of the Pilots' Sub-Committee Meeting of the 28 January 2012 be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

### **5 INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME**

- i) There had been 7 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 6 male and 1 female.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 4 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above.
- iii) There had been 5 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting.
- iv) There had also been 8 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 3 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received and one injury report.
- vi) One report had been received of an AAD fire. A Student with 41 jumps lost count and deployed low. His FXC went off at the same time, resulting in a reserve pilot chute in tow.
- vii) There had been 11 reports received of 'off landings' at Clubs.

The Chairman expressed some concern that 5 of the 'off landing' reports had involved Tandem.

Ian Rosenvinge commented that this may be because Instructors were being more diligent in the reporting of incidents.

viii) One report had been received of a helmet coming off on exit.

## 6. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

A letter from Alex Busby-Hicks had been circulated with the agenda proposing a change to the Operations Manual regarding the dropping of a Wind Drift Indicator prior to the start of Static Line Student jumping. Alex had stated that currently a WDI must be thrown prior to the start of Static Line Student jumping even if other parachuting activities are already in progress, including AFF Students. He believes that this means that the wind speed and direction will have already been established.

Alex Busby-Hicks had proposed that the requirement to throw a WDI before the start of Static Line Student jumping be amended so that it was only required to be thrown if there are Static Line Students on the first lift of the day, and had asked STC to agree to a change to the wording to the Operations Manual, Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), sub-para 2.3 (Wind Speed and Direction) to the following:

### **2.3. Wind Speed and Direction**

2.3.1. Every club must use an anemometer for measuring ground wind speed.

2.3.2. Further information about wind speed and direction will be obtained using Wind Drift Indicators (WDIs) or meteorological forecasts.

2.3.3. This information will be obtained:

- a. Before parachuting begins.
- b. Following a significant change in wind speed or direction.
- c. Following any break of more than thirty minutes caused by winds in excess of the limits laid down. (see 2.1. above).
- d. After parachutists have failed to land in the intended landing area and a faulty 'spot' or bad canopy control is not suspected.
- e. A WDI must be thrown if Static Line Students are on the first lift of the day, or before the start of a parachute display.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks and seconded by Brucie Johnson that the above proposed amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 11

Against: 3

Abstentions: 3

**Carried**

## 7. **INSTRUCTOR COURSE 01/2012**

The BPA wished to thank Joint Services Parachute Centre - Netheravon for hosting the Instructor course, from the 30 January – 3 February 2012. The course report had been e-mailed to Clubs this week, a copy of which was also circulated to those present.

The report was for information only.

## 8. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Gary Stevens had been circulated with the agenda requesting a six month extension to Glynn Somers' CSBI rating. Due to work commitments over the past 9 months this has had a detrimental effect on Glynn's skydiving career and he had been unable to dedicate the time or effort necessary to achieve the standards required to attend a CSI course.

It was proposed by Gary Stevens and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- ii) A letter from Phil Collett had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Laurence Cross have his AFFI, TI and CSI ratings re-instated. His ratings had not been signed up at the start of the season due to work commitments with the Royal Air Force overseas (They had expired 31 March 2011). Loz was a Military freefall parachutist, Military Tandem Instructor, Military AFF instructor and a Military static-line parachute instructor and fulfilled all currencies and requirements laid down in the BPA Operations Manual.

It was proposed by Phil Collett and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

The Technical Officer stated that it was also a requirement that as well as being signed by a CCI the renewal application would also need to be signed by an independent Instructor Examiner.

- iii) A letter from Jay Webster had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Middle Wallop airfield be permitted to be used as an alternative PLA when Netheravon cannot be used during the weekends of 18-19 February, 25-26 of February, 03-04 March and 10-11 March 2012. This had been permitted last year for Tandem parachuting and FAI 'B' Certificate and above. This year it was requested for Tandem parachuting and FAI 'A' Certificate and above. The landing area would be moved to the centre of the airfield.

Following some consideration of this request, a number of CCIs present felt that as STC had accepted the use Middle Wallop as an alternative PLA for Netheravon in previous years, they should now perhaps consider accepting the PLA on a permanent basis.

A counter proposal by Dane Kenny, seconded by John Page was tabled that Middle Wallop be permitted as an alternative PLA when Netheravon was not in use providing Middle Wallop had been used in the previous 12 months.

**Carried Unanimously**

- iv) Circulated to those present was a letter from Chris McCann requesting a 6 month extension to Damien Hewitt's AFFBI rating. Chris stated that Damien had not been able to carry out enough ground schools at this time.

It was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Alex Busby-Hicks that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## 9. A.O.B

- i) The Chairman reported that the Red Devils Display Team had three displays booked this year that were onto sites that were not at least 50 metres in diameter, as per BPA Operations Manual requirements: Aintree Racecourse, Epsom Racecourse and

Swanage Beach. Details of the displays had been circulated to those present including the proposed limitations for each display:

**Aintree Racecourse (12 April 2012) & Epsom Racecourse (2 June 2012)  
- Proposed Limitations:**

1. 15 knots crosswind (across width) limit in the arena for all jumpers
2. No landing of any CF in the arena
3. Must have a minimum total of 700 jumps to participate
4. Must have completed a minimum of 30 parachute displays

All participants will be current full-time team members and will have completed a 70 jump pre-display season training camp.

**Swanage Beach (1 August 2012)  
- Proposed Limitations:**

1. 10 knots crosswind (across width) limit in the arena for all jumpers
2. No landing of any CF in the arena
3. Must have a minimum total of 700 jumps to participate
4. Must have completed a minimum of 30 parachute displays
5. Life Jackets will be worn
6. A safety boat with an outboard motor will be prepositioned off shore

All participants will be current full-time team members and will have completed a 70 jump pre-display season training camp.

It was proposed by Jay Webster and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above displays be accepted with the above listed limitations.

**Carried Unanimously**

- ii) The Technical Officer reported that some months ago the FAI informed the BPA that our National Certificates should not be called 'FAI' Certificates.

He stated that the UK like many other countries had been issuing National Parachute Certificates for in excess of 40 years. The certificates that the Association had issued had always been called 'FAI (United Kingdom) National Parachute Certificates' issued by the British Parachute Association (BPA) on behalf of the Royal Aero Club of the UK and recognised by the FAI as the sporting authority in the United Kingdom.

Around 2005 the FAI started issuing to parachuting Associations and organisations the FAI International Parachutist Certificate of Proficiency. The BPA issues these certificates on behalf of the FAI to any members wishing to have one, though we do not get many requests per year!

The International Certificates were devised because over the years countries altered the requirements for qualifying for National Certificates and there became differences between the various certificates, so it was hard for parachuting organisations to know exactly how experienced visiting jumpers were. The International Certificate was seen as an equivalent to an International Drivers Licence.

The Technical Officer stated that at no time were the BPA, or any other organisation to our knowledge, informed by the FAI that National Parachute Certificates could no longer be called 'FAI National Certificates'! Negotiations with the FAI did not result in them changing their position. Therefore at the Council meeting of the 6 December 2011, Council decided that from the 1 April 2012 the FAI Certificates would be called BPA National Parachutists Licences. All FAI Certificates issued before the 1 April will remain valid.

The TO stated that this will result in many pages of the BPA Operations Manual needing to be amended, as will a great many of the BPA Forms. In the second half of March the office would be sending all Clubs a new amended BPA Operations Manual together with a list of all forms that have been changed.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 April 2012

BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester  
at 7.00 p.m

10 February 2012

**Distribution:** Chairman BPA, Council, CCIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, CAA, Editor – Skydive,  
File

**AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

At the STC meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

**SECTION 8 (PARACHUTE LIMITATIONS), Paragraph 2 (Wind), sub-para 2.3.3 (e) change to read:**

- e. A WDI must be thrown if Static Line Students are on the first lift of the day, or before the start of a parachute display.