

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 7 April 2011 at 1900

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

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
John Page	-	Skydive London
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Mike Rust	-	NLSC
Chris McCann	-	UK Parachuting (Sibson)
Martin White	-	Skydive Weston
Nigel Allen	-	South Coast Skydiving
Mark Tether	-	JSPC (N)
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Alex Busby	-	Tilstock
Gary Stevens	-	Skydive UK
Paul Applegate	-	Chairman Riggers

Apologies: Tony Butler, Dane Kenny, George McGuinness, Andy Clark, Pete Sizer, Dave Wood, Mark Bayada, Kieran Brady, Mike Bolton, Carl Williams, Jason Thompson.

In Attendance:

Martin Soulsby	-	Chairman BPA
Paul Moore	-	Council Member
Craig Poxon	-	Council Member
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Brucie Johnson, Gordon Blamire, Sarah-Jane Peart, Paul Stockwell, Alec Flint.

ITEM MINUTE

1. **MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 10 FEBRUARY 2011**

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Martin White that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 10 February 2011 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 10 FEBRUARY 2011**

Page 3, Item 7 – (Wrist-Mounted Video for Tandem). At the last STC meeting the use of wrist-mounted video by some Tandem Instructors was agreed and the Operations Manual was amended to that effect. However, at the Council meeting of the 22 February, the Operations Manual amendment was suspended because Council raised concern about STC's decision, because the vote by STC had been carried by a small majority of 3 (11 to 8). Therefore Council had referred the subject back to STC for further discussion.

The Chairman reported that he had received two proposals regarding the use of wrist mounted video for Tandem, but because they had not been previously circulated, they could not be considered that evening.

Some concern was raised by a number of CCIs present as to why Council had involved themselves on a safety related issue. The Chairman stated that it was within Council remit to refer an item back to STC because of their concerns. Council also had a duty of care to its membership.

A paper by the Technical Officer listing the safety pros and cons for the use of wrist mounted video for Tandem for both the Operators and Instructors taken from the Thesis produced by Stephan Kleinlein and referred to by Andy Goodall at the last STC meeting was circulated to those present for consideration. Following the last meeting, a copy of the Thesis had been circulated to CCIs. The Chairman urged those CCIs who had not already done so to take some time to study the document.

A lengthy debate then ensued regarding the safety pros and cons of wrist-mounted video for Tandem, of which there were many. Following the discussion, the Chairman asked for a show of hands to indicate who would support a motion for the use of wrist mounted video for Tandem.

The outcome of which was that 9 CCIs were in favour and 12 against. The Chairman also took into account a number of proxy votes he had received prior to the meeting.

The Chairman stated that he would now refer this item back to Council for consideration.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 10 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee Meeting of the 10 February 2011 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Committee had discussed the use of Aviacom Argus AADs.

Over the past three years, and particularly in the last several months, there had been documented reports from the field of Argus AAD firings where there was a failure to cut the reserve locking loop. In light of this, several manufacturers had Issued Service Bulletins withdrawing the approval of the installation of Argus AADs in their harness/container systems.

Paul Applegate stated that the Riggers Committee had agreed to recommend to STC that the BPA suspend the use of the Argus AAD subject to a satisfactory solution to this problem and that a BPA Safety Notice be issued to this effect.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by John Page to accept the recommendation of the Riggers Committee concerning the use of the Argus AAD.

Carried Unanimously

4. **INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME**

- i) There had been 10 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 8 male and 2 female. One was a Student who grazed his nose when he hit the aircraft step on exit. The other injuries were on landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 4 Injury Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, 2 male and 2 female. All landing injuries.
- iii) There had been 3 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 2. male and 1 female.
- iv) There had also been 12 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 11 male and 1 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 5 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received. There had also been 3 Tandem Injury Reports received. All male.
- vi) Two reports had been received of AAD fires. The first involved 2 jumpers, one with 131 jumps and the other with 75 jumps, who collided in freefall approximately 10-15 seconds after exit. One jumper lost consciousness and did not come around until after landing under two canopies. Her AAD fired and deployed her reserve. It is not known how her main deployed. She sustained a broken wrist and facial bruising. The other jumper broke her fibula in the collision, but was able to deploy her main.

The CCI of the Centre concerned provided the meeting with further details of this incident.

He stated that what this incident drew his attention to was FS training at his DZ.

He believed the way in which FS training is taught had changed over the years and that much more emphasis was now being given to the FS launch and not so much on the swoop to pin. He had therefore introduced at his Centre an additional 3 – 4 swoop to pin dives into the Student's basic training.

He suggested that perhaps other CCIs should also take a look at FS coaching at their Centres and stated that he was considering a proposal for the future to make FS1 slightly harder.

The Chairman of STC then reported on the other incident concerning an AAD fire and stated that this had involved a jumper with 117 jumps who exited the aircraft at 2,400ft, became unstable, fumbled for the pull and deployed as her AAD (FXC) activated. She landed without further incident.

- vii) There had been 13 reports received of 'off landings'. All at clubs. One included a student who landed in a tree and another who landed through a hedge. There were also four Tandems that landed off.
- viii) One report had been received of an experienced parachutist with 1,200 jumps who dropped a mobile phone in freefall or under canopy. The jumper informed his CCI that he was unaware that he had the phone with him. Another report was received of a jumper losing a camera on a wingsuit jump.
- ix) Two reports (for the same incident) had been received of a canopy collision. These involved two first time static line Students, one whose canopy's lines caught the other Student's foot. They separated after about 10 seconds and both landed without further problems.

5. **TANDEM TO AFF CONVERSION COURSES**

Following a trial that had taken place at North London Skydiving Centre for those wishing to convert from Tandem to AFF at Level 2, Mike Rust had proposed that the system now

becomes part of the BPA Operations Manual and is accepted as a further method of ab-initio training.

Mike Rust gave the meeting details of his proposal, including the proposed changes to the Operations Manual (below) and proposed new BPA Form (273) relating the Tandem/AFF Conversion Training:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS)

Proposed amended Paragraph 7 (Student Tandem Parachutists)

7. STUDENT TANDEM PARACHUTISTS

7.1. Definition

A Student Tandem Parachutist is defined as anyone making a descent attached to a Tandem Instructor, other than those defined in paragraph 7.3 (below).

7.2. Progression

Tandem Students wishing to progress to 'Solo' parachuting may do so in a number of ways:

7.2.1. Complete the Basic Training Syllabus for either the Category System or Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) training system (Section 5, Paragraph 2.1).

7.2.2. Convert to AFF at Level 2 after completing a minimum of 2 Tandem descents. The Tandem descent prior to conversion must be preceded by Tandem/AFF conversion training, after which the Tandem conversion descent must be successfully completed.

N.B.(1) The requirements for Tandem/AFF Conversion may be found on BPA Form 273.

7.3. Non Student Tandem Parachutists

FAI 'C' Certificate (Red) parachutists participating in Tandem Instructor Evaluation Courses (see Section 4, Para 5.2.2), Tandem System Conversion Courses (see Section 4, Para 5.5.2), or assisting on Tandem Instructor currency descents (see Section 4, Para 5.6.1 and 5.7.2c), are not classified as Student Tandem Parachutists.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Chris McCann that the above changes to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman stated that CCIs needed to accept the draft BPA Form 273 (Tandem to Accelerated Free Fall Conversion Training).

John Page referred to page 2 of the notes and to the paragraph relating to 'Tandem/AFF Conversion Level 2'. He asked that it be made clear in this paragraph that the Instructor completing Level 2 held both Tandem and AFF ratings.

Mike Rust said that this was not a problem and that the form could be altered accordingly.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the draft of BPA Form 273 (Tandem to Accelerated Free Fall Conversion Training) be accepted with the above amendment.

Carried Unanimously

6. TANDEM/PRE-ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR ASSESSMENT COURSE – BPS, LANGAR

The Association wished to thank BPS, Langar for hosting a Tandem/Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course, which took place from the 28 – 30 March 2011. A copy of the Course Report was circulated to those present and was for information only.

The Chairman reported that this course was originally booked with a greater number of candidates than was eventually examined. There was also originally an AFFI course included. However, a number of candidates dropped off the courses, stating that they were not fully prepared. One candidate on the Tandem Instructor course was not qualified to attend. He asked that CCIs do not recommend candidates for courses unless they were ready to attend and that they also ensure that candidates have the correct qualifications to attend before the course commences.

7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Lyn George (on behalf of Alex Busby) had been circulated with the agenda requesting STC Permission for Gordon Cooper to continue to be a BPA Jump Pilot, though he will be 70 years of age

The Chairman advised those present that Alex Busby had now withdrawn this request from the Agenda at this time.

- ii) A letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Gordon Blamire be permitted to convert his foreign Tandem Instructor rating to a BPA Tandem Instructor rating without the need to carry out the required jumps.

Gordon had held a South African Tandem rating for 12 years and had over 3,800 Tandems descents. During the past 6 years as a BPA Foreign Tandem Instructor he had accumulated over 1,200 Tandem descents in the UK.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Alex Busby that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B

- i) A letter had been received from Chris McCann, a copy of which had been circulated to those present requesting an extension to Sarah Hall's AFFBI rating.

As the Centre had been closed over the winter period Sarah had been unable to complete the required amount of teaching.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by John Page that Sarah Hall be given a six month extension to her AFFBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) John (Geordie) Page advised those present that Brucie Johnston would shortly be taking over as CCI of Skydive London, therefore this would be his last STC meeting as a CCI for the time being.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 9 June 2011

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

12 April 2011

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

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 7th April 2011 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 7 (Student Tandem Parachutists), change to read:

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