

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNTY ARMS, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2001

Present:

John Saunders	-	Chairman
Mike Bolton	-	Skydive Redlands
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Bill Sharp	-	JSPC (L)
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Andy Paddock	-	Silver Stars
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies John Hitchen, Pat Walters, Brian Dyas, Dane Kenny, Nigel Allen (all of whom were on the Instructor Course at Netheravon), Ian Cashman, Carl Williams, Dave Wood, Ronnie O' Brien, Andy Guest, Chris Lyall, Mick Nealis (Mick Nealis had authorised Bill Sharp to stand in for him at this meeting).

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Richard Wheatley, John Harding, Dave Prince, John Curtis, Duncan Haynes, Bernadette Whitaker.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 7TH DECEMBER 2000

Page 10, Item 10 - Permissions (i). The Chairman advised the Committee of an amendment to this item from the previous Minutes. The Minutes should have stated 60 jumps and not 50.

With the above amendment, it was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 7th December 2000 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 7TH DECEMBER 2000

Page 2, Item 2 - Tandem Incident. The Chairman advised those present that the Tandem Instructor who lost his Tandem rating at the last STC meeting, had written to him stating that it was his intention to appeal to STC, but because of military commitments he would not be able to appeal until after May, possibly at the June STC meeting. There were no objections to this.

Page 2, Item 2 – Military Display Misfire. This display was where a jumper was making his first display jump and fractured both his ankles and his tibular and fibular jumping onto a concrete arena. The APA had now completed their investigation into this display accident. The jumper was not qualified (as far as some APA rules were concerned) and did not have an FAI 'C' Certificate (Red), even though the application had been completed. The APA recommended that the Team Leader should have his Team Leaders rating suspended until 1st April 2001 and that he must retake his Team Leaders exam, (subject to BPA STC approval). Therefore in order to support the APA, this would need to be voted on by STC.

Although the Committee supported the APAs actions, it was felt by those present that as the matter involved a BPA rating, the Team Leader concerned should be given the opportunity to appear before STC to appeal against any decisions made.

It was therefore proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by David Hickling that the Display Team Leader concerned have his Display Team Leaders rating suspended pending him retaking the Display Leaders exam or pending an appeal to STC.

Carried Unanimously

The Technical Officer advised the Committee that the Army investigators also recommended that posters be issued regarding the dangers of hook turns and that video is produced to support any posters or magazine articles. The APA is in the process of producing a video, which will be available to all clubs when completed and the BPA intends to produce a poster on hook turns (even though posters have been issued in the past). This will form part of STCs' Action Plan Matrix for the coming year.

Page 3, Item 2 – 1999 Injury Statistics Working Group. This Working Group had now been formed is 'Chaired' by Ian Rosvinge. He would keep STC informed of their progress.

Page 3, Item 4 – Fatality, Border Parachute Centre. Since the last meeting, where the Board of Inquiry Report was presented and approved, there had been an Addendum to the Report issued. This Addendum was circulated to those present and states:

Following the completion of the above report, it was decided that the manufacturers of the FXC 12000 AAD, should inspect and test the AAD that had been fitted to the equipment used by Colin Graham. This decision was made because it was noted, on the Record of Inspection/Inspection Checklist that the AAD had been due for service some three months prior to the accident.

The unit was fully tested by the manufacturer. The unit had been damaged, probably on impact. The manufacturer stated that though the AAD was overdue servicing, its serviceability was not affected. It was also noted that the AAD was indicating 2,250ft above sea level. Upon closer examination it was noted that if the 'on/off' switch (which should permanently be switched on) was turned back very slightly it would read 1,000ft (the altitude which the parachute centre sets their AADs at) and would still appear to be switched on.

This could mean that an FXC 12000 AAD could be incorrectly set and may activate at a higher altitude than is desirable. It was therefore decided to issue a Safety Information bulletin to warn all BPA Clubs of this potential problem.

Because of the above, the Board of Inquiry Conclusions have been amended. The amended sentence is shown in *italics*:

CONCLUSIONS

The Conclusions of the Board are that the Colin Graham' s initial exit from the aircraft was good, but as the main parachute started to deploy he may have caught his right arm in the risers or rigging lines, or the riser/rigging lines may have caught on some part of his equipment, causing the main parachute to distort on full deployment.

Shortly after the reserve pilot chute extracted, possibly because the reserve container closure pin had been caught by something, or the deceased had activated the reserve himself, *or the AAD had activated, due to a possible high setting.*

Because the main canopy was fully inflated, the reserve pilot chute could have dropped through the reserve parachute rigging lines and caught around the reserve parachute free bag ' mouth lock' , preventing the reserve parachute from extracting from the bag.

At approximately 1,500 ft the deceased released his main parachute, but because of the reserve parachute ' bag lock' there was no reserve parachute deployment.

The amended Conclusions required approval by STC.

It was therefore proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Mike Bolton that the amended Conclusions be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Page 5, Item 5 – Incident/Injury Reports. (This item was held in camera)

The incident where a parachutist jumped from approximately 1,500 ft over Coventry Airport, had a problem and landed on the roof of a building injuring himself was discussed at the last meeting and the parachutist concerned (Dave Clements) had been ' grounded' by STC until he attended an STC Meeting.

Mr Clements was present at the meeting and provided an account of the incident and was also able to answer questions raised from those present. Mr Clements was then asked to leave the meeting whilst STC considered this matter.

A lengthy discussion took place with regard the serious nature of this incident, which involved major breaches of the BPA Operations Manual.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that Dave Clements have his Display Team rating removed for a period of two years and that during that time he cannot act as jumpmaster on displays. After the two year period he must re-qualify in the normal manner. It was also felt that this matter be referred to the BPA Council as it was felt that Mr Clements had brought the sport into disrepute.

A counter proposal was then tabled by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Dennis Buchanan that Dave Clements have his Display Team rating removed for a period of two years and that during that time he cannot act as jumpmaster on displays. After the two year period he must re-qualify in the normal manner.

For: 4 Against: 5 Abstentions: 0

Not Carried

A vote was then taken on Ian Rosenvinge' s proposal as stated above.

For: 4 Against: 5 Abstentions: 0

Not Carried

David Hickling stated that the reason he had voted against both of the above proposals was that in his opinion he did not believe they were severe enough.

David Hickling then put forward a proposal, which was seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that Dave Clements have his Display Team Leaders rating removed permanently and that he is not permitted to act again as a jumpmaster on any parachuting sortie.

For: 8 Against: 1 (Pete Sizer) Abstentions: 0

Carried

Mr Clements was then invited to return to the meeting where he was advised of STC' s decision. Mr Clements was advised that he had a right to appeal against the decision. Mr Clements stated that he did not intend to appeal.

The observers were then invited to return to the meeting and the Chairman continued with matters arising from the previous Minutes.

Page 6, Item 6 - Panels of Inquiry – Tim Bettin. The Chairman advised those present that at the previous meeting Jon Dodd' s legal representative indicated that an Appeal would be put forward for this meeting. No Appeal had been submitted. It was therefore presumed that no Appeal was to be made.

Page 8, Item 6 - Panels of Inquiry – Jeff Chandler. The Chairman advised those present that Jeff Chandler would be Appealing STCs' decision and this would be dealt with under item 6 of the Agenda.

Page 11, Item 11 – A.O.B (ii). The Committee was advised that Skydive Wales has decided that the PLA/DZ put forward for clearance at the last STC was not to be used after all, but wish another PLA/DZ cleared. This would be dealt with under A.O.B.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 7TH DECEMBER 2000

Page 3, Item 8 – AOB (i). Paul Applegate advised those present that at the previous meeting a number of Tandem clearance requests put forward by Andy Guest had been discussed by the Committee. He stated that the Minutes had not accurately recorded that the following Tandem clearance requests had been accepted by the Committee:

- i) Permission to be able to put a Vector Tandem reserve in a Next Tandem system subject to getting an Advanced Rigger confirming that this was ok.
- ii) Permission to have his Vector Tandem systems altered to the Paratec cutaway with secondary handle attached.

With the above stated amendments, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 7th December 2000 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PILOTS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 20TH JANUARY 2001

The Chairman advised those present that the Pilots' Sub-Committee meeting was held at the AGM and that the Minutes had been circulated with the STC Agenda. He stated that if anyone had any questions relating to the Minutes, himself and the Technical Officer were both in attendance at the meeting.

There being no matters arising, it was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Andy Paddock that the Minutes of the Pilots Sub-Committee Meeting of the 20th January 2001 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Tony Knight for the continued hard work on the behalf of the Pilots Committee.

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 6 Student injuries since the last meeting, 5 male and 1 female. 5 of the injuries were on ram-air canopies and 1 was on a round canopy.
- ii) There had been 2 injuries reported to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last STC. Both male.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 8 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 7 male and 1 female. All were on ram-air canopies. Quite a few of them were non-location of the toggle, including on Student who did it twice.
- iv) There had been 6 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 5 male and 1 female.
- v) There had been 6 Tandem Incident/Injury reports received since the last meeting, Three were malfunctions/deployment problems. Three were Student injuries.
- vi) One report had been received of AAD firing. A Category 8 jumper who deployed his main at approximately 2,600ft and the FXC fired.
- vii) There had also been an ' off landing' report received.

6. APPEALS

The only Appeal that had been received was from Jeff Chandler. Mr Chandler was appealing against the decision made at the last STC meeting, where his Advanced, Tandem and Rigger rating were revoked for a period of three year after which he would be permitted to re-apply in the usual manner.

The Chairman advised those present that Jeff Chandler was not present that evening and that his letter of appeal had been previously circulated to all CCIs.

The Committee was disappointed that Mr Chandler was not present for his appeal. It was therefore agreed by the meeting that the recommendations made by STC at the previous meeting remain in force until Jeff Chandler appears before STC to present his appeal in person. It was decided that Mr Chandler should be contacted and advised to attend the next STC Meeting.

7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter had been received from Mike Bolton, together with a supporting letter from Chris Francis, which were circulated to those present, requesting a permission against the 60 jumps in two years rule for instructor rating renewal. Mike Bolton was at present, 18 jumps short of the requirements.

Mike Bolton was present at the meeting to give details of his request.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Chris Francis (proxy) that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A letter has been received from Andy Paddock, which was circulated to those present, asking for permission to include Four areas within the Silver Stars camp as part of the PLA for display team members training.

Andy Paddock was present at the meeting to give details of his request. The four areas were as follows:-

Area	Sheet no.	Grid	Dimensions
1	163	SU 048,997	57m-248m
2	163	SU 046,991	100m-150m
3	163	SU 048,992	100m-150m
4	163	SU 048,993	80m –150m

The following restrictions would also apply to the four areas.

1. Only current display jumpers will be permitted to land in any of the four areas.
2. The areas will not be used unless the CCI is present.
3. Landowner' s permission is granted throughout the period of any operation involving the four areas.
4. The local MOD police will be informed before any operation.
5. All areas will be free from spectators throughout any operation.

It was proposed by Andy Paddock and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above permission be accepted with the above stated restrictions.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) Ian Cashman had sent in a letter, which was circulated to those present requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Dane Richardson.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iv) A letter had been received from Ian Rosenvinge and circulated to those present requesting an extension until the August course, to the CSBI rating of Chris Beattie.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by David Hickling that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- v) Circulated to those present was a letter from Dennis Buchanan asking for a permission against the rule to throw a WDI.

This request is only when using a Turbine aircraft at altitude and would involve the use the daily MET Fax. However, WDI' s would be thrown for any student' s lifts from the Islanders.

Should there be a break in parachuting or a subsequent change in wind direction an updated MET Fax would be obtained before parachuting is continued.

Following discussion on this item, it was proposed by Dennis Buchanan and seconded by David Hickling that the above permission be accepted.

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Pete Sizer)

Carried

- vi) A letter had been receive from Karen Farr and circulated to those present requesting a three month extension to the CSBI rating of Frank Hynds to allow him to attend the CSI Course in May. It was noted that this was a second request for such an extension.

It was proposed by Karen Farr and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- vii) Circulated to those present was a letter from Tony Knight requesting that Vince Jbnes be permitted to become an Examiner for Twin Otter aircraft, as he is short of the required 10 hours on type.

The Committee was advised that Vince Jbnes was a BPA Pilot Examiner and Chief Pilot at RAFSPA. He has just completed type rating training on the DHC6-300 (Twin Otter) and needed to be able to examine two other BPA pilots (who had also both completed type rating training on the DHC6) in order to add the type to their existing BPA authorisations.

Mr Knight believed that that Mr Jbnes would nevertheless be suitable to fulfil this role and therefore requested that he be exempted from the requirement, in section 9 (para 1.4.5) of the Operations Manual, for 10

Lesley Gale (Editor - Skydive)
File