

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
COUNTY ARMS, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 5TH APRIL 2001

Present:

Jhn Hitchen	-	Acting Chairman
Andy Guest	-	Devon & Somerset
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Maggie Penny	-	Wild Geese
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Dave Wood	-	RAFSPA
Andy Paddock	-	Silver Stars
Trevor Dobson	-	Target Skysports
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Dave Emerson	-	Hinton Skydiving
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies Jhn Saunders, Brian Dyas, Taff Davies, Chris Francis, Tony Knight, Mike Bolton, Dane Kenny, Nick Johnston, Carl Williams, Ian Cashman, Chris Lyall.

In Attendance:

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

Observers Gary Harbird, Judith Lees, Mike Carruthers, Jhn Harding.

ITEM

The Committee was advised that Jhn Saunders had sent his apologies for that evenings meeting and he had asked Jhn Hitchen to Chair the meeting on his behalf.

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 15TH FEBRUARY 2001

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 15th February 2001 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 15TH FEBRUARY 2001

Page 2, Item 2 – Matters Arising - Military Display Misfire. The Committee was advised that Neil Finnighan, the Team Leader concerned had agreed to take the Team Leader' s examination and that he would not be appealing the APA recommendations.

Page 2, Item 2 – Matters Arising - 1999 Injury Statistics Working Group. The Working Group had held a meeting that afternoon and the Group Chairman, Ian Rosenvinge was able to provide STC with an update of that meeting. Ian advised the Committee that the Working Group had been asked to look at three main areas; height/weight restrictions for jumpers, wing loading on canopies and the lacing of round and aeroconical canopies. He stated that the Working Group still had a lot of work to do before making any recommendations to STC, and he welcomed any input from those present.

Page 5, Item 6 – Appeals – Panel of Inquiry – Jeff Chandler. Jeff Chandler had been written to following the last meeting and a reply was received on Tuesday this week, which was circulated to those present. Jeff wished his appeal to be heard in his absence.

Mr Chandler was appealing against the decision made at the STC meeting of the 7th December 2000, where his Advanced, Tandem and Rigger rating were revoked for a period of three years after which he would be permitted to re-apply in the usual manner.

The Committee was given time to read Mr Chandler' s appeal. The rest of this item was then held ` in camera ` .

The Committee gave this matter careful consideration, after which it was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Dave Wood that the original decision by STC concerning Mr Chandler' s ratings be upheld.

For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: Dave Emerson

Carried

Note:- As a member of the Panel, Dave Emerson took no part in voting.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 15TH FEBRUARY 2001

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 15th February 2001 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME

i) There had been 9 Student injuries since the last meeting, 7 male and 2 female. All of the injuries were on ram-air canopies. Most involved minor injuries, only one was a broken bone.

ii) There had been 2 injuries reported to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last STC. Both male. One of which was a low hook turn, following a deep spot, resulting in serious injury. The CCI was able to provide the meeting with further details of this incident to those present.

iii) Since the last meeting there had been 10 Student Parachutist

- Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 8 male and 2 female. All were on ram-air canopies.
- vi) There had been 9 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. All male.
 - v) There had been 4 Tandem Incident/Injury reports received since the last meeting, Two were malfunctions/deployment problems. Two were Students who felt unwell in the aircraft and under canopy.
 - vi) Two reports of canopy entanglements had been received, one involved two Students trying to compete with each other under canopy to see who could land closest to the pit, they collided at about 1,000 ft and one had to cutaway.
 - vii) There had also been a report of a reserve pilot chute deploying the aircraft.

5. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 1/2001

The BPA wished to thank the APA for hosting Instructor Course 1/2001, from the 12th – 21st February 2001.

The Committee was informed that the Course Report was circulated with the Agenda. The report was for information only, as there were no recommendations from the course.

AFF/Tandem Instructor Course An AFF and Tandem Instructor Course had been held at British Parachute Schools last week, but because of poor weather the Tandem part of the course was not finished and has been continuing this week with candidates who were able to attend.

All three AFF candidates were successful and were awarded their AFF instructor ratings, they are: Kevin Fyfe, Neil Fitzsimons and Jm O' Kane, all from JSPC – Netheravon.

So far the successful Tandem Instructor candidates are: Evan Simpson – Wild Geese, Chris McCann – B.P.S, Steve Wilkins – NLPC, Mark Scobie – Red Devils and Aron Jones – Red Devils. The remaining candidates would be evaluated when and where possible. One of the Tandem Instructor candidates was unsuccessful.

The NCSO thanked Langar for hosting this Course and also Target Skysports for the use of their aircraft.

6. TEMPORARY PLAs/DZs

The NCSO advised those present that because of the Foot and Mouth crisis, a number of clubs had not been able to operate at their regular PLAs/DZs. Some of these Clubs requested that Temporary PLAs/DZs be cleared for them.

Even though the two that requested clearance did not fully conform to the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual, after consultation between the Chairman of STC, the Technical Officer and the NCSO it had been decided to permit parachuting to take place, pending ratification by STC.

- A) **Brize Norton**. RAFSPA were unable to use Weston-on-the-Green for a while and therefore requested that three areas at Brize Norton be cleared. The first being the Main Airfield itself (OS Sheet 164 Grid ref: 295 061) –

cleared for all types of parachuting (within the Ops Manual requirements). The second area the Gateway Pitches, near the Base Hangar (OS Sheet 164 Grid ref: 293 072) cleared for Experienced Parachutist and for Tandem Parachutists. This area did not fall within the requirements for Tandem Parachutist, but was felt to be acceptable by the Technical Officer who inspected the sites. The third PLA/DZ is the Sports Pitches near Officers Mess (OS Sheet 164 Grid ref: 287 061) cleared for FAI B Certificate (Red) holders and above. RAFSPA did in fact not use the Brize Norton PLAs/DZs as they were able to operate at Weston after a while, but would still like Brize Norton cleared in case they are stopped from using Weston again.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by Andy Guest that the above sites for RAFSPA be given STC approval on a temporary basis whilst they are unable to operate at their normal PLA/DZ.

Carried Unanimously

- B) **Bodmin Airfield.** The Cornwall Parachute Club had been unable to use their normal PLA/DZ at the Old Naval Airfield, St Ervan and requested that Bodmin Airfield be cleared for parachuting temporarily. A letter from John Fisher had been circulated to those present. Again this PLA/DZ was given temporary clearance pending STC approval. (As of today only one days operation has taken place at Bodmin).

The additions to Cornwall Parachute Clubs SOP' s will be:-

1. No other aircraft in circuit while parachute dropping.
2. Clearance from control tower to D.Z. Controller for parachute drop.
3. Designated emplaning point.

All other Cornwall Parachute Club' s SOP' s remain the same, eg:-

1. One student per pass.
2. All students wearing radios.
3. DZ controller approved BPA instructor.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by David Hickling that the above site for the Cornwall Parachute Club be given STC approval on a temporary basis whilst they are unable to operate at their normal PLA/DZ.

Carried Unanimously

- C) Also circulated to those present were two requests from Ian Cashman for two PLAs/DZs to be cleared at Upavon and at Middle Wallop. These proposals would be subject to an NCSO or TO inspection, which would take place tomorrow.

It was proposed by Andy Paddock and seconded by Ian Roseninge that the above sites for Netheravon be given STC approval on a temporary basis for all types of parachuting whilst they are unable to operate at their normal PLA/DZ. This was subject to an NCSO or TO inspection.

Carried Unanimously

7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Brian Dyas had been circulated with the Agenda requesting a six month extension to CSBI rating of Graham Harris.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dennis Buchanan that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Circulated was a letter from Ian Rosenvinge requesting permission to make a Tandem jump with a Student who has extremely short arms, using modified Tandem equipment.

Ian Rosenvinge advised the Committee that Ricky Corner had approached his Centre to undertake a Tandem jump. His Doctor had consulted Dr John Carter who recommended he state on the Declaration of Fitness that the harness to be used be approved by STC. Mr Rosenvinge had deduced from this that the reason being lest Ricky slip out the harness sideways, or vertically (upside down).

Ian had therefore proposed to use a normal harness with an additional strap running from the chest strap around Ricky's back.

Mr Rosenvinge presented the strap modification and also photos of Ricky.

The strap modification had been presented to the Riggers meeting that evening, which had been accepted for use with the proviso that an extra set of line stitching be inserted on the buckle end of the strap to prevent the buckle from moving sideways.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Pat Walters that the above strap modification be accepted for use, with the proviso that the extra stitching be put in place out prior to use.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) Circulated to those present was a letter from Nick Johnson requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Phil Lyall.

It was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by David Hickling that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iv) Circulated to those present was a letter from Ian Cashman requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Wayne Costello. Wayne had intended to attend the next CSI Course in May, but due to an injury, he would no longer be able to attend.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dave Wood that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- v) Trevor Dobson gave the meeting details of his request for an exemption against the 60 jump rule for his Instructor renewal. Trevor advised the Committee that due to a stomach complaint he had not been jumping for a while and whilst the Centre had been closed for the last two months due to the foot and mouth crisis, he had therefore not been able to achieve the number of jumps required for his rating renewal.

It was proposed by Dave Emerson and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B.

- a) A letter from Andy Guest was circulated with the Agenda explaining that two of his instructors, Dave Payne and Gary Kingston, were not issued with their instructor ratings last year because he did not sign their renewal applications, though he thought he had done so. Both these instructors continued to instruct during the last year. Mr Guest's letter gave the reasons for this oversight and he requested that their ratings be re-instated for 2001/2.

It was proposed by Andy Guest and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The NCSO reminded CCIsto check their Instructors membership certificates to ensure that their ratings were correct and that the expiry dates were correct.

- b) A letter from Maggie Penny was circulated with the Agenda requesting that the PLA/DZ at Movenis be cleared for all types of parachuting, including Students below Category 4, as only Category 4 and above (with certain restrictions) are permitted to jump there at the present time. Maggie was present at the meeting to give details of her request.

Also circulated to those present was a copy of a letter and map that Maggie presented to the STC meeting of the 10th December 1998 requesting that Students below Category 4 be permitted to jump at Movenis once a number of power lines had been re-positioned underground. STC gave permission for this. It was confirmed that the power cables had not as yet been repositioned underground.

The Committee was advised that Ab-initio Student jumping at Movenis has always been opposed by the Technical Officer, the NCSO and the then Chairman of STC, Tony Knight because of the number and proximity of power lines, all of whom have inspected the site.

Maggie Penny stated that she felt that she could operate safely at Movenis with the power cables as they are.

Following careful consideration on this matter by those present, it was proposed by Maggie Penny and seconded by Andrew Davies (proxy) that the above request be accepted.

For: 5 (including 4 by proxy)
Against: 10 (including 3 by proxy)
Abstentions: 4

Not Carried

- c) Circulated to those present was a letter from Pete Sizer informing STC of a proposal that he intended to put forward at the next meeting. He was giving plenty of notice, as the proposal would require a change to the Operations Manual with regard to the throwing of WDIs.

Pete Sizer felt in light of several centres having exemptions from section 8, Para 2.3 – Wind Speed and Direction and these centres account for something in the region of 42% of descents, he felt that it was perhaps time to consider changing the BPA Operations Manual rather than to continue to give any more exemptions.

The Committee considered Pete' s suggested proposal and it was suggested by those present that he may wish to give his proposal a little more thought before he put it forward.

- d) Also circulated to those present was a letter from Chris Lyall informing STC that it was his intention to revert to two RAPS first timers on a pass, following a decision he made two years ago to put one on a pass. He was informing STC as he informed STC previously that he made the restriction following a canopy collision.

Date of next Meeting:- Thursday 7th June 2001
At 7 p.m.
County Arms, Leicester

9th April 2001

Distribution

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