

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 2002

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Steve Thomas	-	CCSPC, Cyprus
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Ronnie O' Brien	-	PPC
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Nick Johnston	-	British Skysports
Nick Everett	-	Target Skysports
Andy Paddock	-	Silver Stars
Dave Emerson	-	Hinton
Alan Wilkinson	-	St Andrews
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Dave Wood	-	RAFSPA
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

Apologies John Fisher, Tony Knight, Maggie Penny, Trevor Dobson, George McGuinness, Chris Francis, Ian Cashman, Mike Bolton, Andy Guest, Dane Kenny.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Colin Fitzmaurice, Andy Pollitt, Dave Lewis, Bernadette Whitaker, Rick Boardman, Kim Newton, Brad Rock, Billy Gollan, Dave Price, Pat Hammond, Anthony Keightley, Paul Hollow, Jason Brister.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 7TH FEBRUARY 2002

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 7th February 2002 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 7TH FEBRUARY 2002

Page 4, Item 6 - Panel of Inquiry. David Hickling gave STC an update on the progress so far regarding the RAPS Panel of Inquiry. He stated that some members of the Panel had met yesterday for a meeting in Scotland. The Panel had looked at the progress on the redesigned static line bag, which incorporates a centre based tie and a new location system for the risers. They also looked at a free fall bag which,

was not dissimilar to the current one, but with additional changes. David Hickling stated that Strathallan were still continuing their work on pilot chutes. All this work had been carried out with video footage and it was extremely encouraging to see the results. A very comprehensive report has been made covering all aspects.

David advised the meeting that they were now moving to the second phase of the test programme and other centres were going to be involved.

David asked to make a point through the Chair that any centre that wishes to get involved in the test programme must include video footage of any tests that they carry out. The Chairman also requested that as much detail as possible is recorded, including aircraft power settings, what height/angle the aircraft is at, what the flap settings are etc, as all this information would be relevant to the Panel.

He stated there is still a long way to go and it could be many months before the work is completed. David Hickling stated that he was very impressed with the work that had been carried out so far and thanked everyone for their contributions.

Ian Rosenvinge gave STC an update on the progress of the Panel he is chairing.

Ian advised those present that the Panel had met that afternoon and had now completed its report. Ian gave the meeting brief details of the Panels Conclusions, but a full report would be circulated prior to the next meeting.

Ian expressed his thanks to his Panel members for the work that they had carried out.

The Chairman also expressed his thanks to all the Panels' for the work that they were doing.

Page 7, Item 7 - Body/Equipment Entanglement Drills The Chairman advised those present that no further information had been received at the BPA offices with regard to drills taught by clubs who had not previously sent in the information.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 7TH FEBRUARY 2002

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 7th February 2002 be approved.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate then gave the meeting a resume of the Riggers meeting held that evening and stated that the Committee had discussed a Safety Information Bulletin issued by TSE concerning Tear Drop One Pin reserve pilot chutes. Jumpers were advised to check their pilot chutes very carefully, as some pilot chutes may have been manufactured with sharp grommets on the metal pilot chute cap.

Paul Applegate advised those present that the Riggers Committee had also discussed two alleged packing incidents involving a BPA Rigger. Pending further investigation, the Committee had agreed to recommend to STC that his Parachute Rigger and Advanced Packer ratings be suspended until he had presented himself to the Committee.

Paul stated that as it was logistically awkward for the person concerned to attend a Riggers meeting, the Committee had agreed that they would be willing to accept something in writing from him explaining his actions, as long as the person involved was willing to accept that the Riggers Committee deal with the incidents in his absence.

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer, that the above recommendation from the Riggers Committee be accepted.

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

4. FATALITY – NETHERAVON (New Item)

It was with great sadness that the Chairman had to inform STC of the death of Pete Lambson in a parachuting accident at Netheravon on the 30th March 2002.

At approximately 13:10 hrs on Saturday 30th March 2002, Pete boarded Netheravon's Cessna Caravan along with fifteen other parachutists.

The aircraft climbed to 12,500ft. A 'jump run' was made over the centre of the PLA, but was aborted so that a lower helicopter could dispatch another lift of parachutists first. The aircraft then made a further 'jump run'. When the aircraft was over the 'exit point', Pete and three other parachutists exited in order to carry out a 4-way FS jump. The remaining eleven parachutists who were on board exited individually or in small groups shortly after.

The free fall part of the descent went without incident, during which a number of FS manoeuvres were completed. At approximately 4,000ft the parachutists separated and deployed their parachutes by 3,000ft.

All parachutes deployed normally and Pete's parachute appeared to be flying correctly. At approximately 200ft Pete's parachute was observed to be flying 'down wind'. At approximately 50ft his parachute was seen to turn very slightly to the right, followed immediately by a radical left turn. The parachute completed approximately 120° of the turn, at which point he impacted with the ground.

A Board of Inquiry was set up. The members were Tony Butler and Tony Goodman.

The Conclusions of the Board are:

'That Pete made an uneventful free fall descent, deployed his main parachute at a suitable altitude, remained 'up wind' of the intended landing area until he commenced the final 'down wind leg' of the descent. At a very low altitude, approximately 50ft he initiated a radical left turn in order to face into wind for landing. He then struck the ground at high speed before completing the turn.

The Board do not know why Pete made such a radical turn so close to the ground and can only conclude that he was not aware of how low he was prior to initiating the turn.'

The Recommendations of the Board are:

‘ That parachutists should be reminded of the dangers of performing radical manoeuvres close to the ground.’

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Mick Rust that the Board’ s Report, together with the Conclusions and Recommendations are accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman also advised those present that The Board members also felt that in this instance there was no need to instigate a Panel of Inquiry and therefore recommend to STC and Council that one is not convened.

It was proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME (Previously item 4)

- i) There had been 12 Student injuries reports received since the last meeting. 8 male and 4 female. All on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 5 injury reports received for Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists. 4 male and 1 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 10 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 9 male and 1 female. 7 were on ram-air canopies and one on a round – The Student had twist and deployed her reserve.
- iv) There had been 30 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 29 male and 1 female. The great majority of the reports were for the Easter week-end or the week-end before. We would suspect that many of them could have been first jumps after a winter break!
- v) There had been 3 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. One Student fainted under canopy, another sustained a hairline fracture of the ankle and the third dislocated a shoulder.
- vi) There had been 3 reports of an AAD firings. One was a CYPRES firing. An Experienced parachutist lost altitude awareness, pulled at 1500ft, and had a slow main opening. The other two were Category 8 parachutists who’ s FXCs fired. One at around 2,500ft shortly after opening and one where the Student lost altitude awareness.
- vii) There had been several reports received of ‘ off landings’ . All at clubs.
- viii) One report received concerned a jumper who, after landing noticed that some of his lines had come off the connector link. On checking he found all four connector links loose. The kit was new and had done 15 jumps. It is

worth reminding parachutists who have new kit, to carefully check it themselves before jumping it. Another report concerned an aircraft that lost oil pressure and the parachutists had to get out at 6,500ft without further problems.

6. PROPOSED NEW 'SOLO' STUDENT DECLARATION OF FITNESS TO PARACHUTE (Previously Item 5)

A copy of the proposed new 'solo' Student Declaration of Fitness to Parachute had been previously circulated with the Agenda.

The Chairman advised those present that 'First time' Student Parachutists who's Body Mass Index (BMI) exceeds 27.5 (e.g. 5ft 10ins – 13stone 9lbs) stand a far greater risk of landing injury than Students below that level. Males approximately double the risk and for females risk is substantially greater than that.

The Chairman stated that the Association had been advised that we have a duty to inform potential parachutists of this greater risk. The NCSO and TO were therefore proposing that a new 'Solo' Student Parachutists Declaration of Fitness/Doctor's Certificate is introduced. This certificate would only be for all 'first time' Student Parachutists other than Tandem Students who could continue to use the forms currently in use (114 or 115).

This matter generated a great deal of discussion from those present. Although members present agreed that the risk to potential parachutists with a BMI of over 27.5 needed to be identified on the Student Declaration of Fitness, the chart itself on the proposed form seemed to be unworkable for some Centres.

The Technical Officer stated that he and the NCSO did want to propose something that is going to be workable for the Centres, but not all Centres work to height and weight chart. The Association had a Duty of Care to illustrate the increased risks of injury either using this chart or some other means that STC can come up with.

The Technical Officer said that he would re-submit the proposed new 'solo' Student Declaration of Fitness to Parachute without the chart and with a statement indicating that there is an increased risk of injury with a BMI more than 27.5 and to also include a formula to provide some means of helping the Student to calculate their own BMI. Individual Centres would be able to send out their own weight/height chart or include it on the form.

7. PROPOSED CHANGES TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL (Previously Item 6)

The proposed changes to the BPA Operations Manual which went out with the agenda following discussions between Examiners on the last Instructor Course (1/2002).

1. Often, when candidates attend a CSBI course they do not have a packing certificate endorsed for their own equipment. This is not a requirement as long as they are IC1 holders, or their logbooks have been endorsed by a CCI. This endorsement may have been in previous logbooks, which could be lost or not available. However, they may have borrowed someone else's equipment, which would not be covered by present rules. This could also be a problem on any DZ where equipment is borrowed.

Therefore, it is proposed that **Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 8**

(Parachute Packing), Sub-Para 8.2 (Main Parachutes), of the BPA Operations Manual, be changed to read:

8.2. Main Parachutes

Experienced Parachutists and holders of IC1 Grade qualification are responsible for the packing of the main parachutes they are jumping.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Steve Thomas that the above proposed change to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

2. At the present time the Operations Manual permits a Tandem Instructor to attend an AFF Instructors Course, when that Tandem Instructor may never have had any relevant training, or have give any lessons other than Tandem Briefs. The Examiners felt that was never the intention of the rule and therefore propose that **Section 4 (Instructors), Parachute 6 (Accelerated Free Fall Instructor), Sub-Para 6.1.1, of the BPA Operations Manual,** be changed to read:

6.1.1. At least a Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI), an Accelerated Free Fall Basic Instructor or a Tandem Instructor who has held a CSBI rating within the previous two years.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Pat Walters that the above proposed change to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. INSTRUCTOR COURSES (Previously Item 7)

1. The Association wished to thank the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon for hosting Instructor Course 1/2002, which took place from the 11th – 21st February. The report went out with the agenda. There were no recommendations to be voted on. The report was for information only.
2. The BPA also wished to thank British Parachute Schools at Langar for hosting the Tandem and AFF Course, from the 11th – 15th March. The report went out with the agenda. When the report went out, only three of the seven Tandem candidates had successfully completed all the jumps. Since then the remaining four candidates have successfully completed their jumps and have been awarded their Tandem Instructor ratings. They are:

David Bailey	-	Peterborough
Jbn Horne	-	Netheravon
David Grzeskowiak	-	Langar
Stephen Kerr	-	Wild Geese

9. APPROVAL OF CANOPY FORMATIONS COACHING MANUAL (Previously Item 8)

A 'draft' copy of the proposed Canopy Formation Coaching Manual was circulated to CCIs with the Agenda. Aron Jones of the Red Devils and Ian Marshall had carried out the majority of the work on the new Manual. STC expressed their thanks to them both for all their hard work. Both Aron and Ian had been awarded Certificates of Merit.

It was proposed by Nick Johnston and seconded by Mike Rust that the CF Manual be approved as an accepted method of training parachutists for their CF Grade 1 qualifications.

Carried Unanimously

10. PERMISSIONS (Previously Item 9)

- a) A letter from Steve Swallow was circulated with the agenda requesting permission for Paul Hollow to act as CCI at Target Skysports until the next Advanced Instructor Course (at Strathallan on the 13th May 2002) when he attends for upgrading to Advanced Instructor.

Steve Swallow and Paul Hollow were both present at the meeting and were able to answer any questions with regard to the request. Nick Everett also provided information to those present with regards to Paul's experience.

It was proposed by Nick Everett and seconded by David Hickling that the above permission be accepted.

For: 24 (incl 9 by proxy) Against: 0 Abstention: 1

Carried

- b) Letters from Gavin Simpson and George McGuinness were circulated with the agenda requesting permission for Gavin Simpson to act as CCI of Paragon Skydiving until the June (6th) meeting of STC or until a new CCI has been appointed, whichever ever comes soonest.

Following the previous CCIs departure, the owner had been trying to recruit a replacement CCI. In an effort to keep the centre operation had requested that Gavin act as temporary CCI until such a time as a new CCI could be appointed.

The Committee was advised that Scotty Milne has been acting CCI for the past week.

The above request was proposed by George McGuinness (Proxy), but failed to find a seconder.

Not Carried

- c) A letter from John Fisher was also circulated with the agenda requesting permission to continue to use Bodmin Airfield for parachuting.

The Committee was advised that John was given temporary permission by STC last year while the foot and mouth crisis was on. He now wishes to use

the airfield throughout 2002/2003 but only for Tandem, and Intermediate and above parachutists. He wishes the same restrictions as previously, except that there will not be static line parachuting. The DZ/PLA will not be used at the same time as their normal DZ/PLA.

It was proposed by John Fisher (proxy) and seconded by Nick Everett that the above permission be accepted.

For: 11 (incl. 2 by proxy) Against: 0 Abstentions: 7

Carried

- d) Circulated to those present was a letter from Rob Noble-Nesbitt requesting a permission from the 60 jump in the previous two years rule for instructor rating renewal.

It was proposed by Karen Farr and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above permission be accepted.

For: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

Carried

- e) Circulated to those present was a letter from Trevor Dobson also requesting a permission from the 60 jump in the previous two years rule for instructor rating renewal.

It was proposed Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above permission be accepted.

For: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

Carried

- f) In the same letter Trevor Dobson also asked for 6 month extensions to the CSBI ratings of Ian Anderson and Geoff Mason.

It was proposed by Trevor Dobson (proxy) and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above permission

Carried Unanimously

- g) Circulated to those present was a letter from George McGuinness and Chris Francis requesting a permission from the 60 jump rule for instructor rating renewal for Dave Browne (the second request).

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

For: 17 (incl. 2 by proxy) Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Carried

- h) This request was from the NCSO and the Technical Officer. It is an Operations Manual requirement that BPA Clubs are inspected at least every three years, though they try to inspect clubs every two years. Because of circumstances beyond theirs and the Clubs' control it is just over three years since the Pilgrims were last inspected. The Club does not carry out many descents. The NCSO and TO were therefore requesting permission from this three-year rule, on this occasion. It is still hoped that an inspection will take place within the next few months.

It was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Steve Thomas that the above permission be accepted.

Carried

- i) Circulated to those present was a letter from Ian Rosenvinge requesting a permission from the 60 jump rule for instructor rating renewal for Jm Barnes.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Alan Wilkinson that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- j) Circulated to those present was a letter from Ian Cashman requesting two permissions for six month extensions to the CSBI ratings of John Bagwell, who broke his collarbone and was unable to attend the last CSI course and Tom Blakey who was unable to attend a CSI course due to military commitments.

It was proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Dave Wood that the above permissions be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

11. A.O.B. (Previously Item 10)

- a) Circulated to those present was a letter from Ronnie O' Brien regarding Brad Rock who currently is permitted to carry out AFF and Tandem jumps using his foreign ratings. He would now like to obtain BPA ratings as he now permanently lives in the UK. Ronnie requested that Brad attends the next AFF/Tandem Course, which is at Sibson in May, and be evaluated on the Course, with the Examiners deciding how many jumps Brad would need to make.

It was proposed by Ronnie O' Brien and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b) Circulated to those present was a letter from Jane Buckle, which will be dealt with at the next STC in June, regarding a proposal to increase the number of AFF Students trained on any one course from 3 to 6. The letter was circulated in order to give CCI's plenty of chance to consider the proposal in advance.

- c) The Chairman advised those present that a new Safety Poster had been produced by the office, which were now available to all Clubs and Centres.
- d) David Hickling gave the meeting details of his request to train up to a maximum of two AFF Students at Langar for evaluation purposes using an AFF rig, with a throwout pilot chute and dual cutaway system. The equipment is commonly used in the USA. David Hickling stated that he would present findings to STC.

Paul Applegate advised those present that the equipment had been presented that evening at the Riggers Committee and Riggers had no problem with the equipment from a rigging point of view.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Karen Farr that the above request be accepted.

For: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

Date of next Meeting:- Thursday 6th June 2002
At 7 p.m.
BPA Offices, Leicester

16th April 2002

Distribution

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