

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2002**

**Present:**

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Ronnie O'Brien	-	PPC
Steve Jelf	-	Silver Stars
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Pete Szer	-	Headcorn
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

**Apologies** As John Hitchen was at the World Cup in Spain as Head of Delegation, he had asked the Technical Officer to chair the meeting for him. At which point the Technical Officer offered STC's congratulations to V-Max for their superb performance in winning a gold at the World Cup.

Apologies have also been received from; Dave Wood, Allan Wilkinson, Ian Rosenvinge, Ian Cashman, Mike Bolton, Dave Emerson.

**In Attendance:** Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

**Observers** Dave Lewis, Kim Newton, John Harding, Rick Boardman, Bernadette Whitaker, John Curtis.

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**ITEM**

**1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 8TH AUGUST 2002**

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Steve Jelf that the Minutes of the STC meeting of the 8th August 2002 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 8TH AUGUST 2002**

**Page 1, Item 2 - (Matters Arising - RAPS Panel of Inquiry/Working Group)**. Dave Hickling gave the meeting details regarding the progress of the 'Panel/Working Group'. He stated that the Centre had been unable to do very much over the summer months, but the exit trials had been started again using the new Robertson bag. Over the next couple of weeks it was

hoped to complete 40-50 exits, which would be videoed and compared with the exits that had already been done. It was also hoped to have another Panel meeting prior to the next STC.

**Page 2, Item 2 - (Matters Arising - New Tandem Incident Forms)**. The Technical Officer advised those present that Clubs were now using these forms and a database is being constructed to record them. He stated that some Clubs were still sending in the old forms and asked that the new forms be used in the future.

**Page 3, Item 4 - (Fatal Accidents)**. Following the inclusion of the previous ratified minutes on the BPA web-site, which included details of the BPA Board of Inquiry report into the fatality at Hinton involving a parachutist and glider, there has been some criticism of the BPA actions in publishing the report by some members of the British Gliding Association. The criticism seemed to stem from the fact that the BPA issued its report before the AAIB report has been published (which is still yet to be published) and that the AAIB reports do not apportion blame. The BGA are not carrying out an official investigation, but are leaving that to the AAIB and for the gliding club to carry out their own inquiry. The BGA, in a letter to their member clubs, stated that they considered the BPA report to be "precipitate and perhaps biased". This, of course the BPA refute. The report was completed in the same manner and to a similar time-scale that all BPA Board of Inquiry reports have been conducted for the past twenty years. The ratified STC minutes were posted on the BPA web-site in accordance with the now standard custom and practice, and to the normal time-scale.

**Page 5, Item 4 - (Fatal Accidents)**. The Panel of Inquiry following the Board of Inquiry into death of Rachel Gray has been formed. This Panel is also looking into the problem of low turns in general. John Horne is chairing the Panel and the other members are Mark Bayada and Chris Allen. This Panel has set itself a great deal of work and it is likely that the report and any recommendations will be quite some time coming. It is likely that the Panel members will be contacting CCIs, and others. They will be looking at IC1 to see if it can be improved and also at the possibility of having an IC2. STC will be kept informed of the Panel's progress.

**Page 9, Item 5 (xiii) - (Incident/Injury Reports Resume)**. At the previous meeting details had been given of an incident involving two BPA Instructors who were also military personnel. The APA Safety & Training Committee had carried out their investigation into the incident and disciplinary action had been taken against the instructors concerned. STC had been satisfied with action taken by the APA STC and felt that no further action should be taken, other than the Chairman of STC writing to them reminding them of their responsibilities. John Curtis pointed out that the Riggers Committee had recently dealt with a disciplinary matter involving a BPA Rigger who was also in the military. He felt that when the Association was dealing with disciplinary matters concerning any BPA member whether military personnel or not there should be one system in place.

The Committee took on board John's comments, but it was felt by those present that although the APA STC had investigated this matter, the military aspect was irrelevant as it could be the CCI of any Club who has taken action against one of his/her instructors who then brought the matter to the attention of STC.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 8TH AUGUST 2002**

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 8th August 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 and accepted a request for TSE Student Zerox with a BOC throwaway (rip-away type) pilot chutes for general AFF use. This is a manufacturer's design and is included with new manufactured equipment. Also accepted for use that evening was the Student Javelin, with both dual cutaway and normal cutaway system with BOC throwaway (rip-away type) pilotchutes and ripcords for general AFF use.

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above equipment modifications be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

**4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS RESUME**

- i) There had been 41 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 18 male and 23 female. Three of the injuries happened during canopy deployments (1 hard opening due to the Student tumbling, the Student hurt his back, 1 Student got whip-lash to his neck on opening and the third cut his eye as his reserve opened, following a line over malfunction). The remaining 30 were all landing injuries. Five were on round canopies and 33 were on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 17 injury reports received for Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists. 11 male and 6 female. One involved a Category 8 jumper with 28 jumps who possibly lost consciousness under canopy and landed off the airfield in a bush. His CCI had advised him that he must have a full medical before jumping again.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 20 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 15 male and 5 female. All were on ram-air canopies.
- iv) There had been 63 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 55 male and 8 female. The vast majority of the reports were severe twists, or brake lines firing on high performance canopies. It appears that many experienced jumpers are not stowing their brakes securely, or cannot pack so that their canopies are opening on heading.
- v) There had been 21 Tandem Injury or Incident reports received since the last meeting. 8 were injury reports, 7 of them were very minor and one was a broken ankle. 13 were malfunctions/deployment problems. Not all the Malfunction/Deployment reports were on the new form.

- vi) There had been 3 reports received of AAD firings since the last meeting. All involved Cypres firings. Two were as the experienced jumpers were deploying their reserves. The third involved an experienced parachutist who had had a problem deploying her pilot chute and finally managed to deploy the main at approximately 1,200ft. The Cypres then fired with the reserve fully deploying at about 500ft, once the reserve was open, it became a side by side to about 350ft, a down-plane to about 150-200ft, a bi-plane to about 50ft and then a side by side to landing.
- vii) There had been a few reports of display mis-fires. Mainly 'off landings'.
- viii) There had been 7 Club 'off landing' reports received, including a Student who landed on a roof and an experienced jumper who struck some low tension power lines.
- ix) A report had been received of a CF entanglement. One of a demo practice jump at a club where the weight came off of a flag that was being jumped. One where a camera helmet came off during deployment and one report of a Sky-surfing board have to be released after the jumper lost control.
- x) There has been a report received of an engine overheating on islander and the jumpers having to exit (at 10,500ft). The aircraft landed without further incident.

## **5. INSTRUCTOR COURSES**

There had been three instructor courses held since the last STC meeting.

The first was held at British Parachute Schools, Langar, from the 12th - 22nd August and the Association wishes to thank Langar for hosting the course. The report went out with the addition to the agenda and the recommendations that needed to be voted on were were:-

'That Andy Pollitt and Louise Hawkins be given six month extensions to their Category System Basic Instructor ratings.

It was proposed by Karen Farr and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above recommendations be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

The second course took place at North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris, from the 2nd - 5th September. The BPA wishes to thank the Centre for hosting the course. The course report went out with the agenda and was for information only.

The third course was an AFF & Tandem course, which took place at the Hinton Skydiving Centre from the 23rd - 25th September. The Association is grateful to Hinton for hosting the course. The report, which was sent out as an addition to the agenda was for information only.

## 7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Dave Lewis was circulated with the agenda requesting permission for John Boxall to act as DZ controller for a night display. BPA regulations require that an Advanced Instructor is present for a night display. John no longer holds an Advanced Instructor rating. Dave Lewis was present at the meeting to give details of his request.

It was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- ii) A letter from Mike Rust was circulated as an addition to the agenda, requesting permission for Geordie Best and Steve Wilkins to carry out night Tandem descents with FAI 'C' Certificate (Red) jumpers acting as Tandem Students. The jumps are planned for November 2002 and February/March 2003. Mike was present at the meeting to give details of his request.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by David Hickling that the above permission be accepted.

For: 8                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 1

**Carried**

- iii) A letter from Karen Farr was also circulated with the addition to the STC agenda, requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Steve Studders.

It was proposed by Karen Farr and seconded by Mike Rust that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- iv) Circulated to those present was a letter from Dave Emerson requesting an extension to the CSBI rating of Gus Malyon. Gus had been unable to attend the CSI course due to illness.

It was proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Pete Sizer that Gus Malyon be given a six month extension to his CSBI rating.

**Carried Unanimously**

- v) Circulated to those present was a letter from Alan Wilkinson proposing a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Barry Davin.

It was proposed by Alan Wilkinson (proxy) and seconded by Pat Walters that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- vi) Circulated to those present was a letter from Mac MacLennan (Team Leader of the Red Devils) requesting permission to carry out a display into an area of 200m x 40m. The BPA Operations Manual requires a minimum width of 50m. Therefore, the team needed an exemption from this requirement. Mac's letter gave full details of the request and listed the jumpers and their experience as follows:-

Aron Jones – 1400+ Jumps  
Nick Davison – 1200+ Jumps  
Tom Blakey – 1500+ Jumps  
Dane Richardson – 1500+ Jumps  
Tex Marshall – 3000+ Jumps

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Steve Jelf that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

**Note:** Dane Kenny arrived at 7.25pm and apologised for his lateness due to traffic delays

## **7. A.O.B.**

- i) The Technical officer advised those present that following the last STC meeting a request was received from Headcorn Parachute Centre for a jump into Bewl reservoir, which they had jumped into on many occasions in the past. The jump was due to take place before this meeting of STC. Therefore, in an effort to be helpful to Headcorn, John Hitchen asked that Council consider this request. Council, at their meeting of the 20th August gave permission for named Headcorn jumpers to be given a permission against the square reserve and team member training requirements for a display jump. A list of the jumpers is held with the BPA office.

- ii) The Technical Officer advised those present that Skydive Redlands have had problems with airspace at their club since they began operations and have been operating on a display notification from London Area Control Centre (LACC) at Swanick, for the portion of any jump above 6,500ft.

At this time they are still unable to obtain permanent permission to operate above 6,500ft for club jumping, but can do so on a display clearance. A letter was circulated to those present from Eddie Roberston explaining the situation and to inform STC of their problems.

The Technical Officer pointed out that the above was for information.

- iii) Circulated to those present was information regarding the new FAI International Parachuting Certificate of Proficiency, which is much like an International Driving Licence. It does not replace the current FAI Certificates issued by the BPA, but is an option. Parachutists going abroad, especially to countries where the BPA system is unknown may wish to obtain the International Certificate of Proficiency before they go. Also, it will be easier for BPA CCI's to know the abilities of foreign parachutists coming to this country who hold an International Certificate of Proficiency. Any parachutist from any country who holds the new Certificate should be of the same standard. Details of the new Certificates would needed to be included in the

Operations Manual and a formal vote was required from STC to include them, as it was an amendment.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above amendment be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

Finally, the Technical Officer presented Dave Hickling with his 9,000 Jump Award, which he said was a fantastic achievement and was re-iterated by those present.

Date of next Meeting:-

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

- Thursday 28th November 2002  
At 7 p.m.  
BPA Offices, Leicester

14<sup>th</sup> October 2002

**Distribution**

C. Allen - Chairman BPA  
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