

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2002**

**Present:**

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Dave Lewis	-	Silver Stars
Ronnie O' Brien	-	PPC
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Dave Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

**Apologies** Chris Francis, Ian Cashman, Rob Noble-Nesbitt, Ian Rosenvinge, Dane Kenny, Steve Jelf (Steve had nominated Dave Lewis to represent him at this meeting), Tony Butler.

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

**Observers** Richard Wheatley, Rick Boardman, John Harding, John Curtis, Bernadette Whitaker, Mike Carruthers, Jaron Sharples.

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**ITEM**

**1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2002**

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Ronnie O' Brien that the Minutes of the STC meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2002 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2002**

**Page 1, Item 2 (Matters Arising – RAPS Panel of Inquiry/Working Group).** Dave Hickling gave the meeting an update regarding the progress of the 'Panel/Working Group'. He stated that no full meeting of the Working Group had taken place since May. However there had been several meetings held of the various sub-groups within the Working Group since then. Dave stated that a considerable amount of work was still on going, in spite of the indifferent weather and aircraft problems at various clubs.

With regard to aircraft. Dave stated that if we continue to use the 'step exit' we must accept that the most critical time, the release from the aircraft, the jumper is not under the

control of the Instructor. In his opinion, the 'sitting exit' is without doubt the safer of the two.

With regard to containers. There appears to be no advantage or disadvantage to any of the containers in common use. The Working Group had looked at Vectors, Javelins, Telesis and Zerox.

With regard to canopies. There is a wide range of canopies in student use, such as Manta, PD9 Cell F111, PD Navigator, Pathfinder, Balance to name but a few. There are one or two points that should be borne in mind when selecting the correct canopy. Only canopies cleared and rated for Student use by the canopy manufacturer should be used for Students, ie just because you have a light Student do not put them on a PD170/190! Wing loading is important and a range of Student canopy sizes should be held to cope with the weight range, putting a 7 stone person on a 280 sq. ft main can create its own problems. The Parachute Industry, (Manufacturers, DZ Operators, Instructors), have formed the opinion the Main and Reserve compatibility are most important. The Working Group has done some work in that area.

On the S/L deployment bag. The Robertson Bag is very user friendly, the use of riser lift tabs, Dave believed are a great help in getting the lines and bag into the airflow in a clean manner. (The same can be said re/ the free fall bag). Using tube stows on the Robertson Bag has shown some advantage in retaining the lines during lift off, this extra cost has to be accounted for when considering any change over. The use of the Centre Base Tie (CBT), this has shown some major benefit, but again there is a down side to it. A packing error could have a fatal outcome. The CBT will add packing time, and therefore cost. The upside is that with the correct break tie some Student instability can be corrected during the fall away from the aircraft. The CBT has also shown that the line deployment is 'cleaner' and that the canopy is evenly loaded on bag release. Trials using different break ties have been undertaken and are on going.

With regard to selection of Students. The Working Group would recommend that where ever possible there is some form of pre-selection. The less able, less committed be channelled into Tandem.

With regard to Student Training. As yet no change is recommended. The Working Group need to carry out more work looking at an 'easy exit' position for the first one or two jumps.

David Hickling asked if any Centre can get on board and devise/invent an easier exit position for the first two jumps. The Working Group would be grateful for assistance with this aspect and any video footage would be welcomed. David Hickling believed that an easier exit on the first couple of jumps would long term benefit progression.

With regard to training – instructors. This is an area that needs to be carefully and tactfully examined. There is a gut feeling that the more recent Instructors are less practiced in the act of dispatching than those that have been around more than 5 or so years. For example the trend seems to be to dispatch as fast as possible after giving and getting the 'cut' . David Hickling stated that although the BPA Instructor Course is very heavily loaded, he would like to think that we could spend some time on the Course with a more practical side on dispatching.

David Hickling stated that a lot of people are still continuing to do a lot of work. The Chairman of STC and CCI's present thanked Dave and the Working Group for the work that they were doing.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2002**

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2002 be approved.

**Carried Unanimously**

Paul Applegate then gave the meeting a resume of the Riggers meeting held that evening. He advised those present that the Riggers Working Group Committee looking at rigging in general had met that morning for their first meeting. The Working Group had come up with a number of proposals, which they would be putting forward to the Riggers Committee and that there would be a separate report on this meeting from John Curtis.

**4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS RESUME**

- i) There had been 11 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 7 male and 4 female. One was a twisted ankle during 'exit' practices. The remaining 10 were landing injuries. All on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 2 injury reports received for Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists. Both male.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 3 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 2 male and 1 female. One was a malfunction, the other two were Students who thought they had malfunctions. All were on ram-air canopies.
- iv) There had been 17 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 14 male and 3 female.
- v) There had been 5 Tandem Injury or Incident reports received since the last meeting. 3 were injury reports. 2 were malfunctions/deployment problems.
- vi) One report had been received of a FXC firing, where an Intermediate jumper deployed his main canopy low and the AAD fired as the main pilot chute deployed.
- vii) There had been a number of 'off landing' reports received, including several Students landing in trees, one of whom broke a leg. One concerned a Tandem, which landed off, without injury or further problem.
- viii) One report concerned a display, which happened abroad, but is worth mentioning. This concerned a CF jump, a Tri-by-side formation. The jumpers were attached by 'probes', which were attached between the harnesses. One canopy went behind another and the formation started to 'rock'. In an attempt to 'cutaway' the probe, one of the jumpers cutaway his main canopy by mistake. This took place at approximately 250ft. The jumper who cutaway his main was still attached to the

other jumper by his probe. Both jumpers landed, without injury under one canopy. The team have grounded the probes until a full risk assessment has taken place. Another incident involved a jumper who cutaway his skysurfing board after he deployed the board pilot chute by mistake.

- ix) There have been two aircraft problem reports received since the last meeting. One involved an aircraft running out of fuel at 9,000ft. The other involved an aircraft running off the end of the runway into a field, slightly damaging the prop.

## **5. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 5/2002 – TARGET SKYSPOrts**

The Association is grateful to Target Skysports for hosting the course, which took place from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November.

There is only one recommendation to be voted on: ‘ That Christian Byrne be given a six month extension to his CSBI rating’ .

It was proposed by Pete Szer and seconded by David Hickling that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **6. PROPOSED LIMITED EXEMPTION FOR ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MILITARY PARACHUTISTS**

A proposal from Paul Hollow went out with the agenda for members of the Association of British Military Parachutists (ABMP) to be permitted to parachute at Target Skysports using their own equipment and to be permitted to jump in certain conditions.

Also circulated to those present was a letter from Rob Noble-Nesbitt opposing the proposal.

Paul stated that he did not want to put this proposal to a vote this evening, but asked CCI's for their thoughts and comments.

Discussion followed on this matter and there was a fairly negative response from those present to Paul Hollow's proposal.

Paul thanked CCI's for their comments and confirmed that he did not wish a vote to be taken on his proposal at this time.

## **7. PERMISSIONS**

- i) A letter from Pete Szer was circulated with the agenda requesting an extension to the May CSI course for Tim Bell, who had been unable to attend earlier because of work commitments.

It was proposed by Pete Szer and seconded by Pat Walters that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## 8. A.O.B.

- i) The Chairman advised the Committee that In October the CAA received a letter of complaint that a Student Parachutist who was injured at a BPA Club was told that she should tell the hospital that she was injured falling down some stairs. The CAA asked us to investigate the allegation. The NCSO & TO had asked two BPA Examiners to carry out a full investigation. They concluded that an unknown member of the club in question did advise the Student to inform the hospital that she had fallen down a friend' s stairs. The CCI was not aware that this advice had been given and the club has taken measures to ensure that it does not happen in the future.

The Chairman stated that this type of behaviour is not appropriate. If a club feels that a particular hospital gives a lesser service, or a lower priority, to injured parachutists, then the club should certainly take this up with the relevant hospital authority.

The Chairman stated that it was not his intention to take this matter further, unless STC felt that further action should be taken and he asked CCIs for their comments. There were no comments or objections raised by those present to this.

- ii) The Chairman stated that, as all CCIs know it is a requirement that before a parachuting programme commences each day, the ATSUs must be notified as per the AIP. Some General Aviation organisations are suggesting that some clubs are not informing the ATSUs of all the starting and stopping of parachuting operations during some parachuting days. The NCSO and TO did not believe that this is the case, as they carry out sample checks during Club Inspections/Audits. However, it is important that Clubs maintain accurate records of ATSU notification of parachuting start and end times. As has been previously stated, if once an ATSU has been notified of parachuting operations, the club is likely to cease for a number of hours, due to weather conditions etc, the ATSU should be notified of this and then notified again before parachuting re-commences and recorded. Clubs must also check with the AIP that they are informing the correct ATSU.

David Hickling commented that on the latest list that had been circulated contained all DZ phone numbers, which he felt was very good as anyone needing to fly near a drop zone they had a means of communicating with them by landline.

- iii) The Chairman advised those present that the Annual Returns had been sent out with the Agenda. He asked CCIs to complete them and send them to the BPA offices as soon as possible after the end of the year.
- iv) The Chairman reminded CCIs that if they had a skydiver at their club who they wished to nominate for the Mike Forge Trophy (New Skydiver of the Year), the nomination needs to be in by the end of the year.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to all CCIs for their support throughout the year. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and he stated that he hoped to see as many CCIs as possible at the BPA AGM on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Date of next Meeting:-

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003  
At 7 p.m.  
BPA Offices, Leicester

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2002

**Distribution**

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