

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2003

Present:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer/Acting Chairman
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Mike Bolton	-	Skydive Redlands
Steve Jelf	-	Silver Stars
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Jeff Illidge	-	Black Knights
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Dave Emerson	-	Hinton Skydiving
Karen Farr (from 7.15pm)	-	Skydive Strathallan
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

Apologies John Hitchen who was at the IPC meeting in Brazil had asked Tony Butler to Chair this meeting on his behalf. Apologies had also been received from; George McGuinness, Phil Cavanagh (Jeff Illidge represented Phil at the meeting), Maggie Penny, Dennis Buchanan, Ian Cashman, Mike Rust, Ian Rosenvinge

In Attendance: Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers Matt Walmsley, John Harding, John Curtis, Colin Fitzmaurice, Dave Lewis, Richard Wheatley.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 28TH NOVEMBER 2002

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the STC meeting of the 28th November 2002 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 28TH NOVEMBER 2002

Page 5, Item 8 – (A.O.B iii). CCIs were reminded to send in their Annual Returns as soon as possible after the end of the year. There are still a number of Annual Returns to be received.

Page 5, Item 8 – (A.O.B iv). The Technical Officer advised the meeting that the Mike Forge Trophy was awarded at the AGM to Chris Harris from Peterborough.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 28TH NOVEMBER 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 28th November 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 Technical Communication from PDF concerning BT80 canopies, which would be circulated with the Minutes for information.

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PILOTS' SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 18TH JANUARY 2003

The Technical Officer advised those present that the Pilots' Sub-Committee meeting was held at the AGM and a copy of the Minutes had been circulated to those present. He stated that if anyone had any questions relating to the Minutes, he had been in attendance at the meeting.

There being no matters arising, it was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by Steve Jelf that the Minutes of the Pilots' Sub-Committee Meeting of the 18th January 2003, be approved:

Carried Unanimously

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS RESUME

The Technical Officer advised those present that there had not been a great deal of parachuting over the last couple of months and this was reflected in the small number of incident and injury reports received.

- i) There had been 4 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 3 male and 1 female. Three of them were poor flares and one Student stumbled and twisted an ankle walking back from the PLA. All the landing injuries were on ram-air canopies. .
- ii) There had been 2 injury reports received for Intermediate/Experienced Parachutists, both were off landings. The injuries were an ankle injury and the other was bruised legs and ribs after landing in trees.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 1 Student Parachutist Malfunction report received. The Student had a distorted canopy.
- 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 3 Tandem reports received since the last meeting. 2 were injury reports. 1 was a malfunction.

- vi) One report had been received of a FXC firing, where an Intermediate jumper deployed his main canopy low and the AAD fired resulting in two canopies out. They started to down-plane, so the jumper cutaway his main.
- vii) There had been 3 reports of 'off landings', all at clubs and included a Student who landed in a field and the canopy caught on some trees.

6. CCI – RATING SUSPENSION

This item was discussed following item 8 (AOB) of the main agenda.

The item was dealt with in-camera and all observers were asked to leave the meeting.

The Technical Officer advised those present that John Hitchen had suspended the instructor ratings of a CCI on the 19th December 2002, until this STC meeting. The reason for the suspension initially stemmed from a letter received from a Student Parachutist on the 2nd December 2002, in which a number of allegations were made, including one that she was dispatched on a 10 second delay jump by the CCI's son, who is not an instructor. A copy of the letter was read out to those present.

The Technical Officer had then written to the CCI concerned on the same day (2nd December) copying the Student Parachutist's letter to him, asking for his comments. A copy of the letter was read out to those present. The Technical Officer received a reply from the CCI concerned on the 17th December 2002, which he read out to those present, in which the CCI admitted to some of the allegations. It was after this letter was received that the CCI's rating was suspended.

The Technical Officer then wrote to the CCI and his son, also to the Student Parachutist that this would be discussed at tonight's meeting and suggesting that they may wish to attend. The Student Parachutist has written back stating that she would not be able to attend, but he had not received replies from the CCI or his son to indicate whether or not they were attending the meeting. Those present at the meeting were disappointed that the CCI or his son were not present that evening to discuss such an important matter.

Circulated to those present were nineteen letters and e-mails of support for the CCI and his family from Club members. The T.O. stated that a number of the letters seem to be under the impression that it is the BPAs' intention to close the Club down. The Technical Officer pointed out that it is not, or ever has been the BPAs' intention to close any Club down.

STC discussed whether or not to form a Panel of Inquiry to investigate this matter further, but following some discussion it was agreed not to form a Panel at this time.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Dave Emerson and seconded by Steve Jelf that this item is put on the Agenda for the next STC Meeting, when it is hoped the CCI concerned will be present. In the meantime his Instructor ratings remain suspended.

Carried Unanimously

Following some discussion with regard to the CCI's son, who was responsible for dispatching the Student Parachutist. It was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by Dave Emerson that he is written to advising him that this incident will be discussed at the next STC

meeting and that STC will expect him to attend to explain his actions as they may consider as to whether he may have brought the sport into disrepute.

Carried Unanimously

It was agreed that the T.O. should write to both stating the STC expect them to be present at the next meeting

7. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Ian Rosenvinge had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Ian Anderson be re-instated as a CSBI for 6 months, as it had lapsed towards the end of last year. Due to display commitments combined with a lack of opportunity to use his rating at Merlin prior to the end of October last year had resulted in Ian Anderson being unable to attend a previous CSI Course.

Ian Rosenvinge' s letter also contained another request that Phil Clark be given a 6 month extension to his CSBI rating.

Following some discussion on the above, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge (proxy) and seconded by Paul Hollow that the above permissions be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Pete Sizer gave the meeting details of his request, which had been circulated to those present requesting nine month extensions to the CSBI ratings of Simon Hopkins and Andy Kille. Pete stated that due to commitments both Simon and Andy would be unable to attend a CSI Course until the end of the year.

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

Carried Unanimously

- iii) Circulated to those present was a request from Pete Sizer for a nine month extension to the CSBI rating of Louise Hawkins. Pete advised those present that this was a second extension for Louise, who had been unable to attend a CSI Course during the last 6 months.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Paul Hollow that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iv) Circulated to those present was as letter from Maggie Penny requesting an extension to the TBI rating of William Jones. The Committee was advised that William is booked on the Tandem Instructor Course at the end of March, but his TBI rating expires in February. Due to work and Team commitments, he had been unable to attend a Course until this time.

It was proposed by Steve Jelf and seconded by Mike Bolton that William Jones be given a six month extension to his TBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

- v) Circulated to those present was letter from Maggie Penny requesting that Stuart English be permitted to complete his last 4 AFF Consolidation jumpers at Wild Geese, under the supervision of Taff Davies (Advanced & AFF Instructor).

The Committee was advised that Stuart was a static line student who had jumped at Wild Geese, but whose progression was hampered by unsuitable weather. He undertook an AFF Course with Scotty Milne and has a certain amount of wind tunnel time, but has still to complete 4 consolidation jumps. Stuart would prefer to complete the remaining jumps at Wild Geese where he is familiar with the Centre. Ballykelly is closed for the next month and Stuart was keen to continue as soon as possible.

It was proposed by Dave Emerson and seconded by Steve Jelf that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B.

- i) The Technical Officer advised those present that the AAIB have just issued their report on the glider/parachutist fatalities at Hinton in June. The report is confidential, but an AAIB Bulletin will be published on their web-site on the 6th February. Therefore, the Bulletin will be discussed at the next STC meeting as it contains a number of recommendations that refers to parachuting activities.
- ii) Circulated to those present was a letter from Dave Emerson regarding the instructor – Student ratio for AFF courses. This was not for discussion that evening, as Dave intends putting a proposal for the next STC meeting. A copy of this letter will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.

Date of next Meeting:-

Thursday 10th April 2003

At 7 p.m.

BPA Offices, Leicester

31st January 2003

Distribution

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