

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2003**

**Present:**

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Phil Cavanagh	-	Black Knights
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Nick Johnston	-	British Skysports
Karen Farr	-	Skydive Strathallan
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Dave Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Brian McGill	-	RAFSPA
Chris Francis	-	LPS
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Steve Jelf	-	Silver Stars
Ian Cashman	-	JSPC (N)
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

**Apologies** Rob Noble-Nesbitt, Tony Knight, Paul Hollow, Maggie Penny, Andy Guest, Ronnie O' Brien, Mike Bolton, Carl Williams, Dave Emerson, Jeff Illidge.

**In Attendance:**

Chris Allen	-	Chairman BPA
Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

**Observers** Mike Carruthers, Craig Kelsall, Andy Pollitt, Dave Lewis, Colin Fitzmaurice, Mick Rafferty, Martin Harris, Bernadette Whitaker, John Curtis, Mick Glover, Lisbeth Harris.

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**ITEM**

**1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2003**

It was proposed by Steve Jelf and seconded by Mike Rust that the Minutes of the STC meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2003**

**Page 3, (Item 6 – CCI Rating Suspension).** This item was dealt with in camera and all observers were asked to leave the meeting.

At the previous meeting neither the CCI concerned or the CCI' s son had attended and therefore the Committee decided that the CCI' s instructor rating would remain suspended until this meeting when it was hoped that he and his son would attend. Both the CCI and his son had been written to asking them to attend this meeting to explain their actions.

The Chairman of STC stated that he had spoken to the CCI and he had indicated that he would not attend the meeting, but had sent in a letter, which he requested should be read out at the meeting. This the Chairman did.

The Committee were disappointed that neither the CCI or his son were present that evening and they discussed a number of ways to enable this matter to be progressed to a satisfactory conclusion.

It was felt by those present that to set up a Panel of Inquiry into this matter was not appropriate in this instance and the Committee were very reluctant to make a decision about the CCI without him being present.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Chris Francis and seconded by Mike Rust that the CCI be written to advising him that STC are not prepared to make a decision on this matter until he attends an STC meeting in person to explain his actions, so that the Committee can make an informed decision, in the meantime his Instructor ratings remain suspended.

For: 10                      Against: 1                      Abstentions: 2

**Carried**

The Committee then discussed the case concerning the CCI' s son. Some CCIs present felt that they could not deal with his son until they had resolved the matter with his father. However it was felt that if his son had any sort of Instructor ratings, then STC would have suspended them until he presented himself to the Committee.

Following some discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Ian Cashman that the CCIs son is written to reminding him of his responsibilities as a BPA member.

A counter proposal was tabled by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Pete Sizer that the CCI' s son has his ability to act as jumpmaster suspended until he presents himself to the Committee to explain his actions.

For: 4                      Against: 3                      Abstentions: 6

**Carried**

Observers were asked to return to the meeting.

**Page 5, (Item 8 – A.O.B i – AAIB Bulletin)**. The AAIB Bulletin referred to at the last meeting concerning the glider/parachutist fatalities at Hinton last year has now been published and was sent to CCIs with the agenda.

The AAIB made a number of observations/recommendations which it is felt should be considered by STC:

1. “ The BPA and the BGA are reviewing the procedures at all their associated venues where concurrent parachute and gliding activities take place” .
2. “ AAIB Safety Recommendation 2002-54

That the British Parachute Association include in their Operations Manual a requirement for the crew of an aircraft involved in dropping parachutists, to inform the DZ controller when each run is complete.”

The Technical Officer stated that the BPA Board of Inquiry had made the following recommendation, which was accepted by STC:

*“ That in the light of this accident, all Clubs re-asses their non-confliction procedures and satisfy themselves that they are adequate, and where other activities take place at the same site, formal, agreed procedures are in place.”*

The Technical Officer stated that he subsequently wrote a letter to all CCIs on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2002, which stated:

*“ .....This recommendation (above) was accepted by STC at their meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2002. Therefore, CCIs should take note of this, and where appropriate take action.*

*It is also strongly recommended that pilots inform the DZ Control when the last parachutist(s) has/have left the aircraft on any one pass over the PLA, if this is not already club procedure.*

*The above recommendations may require changes to procedures and to local SOPs. These will be reviewed during future BPA Affiliated Club Inspections/Audits.”*

The TO stated that as parachuting (other than Student parachuting) may take place without ground to aircraft radio communication, it is felt that the recommendation was more suitable for inclusion in SOPs rather than the Operations Manual and therefore he believed that the recommendation of the AAIB was already adequately covered.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Dennis Buchanan and seconded by David Hickling that no other action, other than that already taken by the BPA, in the Board of Inquiry report and the Technical Officer’ s letter to Clubs be taken.

For: 12                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 1

**Carried**

**Page 5, (Item 8 – A.O.B ii).** Dave Emerson’ s letter regarding the AFF Student to instructor ratio is a main agenda item.

The Chairman advised the Committee that there are a number of Panels of Inquiry/Working Groups still to be completed, including the RAPS Panel of Dave Hickling, the aircraft accident at Weston Panel of Tony Knight and the Canopy Handling Panel of John Horne. These Panels are still carrying out work and there will be more information at the next STC meeting.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2003**

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 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003 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 the proposed changes to the Riggers' Section of the Operations Manual and the various Rigging forms which was on the main agenda for STC.

**4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS RESUME**

- i) There had been 25 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 24 landing injuries and one training injury, where a Student hurt her knee exiting an aircraft mock up. 14 male and 11 female. 22 of the injuries were on ram-air canopies and 2 were on rounds.
- ii) There had been 3 injury reports received for Intermediate/Experienced Parachutists. 1 male and 2 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 24 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 15 male and 9 female. The reports included a Student on his ninth freefall who pulled on his back and the bridle line wrapped around his neck. After about 13 seconds he deployed his reserve. He landed with the bridle line still around his neck. Another report concerned a hard opening on a static line jump, where the static line bag was completely destroyed. This incident had been discussed by the Riggers Committee that afternoon and they could find no real evidence to suggest why this had happened to the bag. The bag was shown to those present.
- iv) There had been 33 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 25 male and 8 female.  
  
The CCI was able to give details of one jumper who pulled their dive loops instead of steering toggles because the dive loops were yellow. The CCI believed that incident was one to be aware of.
- v) There had been 5 Tandem Injury or Incident reports received since the last meeting. 1 was an injury to the instructor – an inadequate flare and 4 were malfunction/deployment problems.
- vi) One report had been received of a Cypres firing, where an experienced jumper deployed his main canopy low and the AAD fired resulting in the reserve pilot chute deploying.
- vii) Reports had been received of jumpers losing, a helmet and a trainer on exit. Also of jumpers having to jettison a sky-surfing board and flag. All incidents occurred at clubs.
- viii) One report had been received of CF canopy entanglement.

- xi) There had been a number of ' off landings' , All at clubs and included a Student who landed on a hangar roof and 2 Students who landed in trees. 1 was also for a Tandem. All landed without injury.

## **5. AFF STUDENT TO INSTRUCTOR RATIO**

Letters from Dave Emerson regarding AFF Student to Instructor ratios were sent out with the previous minutes and the agenda for this meeting. Dave proposed that the ratio to be increased from 3 on any one course to 6.

Also circulated to those present were letters from Paul Hollow and Chris Allen opposing the proposal.

The Committee was advised that a similar request was discussed last year, which had been debated at some length by STC and had been turned down by the Committee.

Dave' s proposal generated some discussion. It was believed by the majority of members present that to increase the number of AFF students on a Course may lead to a lower standard of instruction received by the students possibly, leading to an increase in incidents.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Dave Emerson (proxy) and seconded by Pete Szer that the above proposal be accepted.

A counter proposal was tabled by Dave Hickling and seconded by Mike Rust that the status quo concerning the AFF Student to Instructor ratio remains unchanged.

For: 13 (incl 2 by proxy)                      Against: 1                      Abstentions: 1

**Carried**

## **6. CHANGETO SECTION 14 (RIGGERS) OF THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

The Committee was informed that over the past few months, work has been ongoing updating the various Rigging Forms (Forms; 111, 138, 169, 175, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202 & 208). These forms had been circulated with the Riggers' Committee agenda, together with a proposed revised Section 14 (Riggers) from the BPA Operations Manual.

All were agreed at the Riggers' meeting this afternoon. The only change, following a letter from Rob Noble-Nesbitt, which was circulated to those present is to Form 111, where number 1) on the first page has been changed to read:

- ' 1) Reassemble a parachute assembly, having been stripped down to component parts.

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Ian Cashman that all of the above amended forms, with above change to Form 111 and the revised Section 14 of the Operations Manual be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## 7. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 1/2003

There had been two instructor courses since the last meeting:

1. The first course 1/2003 was held at Netheravon from the 24<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> March and the Chairman thanked the Joint Services Parachute Centre for hosting the course.

The Course Report went out with the agenda and the recommendations needed to be voted on:

‘That Michael Outen, Alex Waller and Sylviane Herrick be given six month extensions to their Category System Basic Instructor ratings.’

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

**Carried Unanimously**

2. The second course was an AFF/Tandem course, which was held at BPS Langar from the 31<sup>st</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April. The Chairman thanked BPS for hosting the course, which would normally have finished on the Friday (4<sup>th</sup> April), but had to continue on the following Monday and Tuesday as two instructors still had a few jumps to complete.

The Course report was circulated to those present and was for information only, as there are no recommendations to be voted on.

## 8. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Nick Johnston was circulated with the agenda requesting an extension to the CSBI rating of Andrew Pollitt.

It was proposed by Nick Johnston and seconded by David Hickling that Andrew Pollitt be given a six month extension to his CSBI rating.

**Carried Unanimously**

- ii) Chris Francis gave the meeting details of his request, which was circulated with the agenda requesting that Mick Raftery be re-instated as an Advanced Instructor. Mick’ s rating lapsed a year ago mainly due to military commitments, but he is now back within the sport parachuting environment and has recently been posted back to RAF Weston on the Green as School Warrant Officer. Mick Raftery was also present at the meeting.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Chris Francis and seconded by Mike Rust the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- iii). Ian Rosenving gave the meeting details of his request that had previously been circulated with the agenda proposing that Trevor Dobson be exempted from the 60 jump in the previous two year rule for instructor rating renewal, and that he is permitted to renew his rating for 2003/2004 given that he undertakes a minimum of 30 jumps during 2003/2004 and thereafter given that he satisfies the 60 jump rule.

This request was discussed by the Committee at some length and it was pointed out that Trevor was granted an exemption previously to the 60 jump rule.

A number of people commented that it was their belief instructors should be current and if they were not jumping they should not be instructing. Some members also felt that STC should look at changing the requirements for rating renewal for those instructors that have been in the sport for a long time.

Following further discussion, the Committee decided to vote on the above proposal in two parts.

- a) That Trevor Dobson be granted an exemption to the 60 jump rule to enable him to renew his Advanced and Approved Instructor's ratings for 2003/2004.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Mike Rust that the above permission be accepted.

For: 7            Against: 3            Abstentions: 3

**Carried**

- b) That Trevor Dobson is allowed to renew his ratings for 2004/2005 given that he undertakes 30 jumps during 2003/2004 and thereafter given that he satisfies the 60-jump requirement.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Mike Rust that the above permission be accepted.

For: 3            Against: 8            Abstentions: 2

**Not Carried**

- iv) Circulated to those present was a letter from Ian Cashman requesting a 6 month extension to the CSBI rating of Steven Candlish. Due to military commitments Steven had been unable to attend a CSI Course, but he was booked to attend the CSI Course in August.

It was proposed by Ian Cashman and seconded by Steve Jelf that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- v) Circulated to those present was a request from Karen Farr for a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Mike Harrower. Mike cannot attend the CSI Course in May due to work commitments, but had planned to attend the Course in August at Hibaldstow.

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

**Carried Unanimously**

- vi) Circulated to those present was a request from Mike Rust for a six month extension (from the end of May, when his rating expires) to the CSBI rating of Ron Perry, who had been able to attend a CSI Course due to work commitments.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Chris Francis that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- vii) The Committee were given details of a request from Andy Guest for a six month extension (from the end of May, when the rating expires) to the CSBI rating of Jason Farrant. Jason had been out of the country for six months working at a drop zone in the USA, where he got his Tandem rating and did 150 tandems. Jason attended the BPA Tandem Instructor Course last week and successfully gained his Tandem Instructor rating. He was due to attend the CSI Course in November.

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

**Carried Unanimously**

## **9. A.O.B.**

- i) A letter from Ian Rosenvinge was circulated with the agenda, asking STC to discuss as to whether AADs should be made mandatory for all parachutists. Ian's letter had given some background for his request for a discussion.

At this time the mandatory use of AADs is restricted to Student Parachutists only, excluding Students jumping Traditional (front & back) equipment.

A great deal of discussion ensued on this matter. CCIs considered Ian's request at some length and they also discussed the NCSO and TO's suggestion of the possibility of making AADs mandatory for jumpers up to 'B' or 'C' Certificate and also whether it should be a requirement for AFF Instructors.

Although Committee accepted that Student AAD's as mandatory, they did not believe that they should be made mandatory for everyone.

Following further discussion on this request, it was generally felt by those present that at the moment it should be left to individuals to decide.



- ii) Paperwork from Chris Francis was circulated to those present requesting an exemption from the Operations Manual rule (Section 9, Para 2.1.2); “ That an aircraft used over 5700kg must be registered in the UK” . This is because London Parachute School (LPS) wishes to use a foreign registered Hercules C130 aircraft for some Tandem parachuting during June.

Chris had also requested that Kemble airfield be cleared as a Temporary DZ/PLA during June for London Parachute School, so that the filming can take place there, subject to inspection and clearance by the NCSO or TO. Kemble has been cleared for restricted Student Parachuting in the past. It is LPS' s intention to impose the following conditions:

- a. Category 5 fire cover will be provided.
- b. Full medical and ambulance cover will be in situ whilst flying or parachuting is taking place.
- c. Two CSBI' s will be the minimum drop zone cover on the day, assisted by experienced parachutists. Chris will also be present as Advanced Instructor.
- d. No propellers or rotors will be turning for 5 minutes before exit and 5 minutes after landing and all other aircraft traffic will clear the zone.
- e. Maximum drop height will be 12,000ft AGL.
- f. Oxygen will be available on the aircraft.

Chris Francis had also provided an aerial photograph of the DZ/PLA, which was circulated to those present.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Chris Francis and seconded by Dave Hickling that the above request be accepted.

For: 12                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 1

**Carried**

The Chairman advised those present that the above will still be subject to CAA and DfT requirements.

- iii) The Chairman informed the meeting that Jane Buckle & Pete Sizer had written to the Association regarding some problems that had come to light regarding FAI Certificates.

The Chairman stated that if for instance someone learns to jump abroad and on returning to the UK applies for both an ‘ A’ and ‘ B’ Certificate at the same time, the Certificate will be sent to them from the BPA office with an IC1 stamp stuck inside, they will also be sent a letter telling them to ensure that their CCI or Advanced Instructor signs and dates the stamp. Sometimes they don’ t do this and there could be a problem when they go to another club.

Also, it has been noticed that when some parachutists are applying for a ‘ B’ Certificate, some instructors are endorsing the application form if the applicant’ s ‘ A’ Certificate has an FS1 sticker instead of an IC1 sticker as it should have.

CCI' s were requested to discuss these problems with their instructors to ensure that the correct requirements are covered before they endorse forms.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the FAI application form has now been slightly amended, underlining the requirements. Copies are around the table and the new forms can be downloaded from the BPA web-site, or obtained from the BPA office.

- iv) Circulated to those present were details of Abingdon Airfield clearance as an alternative DZ/PLA for the Silver Stars (OS Sheet 164, Grid ref 475 995). As the DZ/PLA falls within the requirements of the BPA Operation Manual, it did not require STC approval and is therefore for information only. Abingdon has been used as an alternative DZ in the past and is already notified as a military DZ.
- v) The Chairman advised the Committee that he had spoken to Andy Ford who had agreed to put some ideas forward for use as a possible guideline for wingsuits. Andy had submitted a paper, a copy of which was circulated to those present for input and comment by STC.

*Note:- Further copies may be obtained from the BPA Office.*

- vi) The Committee were given details of a fatal parachuting accident that had taken place in Portugal which involved a BPA member and who had also been an BPA instructor. STC members expressed their sympathy at this sad loss.

Date of next Meeting:- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2003  
At 7 p.m.  
BPA Offices, Leicester

15<sup>th</sup> April 2003

### **Distribution**

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