

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2004

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Pete Szer	-	Headcorn
Tony Knight	-	UK Parachuting
Mark Bayada	-	RAPA
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Kev Goode	-	Sbson
Nigel Allen	-	JSPC (N)
Steve Jelf	-	Silver Stars
Trevor Dobson	-	Peterlee
Andy Guest	-	Devon & Somerset
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Brian McGill	-	RAFSPA
Andy Montriou	-	Skydive Jersey
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Dave Emerson	-	Hinton Skydiving
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

Apologies Dane Kenny, Karen Farr, Maggie Penny, Rob Noble-Nesbitt, Carl Williams.

In Attendance:

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

Observers Jeff Illidge, Gavin Horrell, Mal Richardson, Stuart Meacock, Ian Rosenvinge, Dave Major.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2004

Page 2, Item 2 – Matters Arising – (St Andrews Flying Panel - Appeal)

The Chairman advised those present that Brian Dyas had sent in a letter stating that he wanted the minutes changed because Brian stated that he “ distinctly remembered asking if he could remain on the basis that he was there to represent Jm White and the Chairman of STC said no” .

The Chairman advised those present that what Brian had actually stated was that he was representing Sandy, he did not mention Jm White at that stage during the meeting.

The Chairman asked if anyone at STC felt that the Minutes should be amended. There was no support or proposal to amend the Minutes.

The Chairman advised those present that he had replied to Brian' s letter today.

Page 9 – Item 9 - Permissions (b)

Andy Montriou asked if the wording in the first paragraph of this item could be slightly amended to read “ ... suitably powered binoculars...” as this is what he had said and not “ ..high-powered binoculars...” as stated in the Minutes.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the Minutes of the STC meeting of the 5 August 2004 be accepted as a true record with the above stated amendment.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2004

Page 2, Item 2, Matters Arising – St Andrews Flying Panel. The Chairman advised those present that Jm White and Brian Dyas, who represented Jm at the last STC and who also represented Sandy Barnett during the Appeal, believe that the Chairman of STC should not have asked Brian to leave the meeting after he had made the appeal on behalf of Sandy Barnett, and whilst the appeal was discussed by STC.

The Chairman stated that he believed he acted correctly, as at that stage Brian was representing Sandy and it was common practise for those who' s appeal is being considered, to be asked to leave. Brian was not asked to leave until he had been given every opportunity to state the reason for the appeal, and also for Brian to be asked questions by the Committee.

The Chairman also stated that STC seemed to support him regard to the decision, because when Brian objected, he received no support from those present. However, he felt that STC may wish to consider as to whether the correct decision was made, bearing in mind that Sandy still had the right to make a further Appeal to Council.

The feeling of the Committee was that the Chairman of STC had been absolutely correct in his actions and they were happy with his conduct at the last STC Meeting with regard to this item.

Page 3, Item 4, Fatalities (a) – Peterlee. The Chairman stated that the report by the Panel of Inquiry that followed the Board of Inquiry was a main agenda item.

Page 5, Item 4, Fatalities (b) – Dunkeswell. The Committee was advised that the A.A.I.B. were still conducting their investigation and no further information had been received at this time. Andy Guest reported that the two survivors were now out of hospital. The Committee were pleased to hear of their progress and asked Andy to pass on the Committee' s best wishes to them.

Page 6, Item 6 - Panels of Inquiry/Working Groups (a) – Hinton Flying Panel. This item had been deferred until the next meeting, as the Panel Chairman had been unable to attend this evening.

Page 7, Item 6 - Panels of Inquiry/Working Groups (b) – Canopy Handling Panel. This item was on the main agenda for that evening.

Page 8, Item 6 - Panels of Inquiry/Working Groups (c) – RAPS Panel. The Chairman reported that this Panel report was the subject of a Special STC meeting, held that afternoon and separate minutes would be produced relating to the meeting.

3. RIGGING MATTERS

There was no meeting of the Riggers' Committee held on the 5 August 2004, as there were not enough voting members present. Therefore there are no minutes to be approved.

Paul Applegate gave the Committee details of the meeting held earlier in the day and stated that the Committee had discussed an item brought to their attention by Pete Sizer.

Pete Sizer advised the meeting that on the last Tandem Instructor Course, a candidate had pulled the primary ripcord and 4 seconds passed before the 3-ring released and the drogue lifted the bag off. Pete stated that on inspecting the kit, he removed the double ended loop, which transpires had been glued as well as sewn, so was quite rigid even at room temperature.

Pete Sizer stated that if the loops were not actually manufacturer produced, then the only spec that was available was the one from Relative Workshop which details the dimensions and construction method for the loop and it does not mention gluing it in any place.

4. FATALITY – HINTON SKYDIVING CENTRE (New Item)

The Chairman advised the meeting that unfortunately, in 20 years of AFF there had now been the first AFF fatal accident in the UK. He stated that on Friday 24th September, at Hinton a 50 year woman (Jeanne Hallam) completed her ground training for an AFF Level 1 descent. The freefall part of the descent went without incident and her canopy was deployed at approximately 5,000ft.

The canopy appeared to deploy normally and was observed to be flying back towards the PLA. At approximately 1,500ft (above the edge of the PLA) the canopy was seen to be in a right hand spiral. It was observed to continue to spiral until impact. During this time both the parachutist's arms appeared to be up, as if steering the canopy in the 'full drive' configuration.

A Board of Inquiry was convened, consisting of the Technical Officer, who attended the scene, and the NCSO.

The equipment had been removed by the police and was inspected the following week at the police station. At this time it appears that a possible cause of the continuing right turn of the canopy, was that either the Student had put her hand through the loop of steering line

(where the toggles had been stowed on half brakes), as she got hold of the right hand steering toggle, effectively holding the right hand side on the half brake configuration, or, the steering line loop on the right hand released from its stowage and flipped around the steering line, causing the same effect.

The Chairman stated that it was expected that the Board of Inquiry Report will be presented at the next STC meeting and that it was probable that the recommendation from the report would be that Clubs are recommended to ensure that the stowage of the excess steering lines are stowed in a secure manner that ensures they do not release on deployment.

In the meantime, the Association' s sympathy goes to Jeanne' s family and friends.

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS RESUME (Previously Item 4)

i) There had been 18 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 9 male and 9 female. Two of the reports were during exit from the aircraft. One Student caught his leg in the rigging lines, hurting his knee. He landed without further injury. Another hit the aircraft strut and cut her chin. The rest of the reports were landing injuries. One under an Aeroconical canopy, the rest were under ram-air canopies.

ii) There had been 17 injury reports received for Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists. 14 male and 3 female. One of the injuries involved a jumper taking part in the ' Brit Chicks' record attempts. She made a very low cutaway, approximately 300ft and hit the ground before full reserve deployment, sustaining serious injuries.

David Hickling provided the Committee with further details of this incident and informed those present that the jumper concerned was making steady progress and that she was expected to make a full recovery.

iii) Since the last meeting there had been 7 Student Parachutist Malfunctions/Deployment Problems reported. 5 male and 2 female. All were on ram-air canopies.

iv) There had been 47 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to Intermediate or Experienced Parachutists since the last meeting. 37 male and 10 female. One report involved a parachutist who, after landing discovered that one of his connector links had come undone.

v) There had been 14 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem or Injury reports received since the last meeting. 8 of the reports were injuries to the Students. The other 6 reports were malfunctions or deployment problems, including one where it appears a snap hook became detached prior to exit. The jump, deployment and landing went without further incident. A copy of the report, together with a letter from the Tandem Instructor and his CCI were circulated to those present. Both the CCI and Tandem Instructor were present that evening

The Chairman stated that he wished to discuss this incident ' in camera' and asked all observers to leave the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

The CCI concerned advised those present that following a Tandem jump, the Tandem Instructor had brought it to his attention that once the canopy had deployed he noticed that the top snap hook was undone on one side.

He stated that on inspecting the harness the snap hook has been slightly dented so it had failed to shut back on the spring. The Tandem Instructor had stated that he was convinced that it was shut when he clipped on the student.

The CCI stated that to the Tandem Instructors credit he had brought this incident to his attention. Following the incident, the CCI had suspended him from doing any more Tandems until the matter had been dealt with by STC.

The Tandem Instructor also gave details of the incident to those present.

The Chairman stated that this was the second incident that we know of where a snap hook has come off accidentally.

The Chairman asked the Committee if they were content with the actions of the CCI following this incident or did they feel that further action should be taken against the Tandem Instructor.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Dave Emerson and seconded by Pete Sizer that no further action be taken against the Tandem Instructor as they were satisfied with the action taken by his CCI.

For:15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

The Chairman of Riggers felt that it would be prudent to enlighten the manufacturer that there had now been two incidents involving these particular snap hooks. He therefore agreed to contact the manufacturer on STC' s behalf.

All the observers were then asked to return to the meeting and the Chairman of STC continued with the Incident/Injury report resume.

- vi) There had been 1 report received of an AAD firing. The Student was on his second 15sec freefall. Went unstable then regained and held the stable position until approximately 1,000ft, when the FXC fired. The Student has been grounded for further training and been put back to static line.
- vii) One report had been received of a canopy entanglement during a CF jump.
- viii) Eleven reports have been received of ' off landings' at clubs.
- ix) Six reports had been received of display misfires. 3 arena misses. One malfunction and two injuries.
- x) Two reports had been received of helmets coming off on exit.

6. PANELS OF INQUIRY/WORKING GROUPS

a. Peterlee Panel Report

This item was held in camera and all observers with the exception of Council Members and those involved including the CCI, DZ Operator and Jumpmaster were requested to leave the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

The Chairman stated that this Inquiry had followed the Board of Inquiry into the fatality at Peterlee. He also stated that John Page had chaired the Panel and the other two members were Kev Goode and Steve Thomas. A copy of the Panel report had been circulated to CCIs with the agenda.

The Chairman requested that STC approve the Report after which the Recommendations would be discussed and voted on separately.

It was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Tony Knight that the Panel Report be approved.

For: 15 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Carried

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) 'That the CCI at Peterlee be written to by the Chairman of STC reminding him of his responsibilities. The Panel are aware that the CCI was in the process of implementing a more stringent equipment and currency checking system, but believe that as DZ controller he showed poor judgement in allowing the aircraft to drop so far off the pre-determined run in' .

The CCI was invited to give his comments on the Panel' s Report and he was also able to answer a number of questions put to him by members of the Committee. The Club Operator also spoke on the CCI' s behalf.

The CCI, Club Operator and Jumpmaster were then asked to leave the meeting whilst STC considered this recommendation.

Following consideration by the Committee, it was proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Dave Emerson that the above Recommendation be accepted.

For: 15 Against: 1 Abstentions: 0

Carried

The CCI, Club Operator and Jumpmaster were then asked to return to the meeting and were advised of STC' s decision.

- ii) 'That the Club Operator is written to advising him that his system for ensuring that Intermediate or Experienced parachutists were correctly documented was inadequate. Despite an equipment and documentation check in March 2004, and possibly on another occasion, Andrew Wilson was able to make a parachute descent with a reserve parachute that was due for an inspection and repack. The Panel believe that CCIs and Operators have a duty of care to all parachutists jumping at their Clubs, and that the only way of ensuring that parachutists' equipment and documentation has been checked and that the Club is satisfied the parachutist is jumping suitable equipment, is to maintain adequate records' .

The Club Operator was invited to give his comments on the Panel' s Report and he was also able to answer a number of questions put to him by members of the Committee.

The Club Operator, CCI and Jumpmaster were then asked to leave the meeting whilst STC considered this recommendation.

Following consideration by the Committee, it was proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Steve Jelf that the above Recommendation be accepted.

For: 15

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Carried

The Club Operator, CCI and Jumpmaster were then asked to return to the meeting and were advised of STC' s decision

- iii) ' That the Jumpmaster is suspended from acting as jumpmaster for a period of 6 months and prior to being permitted to act as jumpmaster after that period, must be re-briefed on the Responsibilities and Duties of a Jumpmaster and on the skills of spotting, by an Advanced Instructor. The Panel believe that many BPA members acting as jumpmaster may acted in a similar manner, because of the ' culture' mentioned in para b (1) above' .

The Jumpmaster addressed the meeting with regard to the recommendation referring to him. He was then able to answer a number of questions put to him by members of the Committee. The CCI also spoke on the Jumpmaster' s behalf.

The Chairman advised STC that a letter in support of the Jumpmaster had been received from Pete Marsden, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Jumpmaster, CCI and Club Operator were then asked to leave the meeting whilst STC considered this recommendation.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Dave Emerson and seconded by Pat Walters that the above Recommendation be accepted.

For: 8 Against: 5 Abstentions: 3

Carried

The Jumpmaster, CCI and Club Operator were then asked to return to the meeting and were advised of STC' s decision

- iv) ' That the following addition be added to the BPA Operations Manual, Section 12 Paragraph 1 Sub-Para 1.11. new *N.B.*:

N.B. This does not absolve clubs from making reasonable efforts to ensure personal documentation and equipment documentation is in order' .

A lengthy discussion took place with regard to this Recommendation after which the above Recommendation failed to find a proposer, as it was stated by a member that this was already covered in the Operations Manual, where it states that the CCIs are responsible for all parachuting at Clubs.

- v) ' That the BPA issues a poster for distribution to all Clubs and this poster highlights the requirements of the Operations Manual; that the intended landing area is visible from the exit point' .

It was proposed by Andy Montriou and seconded by David Hickling that the above Recommendation be accepted.

For: 9 Against: 5 Abstentions: 2

Carried

- vi) ' That all CCI' s and Club Chief Pilot' s receive a letter reminding them that no parachutist may exit an aircraft outside of the boundary of the notified DZ, which is normally 1.5 nautical miles from the centre, and that extra care should be taken when using large aircraft. In addition this letter should also serve as a reminder of oxygen requirements.

N.B. It is acknowledged that CCIs were reminded of the oxygen requirements at the STC meeting of the 5th August 2004' .

It was proposed by Andy Guest and seconded by Steve Jelf that the above Recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b. **Canopy Handling Panel/Working Group**

The Chairman stated that a draft copy of the CH1 Section of the Canopy Handling Manual, together with a couple of other documents had been previously circulated to CCIs.

Mark Bayada, the Panel chairman was present that evening and was able to give STC details of the progress so far. Chris Allen and Mike Rust, the other Panel members were also present that evening.

Mark Bayada advised those present that he had received some comments with regard to the draft CH1 Section from Brian Vacher and Weed Stoodley, which the Panel would consider. The Chairman stated that Brian had asked for his comments to be circulated to STC, and were available for the Committee members. However, STC felt that the comments should be directed to the Panel.

He stated that it was the intention of the Panel to present the second part of the Manual, which will be the CH2 Section at the next STC meeting.

Mark Bayada advised the Committee that it was also a proposal of the Panel that CH1 & CH2 replaces the canopy handling elements of IC1 and that the other elements are incorporated into a new Grade, known as Jumpmaster Grade 1 (JM1). CH1 will be a requirement for an FAI 'A' Certificate and CH2 together with JM1 will be a requirement for an FAI 'B' Certificate.

The Panel also suggested that the current system (in the Operations Manual), that refers to: Students, Intermediate and Experienced parachutists, is replaced by parachutists being designated as: Students (below 'A' Certificate) and the A, B, C & D Certificate holders, thereby doing away with the 'names', which were generally regarded as unsatisfactorily in categorising the experience of parachutists. A proposed Operations Manual amendments for JM1, CH1 and the Designation of Parachutists, together with a proposed FAI 'A' Certificate application form had also been circulated to CCIs with the agenda.

The Panel had also requested that their proposals be approved on a 'rolling' basis. e.g. CH1, Section of the CH Manual, CH1, JM1 & the removal of Intermediate And experience designation of parachutist Operations Manual amendments, but the intention is that they do not become requirements until at least the CH2 requirements and CH Manual Section are presented to STC and approved.

Following the presentation, it was proposed by Kev Goode and seconded by Nigel Allen that the suggestions made by the Panel are accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman of STC thanked the Panel for the work that they had completed to date.

7. **INSTRUCTOR COURSES** (Previously Item 6)

The Chairman stated that there had been two instructor courses held since the last meeting, Instructor Course 3/2004 held at British Skysports and an AFF & Tandem Course held at the Silver Stars.

a. **Instructor Course 3/2004**

The Association would like to thank British Skysports for hosting the course. The course report had been circulated with the agenda. There was one recommendation that needed to be voted on:

‘ That Richard Bissett be permitted to attend a Category System Instructor Course whenever his CCI believes him to be ready’ .

It was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by Tony Knight that the above Recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b. **AFF/Tandem Instructor Course – Silver Stars**

The Chairman advised those present that this Course had taken place from the 27 September – 1 October at South Cerney and the Association was grateful to the club for hosting the course. At this time not all the candidates had completed the Course.

A copy of the Course Report had been circulated to those present and was for information only. However, it is the intention of one candidate who was unsuccessful to appeal.

8. **PERMISSIONS**

a). A letter from Rob Noble-Nesbitt was circulated with the agenda proposing a change to the floatation aid ‘ Permission’ at Errol. The existing conditions are: Category 10 parachutists jumping ram-air mains and reserves are not required to wear life jackets. Rob is requesting a change to the following:

‘ FAI B Certificate Red (and above) parachutists jumping ram-air mains and reserves are not required to wear life jackets.’

It was proposed by Rob Noble-Nesbitt and seconded by Tony Knight that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b). Circulated to those present was a letter from Dave Emerson requesting permission for Mr Derek McCrae, who is 58, to undertake RAPS training and if successful, be permitted to jump. Dave Emerson advised the meeting that he had evaluated Mr McCrae and considered him to be fit enough for both the training and the jump.

It was proposed by Dave Emerson and seconded by Tony Knight that the above permission be accepted.

For: 12 Against: 3 Abstentions: 1

Carried

- c). Also circulated to those present was a letter from Pete Sizer requesting six month extensions to the CSBI ratings of Rob Oakly, James Wilson and Richard Wiggins.

The Committee was advised that they all did their CSBI Course in November 2003 and that Richard and James had concentrated on their freefly team during the summer and promised to work on their teaching this winter. Rob was now out of the country until spring 2005.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Steve Jelf that the above permissions be accepted.

For: 10 Against: 3 Abstentions: 3

Carried

- d). Pete Sizer gave the meeting details of his request for Colin May to be permitted to attend a Tandem Instructor Course without having to attend a Tandem BI course. Pete stated that Colin's CSI rating lapsed in April this year due to being short of the required jumps. He has also previously been a Tandem Instructor. Pete also proposed that when Colin attends a CSBI course, he does a CSI written exam and is evaluated for his CSI rating.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Andy Montriou that the above permissions be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- e). Circulated to those present was a letter from Phil Cavanagh requesting that Carol Hallett who is 59 years of age be permitted to carry out RAPS training. The Committee was advised that Carol was very fit both mentally and physically and works as a fitness instructor. To date she had completed four Tandem skydives at the Centre and wishes to complete a RAPS static line jump.

It was proposed by Phil Cavanagh and seconded by Tony Knight that the above permission be accepted.

For: 11 Against: 3 Abstentions: 2

Carried

