

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2006

Present:

| | | |
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| John Hitchen | - | Chairman STC |
| Kieran Brady | - | Skydive Strathallan |
| Pat Walters | - | Tilstock |
| Phil Cavanagh | - | Black Knights |
| David Hickling | - | BPS, Langar |
| Mike Rust | - | NLPC |
| Pete Sizer | - | Headcorn |
| Nigel Allen | - | JSPC (N)/APA |
| Steve Scott | - | RAFSPA |
| Dave Emerson | - | Hinton Skydving |
| John Page | - | Skydive London |
| Mike Bolton | - | LPS |
| Stuart Meacock | - | PPC |
| Paul Hollow | - | Target Skysports |
| Paul Applegate | - | Chairman Riggers Committee |

Apologies: Dave Openshaw, Tony Knight.

In Attendance:

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| Tony Butler | - | Technical Officer |
| Trudy Kemp | - | Assistant to NCSO/TO |

Observers: Alex Busby, Mark Bayada, Jeff Illidge, Dave Major, Colin Fitzmaurice.

The Chairman welcomed Steve Scott , the new CCI of RAFSPA.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 1 DECEMBER 2005

It was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by David Hickling that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 1 December 2005 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 1 DECEMBER 2005

Page 4, Item 4 – Incidents/Injury Reports (vi). The Chairman advised those present that a letter had been sent to CCIs, as per the STC decision.

Page 7, Item 9 – AAIB Report (Dunkeswell Aircraft Crash). The Chairman reported that the Working Group considering the AAIB Recommendations held another meeting at the BPA offices that afternoon. STC will be updated as the Group progresses.

Page 8, Item 10 – A.O.B. (a). The Chairman reported that no written input had been received regarding the fitting of various auxiliary equipment to Student Parachutists.

Page 9, Item 10 – A.O.B. (b). The Chairman advised the meeting that the Mike Forge Trophy had been awarded at the AGM to Nate Cheeseman, from Skydive London. Also, the Instructor of the Year had been awarded to Gavin Tuckley of the Red Devils.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS’ SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 1 DECEMBER 2005

Page 7, Item 8 – A.O.B (viii). At the previous meeting, Pat Walters had given the meeting details of some equipment that had come to him for a reserve re-pack. It was noted that there were a couple of errors in the wording in the Minutes relating to this item and the Committee had therefore amended the paragraph to read as follows:

“Pat Walters brought to the attention of the Committee a mod on a Javelin where the RSL had been partially removed, but the loop was still attached to the riser. As a result when the equipment had come in for reserve re-pack, Pat could not cut away the main canopy”.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 1 December 2005 with the above amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate advised the Committee that he had nothing of particular importance to report from the meeting held that evening.

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PILOTS’ SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 21 JANUARY 2006

Tony Butler who had been present at the Pilot’s Sub-Committee meeting was able to answer any questions from the previous Minutes.

There being no matters arising, it was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Kieran Brady that the Minutes of the Riggers’ Sub-Committee meeting of the 21st January 2006 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had been 3 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 1 male and 2 female. 2 of the injuries were to the Student’s hands, catching the sill or door on exit. The other was a landing injury.
- ii) There had been 1 injury report received for a male ‘A’ Certificate or above parachutist. since the last meeting.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 1 Student Parachutist Malfunction report received. A male, who experienced severe end cell closure.
- iv) There had been 9 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to ‘A’ Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 8 male and 1 female.
- v) There had been 1 Tandem Malfunction report and 1 Tandem injury report received since the last meeting.

- vi) One report had been received of a display misfire. A parachutist landed at the edge of the arena and the canopy draped over some spectators, without injury to anyone.
- vii) One report had been received where a Student kicked the instructor's camera helmet during exit. The lens broke and disappeared out of the door.

6. APPROVAL OF THE FORMATION SKYDIVING (FS) MANUALS

The Chairman advised those present that draft copies of the BPA Formation Skydiving Progression Manuals had been circulated to CCIs with the agenda. He stated that both Manuals, which replaced the WARP Manual, need STC approval and it was the intention that the FS Manuals would be updated on a fairly regular basis, as better information was obtained.

The Chairman advised the Committee that an e-mail had been received from Pete Sizer with a number of comments on the draft Manuals, which had been circulated to those present.

A number of points were discussed with regard to some of the content within the Manuals and a number of amendments were agreed by those present.

It was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by John Page that the Formation Skydiving (FS) Progression Manuals be approved, with a number of amendments as discussed.

Carried Unanimously

The Committee expressed its thanks to Aaron Faith for the hard work involved in producing the Manuals and to Julia Foxwell who also assisted Aaron with the production.

7. PROPOSED OPERATIONS MANUAL CLARIFICATIONS/AMENDMENTS

A letter from David Hickling, together with a paper from the Technical Officer had been circulated with the agenda, requesting a number of clarifications/amendments to the Operations Manual.

- a. David Hickling was present at the meeting and gave details of his proposal regarding the age limits for 'solo' parachuting. He stated that for years there had been a rule with regard to the minimum age for sport parachuting and he believed that it was only right that there was an upper age limit for sport parachuting.

The Chairman advised the Committee that two amendments to the BPA Operations Manual had been suggested, to cover David's proposal, which had been previously circulated. Following some discussion from those present it was agreed to slightly amend the wording to the original suggested proposed changes as follows:

Section 11 (Medical), Paragraph 2 (General). Change to read:

- 2.1.** No person under the age of 16, or over the age of 55 years will be permitted to carry out initial 'solo' parachute training. Exceptions to the higher age limit may be permitted if the person has previous recorded parachute experience. Higher age limits for Student Tandem Parachutists may be acceptable (see BPA Form 115 - Student Parachutist Declaration of Fitness to Parachute/Doctor's certificate).

Section 12 (Documentation), Paragraph 1.3. (Parental Consent). Change to read:

1.3. Parental Consent.

All BPA members aged 16 or 17 must obtain the written consent of their parent/ guardian before being permitted to parachute. This should normally be held by their Club.

It was therefore proposed by David Hickling and seconded by Phil Cavanagh that the above proposed amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted with the amendments as discussed.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman advised those present that the suggested change by the Technical Officer concerned the *N.B.* following the Classification of Student Tandem Parachutists had been withdrawn and a more comprehensive proposal would be presented at the next STC Meeting.

- b. The next proposed change followed the Approval of the new FS Manuals:

Section 2 (Designation and Classification of Parachutists), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), sub-para 6.4.1. N.B. (2). Change to read:

N.B.(2) Training programmes other than those contained in the BPA Formation Skydiving (FS) Manuals are acceptable for training for FS1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.4.1. (above) are met.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Paul Hollow that the above proposed amendment the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c. The TO reported that the final proposed change, a copy of which had been circulated to those present that evening, related to contact details regarding accident reporting to the CAA:

Section 9 (flying), Paragraph 5 (Flying Operations), N.B. following sub-para 5.14. Change to read:

N.B. Attention is also drawn to the CAA reporting requirements, which can be found on the CAA web-site: www.caa.co.uk under 'The CAA', 'Aviation Legislation' and 'The Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations 1996'

The direct hyperlink is:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1996/uksi_19962798_en_1.htm:

It was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter from Paul Hollow had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Derek Schofield be exempt from the 60 jump instructor rating renewal requirement. Paul gave the meeting details of his request and stated that Derek had received a similar permission from STC last year for exactly the same exemption.

Paul stated that Derek remained a full-time member of staff at Target Skysports and lives on the DZ and in his opinion, far more current than many of his weekend only instructors despite his lack of recent personal jumping. He also held a current BPA Medical certificate.

A number of other CCIs also commented on Derek's instructional experience and ability.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Circulated to those present was a letter from Dave Emerson requesting a six month extension to the CSBI rating of Duncan Humphreys. Dave was present at the meeting and gave details of his request.

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

Carried Unanimously

- c. Dave Emerson gave a verbal request to those present for a BPA member (a lapsed CSBI) to attend as an observer on a CSBI Course and be evaluated by the Examiners for the re-instatement of their CSBI rating.

Although a lengthy discussion took place on this request and a vote taken on a counter proposal put forward by Pete Sizer, seconded by Dave Emerson.

Note: *It was later found the information supplied to STC by Dave Emerson concerning the member concerned was incorrect.*

9. A.O.B

- a. Kieran Brady wished to gain the opinion of STC with regard to CCIs who are no longer able to fulfil the 60-jump requirement for rating renewal, as it was his intention to submit a proposal for the next STC meeting.

Kieran asked STC to consider the possibility of amending the Operations Manual to allow CCIs who do not meet the minimum jump requirements to continue to have an active role on the ground as instructors and as CCIs for a period of time. Kieran stated that there was a lot of valuable experience out there and there were people who had been in the sport for many years, whose knowledge was unquestionable and from time to time lose the odd person because for whatever reason they cannot fulfil the 60 jump rule.

Some discussion took place and a number of observations made. It was pointed out that individual exemptions have been awarded in the past. And that perhaps the Committee should still consider these exemptions on an individual basis.

Kieran asked for further input/thoughts/ideas to enable him to put forward a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

- b. The Chairman reported that at the STC meeting of the 11th August 2005 Pete Sizer had his BPA Examiners Rating revoked for 3 years and his Advanced Instructor Rating revoked for 1 year. Pete appealed against STC's decision to Council at their meeting of the 11th October 2005. Council changed the decision made by STC to one similar to the one that had originally been proposed by Tony Knight at the STC meeting:

'That Peter Sizer has his BPA Examiner's Rating revoked for 3 years and his Advanced Instructor Rating revoked for 1 year but that the revocation regarding his Advanced Instructor Rating be suspended for 3 years subject to no disciplinary action being taken against him in that 3 years. After these periods his re-application should comply with the provisions of the BPA Operations Manual in force at the time of re-application. Also, that he is tasked with a contribution of £1000 towards the costs of the Panel of Inquiry'

The Chairman advised the Committee that this decision by Council had led to correspondence between David Hickling, a member of the Panel of Inquiry and Chris Allen the BPA Chairman. The correspondence was sent to STC members for information and was tabled to those present. Also tabled to those present was a letter from Pete Sizer referring to the same matter.

David Hickling stated that what had prompted those letters was the manner in which the Panel's decision was overturned. David stated that he found it a bit difficult that Council overturned STC's decision. However he stated that there was no mechanism either through the staff of the BPA or the Chairman of the BPA of informing himself as a member of the Panel and STC that this matter was under review and the result of that review.

David stated that this was not the way in which he expected Council to change an STC decision and he asked that STC are never treated in this manner again in the future. If Council in their correct authority to overturn an STC decision there is some mechanism that STC is kept informed of that decision.

The Chairman stated that perhaps he should take some of the blame, as he did not mention this at the previous meeting. However, he stated that he honestly believed that everyone was aware of Council's decision concerning this matter.

Pete Sizer also agreed that STC should have been informed.

A number of Council members present expressed their apologies that STC were not kept informed of Council's decision and assured STC that this would not happen again.

The Chairman advised those present that there was now in place a new tribunal system, which had been agreed by Council, which the Chairman of the BPA had outlined at the BPA AGM.

Following some discussion it became apparent that STC were not aware of these new procedures.

It was therefore proposed by John Page and seconded by David Hickling that the BPA Council let CCIs know exactly what the new procedures are.

Carried Unanimously

