

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 2 AUGUST 2007**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
	David Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
	Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
	Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
	Steve Thomas	-	Cyprus
	Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
	Mick Nealis	-	Services PC (NI)
	Dave Wood	-	Cornish PC
	Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting
	John Page	-	Skydive London
	Mike Rust	-	NLPC
	Andy Montriou	-	Skydive Jersey
	Stuart Meacock	-	Peterborough
	Jason Farrant	-	Skydive UK
	Nigel Allen	-	JSPC (N)/APA
	Dane Kenny ( <i>from item 3</i> )	-	Pilgrims
	Ray Armstrong ( <i>from item 4</i> )	-	Skydive Brid

**Apologies:** Paul Applegate, Paul Hollow, Ian Rosenvinge, Doug Peacock, Kieran Brady.

**In Attendance:** Tony Butler - Technical Officer  
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

**Observers:** Rick Boardman, Dave Major, Alex Wilson, Mark Bayada, Tony Knight, James Swallow, Paul Yeoman, Christian Ivory, Martin Crossley, Colin Fitzmaurice, Clair Armstrong, Nick Johnston.

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**ITEM**

1. **MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 31 MAY 2007**

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 31 May 2007 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 31 MAY 2007**

**Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – Dunkeswell.** The Dunkeswell Aircraft Accident Working Group Report was a main agenda item.

**Page 3, Item 4, Fatality – Shropshire.** The Panel of Inquiry, following the Board of Inquiry into the display fatality in Shropshire, was a main agenda item.

**Page 4, Item 5, Incident/Injury Reports – (i).** The Chairman reported that the military investigation involving a military Student Parachutist who was injured had now been completed. The military inquiry's recommendation to the Centre was: 'to re-emphasise the need to check the canopy as soon as it is deployed and if it is not big, rectangular and controllable make the decision to cut away immediately rather than wait until a lower altitude when a control problem may get worse and it is too low to cut away safely'. The Chairman stated that it had been suggested at the last meeting that following the military report, consideration might be given to setting up a working group. However, the inquiry was of the opinion that the Student did not carry out the reserve drills upon recognising that he had a malfunction, it was therefore not necessary to form a working group.

**Page 5, Item 6, Bridlington Panel of Inquiry.** The Chairman advised those present that the BPA Tribunal that was agreed would be set up, was due to take place on the 6 August. He stated the delay has been partly due to a request from the CCI's solicitor that it should not take place until after the parachutist's Inquest, which was on the 17 July.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 31 MAY 2007**

The Committee was advised that Paul Applegate had been unable to attend that evening's meeting. In his absence the Chairman of STC had chaired the meeting.

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Steve Thomas that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 31 May 2007 be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

The Chairman stated that there was nothing to report from the Riggers Meeting held that afternoon.

**4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME**

- i) There had been 12 Student landing injury reports received since the last meeting. 10 male and 2 female. 2 were on round canopies and 9 on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 21 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate or above parachutists. 18 male and 3 female. One of the injuries was to Paul Hollow, CCI of Target Skysports, who was badly injured landing without flaring. Paul damaged his back and was still in hospital after nearly 2 months, though he is permitted out at weekends.

One of the injuries was on exit, 2 were in a freefall collision. One person dislocated his shoulder in freefall and the remaining 10 were on landing, including one parachutist with 410 jumps, who had a pilot chute in tow, deployed his reserve, after which his main deployed. It then started to 'down-plane'. He then cutaway his main, which tangled with the reserve lines, causing a spin. He landed still spinning into trees. He sustained leg and back injuries.

- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 15 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 12 male and 3 female. One involved a Student on a 10 second delay whose right leg strap was seen to release as he fell away from the aircraft. The B12 snap hook had opened, probably as the Student positioned himself in the door. The Student deployed and landed safely.

- iv) There had been 43 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 35 male and 8 female.
- v) There had been 13 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. 3 male and 10 female. 8 were landing injuries. 2 were Students dislocating their shoulders in freefall. One was a Student who was sick and another got a sore back, possibly by arching too much. The final one was a Student who lost her memory after the jump.
- vi) There had also been 7 Tandem malfunction/deployment problem reports received since the last meeting.
- vii) There had been three reports received of AAD firings. One was a jumper with 58 jumps who deployed low and his FXC also fired. Another was on a display. The jumper exited at 2,000ft, had a pilot chute in tow, reached around and was able to deploy the main, after which the Cypres also fired. The third was a mis-fire on an Argus. The AAD fired at about 3,000ft as the parachutist deployed his main. It appeared that the AAD reset itself at 3,000ft in the aircraft on the way to altitude. The AAD was with the manufacturers for further investigation.
- viii) 18 reports had been received of 'off landings'. 2 on displays, the rest at clubs, including one where a jumper left the aircraft at the point the pilot gave a '2 minute to jump' radio broadcast. The aircraft was close to the coast and the jumper was eventually found close to the sea, on the beach.

The Chairman commented that he hoped this large number of 'off landing' reports was not due to jumping in unsuitable weather conditions!

- ix) A report had been received of an incident where a CSBI dispatched a 15 second delay Student from 3,700ft after he had dispatched a 3 second delay Student. The Student opened at 1,400ft. The CCI had taken disciplinary action against the CSBI and circulated to those present was a report from the CCI detailing the action he had taken.

The Chairman reported that the CCI concerned had stated that he hoped that STC supported his decision in this matter and had asked if it was possible that STC send the CSBI concerned a letter reminding him of his responsibilities in support of Military action that has been taken already.

Following some discussion, the members of STC fully supported the disciplinary action that had already been taken on this matter.

- x) A report had been received of an aircraft moving before the aircraft start-up vehicle had moved out of the way. The outside edge of elevator clipped the side of vehicle, scratching the elevator.

## **5. PILOT WORKING GROUP REPORT**

The Report of the BPA Pilot Working Group to consider the Recommendations of the AAIB Report following the Cessna U206F Accident at Dunkeswell on the 27 June 2004 had been circulated with the agenda.

Tony Knight, Chairman of the Pilots Committee, had chaired the working group. The other members were Kieran Brady, Mike Westwood, Stuart Meacock and Steve Wilkins.

Tony Knight was present at the meeting and was able to answer any questions relating to the report. He stated that the majority of the recommendations had been dealt with over the past year at various STC meetings.

Tony stated that anyone requiring further advice on EASA definitions of ‘major’ and minor’ modifications could contact him direct.

It was then proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Pilot Working Group Report be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

A vote of thanks was given to the Working Group members, especially Tony Knight for the tremendous amount of work carried out on the Association’s behalf.

**6. SHROPSHIRE DISPLAY PANEL OF INQUIRY**

The Chairman advised those present that the Panel of Inquiry formed following the Board of Inquiry into the fatal accident at the display in Shropshire had now completed its Report in draft. This had only been received in the past few days. He stated that because the Report needs to be shown to the persons involved and that there was a recommended change to the BPA Operations Manual, the report would now be presented at the next STC meeting.

The Chairman reported that following the fatality, the Team Leader’s rating of the Display Team Leader concerned had been suspended, and it would remain suspended until the next STC meeting.

**7. INSTRUCTOR COURSE REPORTS**

The Chairman reported there had been two Instructor Courses held since the last STC meeting, with another taking place this and next week.

- a. The first was an AFF & Tandem Instructor Course held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, from the 4 – 6 June. The Association was grateful to Target Skysports for hosting the Course. The Course Report had been circulated with the agenda. There were no recommendations to be voted on and the Report was for information only.
- b. The second Course was an AFF & Tandem Course held at the Skydive Weston, which took place from the 25 – 28 June. The Association would like to thank Weston for hosting the Course.

The Report had been circulated with the agenda and was also for information only.

**8. PERMISSIONS**

- a. A request from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting a six-month extension to the CSBI rating of Dominic Hines. Nigel had stated that Dominic’s CSBI rating was due to expire in August 2007, but due to the Red Devils busy display season, he had been unable to attend a CSI Course. However, Dominic was now booked onto the CSI Course due to be held in February 2008.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Steve Thomas that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- b. A second request from Nigel Allen had also been circulated with the agenda requesting a 6-month extension to the CSBI rating of Nathan Connolly. Nigel had stated that Nathan's CSBI extension was due to expire in August 2007, but due to the Red Devils busy display season, Nathan had been unable to attend a CSI Course. However, Nathan was due to attend the November 2007 CSI Course.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- c. A third letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting a one-year extension, as opposed to the usual 6-month extension to the AFFBI rating of Sean Sutcliffe, which was due to expire at the end of August 07. Nigel had stated that Sean had been committed over the last six months to a Military selection course, which had kept him out of the country for much of the time. Sean was now preparing to deploy abroad on operations for an unspecified period of time. Nigel Allen had therefore asked for a one year extension so that Sean would have the time to prepare for his AFF Course on his return.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Mick Nealis that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- d. A letter from Steve Thomas had been circulated with the Agenda requesting an extension, until the February 2008 CSI Course for Paul Morgan.

Steve had stated that Paul's CSBI rating was due to expire at the end of August 2007. Paul had recently changed jobs and moved to Cyprus. Now that he was settled in Cyprus, he had joined CCSPC and had been working there carrying out supervised student training and FS coaching. Paul wished to carry on training students at CCSPC until the CSI course in February 2008.

It was proposed by Steve Thomas and seconded by Ray Armstrong that the above permission be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

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

- a. The Chairman advised those present that a letter from Paul Hollow had been circulated with the agenda, following his serious parachuting accident in June.

Paul's letter had stated that since his accident at the beginning of June, he had been unable to effectively carry out his duties as CCI due to the fact that he had been hospitalised during that time. In his absence, he had delegated the responsibilities and duties as CCI to Tony Keightley.

Paul had stated that he was well aware of the requirements of the Operations Manual and consequently Gary Small, a BPA Advanced Instructor, had offered to assist in the operation at Hibaldstow to ensure that an Advanced Instructor was present during normal operations. Gary completed his Pre-Advanced Course at Hibaldstow and had visited Hibaldstow recently to ensure that he was familiar with the current SOPs, documentation, policies and operational practices. The Chairman stated that in effect, he had audited the operation and would continue to monitor the situation whenever he was present at Hibaldstow, to ensure it was operating safely and within the requirements of the Operations Manual.

Unfortunately, Gary was unable to attend the DZ all the time due to his own work commitments, particularly midweek, and consequently Paul Hollow had stated that he was happy to continue to accept responsibility as CCI and to continue to nominate Tony Keightley as acting-CCI although Gary was happy to assist Tony in that role whenever he could.

Paul had stated that Hibaldstow was active midweek (except Tuesdays) although it was not particularly busy compared to weekends. The majority of midweek jumping tended to be Tandem-based and during the summer season there were plenty of staff available at the DZ to assist Tony. The Centre would, of course, endeavor to ensure that Gary was present whenever he was free and available to do so.

Paul Hollow had also stated that he was progressing well with his physiotherapy and treatment and expects to be given “weekend discharge” in the forthcoming couple of weeks. This would enable him to attend Hibaldstow as CCI and DZ controller during the busiest periods of operation while he continued his physiotherapy midweek.

The Chairman reported that as an update to Paul’s letter, Paul was now discharged at week-ends and can attend the Centre.

The Chairman stated that Paul was requesting the support of the BPA in his efforts to enable Hibaldstow to continue to operate whilst he recovers, and Paul had given his assurance that the Centre was doing all that can be done to ensure compliance with the Operations Manual with respect to CCI duties and responsibilities.

The Chairman informed the meeting that both the NCSO and Technical Officer permitted the above until this STC meeting and supported Paul’s request, which they felt should be reviewed at the next STC meeting.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Paul Hollow (proxy) and seconded by John Page that the above be accepted with the proviso that the situation be re-assessed at the next meeting.

**Carried Unanimously**

- b. A letter from Dave Wood had been circulated with the agenda requesting that RAF St Mawgan airfield be cleared for ‘C’ Certificate holders and Tandem parachutists only. The request was for a temporary clearance only, as the Club’s DZ at Perranporth had been sold and the new owners may be refurbishing a number of areas at the airfield, this could cause some disruption to the parachute programme over a period of time.

Dave had stated that the airfield at St Mawgan had a number of large grass areas, which could be used as a landing area. There were no overhead power cables on the unit but as an active RAF airfield there were a few aircraft and helicopters at the

airfield. The Cornwall air ambulance helicopter was based at the airfield. The CPC have an agreement with the air ambulance in place.

Due to the short notice of this request the NCSO or the TO had not been able to inspect the airfield prior to this meeting. Therefore, Dave was requesting the clearance on the basis that the airfield would not be used for parachuting until the NCSO, TO or nominated examiner had inspected the airfield, and all the relevant paper work was in place. RAF St Mawgan airfield would not be required for use until late September 07.

Dave Wood advised the Committee that it was the intention that RAF St Mawgan would not become another alternate DZ for the Cornish Parachute Club (CPC), but was only for a short period whilst the refurbishment of Perranporth had taken place.

Following some discussion on this request, it was felt by those present that a time restriction should be imposed on this request.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above request be accepted for 6 months from late September and also on the basis of a successful inspection of the airfield by the NCSO, TO or nominated examiner.

**Carried Unanimously**

- c. A paper from Mike Rust had been circulated with the agenda requesting that STC considers a proposal to run a trial for a Tandem Assisted Free Fall (TAFF) programme at Chatteris. This would only be run by qualified AFF and Tandem Instructors on all levels apart from level one which does not require any training other than a standard Tandem brief.

Mike presented details of his request and gave details of the reason he was submitting the proposal, with details of the Programme and the Syllabus.

Proposal One would be to run a trial for 21 students and Proposal Two would be to run a year's trial for Students at NLPC. He stated that both proposals would be under the proviso that there would be regular feedback to STC with a conclusion presented at the end of the trial period.

Mike stated that from experience, Tandem was clearly becoming the preferred first jump experience. He stated that he felt it was time to incorporate Tandem into a training system that could lead to a qualification and hopefully give participants more of an incentive to progress further into the sport of skydiving.

Mike stated that experience had showed that a major disadvantage of current solo training methods was that the student lands their canopy on their own on the first jump without any practical experience – just theoretical ground tuition, which it could be argued, was not sufficient.

Mike stated that we know that a solo jumper is at higher risk on their first descent and he believed it would therefore seem to make sense for at least an accompanied descent prior to jumping on their own. This was the basis of the TAFF system.

Mike felt the Tandem Assisted FreeFall (TAFF) system was a method of instruction, which did now allow anyone to jump solo until a minimum of three descents had been

made with an Instructor. This had the advantage of allowing the student to learn in a safer environment, initially under direct supervision.

Mike's proposal generated a great deal of discussion.

A number of CCIs reported that their own experience had shown that even if a Student completed a pre-Tandem jump this did not always guarantee a good performance on AFF.

Some members stated that they agreed with Mike's proposal and believed in the idea of trialling this system and saw it as a positive step in progressing the sport and likened it to the way in which the RAPS system had evolved.

The Committee was advised that a similar arrangement to that which Mike Rust was proposing had been trialled in the USA with mixed results. It was no longer being used at the larger Drop Zones that had been involved in the trial, although it was still running at some of the smaller ones.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Stuart Meacock that Mike Rust be permitted to run a trail TAFF programme as per his proposals 1 & 2 above and to the syllabus that had been circulated to CCIs. Also that Mike reports back to STC on a regular basis.

For: 5

Against: 8

Abstentions: 3

**Not Carried**

Dates of next Meeting:

Thursday 27 September 2007  
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester  
at 7.00 p.m

15 August 2007

**Distribution:**

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