

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2007

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Steve Thomas	-	Cyprus
Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting
Dave Wood	-	Cornish PC
Carl Williams	-	Swansea
Mick Nealis	-	SPC(NI)
Ray Armstrong	-	Skydive Brid
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Tony Goodman	-	Silver Stars
John Page	-	Skydive London
Mike Bolton	-	LPS
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Kieran Brady	-	Strathallan

Apologies: David Hickling, Nigel Allen, Dane Kenny

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Advisor
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Allison Armstrong, Chas McNeil, Tommy Parry, Richard Wheatley, Rick Boardman, Dave Major, Martin Harris.

ITEM

The Chairman welcomed Tony Goodman to STC as the new CCI of the Silver Stars.

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 27 September 2007 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

Page 3. Item 4 (v) - Incident/Injury Reports. The Chairman advised those present that the Tandem Working Group that he stated would be formed to look into the whole subject of Tandem drills and equipment maintenance, had now been formed and had held its first meeting this afternoon. He stated that Mike Rust had agreed to chair the Working Group and that STC would be kept up to date with any progress. Anyone with any input was asked to liaise with Mike Rust.

Page 4. Item 5 – Shropshire Display Panel of Inquiry. The Chairman reported that the Inquest into the death of Iain Firkins took place on the 7th November and the Jury's verdict was: 'Accidental death exacerbated by failure to comply with the British Parachute Association's operating manual and by a lack of currency exhibited by the deceased's flight path and behaviour in existing weather conditions.' The Coroner also stated that he hope the BPA would remind parachutists of the dangers of low turns and also of the importance of completing log books correctly.

The Chairman advised those present that the Tribunal recommended by the Panel of Inquiry had yet to take place, but when completed STC would be informed of any decisions made.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 27 SEPTEMBER 2007

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 27 September 2007 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the Riggers Meeting held that afternoon and advised those present that the Committee had discussed the subject of Advanced Packing (AP) Courses. This had arisen because it had been brought to the Committee's attention that an AP Course had been run recently where two of the candidates did not hold the required Approved Packing Certificate prior to their attendance on the Course. However, the Advanced Rigger running the Course had allowed the Course to continue.

Paul Applegate stated that the Committee had discussed this matter at some length and that they would be writing to those involved in this matter.

Paul Applegate wished to remind everyone via the Minutes that Approved Packing Certificates were not valid unless they had been endorsed by the BPA office. He also stated that anyone who turned up for a future Advanced Packers or Riggers Course without the correct paperwork would not be permitted to continue the Course.

The Chairman of STC also referred to a number of BPA Instructor Courses in the past. Whereby candidates have been turned away, because of incorrect paperwork.

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had been 22 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 12 male and 10 female. One Student twisted an ankle during training. One dislocated a shoulder on deployment. The remaining reports were landing injuries. One on a round canopy, the rest on ram-air canopies.
- ii) There had been 9 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate or above parachutists. 7 male and 2 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 9 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 6 male and 3 female.
- iv) There had been 24 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 19 male and 5 female.
- v) There had been 3 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. All male. There had also been 4 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problems reports received.

- vi) There had been 2 reports received of AAD firings. One was a Vigil AAD, which had been set incorrectly. The other involved an experienced jumper with 440 jumps who lost altitude awareness and deployed his main low, the Cypres also fired.
- vii) Two reports had been received of a canopy entanglements, during CF jumps.
- viii) 6 reports had been received of 'off landings'. All at clubs. One involved a tracking dive, where 4 landed 1.75 miles from PLA. One where a Student landed in trees. Another where a jumper landed on a catering vehicle and another where a jumper was distracted by the other jumper landing on the catering vehicle and then landed in a hedge himself.
- ix) There had been one report received of a helmet coming off in freefall.
- x) A report had been received of an aircraft and a group of parachutist 'near miss'. A Seneca PA34 over flew an active DZ between 2 Student static line jumpers and about 3 hours later over flew the DZ again. The CCI had sent a letter of complaint to the CAA, as he was unable to report it on an 'Airprox' form, because they have to be completed by the person concerned. As the jumpers were first time jumpers, they were unaware of the near-miss!

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

- a. A proposal by Mike Bolton had been circulated with agenda requesting that RAPS parachutists be permitted to convert to throwaway pilot chute once they have completed Category 6.

The Technical Officer had also sent out a paper with the agenda, as this proposal would also require a change to the Equipment Section of the Operations Manual. The TO also felt that Mike's proposed *NB* was a little long. The TO had also circulated a revised suggested amendment.

The Committee discussed the various proposed changes and a number of slight alterations were discussed and agreed by those present. The proposed amendments with these agreed changes were as follows:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 4 (The Category System), Sub-para 4.6 (Category 6). Add *N.B.* to read:

N.B. Upon successful completion of Category 6, Student Parachutists may be converted to 'throwaway' pilot chutes. For at least the first 2 conversion jumps no further freefall progression may take place.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 4 (The Category System), Sub-para 4.8 (Category 8). Delete *N.B.(4) & N.B.(5)*. Previous *N.B.(6) & N.B.(7)* become *N.B.(4) & N.B.(5)*.

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 2.2 (Piggyback), change previous sub-para 2.2.4. to two new sub-paras 2.2.4 & 2.2.5. to read:

2.2.4. Category System freefall equipment must be ripcord deployed, up to at least the completion of Category 6.

2.2.5. Accelerated Free Fall equipment may be either ripcord or 'throwaway' deployed, and must be able to be activated from either side.

It was proposed by Mike Bolton and seconded by Steve Thomas that the TO's suggested proposed amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted with the minor amendments as agreed by those present.

Carried Unanimously

- b. The Chairman reported that a number of other suggested amendments had also been sent out for further consideration. They were either to clear up ambiguities or where form numbers or words had changed:

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 2.3 (Tandem), add new sub-para 2.3.4. to read:

2.3.4. *Parachutists who are not Tandem Instructors (TI), or TI candidates on a TI course, may not jump Tandem equipment.*

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor). Remove N.B. below sub-para 5.1.8.

SECTION 7 (PARACHUTE LANDING AREAS/DROPPING ZONES), Paragraph 2 (Approval), first paragraph, change to read:

2. APPROVAL

All Clubs, including their PLA/DZs intended for regular parachuting use must initially be inspected by an NCSO, a TO, or an NCSO/TO nominated IE. Some operations may require operational restrictions, which will require STC approval. Once BPA Approval has been given, a Parachuting 'Permission' must be obtained from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), who will require the following before the 'Permission' is issued:

SECTION 7 (PARACHUTE LANDING AREAS/DROPPING ZONES), Paragraph 2 (Approval), N.B.(1) below sub-para 2.4. change to read:

N.B.(1) The above 2.1.-2.4. are to be sent to the BPA together with completed CAA Form SRG1313, who will then forward same to the CAA.

SECTION 13 (DISPLAY PARACHUTING), Paragraph 2.2. change to read:

2.2. Display Teams must also complete CAA Form SRG1313 applying for a CAA Permission. This completed form must be sent to the BPA, who will then forward same to the CAA.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Steve Thomas that the TO's suggested amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

6. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

Two Instructor Courses had been held since the last meeting. There were two course reports, one had been circulated with the agenda and the second had been tabled to those present.

- a. The first was an AFF & Tandem Course held at North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris, which took place from the 17th – 21st September. This was mentioned at the last STC meeting, but the jumps required to complete the course had not taken place,

due to bad weather. The Association would like to thank the Centre for hosting the Course.

There were six AFF candidates successful and five Tandem.

The report was for information only.

- b. The second was Course 4/07 which was also held at North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris, which took place from the 5th – 13th November. The Association would once again like to thank the Centre for hosting the Course.

There is a recommendation from the course, which required STC ratification:

‘That Marcus Speed be given a six month extension to his Category System Basic Instructor rating’.

It was proposed by Carl Williams and seconded by Mick Nealis that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

7. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter had been received from Dave Openshaw and circulated to those present requesting a six-month extension to the CSBI rating of Ed Provost-Lines. The meeting were advised that Ed qualified as a CSBI in November 2006 but because of military duties and hospital treatment, had been unable to attend a CSI course within the year.

It was proposed by Dave Openshaw (proxy) and seconded by John Page that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. Another letter had been received from Dave Openshaw, a copy of which had also been circulated to those present requesting a six-month extension to the CSBI rating of Phil Skelland. Phil qualified in February 2007 and he was unlikely to be able to attend a CSI course before his rating expired, due to military commitments.

It was proposed by Dave Openshaw (proxy) and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B.

- a. Circulated to those present was a request from Ray Armstrong for the restriction imposed on Skydive Bridlington that; ‘Ray Armstrong must be present when parachuting is taking place’, be lifted. This was a restriction that was imposed by the Panel of Inquiry in order to recommend to the CAA that the Club’s ‘Permission’ be reinstated follow the fatality in May.

The Chairman advised the Committee that following the recent inspection of Skydiving Brid, he saw no reason why this restriction should remain in place.

It was proposed by Ray Armstrong and seconded by Mike Rust that the above request be accepted.

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

- b. The Chairman advised those present that the revised Club Annual Returns and 2008 Re-Affiliations forms would be sent out in the near future. He asked if they could be completed and returned to the BPA office as soon as possible after the end of Clubs' jumping year.
- c. The Chairman reminded CCIs if they had anyone they wished to nominate for the Mike Forge Trophy (New Skydiver of the Year). The nominations need to be in before mid- December.

The Chairman wished to thank CCIs on behalf of himself and the TO for their attendance at the STC meetings in 2007 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and he hoped to see as many members as possible at the AGM on the 12th January.

Dates of next Meeting: Thursday 7 February 2008 (Provisional date)
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

23 November 2007

Distribution:

Chairman BPA
Council
CCIs
All Riggers
Advanced Packers
CAA
Lesley Gale (Editor – Skydive)
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AMENDMENTS TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC Meeting of the 22nd November 2007, the following Sections of the BPA Operations Manual were amended as follows:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 4 (The Category System), Sub-para 4.6 (Category 6). Add N.B. to read:

N.B. Upon successful completion of Category 6, Student Parachutists may be converted to 'throwaway' pilot chutes. For at least the first 2 conversion jumps no further freefall progression may take place.

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