

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2008

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting
Mark Tether	-	JSPC (L)/RAPA
John Page	-	Skydive London
Ray Armstrong	-	Skydive Brid
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Jason Farrant	-	Skydive UK Ltd
Andy Montriou	-	Skydive Jersey
Stuart Meacock	-	Skydive Airkix
Nigel Allen	-	JSPC (N)/APA
Doug Peacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Dave Hickling	-	BPS, Langar
Mick Nealis	-	SPC (NI)
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies: Dennis Buchanan, Tony Goodman, Carl Williams, Steve Thomas, Steve Scott.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Chris McCann, Rick Boardman, Dave Major, Jeff Illidge.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 22 NOVEMBER 2007

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Paul Hollow that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 22 November 2007 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 22 NOVEMBER 2007

Page 1, Item 2 - Matters Arising – (Tandem Working Group). The Chairman advised those present that the Tandem Working Group held their second meeting this afternoon. Mike Rust gave details of the work carried out to date and stated that the Committee had been looking at emergency drills for the various Tandem systems and maintenance of Tandem equipment in particular, a new criteria for inspection. He stated that the Working Group hoped to finalise these areas at their next meeting.

Page 2, Item 2 - Matters Arising – (Shropshire Display Fatality). The Chairman reported that the Tribunal to consider the Panel of Inquiry recommendations was scheduled to take place at the end of February 2008.

3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 22 NOVEMBER 2007**

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 22 November 2007 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the Riggers Meeting held that afternoon and advised those present that the Committee had discussed a Service Bulletin (C/1/2 0108) issued by Airtec on 22 Jan 2008. This concerned necessary actions in case of an unsuccessful or incomplete selfset and/or switch-on procedure on all Cypres 1 and Cypres 2 units, all versions.

This followed an incident in the USA in Dec 2007 where a Cypres 2 unit activated a few seconds after exit. The Cypres showed problems with the switch-on several times the day before. An attempt to switch on the unit before the skydive was made, and nothing was seen on the display, but it was decided to use the parachute anyway. Fortunately there were no injuries.

Paul Applegate advised those present that Airtec's Bulletin states "to always observe the complete selftest until the '0' appears. In the event an error code being displayed, please consult the appropriate Cypres User's Guide for appropriate action(s). In the event that there are any irregularities or conditions during the selfset and/or switch-on procedure, which are not explained in the CYPRES User's Guide (such as unknown error codes or numbers, missing numbers, no red light, blank display, etc.) – please contact Airtec or SSK before the next jump".

A number of CCIs present gave the meeting details of several incidents that had involved misreadings on the Cypres AAD. One concerned a jumper who could not turn on the Cypres, but then used it on the equipment. The Committee's interpretation of this was that it was an irregularity and the AAD should not have been used.

The Committee were concerned that there seemed to be some misconception certainly by some jumpers that because they were unable to switch the AAD on, they could still use it. This was not the case and should be considered as an irregularity. The Committee wished to get across to jumpers that any irregularities with an AAD, jumpers should not use it.

Paul Applegate advised the meeting that he would be contacting Airtec the next day to get more definitive answers to some of the problems highlighted at the meeting.

4. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PILOT'S SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 12 JANUARY 2008**

Kieran Brady was present that evening and was able to answer any questions relating to the Pilots' Meeting Minutes.

He stated that the Committee had discussed the subject of TAWS, 'S' Mode and IMC ratings and also the subject of Oxygen, which was on the main agenda.

With regard to the subject of TAWS, Kieran reported that the CAA Exemptions for TAWS would be effective until 31st March 2009 and that they would definitely not be renewed after this time. He explained that at this time it was not known what the change of rule would be, as the initial proposal was still subject to consultation. However, once the EASA rule has been decided, that's the rule the CAA would enforce.

DZ Operators and CCIs will be kept informed via the BPA of the outcome.

Kieran then went on to discuss the subject of Mode S, which becomes effective from the end of March 08 for all new planes, new build and new planes to the UK register. He stated that existing planes on UK register would have 4 years to comply with requirements for Mode S.

Kieran pointed out that for those Clubs taking advantage of the 4 year period, can only do this if they register each individual aircraft with the CAA. Kieran produced an example of the CAA form for this purpose (one form for each aircraft), which can either be completed online or can be downloaded for completion and forwarding by post. (<http://www.caa.co.uk/DAP1901>)

Kieran Brady then reported on the situation with regard to UK IMC ratings. He stated that there was a similar situation as with TAWS that the facts of what is happening in the future with IMC still remain in the air.

Kieran advised those present that he had attended a GASCO meeting that day and the subject of IMC had been discussed. He stated that almost every organisation in aviation was in support of maintaining the IMC rating.

Kieran stated that within approx two – three months, there would be a consultation document produced requesting opinions on IMC. The Association would be involved in this consultation process and Clubs would be kept advised as things develop.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by David Hickling that the Minutes of the Pilots' Sub-Committee meeting of the 12 January 2008 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had only been one Student injury report received since the last meeting. A male on an AFF Level 1 jump, who landed downwind into trees and broke his nose.
- ii) There had been 3 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate or above parachutists. One was a male who fell over on landing and broke his wrist. The other 2 involved one male and one female parachutist who collided in freefall. One was a sit flyer with 67 jumps and the other was the video-man with over 11,000 jumps. This resulted in a stiff neck to one and severe bruising to the other.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 4 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 3 male and 1 female.
- iv) There had been 13 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 11 male and 2 female.
- v) There had been 4 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting. 2 male and 2 female. One dislocated a shoulder and the others were minor landing injuries. There have also been 2 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problems reports received.
- vi) One report had been received of an AAD firing. A parachutist with 136 jumps had a pilot chute in tow. He cutaway, but was unable to locate his reserve handle. His AAD (a Vigil) fired and he landed without further incident.
- vii) A report had been received of a parachutist jumping a wing-suit who was not able to throw his pilot chute clear when trying to deploy. Another report involved two

parachutists who had a canopy collision at approximately 1,000ft, but separated successfully. A further report was received of a helmet coming off on deployment.

- viii) Ten reports had been received of 'off landings', including a Tandem pair. All at clubs. Two others involved parachutists landing in trees.

6. OXYGEN REQUIREMENTS

The Chairman advised those present that during the Pilot's meeting held at Hinckley on 12 January 2008 following the AGM the CAA representative, Keith Thomas, highlighted a situation that he felt some clubs may still not be aware of, in that the oxygen requirements stated in CAP 660 and the BPA Operations Manual are inconsistent with those recorded in the ANO (CAP 393), which has recently been changed and which is the definitive document.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the new rules are that flights below FL 130, no oxygen is required. Flights intending to exceed FL 130, the commander is to be on oxygen at FL 100 and cabin crew (jumpmaster) and passengers (parachutists) on oxygen above FL 120.

For aircraft operated under a DfT Permit and not on the UK Register, where other requirements are applicable then the more stringent of either the foreign requirements or the current BPA Operations Manual must apply.

Kieran Brady was able to provide more details regarding what action the BPA intends taking, including a report on the working group formed to deal with this. He stated that they held a meeting at the BPA offices the previous evening and consisted of himself, John Carter, Tony Knight, Paul Hollow and Tony Butler.

Kieran stated that in the next few days the BPA would be making an application to the CAA for an exemption. That application is for the parachutists only. This will be a 'blanket' exemption for the Association as a whole.

Kieran stated it was not the intention to make an application for the pilot, based on the fact that it was felt that if the pilots were included it would complicate the issue. He stated the Working Group believed that it was unlikely the CAA will change the ANO for the pilot.

The Chairman thanked the Working Group for the work they had carried out to date in these areas.

7. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter from Rob Noble-Nesbitt had been circulated with the agenda requesting a Permission from Section 9 (Flying) of the BPA Operations Manual, paragraph 1.1.3. for Tom Boyle, BPA Pilot No. 55, Examiner No. 9.

The Committee was advised that Tom is Club Chief Pilot at Paragon Skydiving and he will become 70 years of age at the beginning of March this year. Tom has been a jump pilot for some 30 years.

The Committee then considered whether these particular requests should be made for a number of years, i.e. two years, which would fall in line with pilot renewal expiry.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by John Page and seconded by Paul Hollow that the permission for Tom Boyle be accepted for a two year period, after which time a further application will be required.

Carried Unanimously

- b. A letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting BPA STC approval for Gordon Blamire to attend the BPA instructor course to be held at Netheravon in February in order to obtain his Tandem Instructor rating.

The Committee was advised that Gordon is an experienced foreign Tandem instructor who has been a regular Tandem instructor at Netheravon for more than two years operating under his South African licence. Circumstances make it increasingly difficult to retain his current licence and he wishes to obtain a BPA TI rating.

Nigel Allen advised those present that Gordon has been an instructor for eight years and made over 3080 tandem descents of which the last 450 have been at Netheravon.

The Chairman stated that STC has required the person, in similar instances, to attend a TI Course after the TBI course and be assessed by the Examiners on the number of jumps felt to be necessary. He stated that he did not wish to see a precedent being set with regard to this request, but he did note Mr Blamire's Tandem instructional experience to date.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Pat Walters that Gordon Blamire be permitted to attend the TBI Course and that he carry out all the compulsory parts of the Course together with Tandem reserve drills. At the end of the Course he then undergoes a separate evaluation by an independent Examiner nominated by the NCSO and does any jumps that the Examiner feels necessary in order to be awarded a TI rating.

Carried Unanimously

- c. The Chairman gave the meeting details of a request from Ian Rosenvinge for a permission from Section 9 (Flying) of the BPA Operations Manual Paragraph 1.1.3. in respect of Jim Barnes who will be 72 next birthday and so now requires a second Permission. Jim is a regular and active parachute pilot examiner and meets all the other requirements in terms of fitness to fly, certificate of experience etc.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Mike Rust that the above permission be accepted for a period of two years after which a further application is required.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B.

The Chairman advised those present that in November 2007, the office wrote to all Clubs and Centres informing them of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). An updated copy was circulated to those present. This is the organisation that those who work with under 18 year olds are to register with. As parachuting permits 16 year old to parachute, instructors and coaches should register. Employers must then only employ ISA registered people to work with those under 18.

Some discussion took place on this matter and a number of points were raised by those present. The Chairman stated that the information previously sent out in November would be re-sent to Clubs with the STC Minutes. He stated that these requirements would come into effect during 2008.

Further details can be found on the relevant website:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/independentsafeguardingauthority/
or www.isa-gov.org

Dates of next Meetings: Thursday 10 April 2008
Thursday 5 June 2008
Thursday 31 July 2008
Thursday 25 September 2008
Thursday 20 November 2008

BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

11 February 2008

Distribution:

Chairman BPA
Council
CCIs
All Riggers
Advanced Packers
CAA
Lesley Gale (Editor – Skydive)
File



To Affiliated Clubs & Centres, copy to the Council and staff

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE GROUPS – VETTING AND BARRING

I recently attended a CCPR seminar on *Vetting and barring: what does the new law mean for you?* The speaker was Peter Swift, Programme Director, Department for Children, Schools and Families. About 90 people from a range of sports organisations attended.

Relevant website:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/independentsafeguardingauthority/>

The main points as I understand them are summarised below. This note is intended purely as an alert. Please refer to a primary source, such as the above website, for authoritative information.

1. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 contains improved provisions for child protection (up to age 18). These provisions have passed into statute as a consequence of recommendations in the report into the inquiry into the murder of the Soham schoolgirls in 2003. The new provisions are in the process of being implemented.
2. Sports instruction and training will be covered by the provisions of the Act if it is ‘carried out in a sufficiently sustained manner for a relationship of trust to develop’.
3. The central requirement will be for those who work with children and vulnerable adults to be registered.
4. Registration will be with a new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).
5. A fee will be payable on application for registration, except for voluntary work, when application will be free of charge.
6. Applicants for registration will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check and a check against the nominal lists held by police forces and other public bodies to see whether any relevant data is held on them. Unsuitable applicants will not be registered and may be barred.
7. Parents and employers etc will expect, and be able to check free of charge online, whether an individual such as a teacher or instructor is registered.
8. Employers must employ only ISA-registered people to work with children. (The word ‘employer’ is likely to be part of a far broader definition.)
9. Personal and family relationships will not be regulated. So a parent teaching only their own son or daughter would be unlikely to need to register.
10. The ISA will be in place in England & Wales by January 2008. Vetting and barring will roll-out from Autumn 2008. In addition to the new obligations on employers, there will be a publicity campaign that will create user expectation and demand from parents for trainers and instructors etc to be registered. For the position in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, please see overleaf.

Martin Shuttleworth, BPA Office

27 November 2007 (Updated 4 February 2008)

From: info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 November 2007 14:50
To: Martin@bpa.org.uk
Subject: Case Reference 2007/0077407

Dear Mr Shuttleworth,

Thank you for your email dated 5 November 2007 about the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act.

The Act applies to England and Wales, and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 extends the provisions to Northern Ireland. In Scotland, the Protecting Vulnerable Groups Act provides for the creation of a similar scheme and we are working with colleagues in Scotland on how the two will interact.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority scheme being established under the Act does not extend to the Channel Islands but could be extended by Order to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Kavanagh
BICHARD IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT
Graham.KAVANAGH@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Your correspondence has been allocated the reference number 2007/0077407.

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