

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2008

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman of STC
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Mark Tether	-	JSPC (L)/RAPA
Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
Jason Farrant	-	Skydive UK Ltd
Dave Wood	-	Cornish P.C
Andy Montriou	-	Skydive Jersey
Paul Hollow	-	Hibaldstow
John Page	-	Skydive London
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
Jane Buckle	-	Headcorn
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar

Apologies: Paul Applegate, David Hickling, Carl Williams, Rob Noble-Nesbitt, Dane Kenny, Jim White, Mike Rust, Pat Walters, Tony Goodman, Doug Peacock, Pete Sizer, Steve Thomas, Stuart Meacock, Jason Thompson.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Paul Yeoman, Gary Small, Nick Brown.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Paul Hollow that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 25 September 2008 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

Page 5, Item 5xii – (Incidents/Injuries). The Chairman reported that following the tail strike incident to Quest Kodiak N495KQ on 20 September, RAPA had grounded the aircraft until a full and thorough inspection could be carried out by representatives from the Quest Aircraft Company. He stated that this had taken place in the week of 20-24 October and involved the complete removal of the horizontal tail section and an inspection of the entire tail area. No damage had been found and the aircraft had been reassembled, test flown and certified airworthy.

The Chairman stated that in accordance with the measures agreed at STC no camera step exits had been allowed since the incident and the 2008 season had finished with no practical parachute training or jumps planned before February 2009.

The Chairman reported that Quest's position on this was that in this case, the aircraft was being flown in the correct configuration for parachuting and therefore within the limits of its

certification, and the incident was, in fact caused by a skydiver doing an unusual exit off the camera step outside of the limits for which it was designed. Therefore, Quest did not consider that a re-design of the step was required.

The Chairman stated that himself and the Technical Officer had concerns regarding Quest's decision. However, the situation was ongoing and the aircraft would not be flown for parachuting prior to the next STC meeting.

Page 7, Item 7 – (Panels of Inquiry). The Chairman advised the Committee that the Display Panel of Inquiry was a main agenda item.

3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The Chairman reported that there had been no Riggers Meeting held that evening as only Paul Applegate and one other Rigger had presented themselves for the meeting. He stated that Paul Applegate had tendered his apologies for STC that evening due to personal circumstances.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Steve Scott that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 25 September 2008 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. **INCIDENT REPORTS - RESUME**

- i) There had been 14 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 10 male and 4 female. All, but one of the injuries were on landing.
- ii) There had been 3 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate or above parachutists. 2 male and 1 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 18 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 16 males and 2 female. Five involved Students catching parts of their bodies in the lines or risers and several involved Students being unable to locate their ripcords or throwaway toggles.

The Chairman stated that he was concerned at the increasing numbers of Student parachutist incidents involving equipment / Student contact / entanglements and emphasised the importance of correct exit procedures being taught during training.

- iv) There had been 23 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 20 male and 3 female.
- v) There had been 2 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting, including one where the Instructor tore a knee muscle whilst seated in the aircraft. There had also been 9 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problems reports received.
- vi) There had been 2 reports received of AAD firings since the last meeting. One involved a static line Student who had a 'brake fire' on deployment causing a turn. The Student did nothing about it and the Cypres fired at approximately 1,000ft. The bag came out and the reserve inflated at about 50ft. The Student landed without injury. The other involved a Student with 37 descents who exited at 6,000ft, made a good stable delayed descent until she went in for the pull, started to turn, carried on in freefall until approximately 1,000ft when she deployed her main, her Cypres also fired. The reserve inflated and the two canopies went into a 'down-plane'. She made no attempt to

cutaway and landed under both canopies. She was taken to hospital and released the same day with no injuries.

The Chairman expressed some concern with regard to this incident and asked the CCI concerned who was present that evening to provide STC with further details.

The CCI concerned provided further information to the Committee and stated that until such time as he had been able to discuss the incident with the jumper concerned, he did not wish to make a decision about her future in the sport at this time.

The Chairman then continued with the Incident Report resume and reported that there had also been a report received prior to the previous STC meeting of a Cypres that failed to switch on. The AAD was sent back to the manufacturers and it was discovered that there had been a defective fuse, which had caused the problem.

- vii) There had been 2 display misfire reports received since the last meeting. One was a jumper injured on landing and the other was a 3-way Canopy Formation entanglement, where one jumper had to cutaway.
- viii) Two other reports had been received of canopy problems during CF. One involved a 4-way entanglement where two of the jumpers had to cutaway. The other was where a line caught around a cutaway pad causing a cutaway.
- ix) Six reports had been received of 'off landings' at Clubs, including 2 Tandem reports.
- x) Various other reports had also been received. One was for an experienced jumper who discovered on landing that a connector link on his main canopy was open and stretched. He had connected the canopy to the risers and had not tightened up the links. Another involved an experienced jumper with nearly 7,000 jumps who was jumping a wing-suit and could not locate his main deployment toggle and had to operate his reserve. Another involved a parachutist who lost his helmet-mounted camera on deployment.
- xi) A report had been received of an aircraft that was running in at cloud base and the pilot advised the jumpers to leave the aircraft because of icing on the airframe. All landed safely.

5. DISPLAY TEAM PANEL OF INQUIRY

The Chairman reported that the Panel of Inquiry formed to investigate a number of incidents concerning a Display Team had now finished their report, a copy of which had been circulated with the STC Agenda.

John Page had chaired the Panel and the other members were Chris McCann and Jason Webster. John Page was present at the meeting and was able to answer any questions relating to the report.

The Recommendations of the Panel were as follows, one of which required STC ratification:

- a. That the Team Leader concerned is not be allowed to act as a Display Team Leader for a period of 6 months from the date of the incident (29 June 2008). The Team Leader concerned has already been suspended from being a Team leader and at the end of 6 months or before he wishes to take up a post as Team Leader, he must re-sit the Display Team leaders exam.

- b. That the Team Member concerned is not be allowed to participate in parachute displays for a period of 4 months from the date of the incident (29 June 2008). Again the Team Member was suspended from participating in displays following the Panel's initial meeting. The Panel's opinion is that although so much responsibility is held by the Display Team Leader, that individuals who are qualified to participate in displays have enough experience to understand the rules regarding qualification and currency. Furthermore that should the Team Member concerned present himself for qualification for displays in the future, that until he has participated in 25 displays without incident, he is not permitted any ancillaries other than smoke and is not involved in CF or CP on displays.

The Chairman reported that both the Team Leader and the Team Member concerned had agreed to the decisions (above) of the Panel. He stated that unless STC had any objections to these decisions, the matter regarding them was considered closed.

STC made no objections regarding the Panel decisions.

- c. That the flowchart that accompanied the Panel Report be given a BPA form number and made available to display team leaders. The use of this form would not be mandatory but merely a tool for Team Leaders.

The Chairman advised those present that himself and the Technical Officer had suggested that this flow chart be discussed at the Team Leaders' meeting due to be held at the BPA AGM in an effort to get further input from those involved in displays. STC did not object to this suggestion.

- d. The Panel had also recommended two minor changes to the BPA Operations Manual:

- i) Section 13 (Displays), Paragraph 3 (Team Members), Sub-paras 3.2.1. & 3.3.1. Change to read:

- 3.2.1. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 5 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist's log and signed by a BPA display team leader or BPA CCI.

- ii) 3.3.1. Must have a minimum of 100 descents. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 10 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist's log and signed by a BPA display team leader or BPA CCI.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Dave Wood that the above (d i & ii) BPA Operations Manual amendments be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chairman reported that the Panel had also asked that STC consider possible changes to documentation for persons qualified to participate in displays. The first option was that a sticker be included in the FAI Certificate to include details of initial display clearance and subsequent annual clearances etc. The second option was a separate logbook that is designed specifically for display jumpers, to record all displays, similar in size to the riggers logbook.

The Chairman advised the Committee that himself and the Technical Officer had suggested that the above ideas be put the Display Team Leaders' at their meeting to be held at the AGM in January for input. There were no objections to this from those present.

The Chairman thanked the Panel Chairman and the Panel members for their work carried out on the Panel of Inquiry.

6. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

The Chairman reported that there had been three separate requests for changes/amendments to the BPA Operations Manual, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda:

- a. Pete Sizer had requested that the Operations Manual be changed with regard to the throwing of WDIs. Pete's letter had stated the reasons for his proposal.

Pete had proposed that Section 8 (Parachuting limitations), Paragraph 2 (Wind), Sub-para 2.3.3.e. be changed to read:

- e. A WDI must be thrown before the start of Static Line Student jumping, unless it directly follows a lift where the opening point has already been established and the a WDI must also be thrown before the start of a parachute display.

This proposal generated some discussion. A number of CCIs present stated that they saw the merits of this request and stated that they would support the proposal. However, several other CCIs present stated that they were concerned that this proposal did little to enhance the safety of the sport.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer (proxy) and seconded by Paul Hollow that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 5 (incl. 1 by proxy) Against: 5 Abstentions: 0
Not Carried

In accordance with normal practice, because of a tied vote, the status quo remained the same regarding the rules for the throwing of WDIs.

- b. Steve Scott had resubmitted a request for the number of AFF Students trained on a course, from his previous request for 5, to this request for 4. Steve was present at the meeting and was able to give further details of his request.

Steve had proposed that Section 5 (Training), Paragraph 4 (AFF and the Category System), be changed to read:

No more than 4 AFF or 12 Category System Student Parachutists will be trained on any one course.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Steve Scott and seconded by Jason Thompson (proxy) that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 7 (incl. 4 by proxy) Against: 4 Abstentions: 2
Carried

- c. A paper from the Technical Officer stated that when the Operations Manual was amended to include the age limit of 55 years for which anyone could start initial 'solo' training, the wording stated:

'No person under the age of 16, or over the age of 55 years will be permitted to carry out initial 'solo' parachute training.....'

The paper stated that this had led to some confusion as to whether the limit should be 55 or 56. The Technical Officer stated that the intention was that once someone had reached 55 they would not be permitted to train 'solo' parachuting or jump.

Therefore to clarify the intention, it had been proposed that the Operations Manual be amended as follows:

SECTION 11 (MEDICAL), Paragraph 2 (General), sub-para 2.1. Change to read:

- 2.1.** No person under the age of 16 years, or aged 55 years or over, 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 Tandem Parachutist Declaration of Fitness to Parachute/Doctor's certificate).

Following some discussion, it was proposed by John Page and seconded by Mark Tether that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

7. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 04/2008

The Association wished to thank the North London Parachute Centre for hosting the Course, which had taken place from the 3 – 11 November. The Chairman advised those present that the Report that had been originally circulated with the agenda stated that the Course had been held from the 5 – 11 November, which was incorrect.

There were no recommendations from the Course that required STC approval. Therefore the report was for information only.

8. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Steve Thain's CSBI rating be re-instated, as it had expired in August 2008. Also that he be given a six-month extension to his CSBI rating.

Nigel's letter had stated that due to work commitments Steve had been unable to commit to a CSI course.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Nigel Allen (proxy) and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. A letter from Mark Tether had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Ludwig Schmude be given an exemption from attending a CSI course and that he only attends the CSBI course in order to re-qualify as a CSI. Mark's letter stated that Ludwig was a

BPA instructor in the past (approximately 11 years ago) and was a qualified German Instructor at present. He also listed all of Ludwig's other qualifications. Mark had stated that the request would obviously be down to Ludwig proving himself on the course and it would be for the Examiners on the CSBI course to decide whether or not to award him CSI status.

Mark was present at the meeting and was able to provide further details of his request.

Some discussion took place, during which members of STC agreed that they would wish Ludwig to sit the actual CSI written examination paper on the CSBI Course.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Mark Tether and seconded by John Page that the above permission be accepted, with the proviso that Ludwig fulfils the pre-Course requirements and that he sits the CSI written examination paper on the Course.

For: 8

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Carried

- c. A letter from Jim White had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Andy Hutchison's CSBI rating be extended for a further six-month period. Andy had attended a CSI course in May and had been given a 6-month extension, which expires on the 30 November 2008.

Jim's letter had stated that due to work commitments Andy had been unable to commit to a CSI's course.

It was proposed by Jim White (proxy) and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Ian Roseninge questioned whether the initial 6 month extension was in some cases not always long enough to allow a candidate to come back on to another CSI Course. Ian felt that perhaps STC should consider giving a longer extension, particularly if a CSBI candidate had failed a CSI Course.

Following some discussion on Ian's comments, the general consensus of opinion from those present regarding this issue was that they felt they would much prefer to see a candidate (CSBI) return sooner to be examined on the CSI Course, rather than granting them a longer extension to their CSBI rating.

- d. A letter from Maggie Penny had been circulated with the agenda together with a risk assessment, requesting permission to allow Wild Geese to take passengers in the right hand seat of their Cessna 208 Caravan aircraft (G-ETHY) should the need arise. Maggie had stated that all of the other Section 9 Para 5.7 aspects would be observed as normal.

It was proposed by Maggie Penny (proxy) and seconded by Paul Hollow that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Technical Officer reported that this was the third request of this nature that the Committee had dealt with recently. He reminded CCIs that as well as seeking STC clearance for these requests they would also need to contact the CAA as it would

involve a change to their CAA Parachuting Permission. The Chairman of the Pilots' Committee also reminded CCIs that any change may also affect their aircraft insurance.

- e. A letter from Ian Rosenvinge had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Nick Brown be granted Permission to attend a Pre-Advanced Instructor Course as an observer and then as a candidate without having to complete a Display Descent and if successful an Advanced Instructor Course. Ian's letter had stated that Nick had 1200 jumps and 8 yrs in the sport, 6 years of which had been at Peterlee. He had worked at Peterlee for one year as a CSBI, and 3.5 years as a CSI. He is also an FS and CH coach.

Nick Brown was present that evening and Ian Rosenvinge introduced him to those present.

Ian stated that it was his belief that displays were becoming more specialised, probably being undertaken by fewer teams and were so less accessible, and perhaps rightly so, to the otherwise experienced parachutist. Given this Ian stated that in his opinion it was an unnecessary hindrance for someone who aspired to be Advanced Instructor and who could be responsible for running a programme (day or night) at an approved DZ; as opposed to a display elsewhere. He stated that the Association was already seeking a higher standard for display team leaders than a Basic Instructor rating, the latter who already had to take a separate and additional assessment.

Ian asked for STCs input regarding the requirement for those aspiring to be Advanced Instructors to have undertaken a display descent.

Ian's request generated some discussion. The general feeling of the Committee was that the experience actually gained by doing at least one display descent so that they can then pass on that experience was an important part of the knowledge of the Advanced Instructor rating and should therefore be included in the qualifications. However, some CCIs present felt that a person could still have the knowledge on a subject without having necessarily participated.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by John Page that Permission relating to Nick Brown be accepted.

For: 3 (incl 1 by proxy) Against: 8 (incl 1 by proxy) Abstentions: 0

Not Carried

- f. Circulated to those present was a letter from Nigel Allen requesting that Kenny Craig be given a six-month extension to his CSBI rating which was due to expire in February 2009. Kenny was overseas on military commitments and would not be able to attend a CSI course early in the new year.

It was proposed by Nigel Allen (proxy) and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. A.O.B

The Chairman asked CCIs that if they had anyone they wished to nominate for the Mike Forge Trophy (New Skydiver of the Year), they should send details of their nomination to the Technical Officer before the end of the year.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to CCIs on behalf of himself and the TO for their support throughout the year and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 February 2009
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

24 November 2008

Distribution:

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

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the last STC meeting of the 20th November 2008 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 5 (TRAINING), Paragraph 4 (AFF and the Category System). Change to read:

No more than 4 AFF or 12 Category System Student Parachutists will be trained on any one Course.

SECTION 11 (MEDICAL), Paragraph 2 (General), sub-para 2.1. Change to read:

2.1. No person under the age of 16 years, or aged 55 years or over, 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 Tandem Parachutist Declaration of Fitness to Parachute/Doctor's certificate).

SECTION 13 (DISPLAY PARACHUTING), Paragraph 3 (Team Members), sub-paras 3.2.1. & 3.3.1. Change to read:

3.2.1. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 5 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist's log and signed by a BPA team leader or BPA CCI.

3.3.1. Must have a minimum of 100 descents. Must have carried out a minimum of 5 consecutive, pre-declared, simulated, display landings, landing within 10 metres of the centre of the target. These must be carried out annually, prior to any display descents being carried out for the calendar year and these must be recorded in the parachutist's log and signed by a BPA team leader or BPA CCI.