

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2009

<u>Present:</u>	John Hitchen	-	Chairman of STC
	Steve Thomas	-	CCSPC
	Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
	Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
	Dave Wood	-	Cornish Parachute Club
	Mark Bayada	-	JSPC(N)/APA
	Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting
	Nigel Allen	-	SSC, Old Sarum
	Billy Steele	-	JSPC (L)/RAPA
	Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
	Paul Hollow	-	Hibaldstow
	Chris McCann	-	Skydive Airkix
	John Page	-	Skydive London
	Matt Holford	-	South Cerney
	Philip Cavanagh	-	BKPC
	Ian Rosenvinge (from item 4)	-	Peterlee
	Gary Small	-	NLPC
	Paul Applegate	-	Riggers Committee

Apologies: Mark Tether (Billy Steele represented Mark at the meeting), Steve Scott, David Hickling (Richard Wheatley represented David at the meeting), Dane Kenny, Alex Busby (Matt Holford represented Alex at the meeting), Jason Farrant, Mike Rust (Gary Small represented Mike at the meeting).

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

Observers: Paul Yeoman, Rick Boardman, Dave Hartley, George Panagopoulos, Louise Cliff.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 12 FEBRUARY 2009

It was proposed by Paul Hollow and seconded by Chris McCann that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 12 February 2009 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 12 FEBRUARY 2009

Page 2, Item 3 – Matters Arising from the Pilots’ Committee Meeting Minutes. Kieran Brady was able to update members on the ongoing situation with regard to EASA and the action the Association was taking with regard to proposed legislation.

Kieran reported that he had circulated a letter to Drop Zone Operators and CCIs explaining the progress so far. He stated that following a meeting in March with himself, Tony Butler,

Keith Thomas (CAA) and Tony Knight, it was decided the best plan of action was to make a formal proposal to EASA in the form of an AMC (Acceptable Means of Compliance) and the first steps had now been taken to try and establish direct contacts. Kieran together with Tony Knight also planned to attend a workshop in Brussels in late April where they could hopefully meet with the relevant contacts and seek guidance and opinion on the task at hand.

Kieran also informed STC Members that Keith Thomas and his colleague Rob Metcalf had both left the GA department of the CAA and at this point no successor has been appointed. Kieran stated that without doubt this may not be a good situation for the BPA. The timing could not have been worse. We have lost two good allies and the challenges of the future will be greater without the help and continuity that they could have provided.

Kieran asked that anyone sending paperwork to the CAA, applications etc and who did not receive a response to please let the office know.

Kieran reported that at the last Council meeting he had given a full report on the situation in Europe and had advised them of the complexities that the changes have potential to bring to DZ Operators. He had explained that as an Association we should take up this challenge on behalf of the Operators and that he had requested that a budget should be set aside to finance such a project, which would be quite time consuming and that we may have to call on and pay for outside expertise in some areas; aviation law would be an example. Kieran had suggested that the DZ defence fund should be a consideration to help with finance, which he was pleased to report the Council supported his proposals unanimously.

Page 5, Item 5 – Proposed Changes to the Operations Manual. The Chairman reported that the proposed changes regarding revision training that were withdrawn from the previous agenda, were now a main agenda item at this meeting.

Page 6, Item 6 – Permissions. The Chairman advised those present that Centres that were given Permission to take passengers in their aircraft had been advised of the possible problems with regard to; Flight Manuals, Flight Manual Supplements, CAA Permissions and Insurance which may occur.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 12 FEBRUARY 2009

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Steve Thomas that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of the 12 February 2009 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and advised those present that the Committee had discussed a recent communication from TSE regarding their lifing policy on their container systems.

Paul explained that at the previous meeting Bill Sharp had highlighted an issue regarding what TSE stated in their hard copy manuals regarding the 10 or 15 year inspection requirement, which was different to their online manuals. Bill had also explained to the Committee that TSE had confirmed that the rule in their online manuals was really included to satisfy the German market and that it did not apply in the UK because kit is lifed according to its condition rather than its age.

Bill stated that he had reminded Chris Thomas that this was correct but that Advanced Packers in the UK have to have and abide by the manuals to hand. The Riggers Committee had felt that this was a situation that needed addressing and had therefore asked Paul Applegate to contact TSE in order to clarify the situation.

Paul advised those present that he had subsequently e-mailed TSE and their response had been as follows:

“TSE 1 Pin Tear Drop containers as all our container systems are lifed for 15 years. TSE container systems may be returned to Thomas Sports Equipment at 15 years old, where the container can be re-lifed for a further 5 years of service.”

TSEs response raised a great deal of concern from those present. A number of CCIs stated that they believed the BPA system covered this situation, as all equipment was lifed on condition at inspection every 6 months. However, it was pointed out that the BPA system applied to canopies and not to container systems.

Following some discussion, it was agreed by those present that TSE should be contacted again regarding their lifing policy. However, in the meantime their lifing policy as quoted above needed to be adhered to.

[Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman of Riggers contacted TSE and the following reply has been received from them regarding their lifing policy: “We are prepared to permit BPA Advanced Packers or Riggers to extend the life of TSE containers, once they have reached 15 years, on a six-month basis, as they do for canopies and other parachute containers, when they carry out the six-month Equipment Inspection/Reserve repack (Record of Inspection) and that these six-month life extensions may continue until the containers are no longer serviceable.”]

Paul reported that the Riggers Committee were in the process of setting up a Working Group to look at the whole subject of lifing of equipment, where many issues such as this would be covered.

Paul Applegate reported that the Committee had also discussed and accepted a proposed change to the BPA Operations Manual. He stated that that the change to the Operations Manual was to clarify Tandem equipment being non-Student equipment, but equipment that was used by Students. The clarification was to prevent possible misinterpretations with regard the type of AADs used etc. He stated that this proposal had stemmed from correspondence from Bill Sharp.

Paul advised the Committee that it had been proposed that the BPA Operations Manual, Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 2 (Equipment Used by Student Parachutists), Sub-Para 2.2.1. be changed to read:

‘Tandem equipment is not classified as Student Parachutist equipment, however it is equipment used by Student Parachutists. Therefore only Tandem equipment acceptable to the BPA (via Riggers’ Committee and STC) may be used.’

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above proposed change to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The TO pointed out that anyone wishing to make changes to Tandem equipment still needed to apply to the Riggers Committee in the same way and all the necessary forms and relative paperwork needed to be submitted.

4. INCIDENT REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had been 10 Student injury reports received since the last meeting. 5 male and 5 female.

- ii) There had been 7 injury reports received for 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 5 male and 2 female.
- iii) Since the last meeting there had been 14 Student Parachutist Malfunction/Deployment Problems reported. 10 male and 4 female.
- iv) There had been 22 reports of Malfunction/Deployment Problems to 'A' Certificate parachutists and above since the last meeting. 16 male and 6 female.
- v) There had been 3 Tandem Injury reports received since the last meeting and 3 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment problem reports. A report had also been received of an incident where a Tandem Instructor exited the aircraft with the right-hand Student's upper hook unattached. The freefall and canopy descent went without further incident and both landed safely. Following the incident the instructor reported the problem to his CCI. The CCI grounded the instructor until this STC meeting. It was the CCI's intention to spend time with the instructor going through drills, followed by a 're-currency' jump, with the CCI acting as Student.

There then followed a lengthy discussion concerning this incident. The TO advised those present that it appeared from video footage of the incident that the upper hook appeared to be attached in aircraft, but it could not be established when it became unattached.

A number of CCIs present believed that this may not be an isolated incident and they felt that the use of a locking pin would have prevented these incidents from happening. It was suggested that it may be time to seriously look at making this a mandatory requirement.

The Chairman stated that he also believed that perhaps it was also a training issue and was the reason why we had 'systems check' in place. He reported that on instructor courses, the drills had been changed, which also included a 'systems check' in free fall.

The Chairman asked that CCIs to remind their instructors of the importance of the equipment systems checks.

- vi) There had been 1 report received of an AAD firing since the last meeting. It involved a parachutist with 42 jumps whose FXC fired after the main was deployed at about 3,000ft. The main hesitated for a few seconds and the AAD fired.
- vii) Six reports had been received of 'off landings' at Clubs.
- viii) Two reports had been received of premature deployments in the aircraft. One involved a candidate on CSBI course who moved a static line jumper into the door and 'popped' the pin. Another was a jumper whose pin dislodged as he stood up in the aircraft.
- ix) Two reports had been received of equipment/clothing coming off. A helmet and a trainer.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

- a. The Chairman reported that following the previous STC meeting where a proposed change to the Operations Manual had been withdrawn, Mike Rust had made an amended proposal for STC's consideration, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

Mike had proposed that the Operations Manual, Section 5 (Training), Paragraph 3 (Revision Training), Sub-Paras 3.1. & 3.2. be combined into one paragraph (3.1), to read:

3.1. All Student Parachutists must have revision training prior to their first descent of the day” The type of revision training will be as required by the CCI and must be recorded on/in the students record card /logbook.

Note: Previous sub-paras 3.3. & 3.4. become 3.2. & 3.3.

The Chairman advised those present that letters of support for Mike’s proposal had been received from Ian Rosenvinge and Paul Moore, copies of which had been circulated with the Additions to Agenda.

Following some discussion it was proposed by Mike Rust (proxy) and seconded by John Page that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted

Carried Unanimously

Ian Rosenvinge stated that he was concerned that all Centres did not retain a training record for students undertaking training and jumping at their Centre, but having undertaken the appropriate training and accurately completed such records hand them back to the individual student(s) for them to retain and re-produce at a later appropriate time, ie, when next at the Centre, prior to/after the next jump, prior to/after the next brief etc.

Ian stated that he believed that most Centres now retained their own copies, however he still came across students arriving at his Centre with their own original, and probably the only copy of such a record.

Ian reported that his own policy at his Centre was that should the student wish their own record (needed such as going to another Centre) the student maintains and retains their own copy (in a log book) with the same/duplicate entries as on the Centre retained training record card countersigned by an Instructor.

Ian stated that his main concern was in the event of an incident it may not be possible to recover the only copy of the student training record if that copy was held by the student.

The TO referred to an e-mail, circulated to those present from the BPA Solicitors who also supported Ian’s comments concerning this issue.

The TO stated that in his opinion all training records should be kept by individual Centres.

- b. A letter from Mark Bayada had been circulated with the agenda requesting that STC consider a change to the Operations Manual with regard to main canopies used on water displays.

Mark gave the meeting details of the request and stated that when a display was being carried out into a large area of open water he did not think it was necessary to be able to land with as much accuracy as a normal display therefore not needing the same currency requirements. As most water displays were carried out using old canopies, kept just for that purpose that are no longer used for normal jumping, it can be very difficult for many display jumpers to remain current on that canopy.

Therefore, Mark had proposed that Section 13 (Display Parachuting), Paragraph 7 (Currency), be amended to include an NB following sub-para 7.2. to read:

N.B The 5 descents on the same type and size of canopy requirement do not apply to water displays.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Mark Bayada and seconded by Kieran Brady that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c. A letter from David Hickling, together with a letter from Matt Sweeney had been circulated with the Additions to the Agenda requesting a change to the Operations Manual with regard to Canopy Piloting. The Chairman reported that this item had now been withdrawn from the agenda.

6. REVISED MEDICAL DECLARATION/DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATES

The TO reported that at the Drop Zone Operators' meeting held in November 2008, Dr John Carter (BPA Medical Advisor) gave a presentation on various medical problems, including the various BPA Medical forms.

At the meeting it was decided that the forms should be amended to clarify some areas of concern to Clubs, mainly the problem of Students making Tandem descents that have dislocated their shoulders in the past. Therefore, the forms had been revised. The changes had been highlighted in the copies that had been circulated with the agenda.

Pete Sizer stated that he was unhappy with the inclusion of 'dislocated shoulder' now being included in the list of excluded conditions on the proposed Student Tandem Parachutist Declaration of Fitness.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by John Page and seconded by Paul Hollow that the revised Medical Forms (BPA Forms; 114, 114a, 115 & 116) be accepted.

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

7. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 1/2009

- a. The Association wished to thank JSPC – Netheravon for hosting the course, which ran from the 16 – 24 February 2009.

The Chairman reported that the CSI phase of the courses seemed to be attracting fewer candidates due to the fact that fewer jumpers were attending CSBI courses and more wished to become just Tandem Instructors. This CSI course had only 3 candidates, resulting in the CSI and Pre-Advanced Course being completed in two days. He stated that future courses were being re-evaluated with the possibility of including some Tandem Instructor Courses taking place at the same time as CSI and Pre-Advanced courses. The benefit of this could be that Pre-Advanced candidates would have a more substantial parachuting programme to run, which would help with their assessments.

There were no recommendations from the course for STC to ratify. Therefore the report was for information only.

b. AFF/Tandem Instructor Course

An AFF/Tandem Instructor Course had taken place last week at British Parachute Schools, Langar. The Association wished to thank the Centre for hosting the Course. A copy of the Course report had been circulated to those present and was for information only.

8. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter from Nigel Allen had been circulated with the agenda requesting an exemption to the 60-jump rule in the preceding 2 years for Paul O' Mara an AFFI/CSI. Nigel had stated that Paul had a very serious parachute accident on the 26 September 2006. Paul had managed to complete 10 jumps since the accident, including 2 AFF jumps and numerous AFF ground schools.

Nigel's letter stated that he would like to give Paul the opportunity to continue instructing until the end of August 2009, as this should allow sufficient time for him to gain a further 50 jumps.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. A letter from Steve Thomas had been circulated with the agenda requesting that STC extends Phil Bell's TI rating for 2 months until the 31 May 09 in order for him to carry out the required number of tandem descents. Steve Thomas advised those present that Phil Bell had completed 13 tandem descents this year and it was very unlikely he would be able to reach the minimum number of tandem descents (20) as stated in Section 4, Para 5, sub-Para 5.7 of the BPA Operations Manual before 31 March 09.

It was proposed by Steve Thomas and seconded by Dave Wood that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c. A letter from John Page, together with a letter from Zoe Stoneman had been circulated with the Additions to the Agenda, requesting an exemption to the 60 jumps in two years rule for her.

The Committee was advised that Zoe had instructed a number of courses at Redlands Airfield during the last membership year, but due to pregnancy did not complete the required number of jumps. Zoe was currently pregnant and would not be jumping again until at least the end of July so would not be able to increase her jump numbers before then. The request is that Zoe be given a Permission until April 2010.

It was proposed by John Page and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. A.O.B.

- a. Circulated to those present was a letter from Jay Webster (Team Leader of the Red Devils) requesting Permission for the team to carry out a display at Worcester

Racecourse on the 7 June 2009, which they were given permission to carry out last year.

The arena was 300 meters long and 25 meters wide and would require the team to land closer than fifteen meters to the crowd line.

Jay's letter stated that he had made an appropriate risk assessment and would load the display with only experienced display jumpers, who had completed more than fifty display descents each. Also he would not allow any CF greater than a two stack to land in the arena its self. In addition to that, if the wind was more than 5mph across the race course, the jump would not take place.

It was proposed by Mark Bayada and seconded by Nigel Allen that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b. Circulated to those present was a request from Dave Wood for an alteration to the Cornish Parachute Club SOPs, which had been accepted by STC as self imposed restrictions when the Club was originally cleared by STC. The original self imposed restrictions were as follows;

i. *“until the target area on the proposed PLA has proven credentials, smaller light aircraft will be preferred at the airfield”*

Dave would like to change this statement to read as follows;

“All suitable authorised parachute aircraft be permitted at Perranporth DZ, with a maximum of no more than 10 parachutists per pass”

ii. “FAI B certificate holders will be required to wear a radio until proven canopy control at the airfield”

Dave would like to delete this sentence in total

The Chairman advised the Committee that himself and the TO had no objections to this request.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above request be accepted

Carried Unanimously

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 11 June 2009
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

16 April 2009

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 9th April 2009 the following amendments were made to the BPA operations Manual:

SECTION 5 (TRAINING), Paragraph 3 (Revision Training), Sub-Paras 3.1. & 3.2. be combined into one paragraph (3.1), to read:

- 3.1.** All Student Parachutists must have revision training prior to their first descent of the day. The type of revision training will be as required by the CCI and must be recorded on/in the students record card /logbook.

Note: Previous sub-paras 3.3. & 3.4. become 3.2. & 3.3.

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 2 (Equipment Used by Student Parachutists), Sub-Para 2.2.1. be changed to read:

- 2.2.1. Tandem equipment is not classified as Student Parachutist equipment, however it is equipment used by Student Parachutists. Therefore only Tandem equipment acceptable to the BPA (via Riggers' Committee and STC) may be used.'

SECTION 13 (DISPLAY PARACHUTING), Paragraph 7 (Currency), be amended to include an NB following sub-para 7.2. to read:

N.B The 5 descents on the same type and size of canopy requirement do not apply to water displays.