

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2010

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman of STC
John Page	-	Skydive London
Matty Holford	-	Silver Stars
Paul Hollow	-	Target Skysports
Nigel Allen	-	South Coast Skydiving
Mike Rust	-	NLPC
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Andy Goodall	-	JSPC (N)
Ray Armstrong	-	Skydive GB
Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting (Beccles)
Bill Sharp	-	RAPA
Carl Williams	-	Skydive Swansea
Steve Scott	-	Skydive Weston
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
Phil Cavanagh	-	BKPC
Pat Walters	-	Tilstock
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Chris McCann	-	UK Parachuting (Sibson)
Paul Applegate	-	Chairman Riggers

Apologies: Dave Wood, Pete Sizer, Alan Wilkinson, Kieran Brady, George McGuinness, Ian Rosenvinge.

In Attendance:

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

Observers: Rick Boardman, Gary Small, Grant Richards.

ITEM

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 11 FEBRUARY 2010

The Chairman reported that Dane Kenny's apologies had not been included in the previous minutes. Dane had been unable to attend the meeting as he was carrying out relief work in Haiti.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Nigel Allen that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 11 February 2010 including the above amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 11 FEBRUARY 2010

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – (Incident Reports). The Chairman advised those present that the Working Group looking into the qualifications and training of pilots flying foreign registered aircraft are still to complete their report. Due to personal circumstances Kieran

Brady had been unable to attend the STC meeting. He had intended to give an update on the Working Group's progress and had hoped to canvas opinion from the table on various aspects. Kieran had advised that several meetings had taken place and much had been considered and discussed with the group members and other operators with experience in this field. Kieran was of the opinion that a subject as important as this with the potential to be problematic if not fixed correctly should be put to consultation, if STC agreed, to all CCPs for their considered input. It was Kieran's aim to distribute the group's thoughts and suggestions during the next week if possible and would then welcome any comments.

Page 1, Item 2, Matters Arising – (AOBii). The Chairman reported that Mike Rust had now completed his proposal for a pilot scheme to include Tandem as part of AFF training, which is called 'Tandem Assist Free Fall' (TAFF). Mike's proposal had been circulated with the 'Additions to the STC Agenda', including the proposed syllabus. It was noted that on page 2 of the syllabus, the *NB* should have stated Levels 4-8 and not 5-8. The proposal was for Students to carry out 2 training Tandem descents and then be integrated into the AFF system at Level 2. Mike had proposed that he be permitted to carry out a 12-month pilot, during which he will report back to STC.

Mike Rust was present at the meeting and that evening and gave further details of his request.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 11 FEBRUARY 2010

There being no matters arising from the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee meeting of the 11 February 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate then reported on the meeting held that evening and stated that the Committee had discussed and accepted a proposal from Dane Kenny against the requirement to hold an AP rating until he could attend the appropriate AP Course, which he would be required to attend before 1 April 2011.

The Committee had also discussed an e-mail from Ian Rosenvinge, a copy of which had been previously circulated regarding a Tandem broken bridle line and also the actions that he had since taken.

Paul Applegate reported that the Committee had then gone on to discuss the poor condition of some of Tandem equipment that they frequently come across. The Committee felt it was the responsibility of not just Riggers and Packers but that of Instructors and Drop Zones who also had a huge responsibility to look after and maintain their equipment correctly.

The Chairman of STC referred to a number of the Tandem Instructor Courses where there had been several occasions where kit has had to be grounded because of maintenance issues. He stated that Tandem was doing an enormous amount of work in the UK and in his opinion he had no doubt that the maintenance of kit that was the biggest issue here.

4. INCIDENT REPORTS - RESUME

- i) There had been 16 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 14 male and 2 female. All were landing injuries.

- ii) Since the last meeting there has been 1 Injury Report received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above, a male who sustained a broken ankle on landing.
- iii) There had been 10 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting, 9 male and 1 female.
- iv) There had also been 26 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for FAI 'A' Certificate parachutists or above. 20 male and 6 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 12 Tandem Injury Reports received. 10 male and 2 female, including an Instructor. There had also been 8 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received.

An e-mail from Ian Rosenvinge had been distributed to all clubs regarding a Tandem broken bridle. A further e-mail from Ian had been circulated to those present regarding the actions he had since taken. This had been discussed at the Riggers meeting earlier.

- vi) There had been 3 reports received of AAD firings. All the jumpers were relatively inexperienced, with jumps ranging 15 – 41. All lost altitude awareness and all deployed their mains low. One AAD was an FXC and the other 2 were Vigils.
- vii) There had been 8 reports received of 'off landings' at clubs.
- viii) One report had been received of a canopy entanglement whilst carrying out CF.
- ix) A report had been received regarding a rig that the CCI initially thought may have been tampered with. The CCI was present that evening to give further details and he advised those present that he no longer believed this to be the case.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

The TO reported that last year a proposal to change the requirements for foreign instructor ratings, to include British Citizens was put to STC. However, the proposal failed to be seconded. He stated that the Association had recently been informed that not permitting British citizens the same rights as foreign nationals may be a breach of human rights laws. Therefore, he had been advised to put forward a proposal to Section 4 (Instructors), Paragraph 12 (Foreign Instructors), of the BPA Operations Manual, that would give British Citizens the same rights as foreign nationals.

Letters from Gary Small and John Horne had been received voicing their concerns about this proposal. Copies of which had been circulated to CCIs in advanced of the meeting.

Much of the discussion that then ensued centred around the fact that foreign instructors and UK persons gaining overseas instructor qualifications to use in the UK. should be treated equally, but not to the detriment to the sport. The Committee believed that this was a comprehensive issue that required much more in depth consideration and debate.

The Chairman reported that Mike Rust and Gary Small had offered to set up a small working group to look into this issue and to come up with some firm proposals for STC to consider.

Following further discussion on this matter, the suggested proposal previously circulated concerning foreign instructors failed to find a proposer from around the table.

The Committee agreed to accept Mike Rust and Gary Small's offer to set up a Working Group. Anyone with any input was asked to contact Mike and Gary direct.

6. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

Instructor Course 1/2010 – JSPC(N)

The Association wished to thank JSPC-Netheravon for hosting the first Instructor course of 2010. The course took place in the Club's new premises at Netheravon. Because of the small number of CSI candidates, the course took place over one week, from the 15 – 18 February, instead of the usual two.

The Course report had been circulated with the agenda. There were no recommendations that needed voting on. Therefore the report was for information only.

AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course – BPS, Langar

The Association wished to thank British Parachute Schools, Langar for hosting the course, which took place from the 29 March – 2 April. The course report had been tabled to those present and was for information only. The Chairman reported that at this time only one of the Tandem candidates still had jumps to complete.

7. PERMISSIONS

- a) A letter from Mike Rust had been circulated with the agenda requesting permission from the 60 jumps within the previous two years rule for Sylvianne Herrick. Sylvianne had been an instructor for a number of years, but because of injury had not jumped for about a year. She had completed 36 plus jumps within the last 2 years. Mike was able to provide the meeting with further details of his request.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b) A letter from Steve Scott had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Michael Barron be re-instated as a Category System Instructor. Michael had not renewed his membership (including instructor rating) in 2009 due to work commitments. Steve was able to provide the meeting with further details of his request.

It was proposed by Steve Scott and seconded by John Page that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c) A letter from Andy Goodall had also been circulated with the agenda requesting that Kevin Fyfe be permitted to attend a Tandem Instructor course and carry out the number of evaluation jumps on the course as specified by the Examiners. Kevin had been a Tandem Instructor since 2003, but had not been able to fulfil the requirements for Tandem Instructor renewal for 2010.

It was proposed by Andy Goodall and seconded by Jason Thompson that the above permission be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. **A.O.B**

- a) Circulated to those present were details of a change to the PLA at JSPC – Bad Lippspringe. The changes were that a ‘swoop pond’ and a small fence had been included on the PLA over the past few years. The changes did not alter the landing areas for parachutists and was for information only.
- b) A letter from Carl Williams had been circulated with the Additions to the Agenda requesting a change to the accepted restrictions at Skydive Swansea permitting only one AFF Student per pass when the Northern PLA is in use. Carl had requested that the restriction be increased to 2 Students per pass when the Northern PLA is in use.

Carl Williams had stated that his proposal would not apply to Level 1 students who would continue to be one on a pass until progressing onto Level 2. If STC approved his proposal, it would be his intention to monitor this for a further 12 months before applying to STC for this self imposed restriction to be lifted.

It was proposed by Carl Williams and seconded by Matty Holford that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c) A letter from Nigel Allen had also been circulated with the Additions to the Agenda, requesting an exemption from the requirement for a Club to have a set of telemeters. Nigel had stated that Skydive Southcoast only jumps Tandems and FAI ‘B’ Certificate parachutists or above and he believed a pair suitable binoculars would be more practical for their type of operation.

The Committee felt that had Nigel Allen actually presented the binoculars to the meeting, this may have perhaps assisted them into making an informed decision with regard to their suitability.

The Chairman advised that the TO and himself would be conducting an Inspection of Skydive Southcoast in June. If necessary they could check the suitability of the binoculars at that time.

A number of CCIs present stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain a set of telemeters in the UK and in some cases the ones they had were unable to be repaired. It was suggested that perhaps it was time the Committee considered having a modern equivalent to the telemeter. It was felt it should be possible to define the characteristics of a telemeter, ie the magnification, the optical range, focal point, the kind of stand etc. then a minimum spec could be set for the use of binoculars.

The Committee believed that this was something that could be considered the future. But would require a proposal being put forward for consideration.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Andy Goodall that the above request be accepted with the proviso that the NCSO & TO check out the suitability of the binoculars when they carry out their DZ inspection.

Carried Unanimously

- d) A letter from Mike Rust had been circulated with the Additions to the Agenda informing STC that he intended to complete an evaluation on a static line hang-up situation and the feasibility of climbing down to cut a parachutist free. Mike stated that he would report his findings to STC.

- e) The Chairman reported that Pete Sizer was dealing, on behalf of the Association, with the BPA accuracy scoring system and he had asked that if anyone had items of BPA accuracy scoring equipment (Boxes & pads) could they return them to the BPA offices or to Pete at Headcorn as he was trying to assess the compatibility with the new 2cm pad.

Pete Sizer had advised that he has the oldest box, and he believes the Black Knights had a box, but that still leaves a couple of boxes out there.

- f) A letter from Stuart Meacock had been circulated to CCIs requesting an exemption from the requirement for a Club to have a set of telemeters. Hinton does not jump static line Students. Stuart believed the tripod-mounted binoculars that he had developed would be more practical for their type of operation and has the same magnification as telemeters. Stuart had brought the new system for viewing by members of STC.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- g) The Chairman reported that Pat Walters wished to rescind the Tandem rating of a BPA Foreign Tandem Instructor that he recently signed up again at renewal time.

Pat Walters gave the meeting details of the reasons for withdrawing his support. The TO said he would circulate an e-mail to all Centres advising that the Instructor may no longer carry out Tandem descents at any BPA Affiliated Clubs. A revised BPA membership card would also be sent to him, which would no longer include a Foreign Tandem rating.

- h) Circulated to those present was a letter from Nigel Allen requesting that Gordon Blamire's foreign instructor's rating be reinstated. Nigel had stated that Gordon's BPA membership and foreign Tandem instructor rating was not renewed last year. He stated that he can only presume that when he received his South African membership and Tandem instructor rating he updated various systems at the DZ and neglected to send off his BPA Membership for renewal.

Mr Allen was in attendance that evening and was able to provide further details and answer questions from those present with regards to this matter.

There then followed a lengthy discussion regarding this matter. There was much concern expressed by those present at the severe consequences of not having membership/ratings renewed and the implications with regard to insurance etc, which could have an effect on the Association as a whole.

The Committee felt that although Nigel Allen had admitted being the one who failed to send off Mr Blamire's membership renewal. They also believed that Mr Blamire as an Instructor and DZO should also have taken some of the responsibility for

ensuring he was a BPA member. He was not in receipt of a BPA membership card or would not have received any BPA magazines over the course of the year.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Mike Rust that Nigel Allen be written to by the Chairman of STC reminding him of his responsibilities with regard to this matter.

A counter proposal was then tabled by Dane Kenny, seconded by Chris McCann that the Chairman of STC write to both Nigel Allen and Gordon Blamire reminding them of their responsibilities, copies of which would be kept on file at the office.

For: 12

Against: 3

Abstentions: 2

Carried

It was then proposed by Nigel Allen and seconded by Andy Goodall that Gordon Balmire's foreign Tandem Instructor rating be re-instated.

For: 15 (incl 1 by proxy)

Against: 1

Abstentions: 2

Carried

- i) Mike Rust referred to a new set of Next Tandem equipment, which was a manufacturers upgrade. He stated that some of the drills stated in their Manual do not agree with BPA drills, as per the aid memoire for this equipment. Mike Rust agreed to investigate this matter further with the manufacturers.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 10 June 2010
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 7.00 p.m

12 April 2010

Distribution:

Chairman BPA

Council

CCIs

All Riggers

Advanced Packers

CAA

Lesley Gale (Editor – Skydive)

File