

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 7 June 2012 at 1900

at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
Kieran Brady	-	Strathallan
Phil Collett	-	22 Trg Gp RAF
Brucie Johnson	-	Skydive London
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Jason Webster	-	APA/JSPC(N)
Chris McCann	-	UK Parachuting (Sibson)
Jason Thompson	-	UK Parachuting (Beccles)
Mike Bolton	-	LPS
Richard Wheatley	-	BPS, Langar
Dennis Buchanan	-	NWPC
Pete Sizer	-	Headcorn
Nigel Allen	-	Skydive South Coast
Dane Kenny	-	Pilgrims
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Paul Applegate	-	Riggers

Apologies: Jeff Montgomery, Martin White, Jim White, Stuart Meacock, George McGuinness, Dave Wood, Alan Wilkinson, Mike Rust, Alex Busby-Hicks, Gary Stevens, Carl Williams, Phil Cavanagh.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
John Page	-	Council
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
Tony Knight	-	CAA Liaison Officer
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Paul Yeoman, Christian Ivory, Paul Stockwell, Justin Wilmot, Gordon Blamire.

The Chairman reported that after 37 years as CCI of the Black Knights Parachute Centre, Phil Cavanagh would be standing down from the role at the end of June. Paul Yeoman will become the new CCI as from the beginning of July. The Chairman and members of STC sent Phil Cavanagh their best wishes.

ITEM MINUTE

1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 APRIL 2012

It was proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 5 April 2012 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 APRIL 2012

Page 1, Item 2 – Matters Arising. The report of the Working Group looking into the requirements for Pilots Upper Age Limits was a main agenda item.

Page 3, Item 3 – Riggers Sub-Committee. The subject of Approved Packing Certificates was discussed during this item at the last meeting. This was a main agenda item.

3. RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 5 APRIL 2012

There were 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 5 April 2012 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Committee had discussed the subject of Approved Packing Certificates, which was a main item of this evening's STC agenda. He stated that the Riggers Committee had supported the proposed amendments suggested by the Technical Officer.

4 INCIDENT REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 13 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 7 male and 6 female, including one Student who dislocated her shoulder during PLF training. All were landing injuries.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 19 Injury Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 15 male and 4 female. 3 parachutists dislocated their shoulders on deployment and 2 dislocated their fingers, one on opening and one during an FS jump. There was also a freefall collision, where a parachutist collided with another jumper during a 6-way FS jump. The jumper sustained cracked ribs. The remaining 13 injuries were on landing.
- iii) There had been 9 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 8 male and 1 female.
- iv) There had also been 43 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 32 male and 11 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 13 Tandem Injury reports received. 6 male and 7 female, including 2 instructors.
- vi) There had also been 14 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received.
- vii) Since the last meeting there had been 9 reports received of AADs firing. 5 were low main deployments, one was a Student with 13 jumps, the other 4 were licensed jumpers with; 23 jumps, 157 jumps, 204 jumps and 2500 jumps. One report concerned a wing-suit jumper who had a bag-lock and spent time trying to get the bag out of the container, his AAD fired about the same time he deployed his reserve. Another was an experienced parachutist with 1,355 jumps who had a pilot chute in tow and had a problem finding his reserve handle, he eventually did, but his AAD fired at the same time as his main deployed. The seventh report was a jumper with 26 jumps who dislocated his shoulder reaching for his main pilot chute, he eventually managed to get it and deployed his main, at the same time his AAD fired. The last report was a Student with 23 jumps who had a problem trying to locate her main toggle, she kept trying until her AAD fired, she peeled her cutaway pad but made no attempt to deploy her reserve. The CCI concerned was able to provide STC with further information relating to this incident.
- viii) There had been 15 reports received of 'off landings' at Clubs, including a 60-way.

- xi) Two reports had been received of canopy entanglements, whilst performing CF.
- x) Four reports had been received of items coming off parachutists, on exit, on deployment, or under canopy. A helmet, a camera, a Student radio and an altimeter.
- xi) One report had been received of a display misfire. The parachutist made a low turn onto concrete. His injuries included a broken pelvis and ankle. He was making a good recovery.
- xii) One report had been received of a parachutist with 48 jumps sneaking a small camera onto the aircraft and trying to fit it prior to exit. The CCI has written to clubs informing them of the jumper concerned.
- xiii) There had been 6 reports received concerning aircraft. The first was for a Cessna 208 that failed to gain enough power for take-off and overshot the end of the runway. No subsequent fault could be found when the aircraft was examined. Another report was received where a Cessna 208 had problems trying to land after the parachutists had exited because of smoke from a farm. The pilot made several attempts and finally landed downwind and overshot the end of the runway. Another report concerned an aircraft that overflew a PLA at approximately 3,500ft whilst parachuting was taking place. One report was an SMG that ran off the end of the runway, but was undamaged. Another was a G92 that lost directional control on run-in, the jumpers left and it landed safely. The final report concerned a pilot training another pilot for jump flying. The pilot had a laser shone into his eyes from a local village.

5. PILOT AGE WORKING GROUP

The Chairman reported that the Working Group formed to consider the Current BPA Authorised Parachute Pilot Upper Age Limit Requirements had completed their report, a copy of which had been circulated with the STC agenda.

The Working Group members were: Kieran Brady (Chairman, Pilots Sub-Committee), Dr John Carter, BPA Medical Advisor, Tony Butler, Technical Officer and BPA Pilot Examiners; Tony Knight, James Swallow and Mike Westwood.

Kieran Brady, John Carter and Tony Knight were present that evening.

Circulated prior to the meeting were various e-mails from Charles Shea-Simonds and comments from Mike Bagshaw, James Cowan, Ian Rosenvinge, Paul Cain & Jim White. Copies of this correspondence had also been tabled to those present. An e-mail from Charles Shea-Simonds specifically requesting that this item is delayed until the next STC meeting on the 2 August 2012 was also tabled to those present, together with a letter from Alan Wilkinson and an e-mail from Mike Rust.

Much in depth discussion took place regarding this item.

Ian Rosenvinge stated that he wished this item should be delayed until the next meeting to allow CCIs more time to enable them to assess all the facts and to consider additional input received to enable a counter response to be presented.

The members of the Working Group stated that they did not feel that the quality of any new data would improve by waiting until next meeting.

STC wished to acknowledge that it was a very professional and well documented report that required due consideration and that they did not believe it would lose any of its validity by delaying the report.

Ian Rosenvinge commented that he did not wish to diminish the efforts of the Working Group, but those opposing the report required more time to consider all the facts.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Dane Kenny that STC delays hearing the findings and voting on the recommendations of the

Working Group report until the next STC Meeting on the 2 August 2012 and that this was on the basis that any new information was received by the 2 July 2012 to enable the Working Group time to give it due consideration.

For: 8 (incl 2 by proxy)

Against: 5

Abstentions: 1

Carried

6. **SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

The Technical Officer reported that at the last Riggers and STC meetings some concern had been voiced regarding the endorsing of main packing certificates. It was generally felt that most main canopies were packed in a similar manner and that it was difficult for instructors to obtain an endorsement for a new canopy on their own packing certificate, which caused problems when another parachutist required an endorsement.

The current requirements regarding Packing Certificates were as follows:

BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL, Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 9 (Packing Certificates):

9. PACKING CERTIFICATES

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes). Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers and/or parachute instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs), provided those instructors have their own packing certificates endorsed for the equipment they are signing for.

A suggested change to the current requirements by the Technical Officer had been circulated with the Agenda:

9. PACKING CERTIFICATES

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes). Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers/Instructors (excluding TBIs or TIs).

Following some discussion, STC supported the above suggestion, but it was agreed by those present that the last sentence should be changed to read: "These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers/Instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs).

It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Dane Kenny that the above suggested proposal be accepted with the amended wording as stated above.

Carried Unanimously

Also for information, there had been another minor amendment to the Operations Manual: Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), Paragraph 1 (General), N.B.1, Changed to read: 'Articles of Association for the BPA can be downloaded from the BPA web-site (www.bpa.org.uk). It previously stated: 'Memorandum & Articles of Association for the BPA can be obtained from the BPA office'.

The change was due to the new 'Articles' which were accepted at the AGM in January.

7. **PROPOSED NEW DROP ZONE**

A request for STC approval of a new DZ/PLA had been circulated with the STC agenda. The proposed DZ/PLA was at Owls Lodge Shooting School, Drayton Road, Barton Stacey, Wilts. SO21 3QQ. (O.S. Sheet 144, grid ref: SU444 431).

The Chairman reported that the request was for Christian Ivory who intended to Affiliate as London Skydive Centre. He stated that the CCI would be Paul Floyd.

The Committee were informed that Chris' full proposal had detailed the landing area and hazards. Chris was also present at the meeting to answer any further questions relating to his request.

The Chairman reported that if this DZ/PLA was approved by STC, it would be subject to Affiliation, the production of a Safety Management System, Risk Assessment and SOPs and final approval by the CAA. He stated that there had been some indication that the site was close to busy airspace, which could possibly cause air traffic problems.

The proposal was that the DZ/PLA be cleared for BPA 'C' Licensed parachutists and Tandem Parachutists. The maximum (Tandem) groups per pass are 4.

Initially the Club would only use experienced Tandem Instructors until the CCI was happy with the landings. Also depending on the success of the operation, the Club may come back to STC to request that BPA 'B' Licence parachutists may be dropped.

The Chairman reported that himself and the TO had inspected the DZ/PLA and stated that they both supported this request.

Following some consideration, it was proposed by Jason Thomson and seconded by Chris McCann that the above request be accepted, with the conditions as set out above.

Carried Unanimously

8. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

- i) The BPA wished to thank Target Skysports - Hibaldstow for hosting the AFF, Tandem and Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessments courses from the 23 - 26 April 2012. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.
- ii) The Association also wished to thank Skydive Strathallan for hosting Instructor Course 2/2012 from the 14 – 17 May 2012. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only. The Chairman advised those present that John Page had also examined on the course, but that his name was omitted from the report.

9. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Chris McCann had been circulated with the agenda requesting an extension to the AFFBI rating of Sarah Hall.

Chris had stated that the reasons for the request was that the Centre had been closed over the winter period and Sarah also had to run the Centre's camera pool, so she had been unable to attend as many AFF courses as Chris would have expected. This was the second extension Chris asked for but, he would like her to be available for selection on the next AFF Course (which could be September). Her current AFFBI rating expired on 31 May 2012.

It was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Kieran Brady that Sarah Hall be given a 6 month extension to her AFFBI rating.

Carried Unanimously

10. A.O.B

- i) A letter from Noel Purcell had been circulated with the Agenda regarding Ian Chapman who had approached Noel with regard to renewing his BPA AFF Instructor rating. Noel had stated that up until last year, Ian had held his BPA rating for many years. Ian had around 7,000 jumps and 2,000 of which were AFF jumps, and he last did AFF on a military ex-ped at the end of May 2010 where he did approximately 70

AFF instructional jumps. Ian was therefore within the minimum required, but he was not a member of the BPA last year and did not renew his ratings due to time abroad on military service.

Noel had requested some guidance from STC of how Ian could get his rating back, whether it could be reinstated, or would require him to attend an AFF course for a ground evaluation and check out jump.

The meeting was advised that Ian was now a current BPA member.

Noel Purcell reported that Paul Hollow had offered to sign up the rating as an independent examiner as he had worked with Ian Chapman previously.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Kieran Brady that Paul Hollow be permitted to re-evaluate Ian Chapman, and if successful, he be signed up as a BPA AFF Instructor

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Circulated to those present was a Press Release from the CAA, which had already been circulated to Clubs, stating that the introduction of the new EASA pilots' licences had been put back from the 1 July 2012 until the 17 September 2012. This was due to the complexity of the transition to the new licence format.
- iii) The Chairman reported that he had received a request from Dane Kenny, which had not previously been notified to the office.

Dane Kenny reported that Robbie Blain had not renewed his BPA membership or Instructor ratings last year as he had been posted abroad. Dane was therefore, requesting the re-instatement of Robbie's CSI, Tandem & AFF Instructor ratings.

Following some discussion, it was felt by those present that Robbie be evaluated by an independent Examiner, as his ratings had lapsed over a year.

Jason Thompson stated that he felt that with Robbie Blain's experience and number of jumps, he did not believe that this was necessary.

It was proposed by Dane Kenny and seconded by Pete Sizer that Robbie Blain's CSI, Tandem and AFF Instructor rating be re-instated following an evaluation jump with an independent BPA Instructor Examiner.

For: 13

Against: 1 (Jason Thompson)

Abstentions: 0

Carried

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 2 August 2012

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

11 June 2012

Distribution: Chairman BPA, Council, CCIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, CAA, Editor – Skydive, File

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 7th June 2012 the following amendments were made to the BPA Operations Manual:

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 9 (Packing Certificates). Change to read:

9. PACKING CERTIFICATES

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes). Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers/Instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs).

**SECTION 8 (PARACHUTING LIMITATIONS), Paragraph 1 (General), N.B.I.
Changed to read:**

*N.B.(1)Articles of Association for the BPA can be downloaded from the BPA web-site
(www.bpa.org.uk).*