

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 31 May 2018 at 1900

at BPA HQ, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

Present:

John Hitchen (Vice Chair STC)	-	In the Chair
Rob Spour	-	Target Skysports
Brucie Johnson	-	Blue Skies
Pete Sizer	-	Skydive Headcorn
Ryan Mancey	-	Go Skydive
Chris McCann	-	Sibson Skydivers
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
Dennis Buchanan	-	Skydive North West
Mark Bayada	-	APA

Apologies: Jeff Montgomery (conducting a Tandem Instructor Course), Paul Applegate, Andy Duncan, Matty Holford, Dylan Bartle, Iain Anderson, Richard Wheatley, Jason Farrant, Dave Wood, Stuart Meacock, Sara Orton, Steve Saunders.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STC

Observers: Noel Purcell, Dane Kenny.

ITEM MINUTE

1. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Vice-Chair STC stated that any member with any personal, financial or material interest in any item/s of business on the agenda for this meeting should state any declaration of interest.

This applied to any CIs present with requests on item 7 (Permissions).

2. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF 5 APRIL 2018

Page 7, Item 10 - (A.O.B) - ii) The Minutes had stated that a CSI(G) rating was requested for both Ian Rosenvinge and David Goodwin. Ian had already become a CSI(G). Therefore, the request should have been for David Goodwin only.

It was proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Ryan Mancey that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 5 April 2018 with the minor amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 5 APRIL 2018**

Page 1, Item 6, Report of Panel of Inquiry – Carl Marsh Fatality. The Vice-Chair STC stated that there was nothing to report yet regarding the Working Group.

4. **RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 5 APRIL 2018**

Paul Applegate (Chair, Riggers' Subcommittee) had been unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, the meeting had been chaired by the Vice-Chair of STC.

The Vice-Chair of STC stated that he had nothing to report from the previous meeting.

It was therefore proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rob Spour that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of 5 April 2018 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Vice-Chair of STC reported on the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting held this afternoon. He stated that the Subcommittee had heard a report from the Chair of the Equipment Inspection Policies Working Group who had met this afternoon.

The WG were in the process of looking at various options with regard to equipment lifing policies, including the possibility of introducing an age rule for certain types of equipment. Before any firm proposals were put forward for consideration, a consultation process would take place with PTOs.

5. **INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RÉSUMÉ**

The Vice-Chair of STC reported that unfortunately, there had been a fatal accident at Beccles Skydivers on the 19 May. He stated that James Brooke, an experienced skydiver with 942 jumps, had carried out a jump videoing a Tandem pair. The freefall part of the jump went without a problem. His canopy opened normally. However, prior to landing he initiated a low turn, resulting in a hard landing. He was taken to hospital where he died approximately 12 hours later. A Board of Inquiry was instigated and consisted of the STO and Mark Bayada. A full report resumé would be prepared for the next STC meeting.

Mark Bayada who was present, was able to answer questions and provide further details of this incident. This generated discussion regarding the number of injuries involving members who had completed canopy handling courses and subsequently injured themselves.

The Vice-Chair of STC reported that there had also been a very serious injury at Skydive GB, Bridlington on the 27 May. He stated that a very experienced jumper and high-performance canopy flier was carrying out a high-performance landing and struck the ground very heavily. He was taken to hospital and is still in a serious condition with multiple injuries.

- i) There had been 14 Student Injury reports received since the last STC meeting. 7 males and 7 females. One Student bruised his chest, possibly due to a hard opening. All the others were on landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 14 Injury reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 12 males and 2 females. An individual assisting a Tandem Instructor course candidate, on a bag jump into the aircraft, slipped resulting in a minor back strain. A jumper passed out in the aircraft and landed with the aircraft, probably due to a lack of food. Another jumper sprained his ankle after catching it in the aircraft door on exit. 4 had minor injuries because of hard openings. The remainder were on landing.
- iii) There had been 11 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received since the last meeting. 7 males and 4 females. One student cutaway from a good canopy because he misheard the radio instructions. Another landed a canopy with a line-over. He was not injured.
- iv) There had been 48 Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 41 males and 7 females. These included 6 wingsuit jumps. Also, one jumper had the reserve deploy on a CF jump.

- v) Since the last STC there had been 12 Tandem Injury reports received. 7 males and 5 females. These included 3 who fainted under canopy, possibly due to dehydration. Also, an instructor sustained a minor injury.
- vi) There had been 17 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received, including one where the student pulled the reserve handle shortly after deployment while the instructor was carrying out his control checks.
- vii) Another incident occurred involving Tandem equipment. A Tandem instructor was using a Tandem rig to carry out a large flag jump. The jumper exited the aircraft and deployed his drogue. The freefall appeared to go without incident. The jumper pulled the primary release, felt the drogue deflate, but it was 'in tow'. He pulled the secondary and the drogue still did not release. The deployment bag came out, but the canopy did not. He disconnected the RSL, cleared the risers and deployed his reserve, which opened without incident. It was discovered that the main canopy kill line had become entangled with the flag bridle attachment point on the right-hand side lateral attachment point.
- viii) Another Tandem incident has been reported. A cameraperson noticed in the aircraft at around 9,000ft that a Tandem Instructor's AAD appeared not to be switched on. The Tandem pair landed with the aircraft. The AAD was then tested on the ground. It was switched on, successfully and left on for a number of hours, then switched off and taken out of service. It was also tested by taking it up in the aircraft several times the next day and appeared to be working correctly. The unit was then sent back to Airtec for testing. The report back from Airtec indicated that the AAD had not been switched on prior to the lift in question.

The COO reported that as this incident involved a Tandem Instructor who had been disciplined in the past it had been decided that a Panel of Inquiry would be formed to investigate the incident.

- ix) There had been 17 'off landings' reports received since the last meeting, including a number of Tandems.
- x) Nine reports had been received of items coming off jumpers in freefall or under canopy. 5 helmets, 1 altimeter, a camera, a flag and a watch.
- xi) A report had been received regarding a DA42 aircraft which overflew the PLA at approximately 2,500ft whilst a parachuting load was in the air.

6. **INSTRUCTOR COURSES**

i) AFF/Tandem/Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course

The Association wished to thank Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, for hosting the Course that took place between the 9 – 13 and 18 - 19 March. The course report had been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.

ii) Instructor Course 2-2018

The Association also wished to thank Skydive Strathallan for hosting the Course from the 7 – 17 May. The course was for CSBI, AFFBI, TBI, CSI, AI and IE candidates. This course report had also been circulated with the agenda and was for information only.

7. **PERMISSIONS**

A request from Ian Rosenvinge had been circulated with the agenda requesting a further 6-month extension to the CSBI rating of Matt Starmer. Ian had stated that Matt had been unsuccessful on the CSI Course at Hibaldstow in November 2017 and had a 6-month extension to his CSBI rating that expired on the 16 May 2018. Unfortunately, due to a heavily increased work load and changing personal circumstances Matt had been unable to dedicate further time to retake the CSI Course so far this year.

It was proposed by Bruce Johnson and seconded by Chris McCann that the above request be accepted.

For: 7

Against: 1 (Rob Spour)

Abstentions: 0

Carried

8. A.O.B

i) Skydiving insurance cover in Europe

A paper regarding this item had been tabled to those present.

Current BPA rules (SECTION 12 - DOCUMENTATION, Paragraph 1 - Personal Documents, Sub-para 1.1) states:

'All parachutists, riggers, packers, judges and DZ controllers must be current members of the British Parachute Association. Except in the case of other European Union (EU) parachutists, who are current members of their own country's parachuting governing organisation, have proof that they are not classified as student parachutists, have a minimum of 100 descents and hold current third-party liability insurance to cover of a minimum of 1,500,000 Euro.'

The COO reported that the BPA Development Committee had discussed this item, as he felt that the provision should be dropped as it was difficult to ascertain which countries in Europe could comply with the requirement. It was felt by some that this could be retained, but with an indemnity limit at least equivalent to that of BPA insurance (£5m per occurrence). It was agreed that the COO would try to find out about the cover provided by Sport Parachuting National Governing Bodies in other European states and conduct a review to see if such cover appeared to be equivalent to BPA cover.

The COO stated that 40 countries were contacted (twice), only 7 replied (Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Austria and Bulgaria).

Only one country appeared to meet coverage equivalent or higher than the BPA (Switzerland). Therefore, the COO could not see a compelling reason to retain the provision within the BPA Operations Manual. By retaining it PTOs could inadvertently be allowing foreign skydivers, who were not BPA members, to jump at UK PTOs with inadequate or no insurance cover.

In an effort to assist, the BPA Council had requested that CIs be canvassed as to whether they felt the provision should be withdrawn.

Following discussion, a number of CIs stated that in the majority of cases, they would make an overseas individual take out a Temporary BPA membership, as they often found it extremely difficult to establish whether the minimum insurance requirements had been met. Therefore, the general consensus of opinion from those present was that the insurance provision in the BPA Operations should be removed.

The COO stated that he would pass on the view of STC to the Development Committee.

Ian Rosenvinge stated that when the provision had been included in the Operations Manual, it had been following a proposal agreed at the AGM. The COO stated that the rule had been initiated by a member of RAPA, as many Germans were Club members. The Club no longer exists and therefore, does not affect the original proposers.

ii) Rob Spour wished to canvass the opinion of CIs in regard to the current rules concerning the use of hand/wrist mounted cameras.

Rob stated that he was particularly interested in very experienced Tandem Instructors who have completed a high number of Tandem handy-cam jumps abroad being able to integrate them into the BPA without the need for them to complete all the requirements to jump/commence training for the use of hand/wrist mounted cameras for Tandem.

Following consideration, there did not appear to be much of an appetite from those present for a change to the Operations Manual at this time, though some indicated they would consider it. However, a number of CIs stated that they may perhaps consider exemptions on an individual basis.

The COO reported that the STO was in the process of organising a Tandem Working Group meeting in mid-June where this matter could perhaps be considered at that time.

Rob stated that he may put forward a proposal for the next meeting.

11. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursdays, 26 July, 13 September and 15 November at 1900 at BPA HQ

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

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