

# British Parachute Association

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## Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Thursday 4 April 2019 at 1900**

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

**Present:**

Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/STO
Pete Sizer	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee/Headcorn
Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
Brucie Johnson	-	Blue Skies
Ryan Mancey	-	Go Skydive
Dave Wood	-	CPC
Paul Yeoman	-	Black Knights
Chris McCann	-	Sibson Skydivers
Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
Reg Green	-	Pilgrims
Hans Donner	-	JSPW(N)
Stacey Canning	-	APA
Noel Purcell	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Mally Richardson	-	Skydive Jersey
Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB

**Apologies:** Tony Butler, Andy Duncan, Andy Clark, Ian Rosenvinge, Iain Anderson, Alex Busby-Hicks.

**In Attendance:**

John Hitchen	-	Vice-Chair STC
Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STC

**Observers:** Kay Carruthers, Gary Stevens, Kev Dynan, Tim Moran.

### ITEM   MINUTE

The Chair welcomed Mike Carruthers, Reg Green and Hans Donner to their first meeting as Chief Instructors.

#### **1.   DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The Chair 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. These would be declared at the relevant item.

#### **2.   MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Chair noted that the previous minutes state 'Draft' on the front. This is because they remain draft minutes until they have been approved by STC itself at the following meeting.

It was proposed by Ryan Mancey and seconded by Stacey Canning that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 7 February 2019 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Page 2, Item 3 – (Matters Arising)**. The Chair stated that there was nothing to report at this meeting, but STC would be kept informed as the Working Group progresses.

**Page 3, Item 4 – (Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting)**. The Chair reported that the item dealing with the servicing of Cypres AADs would be discussed under item 5 of the Agenda.

**Page 7, Item 7 – (WG Panel of Inquiry into the Fatality of Carl Marsh – Report Findings and Recommendations-g)**. The Panel had recommended that consideration be given to further training to CIs and senior Instructors on dealing with serious incidents.

Gary Small reported that Nick Robinson has produced a very good emergency response plan Powerpoint presentation which they had adapted for use at Chatteris, and which he believed could also be tailored to suit other PTOs.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Gary Small and stated that he would liaise with Nick Robinson on this matter.

4. **RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY 2019**

Pete Sizer reported that there were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting.

It was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Paul Yeoman that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of 7 February 2019 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

Pete Sizer reported on the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting held this afternoon and stated that the Subcommittee had discussed the change to Cypres AAD maintenance requirements. He stated that in January 2019 Airtec GmbH & Co.Kg Safety Systems, reviewed and changed their maintenance policy from highly recommended to voluntary for any units manufactured after the 1st of January 2016. This change was based on information gathered from data of Cypres 2 units in the field, which undertook technical changes in 2014.

Pete Sizer reported that the Riggers' Subcommittee had therefore agreed to recommend to STC to rescind BPA Safety Information bulletins 02/16 and 01/17 and that the following extract of the Cypres 2 Users Guide now applies:

**Page 55. Paragraph 14.1 Versioning**

*For units with DOM 12/15 and earlier the maintenance is **mandatory** to be performed 4 and 8 years after the original DOM. Service Life is 12.5 years.*

*For units made in 2016 the maintenance can be performed on a voluntary basis 4 and 8 years after original DOM. Service Life is 12.5 years.*

*For units with DOM 01/17 and later the maintenance can be performed on a voluntary basis 5 and 10 years after the original DOM. Service Life is 15.5 years.*

It was proposed by Richard Wheatley and seconded by Bruce Johnston that the above recommendation of the Riggers' Subcommittee be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

A BPA Safety Information Bulletin would therefore be issued to reflect the above decision.

Pete Sizer stated that the above changes had resulted in a revision to the Guidelines for the Completion of Forms 112 & 112A - Record of Inspection Forms and Document Checks (BPA Form 275). The revised form would be uploaded to the BPA website.

Pete Sizer reported that the battery replacement requirements of the Vigil Cuatro AAD manufactured since October 2018 can now be replaced at factory between 8 and 12 years after date of manufacture. These units have a label on the unit stating a battery replacement

before date. He noted that for older Vigil units (Pre Oct 2018) the battery must be replaced at factory when the unit indicates low battery or mandatory at 10 years.

Pete Sizer reported that the Riggers' Subcommittee had also discussed limitations of work by Riggers and had considered a couple of incidents that had been reported verbally to the meeting. The Committee had urged anyone with any equipment related issues, however minor, report them using the Equipment Related Incident Report, as in this way any trends can be identified, and any relevant information disseminated as required.

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

- i) There had been 4 Student Injury reports received since last meeting. 3 males and 1 female. An ab-initio student fractured a collar bone whilst carrying out PLF training. The other was a landing injury.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 4 Injury reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 3 males and 1 female. A TR1 jumper with 312 jumps carrying out her first wingsuit jump, deployed her main in a head-down position. She experienced a hard opening resulting in line twists causing the canopy to spiral. She deployed her reserve, had two canopies out, which became a 'down-plane'. She landed under both canopies resulting in a broken leg, ribs and pelvis. Another jumper with 2,179 jumps dislocated his shoulder whilst reaching for his risers on opening. The third jumper, with 3,500 jumps, twisted his knee while running off the speed on landing. The final report was a jumper with 1,360 jumps who hit a wind-blade on landing, bruising his hip and ribs.
- iii) There had been 4 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received since the last meeting. 3 male and 1 female. A student with 20 jumps had a stiff pull, could not fully pull the main ripcord and deployed his reserve. Another thought he had a malfunction, but just rushed the safety count. Two first time static line students carried out weak exits resulting in line entanglements. The first entanglement cleared after a few seconds and the student landed safely under the main canopy. The other student was entangled in the main suspension lines and managed to clear the entanglement; however, the main canopy suffered a line over malfunction. The student did not identify the malfunction and was told over the radio to carry out his emergency procedures. The student landed safely underneath the reserve canopy.  
  
The Chair expressed his concern with regard to the above entanglement incidents. He asked to CIs to ensure that their Instructors carry out proficient exits from the 'mock-ups' during training and that they are actually assessing Students correctly. He noted that these incidents were at separate PTOs and involved different aircraft.
- iv) There had been 14 Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 12 males and 2 females. 2 of the jumpers had less than 100 jumps, 8 had between 100 and 1,000 jumps, and 4 had over 1,000 jumps.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 5 Tandem Injury reports received. 3 males and 2 females.
- vi) There had been 3 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received.
- vii) A report had been received of an AAD firing. A student with 12 jumps was briefed to carry out a 5 second delay after a 3 month lay-off. The student went unstable and deployed after approximately 19 seconds. This resulted in 2 canopies out. She landed safely just off the PLA.
- viii) There had been 8 'off landings' reports received since the last meeting. These included 2 Students and a Tandem pair.
- ix) There had been 3 reports of items coming off jumpers on exit, in freefall or on deployment. A camera, a Student's helmet and a Tandem Student's leather helmet.
- x) Three reports have been received involving aircraft. Two were aircraft overflying PLAs while parachutists were in the air. Another involved a vehicle driving up a runway while a jump aircraft was taking off.

The Chair reminded members of STC that in the last 12 years there have been three student fatalities, all from low cutaways.

## 6. **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

A letter from Ryan Mancey had been circulated with the Agenda proposing a change to the BPA Operations Manual.

Ryan Mancey had proposed that Tandem Instructor currency requirements regarding Tandem reserve drills in a suspended harness be changed from two monthly to monthly. Ryan stated that many PTOs are already in line with this, it is also recommended by manufactures of Sigma Tandem equipment (UPT).

It is proposed that **SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructors), sub-para 5.7.3. be changed to read:**

‘All current TIs must have practised Tandem Reserve Drills in a suspended harness within the previous one calendar month. The harness handle configuration must be as per the equipment to be used. It is the responsibility of the TIs to ensure that the reserve drills are observed and signed for in their log book by a CI, or CI nominated TI.’

Following consideration, it was proposed by Paul Yeoman and seconded by Reg Green that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 14 Against: 2 (Chris McCann, Gary Small) Abstentions: 1 (Brucie Johnson)

**Carried**

Some discussion then followed with regard to how the new rule would be policed, as Tandem Instructors could find themselves in breach of the new rule if not careful. It was felt by those present that a period of time be considered to phase in the new rule.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Gary Small that the above ruling would take effect from the 1 May 2019.

For: 16 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Brucie Johnson)

**Carried**

The Chair stated that he would draft a memo to be circulated to PTOs regarding the above Operations Manual change, so that they could notify all their Tandem Instructors of the new rule.

## 7. **INSTRUCTOR COURSES**

### i) Instructor Course 1-2019 (Netheravon)

The Association wished to thank the APA and JSPW-Netheravon for hosting the Course from the 4 – 12 February. The course report had been circulated with the Agenda and was for information only.

### ii) Tandem, AFF & Pre-Advanced Instructor Course

The Association also wished to thank British Parachute Schools, Langar, for hosting the Tandem, AFF and Pre-Advanced Instructors Assessment courses from the 18 – 20 March. The course report had been circulated with the Agenda and was for information only.

## 8. **PERMISSIONS**

- i) A request from Reg Green had been circulated with the agenda requesting that STC reinstate the AFF rating of one of his Instructors.

Reg Green stated that the Instructor in question had a parachuting accident in late 2017. After his accident the Instructor had completed full rehabilitation and assessments within the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, returning to his unit and work in December 2017. Thereafter being deemed fully military fit for all duties in September 2018.

After discussion with both the Instructor and with Dr Carter, Reg Green requests that STC permits the following regarding the Instructor:

- a. He completes 60 non-instructional descents to satisfy the BPA recommendations on routine currency.
- b. On successful completion of 60 descents and with CI approval he should begin instructional duties acting as a secondary instructor on not less than 20 AFF Levels 1-3.
- c. After 20 descents in the secondary instructor role and with CI approval, he can progress to full AFF instructional duties.
- d. After 3 months of successful AFF instructional duties closely supervised by a CI, and with a valid Tandem Instructor Medical, the instructor could reapply to STC to have his TI rating reinstated.
- e. Once the TI rating is reinstated, he will complete a bespoke package focused on suspended harness training, bag jumps and jumps with a B Licence skydiver in order to thoroughly demonstrate his competency and drills both in the air and on landing.

The meeting was informed that to date, the Instructor concerned has completed over 1,700 jumps of which 110 are AFF instructional descents and 200 Tandem descents. He has completed 28 jumps without issue since having his solo parachuting medical reinstated in September 2018. He also now has a valid solo Instructor medical.

Reg Green had also stated that should the Instructor fail to demonstrate the instructional abilities expected of a qualified BPA Instructor at any stage the rating would be rescinded, and he will be required to attend the relevant BPA Instructors course for revalidation.

The BPA Medical Adviser who was present this evening also stated that he was happy to support this request.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Stacey Canning that the above request be accepted.

For: 16                  Against: 0                  Abstentions: 1 (Reg Green)

**Carried**

- ii) A letter from Mike Carruthers had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Dennis Buchanan's Category System Instructor rating be changed to a CSI Ground rating.

It was proposed by Gary Small and seconded by Sara Orton that the above be accepted.

For: 16                  Against: 0                  Abstentions: 1 (Mike Carruthers)

**Carried**

## 9. **A.O.B**

- i) An e-mail from Stuart Meacock had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that Tim Moran be permitted to jump a Military G-9 Tandem rig in a BOC configuration having undergone suitable reserve drills initially at Hinton and later at alternative BPA DZ's where canopy opening heights are less restrictive than Hinton. The Committee was advised that Tim has 3,000 plus jumps and has now completed 200 plus jumps on the system in his capacity as technical advisor to end-users.

The Military G-9 system is compliant with TSO C23d and is in service with NATO SF units. The Military G-9 system is similar in design and function to the TW9 system that Global Rescue were cleared to jump at Headcorn.

Tim Moran was present this evening and was able to answer any questions relating to this request.

Tim reported that he will be jumping the equipment in a solo configuration. The Chair stated that deployment of the canopy will take considerably longer than that of a normal solo canopy and that the canopy opening height also needs to be considered, which Tim also noted.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Reg Green and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted.

For: 15                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 2 (Stuart Meacock, Noel Purcell)

**Carried**

- ii)                      Circulated to those present was a request from Noel Purcell for James Swallow's Category System Instructor rating to be changed to a CSI(G) rating.

It was proposed by Richard Wheatley and seconded by Mal Richardson that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

For: 16                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 1 (Noel Purcell)

**Carried**

- iii)                      Medical Declarations - For information: The Chair reported that BPA Medical Declarations have always included a provision for a Witness signature. However, this is not a legal requirement. Therefore, we have now amended the forms (115A, 115C and 115E) so that the witness signature is only required for those aged 16 and 17 years old and the witness must be a parent or guardian.

The Chair stated that the amended forms may be downloaded from the BPA web-site. The previous forms are still valid and if they are used, the witness signature should still be signed as stated on the form.

- iv)                      The Chair reported that Tash Higman a BPA Communications Committee member has asked that STC members be reminded of a recent member Newsletter that mentioned a survey that has been started regarding the date of Skydive The Expo from 2021 onwards. So far, no responses have been received from PTOs and she is keen to gather their thoughts on the date. The survey may be found on:  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ol6vR\\_wk4kmHHI\\_ips0030GLEeFR5E5FiWVH7tZzRC9UNUxXOU0zM0dDMjhVUjJTRklyUFZzStc0Wj4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ol6vR_wk4kmHHI_ips0030GLEeFR5E5FiWVH7tZzRC9UNUxXOU0zM0dDMjhVUjJTRklyUFZzStc0Wj4u)

- v)                      Stuart Meacock asked whether we knew of the potential impact of Brexit may have on the holders of EASA licences issued by the UK CAA.

Kieran Brady provided some information and reported that there is a link on the CAA website of general questions and answers in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit of the UK from the EU, which will be updated as things progress: <https://info.caa.co.uk/eu-exit/>

- vi)                      Tim Moran also referred to Brexit and specifically to products bearing the CE accreditation mark.

Tim stated that he has conducted some research into other areas regarding CE markings and had ascertained that if a European manufacturer has achieved CE markings from a European accreditation agency and those items are being distributed in the UK, on Brexit those CE ratings will become invalid/null and void in the UK. It will be then contingent upon that manufacturer to apply to a UK accreditation agency to have that CE mark replaced by UKCA. This is a new standard produced by UKAS (UK Accreditation Service).

Tim Moran expressed concern that there could be potentially some parachute-related equipment that carries a European CE mark will no longer have validity in this country.

The Committee were not aware of any parachuting equipment carrying the CE mark. However, Tim Moran stated that he was more than happy to provide further details if required.

**10. DATES OF 2019 MEETINGS**

Thursdays, 30 May, 25 July, 19 September, 14 November.  
at 19:00hrs. at BPA HQ.

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

## **AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

At the STC meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the following amendment were made to the BPA Operations Manual:

### **SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), Sub-para 5.7. (Tandem Instructor Currency), 5.7.3. Change to read:**

- 5.7.3. All current TIs must have practised Tandem Reserve Drills in a suspended harness within the previous one calendar month. The harness handle configuration must be as per the equipment to be used. It is the responsibility of the TIs to ensure that the reserve drills are observed and signed for in their log book by a CI, or CI nominated TI.