

# British Parachute Association

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## Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Thursday 28 July 2016 at 1900**

at Blaby Civic Centre, 22-24 Leicester Road, Blaby, Leicestershire LE8 4GQ

- Present:**
- |                  |   |                         |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Jeff Montgomery  | - | Chair STC               |
| John Hitchen     | - | Vice Chair/Skydive GB   |
| Billy Steele     | - | Skydive St George       |
| Nader Afsharian  | - | Skydive Bad Lippspringe |
| Paul Yeoman      | - | Black Knights           |
| Andy Duncan      | - | Cyprus                  |
| Andy Guest       | - | Skydive Buzz Ltd        |
| Ryan Mancey      | - | Go Skydive              |
| Rob Spour        | - | Target Skysports        |
| Richard Wheatley | - | BPS, Langar             |
| Ian Roseninge    | - | Peterlee                |
| Stuart Meacock   | - | Hinton Skydiving        |
| Jay Webster      | - | London Parachute School |
- Apologies:** Brucie Johnson, Matty Holford, Paul Floyd, Chris McCann, Dennis Buchanan, Mike Rust, Pete Sizer, Dave Wood, Iain Anderson, Alex Busby-Hicks, Kieran Brady.
- In Attendance:**
- |                |   |                                     |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Tony Butler    | - | Chief Operating Officer             |
| Paul Applegate | - | Chair Riggers' Subcommittee/Council |
| Gordon Blamire | - | Council                             |
| Trudy Kemp     | - | Assistant to COO/STC                |
- Observers:** Andy Pointer, Nigel Peacock, Martin Cole, Phil Wayper, Enya Roseninge, Pamela Gower, Michelle Meakins.

### Declarations of interest

The Chair invited declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda for this meeting. None were stated.

### ITEM MINUTE

#### 1. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF THE 2 JUNE 2016

It was proposed by Nader Afsharian and seconded by Paul Yeoman that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 2 June 2016 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 2 JUNE 2016

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### 3. **RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 2 JUNE 2016**

Paul Applegate (Chair, Riggers' Subcommittee) stated that he had nothing to report from the previous meeting.

It was therefore proposed by Billy Steele and seconded by Nader Afsharian that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of the 2 June 2016 be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held this afternoon (28 July) and stated that the Riggers' Subcommittee had accepted a proposal for a modified Student rig for AFF Student Pamela Gower from Peterlee who has restricted growth (dwarfism), which would also require the approval from STC. The equipment concerned was presented to those present for consideration.

The Chair reported that Pamela Gower had been jumping a specially made UPT rig with modified belly band throwaway, cutaway pad, reserve handle and fitted with an AAD (Cypres Multimode) and Reserve Static Line, so in effect an AFF rig but with no secondary handle or rip away spandex pocket. The bellyband throwaway is needed because Pamela's short reach does not allow for a BOC throwaway pilot chute.

Ian Rosenvinge requested exemptions for all of the above mentioned modifications, but with the proviso that the equipment was only to be jumped by Pamela Gower as the container was made specifically for her.

Ian Rosenvinge provided further details and stated that both the main and reserve canopies were sized for Pamela's weight and the steering and risers shortened to suit her arm length and he is satisfied that she can operate both handles and has tested her reserve drills while she was suspended in the rig.

Ian Rosenvinge also requested an exemption for the use of a Pulse 170 main canopy to be allowed, as it is not recommended by the manufacturers for student use. However, the rig manufacturer did choose this canopy based on her experience and weight. Her wing loading is approximately 0.77 lbs/sq feet.

Pamela has already made 7 jumps on the rig and got to AFF level 6 on her 1st trip to Skydive Spain, but wishes to continue to use the rig as her personal parachute system within the UK.

It was also brought to the attention of the Committee by a letter from the rig manufacturer that if that container was to be used by anyone else apart from Pamela Gower, the container must be returned to its original configuration prior to its modifications.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by John Hitchen that the specifically modified equipment as presented be accepted for use by Pamela Gower only for jumping in the UK.

**Carried Unanimously**

Paul Applegate reported that the Riggers' Subcommittee had also discussed a Tandem incident where a Tandem Instructor attempted to cutaway following a malfunction, but the right 3-ring failed to fully operate. The left riser deployed the reserve (RSL). The Tandem Instructor was suspended upside-down (feet caught in the reserve rigging lines). The Tandem Instructor then managed to clear himself from the entanglement, and subsequently the right riser released itself from the Tandem container at approximately 800ft. He then cleared the entanglement. The pair had a good landing under the reserve. A single strand of steel wire from the metal cutaway cable, which was not coated, un-stranded during the operation of the cutaway system, inside the hosing, jamming the 3-ring.

Paul Applegate stated that the Riggers' Subcommittee had agreed that any metal cables used as cutaway cables in sport parachute equipment must be coated, and that a BPA Safety Notice be produced and disseminated for information.

The CI of the PTO concerned who was present also provided further details of the incident, and noted the actions taken by the Tandem Instructor, which in his opinion most likely prevented a much more serious outcome.

The Riggers' Subcommittee had also discussed information surrounding the inspection procedures relating to the Mars 2 AAD, which had raised some concern. Paul Applegate stated that Karen Saunders was in the process of gathering further details, prior to any further action being considered.

Paul Applegate reported that the Riggers' Subcommittee had also discussed information from Fluid Wings LLC with regard to their recommendations concerning the use of AADs with the Fluid HK canopy. He stated that based on their testing, the manufacturers have noted that all AADs currently available have firing speeds, which are lower than those attainable while piloting a Fluid HK. Therefore, due to safety concerns, Fluid Wings LLC do not recommend the use of any AADs currently on the market.

This information was drawn to the attention of CIs, in case they came across this particular canopy on their PTO, as they may have their own policies regarding the use of AADs in their SOPs.

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

- i) There had been 10 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 6 males and 4 females. One Student dislocated his shoulder on deployment. The rest were on landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 16 Injury Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 13 males and 3 females. One parachutist dislocated a shoulder in free fall, another on deployment. The rest on landing, including a number of jumpers carrying out high performance landings.
- iii) There had been 7 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 5 males and 2 females. One Student carrying out a 5 second freefall, became unstable, deployed her main unstable after 12 seconds. Her main pitot chute became entangled with her reserve pilot chute (it is believed she pulled both handles at the same time). The reserve free-bag became entangled with the main lines, then dropped down between her legs. She landed like that, uninjured.
- iv) There had been 47 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 35 males and 12 females.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 12 Tandem Injury reports received. 7 males and 5 females, including the one where the instructor lacerated his leg in the incident discussed under the Riggers' meeting (item 3 refers).
- vi) There had been 16 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received, including the one discussed under the Riggers' meeting (item 3 refers).
- vii) One report had been received of an AAD firing. It happened in the aircraft as the aircraft was descending due to poor weather.
- viii) One report had been received of canopy entanglements, whilst carrying out Canopy Formations.
- ix) There had been 41 'off landings' reports received since the last meeting. Including Tandems, and other student jumpers.
- x) Nine reports had been received of items coming off jumpers on exit or in free fall. 5 helmets, a helmet visor, a GoPro and 2 trainers.
- xi) A report had been received of a display misfire, an off landing.
- xii) A report had been received of an aircraft flying through a DZ whilst a formation load

was taking place. The un-announced aircraft flew close to the two parachuting aircraft flying in formation. After the aircraft had taken avoiding action the parachuting jumps took place without further incident.

## **5. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

A letter from Stuart Meacock had been circulated with the Agenda proposing a change to the BPA Operations Manual. Stuart had stated that the section relating to Wing Suit training states that the jumper will complete a descent using a training wing suit/tracking suit. Stuart believes that the section should reflect common current DZ reality and had therefore proposed that SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), sub-para 6.9 (Wing Suit), 6.9.1 and 6.9.2. be changed to read:

### **6.9. Wing Suit (WS)**

- 6.9.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Wing Suit (WS1) flying, the parachutist must be a 'C' Licence holder with Grade 1 in Tracking (TR1), with at least 500 descents or at least 200 descents within the previous 18 months.
- 6.9.2. The parachutist may then be introduced to WS (for WS1 training) by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated WS2 Grade parachutist or equivalent of proven WS instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:
- a) Fly the wing suit safely and in a controlled manner (with overall stability) on at least three descents.
  - b) Deploy the main parachute in a safe wing suit manner (at the correct altitude) on at least three descents.
  - c) Fly a predetermined flight pattern and land within 50 metres of the target.
  - d) Demonstrate the correct post opening procedures on all qualifying descents.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **6. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

A letter from Nader Afsharian had been circulated with the agenda regarding Safety Management Systems within the BPA. Nader had stated that he believed that the BPA should be conducting formal SMS/Risk Assessment courses for Advanced Instructors, Chief Instructors and Team Leaders. An e-mail received from Mike Rust stating that he was also in support of a standard BPA format for SMS.

The COO reported that most PTOs already have good Safety Management Systems in place and generally when the BPA carry out audits the recommendations have been for PTOs to carry out more pro-active self-audits.

The COO stated that SMS discussions have been part of the Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment course for some time now and have been very useful. The BPA in the past, had also provided PTOs with both CAA and HSE guidelines for setting up Safety Management Systems, and distributed a template risk assessment for PTOs to adapt.

It there was a demand for more formal SMS/Risk Assessment Courses, then costs would need to be looked into.

The COO stated that Stuart Morris had attended the DZ Operators meeting at the AGM in the past to deliver seminars on SMS/Risk Assessment and stated that Stuart had indicated previously that he would be happy to look over individual PTOs SMS.

**7. STUDENT DISPATCHING & RADIO TALKDOWN**

The Chair reported that Nader Afsharian had withdrawn this item from the agenda.

**8. TANDEM, AFF & PRE-ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR COURSE**

The Association expressed its thanks to UK Parachuting, Sibson for hosting the Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course, which took place from the 20 – 24 June 2016. The Course report had been circulated with agenda for information.

**9. PERMISSIONS**

- i) Circulated to those present was an e-mail from Jason Thompson requesting permission for Mark King to attend the next Tandem Basic Instructor Course being approximately 30-40 jumps short of 800 jumps, which is stated for the TBI course. Jason had stated that Mark had just left the military and started a new career path as a Health and Safety Adviser for the County Council in Lowestoft. Mark had not been able to complete enough jumps in time.

Following discussion, it was felt by some CIs that potential candidates should meet the pre-Course jump requirements for a TBI Course. There was concern that this type of request may open the floodgates to other similar requests.

However, it was the general consensus of those present that as long as the candidate met the jump requirements of the TI Course, they did not feel that being 30 – 40 jumps short prior to attending the TBI Course was an onerous request.

It was proposed by Jason Thompson (proxy) and seconded by Andy Duncan that the above request be accepted.

For: 11 (incl. 1 by proxy)      Against: 2      Abstentions: 0

**Carried**

- ii) A letter had been received from Maggie Penny regarding Sean McKenna's night jump requirement to attend the forthcoming Pre-Advanced Instructor Course. Unfortunately, although Sean has assured Maggie that he completed a night jump in Florida in 2000, he was unable to provide documentary evidence as this was logged in one of his two missing log books. Maggie has therefore proposed, that Sean complete another night jump prior to his attendance on an Advanced Instructor Course, but in the meantime, he is permitted to attend the next Pre-Advanced Course.

It was proposed by Maggie Penny (proxy) and seconded by Andy Guest that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

**10. A.O.B**

- i) Circulated to those present was a request from Vance Allen, team leader of the Jump 4 Heroes display team and supported by Brucie Johnson, for the team to jump into the National Memorial Arboretum on the 1 October 2016. The PLA falls outside the minimum display requirements. It is approximately 100 metres x 40 metres, but narrows to approximately 25 metres. The team restrictions would be:

1. Minimum 500 jumps per jumper.
2. Minimum 50 displays.
3. Team Canopies, 150 & 170 Storm only used, nothing smaller.
4. Wind restriction of 15kts maximum, further reduces to 10kts if a cross wind.
5. All jumpers will be at PLA before display, Jump aircraft is a Bell 206 launch from site.

It was proposed by Bruce Johnson (proxy) and seconded by Jason Webster that the above request be accepted with the restrictions as stated above.

**Carried Unanimously**

- ii) Circulated to those present was a letter from Billy Steele requesting the use of another area of their DZ as an alternative landing area for Tandems and B Licence jumpers. A map of the proposed landing area had also been included. Billy had also stated that in the case of mixed loads all jumpers would use the Student landing area.

It was proposed by Billy Steele and seconded by Nader Afsharian that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- iii) Ian Roseninge asked the Committee's advice with regard to a proposal that he was considering including on the next STC agenda.

Ian provided further details and explained that Phil Wayper who had constructed his own canopy, wishes the canopy to be accepted for general use.

The COO reminded those present that the Riggers Subcommittee had previously advised Philip Wayper that in order for him to obtain the necessary acceptance for his canopies and to test jump them, he would need to meet the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual. Therefore, Philip would need to be a recognised parachute equipment manufacturer, a qualified BPA Rigger or have an AR sign off his equipment. Currently, Philip Wayper did not meet these requirements.

The COO advised Ian Roseninge that any request would initially need to be included as a main agenda item for consideration by the Riggers' Subcommittee prior to then being considered by STC.

Ian Roseninge noted this, and asked for any further input from CIs to be passed on to him.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 22 September 2016  
at 7.00 p.m  
Blaby Civic Centre

Ratified by the Council on 9/8/2016  
Published on 9/8/2016

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

## **AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

At the STC meeting of the 28 July 2016 the following amendment was made to the BPA Operations Manual:

**SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), sub-paras 6.9 (Wing Suit), 6.9.1 and 6.9.2. change to read:**

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