

British Parachute Association

5 Wharf Way
Glen Parva
Leicester LE2 9TF

Tel: 0116 278 5271
Fax: 0116 247 7662
e-mail: skydive@bpa.org.uk
www.bpa.org.uk



Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 14 November 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
Ryan Mancey	-	Go Skydive
Alex Busby-Hicks	-	Skydive Tilstock
Stacey Canning	-	APA
Paul Yeoman	-	BKPC
Dave Wood	-	CPC
Mal Richardson	-	Skydive Jersey
Chris McCann	-	Sibson Skydivers
Ian Roseninge	-	Peterlee
Iain Anderson	-	Skydive St Andrews
Gary Small	-	SCCL
Noel Purcell	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Nick Robinson	-	Air Adventures Wales
Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB (<i>From item 3</i>)

Apologies: Ady King, Dylan Bartle, Martin White, Andy Clark, Jay Webster, Jason Farrant.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
John Hitchen	-	Vice-Chair STC
Mark Bayada	-	Council / Chair Canopy Working Group
Angel Fernandez	-	Communications Manager
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STO

Observers: Iain Grant, Tim Moran, Ben Wood, Andy Montriou, Kay Carruthers, Matty Holford, Jerry Lauchbury, Chris Gilmore.

The Chair welcomed Nick Robinson (new CI of Air Adventures Wales).

ITEM MINUTE

1. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any declarations of interest would be made at the item/s to which they relate.

2. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

It was proposed by Ryan Mancey and seconded by Alex Busby-Hicks that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of 19 September 2019 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

Page 1, Item 3 – (Matters Arising). The Chair reported that a meeting of the Canopy Handling Working Group had been held earlier today. He invited Mark Bayada to provide an update to the Committee on the progress to date.

Mark Bayada reported that the Working Group have now completed their research and are ready to start developing a new system of training for Canopy Piloting and Canopy Handling. In addition to a revised training system the Working Group are likely to be recommending the following:

- i) That the BPA adopts a system for controlling the type and size of main canopy to be used depending on the skydiver's weight and experience.
- ii) That skydivers landing in the main landing areas at all PTOs carry out no more than a 90-degree final turn to land.
- iii) That all PTOs who wish to allow skydivers to carry out more than a 90-degree final turn have a suitable landing area designated for those landings and specific SOPs for the management of those areas.
- iv) The Canopy Piloting requirements will also be reviewed, and current Coaches will likely be required to be re-assessed.

Mark Bayada stated that more work is still needed to develop the new system and when complete, recommendations will be made to STC. As yet there is no implementation date, however the Working Group hopes that the new system may be ready by April 2020.

Page 4, Item 5 Incident/Injury Reports – Resumé (viii) – Display Misfire Reports. The Chair reported that there had been no further input from CIs regarding the currency requirements for display jumpers.

4. RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 19 SEPTEMBER 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 Stuart Meacock that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of 19 September 2019 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

Pete Sizer reported on the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting held in the afternoon and stated that the Subcommittee had accepted a proposed guideline on the serviceability of Tandem component parts, which would be added to the Guidelines for Completing the Tandem Blue Book (BPA Form 281).

Pete Sizer reported that the Subcommittee had also discussed an incident, where after an uneventful Tandem skydive, a Tandem Instructor initiated the main canopy deployment sequence by pulling the drogue release handle on a Next system. As the drogue rings released, the centre kill line within the drogue broke at the point where the knot lies.

After realising that the kill line had broken, the Tandem Instructor initiated his emergency procedures. After the reserve deployed the main canopy bag fell from the container and trailed behind for a few seconds and then fell away.

The Reserve canopy was a Twin 402, the main canopy was a Twin 372, with a Vigil 2 AAD. At the time of the incident the kill line had 586 jumps; the drogue had 704 jumps. The kill line had one replacement back in 2011. This was the first jump after undergoing a 6-month inspection and repack.

Pete Sizer referred to the newly adopted guidelines on serviceability of Tandem component parts which states that the expected lifespan of a kill line is between 300 – 500 jumps. He highlighted the importance of checking and inspecting equipment as per the guidelines.

Pete Sizer stated that the Committee had also discussed the subject of RSL shackles following a recent Tandem incident, which would be covered more fully under Item 6 (viii) of this Agenda.

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR OF RIGGERS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR 2020**

The Chair reported that one candidate, Pete Sizer, had been nominated for Chair of the Riggers' Subcommittee for 2020. He stated that Pete Sizer is currently Chair and has been nominated by Noel Purcell and seconded by Carl Williams.

It was therefore, proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Carl Williams (proxy) that Pete Sizer is re-elected as Chair of the Riggers' Subcommittee for 2020.

For 19 (incl 2 x proxy)

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Pete Sizer)

Carried

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

The Chair reported on the following Incident/Injury reports that had been received since the last meeting:

- i) There had been 5 Student Injury reports received since the last meeting. 4 males and 1 female. One static line student tore a tendon in his shoulder on exit. The riser caught his arm as the canopy was deploying, jolting his shoulder. One static line student broke or dislocated his ankle on landing, having flared high. Another fractured a vertebra having also flared high. One freefall student broke an ankle landing off the PLA in a field with uneven ground. A student on his second jump dislocated his shoulder as he flared for landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been one Injury report received for a 'D' Licence Parachutist, where an AFF Instructor with 1,168 jumps was accidentally kicked in the face by an unstable Level 1 student. The Instructor remained conscious, suffered bruising to his jaw and possible concussion.
- iii) There had been another injury report received involving a jumper with approximately 1,471 descents, who sustained serious injuries after being involved in a canopy collision and entanglement with another parachutist with 351 jumps following a fifteen-way FS jump. Shortly after deployment, the less experienced parachutist of the two initiated a slow right turn of approximately 180 to 270 degrees. A few seconds after initiating the turn, the parachutist crossed into the flight path of the more experienced parachutist who was approaching from behind. It is believed that the less experienced parachutist did not see the other parachutist during the turn. Both parachutists remained entangled for approximately 15 seconds, after which the lower, less experienced parachutist, cut away at approximately 1,000ft and deployed his reserve. He landed safely under his reserve. The cut away canopy remained partially inflated around the lines and equipment of the higher parachutist, who then cut away his own main canopy, but it failed to fully release. The parachutist landed very heavily under his partially inflated main canopy and the other parachutist's cutaway main canopy. A few seconds after the disconnection of the bottom canopy, the higher canopy which appeared to be fully inflated, was seen to collapse. The higher parachutist remained with his collapsed main canopy and the other parachutist's entangled canopy, until he impacted on the ground. No deployment of the reserve canopy was observed at the time of the incident.

Video footage of this incident was shown to those present.

The Chair stated that the experienced parachutist was jumping a Sapphire 149 main canopy and that the less experienced parachutist was jumping a Sabre 2-210 main canopy.

Following consideration, it was felt that the procedures for dealing with canopy entanglements taught to Students should also be relevant to experienced jumpers and it was suggested that PTOs include this in their SOPs.

The COO stated that he felt that PTOs should be encouraged to hold more training and safety days. He said that one of the plans for the future was to produce a series of safety video briefs and that this area as well as other topics could be included as one of these videos.

- iv) There had been 6 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received since the last meeting. All males. Two static line students, at different PTOs, got their arms caught in rigging lines during deployment. Both students disentangled their arms, both then had rotating canopies. Both successfully went through their reserve drills and landed safely. However, one student's bag and pilot chute landed on a car, cracking its windscreen. One static line student experienced twists which he was unable to clear. He successfully carried out his reserve drills. Two freefall students had malfunctions or suspected malfunctions and one student was unable to locate his main deployment toggle. All 3 carried out their reserve drills.
- v) There had been 12 Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. All males. One jumper with 57 jumps carrying out a 10-way FS jump, tracked away on break-off, became unstable at pull height, made 2 attempts to pull and then went through his reserve drills. The same jumper then made another similar jump and again went unstable while tracking off, he made 3 attempts to pull and again went through his reserve drills. The jumper was grounded for retraining and will initially only jump with an AFF Instructor until the CI is satisfied that he can jump with others. On 3 of the 11 jumps, the jumpers had less than 100 jumps, 3 had between 100 and 500 jumps, 2 had between 500 and 1,000 jumps, and 4 had over 1,000 jumps, 2 had over 5,000 jumps.
- vi) Since the last STC there had been 2 Tandem Injury reports received. Both males. One student received bruising to his shoulder following a hard opening. The other fractured a vertebra on landing.

The COO expressed concern at the rising number of injuries resulting from lower back injuries on Tandem Students, which appear to result from a number of contributing factors such as landing positions / harness adjustment / bad flaring / wind conditions, mismatch between Tandem Student/Instructor etc.

The Chair stated that a great deal of emphasis is placed on these factors on TI Courses. He said that with the introduction of the probationary period for newly qualified TIs and more mentoring and supervision from CIs, it is hoped that some of these issues will be addressed, though it was pointed out that these injuries were not specifically related to newer Instructors.

- vii) There had been 6 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received, including a broken kill line, which was discussed earlier at item 4 of the Agenda.
- viii) The Chair reported that last weekend a serious incident occurred where an AAD fired, saving the lives of a Tandem Instructor and his Student. This involved a Tandem Instructor with a total of 225 Tandem descents. Following an uneventful Tandem skydive from 10,000ft, the Tandem Instructor went through the main canopy deployment sequence at approximately 6000ft, by pulling the drogue release handle on the Next Tandem System. The main canopy deployed and did not appear to be malformed, however the canopy started to spin to the left. The Tandem Instructor made the decision to initiate his emergency drills. Due to the severity of the spin, the Instructor could not locate his emergency handles simultaneously, only being able to locate the cutaway handle, which had moved and was situated high and level with his right shoulder. The Instructor opted to go through the cutaway procedure without locating the reserve handle. As the Instructor cut away the main canopy, the RSL

failed to pull the reserve pin. The Tandem pair continued in free fall and the Instructor attempted several times to locate the reserve handle but could not find it. The Instructor noticed that the RSL had disconnected and was moving in the airflow. The Instructor attempted to grab and pull the RSL to activate the reserve but struggled to get hold of it, at which point the Cypres AAD activated the reserve canopy. The Tandem pair landed safely on the PLA without further incident. The Instructor had carried out one previous Tandem descent that day. The Tandem Instructor has not carried out any further Tandem descents since that time.

The Chair stated that a photograph taken on board the aircraft showed that the RSL appeared to be connected and situated in the correct place. However, at some stage the RSL became disconnected.

The Chair reported that following this incident he visited the PTO concerned and inspected the equipment. He stated that the RSL was also inspected and put through several pull tests using a hook scale. The recorded poundage force did not exceed 2.5 lbs. All the other RSLs were also tested and the RSL involved in the incident had the lowest recorded poundage force. The incident RSL has been taken out of service.

The Chair reported that this incident had also been discussed at the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting this afternoon.

Pete Sizer reported that the Riggers' Subcommittee were keen to ascertain how many other instances that may not have actually been logged as an actual incident where an RSL has inadvertently come undone. This could have occurred in freefall, as a result of someone maybe doing a systems check and knocking it off or someone that has just landed and noticed that the RSL was not done up, but they were fairly certain it had been connected before they left the aircraft.

The Riggers' Subcommittee have asked PTOs to check their RSL clips / shackles to see how much force it actually takes to undo them.

- ix) There had been 19 'off landing' reports received since the last meeting. These included 3 Tandem pairs, one student on her first jump clipped the roof of a caravan near the PLA, the remainder being experienced jumpers, including a wingsuit group.
- x) There had been 5 reports of items coming off jumpers on exit, in freefall or on deployment. 4 helmets, including 2 Tandem Student leather helmets and one camera.
- xi) Two reports had been received of aircraft overflying a PLA whilst canopies were in the air. One aircraft, a PA-28, flew through a group of canopies at 4,000ft. The PTO was unable to make contact with the aircraft. The other involved a light aircraft flying over a PLA at about 800ft, even though there were canopies above and on the same level as the aircraft. Both incidents have been reported. We also had a report of two skydiving Cessna 208s attempting to land at approximately the same time, one higher than the other. Both pilots were unaware of each other. Luckily the Airfield Information saw how close the aircraft were and advised the higher aircraft to go around. This incident resulted in an Airprox Report (no 2019075). Another report involved a Cessna 208 that was above FL 120 when only cleared to FL 120 by Swanwick. This was a result of the pilot not setting his altimeter to 1013 pressure setting and he was still using QFE after a static line lift.

7. TANDEM WORKING GROUP NOTES

The Chair reported that the Tandem Working Group meeting had taken place at HQ on 10 September. The Notes of the meeting had been circulated at the same time as the STC Agenda for this meeting.

The Chair stated that there are a number of proposed changes to the Operations Manual which would be dealt with under Item 8 on the Agenda. There were also a number of other recommendations that STC would need to vote on:

a. Proposed 'C' Licence Written Examination

It was felt by the TWG that a change should be made to the requirements to obtain a BPA 'C' Licence. The added requirement would allow for revised or gained knowledge of the requirements laid out in the BPA Operations Manual by including a written examination as part of the application process. The draft Examination (Form 326) had been included with the TWG Notes.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks and seconded by Gary Small that the above recommendation by the Tandem Working Group be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The COO requested the implementation date for the above recommendation takes effect from 1 January 2020. There was no objection raised from those present to this request.

b. Proposed amended Grading System Record Sheet – Jump Master Grade 1 (JM1) & Canopy Handling Grade 2 (CH2)

The TWG are proposing that the Grading System Record Sheet be amended to include a practical element to spotting, jumpmaster responsibilities and flight line checking, with the intention of improving the training of members hoping to achieve. They also believe that the responsibility of the JM is far greater than it is perceived to be by many 'B' Licence holders, especially when spotting a lift. The proposed draft Record Sheet (Form 247) had been included with the TWG Notes.

The COO reported that there could be further changes to the Record Sheet from the Canopy WG in the future. He requested that the implementation date for this recommendation also takes effect from 1 January 2020.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Ryan Mancey that the above recommendation by the Tandem Working Group be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

c. Sigma Tandem Emergencies

The TWG are proposing that the Sigma Tandem Emergencies aide memoir (Form 204f) is brought in line with the UPT malfunction tree. The proposed amended aide memoir had been included with the TWG Notes.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks and seconded by Ryan Mancey that the above recommendation by the Tandem Working Group be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Noel Purcell was able to clarify a query from Gary Small that if the left arm is interfered with, the TI should try to clear if possible as it may cause the pair to roll drogue side down which risks an entanglement if thrown in this orientation. However, if they feel they will not be able to clear the interference they should still throw the drogue if it was safe to do so.

The Chair stated that the TWG have added the scenario for the videographer entangled in the drogue to the Sigma drills. The idea is to include this in the other drills once the Sigma drills had been accepted. The TWG are also looking to include a number of additional scenarios to all the other aide memoirs and it is the intention to submit these for consideration at a future meeting.

d. Proposed Tandem Instructor Probationary Period

A Tandem Instructor Probationary Period had been discussed at STC previously and the Committee felt that it was something that should be adopted. The TWG had recommended a number of limitations of TI Probationary requirements, which had

been included with the proposed TI Probationary Record Card included in the TWG Notes.

There followed a lengthy discussion during which a number of CIs present queried the rationale behind some of the requirements and currency guidelines, which the Chair, COO and members of the Tandem Working Group were able to clarify. A number of CIs referred to one of the proposed requirements regarding back to back Tandem jumps, which they believed could be open to misinterpretation.

Following discussion, it was agreed by those present that the wording of this proposed requirement be changed to read: "Adequate time between jumps".

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Stacey Canning and seconded by Mal Richardson that the proposed Tandem Instructor Probationary Period be accepted together with the re-worded requirement as agreed (above) and that also the Tandem Instructor (TI) Probationary Record Card (Form 325) be accepted.

For: 14

Against: 0

Abstentions: 4 (Chris McCann and the following Tandem Working Group Members: Noel Purcell, Pete Sizer, Stuart Meacock)

Carried

8. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

The Chair reported that the Tandem Working Group had also made a number of proposed Operations Manual Amendments, not voted on in Item 7 (above).

a. Proposal 1

The TWG recommend a change to the requirements to obtain a BPA C Licence, to include a written examination.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 2 (BPA Parachutist Licence), sub-para 2.3, BPA 'C' Licence, change to read

2.3. BPA 'C' LICENCE: BPA 'B' Licence, 200 descents, at least one further 'Grade 1' and the C Licence Written Examination (BPA Form 326).

Following consideration, it was proposed by Gary Small and seconded by Sara Orton that the above proposed amendment to the Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

b. Proposal 2

Whilst the above proposals were being suggested, it was noted that all Licence applications needed to be signed by an Advanced Instructor and not just 'A' & 'B' Licence applications as it currently says under *N.B.(1)* in Section 2, Paragraph 2. BPA HQ has not received or processed any applications not signed by an Advanced Instructor; therefore, the TWG recommend the anomaly be rectified.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), BPA Parachutist Licence, *N.B.(1)*, be changed to read:

N.B.(1) BPA Licence applications must be endorsed by an Advanced Instructor.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Gary Small and seconded by Ian Rosenvinge that the above proposed amendment to the Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

c. Proposal 3

The Probationary Period for new Tandem Instructors. This had just been agreed in the previous Item (7d), and required a change to the Operations Manual:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5, (Tandem Instructor - TI), sub-para 5.5, now becomes:

5.5 Tandem Instructor Probationary Period.

After successful completion of the Tandem Instructor Course, the recently qualified Tandem Instructor will start a probation period consisting of 20 Tandem descents. During the 20 probationary Tandem descents the Tandem Instructor will be restricted to the limitations laid out in The Tandem Instructor Probationary Record (BPA Form 325).

Note: Previous Sub-paras 5.5 to 5.9 now becomes 5.7 to 5.10

Following consideration, it was proposed by Stacey Canning and seconded by Ryan Mancey that the above proposed amendment to the Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

d. Proposal 4

The Chair reported that at the STC meeting of 25 April 2019, Andy Guest put forward a proposal to change the currency requirements to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera. This proposal was referred to the Tandem Working Group for review. The TWG recommend a change to the Operations Manual:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor - TI), Sub-para 5.8 (Currency requirements to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera), new Sub para 5.8.3 to read:

5.8.3 Any TI who has over 500 hand/wrist mounted camera descents must do a minimum of 50 hand/wrist mounted camera descents within the previous two years to continue jumping a hand/wrist mounted camera.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Sara Orton that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 18

Against: 1 (by proxy)

Abstentions: 0

Carried

e. Rewritten British Skydiving Operations Manual

Following the Association's trading name change from British Parachute Association (BPA) to British Skydiving. The Operations Manual has been rewritten to reflect the change. The COO also used the opportunity to change a large number of *N.Bs* in the Manual, that are actually requirements, to paragraphs or sub-paras. Also, where the term parachutist/parachuting is used, this these have been changed to skydiver/skydiving.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Gary Small and seconded by Mal Richardson that the rewritten Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The COO reported that all Operations Manual changes accepted this evening would be incorporated into the rewritten Operations Manual.

The COO stated that the British Skydiving and magazine websites will be going live on 27 November. He referred to the British Skydiving portal that allows PTOs to purchase memberships in bulk and also register Student Provisional memberships. The portal also has a 'check a Member' function.

The COO asked PTOs to only order the amount of Student Provisional memberships that they require for use before the new system goes live.

9. PROPOSED NEW DZ/PLA

A paper from Matty Holford had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that a new DZ/PLA be approved at Snowdonia-Llanbedr Airfield, Llanbedr, NW Wales, LL45 2PX. Three maps had also been included with the proposal.

Map 1 shows the proposed 500m diameter PLA. It contains no major hazards. A minor hazard exists at point A. This is an obsolete water easement pond with waist deep water. This was due to be filled in within a couple of weeks. There are significant overshoots on 3 sides to the East, West and South.

Map 2 shows a 800m radius circle in which there are no power lines other than those lines required to service the hangars and the units of the industrial estate to the East, a North/South running railway line is at 900m from the centre of the PLA.

Map 3 shows a 1,200m radius circle. There is no open body of water within this circle. The estuarine area in the NW is tidal. There is a road that traverses it, to give vehicular access to a busy camp site to the West.

It is requested that the DZ/PLA be approved for Tandems and 'C' Licence jumpers. It is hoped for AFF and other Licensed jumping in the future, once the operation has become established, but a request will be made to STC first.

The site was inspected by the STO and the COO on 22 October and both support the proposal and believe there is no need for floatation aids to be used by any category of jumpers.

The Chair reported that the name of the PTO will be Skydive Snowdonia and that no parachuting will take place prior to BPA Affiliation and CAA approval.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks and seconded by Paul Yeoman that the above proposed new DZ/PLA be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

10. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Dave Wood had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that the restrictions regarding the category of jumper permitted to jump at Perranporth Airfield be changed. Dave Wood had stated that presently the minimum requirement to jump on the Airfield is 'A' licence holders with 35 jumps with a radio for five jumps and he had requested that it is changed to:

'A' Licence jumpers, with a radio for 10 jumps. Also, the 'A' licence jumper would not be on the first lift of the day, so that the landing pattern could be observed. The jumper would be briefed on the day's weather conditions and the extra hazards on Perranporth Airfield. The floatation aid and water drills will be covered for those first 10 jumps. Wind limits will be put in place when the wind is from certain areas on the airfield.

Dave Wood had provided full details of his request in his previously circulated letter.

There followed some discussion in which Dave Wood clarified a number of points raised by STC.

The COO stated that the PTO had been operating at Perranporth Airfield since 2005, and it had taken many years of experience to come to this proposal, which he and the STO supported the proposal.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Chris McCann that the above request be accepted.

For: 19 (incl 1 x proxy) Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Stuart Meacock, Dave Wood)

Carried

- ii) A letter from Noel Purcell had been circulated with the Agenda requesting a six-month extension to the CSBI rating of Rob Johns whose rating expires in November 2019. Noel Purcell had stated that the Centre has not had as many Category System students through to enable Rob to prepare for a CSI course, but are expecting more over winter.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Ryan Mancey and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted.

For: 18 (incl 1 x proxy) Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Noel Purcell)

Carried

11. **A.O.B**

- i) Circulated to those present was a letter from Dave Wood requesting that Andy Montriou be allowed to continue as a Tandem Instructor without the following Operations Manual restriction. (Section 4, paragraph 5.7.1) which states:

'Any TI, who has not made a Tandem descent in the preceding 3 calendar months, must make one Tandem jump with a BPA 'B' Licence parachutist before taking a Student Tandem Parachutist. The BPA 'B' Licence parachutist must be briefed on how to respond to Tandem emergencies.'

Dave Wood had stated that Andy Montriou is out of date under the 3 calendar months rule, due to a shoulder injury. He is expected to be 100% fit with his reserve drills completed for 2020, and he had until 31 March 2020 to complete his 20 Tandems.

Andy Montriou advised the meeting that he had completed over 5700 Tandem jumps to date and that he had carried out his last Tandem jump at the beginning of 2019. He also stated that he was now medically fit.

During consideration of this request, it was felt by some CIs present that the 'B' Licence rule is there for a reason and they expressed some concern about the fact that Andy had not completed a Tandem jump for almost a year and considered that if this proposal was accepted it would set a dangerous precedent.

However, other CIs present noted Andy Montriou's skydiving experience, and felt that this type of request should be considered individually and on the merits of the Instructor concerned.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Ryan Mancey and seconded by Chris McCann that the above request be accepted.

For: 7 Against: 9 Abstentions: 2 (Noel Purcell, Dave Wood)

Not Carried

- ii) The Chair reported that in 2007 following a Panel of Inquiry into a fatality, a number of recommendations involving Nick Johnson were made and accepted by STC. All but one of the recommendations had a time frame attached to them, which expired many years ago. The recommendation that did not include this time frame was; *'That he*

may not carry out any parachuting activities without a BPA Advanced Instructor being physically present on the DZ. (This restriction does not apply to ground school but does apply to positions such as DZ controller any and all aerial activities, including flying).'

The Chair stated that Nick Johnston is requesting that this recommendation is now lifted. He stated that this request is supported by himself and the COO.

The COO stated that standard protocol for requests such as this would be for them to go out with the agenda.

There were no objections raised from those present for this request being considered this evening.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Mike Carruthers that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) The Chair asked CIs if they had anyone, they wished to nominate for the Mike Forge Trophy (New Skydiver of the Year), to please send details of their nomination to the Chief Operating Officer before the end of the year. He stated that last year we received a couple of nominations. Therefore, it was worth nominating someone CIs feel is a worthy recipient.
- iv) The Chair reported that the PTO Annual Return and Re-Affiliation forms would be circulated in the next week or two. He asked if PTOs would kindly complete the forms as soon as possible once they had finished jumping for 2019. He stated that the Annual Return forms are the most urgent. The Re-Affiliation forms could follow later.
- v) The Chair stated that at the AGM each year the BPA Chair includes a video of BPA skydiving for the previous year as part of his speech. This usually included skydiving competition and achievements. However, there was a lack of Student jumping. Therefore, he asked if any CIs can send in, by the end of the year, some good short video clips of Tandem, AFF and/or Static line jumping, this would be helpful. He stated that so far this year no one has sent us any. We would be grateful for PTOs' help.
- vi) The COO provided the meeting with information relating to the new PTO Portal and explained how the system would work in relation to rating renewals. He stated that further details would be circulated to rating approvers in due course.
- vii) The Chair expressed his thanks to STC members for their support throughout the year and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hoped that as many as possible would be attending 'Skydive the Expo' and AGM, at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, on 25 January 2020. Also, on the Friday the various meetings of DZOs, CIs, Tandem Instructors or Riggers & Advanced Packers, which were for pre-registered members.

12. PROVISIONAL DATES OF 2020 MEETINGS

The provisional dates of 2020 STC Meetings are as follows:

6 February, 2 April, 28 May, 23 July, 17 September, 12 November.
Thursdays at 19:00hrs, at British Skydiving HQ.

The Chair reported that the above dates will need to be approved by Council and that CIs will be notified if there are any changes.

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

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of 14 November 2019 the following amendments were made to the BPA Operations Manual:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 2 (BPA Parachutist Licence), sub-para 2.3. Change to read:

- 2.3. BPA 'C' LICENCE: BPA 'B' Licence, 200 descents, at least one further 'Grade 1' and the C Licence Written Examination (BPA Form 324)

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 2 (BPA Parachutist Licence), N.B. (1) below sub-para 2.4. Change to read:

N.B. (1). BPA Licence applications must be endorsed by an Advanced Instructor.

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), New Sub-para 5.5. to read:

5.5 Tandem Instructor Probationary Period.

After successful completion of the Tandem Instructor Course, the recently qualified Tandem Instructor will start a probation period consisting of 20 Tandem descents. During the 20 probationary Tandem descents the Tandem Instructor will be restricted to the limitations laid out in The Tandem Instructor Probationary Record (BPA Form 325).

Note: Previous Sub-paras 5.5 to 5.9 now becomes 5.7 to 5.10

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.8. (Currency requirements to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera). New Sub-para 5.8.3. to read:

- 5.8.3 Any TI who has over 500 hand/wrist mounted camera descents must do a minimum of 50 hand/wrist mounted camera descents within the previous two years to continue jumping a hand/wrist mounted camera.

BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL, Fourth Re-write December 2019:

STC Accepted the re-written 'British Skydiving' Operations Manual (December 2019). The Operations Manual incorporated all amendments accepted during 2019, plus other wording and paragraph changes.

Approved by STC on 6 February 2020
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