

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 30 July 2015 at 1900

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

Present:

John Hitchen	-	Chair STC
Matty Holford	-	JSPC (N)
Pete Sizer	-	Skydive Headcorn
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee Parachute Club
Andy Guest	-	Skydive Buzz
Jay Webster	-	Go Skydive
Paul Yeoman	-	Black Knights Parachute Centre
Dave Wood	-	Cornish Parachute Club
Brucie Johnson	-	Blue Skies Freefall Club
Noel Purcell	-	Target Skysports
Richard Wheatley	-	British Parachute Schools

Apologies: Martin White, Gary Stevens, Dennis Buchanan, Paul Floyd, Bryn Chaffe, Mark Bayada, Iain Anderson, Dave Skinner, Chris McCann, Mike Rust, Jason Thompson, Mal Richardson, Phil Collett.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Jeff Montgomery	-	Safety & Technical Officer (STO)
Paul Applegate	-	Chair Riggers' Sub-Committee/Council

Observers: Rick Boardman, Gordon Blamire, Ben Wood, Paul Stockwell.

The Chair stated that since the last meeting Pat Walters, long serving STC member, has passed away on the 4th July after a long illness. The Chair and members of the Committee send their sincere condolences to Pat's family and friends.

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 4 JUNE 2015

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge and seconded by Matty Holford that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 4 June 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 4 JUNE 2015

Page 2. (Item 2 — Matters Arising - Age Working Group) The Chair reported that the Working Group is continuing with their work. Unfortunately Mark Bayada was unable to attend the meeting and update the Committee.

Page 2, (Item 2 — Guidelines for Tracking and Angle Flying). Paul Floyd is unable to attend the meeting, but had drafted a suggested proposal for 'Tracking' to be included in the Grading System. The draft had not been received in time to go out with the agenda, but would be included with the minutes of the meeting. The Chair stated that comments would be welcomed.

Page 6. (Item 5 – Incidents/Injury Reports). The Chair stated that at the last STC meeting the Committee agreed that a Working Group would be formed to look into all aspects of Tandem parachuting. He stated that the members of the working group had yet to be decided, but every Tandem Instructor has been written to informing them of the working group and asking them for input. There had been some input received and this would be included in the Working Group terms of reference.

3. RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 4 JUNE 2015

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

It was proposed by Bruce Johnson and seconded by Noel Purcell that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee meeting of the 4 June 2015 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Riggers' Sub-Committee had considered a paper by the BPA Safety & Technical Officer (STO) that had been circulated with the Agenda concerning the use of soft links on Tandem and Student equipment. Paul stated that the Riggers' Subcommittee had agreed the following, which required acceptance by STC:

- a) The use of soft links on Student reserve canopies are acceptable providing these are approved by the canopy manufacturer.
- b) Soft links may not be used on Tandem reserve canopies.
- c) Tandem main links (soft or metal) may be used on Tandem main canopies providing they are acceptable to the canopy manufacturer.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Jay Webster that the above equipment be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate also stated that the Riggers' Sub-Committee had cleared an ex-military (grey) Tandem container, reserve and Student harness and 2 ex-military harnesses, which also require clearance by STC:

- a) **System #2**
That the grey Relative Workshop Ex-military Tandem Vector II TV14 (serial no. 39605) be accepted for use with the VTC 421 reserve and the UPT Student harness.
- b) **System #3**
That the Relative Workshop/UPT Ex-military Wonderhog Dual Container / Tandem Student Harness system (no. #3) be accepted for use with the UPT Sigma container (serial no. 52193)
- c) **System #4**
That the Relative Workshop/UPT Ex-military Wonderhog Dual Container / Tandem Student Harness system (no. #4) be accepted for use with the UPT Sigma container (serial no. 52194)

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dave Wood that the above equipment be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate also reported on a Tandem incident which had been discussed by the Riggers' Sub-Committee, involving a Next Tandem system, where the instructor had difficulty locating the primary deployment toggle due to his student's awkward position. The instructor located the secondary handle and tried to pull it, which was very hard to pull. He pulled harder, succeeding, however this took out the cutaway pad, and as the main bag extracted from the container, the reserve deployed via the RSL. It was later discovered that the secondary handle had Velcro on both sides of the securing tab, causing the hard pull, which

pulled both the secondary and cutaway pad. Further investigation resulted in the discovery that some Next secondary release handles have Velcro on both sides of the tab and some (more modern ones) have Velcro on one side. It had been decided by the Subcommittee that Velcro should only be fitted to one side of the tab – the harness side. Some discussion then ensued during which Ian Rosenvinge asked that details with pictures be sent out for clarification. The COO agreed that something would be produced.

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME

- i). There had been 5 Student Injury reports received since the last STC meeting. 3 male and 2 female.
- ii). Since the last meeting there had been 14 Injury reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 13 male and 1 female.
- iii). There had been 11 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. All male.
- iv). There had been 57 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 48 male and 9 female. 4 were on wingsuit jumps.
- v). Since the last STC there had been 20 Tandem Injury reports received. 7 male and 13 female. These included one where the Tandem Instructor fractured his femur and another instructor who sustained torn ligaments to his ankle.
- vi). There had been 12 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received. These included the report of an incident involving a Next Tandem, which had already been discussed under item 3 (above).
- vii). Two reports had been received of AAD firings. The first involved a jumper with 22 descents who was carrying out a solo jump and whose goggles steamed up causing her to lose altitude awareness. She deployed her main and the reserve deployed at the same time. The second was a 58 year old jumper who was not very current (3 jumps in the last year, 9 in the previous year). He had made a total of 511 jumps in about 30 years. The jumper experienced a malfunction of his main, then cutaway. He did not locate his reserve handle, but was pulling on the harness webbing until his AAD fired.
- viii). There had been 13 'off landings' reports received since the last meeting. All at PTOs.
- ix). One report had been received of a canopy entanglement during a CF jump.
- x). One report had been received of a display misfire. Two display jumpers were carrying out a water display, attempted a CF manoeuvre. One wrapped around the other. Because of the low altitude they decided to remain together, both landing, in water, without injury. The Chair stated that this incident had generated a good deal of media coverage.
- xi). Twelve reports had been received of items coming off jumpers or being dropped, on exit, in free fall and under canopy. 3 cameras, 2 Tandem leather helmets, 1 helmet, 2 trainers, a student radio, a pair of glasses, a camera 'ring-sight' and bracket and an altimeter. Some discussion took place regarding the numbers of cameras that had fallen off and Ian Rosenvinge felt that the brackets needed careful scrutiny.
- xii). A report had been received of a Tandem Student hiding a Go-Pro camera under his jumpsuit after he had been told that he could not take one with him on the jump. It was his third Tandem jump and he has been informed that he cannot jump again at the club. A number of CIs reported that they had also found Tandem Students trying to hide small cameras.
- xiii). There had been 3 reports received involving aircraft. One report involved a Cessna 208 which had an engine failure at 11,000ft. All jumpers exited safely at about 8,000ft. The aircraft landed back on the airfield and came to halt close to the parachute buildings. The aircraft will require an engine change. The second incident involved a BN2A, where a newly licensed parachutist was moving into the door at 11,000ft and

his pack opened, causing the deployment bag to fall out and go through the door opening. The parachutist was pulled out and his shins hit the tail-plane. His main deployed and he landed safely on the PLA. The tail of the aircraft was damaged, but the pilot was able to land the aircraft safely. There was also another report received of a parachutist's pilot chute extracting as he was climbing out onto the camera step on a G92, which resulted in his canopy deploying close to the tail of the aircraft, possibly coming into contact with the bottom of the elevator. The Chair stated that more care needs to be taken when climbing out of aircraft and pre-jump checks should be carried out carefully.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

The STO had sent out with the Agenda a number of proposed Operations Manual changes regarding Tandem parachuting.

- i). The STO stated that in order to bring the current rules for AFFBI's and CSI's in line with each other he had suggested that the amendment below be made. He also stated that the first proposed change (below) that went out inadvertently left out the words 'under direct supervision' after the word; initially.

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 6 (Accelerated Free Fall Instructor), N.B.(1), change to read:

N.B.(1) Holders of CSI ratings have the privileges of an AFFBI rating whilst preparing to attend an AFFI course and are permitted to teach the relevant course training syllabus initially under direct supervision until competency is proven (logbook endorsement) and then continue under supervision of a CI nominated current AFF Instructor who has held the rating for no less than two years.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Matty Holford that the above Operations Manual amendment be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii). The STO had also suggested a change to clarify the rules regarding Tandem System conversions:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.5, change to read:

5.5. Tandem System Conversion.

Tandem Instructors wishing to convert to a different type of Tandem System where the primary handles (deployment devices i.e. Drogue and Primary release handles) are situated in a different place to the system they were originally evaluated on, will be required to complete a TI Conversion Course, authorised by the STO or COO and conducted by an independent BPA Tandem Examiner who is current on the system for conversion and which will include the following evaluation jumps:

It was proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the above Operations Manual amendment be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii). Also requested by the STO for STC approval was a draft copy of the proposed conversion table (new BPA form 294) which will help with clarification of what Tandem systems require instructors to take a Tandem Conversion Course, together with the suggested amendment below (new N.B).

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.5, add N.B 2 to read:

N.B.(2) The requirements along with a conversion table to assist with identifying those Tandem systems which will require a conversion course can be found on BPA form 294.

Note: Previous N.B. becomes N.B.(1).

It was proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Jay Webster that the above Operations Manual amendment and Form 294 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

6. AFF/TANDEM/PRE-ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR COURSE

The Chair stated that the Association wished to thank UK Parachuting, Sibson, for hosting the course, which took place from the 22nd June – 1st July. The course report had been circulated with the Agenda and was for information only.

7. PERMISSIONS

Circulated to those present was a letter from Jason Thompson requesting that Danny French's TBI rating be extended for 8 months. The letter stated that Danny has not been able to attend a TI course as he works offshore and has not been able to attend any sooner.

It was proposed by Jason Thompson (proxy) and seconded by Noel Purcell that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. A.O.B

- i). Circulated to those present was an e-mail from Dave Skinner requesting that he be awarded a BPA Tandem Instructor (Ground) Rating. Dave's e-mail stated that he was awarded a BPA Tandem Instructors Rating in 1999 and that it lapsed in 2012 and his USPA Tandem Rating lapsed in 2013. During his time as a Tandem Instructor he had completed approximately 700 tandem descents.

It was proposed by Paul Floyd (proxy) and seconded by Dave Wood that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii). Circulated to those present was a letter from Dave Wood requesting permission for the Cornish Parachute Club to undertake an AFF level 1, onto Perranporth Airfield. The request was for the Club Chief Pilot, Chris Fowler. Dave's letter stated that Chris had completed a Tandem jump on to the airfield. The instructors involved in this AFF level 1, would be Andy Montriou, Ben Wood and Dave Wood.

The Chair stated that the restrictions at Perranporth are that the minimum qualifications to jump on the airfield are: FAI A Certificate holders with 35 jumps.

The COO stated that he understood the reason for the particular request, but would not like this to be seen as a precedent as he did not believe that the airfield was suitable for normal Student parachuting.

It was proposed by Dave Wood and seconded by Jay Webster that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii). Also circulated to those present was an e-mail from Andy Guest requesting that Ryan Goodman be permitted to train for his 'B' Licence without having to complete all the requirements with regard to the use of risers and packing in obtaining his CH2 under the Grading system. Andy's letter stated that Ryan is a double amputee who also has fingers missing which makes it impossible for him to use risers or to or carry out parachute packing. He has proved himself to be a good jumper in the air and under canopy and understands the reason for using risers if he had been able.

It was proposed by Andy Guest and seconded by Ian Roseninge that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Date of next Meetings: Thursdays, 24 Sept, 19 Nov 2015
 BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester. LE2 9TF
 at 7.00 p.m

3rd August 2015

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

AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of the 30th July 2015 the following amendment was made to the BPA Operations Manual:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.5, change to read:

5.5. Tandem System Conversion.

Tandem Instructors wishing to convert to a different type of Tandem System where the primary handles (deployment devices i.e. Drogue and Primary release handles) are situated in a different place to the system they were originally evaluated on, will be required to complete a TI Conversion Course, authorised by the STO or COO and conducted by an independent BPA Tandem Examiner who is current on the system for conversion and which will include the following evaluation jumps:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.5, add N.B 2 to read:

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Note: Previous N.B. becomes N.B.(1).

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