

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 7 April 2016 at 1900

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

Present:

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Jeff Montgomery | - | Chair STC |
| Pete Sizer | - | Skydive Headcorn |
| Stuart Meacock | - | Hinton Skydiving |
| Rob Spour | - | Target Skysports |
| Alex Busby-Hicks | - | Tilstock |
| Billy Steele | - | Skydive St George |
| Paul Floyd | - | 22 Trg Gp RAF |
| Chris McCann | - | UK Parachuting (Sibson) |
| Steve Saunders | - | Skydive GB |
| Paul Yeoman | - | Black Knights |
| Richard Wheatley | - | Skydive Langar |
| Brucie Johnson | - | Blue Skies |
| Mike Rust | - | Skydive Chatteris |
| Dennis Buchanan | - | Skydive North West |
| Ryan Mancey | - | Go Skydive |
| Kieran Brady | - | Skydive Strathallan |
| Jay Webster | - | LPS |
| Andy Guest (<i>from item 2</i>) | - | Skydive Buzz |
| Nader Afsharian (<i>from item 7(b)</i>) | - | Skydive Bad Lippspringe |

Apologies: Andy Duncan, Mark Bayada, Iain Anderson, Ian Rosenvinge, Jim White, Dave Wood, Matty Holford, Jason Thompson, Phil Collett, Mally Richardson.

In Attendance:

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Tony Butler | - | Chief Operating Officer |
| Paul Applegate | - | Chair Riggers' Subcommittee/Council |
| John Hitchen | - | Vice Chair |
| Gordon Blamire | - | Council |
| Jack Bradford | - | Council |
| Dr John Carter | - | BPA Medical Adviser |
| Trudy Kemp | - | Assistant to COO/STC |

Observers: Gary Stevens, Andy Pointer, Niel De Wit, Paul Stockwell, Rick Boardman, Martin Cole, Phil Webley.

The Chair welcomed three new CIs; Ryan Mancey (Go Skydive), Billy Steele (Skydive St George) and Jay Webster (London Parachute School).

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 FEBRUARY 2016

It was proposed by Brucie Johnson seconded by Stuart Meacock that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 4 February 2016 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 4 FEBRUARY 2016

Page 1, (Item 2 - Matters Arising) - Age Working Group. This was main agenda item, where the report and proposal for the new Tandem Medicals would be considered.

Page 2, (Item 6) - Tracking Proposals). The Chair reported that there were a number of slight amendments to the way the Tracking Grading System had been laid out in the Operations Manual and this would also be covered under Item 8 of the main agenda.

3. RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 4 FEBRUARY 2016

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

It was therefore proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Paul Floyd that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of the 4 February 2016 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Subcommittee had discussed a Service Bulletin from Parachute Systems, who had released a further update to their product service bulletin (PSB# 2016-01) concerning DSF Stainless Steele hardware on Vortex Harness Containers.

Paul Applegate reported that the Subcommittee had also discussed an item relating to the Strong TNT Tandem system. He stated that the manufacturers (Strong Parachutes) have stated that they will accept two other major manufacturers canopies into their equipment apart from their own.

Paul Applegate stated that in the past, no other Tandem container manufacturer had ever formally approved other manufacturers main canopies to be used in their systems. However, the BPA has taken it upon themselves to allow this, via various clearances and the Riggers Subcommittee had many years ago approved that Tandem systems may accept 'all mains into all containers' provided that the canopy had been inspected (for size and compatibility) and signed off by an Advanced Rigger.

He stated that following consideration that afternoon, the Subcommittee had agreed that the BPA's well established system should be applied to Strong TNT containers when looking at the compatibility of various types of main canopies.

4. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME

- i) There had been 7 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 4 male and 3 female. One in free fall the rest on landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 5 Injury Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 4 male and 1 female.
- iii) There had been 7 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 5 male and 2 female. The reports included a static line student on her second jump who moved to the door and turned towards the tail of the aircraft and got caught in the rear of the door frame wedging her partially outside the aircraft. The instructor pulled her back in and they landed with the aircraft.
- iv) There had been 25 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 20 male and 5 female. 2 were on wingsuit jumps.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 7 Tandem Injury reports received. 2 male and 5 female.
- vi) There had been 7 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received.

- vii) Two reports had been received of an AAD firings. The first was a jumper with 32 jumps who's FXC fired at approximately 12,000ft. this was believed to have been a misfire. The second involved a parachutist with 510 jumps who was carrying out an FS coaching jump and lost altitude awareness. The jumper has been grounded by the CI for a month and has also been suspended by the PTO for 12 months from coaching jumps.
- viii) There had been 22 'off landings' reports received since the last meeting. Including Tandem and other student jumpers. A number seem to have been caused by miscalculating strong upper winds.
- ix) Three reports had been received of items coming off jumpers in free fall. A camera, a helmet and a Tandem leather helmet.
- x) One report had been received of a foreign aircraft overflying a DZ whilst parachutists were in the air.

The next 3 items were taken out of agenda order pending arrival of Nader Afsharian (CI of Skydive Bad Lippspringe).

5. AGE REQUIREMENTS WORKING GROUP

The Chair reported that the Age Requirements Working Group Report along with their draft proposed new Tandem medical forms had been circulated with the STC Agenda.

Unfortunately, Mark Bayada was unable to attend the evening's meeting, but Dr John Carter (BPA Medical Adviser) and Brucie Johnson (WG member) were present to answer any questions relating to the report, as was the COO who had been involved with the WG throughout.

The Chair reported that the Working Group had been tasked with considering the following areas: All BPA Medical Form requirements. Parachuting for persons under 16 years of age and the medical age requirements for person of 40 years of age or older.

In addition to looking at these ages from purely medical grounds the following had also been discussed: Age discrimination. CAA policy of not "Gold Plating" rules, planned proposed changes to pilot's medicals and medical requirements in other areas of life.

The Working Group had recommended that the following age restrictions should remain:

- a. 16 years old. Minimum age for parachuting. This should remain as it is based on the individual's capacity to make decisions. It is commonly accepted in law that persons under the age of sixteen are not capable of making the types of decisions that would be required to parachute safely.
- b. 16 - 17 years old. Requires parental/guardian consent. This should remain for the above (a) reasons as not all sixteen to eighteen year olds have that capacity.
- c. 55 years old. The maximum age for anyone to start 'solo' parachuting. This had already been discussed by STC. It was decided to keep this restriction as it was adopted following a number of fatal accidents involving students who were over that age when they were trained.
- d. 40 years old. Above this age all parachutists require a Doctor's certificate. Solo students and experienced jumpers should remain unchanged, with a review to be carried out once the new Tandem Student medicals been running for a number of months. This will prove the system whilst without increasing risk as Tandem Students are fully under the control of a qualified instructor throughout their descent.

Following consideration, Mike Rust stated that he felt that the various altitude heights for Tandem Students listed on Form 115B should be deleted, as in his opinion a Tandem student should either be permitted to go up to the maximum altitude or not.

The Medical Adviser was able to provide information on the height restrictions and the reasoning behind them being included on BPA Form 115B.

Rob Spour asked if there was not the flexibility to take the height restrictions out, could another box be added to the Form 115B to allow for no restrictions up to the height of 15,000ft?

The Medical Adviser stated that he had no objections to an additional box being added to the form.

The COO stated that part of the remit of the Age WG was to look at whether there should be any age restrictions at all and it was agreed that the arbitrary age of 40 for a Doctor's medical should come out.

The COO reported that consultation had taken place with Operators at the annual meeting of the Drop Zone Operators' Specialised Interest Group in Nottingham on Friday 29 January 2016.

Stuart Meacock stated that Operators had only originally been asked if they wanted to raise the age from 40 – 50.

Mike Rust stated that because the new system involved major changes, he felt that a trial of the system take place at one Centre initially for a period of time rather than to accept it this evening. STC could then look at accepting the system following any feedback from the particular Centre rather than rushing into it this evening.

The COO stated that in his opinion this had not been rushed into. He stated that an incredible amount of work had been undertaken by the Age Requirements WG in producing its recommendations etc and that it had been put out widely for consultation with STC, DZOs and the BPA legal representatives etc.

The COO stated that himself, the STO and Affiliated PTOs, would be monitoring use of the new forms/paperwork to ensure that they fulfilled their purpose. Should there be the need for any adjustment, it would of course be considered through STC's normal processes.

Following further consideration, the Chair asked for a proposer for the Working Group recommendations.

A counter proposal was tabled from Mike Rust, seconded by Rob Spour that a PTO volunteers to run a trial period of the system for up to two STC meetings and that they report back to STC with their findings.

For: 4 Against: 12 Abstention: 1
Not Carried

It was proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Chris McCann that the above Working Group recommendations (a – d) be accepted together with the new system for Tandem Students and the draft BPA Forms 115A and 115B with the slight amendment to BPA Form 115B to include an additional tick box with regard to height restrictions.

For: 16 (incl 1 by proxy) Against: 2 Abstentions: 0
Carried

It was proposed by Paul Floyd and seconded by Pete Sizer that the new forms be accepted immediately and that current forms be valid for the duration of their validity.

Carried Unanimously

6. BASIC TRACKING COACH PROPOSAL

The Chair reported that at the last STC meeting (4 February 2016), Tracking had been introduced within the Grading System (Grades TR1, TR2 & TR3). Also accepted were the qualifications for Tracking Coaches: TR coaches must be TR3 parachutists, which included 'angle flying'.

The Chair reported that since the introduction of Tracking Coaches, there have been several requests for a 'Basic' Tracking Coach qualification, as there was for Basic FF Coaches. He stated that it had been pointed out that some parachutists may only ever want a TR1 or TR2 grade and may not wish to take part in ankle flying. Therefore, a parachutist wishing to coach TR1 or TR2 may not need to be a TR3 parachutist.

It was proposed by Paul Floyd and seconded by Chris McCann that a Basic Tracking Coach (BTC) qualification be accepted and that the draft BTC application form be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair reported that the Tracking Manual was now available on the BPA website.

7. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

a. Hand/wrist mounted TI currency

A proposal from Ian Rosenvinge regarding currency requirements for TIs qualified to jump hand/wrist mounted cameras had been circulated with the agenda.

Ian had proposed that the **Operations Manual, Section 4 (Instructors), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructors)**, be amended in regard to Tandem Instructor Currency that the Previous Paragraph **5.8.** now becomes **5.7.** and that in respect of the Currency Requirements to jump a Hand/Wrist Mounted Camera that the Previous Paragraph **5.7.** is deleted including *N.Bs 1-4* after **5.7.** with a new Paragraph **5.8.** to be included as below:

5.7. Tandem Instructor Currency

- 5.7.1. 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.
- 5.7.2. Prior to the above jump the TI must practise emergency procedures with the parachutist attached.
- 5.7.3. All current TIs must have practised Tandem Reserve Drills in a suspended harness within the previous 2 calendar months. 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.

5.8. Currency requirements to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera

- 5.8.1. Any TI wishing to continue jumping a hand/wrist mounted camera 12 months after first being cleared to do so must have made 100 hand/wrist mounted camera descents within the preceding 12 calendar months, otherwise they must again satisfy the initial requirements.
- 5.8.2. Any TI previously cleared to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera who has not made a Tandem descent within the preceding 3 months must either meet the requirements of 5.8.1. above, or be within 12 months of their initial Tandem hand/wrist mounted camera Clearance, and in each case they must make a jump with a hand/wrist mounted camera with a 'B' Licence parachutist before jumping a hand/wrist mounted camera with Tandem Students. The BPA 'B' Licence parachutist must be briefed on how to respond to Tandem emergencies

The COO gave the meeting further details of this request.

There followed some discussion with regard to Ian's request, and some concern was expressed by a number of CIs present with regard to reduce the number of currency jumps with a hand/wrist mounted camera from 250 jumps within the preceding 12 calendar months to 100 jumps within the preceding 12 calendar months.

Also a number of CIs present stated that as they did not have a great deal of experience of jumping hand/wrist mounted cameras, they felt unable to provide an informed opinion.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge (proxy) and seconded by Andy Guest that the above proposed amendments to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 11 (incl 1 by proxy)

Against: 2

Abstentions: 5

Carried

b. EU Parachutists

A letter from Nader Afsharian had been circulated with the agenda requesting a change to the Operations Manual requirements for EU parachutists to jump at BPA Affiliated PTOs without needing to join the BPA. Nader's letter stated that the reason for the change is to allow easier access to parachutists from within the European Union (EU) to BPA PTOs, as in some countries within the EU, it is not a requirement to hold an FAI Certification. Also the cover in Germany is now 1,500,000 Euro.

It is therefore proposed that **Section 12 (Documentation), Paragraph 1 (Personal Documents), sub para 1.1. be changed to read:**

- 1.1. 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.

It was proposed by Nader Afsharian and seconded by Bruce Johnson that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

c. Non-BPA Advanced Instructor Requirement Proposal

The STO stated that the BPA offers non-BPA AFF and Tandem instructors qualified in countries outside the UK a route to being assessed and, subject to demonstration of the required level of competence, converting to become BPA AFF and Tandem instructors. For non-BPA AFF and Tandem instructors from other member states of the European Union (EU), this accords with the principle of the free movement of labour within the EU. However, to be able to attend a BPA Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course and then an Advanced Instructor Course a candidate must have been a BPA CSI or AFFI for a minimum of 3 years. It is therefore suggested that a non-BPA Instructor (other than Tandem Instructor) who has been an instructor outside the BPA for more than three years be permitted to attend a BPA Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course.

Suggested change to BPA Operations Manual, Section 4 (Instructors), Paragraph 13 (Non BPA Instructors): Previous sub-paras 13.1. and 13.2. become 13.1.1. and 13.1.2. New sub-para 13.2 (Advanced Instructor) to read:

13.2. Advanced Instructor

Non BPA instructors or foreign BPA instructors (excluding Tandem Instructors) who have not held a BPA instructor rating for a minimum of 3 years, wishing to become a BPA Advanced Instructor must be 'full' members

of the BPA, be able to communicate adequately in spoken and written English, successfully complete a written examination on the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual, have received a Methods of Instruction, Drop Zone Management and a BPA Incident Procedures lecture, given by at least a BPA Advanced Instructor. Have a written recommendation from a CI prior to attending a BPA Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course. He/she must also fulfil the specific requirements to attend, below:

13.2.1. Required qualifications to attend:

- a. Hold a current instructor rating, held for a minimum of 3 years, acceptable to the sport parachuting governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained.
- b. Holds a BPA CSI and/or BPA AFFI rating.

Note: The above amendment (b) was added at the STC meeting

- c. Holds a BPA 'D' Licence.
- d. Has completed a night descent and display descent.
- e. Holds a current Parachuting Radio Operators Certificate of Competence.
- f. Hold a BPA Canopy Handling (CH) coach qualification.
- g. Hold a current BPA Declaration of Fitness to Parachute/Doctors Certificate (BPA form 114).
- h. At the start of the course, the candidate must have completed 60 descents in the previous two years.

13.2.2. Will be required to attend a Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course of up to a week in length organised by the STO or COO.

13.2.3. After completing the Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course, the candidate will be either advised to re-apply to attend another Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course after a minimum period of time, or will be recommended to attend an Advanced Instructor Examination Course for upgrading to Advanced Instructor after a period of time specified by the Instructor Examiners, but within a maximum of 18 months.

13.2.4. On successful completion of the Advanced Instructor Examination Course, two Instructor Examiners will sign the qualification of the candidate; he/she will then be awarded Advanced Instructor status.

N.B. The Training Syllabus for the above Advanced Instructor Course can be found on BPA Form 151a.

Following consideration, the COO pointed out that he had omitted to include in the above pre-course requirements that a potential candidate was also required to hold a current BPA CSI and/or BPA AFFI rating. He apologised for this oversight.

A number of CIs expressed concern that a potential AI candidate working through the proposed system may not have acquired the same level of experience and knowledge that is gained by a CSI/AFFI during the 3-year time period before they can apply to attend a Pre-Advanced Course.

The COO stated that an AI candidate still had to be tested and examined in the normal way.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Ryan Mancey and seconded by Steve Saunders that the above proposed changes to the BPA Operations Manual

together with the amendment to the pre-Course requirements and BPA Form 151a be accepted.

For: 13

Against: 4

Abstentions: 1

Carried

d. Tracking Grade

The COO reported that at the STC meeting of the 4 February 2016 Tracking had been accepted as a new BPA Grade. However, the layout of the TR3 requirements was incorrect. Therefore, it had been proposed that the layout be changed to that below. There are no changes to the wording, only the sub-para definitions.

**SECTION 2(DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS).
PARAGRAPH 6 (THE GRADING SYSTEM). Sub-para 6.10.11 – 6.10.14. change to
a) – d). Previous sub-paras 6.10.15 & 6.10.16. becomes 6.10.11. & 6.10.12.**

6.10.10. To obtain Grade 3 in Tracking (TR3) 'angle flying' the parachutist must be Grade 2 (TR2) and be introduced to TR3 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR3 Grade parachutist or equivalent of proven TR instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:

- a) Fly in a 'belly to earth' and 'back to earth' tracking position of more than 45 degrees without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading' utilising another TR3 parachutist as a guide for directional control.
- b) Control fall rate whilst in an angle flying position greater than 45 degrees.
- c) Control angled flight of angles greater than 45 degrees relative to others within the group, of no more than 4.
- d) Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.

6.10.11. Once TR3 has been obtained, the parachutist must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 6 without CI approval, (a log book endorsement will suffice).

6.10.12. The leader of the angle flying group must be in a belly to earth position. However, they can be on their backs only if they have another, specifically appointed experienced tracker over them who is belly to earth to assist in the directional control.

It was proposed by Paul Floyd and seconded by Billy Steele that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

e. Basic Tracking Coach N.B.

The COO reported that as the Basic Tracking proposal had been accepted, this required a minor amendment to the **Operations Manual, Section 2 (Designation and Classification of Parachutists), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), N.B.(2) below new sub-para 6.10.12. To read:**

N.B.(2) The qualifications to become a TR coach or BTR coach can be found on BPA Forms 134G & 134H respectively.

It was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

f. Tandem Medicals

The Chair reported that as the new Student Tandem Medicals had been accepted, this required a minor amendment to the Operations Manual:

Section 11 (Medical), Paragraph 1 (Medical Requirements to Parachute), N.B. below sub-para 1.1.2. and sub-para 1.1.3. Also new sub-para 1.1.4. To read:

N.B. Student Tandem Parachutists may also use Form 114 or 114A, but Forms 115A or 115B may be more appropriate.

1.1.3. **Form 115A. Student Tandem Parachutist Medical Information and Declaration** is for Student Tandem Parachutists who may be unable to meet the requirements of Form 114, above.

1.1.4. **Form 115B. Student Tandem Parachutist Request for Medical Advice** is for Student Tandem Parachutists who may be unable to meet the requirements of Form 114 or Form 115A, above.

Note: *Previous sub-para 1.1.4. becomes sub-para 1.1.5.*

Also sub-para 1.3. will need to change to read:

1.3. In the case of persons of 40 years of age or more (excluding Student Tandem Parachutists) the Doctor's Certificate section must be completed.

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

Carried Unanimously

g. Minor Amendment to Ground Control Requirement

The Operations Manual, Section 1 (Conduct and Control of Sport Parachuting), Paragraph 4 (Ground Control Organisation), sub-para 4.1.5. states: *'The check for all Student and BPA 'A' Licence parachutists must include a visual check to ensure that Automatic Activation Devices (AADs), if fitted to the equipment, are switched on.'*

The Chair reported that it had been pointed out that the words 'if fitted to the equipment' are unnecessary as AADs must be fitted to the equipment. Therefore, it was suggested that the paragraph be amended to read:

4.1.5. The check for all Student and BPA 'A' Licence parachutists must include a visual check to ensure that Automatic Activation Devices (AADs) are switched on.

It was proposed by Paul Yeoman and seconded by Jay Webster that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

8. **BAD LIPSPRINGE PANEL OF INQUIRY REPORT**

The Chair reported that the Panel of Inquiry Report had been circulated with the STC Agenda. For clarification purposes, he clarified the position as to where STC stood in relation to Boards and Panels of Inquiry and read out following text taken from the BPA Disciplinary Procedure (Form 256, Paragraph 2.9):

"If the Panel of Inquiry makes recommendations for disciplinary action, and the Panel believes it to be appropriate in the circumstances, the Panel may offer the respondent(s) the opportunity for the stated disciplinary action to be taken by the Panel. Should the respondent(s) reject the offer, a Tribunal shall be convened to decide the matter. Should the relevant Committee (in this case STC) consider the Panel of Inquiry's recommendation(s) to be grossly disproportionate in terms of leniency or severity, it may appeal to the Council for a Tribunal to be convened."

The Chair reported that the respondents; Nader Afsharian and Grant Macpherson had accepted the disciplinary decisions of the Panel and stated that a Tribunal would now only be initiated if STC considered the disciplinary action to be grossly disproportionate.

The Chair reported that the Panel had been chaired by Mark Tether and the other members were; Jane Buckle, Pete Sizer, Geordie Page and Jay Webster. He stated that the Panel had been tasked with considering peripheral aspects following the Board of Inquiry into the fatal accident of Ali Woodford at Skydive Bad Lippspringe on the 29 September 2015. The Panel had also been asked to consider whether there might have been any breaches of the BPA Operations Manual (BPA OM) or local Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The Panel's conclusions were that the fatality of Ali John Woodford was an unfortunate accident and that the CI had no direct responsibility for this.

The Panel did, however, recognize that the parachute centre's staffing was minimal and that best practice should be adopted in this area.

The military faction of this parachute centre (JSPC) no longer exists in that form, although the location remains a military site and continues to carry out training courses for military personnel. The course on which the accident occurred was a military course. One of the Panel's recommendations was that any exemptions that the parachute centre had under JSPC should be reviewed by STC, including the following:

STC 23rd October 1997 - The maximum number of Students trained on MOD Sponsored Courses held at JSPC Centres be increased from 12 to 15 on any one Course (RAPS).

The CI allowed non BPA qualified instructors to teach students without having the qualifications to do so, even though it appeared that the non-qualified instructors were of a high standard, they should not have been teaching students. The Panel has viewed several of the CI validations dating from before the incident regarding his 'potential' instructors, and the Panel is content that one of either the CI or Grant McPherson was actively validating the staff. As mentioned earlier, the Panel has not established any direct link to the fatality of Ali John Woodford.

The Panel decided that the following disciplinary action is to be taken:

Skydive Bad Lippspringe CI - Nadar Afsharian:

Due to the breach of the requirements in BPA Form 254a (Category System Basic Instructor Proficiency Card), which states: '*N.B(1): Any lessons or progression briefs must NOT be delivered to real students.*' and is referred to in the BPA Operations Manual, the CI is to be sent a letter from the BPA reminding him of his responsibilities as a CI. The letter should also call attention to best working practices and suitable staffing levels for the type of operation being carried out.

Skydive Bad Lippspringe, CSI - Grant Macpherson:

Grant Macpherson is to be sent a letter from the BPA reminding him of his responsibilities as an experienced Category System Instructor.

The Panel proposed the following recommendations to STC:

- a. That STC consider specifying a minimum cutaway height for students in the BPA Operations Manual. The Panel recommends 1,000ft AGL as a minimum height, but CIs are encouraged to increase cutaway heights if necessary. Some Parachute Training Organisations (PTOs) already specify a minimum student cutaway height. Several are using 2000ft.
- b. That CIs give consideration to (canopy collision) entanglement drills. Experience and statistics have shown that entanglements with other parachutists, although rare, are most likely to happen below 1,000 feet. Therefore, when teaching students to cut-away from entanglements, a clear distinction must be drawn between parachutists entangled with their own parachute and parachutists entangled with someone else's parachute.

- c. That (i) that staffing levels at Skydive Bad Lippspringe should be reviewed in accordance with best practice, and in particular (ii) the exemption dated 23 Oct 1997 for the Joint Service Parachute Centre Lippspringe (JSPC-L) to have a Category System student to Instructor ratio of 15-1 be reverted back to 12-1. JSPC-L was awarded this exemption due to running weekly military static line courses throughout the year.
- d. That the person carrying out Student radio talk-down at Skydive Bad Lippspringe, for the first three Student descents will have no other duties, which will minimize the likelihood of distraction from that of assisting and monitoring the Students' canopy control and landings.
- e. That the following be inserted into the BPA Operations Manual under Section 5 (Training), Paragraph 1 (General):

'All training and instruction must take place as required in the BPA Category System, the BPA Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) Levels, the BPA Grading System or Tandem Parachuting; and all such training and instruction shall be by suitably qualified BPA instructors.'

The reasoning behind this was to ensure that there is a clear requirement in the BPA Operations Manual rather than relying on a note on a BPA Form.

The meeting then went into an in-camera session, and the observers apart from CIs, members of Council, the BPA Medical Adviser, Nader Afsharian and members of the Panel left the room.

The meeting then considered Recommendations c) & d) from the Panel Report, which directly involved the Centre Skydive Bad Lippspringe.

Nader Afsharian (person concerned) was invited to give his comments and to answer any questions in relation to these recommendations, after which he left the meeting.

Those present then deliberated each of the Panel recommendations c) & d), which were then voted on separately:

Recommendation c)

It was proposed by Andy Guest and seconded by Billy Steele that Recommendation c) above concerning the staffing levels at Skydive Bad Lippspringe (above) be accepted.

For: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 3 (Paul Floyd, Jay Webster, Pete Sizer)

Carried

Recommendation d)

It was proposed by Alex Busby Hicks and seconded by Rob Spour that Recommendation d) above concerning Student radio talk-down at Skydive Bad Lippspringe be accepted.

For: 13 Against: 1 (Brucie Johnson) Abstentions: 3 (Paul Floyd, Jay Webster, Pete Sizer)

Carried

The Chair asked STC if they considered the Panel of Inquiry's recommendation(s) to be grossly disproportionate in terms of leniency or severity and whether they wished to appeal to the Council for a Tribunal to be convened.

Following consideration, it was the consensus of those present that it was not necessary to call for a Tribunal.

Nader Afsharian was then asked to return to the meeting and he was advised of the Committee's decisions regarding the recommendations concerning Skydive Bad Lippspringe.

The meeting then resumed in open session.

Those present then discussed and voted on the remaining Panel Recommendations a), b) & e).

Following consideration, it was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Richard Wheatley that the Panel Recommendations a), b) & e) as above be accepted.

For: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 4 (Paul Floyd, Jay Webster, Pete Sizer, Nader Afsharian)

Carried

9. CHANGE OF WORDING TO COACHES' RATINGS – PROPOSAL FROM BRYN CHAFFE

A letter from Bryn Chaffe had been circulated with the agenda asking that the section on the coaches' rating application form that is completed by a Chief Instructor be changed so that Advanced Instructors or Instructor Examiners may complete that section instead. Bryn's letter stated that the evaluations and Methods of Instructor lecture can be carried out and signed off by an Advanced Instructor who may not be the CI.

The Chair reported that when Bryn had submitted his proposal, he was CI of Skydive St George. The position had now been taken by Billy Steele. However, Billy had permitted the proposal to be considered.

Bryn had asked that two proposals are considered in the order below:

Proposal A: Change the Chief Instructor's Section to Advanced Instructor

Following consideration, it was proposed by Mike Rust and seconded by Billy Steele that the above proposal be accepted.

For: 2 Against: 9 Abstentions: 7

Not Carried

Proposal B: Change the Chief Instructor's Section to Instructor Examiner

Following consideration, a Counter proposal was tabled by Bruce Johnston, seconded by Alex Busby-Hicks that the section on all coaches' rating application forms remains the same but that Instructor Examiners may also complete that section as well.

For: 12 Against: 4 Abstentions: 2

Carried

10. PERMISSIONS

- a. A letter from Paul Floyd had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Martin White be reinstated as an Instructor Examiner on his attendance at a BPA Instructor Course this year. Paul's letter had provided full details of his request.

It was proposed by Paul Floyd and seconded by Nader Afsharian that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- b. An e-mail from Andy Guest had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Donna Jenkins to be allowed to continue to Wingsuit and when Donna has met the requirement be awarded her WS1. Andy had stated that the BPA Operations Manual requirements to gain WS1 is that; *'the parachutist must be a 'C' Licence holder with at least 500 descents or at least 200 descents within the previous 18 months...'*

Andy Guest gave the meeting details of his request and stated that Donna managed to complete 130 descents in the previous 18 months of which five months she was grounded due to an injury. Had it not been for the injury Donna would have met the 18-month requirement. At the time of submitting his request to STC, Donna had

completed 420 descents. She had already completed 15 Wingsuit jumps under coaching.

There followed some discussion. There was some concern expressed by a number of CIs present as there were some CIs who were of the opinion that they could just slot someone who had qualified abroad into the BPA system without having to apply to STC for a 'permission'.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Andy Guest and seconded by Ryan Mancey that the above request be accepted.

For: 13 (incl 3 by proxy)

Against: 6

Abstentions: 2

Carried

- c. An e-mail from Brucie Johnson had been circulated with the agenda requesting a six-month extension to the CSBI rating of Martin Cole so that he may attend the CSI course on 7 November 2016 at Hibaldstow. Brucie had stated that Martin was originally sponsored by Langar, but had now moved back home and had asked to train at BSFC as it was his nearest centre that trains Category System students. He was awarded a CSBI rating in May 2014 at Strathallan. This had been extended for 6 months by STC on 2nd April 2015. Martin then attended the CSI course on 9 November 2015 at Hibaldstow where he was unsuccessful, but awarded another 6-month extension to his CSBI rating which is due to expire in May 2016. The reason for the request is to allow enough time for Martin to prepare under a new PTO.

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

For: 16

Against: 1

Abstention: 1

Carried

- d. A letter from Bryn Chaffe had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Jared Morris who STC agreed to change his CSI rating to a CSI(G) rating last year as he had been injured, have his CSI rating re-instated, as Jared has now fully recovered from his injuries and fulfilled all the requirements to have his rating upgraded.

The Chair reported that Bryn Chaffe was no longer CI of Skydive St George and was therefore unable to propose that this be accepted. He stated that the request was supported by Billy Steele, the new CI.

It was proposed by Billy Steele and seconded by Paul Floyd that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- e. A letter from Nathan Connolly, supported by Mark Bayada had been circulated with the agenda requesting permission for Nathan to be able to organise and carry out night and water displays for the Red Devils without the need to have an Advanced Instructor present. Mark Bayada had stated that Nathan has worked with the Red Devils on many occasions, acting as the Advanced Instructor for both water and night jumps and that he had no hesitation in supporting this request.

It was proposed by Mark Bayada (proxy) and seconded by Steve Saunders that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- f. A request from Dennis Buchanan had been circulated with the agenda requesting that his Tandem Instructor rating be change to a TI(G) rating. Dennis advised those present that he had held his TI rating for 32 years and that he also does most of the ground schools and would still like to continue to help out with them.

It was proposed by Dennis Buchanan and seconded by Paul Floyd that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- g. An e-mail from Ian Rosenvinge had been circulated with the agenda requesting that Ian Chapman be permitted to attend an AFFBI Course and that the period as an AFFBI be waived for him, which would enable him to apply for and attend the next available AFFI Course to be examined at the discretion of the Examiners. Ian had stated that Ian Chapman was an AFFI for many years.

It was proposed by Ian Rosenvinge (proxy) and seconded by Nader Afsharian that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

11. A.O.B

- a. The Chair reported that since that last STC meeting there had been two Instructor courses held. One at 22 Training Group – RAF Weston on the Green, Instructor Course 1/2016, which was from the 8 -12 February. The second course was a Tandem, AFF and Pre-Advanced course which was held at BPS Langar from the 14 - 18 March. The Association expressed its thanks to both PTOs for hosting the courses.

The reports had been circulated with the agenda for information.

- b. Tabled to those present was a request has from Ryan Mancey asking that Gordon Blamire's TI rating be changed to a TI(G) rating. Due to business commitments Gordon had not been jumping much during the last year.

It was proposed by Ryan Mancey and seconded by Paul Floyd that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- c. Tabled to those present was a request from Kieran Brady wishing to apply to have the CSI ratings of two of his long time Instructors; John Finnigan and William Somerville changed to Ground instructors – CSI(G) only. Kieran' had stated that this would be more in line with how their involvement at the Club had been during the 2015 season.

It was proposed by Kieran Brady and seconded by Billy Steele that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- d. The Chair reported that the Tandem Working Group had held another meeting at the BPA office on Tuesday. The notes from the meeting would be sent to CIs in due course. However, in an effort to obtain more statistical information they have requested that until the new Injury Report books are produced, if a PTO has a Tandem injury, they submit a Tandem Incident report as well as an Injury report.

The Working Group also believe that the 20 Tandem jumps per year to retain a Tandem rating is no longer adequate, but before they consider making a recommendation to increase the number they would like STC's opinion on the number they believe should be the minimum.

Following consideration, CIs present felt that the number of currency jumps to retain a Tandem rating should be increased to a minimum of between 40 – 50 jumps per year. CIs also requested that the WG consider looking at the minimum number of currency jumps on type.

The Chair stated that he would pass on STCs comments to the Working Group for consideration.

- e. A request has been received from Stuart Meacock asking that Dave Emerson's AFF, Tandem and CSI Instructor ratings be changed to 'Ground' ratings.

The Chair noted that Dave's Emerson's TI rating expired a year ago.

It was proposed by Stuart Meacock and seconded by Mike Rust that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- f. The Chair reported that Council had held a BPA strategy and mission away day in February, and the Communications Committee had been asked to plan a consultation with members on the outcomes. He stated that one of the points that came up was to consider our identity as an Association and how it communicates our mission and values. Other sports promote themselves as British Cycling, British Rowing, British Judo, British Athletics, etc. So we could consult with our members on whether a brand name such as 'British Skydiving' for some of our activities might be something that members might more naturally identify with.

Imagine a car bumper sticker like "I love New York" which said "I [heart] British skydiving".

The flip side was that members might not love our regulatory function in quite the same way. So a question would be whether, if a new brand were to be introduced for the performance and participation side of the house, the regulatory function might be better served by its own distinct name to more clearly reflect its role - such as Safety and Training Board or even the "UK Skydiving Safety & Standards Board".

The Chair stated that he expects that the Communications Committee would be consulting with STC on this in due course.

However, in the meantime, he asked for CIs thoughts/views on this matter.

Following consideration, the general consensus of opinion from those present was to leave things as they were.

- g. The Chair asked STC for their opinion on whether or not they thought their Instructors would like the idea of having a sew on embroidered Instructor badges' on their jumpsuits. The consensus of opinion from those present seemed to be no, as most PTOs supply their Instructors with staff 'T' Shirts anyway.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 2 June 2016
at 7.00 p.m
Venue to be notified due to the planned BPA office re-furbishment

13 April 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 7th April 2016 the following amendment was made to the BPA Operations Manual:

SECTION 1 (CONDUCT AND CONTROL OF SPORT PARACHUTING), Paragraph 4 (Ground Control Organisation), sub-para 4.1.5. To read:

4.1.5. The check for all Student and BPA 'A' Licence parachutists must include a visual check to ensure that Automatic Activation Devices (AADs) are switched on.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-para 6.10.11 – 6.10.14. change to a) – d). Previous sub-para 6.10.15 & 6.10.16. becomes 6.10.11. & 6.10.12.

6.10.10. To obtain Grade 3 in Tracking (TR3) 'angle flying' the parachutist must be Grade 2 (TR2) and be introduced to TR3 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR3 Grade parachutist or equivalent of proven TR instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:

- a) Fly in a 'belly to earth' and 'back to earth' tracking position of more than 45 degrees without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading' utilising another TR3 parachutist as a guide for directional control.
- b) Control fall rate whilst in an angle flying position greater than 45 degrees.
- c) Control angled flight of angles greater than 45 degrees relative to others within the group, of no more than 4.
- e) Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.

6.10.11. Once TR3 has been obtained, the parachutist must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 6 without CI approval, (a log book endorsement will suffice).

6.10.12. The leader of the angle flying group must be in a belly to earth position. However, they can be on their backs only if they have another, specifically appointed experienced tracker over them who is belly to earth to assist in the directional control.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), N.B.(2) below new sub-para 6.10.12. To read:

N.B.(2) The qualifications to become a TR coach or BTR coach can be found on BPA Forms 134G & 134H respectively.

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructors), Previous sub-para 5.8. now becomes sub-para 5.7. Previous sub-para 5.7. is deleted, including N.Bs 1 – 4. New sub-para 5.8 to be included:

5.7. Tandem Instructor Currency

- 5.7.1. 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.

- 5.7.2. Prior to the above jump the TI must practise emergency procedures with the parachutist attached.
- 5.7.3. All current TIs must have practised Tandem Reserve Drills in a suspended harness within the previous 2 calendar months. 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.

5.8. Currency requirements to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera

- 5.8.1. Any TI wishing to continue jumping a hand/wrist mounted camera 12 months after first being cleared to do so must have made 100 hand/wrist mounted camera descents within the preceding 12 calendar months, otherwise they must again satisfy the initial requirements.
- 5.8.2. Any TI previously cleared to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera who has not made a Tandem descent within the preceding 3 months must either meet the requirements of 5.8.1. above, or be within 12 months of their initial Tandem hand/wrist mounted camera Clearance, and in each case they must make a jump with a hand/wrist mounted camera with a 'B' License parachutist before jumping a hand/wrist mounted camera with Tandem Students. The BPA 'B' Licence parachutist must be briefed on how to respond to Tandem emergencies.

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 13 (Non BPA Instructors): Previous sub-paras 13.1. and 13.2. become 13.1.1. and 13.1.2. New sub-para 13.2 (Advanced Instructor) To read:

13.2. Advanced Instructor

Non BPA instructors or foreign BPA instructors (excluding Tandem Instructors) who have not held a BPA instructor rating for a minimum of 3 years, wishing to become a BPA Advanced Instructor must be 'full' members of the BPA, be able to communicate adequately in spoken and written English, successfully complete a written examination on the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual, have received a Methods of Instruction, Drop Zone Management and a BPA Incident Procedures lecture, given by at least a BPA Advanced Instructor. Have a written recommendation from a CI prior to attending a BPA Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course. He/she must also fulfil the specific requirements to attend, below:

13.2.1. Required qualifications to attend:

- a. Hold a current non-BPA instructor rating, held for a minimum of 3 years, acceptable to the sport parachuting governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained.
- b. Holds a BPA CSI and/or BPA AFFI rating.
- c. Holds a BPA 'D' Licence.
- d. Has completed a night descent and display descent.
- e. Holds a current Parachuting Radio Operators Certificate of Competence.
- f. Hold a BPA Canopy Handling (CH) coach qualification.
- g. Hold a current BPA Declaration of Fitness to Parachute/Doctors Certificate (BPA form 114).

- h. At the start of the course, the candidate must have completed 60 descents in the previous two years.
- 13.2.2. Will be required to attend a Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course of up to a week in length organised by the STO or COO.
- 13.2.3. After completing the Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course, the candidate will be either advised to re-apply to attend another Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course after a minimum period of time, or will be recommended to attend an Advanced Instructor Examination Course for upgrading to Advanced Instructor after a period of time specified by the Instructor Examiners, but within a maximum of 18 months.
- 13.2.4. On successful completion of the Advanced Instructor Examination Course, two Instructor Examiners will sign the qualification of the candidate; he/she will then be awarded Advanced Instructor status.

N.B. The Training Syllabus for the above Advanced Instructor Course can be found on BPA Form 151a.

SECTION 5 (TRAINING), Paragraph 1 (General), Change to read:

All training and instruction must take place as required in the BPA Category System, the BPA Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) Levels, the BPA Grading System or Tandem Parachuting; and all such training and instruction shall be by suitably qualified BPA instructors.

SECTION 11 (MEDICAL), Paragraph 1 (Medical Requirements to Parachute), N.B. below sub-para 1.1.2. now below sub-para 1.1.4. Also new sub-para 1.1.3 and 1.1.4. To read:

- 1.1.3. **Form 115A. Student Tandem Parachutist Medical Information and Declaration** is for Student Tandem Parachutists who may be unable to meet the requirements of Form 114, above.
- 1.1.4. **Form 115B. Student Tandem Parachutist Request for Medical Advice** is Student Tandem Parachutists who may be unable to meet the requirements of Form 114 or Form 115A, above.

N.B. Student Tandem Parachutists may also use Forms 114 or 114A, but Forms 115A or 115B may be more appropriate.

Note: *Previous sub-para 1.1.4. becomes sub-para 1.1.5.*

SECTION 11 (MEDICAL), Paragraph 1 (Medical Requirements to Parachute), sub-para 1.3. Change to read:

- 1.3. In the case of persons of 40 years of age or more (excluding Student Tandem Parachutists) the Doctor's Certificate section must be completed.

SECTION 12 (DOCUMENTATION), Paragraph 1 (Personal Documents), sub para 1.1. To read:

- 1.1 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