

British Parachute Association

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Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 4 February 2016 at 1900

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

Present:	Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC
	Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
	Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
	Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee
	Paul Yeoman	-	Black Knights
	Paul Floyd	-	22 Tng Gp RAF
	Chris McCann	-	UK Parachuting (Sibson)
	Gary Stevens	-	LPS
	Nader Afsharian	-	Skydive Bad Lippspringe
	Steve Saunders	-	Skydive GB
	Mark Bayada	-	APA
	Andy Guest (from item 5)	-	Skydive Buzz

Apologies: Brucie Johnson, Dennis Buchanan, Bryn Chaffe, Iain Anderson, Dave Wood, Mike Rust, Jason Thompson, Matty Holford, Rob Spour, Richard Wheatley, Alex Busby-Hicks, Pete Sizer.

In Attendance:	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
	Paul Applegate	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee/Council
	Gordon Blamire	-	Council
	Dr John Carter	-	BPA Medical Adviser
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STC

Observers: Karen Saunders, Martin Cole, Phil Symons, Rick Boardman, Paul Stockwell, Henk Post, Dylan Bartle.

Jeff Montgomery reported that he had been elected as STC Chair at the Inaugural Council Meeting on 30 January 2016. He stated that to ensure the Committee retain John Hitchen's wisdom, he had asked him to take on the position of Vice-Chair of STC.

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 19 NOVEMBER 2015

It was proposed by Steve Saunders and seconded by Gary Stevens that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 19 November 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 19 NOVEMBER 2015

Page 1, Item 2 – (Matters Arising - Age Working Group). Mark Bayada (WG Chair)

reported that the Working Group was continuing with their work and gave STC a brief update on the progress so far. He stated that the WG were continuing to liaise with Dr John Carter (BPA Medical Adviser), together with the BPA Insurers and their legal advisers.

Mark Bayada reported that the draft copies of the Tandem Student Parachutist Medical Information & Declaration, together with the accompanying Doctors Notes had been produced, copies of which were tabled to those present. He stated that following discussion with the legal team today, a number of further recommendations would also require incorporating into the draft document.

Mark Bayada stated that the plan was to deal with each of the various Medical Declarations separately, and with this in mind, it was the intention of the WG to have a proposal for consideration of the Tandem Student Medical Declaration at the next STC meeting in April. A revised draft of the Tandem Student Medical Declaration would therefore be sent out to CIs and PTOs for comment and feedback prior the outgoing Agenda for the April meeting being circulated.

Mark Bayada stated that once the Tandem Student Medical Declaration has been accepted, and it had been used in the field for several months, any potential problems that may arise could then be ironed out before then considering proposals for the various other Medical Declarations.

Page 2, Item 2 – (Guidelines for Tracking and Angle Flying). This was a main agenda item.

Page 5, Item 5 – (Fatality, Bad Lippspringe). The Chair reported that the Panel of Inquiry formed following the fatality at Bad Lippspringe were continuing with their work and would hopefully have a report ready for consideration at the next STC meeting.

The Chair reported that the last paragraph on page 5 of the minutes for this item stated the following:

‘Both parachutists’ AADs had fired. These were sent back to the manufacturer to be analysed. They both showed that at approximately 780ft AGL there was an increase in descent rate, most likely to have been caused by the collision. After approximately 45 seconds Ali Woodford’s AAD then showed a severe increase in descent rate at approximately 460ft probably caused by him cutting away from his main canopy. The other parachutist’s AAD showed a severe increase in speed approximately 75 seconds after the collision at approximately 280ft AGL.’

This was taken from a draft of the report where the timings in seconds were incorrect and not from the report itself and not from the Report Resume that was sent to all CIs which was correct and which stated:

‘Both parachutists’ AADs had fired. These were sent back to the manufacturer to be analysed. They both showed that at approximately 780ft AGL there was an increase in descent rate, most likely to have been caused by the collision. After approximately 9 seconds Ali Woodford’s AAD then showed a severe increase in descent rate at approximately 460ft probably caused by him cutting away from his main canopy. The other parachutist’s AAD showed a severe increase in speed approximately 15 seconds after the collision at approximately 280ft AGL.’

3. RIGGERS’ SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 19 NOVEMBER 2015

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

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Paul Yeoman and seconded by Paul Floyd that the Minutes of the Riggers’ Subcommittee meeting of the 19 November 2015 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Committee had considered a Tandem equipment initial acceptance proposal. He stated that a number of

issues with the equipment and the proposed Tandem drills had been raised and that the proposal would be re-submitt

- a) Control fall rate and turn in place.
- b) Dive and approach a target and achieve docking techniques.
- c) Break-off turn and track away to obtain clear airspace for deployment.
- d) Maintain good altitude awareness throughout the skydive.
- e) Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).

6.10.2. The parachutist may then be introduced to TR (for TR1 training) 'belly to earth' by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR1, TR2 or 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 tracking position without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading'.
- b) Fly in a controlled tracking position relative to others in groups of no more than 4.
- c) Control fall rate in a tracking position.
- d) Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.

6.10.3. Once TR1 has been obtained, the parachutist must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 4 without CI approval, (a log book endorsement will suffice).

6.10.4. No Tracker in the group may fly on their backs unless they are at least a TR2 grade parachutist or training for TR2.

N.B. Parachutists training for TR1 and TR2 may not be in the same group.

6.10.5. In all cases no angle of greater than 45 degrees may be displayed in any tracking group of those not holding TR3 or training for TR3. Tracking groups and individuals within it must only fly at the angle dictated by the least experienced jumper.

6.10.6. To obtain Grade 2 in Tracking (TR2) 'back to earth' the parachutist must be Grade 1 (TR1) and be introduced to TR2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR2 or 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 tracking position without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading' utilising another TR Parachutist as a guide for directional control.
- b) Fly in a controlled tracking position relative to others in groups of no more than 4.
- c) Control fall rate in a tracking position.
- d) Control directional ability upon break off and deploy safely no lower than 3000ft AGL.

6.10.7. Once TR2 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).

6.10.8. The leader of the tracking group must be in a 'belly to earth' position. However, they may be on their backs only if they have another, specifically appointed experienced TR tracker over them who is 'belly to earth' to assist in the directional control.

- 6.10.9. In all cases no angle of greater than 45 degrees may be displayed in any tracking group of those not holding TR3 or training for TR3. Tracking groups and individuals within it must only fly at the angle dictated by the least experienced jumper.
- 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:
- 6.10.11. 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.
- 6.10.12. Control fall rate whilst in an angle flying position greater than 45 degrees.
- 6.10.13. Control angled flight of angles greater than 45 degrees relative to others within the group, of no more than 4.
- 6.10.14. Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.
- 6.10.15. 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).
- 6.10.16. 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.

N.B.(1) Training programmes such as those contained in the BPA Tracking Progression Manual are acceptable for training for TR1, TR2 & TR3, provided all the requirements of the above sub-paras are met.

N.B.(2) The qualifications to become a TR coach may be found on BPA Form 134G.

The Chair reported that there had been three minor changes since the proposal had been circulated; sub-paras; 6.10.2 (d), 6.10.6 (d) and 6.10.14, which now read: 'Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL'.

Paul Floyd advised those present that he was in the process of writing the Tracking Manual, which would be published as soon as possible.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Chris McCann and seconded by Steve Saunders that the new Tracking System for inclusion in the BPA Operations Manual, together with the Tracking Coach Application be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair reported that with any new coaching rating we will initially issue a number of ratings to those who are already coaching up to the standard required. Paul Floyd had put forward a number of names who would be issued with a Tracking Coach rating.

7. NEW DZ/PLA

The Chair reported that details of a new DZ/PLA had been circulated with the agenda. The location was at Dalton Barracks, Abingdon Airfield, Oxfordshire.

The site had been inspected by the BPA COO and STO on 10 December 2015 and falls within the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual for all categories of parachuting. Therefore the location does not need STC approval and was for information only.

The Committee was advised that Abingdon had been used in the past and is notified as a military DZ.

The Chair stated that the PTO will require to be affiliated to the BPA and the application will be for; Skydive Oxford and the Chief Instructor is Gary Stevens. Gary had provided full details in his correspondence.

8. **PERMISSIONS**

There had been no proposals received for any 'Permissions'.

9. **A.O.B**

- i) Circulated to those present was an e-mail from Kieran Brady seeking STC guidance regarding Rupert Connell. Kieran had stated that Rupert was one of his long term CSIs, who due to work commitments reluctantly let his rating lapse in 2014. Prior to that he had been a club instructor since 2004 and had been a very active and valuable asset to our club. He is an FS and CH coach and was also an advanced Packer. Rupert had resumed jumping again in august 2015 and was very keen to get back instructing again.

The Chair stated that when dealing with similar situations in the past when an Instructors rating has lapsed for around two years, STC have normally recommended that the person concerned re-attends a CSBI course, so that they he can receive up to date information, and if the Examiners feel that they are good enough, they could award them a CSI rating.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Nader Afsharian and seconded by Andy Guest that Rupert Connell re-attends a CSBI Course and that if the Examiners deem him good enough that he then be awarded a CSI rating.

For:10

Against: 0

Abstention: 1 (Kieran Brady)

Carried

- ii) The Chair reported that a typo in the BPA Operations Manual had been pointed out to us: Section 9 (Flying), *N.B.* below Paragraph (Pilot Qualifications), sub-para 1.2.6. states:

N.B. The minimum qualification for a parachutist to jump from a balloon is BPA 'A' Licence.

It should read 'B' Licence. The Operations Manual will be amended.

- iii) Ian Rosenvinge reported on a former member; Nigel Rogoff who was one of four military veterans to successfully complete a gruelling 3,000 mile challenge across the Atlantic. The men, who form the all-amputee Row 2 Recovery team, embarked on the 47-day trip to raise awareness of life beyond injury for servicemen and women.
- iv) The COO reported that the printed parachute equipment log books are now available to purchase from the BPA office at a cost of £3.00 per book plus postage & packing.
- v) Kieran Brady reported on a balloon pilot in Scotland that had provided false information and had since been prosecuted.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 7 April 2016
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester. LE2 9TF
at 7.00 p.m

8 February 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 4th February 2016 the following amendment was made to the BPA Operations Manual:

SECTION 2(DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF PARACHUTISTS). PARAGRAPH 6 (THE GRADING SYSTEM). NEW SUB-PARA 6.10 (TRACKING). TO READ:

6.10. Tracking (TR)

6.10.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Tracking (TR1) 'belly to earth' the parachutist must hold a BPA 'B' Licence and first demonstrate, in a belly to earth position (as in 6.4.1. above) the ability to:

- a) Control fall rate and turn in place.
- b) Dive and approach a target and achieve docking techniques.
- c) Break-off turn and track away to obtain clear airspace for deployment.
- d) Maintain good altitude awareness throughout the skydive.
- e) Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).

6.10.2. The parachutist may then be introduced to TR (for TR1 training) 'belly to earth' by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR1, TR2 or 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 tracking position without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading'.
- b) Fly in a controlled tracking position relative to others in groups of no more than 4.
- c) Control fall rate in a tracking position.
- d) Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.

6.10.3. Once TR1 has been obtained, the parachutist must not make TR descents in groups of larger than 4 without CI approval, (a log book endorsement will suffice).

6.10.4. No Tracker in the group may fly on their backs unless they are at least a TR2 grade parachutist or training for TR2.

N.B. Parachutists training for TR1 and TR2 may not be in the same group.

6.10.5. In all cases no angle of greater than 45 degrees may be displayed in any tracking group of those not holding TR3 or training for TR3. Tracking groups and individuals within it must only fly at the angle dictated by the least experienced jumper.

6.10.6. To obtain Grade 2 in Tracking (TR2) 'back to earth' the parachutist must be Grade 1 (TR1) and be introduced to TR2 by a CI/Advanced Instructor nominated TR2 or TR 3 Grade parachutist or equivalent of proven TR instructional ability, have received a full safety brief and demonstrated the ability to:

- a) Fly in a tracking position without noticeable change in fall rates or 'loss of heading' utilising another TR Parachutist as a guide for directional control.
 - b) Fly in a controlled tracking position relative to others in groups of no more than 4.
 - c) Control fall rate in a tracking position.
 - d) Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.
- 6.10.7. Once TR2 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).
- 6.10.8. The leader of the tracking group must be in a 'belly to earth' position. However, they may be on their backs only if they have another, specifically appointed experienced TR tracker over them who is 'belly to earth' to assist in the directional control.
- 6.10.9. In all cases no angle of greater than 45 degrees may be displayed in any tracking group of those not holding TR3 or training for TR3. Tracking groups and individuals within it must only fly at the angle dictated by the least experienced jumper.
- 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:
- 6.10.11. 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.
- 6.10.12. Control fall rate whilst in an angle flying position greater than 45 degrees.
- 6.10.13. Control angled flight of angles greater than 45 degrees relative to others within the group, of no more than 4.
- 6.10.14. Safely control directional ability upon break off and have a fully deployed main canopy by 3000ft AGL.
- 6.10.15. 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).
- 6.10.16. 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.

N.B.(1) Training programmes such as those contained in the BPA Tracking Progression Manual are acceptable for training for TR1, TR2 & TR3, provided all the requirements of the above sub-para. are met

N.B.(2) The qualifications to become a TR coach may be found on BPA Form 134G.

Note: Previous Paragraph 6.10. becomes 6.11.