

# British Parachute Association

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## Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Thursday 2 June 2016 at 1900**

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

**Present:**

Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC
John Hitchen	-	Vice Chair/Skydive GB
Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
Pete Sizer	-	Skydive Headcorn
Dave Wood	-	Cornish PC
Paul Yeoman	-	Black Knights
Billy Steele	-	Skydive St George
Mark Bayada	-	APA
Brucie Johnson	-	Blue Skies
Dennis Buchanan	-	Skydive North West
Ryan Mancey	-	Go Skydive
Ian Rosenvinge	-	Peterlee

**Apologies:** Chris McCann, Nader Afsharian, Andy Duncan, Carl Williams, Paul Floyd, Jim White, Mal Richardson, Rob Spour, Andy Guest, Mike Rust, Iain Anderson, Jay Webster, Alex Busby-Hicks, Stuart Meacock, Phil Collett, Matty Holford.

**In Attendance:**

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

**Observers:** Paul Stockwell, Mike Carruthers, Martin Cole, Becky Jarvis, Ian Batey, Phil Webley.

The Chair welcomed new CI; John Hitchen (Skydive GB).

### 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 7 APRIL 2016

It was proposed by Richard Wheatley and seconded by Billy Steele that the Minutes of the STC Meeting of the 7 April 2016 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 2.    MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 7 APRIL 2016

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

**3. RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 7 APRIL 2016**

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

It was therefore proposed by Brucie Johnson and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of the 7 April 2016 be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

Paul Applegate reported on the meeting held that afternoon and stated that the Subcommittee had discussed a Maintenance Information Bulletin submitted by Airtec regarding CYPRES maintenance. He stated that Airtec have stated that after 25 years of experience and continuous product improvement they have changed its maintenance requirements for CYPRES AAD units which have been manufactured after the 1 January 2016 from "mandatory" to "highly recommended".

Paul Applegate reported that the Riggers Subcommittee following consideration, had felt that nothing relevant had changed to warrant the BPA changing its stance on the current servicing requirements of CYPRES AADs and had agreed that the maintenance would remain mandatory as previously for all types of CYPRES AAD units. Therefore, any CYPRES AAD unit manufactured after 1 January 2016 must still adhere to the four-year maintenance cycle.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the BPA would also issue a Safety Information Bulletin to this effect.

Paul Applegate reported that the Riggers Subcommittee had also agreed that afternoon, to look at the system used for the reporting of rigging and packing related incidents.

**4. FATALITY – SKYDIVE BAD LIPPSRINGE**

The Chair reported that unfortunately, there had been a fatal accident at Skydive Bad Lippspringe (RAPA) on the 15 May 2016. The Board of Inquiry Report resume was sent to CIs within the last week. The resume was also tabled to those present:

At approximately 13.45 hours local time on Sunday 15 May 2016, Katja Friebe boarded a DO28/G92 aircraft (D-IMOB) along with fourteen other parachutists. This was the second lift of the day. The jump was to be a 14-way FS jump with video.

The aircraft climbed to approximately 13,500ft AGL. A 'jump run' was made over the PLA. Once the aircraft was at the exit point all skydivers exited the aircraft together. The freefall portion of the skydive went without incident. All parachutists were observed to have their parachutes open between 2-3,000ft AGL. All parachutes appeared to deploy normally.

All parachutists, other than Katja landed without injury within the DZ and onto the notified PLA. Katja's parachute was observed to partially deflate close to the ground and make a radical turn just prior to impacting heavily with the ground.

Medical assistance was given to Katja within a few seconds of her impacting with the ground. CPR was carried out until she was removed by medical helicopter. She was later pronounced dead at the hospital she was taken to.

A BPA Board of Inquiry was immediately instigated. The members of the Board were; Tony Butler – Chief Operating Officer and Mark Bayada – Instructor Examiner.

Katja Friebe was fifty-one years of age. She was a member of the German Parachuting Federation (DFV). She had carried out approximately 1,500 jumps prior to the accident, 8 of which were in the previous 3 months.

The Conclusions of the Board are that Katja made an uneventful free fall descent. She deployed her main parachute at a correct altitude. There was no indication that her parachute was not flying correctly, until she had turned into wind for landing. At which time part of her canopy appeared to deflate. She may have depressed a steering toggle in an effort to re-

inflate the canopy. However, this may have exacerbated the problem, resulting in turning the canopy radically, causing a fast hard landing.

The wind speed was quite high, but within limits. However, more than one of the other parachutists had experienced turbulence close to the ground, which may have caused Katja's high performance parachute to partially deflate.

Katja weighed approximately 70 kilograms. The manufacturer of the canopy recommends a minimum exit weight for the jumper at 85 kilograms. This may have made this type of high performance canopy more liable to partial deflation in turbulent conditions.

The Recommendations of the Board are that parachutists jumping high performance canopies should be fully conversant with the flying characteristics of their canopies and consider manufacturers' guidance on weight limits.

Both Tony Butler and Mark Bayada (Board Members) were present this evening and were able to answer any questions relating to the Report.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Billy Steele and seconded by Dave Wood that the Board of Inquiry report, including the conclusions and recommendations be accepted.

For: 10                      Against: 0                      Abstention: 1 (Mark Bayada)

**Carried**

The Chair reported that it was Council policy that a Panel of Inquiry is formed to investigate peripheral aspects of a Board of Inquiry following a parachuting fatality. However, in this instance the Board believe that it was not necessary and recommend that a Panel is not instigated.

It was therefore proposed by Paul Yeoman and seconded by Richard Wheatley that a Panel of Inquiry not be instigated.

For: 10                      Against: 0                      Abstention: 1 (Mark Bayada)

**Carried**

## **5. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUME**

- i) There had been 13 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 8 male and 5 female. All on landing.
- ii) Since the last meeting there had been 18 Injury Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 11 male and 7 female. One whilst exiting the aircraft. One on deployment. The rest on landing, including a jumper on a canopy handling course who carried out a low turn.

The Chair reported that over the past few years there had been a number of injuries on these types of courses. He stated that he believed in his opinion, it appeared that the problem could be that instead of getting coaching and then carrying out the jump that has been coached immediately, the weather may prevent jumping and the jumper is then coached on the next level. Therefore, jumpers may be coached on several levels before jumping, which could result in them having too much information, which may cause confusion under canopy.

- iii) There had been 4 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. All male.
- iv) There had been 46 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 40 male and 6 female.
- v) Since the last STC there had been 11 Tandem Injury reports received. 7 male and 4 female. The reports included a jump where both the Tandem Instructor and Student were injured upon landing. Both sustained fractured vertebrae.
- vi) There had been 10 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports received.

- vii) Two reports had been received of a AAD firings. The first was a jumper with 122 jumps who lost altitude awareness while carrying out a solo head-down jump. His AAD (Vigil) fired just as he deployed his main canopy. The second involved a parachutist with 512 jumps who had been jumping in California and noticed his AAD (Vigil) was still on when he checked his kit prior to jumping back in the UK. He did not reset the AAD and it fired at approximately 3,000ft. He had been jumping at a Californian DZ whose altitude was around 2,000ft above sea level.
- viii) Two reports had been received of canopy entanglements. The first was whilst carrying out a CF jump. The second was for a canopy collision just after deployment. One of the jumpers had to cutaway. There was also a report received of a canopy near-miss where one parachutist under canopy turned towards another at approximately 1,100ft. The CI has included this as part of his Safety Management System, including the actions he has taken. It is recommended that all CIs consider recording near-misses as part of their SMS.
- ix) There had been 31 'off landings' reports received since the last meeting. Including Tandems and other student jumpers.
- x) Five reports had been received of items coming off jumpers on exit or in free fall. 2 cameras, a helmet and 2 trainers.
- xi) Three reports had been received concerning aircraft. The first report was for an aircraft overflying a DZ whilst 8 parachutists were in the air. Some above and some below the aircraft. A report has been sent to the CAA. The other 2 reports were of bird strikes. One on take-off, the other on landing. No damage to either.

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

The Chair reported that at the last Tandem Working Group meeting of the 5 April 2016 the members recommended a change to one of the requirements for Tandem Instructors to jump a hand/wrist mounted camera, which is that the TI must carry out 2 hand/wrist mounted camera jumps using a sport parachute rig prior to jumping the camera with Tandem equipment. The Working Group believe it would be more beneficial if the two jumps are carried out using Tandem equipment with a suitable container instead.

Therefore, the Tandem Working Group had suggested that the Operations Manual be amended as follows:

### **SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.6.3. be changed to read:**

- 5.6.3. Prior to jumping with a 'B' Licence parachutist the TI must make a minimum of 2 descents with a hand/wrist mounted camera on Tandem equipment using a suitable container.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dave Wood that the above proposed amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 11 (incl 1 by proxy)      Against: 1 (Ryan Mancey)      Abstentions: 0

**Carried**

## **7. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 02/2016**

The Association wished to thank Skydive Strathallan for hosting Instructor Course 2-2016. Which took place from the 8 – 16 May. The course report went out with agenda.

There were two recommendations from the report which required STC acceptance:

- i) At the Safety & Training Committee meeting held on Thursday the 4 of June 2015 a request was made by Ian Rosenvinge to permit Jimmy White to gain his Tandem Instructor Ground rating. The Committee had felt that Jimmy would benefit from



## **AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

At the STC meeting of the 2 June 2016 the following amendment was made to the BPA Operations Manual:

### **SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS), Paragraph 5 (Tandem Instructor), sub-para 5.6.3. be change to read:**

- 5.6.3. Prior to jumping with a 'B' Licence parachutist the TI must make a minimum of 2 descents with a hand/wrist mounted camera on Tandem equipment using a suitable container.