

# British Parachute Association

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## Riggers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Thursday 7 April 2011 at 1600**

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

<b>Present:</b>	Paul Applegate	-	Chairman
	Dave Major		
	Paul Stockwell		
	Bernadette Whitaker		
	Gerry Cepelak (NV)		
	NV – Non Voting Member		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Tony Butler, Pete Sizer, Rick Boardman, Chris Gilmore, John Curtis, Richard Wheatley.		
<b>In Attendance:</b>	John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO

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### ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 10 FEBRUARY 2011**

**Page 3, Item 6 – Proposed Cutter Relocation.** Paul Stockwell reported that he had been liaising with the PIA on the work they are conducting with regard to cutter relocation. He stated that some participating AAD manufacturers together with harness/container manufacturers were in the process of developing a standardised testing protocol for AAD/harness/container compatibility. This was being spearheaded by the PIA technical committee.

Paul stated that he would continue to liaise with the PIA and will report back to the Committee with any progress.

**Page 3, Item 7 – Proposed Record of Inspection Standard.** At the previous meeting, Paul Stockwell and Richard Wheatley had agreed to work together on producing a draft information sheet/guideline to accompany the Record of Inspection (ROI). Unfortunately Richard had been unable to be present that afternoon. A draft of the guidelines that they had prepared had been circulated to those present for information.

Paul Stockwell referred to the draft document and reported that there were still a number of minor details that still needed to be addressed, after which a final draft of the proposed information sheet/guideline would be circulated with the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

**Page 4, Item 9 – Rigging Course Report.** Kim Newton had notified the office that Matt Abram had now presented himself to Kim Newton's rigging facility to complete his course work in order for him to be examined on his PR rating. Matt had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Parachute Rigger status. Kim Newton had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Dave Major and seconded by Paul Stockwell that Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of 10 February 2011 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 10 FEBRUARY 2011**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

**3. DISCUSSION PAPER REGARDING TANDEM EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

A discussion paper from Bill Sharp had been circulated with the Agenda concerning Tandem Equipment Inspection (BPA Forms 112a, 112b & 112C). Comments to Bill Sharp's paper had been received from Chris Gilmore, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Bill Sharp had stated in his paper that he felt the 100 jump inspection book be given a revamp at its next re-print. He had included a suggested new format for the book which he felt would make for a better and easier to use system.

The Committee considered Bill Sharp's paper and they believed his suggestions had some merit. Those present were in support of a system that reduced the amount of paperwork, but retained its purpose.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Paul Stockwell and seconded by Dave Major that before the next 100 jump inspection book was due for re-print that the Committee look at simplifying the current system/paperwork.

**Carried Unanimously**

**4. OTHER TANDEM PAPERWORK RELATED ITEMS**

Bill Sharp had highlighted a number of other Tandem related items, which had been covered by the Committee in Item 3 above. It was felt by those present that they could take into account these points when they were considering the paperwork for Tandem.

**5. WORKING GROUP INTO EQUIPMENT INSPECTION POLICIES**

An update from Rick Boardman had been received, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Rick Boardman had not been able to be present at the meeting that afternoon, but he had stated that at the previous meeting of the Working Group, there had been a suggestion that it may be time to consider not having an Operations Manual rule overriding that of the manufacturers. He had stated that the CCIs/DZ Operators present were going to review their operation, with a view to functioning with no such BPA rule. Rick had stated that to date he had received no input from anyone, as to whether they felt they could or could not operate in such a scenario. He hoped that in two months time, there would be something more to report.

Some discussion then took place by those present regarding the way forward with this item and a number of issues were considered. The Committee felt that they could only really move on with item when Rick Boardman could be present.

**6. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS**

- i) An Advanced Packers (Round) conversion Course had taken place at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 20 February 2011. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report,

a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Andy Hughes successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R) status.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had taken place at the Joint Services Parachute Centre, Netheravon from the 21 – 24 February 2011. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course had been attended by Ricky Davies and Chris Davidson. Both candidates had been advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date.

The Committee were advised that Ricky Davies had now attended the Examination phase of the Course at JSPC Netheravon from the 21 – 22 March 2011. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Ricky had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had taken place at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 10 – 11 March 2011. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Lucy Smith-Wildey had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- iv) An Advanced Packers (Round) Conversion Course had taken place at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 16 – 19 March 2011. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Brian Dyas had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R) status.
- v) An Advanced Packers (Tandem) Conversion Course had taken place at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 28 – 31 March 2011. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Brian Dyas had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status.

## **7. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

There had been no BPA Safety Notices of Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting.

## **8. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

- i) A Service Bulletin had been issued by MarS dated 11 September 2011 regarding Check of Ripcord Handle Pins, a copy of which had been previously circulated.
- ii) The Chairman reported that over the past three years, and particularly in the last several months, there had been documented reports from the field of Argus AAD firings where there was a failure to cut the reserve locking loop. Aviacom, the manufacturer of the Argus AAD, had been contacted concerning some of these incidents and, to our knowledge they had not yet identified the root cause of the problem, nor had they suggested a solution.

In light of the above, multiple Service Bulletins had been issued by manufacturers withdrawing the approval of the installation of Argus AADs in their harness/container systems. A number of Parachuting Organisations had also grounded the use of the Argus AAD in all parachuting equipment.

The Committee was advised that all of these Bulletins and further information relating to the Argus AAD could be found on the PIA website:

<http://www.pia.com/TechnicalSpecialPage.htm>

The Committee discussed this matter at some length and it was felt by those present that that the BPA should take a stand on this issue particularly due to the lack of any response from the Argus manufacturers.

Following further discussion, it was agreed by those present that the Riggers Committee recommend to STC that the BPA suspend the use of the Argus AAD subject to a satisfactory solution to this problem and that a BPA Safety Notice be issued to this effect.

**9. A.O.B.**

- i) The Committee were advised that Ray Armstrong had registered Christine Downer as a Method 2 Basic Rigger.
- ii) The Chairman reported that an update to the Index of Safety Notices had been prepared, a copy of which had been circulated to those present:

**Safety File Index**

(49). MarS

**(1) BPA Safety Notice Index**

76. ARGUS AAD grounded SN 1/10, 17/11/10

**(2) BPA Safety Information Index**

99. Argus Cutter replacement SI 1/10, 26/11/10

**(3) Australian Parachute Federation**

85. Ripcord Pin Test. SBAPF 27/04/2010

**(6) Rigging Innovations**

24. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval  
in Rigging Innovation Products SB 1548 21/3/11

**(12) United Parachute Technologies (Formerly Relative Workshop)**

58. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval in UPT Products. SB 20110322.  
22/03/11

**(15) Strong Enterprises**

31. Withdrawal of Argus AAD in Dual Hawk Tandem System P/N 103000  
through 103005 and Strong Enterprises solo skydiving Systems. SB31.  
29/3/2011.

**(18) Jump Shack Index**

28. Racer Tandem Flex pin 7/07
29. Reserve extraction forces – inspection 7/10

**(24) Sunpath**

13. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval in Javelin, Javelin Odyssey, Javelin Legacy, Student Javelin and Student Odyssey. SPSB00622/03/11

**(31) Parachute Australia (PA) Safety Systems**

6. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval in Talon or Telesis Harness and Container System manufactured by Parachutes Australia. PASB1101 22/03/11

**(35) Aerodyne**

4. Student Rigs (S7,S8,S9) throwaway modification required SB 25/06/09
5. Sky hook tuck flap modification (mandatory) SB 14/01/11
6. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval in Icon Harness & Container Systems. SB 25/03/11.

**(38) Airtec**

11. Loop must go through cutter! RSN 29/10/10

**(39) Mirage Systems**

6. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval in Mirage Systems Harness and Container assemblies. SB 03-11. 24/03/11

**(40) Parachute Systems (Formerly Chute Shop South Africa)**

2. Withdrawal of Argus AAD Approval in Vortex, Vortex 2, Student Vortex 2, Condor Military Vortex 2. PSSB0003. 23/03/11

**(43) Paratec**

4. Paratec Statement regarding the use of AADs in Next Harness Container Systems. 30/03/11

**(46) Aviacom /Argus**

3. Cutter recall (8.07 and earlier) SB 050910/2
4. Argus Grounded SN 1/10 17.11.10
5. Cutters to be replaced prior to next jump (8.10 and earlier) SI 1/10 26.11.10 (replaces SN 1/10)
6. Manual Update: Batteries to be replaced at every repack.

**(47) Basik Air Concept**

3. Withdrawal of Argus AAD approval in Advance OUT, Advance IN and Advance Tandem Harness & Container Systems. SB 14/06/09
4. Basik Air Concept Statement regarding the use of AADs in all Advance Harness & Container systems. 31/03/11

**(49) MarS**

1. MarS Ripcord Handle Pins. 11/09/2010

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 9 June 2011  
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester  
at 4.00 p.m

13 April 2011

**Distribution:**

Chairperson Riggers Committee  
All CCIs  
All Riggers  
Advanced Packers  
Council  
CAA  
Editor - Skydive

**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY FRIDAY 20 MAY 2011**