

British Parachute Association

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Riggers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 9 February 2012 at 1600

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

Present:	Paul Applegate	-	Chairman
	Dave Major		
	Paul Stockwell		
	Noel Purcell		
	Pete Sizer		
Apologies:	John Curtis, Kim Newton, George Panagopoulos, Bernadette Whitaker.		
In Attendance:	John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO
Observers:	Alex Busby-Hicks		

ITEM

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman of STC took the Chair for the election of a Chairperson. He invited nominations.

Pete Sizer proposed, and Dave Major seconded, a motion to elect Paul Applegate as Chairperson of the Riggers' Committee. Paul stated that he was willing to accept the nomination. The Chairman of STC asked if there were any other nominees, and there were none.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate duly took the Chair.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 24 NOVEMBER 2011

Page 1, Item 1 – (Connector Link). The Chairman of STC reported that no further information had been obtained regarding the connector link problem, as he had been unable to contact the Instructor concerned.

Page 2, Item 3 – Re-organisation of Rigging Forms/Information on BPA Website. Noel Purcell reported on the progress so far. Noel had produced a draft web page article for inclusion on the BPA website, a copy of which was circulated for consideration. The idea was to be able to locate all rigging related documents and forms in one area on the website.

The Committee felt that a copy of Noel's draft document should be circulated with the Minutes with a request for further input and comment.

Page 4 Item 8 – AOB (ii). Andy Page's Tandem modification request was a main agenda for this evening.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Paul Stockwell and seconded by Noel Purcell that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of 24 November 2011 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETINGS OF THE 24 NOVEMBER 2011

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the above STC meetings.

4. STRONG DUAL HAWK TANDEM EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A Student Parachutist Equipment Change Proposal application had been received from Andy Page, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda together with the relevant paperwork and drawings.

At the previous meeting, Andy Page had reported that following a cut away on a Strong Dual Hawk Tandem system where the RSL was suspected of causing a hang-up of the cutaway main and near main and reserve entanglement. On inspection it was found that the RSL tuck tab had broken stitches at the point of strain where it should pull free. This may have been exacerbated by the Tandem pair dropping away back to earth, which causes the tuck tab to be pulled at the wrong angle to release easily.

Andy Page had made a change to the stitch pattern on the RSL, which allowed extra flexibility and easier release of the RSL in the back to earth position. Andy had informed the manufacturers of this and they had approved his modification. The manufacturers had also stated that they would conduct further tests to check out the possible problem. The Committee had accepted the modification for use by Andy Page only on the basis that the modification had been approved by the manufacturer.

The Committee had asked that Andy Page submit the appropriate paperwork and drawings to enable the modification to be considered by the Committee for inclusion on the list of BPA approved Tandem modifications.

It was proposed by Andy Page and seconded by Dave Major that the above modification be accepted for general use.

Carried Unanimously

5. RIGGERS COURSE REPORT

GENERAL

On behalf of the BPA, the Course Examiners wished to thank Commandant JSPC (N) Major Rich Molloy and APA Secretary Mike Smith, for their kind permission to host the Rigging Course and allowing the rigging room and other facilities at the Centre to be used by the course from 8 to 13 January 2012.

A total of 8 people attended the course, which consisted of 3 Basic Riggers, 3 Parachute Riggers, 1 Advanced Rigger and 1 Examiner Rigger.

The Course was notified to and approved by the BPA Riggers' Committee at the meeting of the 24th November 2011.

THE BASIC RIGGERS COURSE

There were 3 candidates for the BR Course. The course started on Sunday 8 January and continued until Thursday 12 January 2012.

Throughout the week, the candidates were given the formal lessons on subjects from the BR Syllabus. In addition, the required emphasis of hands-on rigging was achieved. Individual instruction and support was available as and when necessary. All candidates achieved a great deal within the 5-day course and were always busy.

The BR candidates were all successful and were awarded Basic Rigger status. The candidates were:

Simon Nath	BPA 426166
Charles Lawson	BPA 909370
Darren Stuart	BPA 1018421

All candidates were briefed on aspects of the probationary period of their BR rating including -

- The items they must bring back for the PR course, as listed on the PR syllabus. This includes the necessary logs and records for all the work they undertake during their training.
- The requirement to pass the PR written test prior to continuing with the course.
- The standards of work required on the PR course.
- The importance of maximizing practice and experience during the probationary period.

Full course reports have been sent to the BPA office, with a copy for candidates and their supervising rigger.

THE PARACHUTE RIGGERS COURSE

There were 3 candidates for the PR Course, which started on Monday 9 January and continued until Friday 13 January 2012.

The candidates were given a written test at the start of the course and assessed on their submitted items. They spent the course manufacturing further items from the PR syllabus.

All candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The candidates were:

Mark Bayada	BPA 566391
Karen Saunders	BPA 938089
Andy Shaw	BPA 622380

Full course reports have been sent to the BPA office with a copy for candidates and their supervising riggers.

NB It should be recorded that one candidate presented a static line bag, which was apparent had been made on their BR course. This scored a mark of 0% for this submission, since this implied no progress or practice had been undertaken on that item during the BR probationary period. Future candidates and supervising riggers should ensure that all required items brought on exam courses are made during the training period after the BR course.

THE ADVANCED RIGGER COURSE

There was one candidate on the AR Course, which started on Monday 9 January and continued until Thursday 12 January 2012.

The candidate presented his pre-made course submissions and received a written test on Monday morning. Over the course, the candidate undertook AR course syllabus projects. The candidate was successful and was awarded Advanced Rigger status -

Andy Hughes BPA 903210

Full course reports have been sent to the BPA office, with a copy going to the candidate.

THE RIGGER EXAMINER COURSE

There was one candidate attending the final part of his Rigger Examiner course. George Panagopoulos BPA 732477 was attending the (final) Part 3 of his Examiner rating, teaching and running on a BR course.

Previous qualifying periods -

Part 1 Cleared to run AP courses at meeting of 11 February 2010, following running AP course with Rigger Examiner at the North London Skydiving Centre from the 11 – 14 January 2010

Part 2 Successfully attended PR course as Examiner candidate RAPA January 2011

George led the instruction in 4 of the BR syllabus lessons as required, and provided assistance to candidates for other parts of the course. He also assisted the Examiners with the marking of all the course items for the BR, PR and AR courses.

George has been working with the Examiners in advance of the course in refining the Rigging Question exam pool and provided the requisite questions as part of this. His submitted paper on the Organization of a Loft for Rigging courses was accepted, but will be further refined following the experience of actually running these courses.

The Examiners were satisfied with George's overall performance and he was debriefed fully. Both Examiners have no hesitation in awarding George be awarded the Rigger Examiner rating.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COURSE EXAMINERS

Several subjects arose in discussion during the week, which the Examiners will submit, in due course to the Committee for further consideration.

SUMMARY

The course was a great success, where the candidates were kept very busy and were able to fully demonstrate their rigging skills for assessment. The loft has not been used previously for a BPA Rigging Course, but this was not apparent at any time as no problems were encountered.

It should be recorded that the pre-course work and on-site support during the course by George Panagopoulos was significant and this BPA course would have been entirely different without George's efforts in getting the APA loft ready for the course.

The Committee wished to thank George Panagopoulos and Kim Newton for running this Course.

6. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course was held at Netheravon from the 24 – 25 November 2011. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Stu Storey successfully attended the Course and has been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Training Course was held at Netheravon from the 5 – 8 December 2011. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Sam Cady, Dan Whitby and Jos Clark all of whom were advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course was held at Netheravon from the 1 – 2 February 2012. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Nick Spiller successfully attended the Course and has been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Skydive Headcorn from the 16 – 19 January 2012. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Mary Barratt, Dennis McTaggart and Karl Peart all of whom were advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date.

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

There had been no BPA Safety Notice or Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting:

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

- i) An Advisory Notice had been circulated from UPT concerning the inspection of the top diagonal attachment point on all Sigma Sport Tandem Systems.

Some concern expressed by the Committee that this was the same fault found on Vector 3 Sport and SE Student Harness/Container Systems last year, and stressed the importance to jumpers of checking this area for broken stitching.

- ii) A Service Bulletin had been circulated from Precision Aerodynamics and concerned a flight trip check for Xaos-27 canopies manufactured between 01 Oct 2010 and 15 Apr 2011.

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

- i) Correspondence had been received from Andy Hughes concerning Cypres loops, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Andy had reported that he had come across quite a few "long" closing loops with lots of bulk added under the disc. Although the practice of putting extra excess Cypres material under the disc to shorten the closing loop had been fairly common for many years (generally with a single bight of Cypres material), now 4 and 6 strands seem to be popping up more. Andy Hughes had contacted Airtec and their official view was that this practice was not recommended.

The Committee also agreed this was poor practice and not a recommended method by the manufacturers.

- ii) Pete Sizer had updated the Index of World Wide Safety Notices & Information Bulletins:

(7) Precision Aerodynamics

3. Xaos 27 Line Trim. SB 111214 14.12.11

(12) United Parachute Technologies (formerly Relative Workshop)

59. Vector 3 Diagonal attachment stitching inspection. SB20110523
23.5.11

60. Sigma Diagonal attachment stitching inspection. SB20111109
9.11.11

(44) Vigil / Advanced Aerospace Designs

11. Magnet test for missing blade. Cutters manufactured Oct 2007.
SB#6,7,8 5.10.11

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 April 2012
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

14 February 2012

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 23 MARCH 2012