

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 8 APRIL 2004**

**Present:** Paul Applegate - Chairman  
Kim Newton  
Pat Walters  
Bernadette Whitaker

**Apologies:** John Curtis, Allan Hewitt, Gary Lawry.

**In Attendance:** Tony Butler - Technical Officer  
John Hitchen - NCSO  
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

**Observers:** Dave Major, Jeff Illidge, Mike Rust.

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**ITEM**

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 5 FEBRUARY 2004**

**Page 6, Item 13 – AOB (vii).** At the previous meeting the Committee had accepted a Student RTS Mirage AFF rig for acceptance for use in the UK subject to it being checked by an Advanced Rigger and the BPA office being notified. The Chairman confirmed that the equipment had now been inspected and the office notified accordingly.

There being no further matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Bernadette Whitaker that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting of the 5 February 2004 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 FEBRUARY 2004**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. **PROPOSAL FROM PAT WALTERS**

Pat Walters had submitted a proposal with regard to changing the packing requirements to attend a Basic Rigging Course, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Pat Walters had proposed that any person wanting to attend a Basic Parachute Rigging Course must already hold reserve packing certificates for a Square (S), Tandem reserve (T) and must obtain the packing certificate for a round reserve (R) before they can attend their final Rigging Examination Course.

The Chairman advised the Committee that a letter had been received from the Bill Sharp, which was circulated to those present, which included his proxy vote against this proposal and his reasons why. Proxy votes against Pat's proposal had also been received from Ian Robertson, John Curtis, John Bishop and Andrew Hilton and Allan Hewitt, which were also circulated to those

present.

The general feeling from the correspondence received was that although they did agree with the intent of someone holding an AP (Tandem) rating before being allowed to pack Tandem reserves. There was already a shortage of riggers in the UK and it was felt that to increase the requirements to become a rigger would only increase Advanced Packers reluctance to become riggers, when the Committee should be encouraging more riggers.

Following further discussion by those present, it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Kim Newton that that the above proposal be accepted.

For: 2                      Against: 7 (incl. 6 by proxy)                      Abstentions: 0

**Not Carried**

Pat Walters voiced his concern on the number of proxy votes that had been received on this item. He suggested that perhaps the Committee should once again consider that any rigger not having attended a minimum number of riggers meeting waives his/her right to a proxy vote.

The Committee noted Pat Walters concerns on this matter.

**4. PROPOSALS FROM ANDREW HILTON**

Following the acceptance of the Technical Manual, Andrew Hilton had proposed a number of updates to the contents of the Manual, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

As the Technical Manual is a listing of rules recorded in the past, there were several inappropriate or outdated ones that Andrew would like to see withdrawn and therefore he had proposed the following updates in the sections mentioned below:-

**In the MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS section on Riggers Packing Certificates**

This currently reads "Riggers shall have 'All Types' added to packing certificate when qualified. Existing riggers should have this added by an Advanced Rigger."

Andrew had proposed that this should be updated to state that:-

"Riggers qualified before 1996 should have had 'All Types' added to packing certificate by an Advanced Rigger. Riggers qualified since 1996 pack under their specific Advanced Packer Rating qualifications and certificates."

**Also currently listed -**

"4. A listing of those qualified to run the teaching and examination phases of Advanced Packer Courses is held at the BPA office. Andrew had asked if such a list actually exists.

Following some discussion on this matter, it was confirmed that no such list exists as such. It was therefore, felt by those present that a list of names of those currently qualified to run the teaching and examination phases of the Advanced Packer Courses be recorded in the Minutes.

Therefore the names of all those currently qualified to run the teaching and examination phases of the Advanced Packer Courses were as follows:-

Paul Applegate  
Roy Bannerman  
Dave Chapman  
John Curtis

Allan Hewitt

Andrew Hilton  
Albert Hooker  
Geoff Hughes  
Gary Lawry  
Kim Newton  
Ian Robertson  
Bill Sharp  
Pete Sizer  
Chris Thomas

Therefore it was felt that the quote in the Manual could stay in.

**In TECHNICAL ITEMS on 3-Ring Risers, RSL shackles**

This currently reads "Anyone wishing to change from the brass shackle to the Rapide link on student equipment should make a request to the Riggers Committee for acceptance."

Andrew had proposed that this should be updated to state that:-

"3. Swedish shackles and Rapide links are acceptable for use as RSL connectors"

Some discussion ensued on this item, during which Kim Newton stated that she believed that when the Committee first accepted the use of Rapide links it was agreed that they should be at least #4's.

The Committee were unable to confirm if this had been the intention or not. They accepted Andrew Hilton's re-wording of this item, but requested that he be asked to clarify the point raised by Kim Newton.

**In TECHNICAL ITEMS on Bungies**

This currently reads "Note that the doubling of rubber bands is bad practice and that the correct sized band should be used instead."

Andrew had proposed that this be **completely removed**. He had stated that it is implicit in all our other rules and prudent that we go with either the manufacturer's recommendations or the CCIs requirements for the equipment in question.

Andrew Hilton had also listed a number of other matters for the Committee's attention-

a) With the introduction of Form 237 "BPA Rigging Loft Minimum Criteria", there are now updates required to the remaining Rigger syllabuses to incorporate that document. Unless anyone objected, Andrew would like to do this and present to the next meeting in June.

The Committee raised no objection to this.

b) Several people have mentioned to Andrew the value of a summary listing of all the relevant BPA rigging related documents after all the recent updates and re-writes. Again, unless the committee objected, Andrew would like to do this also for the next meeting in June.

The Committee raised no objection to this.

Following consideration of each of the above proposals, it was proposed by Andrew Hilton and seconded by Kim Newton that these proposals be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously.**

**5. PROPOSALS FROM BILL SHARP**

Two proposals had been received from Bill Sharp for clearances for modifications to Student type equipment, which had been circulated with the agenda together with the relevant paperwork and drawings.

- i) The first proposal involved Rigging Innovations Telesis Equipment (S/L Direct Bag, FF cable pull). This modification was simply to make a main container slightly larger by increasing the bottom flap area by, in this case 2”.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Bill Sharp (proxy) and seconded by Kim Newton that the above proposal be accepted.

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

**Carried**

- ii) The second proposal involved the RWS Tandem Sigma Student Harness. This modification is to add some tape extension handles to the existing passenger harness quick release buckles, for ease of release by the Tandem Instructor.

Bill Sharp had stated that this modification had been approved in the past (15 Feb 2001), for the Tandem Vector Student harness. This request was for the same modification, but the Tandem Sigma, which was not in use then.

As the method that the Committee had already approved was given a ‘blanket’ approval, then why could not the Tandem Sigma be included in that ‘blanket’ approval.

The Committee were a little confused as to Bill’s request and the Chairman agreed to contact him on this matter.

## **6. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS**

- i) The Chairman advised those present that an Advanced Packer Course Report had been received from Kim Newton, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda. George Panagopoulos had attend the training course at Chatteris from the 18 – 21 December 2003, he had then successfully attended the examination course at Chatteris from the 16 – 17 February 2004 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course Report had been received from Gary Lawry, which had been circulated with the Agenda. Robert Brown had undergone Advanced Packer training between the 5 August 2003 and 9 February 2004. He had then successfully completed the Examination Course, which was held at JSPC (Netheravon) between the 11 – 18 February 2004 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- iii) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been received by John Curtis, which had been circulated with the Agenda. Zuzana Tillner and Mike Evans had attended the Course at Curtis Rigging Services from he 23 – 26 February 2004. Both candidates were advised to return at a later date for final examination. Mike Evans successfully completed the Examination Course, which was held at Curtis Rigging Services from the 16 – 17 March 2004 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

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

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

## 8. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

The Committee was advised that Rob Noble-Nesbitt had advised the office of a problem that he had encountered with the Dolphin Container system (serial no. 9586) manufactured in December 1995, which had previously been circulated for information. He had also supplied photographs of the suspension line caught on a snap button, which had also been circulated.

## 9. A.O.B

- i) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been received from Chris Thomas, which had been circulated to those present. Jeff Illidge had attended a 4 day Advanced Packer Course at Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE) from the 1 – 4 March 2004. He then successfully completed the Examination Course at TSE on the 22 March 2004 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- ii) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been received from Chris Thomas, which had been circulated to those present. Ian Cashman had attended a 4 day Advanced Packer Course at Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE) from the 8 – 12 March 2004. He then successfully completed the Examination Course at TSE from the 24 – 25 March 2004 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R & S) status.
- iii) The Committee was advised that Allan Hewitt had advised the office that he would be running an Advanced Packers Course at Skydive St Andrews from the 21 – 24 April 2004.
- iv) The Chairman advised those present that a letter had been received from Bill Sharp, which had been circulated to those present applying for formal permission to run two rigging courses later this year, at RAPA in Germany. The course dates (provisionally) will be over the following periods:-

**29 Nov – 3 December 2004 and 6 – 10 December 2004**

Bill had stated that he believed there is enough interest out there for both courses to be reasonably full, however if insufficient numbers apply, the two will be made into one, with the preferred date confirmed nearer the time. The course(s) are intended to be open to all types of upgrades (with final juggling once all options are known).

Bill had asked all people who are interested in any way, to get in contact with him as soon as possible at [Bsharp2440@aol.com](mailto:Bsharp2440@aol.com) with their preferred date options. This also included people from last years' course who want to return for the PR phase.

- v) A letter had been received by Allan Hewitt, which was circulated to those present. Allan had stated that during the Riggers meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2003 he had asked the following question:

“Allan had noted that in the past some items had been lost within the Minutes and had sometimes conflicted with the training syllabuses etc. Allan had therefore asked the Committee what the Committee were using as the ‘legal’ system, the minutes or the relevant syllabus/documentation”.

At that meeting the Committee referred to the Riggers Technical Manual being compiled by Andrew Hilton. It was the intention that the BPA treat Technical Manual as the document to refer to, to enable members to obtain details of past decisions made at Riggers meetings).

Allan had stated in his correspondence that he did not believe this question has been answered and would like confirmation from riggers that the packing and rigging syllabuses published by the BPA overrule any previous rulings unless the technical manual has updated or conflicting information.

Following some discussion on this matter, The Committee confirmed that the current Course Syllabuses are the rule. If a decision is then made by the Committee at a future meeting to change the Syllabuses then they become the new rule.

- vi) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been received from Chris Thomas, which had been circulated to those present. Richard Aveyard AP 107 (Grade S) had attended an Advanced Packer Course at Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE) from the 8 – 12 March 2004. He then successfully completed the Examination Course at TSE from the 1 – 2 April 2004 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R) status.
- vii) The Chairman advised the Committee that there was a proposal being considered at STC that evening concerning a change the specification for BPA Minor Mods 1 & 2, so that as well Type 13 webbing and AML 122 hooks, Type 10 webbing and AML 10635 hook can be used.

Following some discussion, the Committee expressed no objection from a rigging point of view to this proposed change of spec.

Date of next Meeting:                      Thursday 10 June 2004  
                                                            BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.  
                                                            4.00 p.m.

22 April 2004

**Distribution**

Chairperson Riggers Committee  
All CCIs  
All Riggers  
Council  
D. Beaven (CAA)  
Lesley Gale  
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**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY 24 MAY 2004**