

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2005**

**Present:** Paul Applegate - Chairman  
Rick Boardman  
Liz Ashley (NV)  
Pat Walters  
Dave Major (NV)  
Steve Thomas  
Phill Elston (NV)  
John Harding  
Pete Sizer

(NV) = Non Voting

**Apologies:** Bernadette Whitaker, Kim Newton.

**In Attendance:** John Hitchen - Chairman STC  
Tony Butler - Technical Officer  
Thibaut Van Aubel - Vigil  
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

**Observers:** Jeff Illidge, Stuart Albon, Colin Fitzmaurice, Bear Grylls, Alan Veal.

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**ITEM**

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 24 FEBRUARY 2005**

**Page 1, Item 2 (Matters Arising) – Proposal to run an Advanced Packers Course (Paul Burns).** At a previous meeting, Paul Burns had been given permission to run an Advanced Packers Course at Point Zero with the proviso that he provided written details to the Chairman of the facilities at Point Zero, and subject to those facilities being satisfactory. To date nothing had been received in writing from either Paul Burns or Point Zero.

**Page 1, Item 2 (Matters Arising) – RSL Shackles.** As yet nothing had been heard from Kim Newton with regard to the proposed RSL entry in the Rigging Technical Manual.

**Page 3, Item 6 (Acceptance of Vigil AAD for Student Equipment).** John Harding stated in his opinion, the minutes did not accurately reflect what the Committee proposed at the previous meeting.

Following some discussion by those present it was agreed that the wording of this proposal should read: “ It was proposed by Allan Hewitt and seconded by John Harding that the Vigil AAD can be used for Student and Tandem equipment provided the installation has to be done according to the container manufactures installation instructions”.

It was noted that this would only apply to equipment manufacturers who approved the Vigils use on their products.

It was also noted that the voting for this proposal should read 7 in favour of the proposal and not 8

in favour as stated in the Minutes. This had been an error because one of the non-voting Riggers had been included in the vote.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman introduced Thibaut Van Aubel, a representative from the manufacturers of the Vigil who gave a short presentation to the Committee concerning the use of the Vigil AAD. There followed a short question & answer session allowing the Committee members to put forward their questions and discuss their concerns regarding the Vigil.

The Committee was advised that the following manufacturers had previously stated in writing that the Vigil was suitable for use in their products: Relative Workshop, Parachutes de France, Performance Variable and Parafun. It was pointed out that although the latter two companies had authorised the use of the Vigil, as yet their Student equipment is not accepted for use in the UK.

After discussion, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Vigil AAD be accepted for use on all Student equipment including Tandem in the UK in the following manufacturers containers: Relative Workshop and Parachutes de France.

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

**Carried**

The Committee agreed that once other manufacturers had authorised the use of the Vigil AAD in their products and once the Committee received this information in writing, they would also be added to the list of accepted manufacturers. These would need to be accepted by the Riggers Committee first, before being used in the equipment.

The Committee expressed their thanks to Thibaut for his presentation that evening.

The Chairman then continued with Matters Arising from the previous Meeting:

**Page 6, Item 12 (Request from Allan Hewitt for Permission for Jonathan Horne to attend a Rigging Examination Course)**. It was noted that the voting for this proposal should read 7 in favour (incl 4 by proxy) and not 8 in favour as stated in the Minutes. This had been an error because one of the non-voting Riggers had been included in the vote.

**Page 8, Item 14 (Examiner Recommendations from BPA Riggers Courses - 2)**. A typographical error was pointed out on the second paragraph of this item. The minute stated “.....Equally we are trying to stop riggers.....” The Minutes should state: “.....Equally we are **not** trying to stop riggers....”

It was noted that the text in the Minutes had actually been taken from Bill Sharp’s original proposal.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee Meeting of the 24 February 2005 be accepted as a true record, with the above stated amendments.

**Carried Unanimously**

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 24 FEBRUARY 2005**

There were no matters arising from the above Meeting.

3. **PROPOSAL FROM RICK BOARDMAN CONCERNING INCIDENT REPORTING**

At the previous meeting an issue had been raised with regard to the fact that not all incidents or minor infringements were reported to the Committee.

Rick Boardman believed that if all incidents were reported using the BPA Incident Report form, the Committee would be in a much better position to identify potential problems.

The Committee had acknowledged that this was an area that warranted further discussion and Rick had therefore proposed the following amendment to the BPA Operations Manual, which had been circulated with the Agenda for consideration that evening.

**Section 14 (Rigging), Page 3, Paragraph 7 (Responsibility), new NB to read:**

*“N.B.*

*All AP, PR, AR and RE holders are referred to Sec12, Page2, Para 3.2.2. If they have noted a deployment or packing problem on a system in their care, they are to inform the relevant party of details, and file an Incident/Malfunction Report (BPA Form 118). They must also:*

- 1. Mark the form “FAO Riggers”, and send the form into the BPA office.*
- 2. Log in their own log books that such an occurrence has happened, including details of the subject covered, rig type, error made, and action taken.*

*From there the Chairman of Riggers can monitor the forms and act accordingly. If he/she identifies a trend involving an individual reserve packer, or a specific rig type, he/she may issue a formal written warning to relevant parties, or inform Advanced Packers Courses of a change of emphasis required in teaching. He/she may also bring up any pertinent subjects under AOB at the next riggers meeting.”*

In discussion, it was noted that there was a system in place for reporting incidents and perhaps this was something that could be included in the Rigging Technical Manual.

Following further discussion, the TO suggested that perhaps the Committee could consider producing a ‘Riggers Confidential Reporting form’ on a similar basis as the Pilots Confidential Reporting form. The Committee agreed that this was a good idea and Rick Boardman agreed to produce a form for consideration by the Committee. He stated that he would re-present his proposal at the next meeting.

**4. PROPOSED STUDENT EQUIPMENT CLEARANCE – STUART ALBON**

Stuart Albon presented the Next Student container system with ripcord and secondary handle for Student Free Fall use. Stuart stated that the equipment had been inspected by himself and Pete Sizer.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by John Harding that the Next Student container system with ripcord and secondary handle be accepted for Student Free Fall use.

**Carried Unanimously**

**5. PROPOSED TANDEM MODIFICATION – JOHN HARDING**

A proposal from John Harding had been circulated with the Agenda, together with the relevant paperwork requesting to fit a Paratec Next drogue pocket onto a RW Tandem Vector 1 or Tandem Vector II Harness Container system.

Following discussion, it was proposed by John Harding and seconded by Rick Boardman that the above proposal be accepted.

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

**Carried**

**6. PROPOSED TANDEM MODIFICATION – BILL SHARP**

A proposal had been received from Bill Sharp requesting a modification to the RWS Tandem Sigma Student Harness, which had been circulated with the Agenda, together with relevant paperwork and drawings.

The Committee were given details of the proposed modification, which included drilling a hole into each of the two Tandem Sigma Student Harness butterfly snap hooks (the butterfly gate part, not the main hook), in order to insert a locking pin. This is to stop the snap hook inadvertently opening, as reported at a recent Riggers Committee Meeting.

Bill had stated that the locking pin idea is also used by some other Tandem Manufacturers, and has been used by RWS on earlier versions of their RWS Tandem harnesses.

Some concern was expressed by those present because Bill had not provided a diagram or details of the location/dimension of the hole or specified the type of locking pins to be used. The Committee felt that they would be unable to give the modification general clearance until Bill had supplied this information.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Bill Sharp and seconded by John Harding that the above modification be accepted for use by Bill Sharp only.

For: 4

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

**Carried**

**7. PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE RIGGING TECHNICAL MANUAL**

Following on from an item from the previous meeting, where it had been noted that a decision made at the Riggers Committee Meeting of 5 June 2003 concerning Advanced Packing Certificates had not been included in the BPA Operations Manual or Rigging Technical Manual. It was agreed at the meeting that this decision be included in the Rigging Technical Manual.

The following proposed update to the Rigging Technical Manual had been received from Andrew Hilton concerning this decision had been circulated with the Agenda:

“6. As from 1/4/04 holders of Advanced Packing Certificates are not able to have new equipment types to their Packing Certificates.

7. Owners of rigs packed by Advanced Packing Certificate holders may be asked for evidence that the packer is qualified to pack that particular equipment. A photocopy of the packer’s Certificate with relevant endorsement will suffice.”

It was proposed by Andrew Hilton and seconded by Pete Sizer that the additions to the Rigging Technical Manual be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE FROM PHILL ELSTON CONCERNING 'WINGS' SYSTEMS**

Correspondence from Phill Elston had been circulated with the Agenda concerning 'Wings' container systems.

Phill had identified a problem during a recent re-pack of a 'Wings' container system where he noticed that the hard housing insert in the riser was not tacked down in the manner accepted within the BPA. In this instance it had no 'supertack' tacking around it at all. Further inspection of other 'Wings' systems revealed a seeming inconsistency in this work through their range to the point that one rig had the insert actually travelling down into the type 2a loop of the 3 ring release system.

Following discussion, it was agreed by those present that a BPA Safety Information Bulletin be issued reminding packers of the importance of checking that the housings are secure in the tape channel and remain clear (about 3cm) of the loop and to tack in place if necessary. Pete Sizer agreed to word the Bulletin.

## **9. RIGGERS COURSE REPORT**

A BPA Riggers Course had been held at Thomas Sports Equipment from the 2 – 9 March 2005 and the Association thanked TSE for hosting the Course. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Examiners conducting the Course were: Allan Hewitt and Albert Hooker. There were a total of 3 people attending the Course.

The three candidates successfully completed the Course: Jonathan Horne was awarded Parachute Rigger status, Ray Armstrong was awarded Advanced Rigger and Noel Purcell was awarded Basic Rigger status.

Allan had noted in the report that once again the subject of having to be qualified Advanced Packer (R) before attending a Rigging Course had come up.

The Course Examiners had therefore recommended that Grade S and Grade R of the Basic Riggers Syllabus be deleted.

Allan had stated that Course candidates can choose Basic Riggers (S) or the traditional qualification. The Basic Riggers (S) covers Riggers to work on square reserves only. The traditional Parachute Riggers qualification covers rounds and squares.

Allan had also stated that if a Rigger subsequently qualifies on a Course with Squares only, his BPA Parachute Riggers qualification will be endorsed Parachute Rigger (S) or if he qualifies on Rounds and Squares his BPA Parachute Riggers qualification will be Parachute Rigger which denotes he can work on rounds as well as square parachutes.

With regard to the Basic Rigger Syllabus, Allan proposed that where it states rounds and squares, add "as applicable"

With regard to the Parachute Riggers Course, Allan proposed that the Parachute Riggers Syllabus be amended as follows:

Under the Parachute Rigger Syllabus when it states rounds and squares, add "as applicable"

Allan had stated that these recommendations do not stop Riggers gaining a qualification for both Rounds and Squares, however these changes will help those who either have no intentions on working on round parachutes to gain a riggers rating for squares only.

In discussion, the Committee noted that the Working Group who looked at the whole Packing and

Rigging Course Syllabuses a couple of years ago had looked at the issue of round reserves. The Committee had voted on the recommendations put forward by the Working Group at that time. The Committee was concerned that this same issue kept arising, particularly following an Advanced Packers Course.

Following further discussion on this matter, the above proposal failed to find a seconder.

## 10. ADVANCED PACKER COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packer Course had been held at Target Skysports from the 26 February to 1 March 2005. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Course ran for a period of 4 days with 9 candidates participating. The Course Instructors were: Allan Hewitt, Andy Page and Ray Armstrong.

The 5 candidates training for Advanced Packer status were: Tim De Souza, Andy Naude, Dominic Hines, Paul Yeoman and Gordon Mission. These candidates had completed all parts of the Course Syllabus and were advised to practice under supervision until they were ready to return for the Examination phase.

Jonathan Horne had attended the Course for upgrading to Tandem and Rounds. Ralph Fielding had attended the Course for upgrading to Tandem. Pete Shew and John Crowhurst also attended the Course for refresher training for the re-instatement of their Advanced Packer (Grade S & R) ratings.

The Recommendations from the Course Examiners were as follows:

Jonathan Horne successfully completed his upgrade Course for both Tandems and Rounds and it was recommended that his AP rating be upgraded with R and T.

Ralph Fielding successfully completed his upgrade for Tandems and it was recommended that his AP rating be upgraded with T.

John Crowhurst and Pete Shew completed a refresher Course and Allan Hewitt signed up their BPA renewal forms to include the re-issue of their Advanced Packers rating for 2005.

The Committee was advised that subsequent to this Advanced Packers Course Report being distributed, Allan Hewitt had also sent in an Addendum to the Report, which was circulated to those present recommending that Andy Page and Ray Armstrong be added to the list of Course Instructors to be able to run future Advanced Packing Courses, having successfully assisted in all aspects of the running this Advanced Packers Course.

It was proposed by Allan Hewitt and seconded by Rick Boardman that the above recommendations be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

Allan Hewitt had also stated that he would send in a new form to replace form 175 when converting to Tandems for consideration at the Committee. He said that he would then propose that this new form is accepted for all future Tandem conversions and that this new form be given a new BPA number.

- ii) An Advanced Packing Course Report had been received from Kim Newton, which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Lloyd Quenby had attended the training Course at North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris from the 24 – 27 January 2005. He had then successfully attended the Examination Course at Chatteris on 7 – 8 March 2005 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iii) An Advanced Packing Training Course had been held at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 14 – 17 March 2005. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

Gervais Henderson and Tim Denson had attended the Course and were advised to practice under supervision until they were ready to return for the Examination phase.

- iv) Pete Sizer had also submitted an Advanced Packer Examination Course Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda. Tim Denson had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

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

There had been one BPA Safety Information Bulletin issued since the last meeting. The Bulletin reminded packers of the importance of following the manufacturers' packing instructions and that it was a BPA requirement that when packing reserves, the equipment manufacturers' manuals must be to hand.

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

There had been no Manufacturers' Safety Notices/Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting.

#### **13. A.O.B**

- i) Pat Walters had asked that his Packing Manual Guide for S/L Squares be approved by the Committee.

Following some discussion, it was felt by those present that as long as Pat's manual included the minimum requirements already included in the syllabus, they could foresee no problems with it.

- ii) The Chairman reported that he frequently comes across Record of Inspection sheets that are incorrectly completed. He stated that in particular boxes were not being ticked and dates not being recorded etc. He reminded packers of the importance of correctly completed paperwork and highlighted the importance that any changes made on the Record of Inspection being initialed by the packer concerned.

- iii) Paperwork was circulated to those present concerning the re-instatement of Joe Oosterveer's Advanced Riggers rating, which had expired in March 2004.

The Committee was advised that Joe had reported that he had sent in his renewal of BPA membership for 2004/2005 with his AR rating endorsed, which the BPA office had no record of receiving.

The office had received Joe's renewal of membership for this year with his AR rating endorsed by Albert Hooker. Joe had also included details of the rigging work that he had carried out in the last year.

Following consideration by those present, it was proposed by John Harding and seconded by Rick Boardman that Joe Oosterveer's Advanced Rigger rating be re-instated.

**Carried Unanimously**

- iv) A letter had been received from Dave Gould and circulated to those present requesting the re-instatement of Craig Bonnar's Parachute Rigger and Advanced Packer (Grade S & R) ratings.

The Committee was advised that due to Team and military commitments he was unable to remain current in both packing and rigging and therefore allowed his ratings to lapse on 31 March 2001.

Dave Gould had stated that in an effort to regain his Advanced Packer and Parachute Rigger ratings Craig had been working at Pont Zero full-time under his supervision since October 2004. Dave had stated that during this period Craig had shown that he was more than capable of carrying out work to the required standard expected from an Advanced Packer and Parachute Rigger.

Following consideration by those present, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rick Boardman that Craig Bonnar have his Advanced Packer (S & R) ratings re-instated, but before the Committee could agree to his Parachute Rigger rating being re-instated, he would need the recommendation of a BPA Rigger Examiner.

**Carried Unanimously**

- v) Andy Page had advised the office that he would be running an Advanced Packers Course at UK Parachuting from the 16 – 19 May 2005.
- vi) Information had been circulated to those present from Thomas Zahradka an authorised dealer from New Zealand regarding a new AAD, which was available.

Date of next Meeting:                      Thursday 9 June 2005  
    BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.  
    4.00 p.m.

19 March 2005

**Distribution**

Chairperson Riggers Committee  
All CCIs  
All Riggers  
Council  
D. Beaven (CAA)  
Lesley Gale  
File

**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY 23 MAY 2005**