

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2002**

**Present:** Paul Applegate - Chairman  
Bill Sharp  
John Curtis  
Rick Boardman  
Kim Newton  
Pat Walters  
Bernadette Whitaker  
Nick Johnston  
Pete Sizer

**Apologies:** Dane Richardson, Richard Wheatley, John Harding.

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

**Observers:** Kieran Brady, Andrew Pollitt, Karen Messenger, Colin Fitzmaurice.

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**ITEM**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

John Curtis nominated Paul Applegate as Chairperson of the Committee for a further year. This was seconded by Kim Newton and unanimously agreed by those present.

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 6TH DECEMBER 2001**

**Page 1, Item 1 – (Matters Arising) – Rigging Manual Update.** John Curtis advised those present that he had now looked at the paperwork with regard to revising the Advanced Course Syllabus. Mr Curtis stated that he had proposed to circulate something to all Rigger Examiners prior to the next meeting.

**Page 2, Item 1 - (Matters Arising – Riggers Manual Update).** This item was on the main Agenda.

**Page 4, Item 9 – AOB (i).** At the previous meeting the Committee was advised of a non-BPA rigger working in Spain who had been opening up re-packs jobs completed in the UK then re-packing the equipment and issuing a copy of the BPA Record of Inspection with the serial number deleted. The Committee was advised that John Harding had spoken to Pete Jones expressing the BPA concerns on this matter.

**Page 4, Item 9 – AOB (i) - Approved Reserve Sealing Methods.** This was an agenda item for that evening.

**Page 5, Item 9 – AOB (vii).** John Curtis advised those present that he had not heard from Brad

Rock with regard to him being assessed for a BPA Rigger rating.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Rick Boardman that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting of the 6th December 2001 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 6TH DECEMBER 2001**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

**4. PROXY VOTING**

In the past concern had been expressed by some Riggers with regard to the Committee accepting proxy votes. The Committee felt that the whole issue of proxy voting warranted further discussion and it was agreed that this item should be put on the main agenda for discussion.

The Committee was advised that letters against any proposal to remove proxy voting had been received from Andrew Hilton, Ian Robertson, Dane Richardson and Rick Boardman and were circulated to those present.

A letter had also been received from Bernadette Whitaker and circulated to those present proposing that any rigger not having attended a riggers meeting within the past 12 months waives his/her right to a proxy vote.

The Chairman advised those present that proxy voting was part of the Riggers Committee Terms of Reference and that presently proxy votes may only be made in writing (including by fax) to the BPA office prior to a meeting and may only be related to specific agenda items. The acceptability of the wording of a proxy vote will be at the Chairman's discretion.

This item generated a great deal of discussion.

Often some riggers were not in a position to attend all the meetings because the location where they lived and work commitments often made it difficult. It was also felt that those riggers sending in proxy votes for specific items had studied and researched the subject and they felt strongly about certain issues. By discouraging involvement of those not able to attend the meetings could only worsen participation of Riggers and it was wrong to put any restriction on who can vote.

Some riggers present did not like the idea of proxy voting as they believed that it did not encourage riggers to attend meetings if that was the only way they had a voice. Some members stated that they had often made up their mind about a subject only to change that view from attending a meeting and sharing information around the table. Those riggers sending in a proxy vote for specific argument do not get to hear the argument around the table that makes a decision.

Bill Sharp felt that the Committee may wish to discuss what we determine as a proxy vote. He stated that the dictionary defines the word 'proxy' as 'a person authorised to act on behalf of someone else'. This in theory meant that six Riggers could appoint another Rigger as their proxy to attend a meeting, speak and vote on their behalf on any item under discussion.

The system that the Committee has in place at present of being able to send in something in writing in support of a pre-written agenda item was actually a form of postal voting.

Following a great deal of discussion on this matter, the Committee felt that the BPA Council should define in the Mems and Arts the definition of proxy voting and what we call the method

we have in place at the moment of support of an item.

**5. APPROVED RESERVE SEALING METHODS**

At the previous meeting, the Committee had discussed a request from Andrew Hilton to publish the BPA approved methods of sealing reserves provided that the methods published by Mr Hilton had previously been approved.

The Committee was advised that it had been established that both methods had previously been approved. However following the previous meeting Mr Hilton had amended his document outlining the acceptable reserve sealing methods (a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.). After discussions with other Riggers, he had removed the original figure of eight method from the document, as it had been known to cause problems in the past and could lend itself to future problems.

A letter had also been sent out with the Agenda from John Curtis requesting that Riggers consider the idea of going back to the American sealing method.

The Committee considered John Curtis' request, but because the American method of sealing reserves was known to increase the reserve poundage pull, it was felt by those present that this method was unsuitable.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rick Boardman that the drawing as published by Andrew Hilton represents the only BPA approved method of sealing reserves.

For: 6            Against: 0            Abstentions: 2

**Carried**

**6. PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL**

At the previous meeting, it was felt by those present that Tandem Instructors should be able to issue and endorse Approved Packing Certificates for Tandem main canopies, provided they are qualified themselves. The present rule states that only CSIs and above can issue/endorse the packing certificates. The committee felt that AFF instructors should also be permitted to issue/endorse packing certificate and that the current rule had not been intended to prevent AFF or Tandem instructors from issuing/endorsing certificates, but was intended to prevent Basic (Category System, Tandem or AFF) Instructors from doing so.

A proposed change to the Operations Manual regarding the issuing of Approved Packing Certificates was circulated with the Riggers' Agenda as follows:-

**SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 9 (Packing Certificates), be changed to read:**

**9. APPROVED PACKING CERTIFICATES**

**Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes and round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers).** Holders of these certificates are certified to assemble and pack specified parachutes and deployment devices into specific containers. These may be issued or endorsed by Parachute Riggers and/or parachute instructors (excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs), provided those instructors have their own packing certificates endorsed for the equipment they are signing for. (In the case of round reserve parachutes in front mounted containers, the certificates may only be issued and/or endorsed by Advanced Instructors or Advanced Riggers). (BPA Form 111).

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Kim Newton that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

**7. BPA RIGGING MANUAL UPDATE**

The Chairman advised those present that this matter had now been referred to BPA Council. A letter had been sent to Allan Hewitt and to date no reply had been received from him.

**8. EXEMPTION REQUEST – BILL SHARP**

A letter from Bill Sharp had been circulated with the Agenda requesting an exemption from the requirement to hold an Approved Packing Certificate for 12 months to enable Steve Milligan to attend an Advanced Packers Course. It was established that Mr Milligan had held his Approved Packing Certificate for one month.

Mr Sharp had also requested that Mr Milligan can begin his Method Two Basic Rigger Training, although Mr Sharp may not have known him for a period of 6 months prior to the commencement of his training.

Following some discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Bill Sharp and seconded by Kim Newton that the above request be accepted.

For: 7                  Against: 0                  Abstentions: 1

**Carried**

**9. ADVANCED PACKERS EXAMINATION COURSE REPORT – PETE SIZER**

Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda. All three candidates had successfully completed the Examination phase of the Advanced Packers Course. Andy Montriou was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status, Jane Buckle was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R,S,T) status and Clem Quinn was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R,S,T) status.

Pete Sizer confirmed that Jane Buckle and Clem Quinn had both achieved their Advanced Packer qualification prior to going on to do their Tandem qualification.

**10. RIGGER COURSE/ADVANCED PACKER COURSE DATES FOR 2002**

John Curtis advised that he was available to run Rigger or Advanced Packing Courses during the winter months. Dave Chapman had also indicated that Netheravon were also available to host Courses for anyone that was interested.

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

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

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

Since the last meeting a Service Bulletin had been circulated from Precision Aerodynamics concerning the Super Raven Dash-M Series.

**13. A.O.B**

- i) A letter from Pete Sizer had been received and circulated to those present requesting an exemption from the requirement of holding a BPA Packing Certificate for 12 months to enable Ken Weber to attend an Advanced Packers Course. The Committee was advised that Mr Weber was an Australian Tandem Instructor and he had held a BPA packing certificate since August 2001.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Nick Johnston that the above request be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

- ii) Pete Sizer had submitted two Advanced Packer Examination Course Reports (Tandem), which had been circulated to those present. Both Mark Maynard and Andy Montriou had successfully completed the Course and their Advanced Packer ratings would be endorsed to include Tandem reserves.

- iii) At the previous meeting the Committee had accepted a proposal as put forward by John Harding to use a new half-netted reserve pilot chute on Zerox containers for Static Line use.

Kieran Brady requested that the above pilot chute be accepted for use in Student Free Fall mode on Zerox Student equipment.

Following some discussion it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above pilot chute as previously presented be accepted for use in Student Free Fall mode on Zerox equipment.

**Carried Unanimously**

- iv) Rick Boardman advised the Committee that he had noted that the BPA Operations Manual still stated that only Riggers and Advanced Packers may seal reserves.

At the Riggers Meeting of the 6th August 1998, Riggers had discussed and accepted a proposal that all fully qualified BPA reserve packers may, if they wish, seal their reserve re-packs, as long as the sealing method used is one that is approved by the BPA and the seal identifies the packer.

The Technical Officer stated that he would include the above amendment with the amendments to the BPA Operations Manual, which would be circulated with the Minutes.

- v) Rick Boardman advised those present that the Red Devils were in the process of fitting Collins Lanyard on their Paratec Next System. Circulated to those present was a copy of the relevant drawings for the construction of the lanyard and its typical installation, together with a letter from Paratec granting approval.

As the above had been approved by the manufacturer, this was for information purposes

only.

- vi) Rick Boardman advised that as a Parachute Rigger of more than two years he can register a basic rigger as his trainee and prepare him/her for a riggers exam under Method two. Prior to be registering a person as a BR the person must hold an Advanced Packer rating and under the present rules Rick cannot teach Advanced Packing unless he himself held an Advanced Rigger rating.

Mr Boardman felt that this subject warranted further discussion as he believed there must be other Parachute Riggers who found themselves able to teach rigging, but not reserve packing. Rick believed that so long as a Parachute Rigger of more than two years standing who has attended an Advanced Packers Course, then he did not see a reason why he/she cannot teach the subject.

Following some discussion on this matter, it was suggested by those present that Mr Boardman submit a written proposal, which could then go out with the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

- vii) Bill Sharp advised the Committee that he had re-vamped the Tandem Mod web-site. For information the website address is: <http://members.aol.com/tandemmods>
- viii) John Hitchen referred to Bill Booth's presentation at the AGM. He advised the Committee that Bill had done some extensive research on packing and he had come up with some quite interesting statistics. One centre for instance had made approx 7,500 jumps and virtually not experienced any malfunctions. That Centre was flat packing at the time, they then introduced pro-packing and immediately started to get incidents. The NCSO felt that Riggers may wish to consider the above statistics especially with regard to the packing of Tandem Vectors.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 11th April 2002  
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.  
4.00 p.m.

12th February 2002

### **Distribution**

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