

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2009

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Rick Boardman
Phill Elston
Chris Gilmore
Kim Newton
John Curtis

Apologies: Tony Butler, Steve Thomas, Bill Sharp, Ray Armstrong, Pete Sizer,
Bernadette Whitaker, Pat Walters, Dave Gould.

In Attendance: John Hitchen - Chairman STC
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

Observers: Stuart Meacock.

ITEM

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

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

Kim Newton proposed, and Phill Elston seconded, a motion to elect Paul Applegate as Chairperson of Riggers. Paul Applegate said he was willing to accept the nomination. John Hitchen asked if there were any other nominees, and there were not.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate duly took the Chair.

Paul Applegate notified the Committee of Pat Walter's recent ill health. The Committee wished to convey their good wishes to Pat and wished him a speedy recovery.

The Chairman of STC also advised those present that the Association had been informed of the death, in Australia of Ted Lewington. Ted had been team leader of the Red Devils for many years in the early eighties and he had also gone on to run his own parachute club. The Chairman wished to convey his condolences to his family on behalf of the Committee.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

Page 3, Item 5 – Lifting of Equipment. At the previous meeting, the Committee had agreed to set up a Working Group (WG) to look at the whole subject of 'lifing of equipment'. Rick Boardman advised those present that it was expected the WG would involve all Riggers and stated that he envisaged this project would entail a substantial amount of time and work.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Phill Elston that the Minutes of the Riggers Meeting of the 25 September 2008 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 25 SEPTEMBER 2008**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

4. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 20 NOVEMBER 2008**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

5. **TO CONSIDER A BR EXTENSION REQUEST**

A proposal had been received from Andrew Hilton and circulated with the Agenda requesting a BR extension for Noel Purcell. Andrew had stated that Noel had been working under his supervision and had intended to attend the Examination course at RAPA this winter. However family commitments had prevented him from attending this Course. Noel's BR rating had expired on 31 December 2008.

The Committee believed it unlikely there would be another Riggers Course until December 2009/January 2010. It was therefore proposed by Andrew Hilton (proxy) and seconded by Kim Newton that Noel Purcell's BR rating be extended until 31 January 2010.

Carried Unanimously

6. **TO CONSIDER A LETTER FROM ANDY HUGHES**

A letter from Andrew Hughes had been distributed with the Agenda for consideration by the Committee. Andrew had reported on a project to collect and index electronic versions of manuals and service bulletins. This project was now complete and online for anyone to use for free.

Andrew had stated that the project had now gone "live", he felt that this was the right time to write to the BPA Riggers Committee to draw attention to this project, so that their advice could be offered and any concerns could be raised.

The first aspect of the project had involved the collection of over 2000 files (in excess of 2 gigabytes of data). This included a very extensive set of manuals, all of the BPA Safety Notices and Safety Information Bulletins (scanned from the paper copies), bulletins issued by manufacturers, bulletins from other governing bodies, and many more documents of interest to both riggers and regular skydivers. These can be accessed via the "Rigging" section at UKSkydiver.co.uk (UKS).

The second aspect of this project had been to produce an online service bulletin index (similar to the BPA index), that references the relevant files contained within the UKS "Rigging" section and also provided a brief summary of the service bulletins which were clearer and quicker to fully understand. This had also enabled the forum's search functionality to be used to find text within the bulletin summaries.

Andrew had stated that although this online index was originally based on the BPA index, it had been extended to include additional manufacturers (a total of 83) and service bulletins that were not in the BPA index. Since the official index had been modified so drastically, each item in the online index included a "BPA index relevance" element. The data contained in this field could be used to easily check the item against the corresponding BPA list. The items not included in the BPA index were flagged as "not in index".

Andrew had stated that this online index had been made available via the main UKS forum. A specific "Service Bulletins" section on the forum had been created, and the permissions had been set to prevent any general discussions from taking place within this area (thus keeping the data "clean"). To navigate to this area, log into the UKS forum, and then navigate to:

Board index --> Skydiving Forums --> Gear and Video --> Service Bulletins

Alternatively, the location of the online index can be found by typing the following link into the browser: <http://www.ukskydiver.co.uk/cms/forums/viewforum.php?f=97>

Andrew had stated that the plan for the future was to maintain the data as new service bulletins and manuals were released/acquired, and to continue the error checking process with far more eyes than just his own.

In closing, Andrew had requested that the Riggers Committee take a look at the project, as he felt that this work may be of interest to all riggers, packers and skydivers.

The Chairman reported that an e-mail from Allan Hewitt had been received, which included his comments on Andrew's letter, a copy of which had been tabled to those present.

Allan had noted that this was a basic list of safety notices, which was completely different from the worldwide safety notice database, which was now complete and online and currently being validated by parachute manufacturers.

The Committee noted Allan Hewitt's concerns, but felt that this was another useful tool for locating safety related information and thanked Andy Hughes for the work that he had put into this project.

7. RIGGERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) A Riggers Course had been held at RAPA from the 13 – 19 December 2008. The Association wished to thank the Club for hosting the Course and for the use of its facilities. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

Kim Newton, who had examined on both of the Rigger Courses was present that evening and was able to answer any questions in relation to the Course Reports.

The Examiners conducting the course were Bill Sharp (RE 53) and Kim Newton (RE 167). There were a total of 8 people attending the course (4 x Parachute Riggers and 4 x Basic Riggers).

The PR Course started on Saturday 13 December and continued until the mid day of Wednesday 17 December 2008.

The candidates presented their pre-made work examples (as instructed by the Examiners and the PR Syllabus) and received a written test on the Monday morning. All 4 candidates passed the test and were allowed to continue on the course. Throughout the five days, the candidates manufactured their course syllabus items. All 4 candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The successful candidates were:

Richard Bishop	BPA 797180	- RA Parachute Team
Dominic Hines	BPA 766938	- Red Devil Freefall Team
Richard Green	BPA 540825	- RA Parachute Team
Paul Jordan	BPA 945052	- RA Parachute Team

The BR Course started on Monday 15 December and continued until the afternoon of Friday 19 December 2008.

Throughout the week, the candidates were given formal lessons on subjects from the BR Syllabus. The emphasis was on 'hands on' rigging and the candidates achieved a lot within the 5-day period.

All 4 candidates were successful and were awarded Basic Rigger with various 6/12 month recommendations. The successful candidates were:

Andy Hughes	BPA 903210	- Headcorn
Charles McNeil	BPA 892204	- Silver Stars
Louis Saunders	BPA 1004829	- RA Parachute Team
Alan Westley	BPA 911000	- Netheravon

There were no formal recommendations from the Examiners from this course, however, Bill Sharp had stated that there was an item worthy of note, which the Examiners were going to trial on the Dec 2009 course. He had stated that when the PR items were being marked it was sometimes hard to realistically judge them, when the Examiners did not have the actual item they copied from in situ. They did not want the PR's to bring across the original items (aircraft baggage weight etc), but what the Examiners were going to insist on, was good quality digital photos on a CD or similar, so the Examiners could verify that what they were marking was actually a true 'copy'. The BR's from this course were fully briefed on this aspect and further detail on what was required would be given to them once finalised. Bill had stated that no one had any problems with this.

Bill had reported that overall, this initial '7 day course' was a success. On the Sat/Sun and with only the PR's in attendance, they had unlimited access to machines and facilities. This allowed most of them to complete all of their patches exercise, their line replacement, their 2 pilot chutes (pull out and throwaway) and their 2 deployment bags (S/L and FF). On the other two days, they completed their risers, toggles, cutaway pad, slider, kill line bridle, student bridle, static line and reserve free bag safety stow. Debriefings were done on Wednesday morning.

The BR's started on Monday morning. For the first day or so, the BR's had minimal need for the machines etc because of the various lessons they must receive. From Tuesday onwards (and with the PR's finishing off), machine use was a little tight at times but with good management from the Examiners, the BR's were not unduly hampered at all. From Wednesday morning onwards, all facilities were totally available for the BR's use and a great amount of work was done. Both examiners found no problems with the amount of work needing to be inspected and marked whilst keeping a high level of supervision where needed. All candidates worked very hard, and turned out a lot of good quality work.

In summary, Bill Sharp had stated that overall, the format of this 7 day course with the numbers involved was very successful and if anything, slightly easier. This was not to say that 8 people could not be handled on a normal course.

- ii) The second Riggers Course had been held at RAPA from the 3 – 9 January 2009. Once again the Association wished to thank the Club for the use of its facilities. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Examiners conducting the course were Bill Sharp (RE 53) and Kim Newton (RE 167). There were a total of 7 people attending the course (2 x Advanced Rigger, 2 x Parachute Rigger and 3 x Basic Rigger).

The AR Course started on Saturday 3rd January and continued until the mid day of Wednesday 7 January 2009.

The candidates presented their pre-made work examples (as instructed by the Examiners and the AR Syllabus) and received a written test on the Monday morning. Both candidates brought along a full container system, made by them at the US manufacturers, UPT (Phill) and Sunpath (George). Both candidates passed the course test and were allowed to continue on the course. Throughout the five days, the candidates manufactured their course syllabus items. Both candidates were successful and were awarded Advanced Rigger status. The successful candidates were:

Phill Elston	BPA 634327	- Netheravon
George Panagopoulos	BPA 732477	- Netheravon

There were two candidates for the PR Course. One of them started on the 3 January, the other started on the 5 January. Both were finished by Friday 9 January 2009.

Both candidates presented their pre-made work examples (as instructed by the Examiners and the PR Syllabus) and received a written test on their first morning. Both candidates passed the test and were allowed to continue on the course. Throughout their five days, the candidates manufactured their course syllabus items. Both candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The successful candidates were:

Chris Gilmore	BPA 622031	- Chatteris
Dave West	BPA 505587	- St. Andrews

The BR Course started on Monday 5 January and continued until the afternoon of Friday 9 January 2009.

Throughout the week, the candidates were given formal lessons on subjects from the BR Syllabus. The emphasis was on 'hands on' rigging and the candidates achieved a lot within the 5-day period.

All 3 candidates were successful and were awarded Basic Rigger with 6-month recommendations. The successful candidates were:

Gerry Cepelak	BPA 890302	- Netheravon
Simon Gearing	BPA 665986	- The Tigers FF Team
Gary Marshall	BPA 996656	- The Golden Lions FF Team

All 3 candidates were briefed and coached on aspects of their supervisory period of the BR rating, the items they must bring back for the PR course, the need for them to pass the PR test prior to continuing with the course, and the standards of work required on the PR course.

Bill Sharp had reported that there were no formal recommendations from the Examiners from this Course, apart from the re-iteration of the trial exercise of PR's bringing good quality digital photos on a CD or similar, so that the Examiners could verify that what they were marking was actually a true 'copy'. The BR's from this course were fully briefed on this aspect and further detail on what is required will be given to them once finalized. Again, no one had any problems with this.

In summary, Bill Sharp had stated that as with the first '7 day' course, this one had worked well. The Examiners were not saying that this should be the norm but that it did work and without any great problems, Once again, with the numbers involved, the 7 day course was easier.

8. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ADVANCED RIGGERS SYLLABUS

A proposal from Phill Elston had been circulated with the Agenda to amend the Advanced Riggers Syllabus.

Phill Elston advised those present that he was withdrawing his proposal.

9. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Hinton Skydiving Centre on the 21 October 2008. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Kris Sheppard had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

ii) Ray Armstrong had submitted an Advanced Packers Tandem Course Report a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Simon Asquith, Dominic Hines and Bryan Poole attended the Course at Point Zero, Hinton Skydiving Centre on 2 October 2008 to be converted from an Advanced Packer Square rating to the Advanced Packer Tandem rating.

The candidates had then presented themselves for the Examination phase of the Course, which was also held at Hinton Skydiving Centre from the 8 – 9 October 2008. All candidates were successful and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status. Ray had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

iii) An Advanced Packers Tandem Examination Course had been held at Point Zero, Hinton Skydiving Centre on the 15 October 2008. Dave Emerson successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

iv) An Advanced Packer Examination Course had been held at Point Zero, Hinton Skydiving Centre on the 13 October 2008. Paul Burns had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Philip Gunton, Mark Piper and Michelle Caldwell successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

v) An Advanced Packer Training Course had been held at the Golden Lions from the 18 – 19 and 25 – 26 October 2008. Roy Bannerman had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Calum Grant, Gary Marshall and Stuart Thornton had attended the Course all of whom had been recommended to attend the examination phase of the Course at a later date.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Golden Lions had asked his permission to run this particular Course, which the Chairman had given based on the fact that the Golden Lions had hosted Advanced Packing Courses in the past.

vi) An Advanced Packer Training Course had been held at UK Parachuting from the 11 – 15 November 2008. Andy Page had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Andrew Callendar, Tom Ramsden-Hare and Michael Jones had attended the Course all of whom had been recommended to attend the examination phase of the Course at a later date. Andy Page had stated that Andy Callender had previous experience with round reserves and had stayed on to cover work on round reserves towards his grade (R).

- vii) An Advanced Packer Examination Course had taken place at UK Parachuting from the 18 – 19 November 2008. Andy Page had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Jan Louis Jurgens Saunders had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- viii) An Advanced Packer Examination Course had taken place at Hinton Skydiving Centre on the 21 November 2008. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a Copy of which had been circulated to those present. Sandra Keith had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- ix) An Advanced Packer Training/Examination Course had taken place at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 17 – 21 November 2008. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Dave Clarke and Helen Bishop had attended the Course and were advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date. Simon Gearing who had previously held an Advanced Packers rating had been examined at the end of the week and had successfully fulfilled the requirements for the reinstatement of his Advanced Packer (Grade S) rating.
- x) An Advanced Packer Examination Course had taken place at the Golden Lions from the 20 – 21 December 2008. Roy Bannerman had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Gary Marshall had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- xi) An Advanced Packer S + R Examination Course had taken place at UK Parachuting from the 19 – 25 January 2009. Andy Page had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Andy Callender successfully attended the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S + R) status.
- xii) An Advanced Packer Training Course had taken place at Headcorn Parachute Club from the 26 – 29 January 2009. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Karl Horton, Dave Holiday and Chris McCann attended the Course all of whom had been recommended to attend the final examination phase of the Course at a later date.

Stuart Meacock, who was an Advanced Packing Certificate holder, also attended this Course for conversion to AP status. At the end of the Course Stuart was examined and as he fulfilled all the requirements was awarded an Advanced Packer Grade (S & T) rating.
- xiii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at the Headcorn Parachute Club from the 30 – 31 January 2009. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Helen Bishopp successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer Grade (S) status.
- xiv) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had taken place at Skydive Airkix from the 3 – 4 February 2009. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Chris McCann successfully attended the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- xv) An Advanced Packers Tandem Course had taken place at British Parachute Schools from the 9 – 11 February 2009. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Alastair Milne and Paul Yeoman attended the Course to be converted from an Advanced Packer Square rating to the AP Square/Tandem rating. Both candidates achieved a level of competence that the Instructors felt that with practice they would be able to reach the standard required to attain the AP Tandem qualification when presenting for examination.

The Committee noted that on a number of the Course Reports as tabled, the locations and dates of Courses had not been stated. This information had to be obtained by the office contacting the person submitting the Reports.

The Committee asked that in future, all Advanced Packer Reports must specify at least the date and location of the Course.

10. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

11. MANUFACTURER'S SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

- i) Information had been circulated to those present from Eric Fradet, which also included a Safety Information Bulletin issued by the French Parachute Federation concerning Sunpath Javelin Harness/Container Systems.
- ii) A Service Bulletin issued by Aerazur had been circulated regarding a missing slider stop on a Parachutes de France reserve canopy.
- iii) The Australian Parachute Federation had issued a Safety Notice to the their Federation members regarding the mandatory inspection of all 3-ring riser assemblies.
- iv) Phill Elston advised those present of his concern with regard to bending on Reserve Closure Pins on Vector 3 and Javelin (Both Skyhook (TM) fitted) rigs.

Whilst working at United Parachute Technologies (UPT) recently, Phill stated that he mentioned the concern he had as well as that of other packers. The reply had been a paper from UPT containing information and drawings with regard to the prevention of bent pins, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Phill states he believed it pertinent to circulate this information to all riggers and packers in the BPA.

- v) A Product Improvement Notice had been issued by United Parachute Technologies (UPT) for UPT containers fitted with their Skyhook/Collins Lanyard systems with AADs.

Following some discussion, the Riggers Committee felt that because the manufacturers had highly recommended that the product improvement be carried out on UPT Sigma Tandem and Student systems by the next reserve re-pack. Then the BPA should make mandatory this recommendation in the UK. It was agreed by those present that a BPA Safety Information Bulletin be issued accordingly.

In an effort to keep equipment in the air, it was then agreed by those present that operators may use their equipment if the Skyhook was disabled. This was whilst they awaited parts for the mod, as it had been suggested that delivery of these parts could take some time.

[Note: At the STC meeting that followed the Riggers Committee meeting, STC members strongly disagreed with the Riggers Committee recommendation of the disabling of the Skyhook. It was agreed by STC that the modifications as recommended in the United Parachute Technologies Product Improvement Bulletin, dated 20 January 2009 be made mandatory on all UPT Tandem and Student equipment from the next six-monthly inspection and re-pack date. A BPA Safety Notice had been issued to this effect.]

- vi) A Service Bulletin has been issued by Sunpath Products Inc regarding Hip ring and 4 ring main lift web mandatory inspection on all sport Javelin Odyssey harness/containers with HIP RING OR 4 RING Main lift web, with date of manufacture between September 2008 and December 2008.

12. A.O.B

- i) A letter had been received from Rick Boardman a copy of which had been circulated to present, requesting an extension to Andy Montriou's BR rating.

Rick had stated that Andy had attended his BR Course at Lippspringe in December 2007, but various commitments had prevented him from gaining sufficient practice, which would have allowed him to attend the Course in December 2008.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Phill Elston that Andy Montriou's BR rating be extended until the 31 January 2010.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) An e-mail had been received from Bill Sharp for discussion under AOB, a copy of which had been circulated to present:

- a) **TSE Containers and Re-Certification Program**

Bill had advised the Committee that he recently had a visit from a local German DZ owner. He wanted to know if he was aware of TSE's packing manual requirement to have all TSE container systems re-certified after a 10 or 15-year period. Bill had stated that he was not aware of this and that almost all of the rigger candidates on the recent Courses at Lippspringe were equally not aware of it.

Bill had stated that this requirement was stated on page 24 of TSE's website manual for the SF 1 pin container, and on similar pages for all of their other container systems. It states: *7. Certification. After 10 years your Tear Drop 1 Pin SF harness/container should be returned to Thomas Sports Equipment Ltd for overhaul and re certification.*

Bill advised that the reason he mentioned the 10 or 15-year period was that the website version of their Viper manual states: *7. Certification. After 15 years your Tear Drop 1 Pin SF harness/container should be returned to Thomas Sports Equipment Ltd for overhaul and re certification.*

Bill advised the Committee that he had contacted Chris Thomas on Thursday 15th Jan 09 and he re-iterated the 15 year certification. Chris had also stated that the 15-year rule was for the German market because they required some 'age' restriction in order to satisfy German parachute requirements. Chris had also indicated that this was not necessary for the UK market as the BPA life kit on condition. Bill stated that he had reminded Chris Thomas that this was correct but AP's in the UK have to have and abide by the manuals to hand.

Bill had stated that this was an issue that the Rigging Committee needed to address and he had suggested that TSE be officially contacted to ascertain that the time period actually was (10 or 15 years). If this re-certification program was not necessary within the UK market, then this needed to be formally stated via TSE or through the Riggers Committee, in order to negate the manuals instruction.

Following some discussion on this issue, the Committee agreed with Bill's suggestion that TSE be contacted and that they be asked to officially confirm in writing that they accept the BPA 'lifing' policy (6 monthly inspection at each re-pack) in regard to the lifing policy on their container systems.

The Chairman agreed to contact TSE regarding this matter.

b) A.I.R. and Reserve Repacks

Bill Sharp had reported that on one of the recent Rigging courses at RAPA, an item had been raised regarding reserve packing and packers who use the initials **A.I.R.** (Air, Inspection, Repack) in the remarks/work done column of the reserve packing card. He stated that many people who use it probably did not realise the implications of the whole term. According to Poynter's Manual (page 492 Vol. 1, and page 355, Vol. 2), to 'air' a reserve prior to a repack means to hang it for 24 hours in a room temperature of 60 – 85 degrees F and with a 30% - 60% humidity reading. This period could be reduced to 6 hours if the canopy and the air are dry, and the folds are shaken out every two hours.

Bill had stated that just because the BPA Regulations require a packer to hang the canopy in a flying configuration whilst inspecting it, this did not mean they were officially 'airing' it. If they did use the term AIR and were not hanging the canopy for the 6/24-hour period, people (lawyers) etc can say that you are telling untruths about the work you have done. If you can tell untruths about airing the canopy, what else are you telling untruths about? Bill asked that this term not be used unless packers were properly airing the canopy.

Kim Newton stated that she also shared Bill's concerns on this issue.

The Committee noted Bill's and Kim's comments in relation to this item.

- iii) Phill Elston had sent in an e-mail, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda advising that the USPA has lengthened their parachute repack cycle from 120 days to 180 days. Anything packed in the USA after 17 Nov 08 now had a 180 day repack cycle.
- iv) The Chairman reported that two Packing/Rigging Confidential Reports had been received since the last meeting:
 - a) During a reserve re-pack of a Tempo 150 reserve canopy, a brake line was found to be misrouted. The left brake line was found going once around the left hand side rear riser lines. On closer inspection of the reserve packing card it was noticed that the reserve had been disconnected. It was re-assembled and packed and then re-packed once more 6 months later by the same packer.
 - b) On deployment in the workshop of an Infinity reserve canopy, brake lines at cascade point appeared to catch on the freestow loop. Under workshop conditions, the canopy eventually deployed, but only after high load. Under snatch force of a reserve deployment, things would have been different. Another issue was that once the reserve had been re-packed, the cascade point was some 8" away from the freestow loops.
- v) Pete Sizer had produced an update of the Index of Safety Notices, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

SAFETY FILE INDEX

48. Sunrise Rigging
 - (1) BPA SAFETY NOTICE INDEX
 73. Vigils pre 8/06 Grounded. SN 1/08, 29.5.08
 - (2) BPA SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETINS INDEX
 98. Vigil AAD Type 3 Cutter mandatory. SI 1/08, 6.6.08
 - (3) AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION
 83. Mandatory 3-ring inspection and maintenance on all 3-ring release systems. SB APF010801-B, 23.01.2009
 - (8) PARACHUTES de FRANCE
 50. Slider stop missing. BS 25-63-46, 12.12.08
 - (12) RELATIVE WORKSHOP / UPT
 55. Reserve Pins – permissible bend of 20 degrees, 22.10.08
 56. Sigma Tandem / Skyhook modification. Product Improvement Notice, 15.1.09
 - (15) STRONG ENTERPRISES
 30. Argus and Vigil approved for Tandem. PSB 27 & 28, 2.10.08
 - (24) SUNPATH PRODUCTS
 12. Mandatory Hip Ring and 4 Ring main lift web inspections on Javelin Odyssey Harness/Containers. SPSB005, 03.02.09
 - (35) AERODYNE
 2. Grommet inspection. SB 271107, 27.11.07
 3. Alternate cutter position. SB 210108, 25.1.08
 - (38) AIRTEC
 10. Recall of Cypres 2 – units manufactured 8.06 – 12.06. C2 0408, 21.4.08
 - (40) CHUTE SHOP
 1. Slider Stops. BPA Riggers Minutes-05.02.98. SI 1/98
 - (44) VIGIL /AAD
 5. Grounding of Vigils manufactured pre 8.06. SN 1/08, 29.5.08
 6. Type 3 Cutters Mandatory. SI 1/08, 6.6.08
 7. Battery Life: 10 years / 1500 jumps or when ‘Batt low’ displayed. 22.4.08
 8. Vigil approved in Strong Tandem systems. PSB 28, 2.10.08
 - (48) SUNRISE RIGGING
 1. Midflap modification on Wings container. SB 08325, 31.3.08
- vi) The Committee was advised that the stock of BPA record of Inspection Check List was running low and that a further supply would need to be ordered. A number of suggested amendments were discussed by those present. However, following further discussion it was agreed that a list of proposed amendments be compiled for distribution with the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

Riggers were asked to send any proposed amendments to the Check List via e-mail to Trudy at the office.

- vii) Bill Sharp had advised the Committee that the Company that hosts the BPA site and the uploading of the BPA Approved Tandem mods website after his server had removed it was now back up again. It could be linked from the BPA website and also from the stand alone address: <http://www.tandemmods.co.uk/>.
- viii) A letter had been received from Ray Armstrong, a copy of which had been circulated to those present requesting that his factory be approved for the running of Advanced Packing Courses. Ray had included details of his facilities and an e-mail floor plan of the facility.

Following some discussion by those present, it was proposed by Phill Elston and seconded by Rick Boardman that Ray Armstrong's factory be approved for the running of Advanced Packing Courses with the proviso that no other activity takes place in the proposed floor area for the duration of a Course.

Carried Unanimously

- ix) An E-mail had been received from Ray Armstrong, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Ray had stated that a question had been raised during the recent AP course at Langar. He reported there had been some discussion regarding the fact that a holder of an AP Square rating could pack any square reserve into any container as long as they had the manuals to hand, but not mains. He stated that many people were of the opinion that the AP rating should allow the holder to pack any square main into any container as long as they had the manuals to hand without having to be signed off on their packing certificate. This would be limited to the type rating i.e. AP(S) only personal equipment and AP(T) Tandem equipment.

Ray's comments generated some discussion by those present. The Committee felt that this was an area, which warranted further discussion and perhaps required a change to the rules. Following further discussion, Phill Elston said that he would liaise with Ray Armstrong with a view to drafting a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Date of next Meetings:

Thursday 9 April 2009
Thursday 11 June 2009
Thursday 6 August 2009
Thursday 1 October 2009
Thursday 26 November 2009

BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

19 February 2009

Distribution:

Chairperson Riggers Committee

All CCIs

All Riggers

Advanced Packers

Council

D. Beaven (CAA)

Lesley Gale

**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE
BPA OFFICE BY FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2009**