

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2006**

**Present:** Paul Applegate - Chairman Riggers  
Kim Newton  
Phill Elston (NV)  
Rick Boardman  
Pat Walters  
Bernadette Whitaker  
Pete Sizer  
Dave Major (NV)

(NV) = Non Voting Member

**Apologies:** Dave Prince.

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

**Observers:** Paul Yeoman, Dave Wood, Doug Peacock.

---

**ITEM**

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 28 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Page 3, Item 3 – AADs (Fitting to Equipment).** At the previous meeting, the Riggers Committee had proposed and accepted a statement regarding the fitting of AADs, which read: *‘Where AADs are to be fitted, both the AAD manufacturer and the rig manufacturer must be in agreement as to the fitting of the AAD, and instructions as to the installation/fitting must be available. This is to take effect by the next re-pack’*

This statement had caused a number of problems and various correspondence had been received on the subject, copies of which had been circulated to those present.

Following a lengthy discussion in order to clarify the situation, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Kim Newton that the above statement regarding the fitting of AADs to equipment be amended to read:

*‘Where electronic AADs are to be fitted, instructions as to the installation/fitting, acceptable to the AAD manufacturer, must be available. However, it is the responsibility of the installer/fitter to ensure that the manufacturer of neither the AAD or container object’.*

**Carried Unanimously**

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Pat Walters that the Minutes of the Riggers meeting of the 28 September 2006, be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 28 SEPTEMBER 2006**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE PERFORMANCE VARIABLE TD400 TANDEM PARACHUTE SYSTEM FOR STUDENT USE**

An application for the acceptance of the Performance Variable TD400 Tandem Parachute System for Student use had been submitted from Paul Applegate and circulated to those present.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Kim Newton that the above equipment be accepted for Student use.

**Carried Unanimously**

The TO asked that future application forms such as the above are sent through by e-mail to the office to enable them to be distributed electronically with the Riggers agenda.

4 **VIGIL AAD FITTING INSTRUCTIONS**

A copy of the Vigil AAD Fitting Instructions had been downloaded from the Vigil website and copies circulated to those present for consideration.

The Committee felt that it was not within their remit to 'approve' manufacturers manuals as such. They may from time to time perhaps disapprove or object to a manual if they were not happy with its content. The Committee felt that they should just acknowledge the fact that the AAD Vigil Fitting Instructions were now available.

The Chairman referred to the drawing on page 4 of the Vigil AAD Fitting Instructions, which featured a picture of the AAD with the old style cutter. He pointed out that a new type of cutter without the interior plastic sleeve is now fitted to all new Vigil AADs.

The Committee felt that all Packers should be aware when dealing with the old style cutters because of the recently reported problems with them.

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

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

6. **MANUFACTURER'S SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

The Chairman advised those present that a number of potential equipment related problems had been reported since the last meeting. Copies of the various correspondence relating to these problems had been circulated to those present:

- i) Correspondence had been received from Eric Fradet advising that France has grounded cutaway and reserve handles that are low profile/small handles with jumps made during wintertime with big gloves and/or jumps made with wingsuits.
- ii) Eric Fradet had also passed on some information concerning Vigil unit control front location issue.
- iii) Information had also been received from Eric Fradet concerning a bent Skyhook lanyard.
- iv) A problem had been identified with the Vigil AAD cutter with plastic loop protection. Some cutters had been found with plastic loop protection damaged, which had the potential to damage the closure loop. Various correspondence had been received on this matter, copies of which had been circulated to those present. The Committee felt that Packers should be made aware of this potential problem.

**7. A.O.B**

- i) Advanced Packers Course Reports:
  - a) An Advanced Packers Upgrade Course Report has been received from Andy Page and circulated to those present.
 

Deane Smith and Stuart Smith both holders of an AP (Grade S) rating successfully attended the Course and were upgraded to include AP (Grade R).
  - b) Another Advanced Packers Report had also been received from Andy Page and circulated to those present.
 

Steven Stringer had attended the Course in preparation for his AP (Grade S) rating and John Graham had attended the Course in preparation for his AP (Grade S & R) ratings. Both candidates were advised to return for final examination in the future.

Aaron Ellen who already held AP (Grade S) rating successfully completed the Course for upgrade to include AP (Grade R).
- ii) Kim Newton had notified the office of her intention to run an Advanced Packer Tandem Course at NLPC starting on the 4 December 2006.
- iii) The Chairman advised the Committee that the office was running low on the Record of Inspection Books and a further supply would shortly need to be ordered. He asked those present if they felt the Inspection Sheet required any amendments prior to an order being placed.
 

The Committee discussed a few possible variations to the form, after which it was agreed by those present to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting. Anyone with any proposed amendments to the Inspection Sheet was asked to put them in writing for distribution with the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.
- iv) The Chairman reported that he had been notified by an Irish Rigger of a problem he had found on equipment brought to him for a routine re-pack. The current owner of equipment had asked him to report the matter to Committee. The Chairman stated that when the container was opened for a re-pack, it was found that

someone had re-tacked the anaconda housing at the pin end with the last flap closed which picked up reserve bridle line and held it fast to the top flap. This could have resulted with pilot chute in tow situation if the reserve had been pulled.

The Chairman reported that the equipment in question had been sold on twice since the last re-pack and further investigation showed the equipment had passed through many hands since then. Therefore to track down who had carried out this work was almost impossible.

The Committee were concerned that this incident could have resulted in a fatal accident. They felt that Riggers should ensure that any work carried out on a container, that may involve putting a needle through it should ensure that there are no canopies in it at the time.

Date of next Meeting:                      Thursday 1 February 2007  
  BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.  
  4.00 p.m.

29 November 2006

**Distribution**

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

**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2007**