

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2004

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Paul Burns
Bernadette Whitaker
Pete Sizer
John Harding

Apologies: John Curtis, Kim Newton, Bill Sharp, Allan Hewitt.

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

Observers: Dave Major, Jeff Illidge.

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 10 JUNE 2004**

Page 3, Item 4 (2) – Riggers Packing Certificates. The Chairman advised those present that the office had written to those Riggers affected by the new rules concerning Riggers Packing Certificates. Andrew Hilton had asked that the names of these Riggers be recorded in the Minutes in case there were any others who had ‘slipped through the net’.

It was confirmed that the following Riggers had been contacted:- David Gould, Daniel Ng, Dave Ballard, Geoff Hughes, Richard Wheatley, Andrew Bennett, Arron Hearsom, Dane Richardson. So far, only two of these Riggers had confirmed with the office that their Packing Certificates had been endorsed by an Advanced Rigger. The Committee felt that this was something that could be checked by the person signing them up at the time of their annual rating renewal.

Page 7, Item 10 – AOB (ii). The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Steve Apps confirming that David Gould had attended a lecture on Methods of Instruction as part of his qualification to teach Advanced Packing.

The Committee agreed that David Gould had now fulfilled the requirement to be added to the list of those people qualified to run Advanced Packing Courses.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Bernadette Whitaker that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting of the 10 June 2004 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 10 JUNE 2004**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST**

2004

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

4. PROPOSALS FROM ANDREW HILTON INCLUDING VARIOUS UPDATED SYLLABUSES

Andrew Hilton had submitted a paper, which had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that the Committee consider the following proposals:-

i. Summary document

Andrew had produced a draft summary listing of all the BPA rigging forms, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda. Andrew had stated that with the recent updates to all the rigging documents, many people had suggested that such a list would be useful to determine what is what in the BPA rigging paper work world. Andrew had proposed that this list be accepted as a formal BPA document for that purpose.

ii. Updated Syllabuses

Andrew had made a number of changes to the Rigging Syllabuses to incorporate the following proposed changes and updates. These changes were part of the regular updating of these documents required to keep them in line with the (all but one already accepted) changes in rules and procedures made by the BPA and the Riggers Committee -

Form 237 - BPA Rigging Loft and BPA Advanced Packer course instructor lists added to all

Form 198 - Tandem Packing Syllabus

Removed "All must have successfully completed the Airtec Course" and aligned layout to new form 169. No other changes

Form 202 - Rigger Examiner Syllabus

Added the following as an NB so a prospective RE does their first AP course with an RE, the previous version was not clear on this requirement-

"...From the Advanced Packing Course Syllabus, BPA Form 169:

N.B. 1 Advanced Riggers or Parachute Riggers are to run their first courses with a Rigger Examiner and must have completed a "Methods of Instruction" lecture on a BPA Instructors' Course.

N.B. 2 On completion of the first course with a Rigger Examiner, the course report will include a recommendation or otherwise for the PR/AR to run future courses. This will be submitted to the Riggers Committee, for the BPA Office to record on the list of those qualified to run Advanced Packing Courses"

Form 200 - Parachute Riggers Syllabus

Andrew had proposed to remove the obsolete manufacture of "Simple envelope containers" and replace with cutaway pad.

Andrew had stated that this change was discussed and noted at the last rigger exam course in RAPA last December, and was being presented now at the same opportunity to combine it with the above updates.

It was proposed by Andrew Hilton and seconded by Paul Burns that the proposals as outlined

above be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

5. PROPOSALS FROM ALLAN HEWITT

A letter had been received from Allan Hewitt and had been circulated with the Agenda with a number of issues concerning Advanced Packing Courses, which the Committee discussed at some length.

Allan had noted that a number of Advanced Packers Courses had been run at locations other than at BPA Affiliated Clubs who had not applied for the correct permission, in that they had not provided the Committee with full details of their facilities, which was now the current rule prior to these locations being permitted to run a Course.

Allan had stated that these Courses had been accepted by the Committee, which he believed had been run in direct contradiction to the rules, which proved a conflict between the two systems.

The Committee felt that when these locations had applied to run a Course, they had been accepted on the basis that Advanced Packer Courses had been held at these locations previously and their facilities were known. However, it was agreed by those present that Riggers should be reminded that in the future, those wishing to run an Advanced Packers Course at a location other than at a BPA Affiliated Club, will need to apply to the Committee giving full written details of their facilities each time they apply to run a Course.

Allan Hewitt had proposed that the BPA set up an up to date list of approved Packing and Rigging facilities to be held on file. Following some discussion on this matter, this proposal failed to find a seconder.

6. REQUEST FROM MIKE RUST

The Chairman advised those present that this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

7. STUDENT TANDEM EQUIPMENT MODIFICATION REQUESTS – IAN ROSENVINGE

A proposal had been circulated with the Agenda from Ian Rosenvinge giving details of two requests for Student Tandem Equipment Modifications.

- i) The first request involved the exchange of Paratec Next Tandem main risers and Relative Workshop Vector Tandem main risers and vice versa.
- ii) The second request from Ian Rosenvinge was to fit a Colin's Lanyard to a Next Tandem system.

Following some discussion on the above. There were a number of questions raised by those present relating to the proposed modifications. It was therefore felt that until the equipment modification had been inspected and endorsed by an Advanced Rigger they were unable to deal with the above requests.

The Chairman stated that he would contact Ian Rosenvinge regarding this matter.

* John Harding arrived at 2.25pm.

8. STUDENT TANDEM EQUIPMENT MODIFICATION REQUEST – PETE SIZER

A proposal from Pete Sizer had been circulated with the Agenda requesting a change to the

specification for BPA Minor Mods 1 & 2, for the use of AML 16720 double gate snaps as an alternative to previously listed snap hooks.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Bernadette Whitaker that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. PROPOSAL TO RUN AN ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE – PAUL BURNS

A letter from Paul Burns had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that Point Zero be approved to host Advanced Packing Courses.

Paul was present at the meeting and gave the Committee details of his request. He had not produced written details of the facilities at Point Zero, but gave a brief verbal report to those present.

Following some discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Paul Burns and seconded by Pete Sizer that Paul be permitted to run an Advanced Packers Course at Point Zero with the proviso that he provides written details of the facilities at Point Zero, together with the proposed Course dates to the Chairman as soon as possible.

Carried Unanimously

A second request from Paul Burns which had previously been circulated with the Agenda concerning Advanced Packer Courses being held at non BPA Affiliated Clubs, was withdrawn because of previous discussions on this matter earlier in the meeting.

10. REQUEST FROM KIM NEWTON

A request had been circulated with the Agenda from Kim Newton asking permission to hold an exam for the Advanced Packers rating for Sean (Geordie) Best and Mick Cooper, without them first attending an Advanced Packers Course. Both Geordie and Mick had held a packing certificate for reserve parachutes for many years. Kim had stated that Geordie had lost his paperwork and needed to replace it. He had been previously signed up for a wide variety of equipment. Mick Cooper had been packing reserves in her presence this year and is currently signed up for a selection of individual reserves and containers.

Kim had stated that both Geordie and Mick were familiar with BPA regulations and were both BPA instructors. She felt that they both were well able to pack reserves with the relevant instructions, and it would be more like converting them onto the new system than issuing qualifications for the first time.

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

Carried Unanimously

11. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORT – PETE SIZER

Pete Sizer had submitted an Advanced Packers Examination Course Report a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda. Eric Bazin-Laziou had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S & T) status.

12. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been one BPA Safety Information Bulletin issued since the last meeting concerning Teflon Coated Closing Pins.

13. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

The Committee was advised that there had been Service Bulletins from Sunpath, Parachutes de France and Paratec received since the last meeting, which had been previously circulated for information.

10. A.O.B

- i) The Chairman stated that Riggers and Packers should be careful when completing their paperwork when packing equipment with a Vigil AAD as the date of manufacture and serial number do not appear on the actual unit. This can only be found on the original paperwork that comes with the unit in the form of a small card.

The Chairman stated that he could find no means of checking out the battery on the unit. After corresponding with the manufacturer, they had confirmed that it was 600 jumps or 4 years for the battery and if the battery needs change, it will tell you.

The Committee agreed that if anyone wished to use the Vigil AAD on Student equipment, they would need to come to the Riggers Committee first for acceptance.

- ii) Correspondence had been received from Kim Newton advising the Committee that she had carried out a Tandem container/canopy compatibility check. The equipment concerned was a Vector Sigma container and Icarus 360 main canopy. Kim had inspected the equipment and had stated that the bulk of this canopy appeared to be well suited to the size of the container, giving no cause for concern. The brake settings on the risers were also compatible with the brake lines on the canopy. Kim's overall view was that the container and canopy were compatible.
- iii) Bill Sharp had asked that a reminder be included in the Minutes of the two Rigging Courses being held at RAPA. The first Course is being run from the 29 November – 3 December 2004 and the seconded Course is being run from the 6 – 10 December 2004. At the moment there were still a couple of places available on either of the two Courses for anyone interested.
- iv) An Advanced Packers Course had been submitted by Roy Bannerman and circulated to those present.

Roy had written to apologise for not notifying the Riggers Committee of his intentions to hold Advanced Packing Courses at the Rigging Room, Redford Barracks, Colinton, Edinburgh. He stated that he was aware that procedures were in place for a reason but in the organising of the programmes, he had neglected to inform the Committee. He hoped that the committee would accept his apologies.

Roy had advised the Committee that he had taken steps to prevent this error from re-occurring by having an organized check list in place. He stated that he would like this noted in the minutes to highlight this potential error and prevent others from doing as I had done.

Listed below was the information submitted by Roy on the various Advanced Packer Courses that he had run:-

- a) Roy had completed an Advance Packing Course (Tandem) for Iain Anderson who successfully completed the course on 14 07 04 – 19 07 04 and he also successfully

passed the Examination Course which had been held from the 29 07 04 - 30 08 04.

- b) Roy had also completed an Advance Packers Course for Round and Square from the 23 08 04 - 28 08 04. The candidate; Steve Studders had successfully completed the course.
- c) Roy had completed an Examination Course from the 13 09 04 - 16 09 04 for Steve Studders and Jim McKee; both of whom had successfully completed the course. Steve had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R & S) status and Jim had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

Following some discussion on this item, the Committee accepted Roy Bannerman's apology for not notifying them of his intentions to run the above Courses and accepted the contents of his report.

- v) A letter had been received from Roy Bannerman requesting a six month extension to the Basic Rigger rating of Iain Anderson.

It was proposed by Roy Bannerman and seconded by Paul Burns that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- vi) The Committee were advised of an incident where a jumper noticed on landing that his connector link had come undone. On inspection of the equipment it was found that most of the connector links were loose. This incident was being investigated by the Centre concerned and the Committee would be kept informed of the outcome of their investigations.

- vii) A letter had been received from Bill Sharp and circulated to those present requesting extensions of a one month period for the following Basic Riggers: Liz Ashley, Chris Clark, Phill Elston and Dave Major. This would enable them all to attend the forthcoming Rigging Course at RAPA.

It was proposed by Bill Sharp and seconded by John Harding that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- viii) Pete Sizer advised the meeting that on the last Tandem Instructor Course, a candidate had pulled the primary ripcord and 4 seconds passed before the 3-ring released and the drogue lifted the bag off. Pete stated that on inspecting the kit, he removed the double ended loop, which transpires had been glued as well as sewn, so was quite rigid even at room temperature.

Pete Sizer stated that if the loops were not actually manufacturer produced, then the only spec that was available was the one from Relative Workshop which details the dimensions and construction method for the loop and it does not mention gluing it in any place.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 2 December 2004
 BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.
 4.00 p.m.

13 October 2004

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 15 NOVEMBER 2004**