

British Parachute Association

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Riggers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 7 June 2012 at 1600

at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
George Panagopoulos
Paul Stockwell
Rick Boardman
Pete Sizer
Dave Major (*from item 7*)

Apologies: John Curtis, Noel Purcell, Dave Gould.

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

Observer: Vince Manley

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 5 APRIL 2012**

Page 4, Item 9 – AOB (i). Paul Applegate reported that he had produced a draft of the initial clearance form for Tandem Equipment as mentioned at the previous meeting, a copy of which had been circulated to those present for information. The draft form would be circulated with the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

Page 5, Item 9 – AOB (iv). The military packer who had been granted an exemption to attend an AP Course had now joined the BPA. However, they had failed to turn up for the planned Course. George Panagopoulos expressed his disappointment at this, as he had not been informed in advance.

It was established following the meeting that Dane Kenny had endeavoured to contact George prior to the start of the Course to advise him that the person concerned would be unable to attend due to military commitments.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of 5 April 2012 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

Minutes of the Riggers Meeting of 9 Feb 2012

The Chairman referred to the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting on 9 February 2012, which reported on the Rigging Course held at Netheravon from the 8 – 13 January 2012. The Committee had recorded its thanks to Kim Newton and George Panagopoulos for running this Course. However, it was pointed out that the Course had actually been run by Andrew Hilton and Kim Newton with assistance from George Panagopoulos in the final part of his Rigger Examiners rating.

The Chairman apologised for this misunderstanding and said that this would be clarified in the Minutes.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETINGS OF THE 5 APRIL 2012

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the STC meeting of 5 April 2012.

3. STUDENT EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A Student equipment change proposal had been received from George Panagopoulos, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda together with the relevant paperwork and drawing. The proposal was for a modification to a cutaway handle of Sun Path Javelin Student – AFF (BOC) container.

George Panagopoulos presented the equipment concerned together with the modified cut away handle. He reported that the modification had been made in America for the ‘BLESMA Trans4mers’ (British Limbless Ex Service Men’s Association).

George Panagopoulos introduced Vince Manley the jumper concerned who had already been using the equipment in America and who intended to jump the equipment in the UK.

For information, the Technical Officer stated that if the jumper concerned had been the holder of a BPA ‘A’ Licence, then this request would not have required the acceptance of the Committee.

George Panagopoulos reported that an extra loop style handle (taken from a Tandem reserve handle) had been sewn on top of the existing cut-away handle. This ensured the Student could get his right thumb through the handle and also use his left hand to grip the handle to perform a cut-away, and also enabled him to use the 2 handed reserve drill action.

The Committee considered whether this modification could be accepted for general use, but on reflection, it was felt that this should be a ‘one-off’ modification for a named person only as each person’s injuries were specific to them.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by George Panagopoulos and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Student equipment change proposal as presented be accepted for use by Vince Manley.

Carried Unanimously

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RIGGERS WORKING GROUP LOOKING INTO EQUIPMENT INSPECTION POLICIES

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

5. TO CONSIDER PRODUCING THE 2 PART BOOKS FOR TANDEM EQUIPMENT RECORD OF INSPECTION CHECK LIST SHEETS

It had been over 12 months since the Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection Check List Sheets had been in use, and the Committee considered producing the 2 part books as were in use with the standard Record of Inspection Check Lists.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Paul Stockwell that the 2 part books are produced for the Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection Check List sheets, and this was on the understanding that once the books were available, only these books would be used for Tandem inspections.

Carried Unanimously

6. **TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FROM ROY BANNERMAN TO HOLD AN ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE AT PARAGON SKYDIVING (ERROL)**

A request from Roy Bannerman to run an Advanced Packers Course at Skydive Paragon (Errol) had been circulated with the Agenda together with details of the facilities at Errol.

The Committee was advised that Roy Bannerman had previously run an AP Course at another location.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by George Papagopoulos and seconded by Paul Stockwell that above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

7. **TO DISCUSS AND ADVISE ON WHAT CONSTITUTES A CANOPY TYPE AS DESCRIBED ON THE PACKING CERTIFICATE**

At the last Riggers and STC meetings some concern had been voiced regarding the endorsing of main packing certificate. It was generally felt that most main canopies were packed in a similar manner and that it was difficult for Instructors to obtain an endorsement for a new canopy on their own packing certificate, which caused problems when another parachutist required an endorsement. There had also been some concern that there was not enough space on the existing Packing Certificate to have them endorsed for everything particularly when most types of equipment were either the same or of a similar type.

Some discussion took place on how individual canopies could be grouped by type, but it was generally felt by those present that this may cause more confusion trying to interpret the various types of canopies.

The Committee also considered whether it was only really necessary to have Packing Certificates solely for Club owned Student equipment. However, it was felt that there was a need to expand beyond just Student equipment, as each and every combination of equipment needed to be covered.

Following on from this discussion, the Technical Officer advised the Committee that, he would be proposing to STC that evening a change to the current Packing Certificate requirements that involved the part of the requirement that those instructors have their own packing certificates endorsed for the equipment they are signing for.

The proposed change was as follows:

9. **PACKING CERTIFICATES**

Approved Packing Certificates (Main parachutes). 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/Instructors (excluding TBIs or TIs).

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by George Panagopoulos that the Riggers Committee support the TO's proposal to STC, but with the proviso that the wording in brackets be changed to read: "(excluding CSBIs, TBIs or AFFBIs).

Carried Unanimously

8. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WHETHER THE BPA COULD DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A DATA RESOURCE**

Paul Stockwell had asked that the Riggers Committee discuss and consider whether the BPA could develop and maintain a data resource, the idea of which would be that anyone wishing to check safety and information bulletins for any combination of equipment could simply enter the make, model or year of manufacture of each main component to get a definitive list of all relevant information and notices.

Paul Stockwell stated that he believed that this was a massive undertaking for the Association that would need to be considered over a number of years, as it was something that would need to be regularly updated and maintained.

It was pointed out that a number of other organisations such as the APF and PIA have a similar facility, but the Riggers Committee felt that the Association should have its own data resource, as they believed it would be hugely beneficial to the membership.

Following a lengthy discussion on this topic, it was felt by a number of Riggers present that the Association could perhaps consider employing someone who could undertake this task, but were mindful of the fact that the necessary resources would need to be in place to be able to employ such a person.

Following further consideration, the Committee agreed to investigate and research possible avenues of funding such a project.

9. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Netheravon from the 11 – 12 April 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Dan Whitby successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Netheravon from the 23 – 26 April 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Hannah Davies, Mathew Knight and David Pratt. All candidates were advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date following a number of supervised pack jobs.

George Panagopoulos reported that Dave Major had attended and assisted on this Course.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Netheravon from the 23 – 24 May 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

David Pratt successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Skydive Headcorn from the 5 – 6 June 2012. Pete Sizer had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Mary Barratt successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- v) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Netheravon from the 28 – 31 May 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Richard Hughes who was advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date following a number of supervised pack jobs.

10. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been no BPA Safety Notice or Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting:

11. **MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

- i) A Product Service Bulletin had been circulated from Parachute Systems regarding the mandatory (inspection & modification) at the next jump on all Decelerator reserves and Vortex 2 Rigs.

12. **A.O.B.**

- i) The Chairman reported that George Panagopoulos would be running an Advanced Packers Course at Cyprus from the 16 – 19 July 2012.
- ii) The Chairman wished to remind Packers and Riggers of the importance of maintaining currency especially if they had not yet renewed their ratings and intend doing so within the six months grace period (April – Sept).

Date of next Meetings: Thursday 2 August 2012, Thursday 27 September 2012,
Thursday 22 November 2012

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

13 June 2012

Distribution:

Chairperson Riggers Committee, All CCIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, Council, CAA
Editor - Skydive

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY FRIDAY 13 JULY 2012