

British Parachute Association

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Riggers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 2 August 2012 at 1600

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

- Present:** John Hitchen - Chairman STC
Rick Boardman
Paul Stockwell
Pete Sizer
Noel Purcell
- Apologies:** Paul Applegate, John Curtis, George Panagopoulos, Gerry Cepelak, Dave Major.
- In Attendance:** Tony Butler - Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO
- Observers:** Mal Richardson, John Page (from item 4)
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ITEM

In the absence of Paul Applegate, the meeting was chaired by the Chairman of STC.

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 7 JUNE 2012**

Page 1, Item 1 (Matters Arising) – Draft Initial Clearance Form for Tandem equipment. This was a main agenda item.

Page 2, Item 5 (Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection Checklist). The 2 part books had now been produced and were available for purchase from the office at a cost of £6.15 each. These books had now replaced the single Checklist sheets and ALL packers were reminded that only the 2 part books were to be used from now on, as each Checklist was individually numbered.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Paul Stockwell and seconded by Rick Boardman that the Minutes of the Riggers Sub-Committee Meeting of 7 June 2012 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETINGS OF THE 7 JUNE 2012**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the STC meeting of 7 June 2012.

3. **PROPOSED TANDEM HARNESS & CONTAINER SYSTEM INITIAL CLEARANCE FORM**

A draft copy of the new Tandem Harness & Container System Initial Clearance form produced by Paul Applegate had been circulated with the Agenda for consideration.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rick Boardman that this form be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

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

A proposed recommendation from Rigger Working Group looking into Equipment Inspection Policies had been previously circulated prior to the meeting, together with background information from Rick Boardman.

Rick Boardman gave the meeting further details, together with details of the Working Group meeting held this afternoon.

Rick reported that he had devised a new flow chart, that he proposes as a possible alternative way of addressing the issue of equipment aging, which splits out the responsibility of who actually owns the equipment and avoided any issues of BPA qualification to inspect older kit.

The Working Group had also discussed the possibility of removing the current one-line entry in the Riggers Technical Manual entitled "Lifing of Equipment", as this entry was in direct conflict with the packing document declarations on the Record of Inspection (ROI), in which the packer declares that the parachute system appeared serviceable "at the time of inspection" only.

The Committee considered the implications of removing the entry in the Riggers Technical Manual regarding lifing of equipment. It was generally felt by those present that an entry should remain covering lifing, but that consideration be given to replacing it with a more suitable wording to parallel what packers were actually signing for on the ROI.

Rick Boardman agreed to draft a suggested alternative wording for consideration at the next meeting.

During discussion, the meeting noted that the Riggers Technical Manual was possibly due a re-write at some point in the future.

5. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Netheravon from the 26 – 27 June 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

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

- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Skydive Headcorn from the 2 – 3 July 2012. Pete Sizer had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

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

- iii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Netheravon from the 3 – 6 July 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. The Course was attended by Andreas Papadopoulos.

The Examination phase of the Course was then held at Netheravon from the 26 – 27 July 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course Report, a copy of which was also circulated to those present. Andreas successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Cyprus from the 16 – 19 July 2012. George Panagopoulos had sent in a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Martin White, Dylan Bartle and Philip Bell.

The Examination phase of the Course was then held from the 23 – 24 July 2012, with all candidates successfully completing the Course and being awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

6. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

7. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

- i) An Airworthiness Directive (AD) has been circulated from AVA Sports Ltd of Bulgaria concerning Avalon harness containers. The AD required owners to check the cutaway cable lengths on their rigs. The AD comes with a series of pictures showing how the check should be carried out.

A copy of the AD could be found on the AVA Sport's website by following the link below:

<http://www.avalonskydive.com/ads.php>

8. A.O.B.

- i) A Tandem incident report has been received where a problem on a Sigma Tandem rig was discovered after a jump whilst it was being packed. It was noticed that the connector link on the drogue was bent out of shape. It appeared that the link had become loose over time.

Photos of the connector link and the actual link involved were available for inspection

During discussion, those present complimented the packer concerned who had picked up this particular problem as it was quite a difficult one to spot.

This incident highlighted the importance of checking drogue attachment links.

- ii) A Student Parachutist Equipment Change Proposal Application had been received from Noel Purcell on the day prior to this meeting.

The proposal was to add a `Y` strap to a specific Next Paratec Tandem Student Harness to keep the legstraps in place to prevent the student slipping out of the harness. Noel presented the harness to those present and reported that the manufacturers had stated that they were happy with the modification.

Those Riggers present could see no problem with this particular mod. However, the

Chairman of STC pointed out that a decision could not be taken that evening regarding this proposal as the related paperwork had not arrived in time for it to be attached to the outgoing agenda for this meeting, which was a requirement for items involving changes to student equipment. This item would therefore be deferred until the next meeting.

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

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

9 August 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 7 SEPTEMBER 2012