

British Parachute Association

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Riggers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 30 September 2010 at 1600

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

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Dave Major
Gerry Cepelak (NV)
Pete Sizer

NV = Non Voting member

Apologies: Rick Boardman, John Curtis, Bernadette Whitaker, Kim Newton,
Ray Armstrong, John Hitchen

In Attendance: Tony Butler - Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to NCSO/TO

As the Committee was not quorate, any items requiring formal acceptance would be deferred until the next quorate meeting.

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2010**

The Minutes from the Riggers Meeting of the 5 August 2010 would need to be formally ratified at the next quorate meeting.

Page 1, Item 1 (Minutes & Matters Arising) – Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection – Check list. This item was ongoing.

Page 2, Item 3 (Riggers Course Syllabus). The various updated forms had been circulated with the previous Minutes.

Page 4, Item 9 –AOB (iii) – Confidential Reports (b & c). The Chairman had written to the Rigger concerned.

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2010**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. **REQUEST TO HOST BPA RIGGING COURSE**

A letter from Bill Sharp had been circulated with the Agenda requesting to host a Rigging Course at RAPA (Germany) from the 3 – 7 January 2011.

The Committee members present agreed to this Course in principle, but this request would still need to be formally accepted at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that Bill Sharp had also advised the office that the Course was now fully subscribed. Anyone else who may be interested in attending the Course should contact Bill Sharp to be put on a reserve list.

4. WORKING GROUP INTO BPA EQUIPMENT INSPECTION POLICIES

Rick Boardman had advised the office that he had nothing further to report at this time.

5. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

An Advanced Packers Training Course had taken place at Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE), Bridlington from the 9 – 12 August 2010. A Course Report had been received from Chris Thomas, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Training Course had been attended by Robert Bellamy who had then attended the Examination phase of the Course the following day at TSE. Robert Bellamy successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

Pete Sizer expressed some concern with regard to AP candidates undertaking the examination phase of the AP Course immediately after attending an AP training Course without first going away for a period of time and doing further practice under supervision. Pete Sizer was concerned that this was not the first time that this situation had occurred.

6. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

7. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

- i) A Safety Advisory had been issued by Parachute Laboratories Inc – Jump Shack which, provided guidance to Riggers when testing reserve bag extraction forces prior to inspection and repack of Racer reserve canopies.
- ii) A Service Bulletin had been previously circulated from Aviacom SA regarding mandatory cutter replacement. This involved Argus cutters with a manufacturing date of Aug 07 or earlier and manufactured for the Argus AAD by Nobel Energetics. The cutter must be replaced at next repack but no later than 31 December 2010.

The Riggers present also discussed an e-mail from Eno Van Der Post with his comments regarding this Service Bulletin. Eno had felt that the BPA should go one step further and that the Committee should consider grounding the equipment until the cutter had been replaced. However, on further consideration of this matter, those Riggers present felt the BPA should follow the Service Bulletin issued by Aviacom SA.

8. A.O.B.

- i) The Chairman reported that Bill Sharp had updated the BPA Approved Tandem Modifications website. A link to this site was available on the BPA website:

<http://www.tandemmods.co.uk/index.htm>

- ii) The Chairman reported that he had received one Packing/Rigging Confidential Report since the last meeting where during routine reserve repack it was found that the main canopy soft links were used to connect the reserve canopy.

The Chairman said that he was in the process of investigating this matter and would report back to the next meeting.

- iii) Correspondence had been received from Andy Hughes with regard to main deployment bags that use magnets to close the “mouth” of the bag (ie. Instead of bungee/grommet mouth locks): specifically the mPod bag. Comprehensive tests carried by Andy Hughes had shown that this particular bag could deploy out of sequence.

Andy had found that one of the problems with these bags was that if it was manufactured for a particular canopy, it may not be the correct dimensions for the actual container. There was concern that if the container received a bit of a jar as the canopy cleared the container, it could leave the canopy out with the lines still stowed in the pocket.

It was felt by those present that this matter was drawn to the attention of Mpod owners and that they ensure that the bag was not just the correct size for the canopy but that it also fitted the container properly as well.

Much of the discussion then concerned the drawbacks of the various designs of deployment bags. It was felt by those present that the subject of deployment bags in general would make a good educational article for inclusion in the BPA magazine. The Riggers Chairman agreed to liaise with the magazine Editor on this.

- iv) Pete Sizer reported that he would be running an Advanced Packers training course from the 24 – 27 January 2011. Anyone interested in attending, should contact Pete direct.

Date of next Meeting

Thursday 25 November 2010
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

4 October 2010

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 5 NOVEMBER 2010