

British Parachute Association

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Riggers Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 25 November 2010 at 1600

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

Present:	Paul Applegate	-	Chairman
	Dave Major		
	Gerry Cepelak(NV)		
	Paul Stockwell		
	Noel Purcell (NV)		
	NV – Non Voting Member		
Apologies:	Rick Boardman, Pete Sizer, Ray Armstrong		
In Attendance:	John Hitchen	-	Chairman STC
	Tony Butler	-	Technical Officer
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to NCSO/TO
	Karel Goorts	-	Aviacom SA
	Arnold Camfferman	-	Aviacom SA
Observers:	Colin Fitzmaurice, Phil Cavanagh, John Page, Mike Rust.		

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

ITEM

1. **RATIFICATION OF RIGGERS MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE 5 AUGUST 2010**

As the Committee was not quorate, the Minutes of the Riggers meeting of the 5 August 2010 would need to be formally ratified at the next quorate meeting.

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

As the Committee was not quorate, the Minutes from the Riggers Meeting of the 30 September 2010 would need to be formally ratified at the next quorate meeting.

Page 1, Item 1 – Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection. This was a main agenda item

Page 1, Item 3 – Request to host BPA Rigging Course. This was a main agenda item.

Page 2, Item 4 – Working Group into BPA Equipment Inspection Policies. The Chairman reported that correspondence had been received from Rick Boardman, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Rick had outlined a projected a timeframe for next years' meetings, and what the WG hoped to achieve at each meeting.

Rick Boardman had also stated that it was his intention to hold an Open Forum at the 2011 BPA AGM to explain to the membership the aims of the Working Group.

The TO stated that he would include details of the Open Forum in his annual letter to BPA Instructors, Riggers etc.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 30 SEPTEMBER AUGUST 2010

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

4. REQUEST TO HOST BPA RIGGING COURSE

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

As the Committee was not quorate, the Chairman stated that he would ask STC that evening to formally ratify Bill Sharp's request.

5. PROPOSED TANDEM RECORD OF INSPECTION

A proposal to amend the Tandem Record of Inspection Check List had been received from Kim Newton, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Kim Newton had stated that she felt that due to the implementation of the 100 jump check on Tandem equipment it was no longer necessary to document 36 separate check items, as most of these points were covered in the 100 jump check, thereby duplicating paperwork. Condensing the paperwork onto one sheet would make it possible to produce the 2 part books as the BPA already had with the standard Record of Inspection Check List.

The Chairman reported that correspondence on this item had been received from Bill Sharp and Rick Boardman, copies of which had been circulated to those present.

Following some discussion, it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. This would allow Kim Newton the opportunity to consider the input received so far and to make any amendments to the draft Check List. The correspondence from Bill Sharp and Rick Boardman would also be circulated with the next Agenda for information. The Chairman agreed to liaise with Kim Newton on this matter.

6. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Training Course had taken place at the Joint Parachute Centre, Netheravon from the 18 – 21 October 2010. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course had been attended by Adrian Berry, Anthony Lock and Paul O'Mara. All candidates had been advised to return for the Examination phase of the Course at a later date.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had taken place at UK Parachuting (Beccles) from the 27 – 28 October 2010. Andy Page had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which has been circulated to those present.

Michael Jones had successfully attended the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had taken place at Netheravon from the 16 – 19 November 2010. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which

had been circulated to those present.

The Course had been attended by Jason Webster and Rob Franklin both of whom had been advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course at a later date.

7. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been one BPA Safety Notice issued since the last meeting and this concerned the grounding of the Aviacom Argus AAD.

The Safety Notice stated:

'Following two incidents, one on the 25 July 2009, in Chrcynno, Poland, and the other on or about 3 Sept 2010 in Evora, Portugal, where the Argus AAD cutters failed to cut through the reserve parachute closure loops, it has been decided, in consultation with the chairmen of both the BPA Safety & Training Committee (STC) and the Riggers' Sub-Committee, that any rig fitted with an Argus AAD may not be jumped until the problems regarding these AADs can be discussed, by both the Riggers' Sub-Committee and STC at their meetings of the 25th November 2010.

Following these meetings a further Safety Notice or Bulletin will be issued appraising members of any decisions made.'

The Chairman of STC reported that the BPA had received a great deal of paperwork and conflicting information regarding these incidents and therefore he had felt as a precautionary measure, it had been necessary to issue a BPA Safety Notice until a full discussion could take place by both the Riggers' Sub-Committee and STC at their respective meetings today.

Paul Applegate introduced the two representatives who were present from the manufacturers of the Argus AAD (Aviacom SA).

Karel Goorts from Aviacom reported on the two incidents in question and gave the meeting some background information, which had lead to Aviacom issuing their Product Service Bulletin (SB AMMO050910/2, 5 Sept 2010) as a precautionary measure regarding cutter replacement until they could carry out further tests. He then went on to explain the workings on the Argus cutter and gave details of the actions taken by the company so far. He also gave details of their proposed testing programme together with their plans and targets for the future.

The Committee also discussed an e-mail from Paul Stockwell with regards to a number of concerns he had regarding the operation of the Argus AAD, which these two incidents had highlighted.

Following in-depth discussion, it was felt by those present that the BPA was not in a position to be able to carry out comprehensive research or testing of equipment used within sport parachuting. That was the responsibility of the equipment manufacturers.

It was felt by those Riggers present that they recommend to STC that they consider rescinding BPA Safety Notice 1/10 and that a BPA Safety Information Bulletin be issued stating that rigs fitted with Argus AADs may now be put back into service provided the Argus AAD is fitted with a cutter manufactured after the beginning of September 2007 and may only be fitted to equipment authorised by both the AAD manufacturer and container manufacturer and fitted in a manner acceptable to them.

The TO agreed to draft a suggested Bulletin to present to STC that evening for consideration.

8. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

- i) A Rigging Safety Notice from Airtec had been previously circulated for information, which had been issued to highlight the importance that in order for CYPRES to do its intended job of cutting the reserve closing loop at the proper time, it is necessary that the CYPRES closing loop be routed through the CYPRES cutter.

- ii) A Technical Directive had been issued by the Australian Parachute Federation, a copy of which had previously been circulated. This concerned the grounding the use of the Argus AAD in Australia. An accompanying explanatory document with regard to this issue had also been circulated for information.

9. A.O.B.

- i) Correspondence had been received from Paul Stockwell, which had included a proposal from Paul with regard to clarifying the information entered on the Record of Inspection (BPA Form 112).

Paul had stated that he felt there were a number of inconsistencies in the information entered on to the Record of Inspection, which was causing difficulties for packers and those charged with the responsibility of checking documentation at Parachute Centres. The main difficulty concerned the AAD, as there are several different manufactures with different recommendations for service and battery replacement etc.

The Chairman reported that it was the intention to put this item on the main agenda for discussion at the first meeting of 2011 and that Paul's proposal would be circulated at that time.

- ii) The meeting were given details of the availability of new release handles on side snap ejector hooks for Tandem student harnesses.

- iii) Phil Cavanagh reported that a jumper who was also an Advanced Rigger had visited his Centre at the weekend. The Advanced Rigger had a complete drogue release system/assembly for a Tandem for sale, which the Rigger had manufactured. Phil asked for some clarification from the Committee as to whether they believed this was acceptable or not or should drogue assembly have been presented to the Committee first for acceptance.

The Chairman stated that any modifications to equipment, including changes to manufacturer's specifications, used by Student Parachutists, including Tandem equipment, must be approved by the BPA, via Riggers' Committee and STC, before use.

However, without having seen the drogue assembly in question, those present were unable to determine whether it had been manufactured to the exact manufacturers spec. It was therefore felt by those present that the AR who manufactured this particular drogue should present the system to the Committee.

Date of next Meeting

Thursday 10 February 2011
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

30 November 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 21 JANUARY 2011