

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 2002**

**Present:** Paul Applegate - Chairman  
John Harding  
Kim Newton  
Rick Boardman  
Steve Thomas  
Pat Walters  
Nick Johnston  
Pete Sizer  
Dave Prince  
Bernadette Whitaker

**Apologies:** John Curtis

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

**Observers:** Dennis Buchanan, Andy Pollitt, David Hickling, Phil Cavanagh,  
Colin Fitzmaurice, Brad Rock.

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**ITEM**

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 7TH FEBRUARY 2002**

**Page 1, Item 2 – AOB (i).** John Harding advised the meeting that he had spoken to the non-BPA Rigger working at Empuriabrava with regard to the Committee's concerns with regard to him opening up re-packs jobs completed in the UK then re-packing the equipment and issuing a copy of the BPA Record of Inspection with the serial number deleted. John stated that the person concerned had no intention of stopping what he was doing and jumpers should be made aware of the situation.

**Page 2, Item 2 – AOB (vii).** A letter from John Curtis was circulated to those present informing the Committee that since the last meeting he had assessed Brad Rock with regard to him being able to carry out rigging in the UK.

The Committee was advised that Mr Rock was currently a FAA Master Rigger and now permanently lives in the UK and he had been instructing at Sibson for some time using his foreign instructor ratings.

Mr Curtis was satisfied with the standard his rigging work that Brad had carried out when he was examined, which included a reserve repack, canopy and harness repair. Mr Curtis had therefore recommended to the Committee that Brad be allowed to carry out USA Masters rigging work in the UK within the BPA policy for none BPA rated personnel.

The Committee was advised that although the Association has a policy for foreign instructors, instructing in the UK, there was not a policy for foreign riggers wishing to rig in the UK. It was

therefore felt that this subject be put on the main Agenda for the next meeting.

Following some discussion on this matter, it was felt by those present that as Brad was now permanently based in the UK, it would be appropriate that he become BPA rated. The Committee therefore agreed to accept John Curtis' recommendation concerning Brad Rock, but that John Curtis be contacted with regard to what rigging work Brad may need to undertake, if any, to obtain a BPA equivalent rating.

**Page 2, Item 4 – Proxy Voting.** The Chairman advised those present that the BPA Council had discussed the subject of proxy voting following a request from Riggers Committee for clarification on the precise meaning of the term 'proxy voting' as it applied in the Association.

Following lengthy discussion on this matter The Council had agreed that the following definition of proxy voting be adopted forthwith within the British Parachute Association, and that, for the avoidance of doubt, this definition is to be inserted into the terms of reference of the Council, Committees and Subcommittees:

*A vote by proxy in the British Parachute Association is the right of a voting Member of the Council of the Association, or one of its Subcommittees, to exercise their vote when they are unable to attend the meeting on any motion which, from the agenda of, or papers for, the meeting they know, or may reasonably expect, will arise.*

*The absent Member has the right to appoint the Chairman of the meeting as their proxy to cast their vote at the meeting. The vote must be made in writing, which includes by fax, and by e-mail from a recognised or verifiable e-mail address of the voting Member. The Chairman of the meeting is then duly obliged to cast the absent Member's vote in accordance with his or her written instructions.*

A copy of the amended Riggers Sub-Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure was circulated to those present.

**Page 4, Item 7 – BPA Rigging Manual Update**

The Chairman advised those present that as directed by Council, Allan Hewitt had been asked to submit a complete Manual or to return the full amount that the Association had paid him to date.

The full amount had now been received from Allan Hewitt, but no indication had been received from him as to his intentions as far as producing the complete Manual was concerned.

The Committee was advised that a number of other Riggers had already completed some work towards producing a Rigging Manual and. The Chairman stated that he would contact the people concerned.

**Page 6, Item 8 – AOB (viii).** Pat Walters referred to the packing of BT80 Tandem canopies and stated that the manufacturers recommend that the canopies are pro-packed rather than flat packed. It was felt by some Riggers present that there were pros and cons for each packing method and that in some instances it was not always the packing method that was the problem, but the packing technique.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting of the 7th February 2002 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

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

## **7TH FEBRUARY 2002**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

### **3. POPOSAL FROM RICK BOARDMAN**

A copy of Rick Boardman's proposal had been circulated with the Agenda. As a Parachute Rigger of more than two years he could register a basic rigger as his trainee and prepare him/her for a riggers exam under Method two. Prior to registering a person as a BR the person must hold an Advanced Packer rating and under the present rules Rick cannot teach Advanced Packing unless he himself held an Advanced Rigger rating.

Mr Boardman felt that there must be other Parachute Riggers who found themselves able to teach rigging, but not reserve packing. He believed that so long as a Parachute Rigger of more than two years standing who has attended an Advanced Packers Course, then he did not see a reason why he/she cannot teach the subject.

Rick had therefore proposed that a parachute rigger may be allowed to teach advanced packing, so long as he/she has met the same criteria as everyone else with the following conditions:-

- i) He/she has attended an advanced packers course (to learn the course content).
- ii) He/she has been a parachute rigger for two years.
- iii) He/she has been introduced to methods of instruction by attending an appropriate course.

This proposal generated some discussion. There were no objections raised by those present with regard to a Parachute Rigger of two years standing to running an Advanced Packers Course provided that they had satisfactorily been examined on the running of a Course under supervision.

It was therefore proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Steve Thomas that the above proposal be accepted but that condition (i) above be amended to read:-

- i) He/she has been examined on the running of an Advanced Packers Course (to learn the course content).

**Carried Unanimously**

A copy of the amended Advanced Packing Course Syllabus would be circulated with the Minutes.

### **4. BPA RIGGING MANUAL UPDATE**

This item had been dealt with under Item 2 – Matters Arising.

### **5. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS**

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course report had been submitted by Dave Chapman and previously circulated with the Agenda. Both Tony Beevor and Lee Andrews had successfully completed the Course and had been issued Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
  
- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course report had been submitted by Dave Chapman and previously circulated with the Agenda. Matthew Applegate had successfully completed the Course and had been issued Advanced Packer (Grade S) status. Nader Afsharian had successfully completed the Tandem examination phase and his Advanced

Packer rating would be endorsed to include Tandem reserves.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course report (Tandem) had been submitted by Geoff Hughes and previously circulated with the Agenda. Tim Skinner had successfully completed the Course and his Advanced Packer rating would be endorsed to include Tandem reserves.
- iv) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been submitted by Geoff Hughes and previously circulated with the Agenda. The three candidates attending the Course were advised to return for final examination when they felt they were ready.
- v) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been submitted by Pete Sizer and previously circulated with the Agenda. The candidate attending the Course was advised to return for final examination when he felt he was ready.
- vi) An Advanced Packers Examination Course report had been submitted by Pete Sizer and previously circulated with the Agenda. Both Ken Webber and Mick Danby had successfully completed the Course and had been issued Advanced Packer (Grade S) status

## **6. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

There had been no BPA Safety Notices of Information Bulletin issued since the last meeting.

## **7. MANUFACTURERS SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

Since the last meeting a Service Bulletin had been received from Thomas Sports Equipment concerning Tear Drop 1 pin reserve pilot chutes.

Jumpers were advised to check their pilot chutes very carefully, as some pilot chutes may have been manufactured with sharp grommets on the metal pilot chute cap. This may cause shredding and breaking of the loop, which may cause a premature opening.

John Harding stated that further to this Service Bulletin being issued they had examined every 1 Pin Tear Drops that came on the DZ and they found a couple of loops had frayed but the grommets were not sharp. John believed this may have been because of the way the loops had been constructed. He had therefore constructed several loops in different ways and he could not get the loops to fray.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was felt by those present that the situation should be monitored. Kim Newton stated that she would be happy to gather information from anyone who had experienced a problem with damaged loops and asked those people to send her the damaged loops together with any relevant background information to enable her to see if there were any patterns of damage.

David Hickling expressed his concerns with regard to the distribution of the Service Bulletin by TSE and how sloppy they had been with issuing the information, ie dates incorrect, distribution list not correct. David Hickling said that he would write to TSE expressing Committees concerns.

A number of Riggers present had also expressed their concerns at not receiving this information.

The Technical Officer said that people who had not received the information should contact the manufacturers direct. He stated that the BPA sends out manufacturers services bulletins to all CCIs on receipt of that bulletin, it is then sent to all Riggers and Advanced Packers at the next mailing. We do this so that everyone gets the information.

**8. A.O.B**

- i) As the next item involved a disciplinary matter, all Parachute Riggers and observers were asked to leave the meeting whilst this item was discussed in camera.

The Chairman advised those present that two alleged packing incidents involving a BPA Rigger had been brought to his attention.

Pending further investigation, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Kim Newton that the Committee recommends to STC that his Parachute Rigger and Advanced Packer ratings be suspended until he presents himself to the Committee. Because it was logistically awkward for the person concerned to attend a Riggers meeting, the Committee also agreed that they would be willing to accept something in writing from him explaining his actions, as long as the person involved was willing to accept that the Riggers Committee deal with the incidents in his absence.

**Carried Unanimously**

All Parachute Riggers and observers were invited to return to the meeting.

- ii) Dave Chapman has submitted an Advanced Packer Examination Course Report, which was circulated to those present. Sean Suttcliffe had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- iii) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been submitted by Allan Hewitt, which was circulated to those present. The Course was held over a period of 4 days at Sky Science for 3 candidates. The candidates were advised to return for final examination when they felt they were ready.

Mr Hewitt had stated that David Gould had assisted in running the Course and had given a number of lessons as required by the syllabus. Mr Hewitt had stated in his report that although David knew his subject, he was very inexperienced in teaching. Mr Hewitt had therefore recommended that he either attends a method of instruction course or works with an examiner to help him deliver his knowledge.

- iv) The Chairman advised those present that he had received information, which concerned Vortex II Reserve Housings where it looked like they had just been hacksawed off to length and there was no brass furl on either end. He was not sure whether this was a one off incident or perhaps a quality control problem. The Committee was concerned that this was the second reported incident on this equipment in as many meetings.
- v) David Hickling presented a set of Student AFF equipment with a throwout pilot chute and dual cutaway system, which he wished to use to train up to a maximum of two AFF Students at Langar for evaluation purposes. Mr Hickling would be presenting this request to STC that evening.

The Committee was advised that this equipment was extensively used in the USA.

Following inspection of the equipment the Committee had no problem with the equipment from a rigging point of view. The Chairman would advise STC that evening.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 6th June 2002  
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.  
4.00 p.m.

17th April 2002

**Distribution**

Chairperson Riggers Committee  
All CCIs  
All Riggers  
Council  
D. Beaven (CAA)  
Lesley Gale  
File