

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 10 APRIL 2008

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Kim Newton
Phill Elston
Bernadette Whitaker
Rick Boardman
Dave Major

Apologies: Ray Armstrong, George Panagopoulos, Dave Gould, Liz Ashley,
Dave Ballard.

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

Observers: Chris Gilmore, Phil Cavanagh.

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 7 FEBRUARY 2008**

There being no matters arising, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Dave Major that the Minutes of the Riggers meeting of the 7 February 2008 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 7 FEBRUARY 2008**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM BILL SHARP TO AMEND THE ADVANCED RIGGER COURSE SYLLABUS**

A proposal from Bill Sharp to amend the Advanced Rigger Course Syllabus had been circulated with the Agenda.

Bill had stated that at the last riggers meeting, a previous rigging course report had generated a recommendation about whether there was a need for an AR candidate to have a supervising rigger during their preparation period. This was brought to light because the course Examiners could not check all the important harness stitch patterns etc on a candidates container system (these patterns

were covered by the back pad and mud flaps etc). The Examiners however were still expected to clear the container system for possible jumping if it passes.

The Operations Manual (Section 14 – Rigging, para 4.3) states that PRs may carry out all the requirements of the Advanced Rigger Course Syllabus prior to attending an Advanced Rigger Course, under the direct supervision of an AR. However, it did not state in the AR Course Syllabus that the AR requires a supervising rigger.

Bill had therefore proposed that the Advanced Riggers Course Syllabus (BPA Form 201) be amended to include the *italic underlined* area as below:

Qualifications to attend the Advanced Rigger course

- Must be a full BPA member
- Must have been a Parachute Rigger for at least 2 years
- Must be recommended by an Advanced Rigger who has known the candidate for at least 6 months ***and who has also supervised all aspects of the candidate's previous manufactured components for the course***
- Each candidate must pass the written test before they can proceed with the rest of the examination
- Submission of previous manufactured components for inspection. (The recommending/supervising Advanced Rigger must inspect these components)
- Submission of a full piggyback harness and ram air reserve container system to an approved design, including all component parts. ***(The candidate's recommending/supervising Advanced Rigger must inspect the candidate's container system. Particular attention must be paid to areas of the system that are not visible once the container system is completed. Good quality digital photos of these areas are to be provided by the candidate, along with a signed letter from the supervising Advanced Rigger stating the AR's satisfaction with the key areas of this inspection)***
- Major canopy repair (rounds and squares)
- Major container repair
- Written paper on an aspect of rigging
- Manufacture advanced components
- Presentation of 10 new rigger questions for the BPA Rigging Exam question pool
- Give a talk on a subject from the Basic Rigger syllabus

There followed a discussion regarding this proposal and a number of comments were made with regard to some of the proposed wording, which the Committee felt may hinder a potential candidate. It was agreed by those present that the Committee's comments should be related to Bill Sharp before the amended AR Syllabus was formally ratified.

4. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had taken place at Netheravon from the 4 – 5 February 2008. Paul Burns had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which was circulated to those present.

Pelham Georghiades and Ash Hollick successfully completed the Course and have been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

ii) An Advanced Packer Training Course had taken place at Netheravon from the 4 – 7 February 2008. Paul Burns had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which was circulated those present. The Course was attended by Paul Yeoman, Alan Westley and Chas McNeil.

Alan and Chas were advised to practice and prepare in preparation for the Examination phase of the Course at a future date.

Paul Yeoman had used the first two days of the Course as a refresher before presenting himself for the exam. He had originally attended the AP training course held at Hilbadstow on the 26 Feb 05.

- iii) An Advanced Packer Examination Course was held at Netheravon from the 7 – 8 February 2008. Paul Burns had submitted a Course Report a copy of which was circulated to those present.

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

- iv) An Advanced Packer Examination Course was held at Netheravon from the 13 – 14 February 2008. Paul Burns had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which was circulated to those present.

Chas McNeil successfully attended the Course and has been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- v) An Advanced Packers Training Course was held at Chatteris from the 31 March – 3 April 2008. Kim Newton has submitted a Course Report, a copy of which was circulated to those present.

Simon Chipp attended the Course and was advised to practice and prepare in preparation for the Examination phase of the Course at a future date.

5. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been no BPA safety notices/information bulletin issued since the last meeting.

6. MANUFACTURER'S SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

- i) The French Parachute Federation have certified it compulsory in France for a number of rigs to have the AAD cutter fitted above the reserve spring loaded pilot chute.

The rigs concerned were those with an internal reserve pilot chute (4 flaps above the reserve pilot chute and with the tongue of the reserve cover flap going inside a pocket) i.e. Atom, Vector, Icon, Next, Ultra and Omega.

Following the above, Aerodyne has issued a Service Bulletin (SB210108), with an alternate AAD cutter position on the Icon Container), Part number: P120, P125, a copy of which has been previously circulated.

- ii) The French Parachute Federation have issued a Bulletin advising that they will be banning the use of the Vigil plastic insert (in France) after the 5 July 08 and replacing them with a Vigil stainless steel cutter.

- iii) A Service Bulletin had been received from Sunrise Rigging International Inc. concerning the following Wing's Containers: W1-1EXT, W5-1EXT, W4

Following two incidents with the same canopy pilot wherein a small diameter line was caught under the mid-flap plastic stiffener resulting in a main malfunction and line on main to not release from container. Sunrise manufacturing recommends updating the mid-flap in protector to increase flexion on the mid-flap.

- iv) Ray Armstrong had reported that he recently had 2 Wings containers to service and repack the reserves. Whilst inspecting them he found that there wasn't a hole for the cutaway cable to be fed into the anti twist housings. One of the containers had been a live reserve use and the jumper had experienced a very hard cutaway. The jumper (a very experienced jumper) had to let go of his reserve handle to use both hands to affect a cutaway.

Ray stated that he believed that the lack of access to the anti twist housing contributed to the excessive pull force on the cutaway. Ray had contacted the manufacturer to inform them of the problem.

7. **A.O.B**

- i) Steve Thomas had advised that the Cyprus Parachute Centre would be running an Advanced Packers Course from the 11 – 20 April 2008. Paul Applegate would be conducting the Course for two candidates.
- ii) Bill Sharp had advised that he would be running an Advanced Packers Training Course from the 2 June 2008 for a six-week period. There was one candidate attending this Course who would stay for the supervised practice period and if suitable would do the exam towards the end of the six week period.
- iii) A letter had been received from Ian (Wobby) Robertson advising that he would be retiring from the sport at the end of March 2008. He asked that we pass on his regards to all the staff of the BPA and the members of the STC & Rigger's Committees for the great job that they do. He stated that parachuting had played a large part in his life, during which he had experienced lots of good times and some sad times, which he would always remember. He hoped that the BPA continued to go from strength to strength in the future.

The Chairman and Committee members wished Wobby all the best for the future and recommended a Certificate of Merit be awarded to him in recognition of the contribution he had made to the sport. It was also suggested that an acknowledgement of his past achievements be mentioned in the BPA magazine.

- iv) Rick Boardman advised that last year Andrew Hilton had said he would be willing to commission a survey of Riggers and Packers to see how much or how little round equipment was in use in the UK. Rick reported that to date, Andrew had been unable to undertake this task because of various other commitments.

Rick had stated that he would be willing to take on this project and advised that he had put together a simple questionnaire that he wished to send out to Riggers and Packers, together with a sae addressed to himself to enable him to collate the information. He asked if the Committee were happy for him to do this, to which no objections were raised from those present.

- vi) Rick Boardman referred to Section 10, Para 7.7 of the BPA Operations Manual, which refers to disciplinary. He stated that this Paragraph allowed Instructors to intervene whenever they observe a breach of the BPA Operations Manual and/or local SOPs, or an unsafe practice and bring it to the notice of the CCI.

Rick stated that he believed that Riggers should also be given the same authority as Instructors particularly on the flight line if they see something unsafe.

The Committee felt that although this had some merit, they also envisaged a number of potential problems and would require further consideration.

Date of next Meetings: Thursday 5 June 2008
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

15 April 2008

Distribution:

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

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY MONDAY 19 MAY 2008