

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2003

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Pete Sizer
Richard Wheatley
Daniel Ng
Steve Thomas
Bernadette Whitaker
Pat Walters

Apologies: John Curtis, Kim Newton.

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

Observers: K. Hodgson, Phil Collett, Dave Major, Bryan Teeson.

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 9 OCTOBER 2003**

Page 1, Item 1 – Matters Arising. The Chairman advised those present that John Curtis had advised the BPA office that a draft copy of the minimum criteria for the purposes of those establishments wishing to run Rigging Courses should be available for the next meeting.

Page 5, Item 7 – Advanced Packer Course Reports. The Chairman advised those present that John Curtis had also advised the office that a draft copy of an upgrade syllabus for Advanced Packers should be available for the next meeting.

Page 6, Item 10 – AOB (i). The Chairman advised those present that at the previous meeting the Committee had discussed the use of soft links on reserves and a proposal had been made that the only soft links that can be used on reserve canopies are those specifically approved by the manufacturer for that reserve.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the previous Minutes had not accurately recorded the two soft links that had been accepted by the BPA for use on reserves and stated that the Minutes should read:-

N.B. As of today's date (9 October 2003), the only two that have been accepted by the BPA are:-

- i) Performance Designs
- ii) Aerodyne

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Bernadette Whitaker that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting of the 9 October 2003, with the above stated amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

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

9 OCTOBER 2003

There were no matters arising.

3. CORRESPONDENCE FROM PAT WALTERS CONCERNING TANDEM RESERVE PACKING

A letter from Pat Walters had been circulated with the Agenda regarding Tandem Reserve Packing. A letter on this subject had also been received from Bill Sharp and circulated with the Agenda.

Pat was concerned that under the present system once a person has qualified as a Rigger, they are allowed to pack Tandem Reserves with no further training at all, as long as they have the appropriate Manual to hand.

The Committee was advised that the authority for this was a 28 May 1992 Riggers Committee ruling that newly qualified Riggers automatically have the words "ALL TYPES" on their packing certificates without having to have specific named types of equipment.

Pat was concerned that unless a potential rigger already held a Advanced Packer (Grade T) rating prior to attending a PR Course, then where did they get the experience to pack Tandem reserves as they have received no formal training. The PR Course content does not include Tandem reserve packing.

At present a potential candidate must hold an Advanced Packer rating for both 'rounds' and 'squares' before being permitted to attend a Basic Riggers Course. Pat Walters believed that before a person is accepted on a Basic Rigger Course they should also hold an Advanced Packer 'Tandem' rating and that they should also have a minimum of six months packing experience and be able to prove to a Rigger Examiner they are current in packing ALL TYPES of Reserves.

This item generated a great deal of discussion. The Committee felt that Pat had highlighted an area of concern. Although some Riggers present believed that Parachute Riggers should have some experience of packing Tandem reserves, they did not believe that an Advanced Packer (Tandem) qualification should be a pre-course requirement. The Committee felt that they should be encouraging potential riggers not discouraging them by necessarily having to attend another Course.

Following further conversation on this matter, the Committee felt that Riggers should be familiar with Tandem Equipment and that perhaps Basic Riggers should be introduced to Tandem reserve packing during their training, but how this was introduced in terms of a proposal would need some thought.

The Committee was advised that Andrew Hilton was in the process of making some minor adjustments to the Rigger Syllabus, to be put forward to Riggers Committee in the future. It was felt by those present that Andrew could include something on the lines of 'an introduction to Tandem reserve packing' on the proposed syllabus for the Committee to consider.

The Chairman said that he would liaise with Andrew Hilton on this matter.

4. RIGGERS COURSE REPORT – BILL SHARP

A BPA Riggers Course had been held at RAPA from the 2 – 7 November 2003 and the Association thanked RAPA for hosting the Course. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

Five candidates successfully completed the Basic Riggers Course and were awarded Basic Rigger

status. The successful candidates were: Ian Anderson, Liz Ashley, Chris Clark, Phill Elston and Dave Major.

Two candidates successfully attended the Parachute Riggers Course and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The successful candidates were: Louise Cliff and Steve Millington.

Andrew Hilton attended the Course for upgrading to Rigger Examiner. Andrew successfully completed the Course and was awarded Rigger Examiner status.

The Recommendations from the Course Examiners were as follows:

- a: There were found to be some minor adjustments necessary to the Rigger Syllabi and Andrew Hilton will put these points forward to the Riggers Committee in due course.
- b: The Examiners were in general consensus that changes could/should be made to the link between reserve packing (Round, Square and Tandem) and the actual job of rigging (patching and repairs etc). *More detail, specifically about this link, will be provided by Bill Sharp for the first meeting of next year.*

For now though, Bill had stated that at no time did either of the two types of course personnel, (BR/PR) cover reserve packing of any kind (apart from the checking that they had the required pre-course qualifications, and general revision items on contamination etc). Two of those people however, (the new PR's) can now pack Tandem reserves by the current 'rule', (a rule that is 10+ years old, and predates the AP rating by 3+ years). No training required, just according to the manuals to hand.

Bill Sharp would like to put some ideas to the Riggers Committee in the New Year.

5. ADVANCED PACKER COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been run by Kim Newton from the 13 – 14 October 2003. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda. Danny Jessop had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- ii) John Curtis had run an Advanced Packer Course from the 13 – 16 October 2003. Chris Gilmore and Jason Farrant attended the Course and were advised to return at a later date for final examination.
- iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been run by Pete Sizer from the 27 – 28 October 2003. Liz Ashley successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S & R) status. Phil Elston (AP91 Grade S) successfully completed the Course for upgrading to Advanced Packer (Grade R) status.

6. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been no BPA Safety Notices or Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting.

7. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been no Manufacturers' Safety Notices or Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting.

8. A.O.B

- i) An E-mail had been received from Andrew Hilton with regard to BPA Form 139 (BPA Specification for Static Line Deployment Bags BPA Spec: SLDB 1), a copy of which

was circulated to those present.

Andrew had proposed that this form be renamed as it only applied to Traditional Equipment and not RAPS equipment.

It was proposed by Andrew Hilton and seconded by Pete Sizer that BPA Form 139 be renamed "BPA Specification for Static Line Deployment Bags BPA Spec: SLDB 1 – Traditional Equipment".

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Pete Sizer had provided an update of the BPA Index of Safety Notices, a copy of which was circulated to those present. The update was as follows:-
 - 2. BPA SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETINS INDEX
 - 91. Connector link covers / Slider Buffer (SI 2/03) 5.6.03
 - 8. PARACHUTES DE FRANCE INDEX
 - 38. Pins and Ripcords (SB 1/03) CW03-01 18.7.03
 - 17. CAPEWELL COMPONENT COMPANY INDEX
 - 3. Pins and Ripcords (PSB CW03-01) 15.7.03
 - 18. JUMP SHACK INDEX
 - 26. Ripcord Pins (letter) 26.6.03
 - 24. SUNPATH PRODUCTS
 - 7. Adjustable harness wear (SP 02) 22.7.03
 - 39. MIRAGE SYSTEMS
 - 4. Soft Reserve Ripcords (PSB 280403-01)
- iii) Kim Newton had advised the Committee of her intention to run Advanced Packers Course from the 18 – 21 December 2003. There was one more place available on the Course if anyone wished to attend.
- iv) Paul Applegate gave the Committee details of correspondence received from Airtec. He stated that since October 2001 Airtec had modified approximately 100 Cypres units for BPA Affiliated drop zones from 'Expert' to 'Student', which they had carried out free of charge. Airtec had advised the Association that they could no longer offer this service free of charge and any future modifications would now be charged for.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 February 2004
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.
4.00 p.m.

9 December 2003

Distribution

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

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2004