

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2010

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Pat Walters
Bernadette Whitaker
Dave Major
John Curtis
Chas McNeil

Apologies: Rick Boardman, Pete Sizer.

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

Observers: Andy Montriou, Nick Brownhill.

ITEM

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

The Chairman of STC took the Chair for the election of a Chairperson. He invited nominations.

John Curtis proposed, and Rick Boardman (proxy) seconded, a motion to elect Paul Applegate as Chairperson of the Riggers' Committee. Paul Applegate stated that he was willing to accept the nomination. John Hitchen asked if there were any other nominees, and there were not.

Carried Unanimously

Paul Applegate duly took the Chair.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 26 NOVEMBER 2009

Page 1, Item 3 (b) – Panel of Inquiry (Phill Elston). A letter from Rick Boardman had been circulated to those present containing his comments on the Panel of Inquiry Report, which were duly noted by those present. John Curtis expressed some concern that the Panel Recommendations had not been voted on by either the Riggers Committee or STC. The TO advised that in this particular instance, neither Committee needed to vote as the person concerned had accepted the Panel's report, including its recommendations regarding him.

Page 3, Item 4 (Lifting Working Group). The Chairman reported that there had not been a meeting of the Working Group this afternoon as Rick Boardman was in the process of collating the information he had received from manufacturers with regard to their lifting policies.

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting. It was proposed by Paul Applegate and seconded by Dave Major that the Minutes from the Riggers Sub-Committee meeting of 26 November 2009 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 26 NOVEMBER 2009

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

4. TO REVIEW THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING SYSTEM AND THE REPORTING OF INCIDENTS

Following a recent Panel of Inquiry, the Committee had agreed to consider a recommendation made by the Panel to review the confidential system and the reporting of incidents. Correspondence on this item had been received from Rick Boardman, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. The Committee noted Rick's comments on this matter and they were also of the opinion that the current system was in need of review.

The Committee noted a number of failings and shortcomings within the current system and they agreed that it be completely restructured and a system put in place that had a clear intent from the outset.

Following further discussion, it was agreed by those present to accept Rick Boardman's kind offer to oversee this project and they asked that anyone with any further input on this matter to liaise direct with Rick.

The Committee looked forward to seeing Rick's proposals for a new system in the near future.

5. TO CONSIDER A PANEL OF INQUIRY RECOMMENDATION THAT THE BPA RIGGERS' COMMITTEE CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM WHEREBY ALL RIGGERS ARE INSPECTED PERIODICALLY

Following a recent Panel of Inquiry, the Committee had agreed to consider a recommendation made by the Panel that the Riggers Committee consider implementing a system whereby all Riggers are inspected periodically in order to check standards, similar to those carried out by the Technical Officer and the National Coach & Safety Officer when they carry out Club inspections.

The Committee considered this recommendation at some length. For clarification purposes, the TO pointed out that himself and the NCSO inspect clubs & centres not the actual Instructors.

Following further discussion, it was agreed by those present that the Panel Recommendation was not practicable to implement. There was a system in place, whereby Riggers were signed up annually to verify their currency, which the Committee believed was adequate at this time.

6. STUDENT EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A Student Parachutist Equipment Change Proposal application request had been received from Paul Hollow, a copy of which had been previously circulated with the agenda, together with the relevant paperwork and drawings. The request had been supported by Nick Johnston.

The request related to the new type of Next Student Tandem Harness and the proposal was to remove the plastic bellyband buckle and replace it with a chest strap adjustable metal buckle. The manufacturers (Paratec) had raised no objection to this modification. A copy of an e-mail from Paratec had also been circulated with the agenda.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Dave Major that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

7. STUDENT HARNESS & CONTAINER SYSTEM – INITIAL CLEARANCE REQUEST

A Student Harness & Container System – Initial Clearance application request had been received from Nick Brownhill of the Royal Engineers, a copy of which had been previously circulated with the agenda, together with the relevant paperwork and photographs. The request had been supported by George Panagopoulos. Nick Brownhill was in attendance at STC and presented the equipment to the meeting.

The equipment presented was a Student Icon container used for AFF. The manufacturer (Aerodyne) had produced the container with a BOC pocket with the secondary deployment handle, similar to that used on Javelin and Telesis containers.

From a rigging point of view the Committee found no problem with the construction and workability of the system. John Curtis expressed some concern, which was on some trials carried out in the past on a similar construction of pouch. However, it was pointed out that these trials had been on an entirely different rig.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by George Panagopoulos (proxy) and seconded by Pat Walters that the deployment system on the Student Icon as presented be accepted for Student use.

For: 5 Against: 1 (John Curtis) Abstentions: 0

Carried

8. RIGGERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) A Riggers Course had been held at RAPA from the 12 – 18 December 2009. The BPA wished to thank the Commandant of RAPA, for hosting the course and allowing the rigging room and other facilities within the Centre to be used for the duration of the Course. A copy of the Course report had been circulated with the agenda. The Examiners conducting the course were Bill Sharp (RE 53) and Andrew Hilton (RE 179). There were a total of 8 people attending the course (2 x Basic Rigger, 5 x Parachute Rigger, 1 x Advanced Rigger) plus one candidate working on their Examiner upgrade.

There were 2 candidates for the BR Course. The course started on Monday 14 December and continued until the afternoon of Friday 18 December 2009. Throughout the week, the candidates were given formal lessons on subjects from the BR Syllabus. The emphasis was on ‘hands on’ rigging and the candidates achieved a lot within the 5-day period. Both candidates were successful and were awarded Basic Rigger status with a 6 month recommendation. The successful candidates were:

Frank Millerick BPA 740834 The Tigers Display Team
Chris Sharman BPA 975049 Red Devils

Both candidates were briefed on aspects of the BR rating supervisory period of the BR rating, the items they must bring back for the PR course, the need for them to pass the PR written test prior to continuing with the course, and the standards of work required on the PR course.

There were 5 candidates for the PR Course. 4 candidates started on Saturday 12 December and continued until Wednesday 16 December; 1 candidate started on Monday 14 December continuing until Thursday 17 December 2009. The candidates were given a written test at the start of their courses, and assessed on their previously submitted items.

They then spent the course manufacturing a further set of items from the PR syllabus.

All candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The successful candidates were:

Andrew Hughes	BPA 903210	Headcorn
Gary Marshall	BPA 996656	Golden Lions
Louis Saunders	BPA 1004829	Royal Artillery
Steve Thain	BPA 783038	Netheravon
Noel Purcell	BPA 580093	Hibaldstow

There was one candidate for the AR Course. The course started on Monday 14 December and continued until the evening of Thursday 18 December 2009. The candidate presented his pre-made work example and passed the written test. Throughout the four days, the candidate was examined on AR syllabus items, was successful and was awarded Advanced Rigger status. The successful candidate was:

Dave Major BPA 26528 Tilstock

There was one candidate upgrading to Examiner. Rick Boardman was attending the first part of the upgrade to Examiner rating. Rick assisted the examiners in the running and marking of the PR course and assisted in the marking of the written tests for all courses including the AR and BR courses.

The Examiners were happy overall with Rick's performance and he was debriefed fully. The Examiners were happy for Rick to proceed with the remaining phases of his upgrade to Rigger Examiner

In summary, the Examiners felt that course was a success for all candidates, with them being kept very busy and productive throughout the week. The quality of work being produced by the candidates is generally of a very high standard and the candidates should be pleased with and congratulated on their achievements during the course

- ii) The second Riggers Course had been held at RAPA from the 4 – 8 January 2010. Once again, the BPA wished to thank the Commandant of RAPA, for hosting the course and allowing the rigging room and other facilities within the Centre to be used for the duration of the Course. A copy of the Course report had been circulated with the agenda. The Examiners conducting the course were Bill Sharp (RE 53) and John Curtis (RE 18) There were a total of 5 people attending the course (1 x Basic Rigger, 4 x Parachute Rigger) plus one candidate working on the 2nd course of 3 towards his Examiner upgrade.

There was one candidate for the BR Course. The course started on Monday 4 January and continued until the afternoon of Friday 8 January 2010. Throughout the week, the candidate was given formal lessons on subjects from the BR Syllabus. The emphasis was on 'hands on' rigging and the candidate achieved a lot within the 5-day period.

The candidate was successful and was awarded Basic Rigger status with a 12 month recommendation. The successful candidate was:

Ally Milne BPA 782323 Langar

The candidate was briefed on aspects of the BR rating supervisory period, the items they must bring back for the PR course, the need for them to pass the PR written test prior to continuing with the course, and the standards of work required on the PR course.

There were 4 candidates for the PR Course. The course started on Monday 4 January and continued until the afternoon of Friday 8 January 2010. The candidates were given a written test at the start of the course and assessed on their previously submitted items. They then spent the remainder of the course manufacturing further items from the PR syllabus. All candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The successful candidates were:

Andy Callender	BPA 303710	Redlands
Gerry Cepelak	BPA 890302	Netheravon
Chas McNeil	BPA 892204	South Cerney
Alan 'Wez' Westley	BPA 911000	Netheravon

There was one candidate upgrading to Examiner. Rick Boardman was attending the second part of the upgrade to Examiner rating. Rick did 4 of the lessons on the BR phase, presented 25 questions for the Exam pool and presented an advanced subject paper. Rick also assisted the Examiners in the running and marking of the BR and PR items made on the course.

The Examiners were happy overall with Rick's performance and he was debriefed fully. The Examiners were happy for Rick to proceed with the remaining phase (attendance on AP Course) of his upgrade to Rigger Examiner.

The course was a success for all candidates, with all being kept very busy and productive throughout the week. The quality of work being produced by the candidates is again, generally of a very high standard and the candidates should be pleased with their achievements during the course.

In summary, the Examiners had felt that some guidance should be available for riggers who are supervising candidates in preparation for people attending courses. Over the next few months, the Examiners would like to put together an item about this ('duties of a supervising rigger') and when ready, this will be put forward to the Riggers Committee for discussion/acceptance etc.

John Curtis reported that one of the reasons that had lead to this was the Examiners concern over the poor quality of workmanship on some of the equipment that a number of candidates on the PR course had brought with them for examination purposes, even though the quality of work produced by the candidates on the Course itself had been of a much higher standard.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADVANCED & EXAMINER RIGGERS PRIOR TO SIGNING UP RATING RENEWALS – JOHN CURTIS

John Curtis reported that it would soon be membership renewal time and that Riggers and Advanced Packers would be renewing their ratings. John asked that a reminder be put in the Minutes that those people signing up ratings need to ensure that the Advanced Packers and Riggers they are signing up are current in all aspects relevant to their rating.

10. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Skydive Great Britain from the 6 – 9 October 2009. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. The Course was attended by Jimmy Freemantle, Ruth Jordinson and Katie Woods. All candidates had been advised to return for the final examination phase of the Course at a later date.

ii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Skydive Great Britain from the 9 – 13 November 2009. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. The Course was attended by Steve Cooper and Mal Richardson. Both candidates had been advised to return for the final examination phase of the Course at a later date.

iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Skydive Great Britain on the 27 November and 3 December 2009. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Maddy Moore and Dorian Harwood successfully attended the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

iv) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at the North London Skydiving Centre, Chatteris from the 11 – 14 January 2010. Kim Newton had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course had been run by George Panagopoulos with Kim Newton observing and assisting as part of George's assessment to run the teaching and examination phases of the Advanced Packer Courses.

The Course candidates were Craig Poxon and Rebecca Bull, both of whom had been advised to return for the final examination phase of the Course at a later date.

Kim Newton had recommended that George Panagopoulos be permitted to run the teaching and examination phases of the Advanced Packer Courses.

It was proposed by Kim Newton (proxy) and seconded by John Curtis that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

v) An Advanced Packers (Tandem) Conversion Course had been held at UK Parachute Centre (Beccles) from the 26 – 29 January 2010. Andy Page had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Andy Callender successfully attended the Course and his AP rating had been upgraded to include Tandem status.

11. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

12. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

The Chairman reported on an e-mail he had received from Eric Fradet advising that there was no longer a ban on the use of the Argus AAD in France.

13. A.O.B.

i) Andy Montrou had submitted a request for an extension to his BR rating, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Andy advised those present that he had attended a BR Course at RAPA approximately two years ago. He was unable to attend the following Course and had been granted a 1 year extension. He stated that he now found himself in the same situation. He realised that this would be his second BR extension, but asked that the Committee look favourably on this request taking into consideration that the only two courses had both been abroad. Andy also advised the Committee that George Panagopoulos had stated that he was willing to be his supervising rigger and had supported this application.

John Curtis expressed some concern that if Andy were to be granted this extension it would be 3 years since he had attended his original BR Course. He was concerned that the skills Andy had learnt on his original Course will have been lost over this period of time. The Committee noted John's concerns.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Bernadette Whitaker and seconded by Pat Walters that Andy Montriou's BR rating be extended until the end of January 2011 which would enable him to attend the next available Rigging course with the proviso that George Panagopoulos be contacted to confirm his role as Andy's supervising rigger.

For: 4 Against: 1 (John Curtis) Abstentions: 0
Carried

John Curtis reported that if a Rigging Course did not take place at RAPA this winter, he would ensure that a course was run at a suitable location.

- ii) A request had been received from Matt Abram for an extension to his BR rating, which had been circulated to those present together with a letter of support from Ray Armstrong, his supervising rigger.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Ray Armstrong (proxy) and seconded by Dave Major that Matt Abram's BR rating be extended until the end of January 2011 which would enable him to attend the next available Rigging Course.

Carried Unanimously

Date of next Meetings: Thursday 8 April 2010
 Thursday 10 June 2010
 Thursday 5 August 2010
 Thursday 30 September 2010
 Thursday 25 November 2010

BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

16 February 2010

Distribution:

Chairperson Riggers Committee
All CCIs
All Riggers
Advanced Packers
Council
CAA
Lesley Gale

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY FRIDAY 19 MARCH 2010