

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2005

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Bill Sharp
Pat Walters
Dave Major (NV)
Pete Sizer
Kim Newton
John Harding
Richard Aveyard (NV)

(NV) = Non Voting

Apologies: Bernadette Whitaker, Rick Boardman, Liz Ashley, Phil Elston.

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

Observers: Jeff Illidge, Paul Hollow.

ITEM

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 14 APRIL 2005

Page 1, Item 1 (Matters Arising) – Proposal to run an Advanced Packers Course (Paul Burns). The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been received from David Gould of Point Zero containing details of their facilities to run Advanced Packers Courses, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Page 1, Item 1 (Matters Arising) – RSL Shackles. Kim Newton advised those present that she should have a draft proposal with regard to the proposed RSL entry in the Rigging Technical Manual, to go out with the next Riggers agenda for consideration by the Committee.

Page 1, Item 1 (Matters Arising) - Acceptance of Vigil AAD for Student Equipment. At the previous meeting, the Committee had agreed that the Vigil AAD be accepted for use on Student equipment in the UK including Tandem in the following manufacturers containers: Relative Workshop and Parachutes de France. The Committee had agreed that once other manufacturers had authorised the use of the Vigil AAD in their products and once the Committee received this information in writing, they would also be added to the BPA list of accepted manufacturers.

The Chairman advised those present that since the last meeting correspondence had been received from the following manufacturers authorizing the use of the Vigil AAD in their products, copies of which had been circulated to those present:-

Mirage Systems Inc. (Mirage harness and container systems manufactured since 1996 when assembled and used in accordance with manufacturers instructions). Sunrise Manufacturing International Inc. (Harness and container systems. This includes the Student Wings container).

Sunpath Products had also authorized the use of the Vigil AAD to be used in all Sun Path harness/container systems to include sport and student gear.

The above manufacturers would therefore be added to the BPA list of accepted manufacturers authorizing the use of the Vigil AAD in their products.

The Chairman also reported that correspondence had also been received from Paratec stating their views on AADs, which had also been circulated to those present.

Page 3, Item 3 – Proposal from Rick Boardman concerning Incident Reporting. At the previous meeting, Rick Boardman had agreed to draft a ‘Riggers Confidential Reporting form’ for consideration by the Committee. Nothing had been received to date from Rick Boardman and it was hoped that a draft form would be available for consideration at the next meeting.

Page 4, Item 6 – Proposed Tandem Modification – Bill Sharp. At the previous meeting, the Committee had accepted a proposal from Bill Sharp for a modification to the RWS Tandem Sigma Student Harness. The modification included drilling a hole into each of the two Tandem Sigma Student Harness butterfly snap hooks (the butterfly gate part, not the main hook), in order to insert a locking pin. This was to stop the snap hook inadvertently opening, as reported at a recent Riggers Committee Meeting. The Committee had accepted this modification for use by Bill Sharp only, as there had been some concern expressed that Bill had not provided a diagram or details of the location/dimension of the hole or specified the type of locking pins to be used.

Bill Sharp advised those present that he could now supply this information. Following some discussion on this matter, it was the general feeling of the Committee that they would like to see this modification accepted for general use. It was therefore agreed to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

Bill Sharp stated that he would send in the relevant paperwork and drawings for consideration by the Committee.

Page 4, Item 7 – Proposed Update to the Rigging Technical Manual. The Technical Officer reported that the Rigging Technical manual had now been updated and stated that a copy of the amendments would be circulated with the Minutes.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by John Harding and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee Meeting of the 14 April 2005 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 14 APRIL 2005**

There were no matters arising from the above Meeting.

3. **PROPOSED STUDENT EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS – PETE SIZER**

- i) A proposal from Pete Sizer had been circulated with the Agenda, together with the relevant paperwork and drawings requesting to the construction of and fitting of a suitable pouch for a Motorola T5522 radio fitted inverted on the left hand confluence cover on Student Zerox RAPS/AFF equipment in either Static Line or Free Fall mode.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Kim Newton

that the above modification be accepted for use by Pete Sizer only.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A proposal from Pete Sizer had been circulated with the Agenda, together with the relevant paperwork and drawings requesting to the addition of a waist belt (removable) to Student Zerox RAPS/AFF equipment in either Static Line or Free Fall mode. This is to be used by slim Students who find that the rig shifts in free fall particularly during backloops or turns.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Kim Newton that the above modification be accepted for general use.

For: 4

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Carried

4. REQUEST FOR ACCEPTANCE OF 'TELESIS 3' FOR STUDENT USE – BILL SHARP

Bill Sharp presented the 'Telesis 3' container system for Student S/L use. Bill advised the meeting that the container was fully TSO'ed as a Telesis, with the major differences being with the harness, which had hip and chest rings. It also had a bellyband for additional adjustment/fitting etc. of the harness.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Bill Sharp and seconded by John Harding that the above equipment be accepted for Student S/L use only.

For: 4

Against: 1

Abstentions: 0

Carried

5. STUDENT EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL – KIM NEWTON

A proposal from Kim Newton had been circulated with the Agenda, together with the relevant paperwork requesting to change from AFF ripcord pull with secondary handle to AFF throwaway with secondary handle, using pockets and handles manufactured by Relative Workshop. Kim stated that she would be using details supplied by Relative Workshop to install the pockets to Student Vector containers manufactured with BOC ripcord and secondary pull for AFF.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Bill Sharp that the above modification be accepted for general use for the Vector containers.

Carried Unanimously

6. EXTENTION TO BR RATING – BILL SHARP

A proposal had been received from Bill Sharp requesting a second extension to the BR rating of Ian Anderson until the next Rigging Course at RAPA. Bill advised those present that Iain had been unable to attend a Rigger Course due to military commitments overseas.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Bill Sharp and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above

request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

7. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course Report had been received from Kim Newton, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Chris Gilmore had successfully attended the Course, which had been held at North London Parachute Centre, Chatteris from the 4 – 5 April 2005 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been received from Chris Thomas, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Richard Aveyard had attended a 2 day advanced Tandem Packing Course held at Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE) on the 8 – 10 March 2005. He then successfully attended the Examination Course at TSE on the 14 April 2005 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status.

8. INDEX OF SAFETY NOTICES - UPDATE

Pete Sizer had provided an update of the BPA Index of Safety Notices, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda. The update was as follows:-

- (2) BPA SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETINS INDEX
93. Packing Manuals – Use of (SI 1/05) 3.3.05
94. Anti-Twist Lock Riser Housing Inserts (SI 2/05) 19.4.05
(39) MIRAGE SYSTEMS
5. Cypres Cutter Relocation (PSB 12.04)

9. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been one BPA Safety Information Bulletin issued since the last meeting. The Bulletin concerned Anti-twist lock riser housing inserts.

10. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

11. A.O.B

- i) Pete Sizer gave the meeting details of a Tandem Malfunction Incident. He stated that on deployment of a PD360 Tandem reserve a cascade brake line hooked on the shoulder of the screw end of a 'double L' connector, causing a brake lock. The problem was resolved using both hands to prise the loopover the almost right-angled shoulder. Pete suggested that the corner of the 'L' should be positioned 'bottom inside' on the rear riser rather than the larger screw end. He stated that he believed that similar problems have occurred in the past when main canopies were connected with 'double L' links.
- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course Report had been submitted by Pete Sizer and

circulated to those present. The Course had been held at the Headcorn Parachute Club from the 17 – 18 May 2005. Elliott Martin had successfully attended the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Course Report had been submitted by Andy Page and circulated to those present. The training Course had been held at UK Parachuting from the 16 – 19 May 2005 for three candidates. Jessica Day and Gerry Cepalak were advised to practice and gain more knowledge in preparation for their examination phase. Geraldine McGuinness, who had been packing and assisting riggers and advanced packers for 10 years and had a good knowledge of equipment and techniques stayed on for an extra two days and successfully completed the Examination phase and was awarded Advanced packer (Grade S) status.
- iv) A letter had been received from Pete Sizer and circulated to those present requesting a further extension to the BR Rating of Paul Stockwell to allow him to attend the next available Riggers Course.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and Kim Newton that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- v) Geoff Hughes had notified the office that he would be running an Advanced Packer Course At the Services Parachute Centre (NI) commencing 13 June 2005. Geoff had apologised for the lateness of his notification.
- vi) Andrew Hilton had advised the office of his intention to run an Advanced Packer Course at Skydive St Andrews commencing in June 2005.
- vii) A letter had been received from Richard Wheatley and was circulated to those present. Richard had stated that he believed BPA Riggers and Instructors could be a vital source of information. He stated that in recent years there seemed to be an increasing number of relatively inexperienced jumpers who when purchasing their first set of equipment were not taking advantage of the knowledge and guidance they can offer.

Richard was concerned that the use of Internet sites such as E-Bay and Newsgroups as sources where equipment was purchased or advice was sought often meant the right information was not passed to the buyer and they may end up purchasing equipment, which was not suitable for their level of experience.

Richard had asked that a reminder go in the Minutes that Riggers, CCIs and other Instructors should actively encourage any jumper, especially those who are less experienced, to seek advice before any equipment purchase.

The Chairman stated that he was fully in agreement with Richard's comments and stated that he himself had experience of jumpers turning up on the DZ who had been jumping equipment not suitable for their level of experience. The Chairman was also concerned because he had come across a number instances of Riggers, Instructors and even CCIs who had sold on equipment, which in his opinion was not suitable for the less experienced jumper.

The Chairman stated that he believed this was an area where integrity was needed and was a situation that needed addressing and he would therefore, be bringing this matter to

the attention of STC that evening.

- viii) The meeting was advised of a Service Bulletin issued by Relative Workshop concerning the mandatory inspection of Relative Workshop Tandem VTC-III reserves (VR-360) 'A' Line attachments and Steering Lines. This involved reserves within a serial number range. A copy of the Service Bulletin would be circulated with the Minutes for information.

Some concern was expressed by those present that Relative Workshop had not advised the BPA of the above Service Bulletin. The Chairman reported that he had in the past contacted major manufactures in an effort to get them to send safety related items direct to the BPA.

- ix) Pat Walters referred to the new Vector 3, which has got anti-twist lock riser housing inserts.
- x) Bill Sharp notified the meeting that it was his intention to run a BPA Rigging Course at RAPA from the 5 – 9 December 2005. Anyone interested in attending this Course should contact Bill Sharp by e-mail: bsharp2440@aol.com
- xi) Bill Sharp asked the Committee what items should the Committee deal with under Any Other Business if the item up for discussion was not on the main Agenda, as on occasions there were items on AOB, which he believed Riggers who were not in attendance at the meeting had a right to know about in advance.

The Chairman stated that the Committee had addressed this matter in the past without having to have something written down. The Committee was aware that there were certain items that should not be dealt with under Any Other Business if they have not been notified in advance, and these items included changes that may involve amendments to the BPA Operations Manual, Rigging Technical Manual and any changes to equipment etc.

Bill stated that he felt that perhaps the Committee should use a little more discretion when accepting items for discussion under AOB and that Riggers who do not get items on to the main Agenda in time should not expect them to be dealt with under AOB.

- xii) Bill Sharp stated that at the moment there was no definitive list of Equipment that has been accepted for Student use. The only way to find out if a set of equipment has been accepted was to trawl through the Riggers Committee Minutes.

The Committee thought it would be a good idea to have such a list to refer to. Bill Sharp therefore agreed to compile a list, but stated that he would need some assistance from Riggers, as he does not know of all the Student rigs that people own that have been accepted for use. Bill asked that if people are willing to contact him with any information on Student equipment that has been cleared in the past, this would assist him greatly when compiling a list.

Following some discussion, it was felt that perhaps a good starting point for Bill would be from when the Committee decided that all Student equipment must be presented to the

Committee to acceptance for use in the UK.

Bill stated that it would be a fairly difficult task because of the various modifications etc, but nevertheless he would look at the various options and report back to the Committee.

- xiii) During the above item, discussion had taken place with regard to when a manufacturer decides to change a piece of equipment. How does the Committee define what is and what isn't a major change to that piece of equipment and whether it needs to be brought to the Committee's attention or not.

Bill Sharp stated that it was generally accepted that any major changes to equipment were brought around the table, but where does the Committee divide the line, as some riggers opinion may differ between major and minor changes. He believed that this was an area that needed addressing.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 11 August 2005
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.
4.00 p.m.

15 June 2005

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 25 JULY 2005**