

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2010

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Kim Newton
Chris Gilmore (NV)
Bernadette Whitaker
Rick Boardman

Apologies: John Hitchen, John Curtis, Pat Walters, Dave Major, David Gould

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

Observers: Phil Cavanagh

NV = Non Voting Member

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 8 APRIL 2010**

Page 1, Item 3 – Basic Riggers Course – Method 2 (300) Hrs – Review. John Curtis had advised the office that as he would be absent for the meeting, he would submit draft amendments to the BR Course Syllabus for consideration at the next meeting.

Page 2, Item 4 – Parachute Riggers Course Syllabus – Review. John Curtis had also advised that he would submit draft amendments to the PR Course Syllabus for consideration at the next meeting.

Page 2, Item 5 – Working Group into Lifting of Equipment. There had been no meeting of the Working Group that afternoon. Rick Boardman reported that it was expected that the Working Group would have some firm proposals for consideration at the next meeting. Rick also stated that he would also be giving a presentation to the next STC meeting on the work that had been achieved to date.

There being no further matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Kim Newton that the Minutes from the Riggers Sub-Committee meeting of 8 April 2010 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 8 APRIL 2010**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. TANDEM EQUIPMENT RECORD OF INSPECTION – CHECK LIST

The Chairman had asked that this item be included on the agenda as he had a number of comments with regard to the current Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection Check List (BPA Form 112A).

The Chairman advised those present that he also received an e-mail the previous day from Dave Emerson with his comments and concerns regarding the Tandem Equipment Main Parachute Packing/Inspection Log & 100 Jump Equipment Inspection. Dave had stated that in his opinion this system was not practical or workable and had asked that his comments be passed on to the Tandem Working Group.

Chris Gilmore who was present that evening and had worked on the Tandem Working Group was able to offer his advice and answer any questions in relation to this matter.

The Committee discussed the points raised by Dave Emerson in his e-mail. However, the new system had been in place for nearly 2 years now and although there had been a few very minor issues that had been noted, which the Committee felt could be improved with further education. They believed the system was working well and was a huge improvement on what was in place in the past.

Discussion then returned to the Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection Check List (Form 112A). The Chairman referred to the section of the form, which asked for the total number of jumps to date on the container to be recorded by the reserve packer. The Chairman stated that he felt in his opinion, the onus for completing the number of jumps should be with the equipment owner, as had been the requirement in the past. He stated that it was not always easy for the reserve packer to know the actual number of jumps.

Following some discussion, the Committee noted the Chairman's concerns however, they felt that with the new 100 jump equipment inspection they did not see this as a potential problem. It was noted however, that there may well be occasions when the reserve packer would have to estimate the number of jumps particularly with some of the older equipment in use.

Kim Newton stated that in her opinion the current Tandem Equipment Record of Inspection Check List was in need of review, as she believed that some of the information on the Check List could be consolidated. Kim agreed to produce an amended Check List for consideration at the next meeting.

4. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Point Zero from the 21 – 22 April 2010. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Eamonn Fairhead successfully attended the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- ii) Christine Downer had presented herself to be examined for an Advanced Packer rating at Hinton Skydiving Centre on the 21 April 2010 and then again on 28 April 2010. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Christine successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- iii) An Advanced Packers Conversion Course had been held at the Headcorn Parachute Club from the 10 – 11 May 2010. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Ian Matthews successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Skydive GB from the 18 – 19 May 2010. The Course had been attended by Jimmy Freemantle, Ruth Jordinson and Katie Woods. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

All candidates successfully completed the Course and were awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- v) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at the Joint Services Parachute Centre, Netheravon from the 1 – 4 June 2010. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course had been attended by Chas Lawson, Andy Shaw and Mathew Wellington all of whom were advised to attend the examination phase of the course at a later date.

Kim Newton reported that a matter had been brought to her attention recently with regard to a growing issue with a small minority of newly qualified Advanced Packers and concerned their poor and possible careless approach to packing. She stated that although there had been no major issue with regard to safety as such, she felt it was a situation that the Committee should be made aware.

5. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

6. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

A Service Bulletin has been received from the Australian Parachute Federation with regard to mandatory ripcord pin test on reserve ripcords without markings to indicate manufacturer or previous markings in rigs manufactured before July 2003.

7. A.O.B.

- i) The Chairman expressed his concern at the poor state of some of the personal equipment that he comes across on a regular basis. He stated that he felt the only way the situation could be improved was by way of educating jumpers of the importance of maintaining their equipment.

The TO suggested that the Committee may wish to consider approaching the BPA Development Committee with a view to producing a safety poster that could be displayed at Centres, which could be used to highlight this issue.

- ii) Rick Boardman had asked for clarification with regard to who was authorised to sign up an Advanced Packer rating at annual renewal.

The TO confirmed that this could either be completed by an Advanced Rigger or by an Advanced Instructor, which was stated in the Advanced Packing Syllabus (Form 169). The TO advised those present that the 2010/2011 membership renewal form had not included Advanced Instructor, but this had been an error when the current form had been amended.

- iii) The Committee wished to extend its thanks to Liz Ashley for her continued work on the Safety Zone feature in Skydive the Mag.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 5 August 2010
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester
at 4.00 p.m

17 June 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 16 JULY 2010**