

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER**  
**THURSDAY 31 MAY 2007**

**Present:** Paul Applegate - Chairman  
Kim Newton  
Dave Major  
Pat Walters  
Steve Thomas  
Pete Sizer (from item 7 - AOB (iv))

**Apologies:** Bernadette Whitaker, John Curtis, Phill Elston, Rick Boardman.

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

**Observers:** John Page, Mike Rust, Colin Fitzmaurice.

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**ITEM**

**1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 29 MARCH 2007**

**Page 1, Item 1 – Minutes and Matters Arising from the Riggers Meeting of the 1 February 2007.** Bill Sharp had informed the office that the BPA Tandem Mods Website was up to date as of the previous Meeting.

**Page 6, Item 8 – Advanced Packer Course Reports (iii).** David Gould had now submitted Form 175 specifying the equipment that Craig Bonnar had worked on during the training phase of his Advanced Packer (Tandem) Course. This paperwork was requested at the last meeting.

The Committee were concerned that in some cases not all of those people running Advanced Packing Courses were sending in the correct paperwork once they had finished a Course.

Following some discussion on this matter, the Committee agreed that an Advanced Packers rating would not be issued until the correct paperwork had been completed and submitted to the BPA office. Successful candidates would not be cleared to pack until they had received confirmation of their rating by the office.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Dave Major that the Minutes of the Riggers meeting of the 29 March 2007, be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 29 MARCH 2007**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

3. **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL BY ALLAN HEWITT**

A proposal had been received from Allan Hewitt, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Allan had requested an exemption to the 2 year rule of running a course as a Rigging Examiner to enable him to have his Rigging Examiners rating endorsed for another year, which would then allow him the chance of running a Course before the next BPA renewal date.

Allan had stated in his correspondence that he had been very busy in Spain and had not had chance to get involved in UK courses. He also stated that he was still very active in rigging as he had a full time workshop in Spain and he had been running both Reserve packing courses and rigging courses for the Spanish Federation. To date Allan had already qualified 3 Spanish reserve packers and has 2 riggers training under the 300 hour scheme.

The Chairman advised those present that correspondence had been received by Bill Sharp on this item, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Bill Sharp had asked that it be formally noted in the minutes that Allan Hewitt's 300 hour trainees that he had referred to in his proposal, had nothing what so ever to do with the BPA system and had no legitimacy within future BPA rigging courses. Bill stated that they were not registered as 300 hour Method 2 Riggers within the BPA system and Allan, as he was fully aware of, was not permitted to train riggers for inclusion into the BPA system, outside of the BPA environment.

The Chairman advised those present that he had received five proxy votes in favour of Allan's proposal.

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

**Carried Unanimously**

4. **ADVANCED PACKER COURSE REPORTS**

- i) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had taken place at Thomas Sports Equipment on the 27 March 2007. Chris Thomas has submitted a Course Report a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Chris Taylor had successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had taken place at UK Parachuting from the 23 to 26 April 2007. Andy Page had submitted a Course Report a copy of which had also circulated to those present.

Richard Green, Ben Cannon and Philip Welch attended the Course all of whom have been advised to return for the final examination phase at a future date.

5. **BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

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

6. **MANUFACTURER'S SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

A Service Bulletin had been previously circulated from Strong Enterprises concerning the mandatory removal of 'Flinger/PRO' assembly and replacement of inner sub-flap with pilot chute Base Plate and pilot chute before next jump. This concerned all Quasar II harness/container systems. Including both Quasar IIs with 'Flinger/PRO' (Positive Reserve Opening) assembly installed as original installation or modification, and those without.

Kim Newton advised those present that instructions on how to carry out the above were now available on the manufacturer's website.

7. **A.O.B**

- i) The Committee were advised that a letter had been received from Ray Armstrong a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Ray had a number of concerns regarding the current accepted practice of 'lifing' equipment, in particular the lifing of AAD batteries.

The TO referred the Committee to the section relating to AADs in the Rigging Technical Manual, which states:

"Service dates and battery change dates on AAD's must be adhered to as per manufacturers' recommendations. No reserve repack can be dated for a longer period than the expiry date of any AAD component part. In the case of a Cypres battery, the original reserve packer can change the battery and can then extend the repack date to the maximum original period allowed".

The Committee felt that the above paragraph adequately covered the BPA's policy regarding this.

- ii) A letter had been circulated to those present from Rick Baordman concerning Icarus Canopies Reline Sets. Rick stated that Riggers may be aware that Icarus Canopies in the past had not sized their canopies in the same way that the majority of manufacturers do. Thus a Saffire 189 alongside a PD 190 was NOT just 1 square foot smaller!

Rick stated that he had recently discovered that Icarus Canopies do not number their lines the same way as the rest either. Whilst PD line numbers start with the lowest in the centre, and work outwards, Icarus is the reverse, numbering with the lowest at the end cells, and working inwards. Rick stated that this may lead to confusion and asked that this be noted in the minutes.

Kim advised the Committee that a line trim chart was available from manufacturer, which she felt people would find helpful if they had not carried out a reline on that type of canopy before.

Some discussion then took place with regard to weights/wing loadings of canopies. The Committee advised that anyone with any uncertainty regarding this matter can refer to individual manufacturers' websites to check what weights they are recommending for

weights/wing loading.

Steve Thomas advised those present that the APA had published a comprehensive chart with different wing loadings that are recommended for different experience jump levels. Steve had produced his own chart based on the APA's, which he agreed to make available if required.

- iii) The Chairman advised those present that Jason Thompson has advised the office that his Centre will be running an Advanced Packers Course at UK Parachuting from the 4 – 7 June 2007.
- iv) The Chairman advised those present that Pete Sizer had submitted an update to the Safety Notice Index, a copy of which had been circulated to those present:

**(8) PARACHUTES de FRANCE**

48. AAD Cutter relocation SB 8.3.07

**(15) STRONG ENTERPRISES**

29. Quasar II recall SB 26 18.4.07

**(24) SUNPATH PRODUCTS**

11. RSL removal - only by Adv.Rigger AC105-2c

**(43) PARATEC**

3. Cypres Cutter relocation PSB 15.2.07

**(44) VIGIL / Advanced Aerospace Designs**

4. Plastic cutter insert damage PSB #3 21.2.07

- v) The Chairman referred to a decision made by the Riggers Committee at the previous meeting to end the 'grandfather' rule relating to Advanced Packing Certificate.

The Chairman advised the Committee that an e-mail from John Carter had been received opposing this decision, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The original intention of the Committee was that the new system should ultimately replace the old reserve packing certificate. The feeling among riggers was that natural 'wastage' would gradually allow the old certificates to be phased out. Whilst this had proved to be true to a certain extent, the fact remained that after more than ten years, there was still a two tier system in operation.

The Committee discussed a number of issues relating to the current system involving Advanced Packing. The Committee had noted that there had been some instances where Advanced Packing Certificate holders were getting signed up by Advanced Instructors

who were not qualified to do so. There had also been instances where new types of equipment had been added to packing certificates, which was also against the rules. The Committee was also concerned that some Advanced Packing Certificate holders may not be up to date with latest modifications and manufacturers recommendations.

Because of these anomalies, the Committee wished to bring all packers in line with one system, hence the proposal at the last meeting, which was clarified for the purpose of the Minutes:

“All Advanced Packing Certificate Holders who wish to upgrade to Advanced Packer status, may do so by taking the appropriate exam (Round, Square and Tandem) only. On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, the old Advanced Packing Certificate will cease to exist. Any holders of these certificates have until then to upgrade. After 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009, former holders of the Advanced Packing Certificate will have to do a full Advanced Packers Course and exam”.

**NB:** *The above was not accepted at the STC Meeting of the 31 May 2007.*

- vii) The Chairman wished to remind everyone that all items for Riggers meetings whether it be items for inclusion under AOB or any other item relating to the agenda needs to be in the office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 2 August 2007  
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester  
at 4.00 p.m

8 June 2007

**Distribution:**

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

**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY 23 JULY 2007**