

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2002

Present: Paul Applegate - Chairman
Kim Newton
Pete Sizer
John Harding
Rick Boardman
Pat Walters
Bernadette Whitaker
John Curtis
Pat Jones
Ray Armstrong

Apologies: Bill Sharp, Andrew Hilton, John Hitchen.

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

Observers: Phil Cavanagh, David Hickling, Ralph Fielding.

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 8TH AUGUST 2002**

Page 2, Item 1 – Minutes and Matters Arising – Reserve Packing Courses – Qualifications to Examine. John Curtis referred to the Working Group that had been set up to look into packing and rigging in general. He felt that the Working Group needed to set up their first meeting and following some discussion it was agreed that this would be held at the BPA office on the day scheduled for the next Riggers Committee meeting, which was the 28th November and would commence at 10.30am.

It was suggested by those present that the Working Group's first task should be to draw up a Terms of Reference listing all the various items and areas that needed to be covered by the Working Group. The Committee welcomed any input and suggestions.

The Chairman asked John Curtis if he would be willing to chair the Working Group, to which he agreed. The Working Group would also consist of John Harding and Kim Newton who had volunteered to sit on the Working Group in place of Pat Walters who had resigned.

Page 3, Item 1 – Minutes and Matters Arising – Tandem Modification Request. The Chairman informed those present that he had spoken to the persons concerned with regard to the incorrect information supplied to the Committee on this particular item.

Page 3, Item 1 – Minutes and Matters Arising – AOB(v). John Curtis pointed out that the word "round" had been omitted from the last sentence of this paragraph and should have actually read: ".....which included squares and **round** reserves".

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by John Harding that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee meeting of the 8th August 2002, with the

above amendment be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 8TH AUGUST**

Page 9, Item 5 (xiii) - (Incident/Injury Reports Resume). At the previous meeting of STC details had been given of an incident involving two BPA Instructors who were also military personnel. The APA Safety & Training Committee had carried out their investigation into the incident and disciplinary action had been taken against the instructors concerned. STC had been satisfied with action taken by the APA STC and felt that no further action should be taken, other than the Chairman of STC writing to them reminding them of their responsibilities. John Curtis pointed out that the Riggers Committee had recently dealt with a disciplinary matter involving a BPA Rigger who was also in the military. He felt that when the Association was dealing with disciplinary matters concerning any BPA member whether military personnel or not there should be one system in place.

The Committee felt that John Curtis should take this matter up with STC that evening.

3. **THE FUTURE OF RIGGING WITHIN THE BPA**

A paper from John Harding concerning the future of rigging within the BPA, together with a letter from Bill Sharp with his views and comments on John's letter, was circulated with the agenda. This item was briefly discussed at the previous meeting, but because of the time element the Committee were unable to discuss this item in full. Therefore the original paperwork submitted by John Harding and Bill Sharp had been re-distributed for discussion at this meeting.

A letter from Andrew Hilton with his comments on the above paperwork had been circulated with the additions to the Agenda.

A great deal of discussion ensued on this topic. It was generally felt by those present that many of the points highlighted in the various correspondence were areas that would need to be covered by the Working Group reviewing all areas of rigging with the BPA.

Some discussion then ensued with regard to the limitations of work carried out by Parachute Riggers. Some confusion remained on where the limitations of work of a Parachute Rigger and an Advanced Rigger were divided and definition was required in an effort to improve the system. It was felt by some Parachute Riggers present that a review of the work limitation of both ratings was required.

Following further discussion on this matter, it was felt by those present that this was another area that should be looked at by the Working Group.

Another area that needed addressing was the need for an easier reference to information within the Rigging Minutes. The Chairman advised those present that Andrew Hilton had volunteered to produce a Rigging Operations Manual, which he had already started. Bill Sharp had also offered to produce a similar document.

The Committee thanked Andrew and Bill for their work put into this area so far and it was suggested that they liaise with each other so that everyone was working together.

4. **PARACHUTE PACKING/INSPECTION CYCLES – DISCUSSION PAPER FROM TONY BUTLER**

A paper by Tony Butler concerning parachute packing /inspection cycles had been circulated with the Agenda for consideration by the Committee. Letters from Bill Sharp and John Bishop had also been received on this item and circulated to those present.

Tony stated that at this time the repack cycles for all parachutes are six calendar months and he asked the Committee to consider the desirability of changing this to an Annual Repack and Inspection cycle for parachute equipment used by Intermediate and Experienced parachutists. He pointed out that a number of other countries have or are considering adopting a 12 month repack cycle.

Mr Butler's paper had also included an e-mail from Justin Pitt who had questioned the validity of the current six-month repack cycle. An experienced jumper had presented Justin with a set of equipment to be tagged at the DZ to show that the docs have been checked and the equipment examined visually etc. The record of inspection for the reserve was in date, but the date of the next battery due for the AAD (Airtec Cypres) was shown to expire prior to the expiry date of the Record of Inspection. Mr Pitt had refused to tag the equipment on the grounds that the AAD batteries were out of date.

Mr Butler had asked the Committee to discuss the serviceability of component parts, eg if a Cypres battery needs replacing, or the AAD needs servicing before the next repack/inspection is due, should the Record of Inspection only be valid until whatever date is first as there were no rules in place at this time.

The Committee discussed this item at some length. There appeared to be differing opinions and interpretations from those present of the current re-pack cycle concerning component parts. The Committee felt that we should be looking at this aspect before making a decision about extending the re-pack cycle. This was another area that the Committee felt should be looked at by the Working Group.

At the moment there is nothing in the rules to say that equipment cannot be jumped if the Cypres battery or AAD maintenance is due prior to the expiry of the end of the repack cycle. A CCI reserves the right to make a decision whether equipment is jumped at their Centre.

5. FOREIGN RIGGER RATINGS

Presently there were no rules in place for foreign Riggers wishing to qualify through the BPA system. Some discussion took place by those present and it was felt that this was an item to be considered by the Working Group.

In the meantime, any foreign rigger who wished to rig in the UK would need to present themselves to the Riggers Committee, as was standard practice at the moment.

6. BPA RIGGING MANUAL UPDATE

The Chairman advised the Committee that since the last meeting he had not heard from Allan Hewitt in regard to the Rigging Manual.

The Committee felt that the time had come to make a decision with regard to this item as they felt that what Allan Hewitt had produced was not what the Committee had originally asked for. The Committee felt that a formal vote was required to officially close this matter.

If was proposed by John Harding and seconded by Kim Newton that the Manual as presented to the Committee by Allan Hewitt was unacceptable as a Rigging Manual and that this matter was now considered closed.

A counter proposal was then tabled by Pat Walters, seconded by Bernadette Whittaker that the Committee do not take a formal vote on this matter until Allan Hewitt was able to be present at a meeting.

For: 3 Against: 6 Abstentions: 0

Not Carried

John Harding's original proposal was then voted on as follows:-

For: 6 Against: 3 Abstentions: 0

Carried

The Chairman reminded those present that Andrew Hilton had previously offered to produce a BPA Rigging Manual. The Committee felt that it would be ideal if Andrew could attend a future Riggers meeting, to enable the Committee to deal with this matter when he could be present.

7. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

8. MANUFACTURERS SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

Pete Sizer gave the meeting details of an incident at Headcorn where a jumper had a riser, which had completely disintegrated. Pete stated that he would follow up this incident and stated that details and photos could be found on one of the parachuting newgroups.

9. A.O.B

- i) David Hickling presented a TSE Student Zerox with a BOC throwaway (rip-away type) pilot chute and requested that the equipment be accepted for general AFF use. This was a manufacturer's design and is included with new manufactured equipment.

It was proposed by John Harding and seconded by Kim Newton that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A request had been circulated with the additions to the Agenda, together with relevant paperwork and drawings from Richard Wheatley to install an AFF style BOC pocket on TSE Student Zerox Containers and RWS Student Vector Containers so that the equipment may be used in an AFF 'throwaway' mode.

Following some discussion on this item, it was felt by those present that Richard should re-submit this request once he had produced a drawing for the bridle line cover.

- iii) The Technical Officer advised the Committee that at a previous meeting Dave Hickling had been given permission to use Student AFF equipment with a throwout pilot chute and dual cutaway system, which he wished to use to train up to a maximum of two AFF Students at Langar for evaluation purposes.

The Technical Officer stated that there appeared to be some confusion in that some people believed that they could use Javelin rigs with 'throwaways' for AFF students. He pointed out that this had not been given a general clearance by STC or Riggers for Student use.

Following some discussion on this matter. It was felt by those present that because the Committee had seen the Student Javelin as previously presented by Dave Hickling and were happy with the system, it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Student Javelin, with both dual cutaway and normal cutaway system with BOC throwaway (rip-away type) pilotchutes and ripcords be accepted for general AFF use.

Carried Unanimously

iv) A request had been received from John Curtis to run either Rigger or Advanced Packer Courses between now and March 2003 as required. Pete Sizer also requested to hold an Advanced Packer Course during the winter. The Committee had no problem with these requests.

v) Bill Sharp had submitted an Advanced Packers Examination Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Stephen Millington has successfully completed the course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R & S) status.

vi) A letter had been received from Rick Boardman asking the Committee if it was acceptable for him to register a Basic Rigger for training with the understanding that the said rigger must get the full Advanced Packers rating before attending final examination.

Following some discussion on this matter, the Committee raised no objections to Rick registering a potential BR.

vii) Rick Boardman advised those present that he had recently had occasion to use the PIA website and stated that this had proved to be worthwhile site for registering lost and stolen items.

viii) Kim Newton advised those present that she had recently been presented with a set of equipment, which contained a narrow container (PISA) without a serial number on and without any evidence of a serial on. She had contacted the manufacturer who had been extremely concerned at this and had sent a replacement container. Kim suggested that anyone finding something unusual with equipment that it was worthwhile contacting the manufacturer and pointing it out to them.

Date of next Meeting:

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE:

Thursday 28th November 2002

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

21st October 2002

Distribution

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