

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
RIGGERS COMMITTEE MEETING
BPA OFFICES, 5 WHARF WAY, GLEN PARVA, LEICESTER
THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER 1999

Present:

Paul Applegate
- Chairman

Pat Walters
Allan Hewitt
Dave Prince
Bernadette Whitaker
John Curtis
Pete Sizer
Rick Boardman
Dave Ballard
Geoff Chandler
John Harding

Apologies:

Pat Jones, Kim Newton, John Hitchen.

In Attendance:

Tony Butler
- Technical Officer
- Secretary

Trudy Kemp

Observers:

Phil Cavanagh, Dennis Buchanan.

ITEM

1. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS MEETING OF THE 12TH AUGUST 1999**

Page 1, Item 1- Rigger Rating Renewals. A proposal by the Technical Officer concerning Rigger Rating renewals was on the main Agenda for that evening.

Page 1, Item 1 - Tandem Modifications (f) At the previous meeting John Curtis had queried this item, as although Ronnie O'Brien had asked the Committee to consider this request, the item should have been proposed by a rigger present at the meeting. It was believed that Allan Hewitt had proposed this Tandem modification. However this could not be clarified, as Mr Hewitt had not been present at that meeting.

Mr Hewitt agreed to put his name forward as the proposer of this item.

Page 2, item 1 - Update on Rigging Manual Project. This item was on the main Agenda for that evening.

Page 5, Item 7 – AOB (iv). John Curtis advised the meeting that he would no longer be running the Rigger Courses in October, as to date, he had only received two enquiries.

Page 5, Item7 – AOB (vii). At the previous meeting Bill Sharp had asked the Committee to consider a suggestion with regard to Tandem modifications. Mr Sharp had stated that he would word a proposal to go out with the Agenda for consideration at this meeting.

Mr Sharp had advised the office that because of work commitments he had been unable to put something in writing for this meeting. He had apologised for this and stated that he would do this for the next meeting. Paul Applegate stated that he would contact Mr Sharp regarding this matter.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Pat Walters and seconded by John Curtis that the Minutes of the Riggers Committee Meeting of the 12th August 1999 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 12TH AUGUST 1999

There were no matters arising from the previous Meeting of STC.

3. PROPOSED CHANGE TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

The Committee was advised that at the Riggers meeting of the 10th June 1999, it was agreed that a proposal should be made regarding rigger rating renewals. Over the past few years a number of Advanced Riggers have signed their own rating renewals on the annual BPA membership renewal form. It was felt by those present at this meeting that the intention of the rule was that riggers should not be able to sign themselves up for renewal. Therefore it was suggested that the Riggers Sub-Committee recommend to STC that the BPA Operations Manual be amended as below:-

BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL, SECTION 14 (RIGGING), Paragraph 9 (Rigger Rating Renewals). Change to read:-

9. RIGGER RATING RENEWALS

Rigger ratings expire on the 31st March each year. To renew a riggers' rating the rigger must satisfy an Advanced Rigger that he/she is current in all aspects of rigging relevant to their status.

N.B Advanced Riggers or Rigger Examiners may not endorse their own rating renewal applications.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Allan Hewitt that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. UPDATE ON RIGGING MANUAL PROJECT

Circulated to those present was a paper by Allan Hewitt with regard to the current situation on the Rigging Manual project. Mr Hewitt apologised to those present for the fact that it had taken a long time to get this project under way, but a number of factors had contributed to the delay. A copy of Mr Hewitt's paper outlining the reasons for the delay would be circulated with the Minutes for information.

5. RESERVE PACKERS COURSE REPORT

A Reserve Packers Course had been held at Sky Science from the 23rd – 26th August. The two candidates on the course were advised to practice and prepare for the

examination phase of the Course. A copy of the Course Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

6. TANDEM MODIFICATIONS – UPDATE

Paul Applegate advised those present that a number of requests had been received to lift the grounding on the Racer Elite 400 Tandem canopies, which had been grounded because of unacceptably hard openings.

The meeting was advised that Dave Ruffell had provided a report, which was circulated to those present with regard to the test jumps he carried out on Simon Davenport's canopy. Dane Kenny and Allan Hewitt also provided the Committee with information relating to their own canopies.

Following lengthy discussion on this matter, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by John Harding that the following proposal be recommended to STC that evening:-

'That providing the canopies in question are packed using the 'new' packing method from Jump Shack. Followed by two descents on the canopies; 1 bag jump followed by a jump with an experienced Tandem Instructor on the front. If the Tandem Instructor can satisfy themselves and their CCIs that the canopy is ok, then they are permitted to carry on jumping those canopies with a Student on the front. If they experience any problems or are unhappy with the canopy then they remain grounded'.

Carried Unanimously

The canopy owners were asked to report their findings to the next meeting.

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

There had been no manufacturers Safety Notices/Information Bulletins received since the last meeting.

9. A.O.B

i) A request had been received from Dave Ballard, which was circulated to those present requesting permission to fit a Relative Workshop Vector Tandem Drogue into a Next Tandem system.

Mr Ballard advised those present that he had trial packed and deployed on the ground the Next Tandem rig with a Vector Drogue and had found no problems, the two drogues being identical in most respects.

It was proposed by Dave Ballard and seconded by Rick Boardman that the above Tandem modification be accepted.

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (John Curtis, Pat Walters)

Carried

- ii) Dave Prince advised those present of a problem of excessive wear on a Next drogue bridle. The problem seemed to be that the grommet that the 'kill line' feeds through was causing excessive wear internally on the opposite side to the grommet.

Paul Applegate agreed to contact the manufacturers for their comments on this matter. In the meantime, owners of Next canopies were advised to check out this area.

- iii) A request had been received from Dave Ballard, which was circulated those present for a modification to a Vector type looped cutaway handle (Tandem) to accept a Next drogue release cable. A drawing of the mod was circulated to those present.

It was pointed out to those present that the manufacturers already produce a looped cutaway handle and therefore, Mr Ballard's handle was an upgrade of this.

It was proposed by Dave Ballard and seconded by Allan Hewitt that the above modification be accepted for use, once it had been inspected by an Advanced Rigger.

Carried Unanimously

- iv) Dave Chapman had advised the office that Chris Good had successfully completed the examination phase of the Advanced Packers Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade 1) status.
- v) There was some concern that some people may be using the big Tandem bungees on Atom or similar equipment. These bungees were only designed for certain use and people were reminded to use the correct bungees recommended by the manufacturer.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 2nd December 1999
BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester.
4.00 p.m.

12th October 1999

Distribution

Chairperson Riggers Committee
Chairman STC
All CCIs
All Riggers
Council

D. Beaven (CAA)
Lesley Gale
File