



Riggers' Subcommittee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 7 February 2019 at 1700

at BPA HQ, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

Present: Pete Sizer (RE) - Chair
Phil Wayper (PR)
Noel Purcell (RE)
Mary Barratt (PR)

Key:

PR = Parachute Rigger

RE = Rigger Examiner

Apologies: Tony Butler (on BPA business), John Hitchen, John Curtis, Rick Boardman, Gary Stevens, Dave Major, Richard Wheatley, Karen Saunders.

In Attendance: Jeff Montgomery - STO/Chair STC
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to COO/STO

Observer: Alex Busby-Hicks.

ITEM

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair stated that any member with any personal, financial or material interest in any item/s of business on the agenda for this meeting should state any declaration of interest. These would be declared at the relevant item.

2. MINUTES FROM THE RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 2018

It was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Mary Barratt that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting of 15 November 2018 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 15 NOVEMBER 2018

Page 1, Item 2 – Vigil AADs. No further reports have been received relating to Vigil AAD units where the attachment to the control unit was found to be snapping.

Page 1, Item 2 – Velocity Risers Update. No further reports have been received regarding Velocity Risers with phosphate hardware.

Page 1, Item 2 – Equipment Inspection Policies Working Group. The Chair reported that Rick Boardman had not been in a position to attend today's Riggers' meeting due to injury. This had also prevented him from attending the Riggers' & Advanced Packers Personal Development & Safety Day in January. Therefore, Rick's progress report on the WG to Riggers & Packers at the Safety Day had been delivered by the Riggers' Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 15 NOVEMBER 2018

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING AN APPROVED PACKING CERTIFICATE (BPA FORM 197)

A proposed amendment to the Guidelines for Obtaining an Approved Packing Certificate (BPA Form 197) had been circulated with the Agenda, together with a draft copy of the form.

The Committee had been awaiting the outcome of the CF Working Group to determine what and how specific CF equipment was going to be detailed and recorded. A new section on CF equipment had therefore been added to BPA Form 197. The Chair pointed out a typo error in the draft text. He stated that in the first sentence the word 'packing' had appeared twice.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Mary Barratt and seconded by Phil Wayper that the proposed changes to BPA Form 197 be accepted together with the slight adjustment as stated

Carried Unanimously

6. RIGGING COURSE REPORTS

There had been two Rigging Courses held since the last meeting, a copy of the reports had been circulated with the Agenda:

- i) The Association expressed its thanks to Jason Farrant for kindly hosting the BPA Rigging Course at Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell from the 16 – 20 December 2018.

The Examiners conducting the Course were: George Panagopoulos and Pete Sizer.

There was 1 candidate on the BR Course. Daniel Hurst successfully completed the Course and was awarded Basic Rigger status.

There were 4 candidates on the PR Course. All candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The candidates were: Daniel Mercer, Phil Wayper, Marie-Ann Stevens and Martin Cole.

There were two candidates assessed on their final part for upgrading to Rigger Examiner status. Both candidates were successful and were awarded with their Rigger Examiner ratings. The successful candidates were: Noel Purcell and Andy Shaw.

- ii) The Association again, expressed its thanks to Jason Farrant for kindly hosting the BPA Rigging Course at Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell from the 3 – 7 January 2019.

The Examiners conducting the Course were: George Panagopoulos and Andrew Hilton.

There were 2 candidates on the BR Course. Both candidates successfully completed the Course and were awarded Basic Rigger status. The candidates were: Cameron Clark and Henry Mole.

There were 3 candidates on the PR Course. All candidates were successful and were awarded Parachute Rigger status. The candidates were: Steve Handley, Karl Peart and Brad Dimmock.

There was one candidate who was assessed on his final part for upgrading to Rigger Examiner status. The candidate successfully completed the Course and was awarded with his Rigger Examiner rating. The successful candidate was Rick Boardman.

7. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL

A proposal from Pete Sizer had been circulated with the Agenda requesting a change to the Riggers Section of the BPA Operations Manual. Pete had stated that there was an anomaly in the requirements for recommending a candidate to become a Basic Rigger, and he wished to bring everything into line. There were two methods for training (Method 1 & 2) but they currently have two different recommendation requirements for attending, and his proposal detailed the differences.

In order to be consistent, Pete Sizer had proposed that the Operations Manual, Section 14 (Riggers), Paragraph 2 (Basic Rigger), sub-para 2.1.3. be changed to read:

- 2.1.3. Have a written recommendation from the Supervising Rigger, who must be at least a PR who has held their rating for at least two years and has known the candidate for a minimum of six months.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Mary Barratt that the above amendment to the BPA Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair reported that the above proposal would also be considered by STC at its meeting this evening.

8. PROPOSED NEW APPLICATION/RECOMMENDATION TO ATTEND A BPA RIGGING COURSE (BPA FORM 316)

A proposed new Rigging Course Application/Recommendation to attend a BPA Rigging Course had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair provided further details to those present.

The meeting was informed that Gary Stevens had stated that he was in support of the proposed application. However, he felt that it should also include the status of the person recommending the candidate, as well as a statement that they had known the candidate for a minimum of six months.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Phil Wayper that the new BPA Form 316 be accepted together with the additions to the form as stated above.

Carried Unanimously

9. PERMISSIONS

- i) A letter from Allan Hewitt had been circulated with the Agenda requesting an exemption to allow him to maintain his rating for the 2019/2020 BPA membership year.

Allan had stated that although he was very current and active in rigging, he had been unable to attend a Rigging exam course over the previous 2 years due to work commitments, and the very few rigging courses that were available.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Phil Wayper that Allan Hewitt's request be accepted and that his Rigger Examiner rating be extended until 31 March 2020.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) A letter from Gary Stevens had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that the restriction of teaching one candidate at Rhomech Rigging be lifted. Gary had stated that since the original application, they have had the facility extended by 8m x 5m, and now have an additional 40 sq. meters in which to teach.

The Chair of STC reported that he had seen the extended rigging loft and stated that he was happy for the restriction to be lifted.

The Chair also supplied further details in support of Gary Steven's request.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Mary Barratt and seconded by Phil Wayper that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iii) A letter from Pete Sizer had been circulated with the Agenda requesting extensions to the BR ratings of Ralph Mitchell and Jack Bradford

Pete Sizer stated that both Ralph and Jack had attended the Basic Riggers Course in January 2018, but for a number of reasons were not ready for this winter's exam.

Pete Sizer reported that that he had recently taken over as Supervising Rigger for both Ralph Mitchell and Jack Bradford and requested that they are granted 12-month extensions to their BR ratings for them to prepare for examination next winter.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Phil Wayper and seconded by Mary Barratt that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

10. EQUIPMENT RELATED INCIDENT REPORT RESUMÉ

There had been no equipment related incident reports received since the last meeting.

11. ADVANCED PACKER (AP) COURSE REPORTS

The following Advanced Packer Courses have been held since the last meeting, and the respective Course Reports have been circulated to those present:

- i) George Panagopoulos had run an Advanced Packers Examination Course at Netheravon from the 15 – 16 November 2018. The Course was attended by Henry Mole who successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- ii) George Panagopoulos had run an Advanced Packers Training Course at Netheravon from the 19 – 22 November 2018.

The Course was attended by Charlotte Pope and Josef Bieszczad, both of whom were advised to practice and prepare for the examination phase of the Course at a later date.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Course had been run by Gary Stevens under the supervision of Pete Sizer at Skydive Headcorn from the 26 – 28 November 2018.

The Course was attended by Daniel Hurst, Nigel Rowland and Steve Powell, all of whom were advised to practice and prepare for the examination phase of the Course at a later date.

On completion of the Course, Pete Sizer recommended that Gary Stevens be added to the list of Riggers authorised to run and examine Advanced Packing Courses.

It was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Phil Wayper that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- iv) George Panagopoulos had run an Advanced Packers Training Course at Netheravon from the 3 – 6 December 2018.

The Course was attended by Emma Reynolds and James Cowan, both of whom were advised to practice and prepare for the examination phase of the Course at a later date.

- v) Pete Sizer had run an Advanced Packers Examination Course at Skydive Headcorn from the 13 – 14 December 2018. The Course was attended by Daniel Hurst who successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

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

There had been one BPA Information Bulletin (4/18) issued since the last meeting concerning Next/Next Century Tandem harness container systems. This had been circulated with the previous Minutes and can also be found on the BPA website:

<https://www.bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-information-bulletins/>

13. **MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

Noel Purcell reported on an Information Bulletin he had received concerning Paratec Next Tandem and Next Century Tandem equipment, which had been published in German. The Chair agreed to contact the manufacturers for further details and to request a translation of the Bulletin.

14. **A.O.B.**

- i) The Chair reported that Phil Wayper had wished to speak to Riggers' today regarding the ongoing issue concerning limitations of work by Parachute Riggers.

The meeting was informed that Phil had built a number of ram-air canopies in the past and had plans to construct further canopies in the future.

Those present discussed the possible difficulties and issues that Phil could face if he goes into production. However, it was felt that with so few Riggers in attendance today, he may wish to consider discussing this subject at a future meeting.

- ii) The Chair reported that Airtec have asked the Association to consider their position following Airtec's amended maintenance requirements regarding Cypres 2 AAD units. A letter from Airtec had been tabled to those present for discussion.

The Chair stated that for units manufactured after January 2016, Airtec have amended their maintenance policy from recommended to voluntary and have updated the Cypres AAD user's guide accordingly.

Following consideration, it was agreed by those present that this subject be a main Agenda item for the next Riggers' Subcommittee meeting, and in the meantime BPA requirements concerning Cypres AAD maintenance still applies.

Discussion then ensued as to how we as an organisation apply the use of the word 'recommended' when this is specified by a parachute manufacturer.

The Committee had generally interpreted a manufacturers 'recommendation' as a mandatory requirement and have applied this to our rules. However, it was felt that this required further clarification, and Noel Purcell requested that the BPA lawyers be asked for a definitive answer.

- iii) The Chair reported that Chris Gilmore had raised an issue following on from the Tandem Working Group. He stated that the WG are looking at withdrawing the permissions from some Tandem systems whereby the equipment is no longer being used or in existence any more.

The Committee were advised of some of the equipment currently being considered, which included: Elite Racer Tandem, Strong in a Vector configuration, Point Zero (PZ) Option, Performance Variable (2006), Strong in a Next configuration.

The WG needs to determine whether these systems are still in use and whether the various drills still need to be maintained.

The WG welcomed further input on this issue.

- iv) The Chair reported that during the past few months Rigger Examiners had been in the process of updating the Rigger Training Manual. He stated that it his intention to review the Reserve Packing Manual, Riggers Technical Manual and Equipment Knowledge for Instructors. He would also be looking at various rigging related forms and bringing them up to date.

The Chair stated that any further input and contributions to this project would be gratefully received.

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursdays, 4 April, 30 May, 25 July, 19 September, 14 November.
at 1700 at BPA HQ

Distribution:

Chair Riggers' Subcommittee, All CIs, All Riggers, APs, Council, CAA, Editor – Skydive