



Riggers' Subcommittee

Thursday 4 February 2016 at 1600

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

Present: Paul Applegate (AR) - Riggers' Subcommittee Chair
Mark Bayada (PRv)
Rick Boardman (AR)
Noel Purcell (AR)
Karen Saunders (AR)
Gary Stevens (PRnv)
Paul Stockwell (PRv)

Key:

RE = Rigger Examiner

AR = Advanced Rigger

PR(v) = Parachute Rigger (voting)

PR(nv) = Parachute Rigger (non-voting)

Apologies: John Curtis, Phill Elston, George Panagopoulos, Pete Sizer.

In Attendance: Tony Butler - Chief Operating Officer
Jeff Montgomery - Chair STC/Safety & Technical Officer
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to COO/STO

Observers: Martin Cole, Philip Wayper, Nader Afsharian, Steve Saunders.

ITEM

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda for this meeting. None were stated.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 19 NOVEMBER 2015

Page 1, Item 2 – Next & Next Century Tandem Systems. The Chair reported that a proposal to bring in line the 100 jump inspection of the reserve closure loop on Next, Next Century and Aircare Tandem systems with the 100 jump Tandem equipment inspection was on the main agenda.

Page 2, Item 2 – Non BPA Rated Riggers & Packers and Basic Rigger Training. The Chair reported that Rigger Examiners were still looking at developing a system for integrating Non-BPA rated Riggers & Packers into the BPA system, as well as looking at BR training methods and any other issues in relation to Rigger and Packer training.

Page 2, Item 5 – Equipment Maintenance Record Cards (Parachute Equipment Logbook). The printed parachute equipment log books were now available to purchase from the BPA office at a cost of £3.00 per book plus postage & Packing.

Page 3, Item 7 – John Harding. The Committee was advised that John Harding had now been examined by Kim Newton in respect of his AP (S) qualification. John was successful and had been awarded his AP (S) rating. Kim Newton had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been tabled for information.

Page 4, Item 10 – Equipment Proposal Request Ray Armstrong had agreed to look at compiling a list of manufacturers who were recognized by the BPA for manufacturing Student main and reserve canopies. Unfortunately, Ray Armstrong was unable to be present at the meeting to report on his progress to date.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Noel Purcell that the Minutes of the Riggers Subcommittee Meeting of 19 November 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 19 NOVEMBER 2015

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. TANDEM INITIAL ACCEPTANCE REQUEST

A proposal from Rick Boardman together with supporting paperwork had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that the 'Fire' 2R-C Tandem container and harness system be accepted for use. Included in the paperwork had been the emergency procedures for the equipment taken from the 'Fire' Tandem manual. The equipment concerned was made available for inspection.

Following consideration, some concern was raised by those present with regard to the proposed equipment and Tandem emergency drills, which the Committee felt required further clarification.

During this discussion, it was also agreed that the various BPA equipment related 'acceptance' forms be amended to include additional information specifically in relation to AAD type, drogue size etc. Rick Boardman therefore, agreed to re-submit his proposal once these areas had been addressed.

5. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE VARIOUS RIGGING RELATED FORMS

A proposal from Rick Boardman to amend a number of various rigging related BPA forms had been circulated with the agenda. Details of the proposed amendments and the various draft forms had also been circulated.

In light of the discussion in the previous item (*item 4*), it was agreed that the following forms be re-submitted for consideration once they had been re-drafted to include any additional information as required:

Form 258 – (Student Harness & Container System – Initial Clearance)
Form 258A – (Tandem Harness Container System – Initial Clearance)
Form 197 – (Guidelines for Obtaining an Approved Packing Certificate)
Form 111 – (Approved Packing Certificate)

The Committee then considered the draft of BPA Form 113 – (Record of Inspection (Front Mount Reserve), which had been previously circulated.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Paul Stockwell that BPA Form 113 – (Record of Inspection (Front Mount Reserve) be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

6. CORRESPONDENCE FROMN BILL SHARP

Correspondence from Bill Sharp had been circulated with the Agenda. Bill had reported that the Tandem Mods website was finally up and running. He had stated that it had a slightly different look to it, but was basically the same as the old site and was fully available on the

tandemmods.co.uk website and was up to date until the previous Riggers Subcommittee Meeting on 19 November 2015. Bill Sharp had asked to be notified if any problems were found with any of the links not working on the site.

Bill Sharp had also stated that whilst he was going through the various updates, he had noticed an item concerning an equipment change proposal that required clarification. This was from the Riggers Subcommittee meeting of 5 Feb 2015 (*Item 7, para 4*) refers. The original proposal was for a RW Tandem Vector to be allowed to have a yellow coloured reserve handle and that it be cleared for all. The proposal had been accepted by the Committee.

Bill Sharp had stated that during discussion on this particular item, the Committee had felt that they did not foresee an issue of just changing the colour of a reserve or cutaway handle, as long as it was a recognised handle and that it still carried the manufacturers mark in the event of a paper trail. Providing this was applied, they could see no reason why similar individual requests involving colour changes to reserve and cutaway handles needed to be brought to the table in the future for acceptance.

Bill Sharp had stated that in his opinion he considered this statement a bit ambiguous as no formal vote had taken place at the time, which he believed was now required for clarity.

Following consideration, it was the opinion of those present that they could still not foresee a problem with the colour combination of a reserve and cutaway handle, so long as the basic procedures as discussed previously were applied. Riggers present felt that this was more of an operational matter than a rigging issue, which they believed was down to the judgment of individual Chief Instructors.

It was therefore proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Paul Stockwell that individual requests involving colour changes to reserve and cutaway handles need not be brought to the table in the future for acceptance as long as it is a recognized handle and that it still carried the manufacturers mark.

Carried Unanimously

7. PROPOSAL REGARDING THE 100 JUMP NEXT & NEXT CENTURY TANDEM RESERVE CLOSURE LOOP INSPECTION

A proposal from Kim Newton regarding the 100 jump Next & Next Century Tandem reserve closure loop inspection had been circulated with the agenda.

The proposal was to bring in line the inspection of the reserve closure loop on Next and Next Century Tandem at the same time as the 100 jump Tandem equipment inspection and documented on forms 112A and 112B (ROI and Blue book).

Following discussion, and in an effort to clarify the intention of the proposal, it was agreed to slightly amend the wording of Kim Newton's original proposal.

It was therefore, proposed by Paul Stockwell and seconded by Noel Purcell that the reserve closure loop check is to conform to the same time and extension constraints as the 100 jump check, at which time a new reserve loop must be fitted.

Carried Unanimously

8. RIGGERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) The BPA wished to thank Skydive UK, Dunkeswell for kindly hosting the BPA Rigging Course from the 18 – 22 December 2015. A copy of the Rigging Course report had been distributed with the Agenda.

The Examiners in attendance on the Course were: George Panagopoulos and Andrew Hilton.

There were three candidates on the BR Course. All candidates were successful and were awarded Basic Rigger status. The successful candidates were: Sara Orton, Martin Cole and Rick Kimber.

There was one candidate on the PR Course. This candidate was unsuccessful and was advised to re-attend another PR Course.

There were two candidates on the AR Course. Both candidates were successful and were awarded Advanced Rigger status. The successful candidates were: Karen Saunders and Noel Purcell.

Pete Sizer attended the final part of his Rigger Examiner Course. The Examiners were satisfied with Pete's overall performance and he was awarded his Rigger Examiner rating.

There were no recommendations from the Examiners on this particular Course that required ratification.

- ii) The BPA wished to thank Skydive UK, Dunkeswell for kindly hosting the BPA Rigging Course from the 2 – 6 January 2016. A copy of the Rigging Course report had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Examiners in attendance on the course were: George Panagopoulos and Kim Newton.

There were 4 candidates on the BR Course. All candidates were successful and were awarded Basic Rigger status. The successful candidates were: Roman Cnotalski, Clinton McKenzie, Dylan Morris-Roberts and Niel de Wit.

There were two candidates on the PR Course. Unfortunately, due to illness one of the candidates had to leave the course shortly after arrival on the first day to seek medical assistance and was unable to return to the Course because of this illness. The other candidate successfully completed the Course and awarded Parachute Rigger status. The successful candidate was: Gary Stevens.

There was one recommendation from the Examiners on the Course that required ratification by the Committee.

As John Harding was unable to complete any part of the PR Course, it was not possible to examine him. The Examiners recommend that he be allowed to complete rigging work as a Basic Rigger, but that all his rigging work must be checked and signed for by a suitably qualified Rigger – as a Basic Rigger must, until he is able to attend another rigging course to be examined, with the same constraints that a Basic Rigger has. That course must be within a year from this time (with the same time exceptions that are given to Basic Riggers to allow for course dates).

It was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Karen Saunders that the above recommendation be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Target Skysports from the 17 November 2015.

The Course had been attended by Simon Minto, Thomas Valentine and Jakub Langowski. All candidates were advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course following a number of supervised pack jobs.

Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, which had been tabled in advance for information.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at UK Parachuting (Beccles) from the 20 – 24 November 2015. The Course was attended by Javi Centeno-Gomez who was advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course following a number of supervised pack jobs.

Andy Page had submitted a Course Report, which had been tabled in advance for information.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Netheravon from the 30 November – 3 December 2015. The Course was attended by Clint McKenzie

Clint McKenzie had subsequently attended the Examination phase of the Course held at Netheravon on 11 December 2015. Clint successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

George Panagopoulos had submitted the two Course Reports, which had been tabled in advance for information.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Dunkeswell from the 8 – 11 December 2015. The Course was attended by Lewis Butcher who was advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course following a number of supervised pack jobs.

Andy Shaw had submitted a Course Report, which had been tabled in advance for information.

- v) An Advanced Packers Tandem Upgrade Course had been held at Skydive Headcorn from the 9 – 10 December 2015. Ralph Mitchell successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status.

Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, which had been tabled in advance for information.

10. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

A BPA Safety Notice (1/15) had been issued regarding equipment affected by the Advanced Aerospace Designs PSB 01-2015. Compliance was immediate, and independent of where the cutter is located in a rig. Therefore, affected cutters should be replaced prior to the next jump.

11. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

A product service bulletin had been issued by Parachute Systems and concerned DSF Stainless Steele hardware on Vortex Harness Containers.

Parachute Systems had permanently grounded any Vortex container with stainless steel hardware stamped with "DSF" on the back of the large harness ring (the main-riser attachment ring). The harness and container must be shipped back to the manufacturer, and a new replacement harness and container will be built. The Service Bulletin was available on the Parachute Systems website:

<http://parachutesystems.com/downloads/SERVICE-BULLETIN-PSB-2016-01-Update.pdf>

12. A.O.B.

- i) Paul Stockwell reported that during a routine re-pack he had recently come across a sticky freebag on a Javelin container. He stated that he did not believe it would have affected deployment of the reserve canopy. He stated that the sticky freebag seemed to occur at random intervals on this particular equipment from one re-pack to the next, even though the equipment had been stored in a suitable environment.

- ii) Jack Bradford had asked the Riggers Subcommittee to define what they considered was a 'recognised' parachute equipment manufacturer, as per Section 6, Para 1.2 in the BPA Operations Manual, which states the following:

'Parachutes may only be used if they are manufactured for Sport Parachutists or Military Parachutists, by recognised parachute equipment manufacturers or riggers with the necessary qualifications.'

This particular issue had been considered by the Committee in the past.

Following discussion, the Committee believed that the original intention of the definition of a recognised parachute equipment manufacturer was a company (i) whose equipment met industry standards covering design, manufacture and testing etc, (ii) had liability insurance in place, and (iii) who produced goods in large* quantities [*relative to the sector].

The Committee did not believe that the original intention of a recognised parachute equipment manufacturer had changed.

- iii) The Chair reported that correspondence had been received by Philip Wayper, which had been tabled to those present. He stated that Philip had constructed further canopies, which required test jumping and accepted for use. Philip had asked permission to carry out these jumps at any BPA PTO.

Philip Wayper who was present at the meeting reported that he had developed a test program (approved by John LeBlanc), and had included requirements for test jumpers in his correspondence.

Following consideration, the Committee advised Philip Wayper that in order for him to obtain the necessary acceptance for his canopies and to test jump them, he would need to meet the requirements of the BPA Operations Manual. Therefore, Philip would need to be a recognised parachute equipment manufacturer, a qualified BPA Rigger or have an AR sign off his equipment. Currently, Philip Wayper did not meet these requirements.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 7 April 2016 at 4pm at the BPA Offices,
Glen Parva, Leicester

12 February 2016

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016

Distribution:

Chairperson Riggers' Subcommittee, All CIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, Council, CAA
Editor – Skydive