



Riggers' Subcommittee

Thursday 28 July 2016 at 1600

at Blaby Civic Centre, 22-24 Leicester Road, Blaby, Leicestershire LE8 4GQ

Present: Paul Applegate (AR) - Riggers' Subcommittee Chair
Rick Boardman (AR)
Karen Saunders (AR)
Mathew Knight (PR(v))

Key:

RE = Rigger Examiner

AR = Advanced Rigger

PR(v) = Parachute Rigger (voting)

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

Apologies: John Curtis, Chris Gilmore, Pete Sizer, Iain Anderson.

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

Observers: Penny Chivers, Ian Roseninge, Enya Roseninge, Stuart Meacock,
Nigel Peacock, Steve Saunders, Martin Cole, Phil Wayper,
Michelle Meakins, Pamela Gower.

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 2 JUNE 2016

Page 1, Item 2 – Next & Next Century Tandem Systems. There was nothing further to report on the WG set up to look at the various issues surrounding reserve loops on Next and Next Century Tandem Systems.

Page 1, Item 2 – Non-BPA Rated Riggers/Packers & Basic Rigger Training. The Chair reported on the progress to date on the Working Group set up to look 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. He stated that the Rigger Examiners hoped to have something for consideration at the next meeting.

Page 1, Item 2 – Equipment Proposal Request. At the meeting in November 2015, 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. The Chair agreed to contact Ray for a progress report.

Page 1, Item 2 – Proposal to amend Various Rigging Related Forms. This item was still ongoing.

Page 2, Item 2 – Tandem Mods Website & Supporting Documentation. The WG that had been established with a view to looking into creating a document reference library of historical safety related material and supporting paperwork was still ongoing.

Page 2, Item 2 – Packing Confidential Incident. The Chair reported that this matter had now been resolved.

Page 4, Item 7 – AOB (iii a), Rigging/Packing Confidential Reports. The Committee was advised that Pete Sizer had re-evaluated the Packer concerned on their inspection techniques and tool control. Pete had stated that the Packer concerned had packed a Zerox and a Talon (which had errors to find) and reported that he was happy to reinstate their AP rating with immediate effect.

Page 4, Item 7 – AOB (iv), Rigging/Packing Confidential Reporting System.

At the previous meeting, the Committee had agreed that a more formal approach should be considered for the reporting of rigging and packing related incidents. The Chair agreed to contact Pete Sizer for a progress report.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Karen Saunders and seconded by Mathew Knight that the Minutes of the Riggers Subcommittee Meeting of 2 June 2016 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 2 JUNE 2016

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. REQUEST FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STUDENT RIG

A letter from Brian Dyas had been circulated with the Agenda requesting the acceptance of a modified Student rig for AFF Student Pamela Gower from Peterlee who has restricted growth (dwarfism). The equipment concerned was presented to those present for consideration.

Pamela Gower and her AFF Instructor Michelle Meakins were both present and provided further details to the Committee.

Brian Dyas had reported that Pamela Gower had been jumping the specially made UPT rig with modified belly band throwaway, cutaway pad, reserve handle and fitted with an AAD (CYPRES Multimode) and Reserve Static Line, so in effect an AFF rig but with no secondary handle or rip away spandex pocket. The bellyband throwaway is needed because Pamela's short reach does not allow for a BOC throwaway pilot chute.

Ian Rosenvinge also provided further details and stated that both the main and reserve canopies were sized for Pamela's weight and the steering and risers shortened to suit her arm length and he is satisfied that she can operate both handles and has tested her reserve drills while she was suspended in the rig.

The Committee also noted that the main canopy was a Pulse 170, which was not recommended by the manufacturers for student use. However, the rig manufacturer had chosen this particular canopy based on Pamela's experience and weight. Her wing loading is approximately 0.77 lbs/sq feet.

The Committee was advised that Pamela had already made 7 jumps on the rig and got to AFF level 6 on her 1st trip to Skydive Spain, but wishes to continue to use the rig as her personal parachute system within the UK.

Following consideration, the Committee felt satisfied with the specifically modified equipment from a rigging point of view, and it was therefore proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Karen Saunders that the Committee recommend to STC that the equipment be accepted for use by Pamela Gower only for jumping in the UK.

Carried Unanimously

5. ADVANCED PACKERS COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Netheravon from the 31 May – 3 June 2016. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Stephen Handley, Alexis McNaughton and Timothy Parrant. All candidates were advised to attend the examination phase of the Course following a number of supervised reserve re-packs.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Skydive Langar on the 8 June 2016. The Course was attended by Tom Valentine. Ray Armstrong had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

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

- iii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Skydive Headcorn from the 7 – 8 July 2016. The Course was attended by Mike Morton.

Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Mike successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Tandem (upgrade) Course had been held at Target Skysports on the 18 July 2016. The Course was attended by Karl Peart.

Noel Purcell had submitted a Course report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present. Karl successfully completed the Course and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status.

6. PERMISSIONS

An e-mail had been received from Pete Sizer, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda.

Pete Sizer had stated that he was currently supervising two Basic Riggers whose BR ratings were due to expire before the next available PR Course.

Pete had therefore, requested that the BR ratings of Gavin McLeod and Mary Barratt be extended until January 2017 to allow them to attend the PR Course over the winter period.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Pete Sizer (proxy) and seconded by Karen Saunders that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

7. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

A BPA Safety Information Bulletin had been circulated regarding CYPRES AAD maintenance.

8. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been no manufacturers' safety notices of information bulletins received since the last meeting.

9. **A.O.B.**

- i) The Chair reported on a Tandem incident where a Tandem Instructor attempted to cutaway following a malfunction, but the right 3-ring failed to fully operate. The left riser deployed the reserve (RSL). The Tandem Instructor was suspended upside-down (feet caught in the reserve rigging lines). The Tandem Instructor then managed to clear himself from the entanglement, and subsequently the right riser released itself from the Tandem container at approximately 800ft. He then cleared the entanglement. The pair had a good landing under the reserve. A single strand of steel wire from the metal cutaway cable, which was not coated, un-stranded during the operation of the cutaway system, inside the hosing, jamming the 3-ring.

The Chair reported that himself, the Chair of STC and various other individuals had inspected the equipment concerned, and no damage was found on any part of the riser.

The metal cutaway cable and strand of steel wire together with various photographs were made available to the Committee for inspection.

The CI of the PTO concerned who was present also provided further details of the incident, and noted the actions taken by the Tandem Instructor, which in his opinion most likely prevented a much more serious outcome.

Discussion ensued and concerns were raised from those present with regard to the use of cutaway cables that were not coated.

The Committee noted that this type of stranded wire cable without a coating was no longer available.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Karen Saunders that any metal cables used as cutaway cables in sport parachute equipment must be coated, and that a BPA Safety Notice be produced and disseminated for information.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) Karen Saunders reported on information with regard to the inspection procedures in the Manufacturers manual relating to the Mars 2 AAD, which had given her cause for some concern.

The manufacturer states that the inspection of the M2 device be performed at least once every calendar year, either by the user or a rigger. They also recommend that the inspection be carried out during repacking of the reserve parachute.

The Committee were given details of the inspection procedures, which also included a number of in-air checks, which the Committee felt could prove impractical for APs or even Riggers who no longer jump.

Karen Saunders felt that in view of these inspection procedures, the Committee should perhaps consider looking into making recommendations with regard to the use of this particular AAD.

Following discussion, Karen Saunders agreed to gather further details, prior to any further action being considered.

- iii) John Hitchen reported on information from Fluid Wings LLC with regard to their recommendations concerning the use of AADs with the Fluid HK canopy. He stated that based on their testing, the manufacturers have noted that all AADs currently available have firing speeds, which are lower than those attainable while piloting a Fluid HK. Therefore, due to safety concerns, Fluid Wings LLC do not recommend the use of any AADs currently on the market.

This information was drawn to the attention of individual PTOs, in case they came across this particular canopy on their PTO, as they may have their own policies regarding the use of AADs in their SOPs.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 22 September 2016 at 4pm
Blaby Civic Centre

4 August 2016

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2016

Distribution:

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