



Riggers' Subcommittee

Thursday 16 November 2017 at 1600

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

Present: Paul Applegate (AR) - Riggers' Subcommittee Chair
Paul Stockwell (PR)
Rick Boardman (AR)
Gary Stevens (PR)
Pete Sizer (RE)
Andy Shaw (AR)
Karen Saunders (AR)
Dave Major (AR)

Key:

RE = Rigger Examiner

AR = Advanced Rigger

PR = Parachute Rigger

Apologies: John Curtis, Noel Purcell, George Panagopoulos

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

Observers: Jason Farrant, Steve Saunders, Stuart Meacock.

ITEM

The Chair reported that Jim Walmsley, a former BPA member and BPA Rigger Examiner had recently passed away. The members of the Riggers' Subcommittee expressed its condolences to Jim's family and friends at this time.

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 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

Page 1, Item 2 – Tandem Mods Website & Supporting Documentation. Paul Stockwell gave the meeting a progress report on this project. It was felt by those present that to move forward with this project, it required a budget allocation. Paul Stockwell agreed to produce a paper setting out the exact requirements and the costings involved, which could then be presented to the Riggers' Subcommittee and STC for consideration.

Page 2, Item 4 – Revised Riggers' Subcommittee Terms of Reference (ToRs). The Chair reported that Council had approved the Revised Riggers' Subcommittee ToRs.

Page 3, Item 5 – Tandem Paperwork Issues. The STO reported that the Guidance notes (BPA Form 281) for completing the Tandem Equipment Parachute Packing/Inspection Log and 100 Jump Equipment Inspection (Form 112B)/Blue Book) had now been amended and was available on the BPA website.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers Subcommittee Meeting of 21 September 2017 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION POLICIES WORKING GROUP

Rick Boardman (Chair of the Equipment Inspection Policies Working Group) reported on the WG meeting that had taken place prior to the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting this afternoon. He stated that the WG had been asked to consider the wider implications to the Association regarding manufacturer's recommendations and the belief by some that there is a BPA system of certifying equipment every 6 months. This had followed a notice on the UPT website (dated 1 June 2016), concerning the Mandatory re-certification of Vector Tandem Reserve canopies.

Rick Boardman reported that the WG would be concentrating on 'orphaned' equipment (reserves and harnesses), where the manufacturer no longer exists, and no one has obtained design authority to control the product. Initially, it is the intention of the WG to contact Parachute reserve and harness manufacturers to glean further information on their lifing policies. The WG would then try to come up with a suitable lifing policy for equipment that falls within this classification for consideration by Riggers and STC.

5. REQUEST TO HOST TWO BPA RIGGER COURSES

A request for permission to run two BPA Rigging Courses at Skydive Buzz (Dunkeswell) had been received from George Panagopoulos, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

The proposed dates were as follows:

18 - 22 December 2017
3 - 7 January 2018

It was proposed by George Panagopoulos (proxy) and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

Some discussion ensued with regard to the availability of Rigging Courses. It was understood that the above two Courses were already over-subscribed.

The Chair agreed to contact George Panagopoulos to find out whether there was scope for running further Courses in the future.

6. EQUIPMENT RELATED INCIDENT REPORT RÉSUMÉ

HQ had received several Incident / Malfunction / or Deployment problems reported since the last Riggers Subcommittee meeting of the 21 September 2017:

- i) On the 17 August 2017, a parachutist with 328 descents carried out a 2 way flat skydive. On deployment of the main canopy, the main risers released themselves from the container and the RSL initiated the deployment of the reserve canopy. The reserve deployed correctly, and the parachutist landed without further incident. It was presumed that the cutaway handle was dislodged at the point of exit or during the freefall phase of the jump. The cutaway pad was attached to the container, but it was unclear whether it was correctly fitted to the harness or hanging.

The equipment was a Mirage G4 container, Sabre 2 170 main canopy, Smart 150 reserve and a Vigil II AAD.

On inspection of the equipment, the cutaway cables appeared to be of the correct length and the Velcro was in good condition.

- ii) On the 29 October 2017, a parachutist coming into land, experienced a right-side riser release approximately 50ft from the ground. It was believed that the parachutist caught the cutaway pad with his right elbow whilst he was applying front riser input as he was attempting to increase the forward speed of his main canopy for landing. The right riser disconnected itself from the container causing the main canopy to partially collapse on the right side. The parachutist adopted a PLF position as best as possible and impacted heavily with the ground. The parachutist was taken to hospital with a suspected lower back injury, but was released approximately four hours later with minor bruising.

The equipment was a Vector III container, Crossfire 119 main canopy, PD-R 126 reserve and a Vigil II AAD.

On inspection of the equipment, the cutaway cables appeared to be of the correct length and the cutaway pad Velcro was deemed to be in good condition. It was also believed that the left riser remained attached by a few millimetres and therefore the parachutist was extremely lucky, as he only sustained minor bruising.

It was confirmed that jumper involved had been wearing a camera suit. The PTO concerned had been unable to replicate the incident on the ground.

7. ADVANCED PACKER (AP) COURSE REPORTS

The following AP Courses had been held since the last meeting, and the respective Course Reports had been circulated to those present:

- i) George Panagopoulos had run an Advanced Packer Training Course at Netheravon from the 18 – 21 September 2017. The Course had been attended by Chris Ptak, Cameron Clark and Stewart Ewing. All candidates were advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course once they had completed a number of supervised reserve pack jobs.
- ii) Pete Sizer had run an Advanced Packers Examination Course at Skydive Headcorn from the 24 – 25 September 2017. The Course was attended by Vitor Pacheco. Vitor successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.
- iii) George Panagopoulos had run an Advanced Packers Tandem Upgrade Course at Netheravon from the 17 – 18 October 2017. The Course was attended by Daniel Mercer. Daniel successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer Grade (T) status.
- iv) Pete Sizer had run an Advanced Packers Tandem Upgrade Course at Skydive Headcorn from the 15 – 16 October 2017. The Course was attended by Vitor Pacheco. Vitor successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer Grade (T) status.
- v) George Panagopoulos had run an Advanced Packer Training Course at Netheravon from the 30 October – 2 November 2017. The Course had been attended by Jason Mackenzie. Jason was advised to attend the Examination phase of the Course once he had completed a number of supervised reserve pack jobs.
- vi) Andy Shaw had run an Advanced Packers Examination Course at Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell from the 6 – 7 November 2017. The Course was attended by Chris Dutton. Chris successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

8. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

9. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

There had been no Manufacturers Safety Notices/Information Bulletins issued since the last meeting.

10. A.O.B.

- i) Circulated to those present was a request from Andy Page for a 12-month extension to Yolande Lee's Basic Rigger's rating. Unfortunately, an injury and other personal circumstances had prevented Yolande from being able to attend a PR Course this year.

It was proposed by Andy Page (proxy) and seconded by Karen Saunders that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- ii) **Guidelines for Obtaining an Approved Packing Certificate (BPA Form 197)**

The COO asked the Riggers' Sub Committee to look at these Guidelines, particularly in relation to the 'assembly of component parts' within the Training Syllabus, which he felt may require updating, particularly if this was not actually being taught.

The Committee agreed to look at the above Guidelines and welcomed any further input for consideration.

- iii) Karen Saunders advised the meeting that she had received a number of reports in relation to Vigil AAD units where the attachment to the control unit was snapping. She stated that 4 units had been found at one PTO during the past month.

Karen was still in the process of gathering further details in relation to these incidents and would report back to the next meeting. In the meantime, if any other similar occurrences were found, please contact Karen.

- iv) The Committee was advised that Pete Sizer had registered Vitor Pacheco as a Method 2 Basic Rigger.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1 February 2018 at 1600
at BPA HQ, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva,
Leicester LE2 9TF

23 November 2017

PAPERWORK FOR CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2018

Distribution:

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