



Riggers' Sub-Committee

Thursday 5 February 2015 at 1600

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

Present: Paul Applegate (AR) - Riggers' Sub-Committee Chair
Kim Newton (RE)
Paul Stockwell (PRv)
Rick Boardman (AR)
Andy Shaw (AR)
Nicky Johnston (PRv)
John Curtis (RE)
Noel Purcell (PRv)
Pete Sizer (AR)
Chris Gilmore (PRv)
Dave Major (AR)

Key:

RE = Rigger Examiner

AR = Advanced Rigger

PR(v) = Parachute Rigger (voting)

PR(nv) = Parachute Rigger (non voting)

Apologies: George Panagopoulos

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

Observers: Phil Wayper, Mal Richardson, Matty Holford, Alex Busby-Hicks (from item 11)

ITEM

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 20 NOVEMBER 2014

Page 1, Item 2 – Next & Next Century Tandem Systems. Kim Newton gave the meeting a progress report on the WG set up to look at the various issues surrounding Next/Next Century Tandem Systems (reserve loops).

Kim reported on her meeting with Stefan Ertler at Paratec in December 2014. She stated that Paratec have clarified their policy on the use of reserves. Paratec have confirmed that they have no objections to other manufacturers' reserves being used in their Tandem containers, but that the person installing/packing them must ensure they are compatible, i.e., correct set up for brakes and connector links as well as size etc.

Kim stated that she would have more information following the next WG meeting

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Kim Newton that the Riggers' Sub-Committee Meeting of 20 November 2014 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 20 NOVEMBER 2014

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. TANDEM HARNESS & CONTAINER SYSTEM – INITIAL CLEARANCE REQUEST

A proposal from Nicky Johnston together with supporting paperwork had been circulated with the Agenda requesting the following:

- a) That the Relative Workshop Ex-military Tandem Vector II Wonderhog Dual Container (serial no. 43491) with modifications be accepted.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rick Boardman that the above request be accepted.

For: 8 Against: 1 (Kim Newton) Abstention: 1 (Paul Stockwell)

Carried

- b) That the Tandem Student Harnesses (serial numbers 2903001 and 2903002) manufactured by Aircare to the Paratec Next design be accepted for use on the above Tandem Vector Container (serial no. 43491)

Following discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Dave Major that the above request be accepted.

For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Kim Newton, Paul Stockwell)

Carried

Some discussion ensued with regard to information contained within older sets of Riggers' Minutes that suggested that some equipment may have been accepted for use, but details of which had not appeared on the BPA Approved Tandem Equipment Modifications list.

There was some concern raised that this may lead to confusion. However, it was felt that before equipment could be included on the Approved list, evidence was required that the modification had actually been accepted at Committee level.

5. STUDENT PARACHUTIST EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A proposal from Nicky Johnston together with supporting paperwork had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that the Tandem Student Harnesses manufactured by Aircare to the Paratec Next design be accepted for use on all Relative Workshop Dual Container Tandem Vector Systems.

Following consideration, Pete Sizer counter proposed, seconded by Kim Newton that the Tandem Student Harnesses manufactured by Aircare to the Paratec Next design be accepted for use on all Relative Workshop Dual Container Tandem Vector systems, Paratec systems and Aircare systems. This carried unanimously.

Carried Unanimously

6. STUDENT PARACHUTIST EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A proposal from Nicky Johnston together with supporting paperwork had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that a Red Paratec Next Tandem Cutaway handle be accepted for use on a UPT Tandem Vector system and that it be cleared for use by all.

The method of change was a direct replacement, checking Teflon cable lengths.

A letter from Bill Sharp with his comments on Agenda items 6 & 7 had been tabled to those present, in which he had raised some concern with regard to jumpers getting confused with the various colour combinations.

The Committee acknowledged Bill Sharp's comments.

Kim Newton also expressed some concern with regard to the inter-changing of component parts, particularly in light of the recent Service Bulletins issued by Strong Enterprises and Paratec.

Pete Sizer confirmed that the Paratec Next handle had been previously accepted for use on the UPT Tandem Vector system in the past and that in these two items, the Committee were just debating colour changes.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rick Boardman that the above request be accepted.

For: 9 Against: 0 Abstention: 1 (Kim Newton)

Carried

7. STUDENT PARACHUTIST EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A proposal from Nicky Johnston together with supporting paperwork has been circulated with the Agenda requesting that a Relative Workshop Tandem Vector reserve handle be coloured yellow and that it be cleared for use by all.

The method of change was to a change the handle colour by use of tape, unless manufactured in yellow as per original part.

Following discussion, the Committee did not foresee an issue of just changing the colour of a reserve or cutaway handle to enable jumpers that have contrasting colours, not to conflict. This was as long as it was a recognised handle and that it still carried the manufacturers mark in the event of a paper trail.

The Committee also felt that providing the above 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.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Pete Sizer and seconded by Rick Boardman that the above request be accepted.

For: 9 Against: 0 Abstention: 1 (Kim Newton)

Carried

8. STUDENT PARACHUTIST EQUIPMENT CHANGE PROPOSAL

A proposal from Kim Newton together with supporting paperwork had been circulated with the Agenda requesting that the Next Student harness supplied by Paratec be used with the Sigma Tandem Container supplied by UPT/Relative Workshop and that the Sigma Student harness supplied by UPT/Relative Workshop be used with the Next Tandem Container supplied by Paratec.

After consideration, it was proposed by Kim Newton and seconded by Dave Major that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. TANDEM RESERVES, MARKINGS & CONTAINERS

A draft document produced by Chris Gilmore and aimed at newly qualified Tandem packers has been circulated with the Agenda. The document had listed identifying markings, words and numbers for Tandem reserves, plus a draft list of which Tandem reserves can be fitted in specific Tandem containers. The idea was to issue the document as a BPA Form.

Chris Gilmore had stated that some of the Tandem systems had been accepted for use without specific Tandem reserve canopies being identified, which he believed may lead to confusion for newly qualified Tandem packers. In addition, some Tandem systems appeared open to all Tandem canopies and others appear more restrictive. Further, some manufacturers have changed the words and numbers that mark Tandem canopies over the years and others have introduced new tandem reserve canopies.

The Committee also noted the following correspondence relating to this item, which had been tabled for information:

- An e--mail from Nicky Johnson stating that he was happy for any suitably sized main and reserves to be fitted to Aircare Tandem containers.
- An e-mail from Bill Sharp

Following discussion, it was agreed by those present to issue Chris Gilmore's list as a BPA Form, which would be available to download from the BPA website. A copy of the form would also be circulated to AP(T)s for information.

During further discussion on this item, some members present commented on the difficulty of searching for Rigging related forms on the BPA website. The Committee wondered whether there was merit in re-numbering the forms, so that any Rigging related documents could be kept in one group for easy reference.

The COO pointed out that it would be too onerous a task to start re-numbering all BPA forms, and pointed out that there was already a BPA Form (Form 238) where all BPA Rigging related forms were listed. He stated that the new form for Tandem reserves & markings would be added to this list, as well as a reference made to it on the BPA list of approved Tandem modifications.

10. BPA EQUIPMENT INSPECTION POLICIES WORKING GROUP

A paper produced by Rick Boardman briefly outlining the history of the work undertaken by the Equipment Inspection Policies Working Group (WG) had been tabled to those present.

Rick Boardman stated that as things stand, the Association did not currently have a finite 'lifing' policy. At the moment we state the serviceability of equipment at the time of inspection.

Rick Boardman also stated that there had been some concern expressed by a number of Riggers that the BPA must have a robust and finite policy to enhance the protection from litigation which a Packer or Rigger should be getting from the BPA regulations they work to. Therefore, the WG has been resurrected to reconsider this issue.

Rick Boardman reported on the meeting held earlier this afternoon and stated that the WG had agreed to re-visit the equipment lifing flow chart that he had designed 2 years ago, which would have effectively shared responsibility for the inspection of older equipment with more senior Riggers. He stated that the flow chart would be made more suitable and introduced in a better way. The WG would also be looking at enhancing education amongst Packers & Riggers. A full report on the WG meeting would be circulated for information.

11. TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SYSTEM WITH DEALING WITH INITIAL EQUIPMENT CLEARANCE REQUESTS

The COO had asked that the Committee to review the system for dealing with equipment clearance requests, as in his opinion it was not satisfactory for equipment to be inspected around the table, as had occurred at the previous meeting. The COO stated that his understanding of the current system was that the equipment should be assessed by an Advanced Rigger who then completes and submits the appropriate paperwork for the Committee to consider.

The Committee agreed with the COO, in that this was the correct procedure to be followed, and was one of the reasons that the Committee had introduced the various equipment clearance request forms. The intention was that any proposed equipment was thoroughly inspected by an AR prior to the request coming to the table.

The COO stated that he felt that that the Committee should perhaps consider having at least two ARs conducting the initial assessment of any equipment being considered for acceptance, as this would aid transparency. The second AR should be independent to the first AR and/or PTO the equipment was to be used at.

The Committee considered the merit in this and they agreed to amend Form 258 (Student Harness & Container System – Initial Clearance) & Form 258a (Tandem Harness & Container Initial Clearance) to reflect this.

The Committee also agreed to a slight amendment to BPA Form 258A to enable details of the reserve canopy to be included.

The relevant forms would be updated to reflect the above.

12. RECORD OF INSPECTION CHECKLIST (Form 112) – REVIEW

The Record of Inspection Checklist (Form 112) was due for re-print, and the Secretary had asked the Committee to review the current list for any minor amendments.

Other than to note the issue number and date on the list, there were no other variations.

13. REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION TO GARY STEVEN'S BASIC RIGGER RATING

A request had been received from Rick Boardman and circulated with the agenda requesting a second extension to Gary Steven's Basic Rigger rating until the next available PR examination Course. Unfortunately, Gary had been unable to attend the Riggers Course held in December 2014.

Rick Boardman had also reported that he had taken over as Gary Steven's supervising Rigger.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

14. ADVANCED PACKER COURSE REPORTS

i) Karen Saunders attended an Advanced Packers (round) upgrade Course at Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE) on 3 November 2014. Karen then successfully completed the examination phase of the Course at TSE on 5 November 2014 and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade R) status.

Chris Thomas had submitted a full Course report, a copy of which is circulated to those present.

- ii) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at TSE on the 24 November 2014. Chris Thomas had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Jordan Wilcox successfully completed the examination phase and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- iii) An Advanced Packers Training Course had been held at Skydive Headcorn from the 8 – 11 December 2014. Pete Sizer had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

The Course was attended by Ralph Mitchell and William Forbes. Both candidates were advised to practise under supervision in preparation for the examination phase of the Course.

- iv) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Dunkeswell from the 15 – 16 December 2014, and was run by Andy Shaw under supervision.

George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Aaron Cosbey successfully completed the examination phase and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

- v) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Dunkeswell from the 16 – 17 December 2014, and was run by Andy Shaw under supervision.

George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Dylan Morris-Roberts successfully completed the examination phase and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

The Committee also noted that Andy Shaw was now qualified to run AP Exam Courses, as he had now run several Courses whilst under supervision.

- vi) An Advanced Packers Examination Course had been held at Chatteris from the 10 – 11 January 2015. Kim Newton had submitted a Course Report, a copy of which had been circulated to those present.

Gregg McEntee successfully completed the examination phase and had been awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

The Committee asked AP hosts to ensure that all the paperwork they submit for individual candidates following a Course is correctly completed. This included ticking the appropriate boxes on the relevant forms etc.

15. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

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

16. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

The Chair gave details of a Service Bulletin issued by Aviacom SA in June 2014 concerning the mandatory check and serial numbers of units on the Argus AAD which are no longer airworthy. This was tabled for information only.

17. **A.O.B.**

- i) The Chair gave the meeting details of an incident involving an AAD firing at a BPA PTO. It involved a jumper with 555 jumps whose Vigil fired as he was turning downwind at approximately 1,200ft. The Chair stated that at this time, he was unable to confirm as to whether the AAD unit concerned had been returned to the manufacturer for inspection.
- ii) The BPA wished to thank Skydive UK, Dunkeswell for kindly hosting the BPA Rigging Course from the 19 – 23 December 2014. A copy of the Rigging Course report had been tabled to those present for information.
- The Examiners in attendance on the Course had been: George Panagopoulos, Andrew Hilton, Bill Sharp and Kim Newton.
- The report noted that due to work commitments, Bill Sharp was unable to attend on the first day of the Course, but Kim Newton had kindly offered to assist with day 1, until Bill's arrival the following day.
- There were 3 candidates on the BR Course; Martin Bradshaw, Ruth Jordinson & Aaron Cosbey. At the end of the Course, all three candidates were awarded BR status.
- There were 3 candidates on the PR Course; Simon Chipp, Josh Clark and Anthony Fernyhough. All candidates were successful and awarded PR status.
- iii) The Chair reported that an experienced parachutist had asked for the Committee's guidance with regard to a Ram Air parachute that he has manufactured, and which he now wished to jump. Both Philip Wayper the parachutist concerned and Alex Busby-Hicks his CI were present and gave further details to the meeting.
- Following discussion, it was pointed out that it was within the remit of any experienced parachutist to jump a ram-air type main canopy. The Committee advised Philip Wayper to consider conducting his first jump with a cutaway rig and with the guidance of his CI.
- Philip Wayper thanked the Committee for their consideration of this matter.
- iv) Discussion took place with regard to developing a standardised procedure for integrating overseas rated Riggers & Packers into the BPA system, as at the moment, the Committee dealt with any enquiries on an individual basis.
- Following consideration, it was felt by those present that the Committee should perhaps look at adopting a similar procedure such as the BPA has in place for Non-BPA rated Instructors. The Chair agreed to progress this.
- v) The Chair reported that he had been asked by Derek Thomas (BPA AR) as to the Committee's feelings with regard to a BPA registered BR working under the 200 hour scheme attending his facility in the USA to carry out work (under his tuition) towards their 200 hours and to be signed off by himself. He had pointed out that the BR would still need to attend an appropriate PR Course in the UK for the examination phase.
- Following consideration, the Committee raised no objection to this in principle. They noted the fact the Derek Thomas was a BPA AR and any work undertaken by the BR would be to BPA specifications.
- vi) A letter from Philip Bell of the Cyprus Joint Service Adventurous Training Centre (CJSATC) had been tabled to those present. The letter confirmed that the Rigging facilities at CJSATC complied with the BPA Rigging Loft Minimum Criteria (BPA Form 237), and requested the Committee's acknowledgement of this facility to enable future Rigging courses to be run there.

The Chair reported that himself and George Panagopoulos had run Rigging Courses at CJSATC in the past and he confirmed that their rigging facilities complied with BPA requirements.

In light of the above information, there were no objections raised by those present with regard to CJSATC continuing to host future rigging Courses.

- vii) Rick Boardman reported that he would be arranging a tour of the facility at the Parachute Engineering Sqn at Brize Norton. He stated that the dates would be confirmed shortly and that spaces may also be limited. Interested parties were asked to contact Rick Boardman direct.

- viii) A number of Basic Riggers have been registered since the last meeting: Jordan Wilcox, Karl Peart, Gavin McLeod & Philip Bell.

Date of next Meetings: Thursdays, 2 April, 4 June, 30 July, 24 Sept, 19 Nov 2015 at 4pm at the BPA Offices, Glen Parva, Leicester

16 February 2015

PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA OFFICE BY MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015

Distribution:

Chairperson Riggers' Sub-Committee, All CIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, Council, CAA
Editor – Skydive