

Riggers' Sub-Committee

Thursday 2 April 2015 at 1600

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

Present: Paul Applegate (AR) - Riggers' Sub-Committee Chair
Rick Boardman (AR)
Pete Sizer (AR)
Noel Purcell (PRv)
Kim Newton (RE)

Key:

RE = Rigger Examiner

AR = Advanced Rigger

PR(v) = Parachute Rigger (voting)

PR(nv) = Parachute Rigger (non voting)

Apologies: Tony Butler (COO), who was attending the PIA Meeting in USA,
John Curtis, Andrew Hilton, Bill Sharp, George Panagopoulos,
Phill Elston.

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

Observers: Billy Steele.

ITEM

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Kim reported that Paratec were continuing to look at various issues that will help reduce the wear on the reserve loops. She then presented a prototype of a new pilot chute that Paratec were currently trialling.

Kim stated that If anyone had a Next Tandem container with grommets)Tc 0.002 Tw 0.277 8

The Chair said that he would contact Derek Thomas in the USA to advise him of the Committee's current policy on BR training.

Page 7, Item 17 – AOB (vii). The BPA wished to thank Wng Cdr Wayne Loxton and his staff at RAF Brize Norton Airborne Delivery Wing for the recent visit to their facility by the BPA COO and STO together with a number of Riggers/Packers, which had been organised by Rick Boardman.

There being no further matters arising, it was proposed by Rick Boardman and seconded by Pete Sizer that the Riggers' Sub-Committee Meeting of 5 February 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF THE 5 FEBRUARY 2015

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. PROPOSAL BY GEORGE PANAGOPOULOS

A proposal from George Panagopoulos to amend BPA Form 169 (Advanced Packer Course Syllabus) had been circulated with the Agenda.

George had pointed out that after someone had completed an Advanced Packer (S) Course, there was no time frame stated on the Syllabus for when the Examination phase should take place. At the moment it could take place the very next day or it could be 1 or 2 years later.

George had therefore proposed that the Examination Course following the AP Training Course must take place within 6 calendar months from the end of the Training Course.

A counter proposal from Pete Sizer had been tabled to those present proposing that the AP Syllabus is brought into line with other 'basic' ratings, ie a Basic Instructor and BR Method 1, and that it has a 12 month time period attached to it.

Pete Sizer stated that he felt that AP candidates packing a reserve under supervision each and every week following their Course was onerous, particularly for a non-staff member who may only be at the drop zone one or two weekends a month.

It was also the general feeling amongst those Riggers present that attaching a 6 month time limit was unrealistic.

Following further consideration, Pete Sizer's counter-proposal (above), seconded by Noel Purcell was voted on first and carried unanimously.

Carried Unanimously

5. BPA EQUIPMENT INSPECTION POLICIES WORKING GROUP

Rick Boardman had produced a report on the previous WG meeting, which had been circulated in advance.

Rick then reported on the meeting held earlier this afternoon and stated that Committee are to follow up on correspondence from the USPA and FAA, regarding manufacturer's lifing policies. He stated that in the long term, the WG are looking to seek some empirical evidence from a possible research facility regarding materials and actually how they degrade, which was more relevant to the sport.

The WG would also be looking at enhancing the documentation and paperwork that accompanied each set of equipment to reflect all component parts rather than just the reserve, and possibly trialling a system similar to the one that operates in Germany.

6. ADVANCED PACKER COURSE REPORTS

- i) An Advanced Packers Tandem upgrade Course had been held at Netheravon from the 13 – 14 March 2015.

The Course was attended by Martin Cole and Josh Clark. Both candidates fulfilled the requirements of the Course and were awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status. George Panagopoulos had submitted a Course report, a copy of which had been tabled to those present in advance.

7. BPA SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

A BPA Safety Information Bulletin (1/15) had been issued so that everyone was aware that the two serial numbered Relative Workshop Ex-military Tandem Vector II Wonderhog Dual Containers (#43482/#43491) had now had their grounding (SN 2/14) individually lifted by the Riggers' Sub-Committee.

At present all other ex-military (grey) Vector containers remain grounded by SN 2/14 until presented with the appropriate documentation the Riggers' Sub-Committee for acceptance.

8. MANUFACTURERS' SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS

A Service Bulletin had been previously circulated concerning all harness/containers single and dual manufactured by Parachutes de France.

The subject concerned hydrolyze phenomena of the cordura fabric used for the reserve container in extreme conditions of temperature and humidity - the coating of fabric can become sticky and disrupt the opening of the reserve container or extraction of POD.

If it has become sticky or tacky, applying dusting powder (talc) or spray silicon to the affected area maybe necessary.

Jumpers should be aware of the problems that can be caused due to storing equipment in high temperatures.

9. A.O.B.

- i) At the July Riggers' meeting last year there was a report of a Vigil AAD firing at approximately 500ft whilst a jumper was preparing to land. The AAD was sent back to the manufacturer for investigation. Their report has now been received and they conclude that there is a probability that the pressure sensor of this unit has generated faulty information. Vigil consider this to have been 'an exceptional case'.

- ii) Pete Sizer referred to correspondence from UPT regarding the use of the MVTC-3R, which was a non-TSO'd 421 sqft Military Reserve canopy, which the manufacturer states can be fitted into both a Tandem Vector 2 and Sigma reserve container.

Pete Sizer stated that at this time, this specific canopy had not been accepted for use in the UK.

- iii) Since the last meeting, Pete Sizer had registered Mary Barratt as a 'Method 2' Basic Rigger.

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

13 April 2015

**PAPERWORK REQUIRING CIRCULATION WITH THE NEXT AGENDA MUST REACH THE BPA
OFFICE BY MONDAY 18 MAY 2015**

Distribution:

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