
Riggers' Subcommittee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Friday 28 January 2022 at 1410

at East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RJ

Present: Pete Sizer (RE) - Chair
Mary Barratt (PR)
Rick Boardman (RE)
Liam Goddard (PR)
Allan Hewitt (RE) - (from item 9.5)
Alex Hewitt (PR)
Dave Major (AR)
George Panagopoulos (RE) - (from item 9.5)
Noel Purcell (RE)
Karen Saunders (RE)
Andy Shaw (RE)
Gary Stevens (AR)
Steve Thomas (AR)
Phil Wayper (PR)
Wez Westley (PR)

Key:

AR = Advanced Rigger

PR = Parachute Rigger

RE = Rigger Examiner

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Jeff Montgomery - ST0/Chair STC
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to COO/ST0 (Secretary)

Observers: Amii Calway, Jason Hughes, Jenny Hughes,

ITEM

WELCOME & OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed members and observers to the first British Skydiving Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of 2022, which was the first meeting for two years.

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded to assist with preparation of the minutes after which the recording would be deleted.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Any declarations of interest would be made at the item/s to which they relate.

2. MINUTES FROM THE RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 6 FEBRUARY 2020

It was proposed by Noel Purcell and seconded by Karen Saunders that the Minutes of the

Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting of 6 February 2020 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 6 FEBRUARY 2020

Page 4, Item 8 – Reserve Repack Cycles. The Chair reported that the subject of Reserve re-pack cycles had been a main Agenda item for discussion at the Riggers & Advanced Packers Development & Safety Day this morning.

He stated that a Working Group (WG) is to be instigated to look into the whole subject and that anyone who wished to be part of the WG or who wished to contribute in any way was asked to contact him direct: pete@britishskydiving.org

The Chair reported that one of the plans is also to send out a questionnaire as a means of gathering further information on the subject.

4. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL

The proposed amendments to the Operations Manual had been circulated with the agenda:

4.1 RESERVE PARACHUTE PACKING

The Chair reported that the proposal below was originally on the agenda for the cancelled meeting in April 2020:

Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 8.3.1. Current Wording states:

8.3.1 Reserve parachutes may only be inspected and packed by riggers or Advanced Packers (AP).

However, the Riggers' Subcommittee minutes of 1/6/09 state that as of 1.4.2010 "All reserves must be packed by current Advanced Packers" and Riggers cleared for 'all types' were issued with AP ratings, therefore:

Proposed change of wording:

Section 6 (Equipment), Para 8 (Parachute Packing), Sub-Para 8.3.1 to read:

8.3.1. Reserve parachutes may only be inspected and packed by current Advanced Packers (AP).

It is also proposed that the Rigging Technical Manual should be updated on page 10 to read:

4. Since October 2009, all riggers with 'all types' on their packing certificates were issued with AP ratings, subsequently all reserve packing may only be conducted by holders of AP ratings.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Gary Stevens, seconded by Wez Westley, that the above proposed amendments to the British Skydiving Operations Manual and the Rigging Technical Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 NON BRITISH SKYDIVING RATED RIGGERS AND RESERVE PACKERS

The Chair reported that details of what Non-British Skydiving rated Instructors need to do to obtain British Skydiving ratings is covered in Section 4 of the Operations Manual. It was suggested at the previous Riggers' Subcommittee meeting that Riggers and Packers should also have a similar requirement. To that end, it was proposed that the paragraph

below be considered for inclusion in Section 14 of the Operations Manual:

SECTION 14 (RIGGING). Add new Paragraph 9 (NON-BRITISH SKYDIVING RIGGERS AND RESERVE PACKERS). To Read:

9. NON-BRITISH SKYDIVING RIGGERS AND RESERVE PACKERS

Non British Skydiving rated Reserve Packers or Riggers wishing to practice in the UK must be full members of British Skydiving, understand English adequately, hold a British Skydiving Packing Certificate and have a written recommendation from a British Skydiving qualified Rigger prior to assessment on the appropriate course.

- 9.1.** To gain a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (AP) rating the candidate must hold a current Reserve Packing rating acceptable to the skydiving governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained and show evidence of at least 20 reserve repacks, before attending an AP examination course, during which the Advanced Rigger (AR) or Rigger Examiner (RE) conducting the course will ensure that all aspects of the AP syllabus are covered.
- 9.2.** To gain a British Skydiving Rigger rating the candidate must hold a current Rigger rating acceptable to the skydiving governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained and show evidence of at least 200 hours of logged rigging work. They must first obtain suitable British Skydiving AP ratings prior to attending a British Skydiving Rigger Examination Course, during which their ability to fulfil the syllabus will be assessed by the REs.
- 9.3.** Following successful completion of the above the candidate will be awarded the relevant British Skydiving rating.

Note: Previous Para 9, becomes Para 10

The Chair reported that a number of comments had been received relating to the term 'Non British'. He stated that this was really just a translation of the terminology used in the Operations Manual for Non British rated Instructors.

Noel Purcell stated that a non-British Skydiving rated Instructor would be required to have received a Methods of Instruction, Drop Zone Management and a British Skydiving Incident Procedures lecture given by an AI prior to them attending a conversion Course.

He also felt that a non-British Skydiving rated Rigger or Packer should also be educated in these areas prior to them attending a Course, which should be the responsibility of the recommending Rigger.

Mary Barratt had a query with regard to the criteria for the candidate understanding English adequately, which she felt could be a bit subjective.

The STO stated that part of the Instructor Course recommendation for a Non-British rated Instructor is that the Chief Instructor recommending a candidate would be required to ensure that they had a good knowledge of the English language, both written and orally. He believed that this requirement would also be applied to Non-British rated Riggers and Packers.

The Chair stated that since the proposals had been circulated the various paragraph sections had been numbered, which was just to tidy up the layout for Operations Manual purposes.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Mary Barratt, seconded by Rick Boardman, that the above proposed amendments to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair stated that the above Operations Manual amendments will also require the acceptance of STC, which would take place at the next meeting on 10 February 2022.

5. RIGGERS COURSE REPORTS

The Chair reported that there had been two Rigging Courses held since the Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting of 6 February 2020. Copies of the Course reports had been circulated with the Agenda:

6.1 British Skydiving expressed its thanks to Jason Farrant for kindly hosting the Rigging Course at Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell from 16 - 20 December 2021.

The Examiners conducting the Course were: George Panagopoulos, Allan Hewitt and Pete Sizer who was available for the last 2 days of the Course.

There was one candidate on the Basic Riggers (BR) Course: Max Tork. Max successfully completed the Course and was awarded Basic Rigger status.

There were two candidates on the Parachute Riggers (PR) Course: Ryan Clark and Daniel Hurst. Both candidates were successful and awarded PR status.

There were two candidates who attended the Course for assessment on their 2nd part for Rigger Examiner status: Dave Ballard and Josh Clark. Both candidates successfully completed this phase of the Course with the following recommendations:

That Dave Ballard attends an Advanced Packing Course with a Rigger Examiner, and then the 2nd BR Course for final evaluation.

That Josh Clark attends a 2nd BR Course for final evaluation.

These recommendations were based on having more preparation time of at least 3 months prior to attending the final BR Course.

During the Course, the Examiners discussed a number of minor amendments to British Skydiving rigging systems and processes, which would be submitted for further consideration.

6.2 British Skydiving expressed its thanks to Skydiving Hibaldstow for kindly hosting the Rigging Course from 10 - 14 January 2022.

The Examiners conducting the Course were: Noel Purcell and Pete Sizer for duration of the Course, and were also joined by Andrew Hilton and Andy Shaw for part of the week.

There were three candidates on the Basic Riggers (BR) Course: Dorian Harwood, Brik Padfield and Martin Reynolds. All candidates were successful and were awarded BR status.

There was one candidate on the Parachute Riggers (PR) Course. Alex Hewitt successfully completed the Course and was awarded PR status.

Karen Saunders attended the final phase of the requirements for upgrading to Rigger Examiner. Karen successfully completed the Course and was awarded Rigger Examiner status.

During the Course, the Examiners discussed the syllabi for each Course, which would be discussed with other Rigger Examiners in time.

6. ADVANCED PACKER (AP) COURSE REPORTS

A resumé of the Advanced Packer Courses held since the last meeting in Feb 2020 had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair reported that since the resumé had been circulated, a further Course had taken place:

- i) Andy Page had run an Advanced Packers Examination Course at Beccles Skydivers from 18 January 2022. The Course was attended by Archie Glazebrook.

Archie successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

7. INDEX OF SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS - UPDATE

An update to the Index of Safety Notices & Information Bulletins had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Chair reported that since the update had been circulated, a further Service Bulletin had been received that afternoon from Aerodyne concerning Aerodyne Icon AAD Cutter Placement. Aerodyne's recommended action is to move the AAD cutter placement from the current placement on reserve flap #1 to reserve flap #3, at the owners' earliest convenience. TB -011722 links to a previous Bulletin going back to January 2008, SB-210108. This Bulletin would also be added to the Safety Index. A revised update to the Safety Index will be attached to the Minutes (Appendix 1).

8. A.O.B.

8.1 A2 Packing Update

The Chair reported that Aerodyne had been approached to obtain confirmation about an alternative method of stowing the secondary / flaring toggles excess line on the Tandem A2 canopy. By stowing the main steering toggles as normal and stowing the secondary toggles excess line in a bungee attached to the line attachment point of the canopy as shown in the attached photos (Appendix 2). The Safety Index would also be updated to include this information (Appendix 1).

- 8.2 The Chair reported that as well as the WG being instigated to look at Reserve Re-pack cycles. A WG is also being instigated, comprised of Rigger Examiners, to look at the various Rigging and Packing Course Syllabuses. The Chair welcomed any further input and feedback, particularly from those Riggers and Advanced Packers who had recently attended Courses.

8.3 FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair reported that we are going to look at the way forward with regard to the frequency of Riggers' Subcommittee Meetings.

It has been suggested that the number of meetings are reduced to 3-4 per year, with the option of ad-hoc meetings should the need arise.

With this in mind, it was suggested that the next Riggers' Subcommittee meeting takes place on Thursday 7 April 2022, which is on the same date as the STC Meeting scheduled for April. Whether future meetings are held at British Skydiving HQ or virtually by Teams will also be a topic for consideration.

- 8.4 The Chair reminded the Committee of the STC Review Working Group which has been formed, chaired by Alex Busby-Hicks, to look at all aspects of STC, including the Riggers' Subcommittee. We await the outcome of any recommendations from the WG.

- 8.5 Rick Boardman referred to the Instructor and Riggers Course Review WG, which had formerly been Chaired by Kate Lindsley and asked whether there was any feedback from this WG that may impact on the future running of Rigging Courses.

The STO stated that the WG had done a tremendous amount of work, and we have a base that the WG has established. There is still however, a great deal of work that needs to take place. He stated that the idea was to at some point to filter down the WG into various subgroups and to concentrate on specific areas.

The STO commented on the Coaching Structure WG and that we are waiting for the feedback from that WG – if that is a success then we can then start looking at integrating everything into a learning management system.

The Chair referred to the feedback from the survey results regarding Rigging and Instructor Courses had been fed back to Examiners over the past few Courses. With regard to Packing and Rigging Courses, there had been some quite positive feedback from a customer service point of view.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7 April 2022 at 4pm

At this time, we do not know whether the meeting will be at British Skydiving HQ, or virtual.

The Chair asked for any items for inclusion on the Agenda be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 14:43 (duration 00.33)

Attached:

Appendix 1 – Update to Index of Safety Notices & Information Bulletins

Appendix 2 – A2 Packing Photos

Distribution:

Chair Riggers' Subcommittee, All CIs, All Riggers, APs, Council, CAA, Editor – Skydive

Accepted by Riggers' Subcommittee on 9 June 2022

Published on 10 June 2022

Index of Safety Notices/ Information Bulletins - Update February 2022

2. British Skydiving Safety Information Bulletins

117. Master Reserves recertification at 12 and 18 years SI 1/21 20/9/21

8. Parachutes de France

53 Mandatory Oetiker collar binding inspection. SB Atom-25-003 19/11/21

12. United Parachute Technologies / Relative Workshop

- 66. Sigma reserve riser compatibility and modification. 12/20
- 67. Vector Student SE flap replacement and field modification.
AD 2021-09-09 17.2.21

15. Strong Enterprises

- 34. Drogue Bridle – mandatory inspection SB#35 4/21 27/4/21
- 35. Master Reserves – recertification requirements SI 1.21 20/9/21

35. Aerodyne Research

- 9. Alternative bridle routing – on website
- 10. Alternative Cutter location – now mandatory in France to reposition cutter above pilot chute as per Aerodyne SB 210108 25/1/08
- 11. Stowing of A2 steering toggles (website) and approved alternative stowing excess of secondary's at canopy. See Appendix 2, Riggers' Subcommittee meeting Minutes-28/01/2022
- 12. AAD Cutter Placement. TB-011722 25/01/22

54. Firebird

- 2. Incorrectly routed main lift webbing PSB – 1FB 2021-01 15/9/21





