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## Riggers' Subcommittee

Minutes of the meeting held on

**Thursday 29 September 2022 at 1600**

**by Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Pete Sizer (RE) - Chair  
Rick Boardman (RE)  
Josh Clark (AR)  
Allan Hewitt (RE)  
Jo Oosterveer (AR)  
Noel Purcell (RE)  
Gary Stevens (AR)

**Key:**

AR = Advanced Rigger

RE = Rigger Examiner

**Apologies:** Tony Butler - Chief Operating Officer (COO)

**In Attendance:** Liz Ashley - Editor, Skydive the Mag  
Jeff Montgomery - STO/Chair STC  
Trudy Kemp - Assistant to COO/STO (Secretary)

**Observer:** Chris Sears

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### ITEM

#### WELCOME & OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the British Skydiving Riggers' Subcommittee meeting. He gave the meeting details of the procedures for those wishing to speak, voting etc.

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 9 JUNE 2022

It was proposed by Rick Boardman, seconded by Gary Stevens that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting of 9 June 2022 be accepted as a true record.

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RIGGERS' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2022

**Page 2, Item 5 – Proposal to allow Reserves to be Sealed by the FAA Method in Addition to the Method of British Skydiving Form 215.** Rick Boardman reported that he

is still in the process of updating Form 215 to include full details and drawings for the FAA reserve sealing method. Once updated, the Rigging Technical Manual and Reserve Packing Guide will also be amended accordingly.

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE STC MEETINGS OF 9 JUNE 2022 & 4 AUGUST 2022**

There was no matters arising from the previous STC Meetings.

5. **REQUEST FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF RIGGING LOFT**

A proposal from Rick Boardman had been included with the agenda for the acceptance of Rhomech Rigging Loft in Tilshead, Wiltshire for the hosting of British Skydiving Rigging Courses. This facility had previously been accepted for hosting British Skydiving AP Courses.

The establishment had been inspected by Rick Boardman and Karen Saunders on 13 September 2022, and in the opinion of both Examiners, it met the minimum requirements as set out in British Skydiving Form 237 (British Skydiving Rigging Loft Minimum Criteria).

Rick Boardman's proposal had included full details of the request. It had also stated that at this time, Rigging Courses should be restricted to a maximum of six candidates. Any increase to this number would need to be referred to the Committee for acceptance.

During consideration of this request, the Committee felt that the criteria set out on Form 237 should be reviewed to include additional detail of the proposed Rigging loft facilities, and clearer guidance on the information required when setting out the proposal for the Subcommittee's consideration.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Josh Clark, seconded by Noel Purcell that the Rigging facility at Rhomech Rigging be accepted for hosting British Skydiving Rigging Courses.

For: 3                  Against: 0                  Abstentions: 3 (Rick Boardman, Jo Oosterveer, Gary Stevens)

**Carried**

6. **REQUEST TO HOST A RIGGING COURSE**

A request from Rick Boardman to host a Rigging Course at Rhomech Rigging had been included with the Agenda.

Rick Boardman reported that the dates had now changed to those included in the original request. The Course is now scheduled to run from **19 – 23 December 2022**. This change is due to short term availability of candidates and Examiners.

The Examiners running the Course will be Rick Boardman and Karen Saunders. Gary Stevens will also be assisting throughout the Course as part 2/3 of his RE qualification.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Josh Clark, seconded by Allan Hewitt that the above request be accepted.

For: 3      Against: 0      Abstentions: 3 (Rick Boardman, Jo Oosterveer, Gary Stevens)

**Carried**

7. **EQUIPMENT RELATED INCIDENT REPORTS RESUMÉ**

The Chair provided a resumé of equipment related Incident Reports. He stated that two incident reports involving Tandem have been received by British Skydiving HQ:

- i) The first report involved a Tandem instructor with 1458 descents, who experienced a broken kill line and drogue bridle, during the deployment phase of the main canopy. As the Instructor pulled the primary drogue release handle, the kill line snapped at the base of the drogue pilot chute. The main container opened, and the deployment bag slowly bounced out of the main tray and within a couple of seconds the main canopy deployed. On checking the main canopy, the instructor noticed that there was a broken suspension line and carried out his emergency procedures. The Tandem pair landed safely under the reserve canopy.

The Tandem system was a Tandem Next container, with a Sigma 370 main canopy, twin speed 360 reserve and a Vigil Cuatro AAD. The drogue as whole including the kill line had 294 jumps in total.

The Rigger's Subcommittee were presented with video footage of this incident together with a number of photographs.

The footage showed, the drogue pilot chute breaking at the base of the drogue (see image 1 below).



The Committee discussed this incident at some length. Those present felt that it was worth checking the metal connector link or soft link depending on the type of drogue fitted. The Chair reported that the latest rigs from Paratec now have a soft link fitted rather than a metal link in that position.

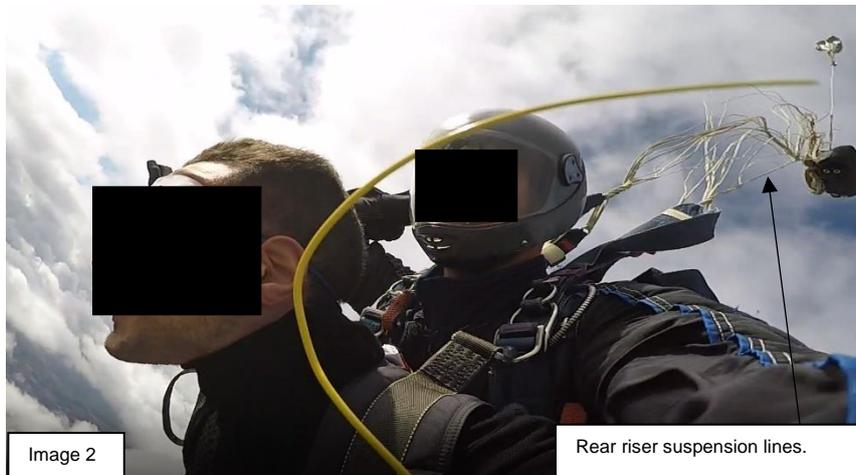
If the drogue has a metal link inside the drogue, they should ensure it has the rubber cover situated correctly, to prevent rubbing and damage to the kill line itself.

The Committee noted the lack of detail that had been provided on the report submitted for this incident. It was therefore requested that any future equipment related incident reports are completed as accurately and with as much detail as possible, especially if there is damage or a break to any component part. It was also suggested where possible, that a Rigger also inspect the equipment before the report is submitted to HQ.

The Chair would also make CIs aware of this request at STC this evening.

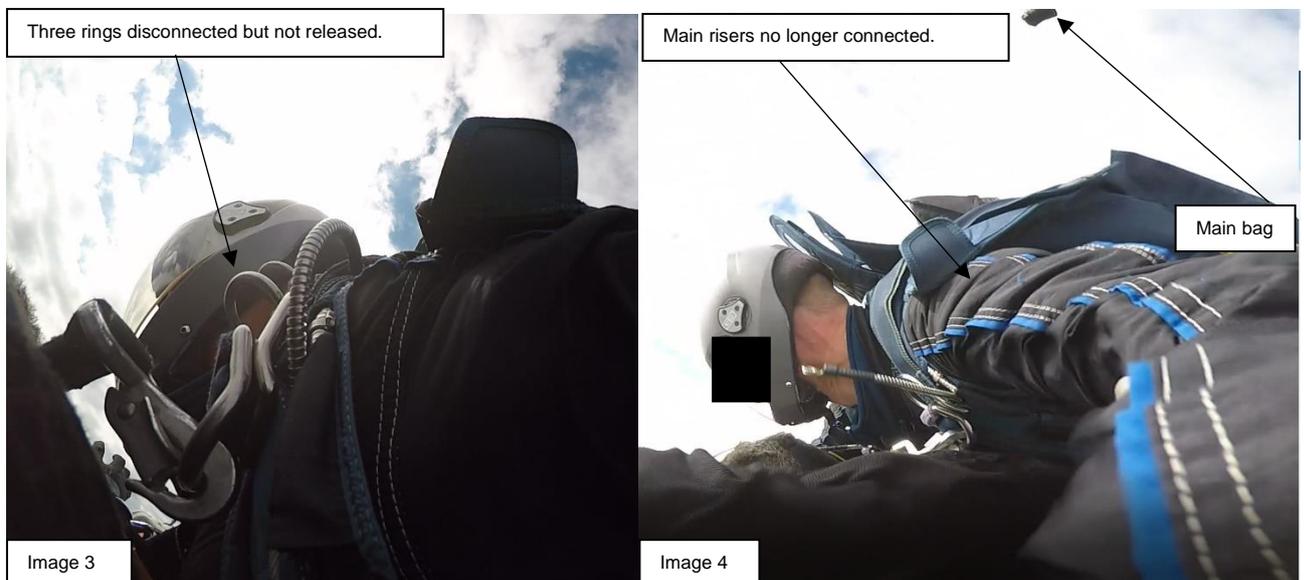
- ii) The second Tandem incident involved a Tandem instructor with 2000 tandem descents, who experienced a bag lock malfunction.

The Tandem instructor was wearing a hand cam system and managed to capture the cause of the bag lock. A couple of suspension lines from the rear right riser remained under tension caught in the elastic bungee, preventing the main deployment bag from opening. Both riser covers were opened. See image 2 below.



The Tandem instructor initiated his reserve drill, however, after pulling the cutaway handle, the three rings released but the risers did not initially disconnect (see image 3 below). Only after the instructor pulled the reserve handle, and his hand extends to full arm length (see image 4 below), did the main risers disconnect, possibly as the extractor left the reserve tray.

The point at which the risers leave the container is not captured due to the angle of the camera. The Tandem pair landed safely under the reserve canopy.



The Tandem system was a Tandem Next container, with an Icarus 330 main canopy, a twin speed 340 reserve and a Cypres 2 Tandem AAD. The cause of the malfunction was attributed to poor packing.

The Rigger's Subcommittee were presented with video footage of this incident together with a number of photographs.

After studying the video footage of this incident, the Riggers' Subcommittee also believed that it was a packing error that caused this particular malfunction.

## 8. ADVANCED PACKER (AP) COURSE REPORTS

A resumé of the Advanced Packer Courses held since the last meeting had been circulated with the Agenda:

- i) An Advanced Packers Training Course has been run by George Panagopoulos from 13 – 16 June 2022 at Netheravon. The Course was attended by William Sims and Jacob Jackson. Both candidates were advised to practice under supervision in preparation for the examination phase of the Course at a later date.
- ii) An Advanced Packers Tandem Upgrade has been run by George Panagopoulos at Netheravon from 27 – 28 June 2022. The Course was attended by Chris Good. Chris successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status.
- iii) An Advanced Packers Tandem Upgrade has been run by Karen Saunders at Skydive Langar over a 3 day period commencing 4 July 2022. The Course was attended by Kayleigh Garbett and Ruby Watkins. Both candidates successfully completed the Course and were awarded Advanced Packer (Grade T) status.
- iv) An Advanced Packers Training Course had taken place at Rhomech Rigging from 8 – 11 July 2022. The Course was attended by Jason Franks and Alex Johnson.

Jason and Alex received all the lessons and handouts as required on British Skydiving Form 175 and were advised to return when they, and their supervisors felt that they were ready for examination. Although Jason had met the minimum criteria to progress, Gary had advised him that he would require 'Direct Supervision' until such time as his confidence has improved. During his debrief, it was agreed that Jason would be working his probation period at Gary's Rigging loft.
- v) An Advanced Packers Examination Course has taken place at Skydive Langar from 5 – 9 September 2022. The Course was attended by Shaun Dyer. Shaun successfully completed the Course and was awarded Advanced Packer (Grade S) status.

**Additional Report(s) Received Since Agenda was Published:**

- i) An Advanced Packers Course had been run by Karen Saunders at Skydive Langar during September 2022. The Course was attended by Stephen Simpson who already held an FAA Master Rigger rating who wished to gain a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (Grade S) rating.

Karen Saunders had consulted with Pete Sizer for the exact Course requirements. The Course ran for a period two days initially followed by the Examination phase for two days commencing 25 September 2022.

Following successful completion of the Examination phase, Stephen Simpson was awarded with his Advanced Packers (Grade S) rating.

9. **BRITISH SKYDIVING SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

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

10. **MANUFACTURER'S SAFETY NOTICES/INFORMATION BULLETINS**

HQ has not been advised of any new Manufacturers' Safety Notices or Information Bulletins.

11. **A.O.B.**

The Chair reported that he had recently learned of the sad death of former member Albert Hooker BEM. Albert had held British Skydiving Advanced/Examiner Rigger ratings for many years. In fact his Advanced Rigger number was #1. He was also the first Chair of the Riggers' Subcommittee when it was formed in 1972.

The Riggers' Subcommittee wished to pass on their condolences to Albert's family and friends.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be Advised.

The meeting closed at 17:06 (duration 01:06)

**Distribution:**

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

Accepted by Riggers' Subcommittee on 13 April 2023

Published on 14 April 2023