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## Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the virtual meeting held by Microsoft Teams on  
Thursday 7 April 2022 at 7pm

<b>Present:</b>	Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/STO
	Iain Anderson	-	Skydive St Andrews
	Dylan Bartle	-	JSPC(W)
	Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
	Alex Busby-Hicks	-	Skydive Tilstock / Council
	Stacey Canning	-	APA
	Bryn Chaffe	-	Skyhigh Skydiving
	Andy Clark	-	Skydive Ireland
	Paul Floyd	-	Skydiving London
	Reg Green	-	Pilgrims
	Chris McCann (From 7.07pm)	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
	Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
	Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB
	Andrew Pointer	-	Sibson Skydivers
	Pete Sizer (From 7.15pm)	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee / Headcorn
	Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
	Jason Thompson	-	Beccles Skydivers
	Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
	Martin White	-	Cyprus
	Paul Yeoman	-	Black Knights
<b>Apologies for</b>	Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
<b>Absence:</b>	Jason Farrant	-	Skydive Buzz
	Mally Richardson	-	Skydive Jersey
	Jason Webster	-	JSPW(N)
<b>In attendance:</b>	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STO/Secretary
	Craig Poxon	-	Chair - British Skydiving
<b>Observers:</b>	Anthony Andrews, Neil Fitzpatrick, Noel Purcell, Mark Robson, Mike Rust, Chris Sears, Rob Spour, Alasdair Tebbutt, Lee Winter.		

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### ITEM   MINUTE

#### **1.   WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the 2<sup>nd</sup> STC Meeting of 2022.

The Chair reported that it was with great sadness that he had to inform STC that Dave Wood had passed away peacefully on Monday. He stated that Dave had been an important member of the British Skydiving family for many years.

On behalf of STC, he wished to pass on the Committee's thoughts and deepest sympathy and condolences to Chrissie, Ben, Shane and all of Dave's family, friends and colleagues.

The Chair welcomed Andy Pointer to STC. He stated that Andy had recently taken over as Chief Instructor at Sibson Skydivers. The Chair also reported that Chris McCann had taken over as Chief Instructor at Skydive Hibaldstow and welcomed him back to STC.

He asked those who wished to speak to make him aware by using the wave icon or chat feature on Teams, or if he did not acknowledge those, to call out. He made a roll call of Chief Instructors as the voting members present, and then outlined the voting procedure.

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

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked that any voting member with a personal, financial or material interest in business on the agenda should declare that interest at the appropriate item.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

It was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks, seconded by Chris McCann that the Minutes of the meeting on 10 February 2022 be accepted.

**Carried Unanimously**

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Page 2. Item 4 - Matters Arising.** The Chair reported that the Board of Inquiry investigation is still ongoing.

**Page 10. Item 12 - A.O.B (e) - Para Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) Licences.** The Chair reported that at the last meeting it was stated that the COO and STO would like to remove the requirement to hold a Para ROCC Licence to attend a CSBI or AFFBI course, and had asked for input as to whether STC members supported this. The Chair stated that no further input had been received. It was therefore the intention to put a proposal forward for the STC meeting in June for its removal. It was also stated at the previous meeting that anyone who will need to talk using either 129.905 or 130.530 frequency will still need to obtain a Para ROCC Licence.

## **5. RIGGING MATTERS**

The Chair reported that there was nothing to report under this item.

## **6 INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RÉSUMÉ**

The Chair reported that a résumé of incidents had been included with the Agenda:

- a. Two Serious incidents had occurred since the last STC meeting. The first involved two AAD fires and two injuries. The incident involved an AFF student with 8 jumps on a Level 6 skydive and her AFF instructor with 18,720 skydives. The jump was the student's third jump of the day. Her previous 2 jumps were successful Levels 4 and 5. The jump was from 15,000ft. The exit went well followed by a good back loop, the student went to start a track, but then started to begin another back loop, but stopped immediately, the student then completed a good track. At approximately 6,000ft the instructor redocked with the student. He gave her a pull signal, but there was no response. The instructor then attempted to deploy the student's parachute, but when the student's arm came back to pull, the instructor allowed her to do this. At that point the student may have knocked the instructor's hand and the student was released. The student then started to slide away from the instructor. She made a number of unsuccessful attempts to deploy her main parachute. The instructor then swooped down to the student, during which the instructor's audible altimeter was chiming in his ear. The student was in a stable position, but not attempting to deploy

her main. The instructor reached the student and deployed her main, immediately followed by deploying his own main. As his main was deploying his AAD fired, and his reserve deployed directly above him. The two canopies started to go into a down-plane, he grabbed all the risers to keep the parachutes together before impacting with the ground. Both of the student's parachutes also deployed. Both instructor and student had hard landings, resulting in injuries to both. The student sustained back and pelvic injuries and the instructor, a fractured femur.

The second incident involved a wingsuit skydive. The jumper with 540 jumps was carrying out his 136<sup>th</sup> wingsuit jump. He was jumping a new wingsuit, a Freak 4, which was his third jump of the day on the new suit. His previous wingsuit was a 'Havok Carve'. He was jumping a Crossfire-2, 129, and a weight 200lbs. He had a CT exemption (Form 332) to jump the canopy, which was smaller than the CT Chart requirement. His previous wingsuit jumps had been on the same canopy without incident. The jump was from 13,000ft and pulled at 5,000ft. The jumper stated that on opening his body position wasn't ideal and spun him slightly, this put his canopy into extensive twists. Once the twists reached all the way up, the canopy dived hard. As he was swung round, he felt a strong G-force on his head and knew he was on his back. He then went to grab the handles, grabbed the reserve handle straight away, missed the cutaway pad at first then didn't grip well enough when he pulled it. However, as he was still spinning faster, he pulled the reserve handle to get something out, this put the reserve bridle excess on one side of the main lines, and the reserve pilot chute on the other which meant all the tension was pulling at the lines and not on the free bag. He thought he saw the free bag. However, it was the pilot chute. He did not want to cutaway the main with an entangled reserve. After pulling the reserve bridle more to get something out, he treated it as a pilot chute in tow. He reached further down and realised the bridle went behind his head, so he pulled some slack, and threw it around him, which then freed it and instantly the reserve deployed. This happened close to the ground. With both canopies out, they split going into a slight down-plane until landing. He landed heavily, resulting in a fractured lumbar, pelvis and sacrum.

- b. One Injury report has been received for a Student Skydiver. A static line student on his first jump, failed to flare for landing, and sprained a calf muscle.
- c. Three reports of injuries to 'A' Licensed skydivers or above have been received. All males. One jumper, with 225 jumps did a flip-off exit from the aircraft and banged his head on the bottom of the door frame. He landed without injury but could not remember the jump. It is suspected that he was concussed. The second was a skydiver with 200 jumps who had a normal landing in windy conditions, but when attempting to collapse the canopy, a gust of wind caught the canopy pulling over, which resulted in a broken tibia and fibula. The third was a skydiver with 530 jumps who flared too quickly causing the canopy to pop up, resulting in him landing on his bottom, hurting his lower back.
- d. Four reports have been received of Student malfunctions/deployment problems. All males. One student with 9 jumps on his second freefall jump, reached for the toggle, but went onto his back. Instead of deploying straight away, he waited until he had gained stability and deployed after 10 seconds. A first-time freefall student with 7 jumps, had a stiff pull, made 2 attempts, and carried out his reserve drills. The third was another Category System student on his first freefall who deployed unstable. The pilot chute became entangled with the lines, snagging on the student's body. He successfully carried out his reserve drills. The fourth was a Level 1AFF student who experienced a distorted canopy malfunction and carried out his reserve drills.
- e. There have been 7 malfunction/deployment problem reports received for Licensed skydivers. All males. One jumper with 22 descents had what appeared to be a bag-lock and carried out his emergency drills. Two skydivers, one with 75 jumps and the other with 198 jumps, both experienced brake locks, both carried out their emergency drills. A report was received of a skydiver whose cutaway pad was dislodged in freefall, when he deployed his main it was cutaway and his reserve activated. One jumper with 216 jumps opened, realised he had a 'step-through' and landed the canopy without further incident. A jumper with 275 jumps had a pilot chute in tow, caused by a misrouted bridle line. The last report was a jumper with 1,662 jumps who had severe twists and carried out his reserve drills.

- f. There have been 2 Tandem injury reports received. 1 male and 1 female. One Tandem Student had a normal jump and landing but complained of a sore neck. It was later confirmed that she had a small crack to her collar bone. It is not known what the cause was. A Tandem student appeared to be very nervous in the aircraft when the door was opened decided he did not want to jump and attempted to get out of his harness. The TI restrained him and tried to calm him down. Once all other jumpers had exited, on the decent in the aircraft the student passed out.
- g. The Chair stated that there had been a mistake in the narrative for the next incident in the résumé of incident/injury reports that had been previously circulated, but this had been corrected for the Minutes as below:  
  
One report has been received of a Tandem Instructor with 794 Tandem descents, 5 in the past 3 months, who appears to have caught the door frame on exit with the base of the container and shoulder. He felt a pain in his shoulder and felt he may have dislodged the primary handle. He reached back to check, his fingers felt numb, he located the primary and pulled it by mistake. The instructor did this before setting the drogue. Therefore, the pull was out of sequence. As soon as the instructor realised the mistake, he threw the drogue, which deployed the main canopy at a high altitude. The canopy ride and landing went without further incident. The instructor was grounded for the weekend, and it is the CI's intention to carry out further suspended harness drills and a currency jump with a B licence jumper.
- h. Five 'off-landing' reports have been received, three Tandem pairs, one of which was on a Tandem Instructor course. One AFF student and one experienced skydiver.
- i. One report has been received of a helmet coming off in freefall.
- j. One report has been received of a Cessna 208 that had a reduction in power on climb out. A precautionary landing was made with all jumpers on board. The fault was a simulator torque gauge causing the issue. The part has now been replaced.

### **Additional Incident Reports**

The Chair reported that a significant number of Injury /Incident reports had been received since the Incident/Injury Report résumé had been circulated:

One report has been received for an AFF Level 4 student, who became unstable at 9,000ft and decided to deploy his main canopy. The student thought he had a line-over malfunction and carried out his reserve drills. However, the DZ controller saw that the canopy was fully open with 2 twists in the lines and uneven risers causing a rotation. It is likely that the student had an uneventful deployment. Another AFF student injury report has been received involving a Level 3 AFF student who sprained her ankle on landing having flared early. A Level 4 AFF student stumbled on landing, twisting her ankle. The last injury report was a first-jump static line student who complained of a sore ankle after landing. It was later reported that she had no injury.

Eleven reports have been received for Licensed jumpers. 7 males and 4 females. Five of which involved twists, causing the canopies to spin. One jumper with 129 jumps, another with 820, one with 949 jumps, another with 2,900 jumps and one with 3,491 jumps. The Chair stated that we seem to be getting a lot of spinning canopies caused by twists lately., and that jumpers should be encouraged to pack more carefully. One report was a skydiver with 75 descents who flared high for landing, put his hand out to support himself as he fell over and fractured a number of bones in his hand. One report was for a jumper with 707 jumps who experienced a brake fire – another packing error? An AFF instructor pulled a shoulder muscle assisting her student to deploy the pilot chute.

Two skydivers reported having step through problems, one with 87 jumps the other with 372 jumps. Packing errors again!

One report was for a jumper with 54 jumps who had tension knots in her canopy, which she was unable to clear. Another report was a Tandem student who lost both shoes on deployment.

Two reports have been received of Tandem malfunctions, The first was an instructor with a spinning main, which he was unable to control and carried out his reserve drills. The second was an instructor who threw the drogue, which he felt hit the back of his head, but did not inflate, possibly caught in the burble, he then decided to deploy his reserve.

Two reports have been received of Tandem Student injuries. A Tandem pair had a hard landing, resulting in the student sustaining a lower back injury. The other was a Tandem student whose lip started to bleed in freefall. Probably caused due to cold weather splitting dry lips.

Another Tandem student appeared to have an epileptic fit just after the door of the aircraft was opened at altitude. The aircraft descended with the instructor and student, the student lost consciousness on the way down. An ambulance was called and took the student to hospital. It was later confirmed that the student did have an epileptic fit, but had no history of fits in the past.

## **7. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL**

The Chair reported that at the last STC meeting the requirements for obtaining FS1 Grade were changed. However, since then, there had been some confusion as to what jumps the new FS1 holder may carry out.

Section 2, Paragraph 6.3.3. states:

*6.3.3. Once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make FS descents with others without CI approval (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).*

The Chair reported that a proposal from Richard Wheatley had been included with the Agenda stating that this requires a CI to not only endorse the FS1 sticker but then (most likely at the same moment), give a second endorsement such that the person can complete 2 and 3 ways. He had therefore proposed that **SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), sub-para 6.3.3.** be changed to read:

**6.3.3. Once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver can make small group formation skydives not exceeding 3 people in total; to make larger group formation skydives, the skydiver must receive CI approval (a logbook endorsement will suffice)**

Richard Wheatley went on to state that this allows the FS1 jumper to make jumps in groups of 2 or 3 and therefore makes clear the responsibility of the FS coach to ensure the jumper is prepared for such jumps. PTO SOPs may then be used to describe what is needed such as having received a full post-FS1 brief. It means those people with the FS1 sticker can do 2 or 3 ways without an additional barrier (which was the intention of the change in the first place).

Andy Clark asked whether the wording in the proposal could be changed amended slightly so that small group formation skydives exceeding 3 people can be made providing an FS coach is participating.

Richard Wheatley stated that he had no objection to this suggested change.

A number of CIs asked if anyone had an objection to the wording also being amended to allow Advanced Instructors to also give their approval for larger formation skydives as they are permitted to issue an FS 1 grading sticker.

It was pointed out that this would require quite a substantial change to the Operations Manual, as there were quite a few other areas within the Manual that would be affected if this change was permitted. This would therefore require a separate proposal to STC.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Paul Floyd, seconded by Pete Sizer that the proposed amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted with the suggested change to the wording as below:

**SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.3. (Formation Skydiving). Change sub-para 6.3.3. To read:**

6.3.3. Once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver can make small group formation skydives not exceeding 3 people in total, unless an FS coach is participating. To make larger group formation skydives without an FS coach the skydiver must receive CI approval (a logbook endorsement will suffice)

For: 18                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 1 (Richard Wheatley)

**Carried**

**8. PERMISSIONS**

A letter from Reg Green had been included with the agenda requesting an exemption to the **Operations Manual, Section 13 (Display Parachuting), Paragraph 7 (Currency)**, for Military Free Fall (MFF) trained parachutists from the Pilgrims Parachute Club, to be able to complete display training around the Herefordshire area.

Reg Green had stated that the Pilgrims Parachute Club are looking to do completely restricted DZ/Display training within the UK for the 2022/23 parachute season using the British Skydiving Operational Manual. This will help increase their currency training alongside the RAF. Due to the nature of the Pilgrims Parachute Club, it is not always possible for the club members to remain current as per Section 13, Paragraph 7, but still need the ability to deploy on active duty at short notice.

Reg Green had also stated that all the Club members are fully trained Military Free Fall parachutists and employed within the military in parachuting roles. All the members that will be jumping will have a minimum of British Skydiving B licence and 100 jumps. All parachutists will be on duty and covered by the UK Government Crown Indemnity whilst they will be jumping and will be British Skydiving members.

The area the Club members will be jumping into are large open fields to simulate active military situations day and night with no civilian crowds. The size of the open fields will be in accordance with **Section 13, Paragraph 3, Team Members, Sub Para, 3.3, British Skydiving B Licence holders, Sub Para, 3.3.2.**

All display notifications will be submitted to the British Skydiving HQ as per the normal display procedures and will follow the SOPs for the Pilgrims Parachute Display.

No Pilgrim's member will be permitted to complete any normal British Skydiving displays where civilian crowds are in the area of the display, unless they fully fulfil the current currency requirements as laid down in the Operations Manual.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Stacey Canning, seconded by Paul Yeoman that the above request be accepted.

For: 14  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 5 (Reg Green, Richard Wheatley, Iain Anderson, Bryn Chaffe, Gary Small)

**Carried**

**9. INSTRUCTOR COURSES**

The Chair reported that there had been two Instructor Courses held since the last STC meeting.

a. Instructor Course 1/2022 – APA, Netheravon

The Association wished to thank the APA for hosting Instructor Course 1/2022 from 7-11 February. The course report had been included with the agenda and was for information only.

b. AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor Course– Skydive Langar

The Association also wished to thank Skydive Langar for hosting the AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor courses from 14 -18 March. The course report had been included with the agenda and was for information only.

The Chair reported that the COO & STO had granted Mikey Lovemore a six-month extension to his AFFBI rating from when it expires in June 2022 until the end of the year.

**10** **A.O.B**

- a. A letter from Alex Busby-Hicks had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder early this week requesting that two Tandem Students be permitted to jump with O2 masks. Alex had stated that British Skydiving Tandem Instructor Lee Winter is organising a Tandem skydive expedition to Mt Everest. He has approached Alex to ask if the two students he is taking can complete a Tandem jump at Tilstock wearing the O2 masks they will be using when they jump at Everest.

As the masks could be classed as auxiliary equipment, Alex would like to request permission for them to be worn by the Tandem students. Both students have previously completed Tandems with Lee Winter. The descents will be taking place from FL100, and each student will make only one descent. The masks will be worn without delivery hoses fitted to ensure adequate oxygenation and can be removed quickly and easily mid-air by the student or TI should the student feel/be sick.

The pictures included with the proposal showed a mask being worn, complete with delivery hose fitted and one, without the delivery hose fitted as will be worn on the jumps.

Alex Busby-Hicks had stated that Lee Winter is a qualified military jump master, which cover O2 descents and equipment and has also completed the Summit Oxygen Users' course. Lee was present at the meeting to answer any questions.

Lee Winter advised the meeting that there would actually be three Tandem Students jumping with O2 masks, all of whom would be jumping with him.

STC members raised no objection to this.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Chris McCann, seconded by Jason Thompson that the above request be accepted, and noted that there would be three Tandem Students participating in these planned descents.

For: 18

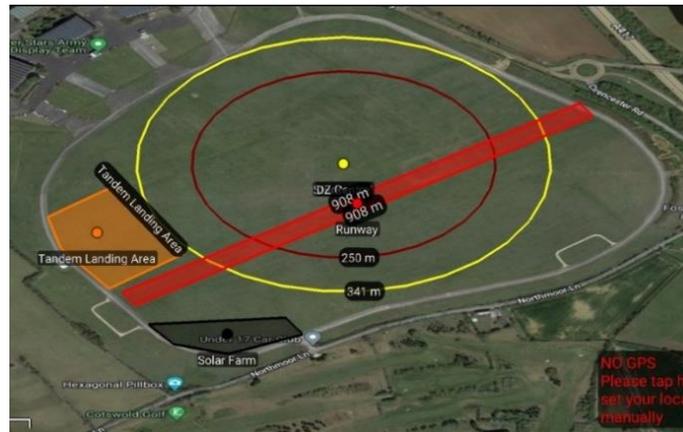
Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Alex Busby-Hicks)

**Carried**

- b. Another request had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder earlier this week, from Paul Floyd requesting that South Cerney Airfield be cleared for use by Skydiving London for all categories of skydiving, including Tandem skydiving.

Paul Floyd had stated that South Cerney Airfield had been used by the Silver Stars for many years. The only change is a small area of solar panels in the South-south-west of the airfield. All details, including maps showing the Tandem landing area had been included with the proposal.



It is proposed that the PLA/DZ is cleared for skydiving with the following restrictions, which are similar to those in place when the DZ/PLA was last used.

- i. No more than 2 Student Parachutists will be despatched on any 1 pass up to level 7
- ii. All student parachutists will be equipped with a radio receiver until A licence is awarded, talk down will continue until Level 7 is completed with observations thereafter.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Bryn Chaffe, seconded by Martin White that the above request be accepted.

For: 18

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Paul Floyd)

**Carried**

c. Fuel Management Procedures

The Chair reported that a memo from Tony Knight had been circulated from HQ on 10 March stating that the CAA document CAP 748 (Aircraft Fuelling and Fuel Management Procedures) was withdrawn in 2020, though British Skydiving were not notified of this at the time. The document is being re written and will be republished, but no date has been given for this.

There are several references to this document in British Skydiving forms and publications. It is proposed to leave these references in place as they would only have to be reinserted later. In the meantime, any requirements arising from CAP 748 will not be enforced, but clearly good sense with regard to aircraft fuelling and management will need to continue. PTOs will be notified when the CAP is reissued.

In the meantime, the CAA have issued a safety sense leaflet which may be of help with any fuel handling issues. The link to the document is below.

[Safety Sense: FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE \(caa.co.uk\)](https://www.caa.co.uk/SafetySense/FUEL_HANDLING_AND_STORAGE)

## **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday at 19:00: 9 June 2022

The Chair stated that it is likely that the meeting will be held at British Skydiving HQ.

Bryn Chaffe asked if the meeting was at HQ, would there also be the facility for CIs to also join the meeting via Teams, as attending a physical meeting could be a problem for some CIs particularly if they have to travel some distance and that we should consider the sustainability issue, i.e., cost of fuel etc.

The Chair stated that a decision would be made on this aspect nearer the time.

The COO stated that what we are considering for the future is to hold the majority of STC meetings virtually, as this has worked well over the past two years. However, it is the intention to have the occasional face to face meeting, perhaps two a year, which he felt was especially important should there be significant items of business for consideration, and the idea then was to try and encourage as many CIs around the table as possible,

The meeting closed at 19:38 (duration 00:38)

### **Attached:**

#### **Amendments to the British Skydiving Operations Manual, 7 April 2022**

**Distribution:** Chair British Skydiving, Council, CIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, CAA, Editor – Skydive the Mag, File

Accepted by STC on 9 June 2022  
Published on 10 June 2022

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## **AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL**

At the STC meeting of 7 April 2022 the following amendment was made to the British Skydiving Operations Manual:

**SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.3. (Formation Skydiving). Change sub-para 6.3.3. To read:**

- 6.3.3. Once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver can make small group formation skydives not exceeding 3 people in total, unless an FS coach is participating. To make larger group formation skydives without an FS coach the skydiver must receive CI approval (a logbook endorsement will suffice)