
Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 4 August 2022 at 19:00

on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/STO
Iain Anderson	-	Skydive St Andrews
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan
Alex Busby-Hicks	-	Skydive Tilstock / Council
Bryn Chaffe	-	Skyhigh Skydiving
Andy Clark (from 19:14)	-	Skydive Ireland
Chris McCann (from 19:07)	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB
Pete Sizer	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee / Headcorn
Jason Webster	-	JSPW(N)
Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
James White	-	Paragon Skydiving

Apologies for Absence:

Dylan Bartle	-	RAF Weston on the Green
Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
Paul Floyd	-	Skydiving London
Reg Green	-	Go Skydive/Pilgrims
Andrew Pointer	-	Sibson Skydivers
Mally Richardson	-	Skydive Jersey
Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris

In attendance:

Liz Ashley	-	Editor, Skydive the Mag
Mary Barratt	-	Council
Mark Bayada	-	Council
Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
Dr John Carter	-	British Skydiving Medical Adviser
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STO/Secretary
Craig Poxon	-	Chair – British Skydiving

Observers: Ant Andrews, Paul Dorward, Frank Millerick, Noel Purcell, Nathan Purver, Charlie Robson, Mark Robson, Mike Rust, Chris Sears, Billy Steele

ITEM MINUTE

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the 4th STC Meeting of 2022.

The Chair gave the meeting details of the procedures for wishing to speak, voting etc, and 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 9 JUNE 2022

It was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks, seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the meeting on 9 June 2022 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2022

Page 7. (Item 8. Fatality – Board of Inquiry – resumé) The Chair reported that the Panel of Inquiry, following the Board of Inquiry, has been formed. The Chair of the Panel is Pete Sizer, and the other members are Jay Webster, Richard Wheatley, Iain Anderson and Rick Boardman. The Panel will consider the Board Recommendations and complete their report in due course.

Page 12. (Item 11-d. A.O.B) At the previous meeting it was agreed by STC for Skydiving London to complete the Tandem jumps for the TV commercial shoot. Paul Floyd has informed us that it was completed, without incident, at Hinton in the manner agreed. Paul Floyd wished to thank STC for the continued assistance.

5. RIGGING MATTERS INCLUDING THE MINUTES OF THE RIGGERS’ SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 9 JUNE 2022

There being no matters arising from the previous meeting, it was proposed by Richard Wheatley, seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers’ Subcommittee meeting of 9 June 2022 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair reported that a resumé of equipment related incident reports received since the last meeting had been added to the STC Sharepoint folder earlier this week:

- i. The first report involved an Icon I3 rig which during a six-month inspection and repack of the reserve canopy (Smart 150) an airtag was found stitched to the reserve bridle. The packer contacted the manufacturer and they responded that such a process was not acceptable. The customer was informed and the airtag was removed and subsequently stitched on the main Canopy D-bag instead. The Rigger who carried out the original work was also informed and acknowledged the manufacturer’s response.



- ii. The second report involved another Icon rig which during a six-month inspection and repack, a discrepancy was noticed on inspection of the reserve canopy

(Smart 175 SN 12372). There was variation in the bartacks, which was unusual, and it is the belief of the packer, that the reserve canopy had been relined. However, there was no record of a reline having been done in any of the documentation for the reserve.

The bartacks for the brake cascades. (UCL) - were only 14mm, all other bartacks were 20mm. Upon inspection of other Smart 175 reserves of approximately the same age, this variation in bartacking did not occur. The line trim was checked and found the following:

- A lines were 14mm longer than line chart.
- B and C lines were 3mm longer and shorter, respectively.
- D lines were 7mm shorter than the line chart.

On the D lines, D5 was found to be 12mm longer than the rest of the lines. Lastly, on the brake toggle measurement, it was 18mm shorter than the line chart. The packer / rigger contacted Aerodyne and they have no record of supplying a lineset for this canopy, and are discussing the query with the factory. The customer was also spoken to, and he has had the canopy from new and is unaware of any reline. There are 17 recorded packs on this reserve with 1 live use.



- iii. Further correspondence has been received from a British Skydiving member informing HQ that they had purchased parachute system second hand in 2019, which during the six-month inspection repack, it was found that a left leg strap buckle had been sewn on the wrong way round, potentially causing the leg strap to become undone should the jumper sustain a hard opening. The equipment had been jumped approximately 20 times since purchase and no problems were caused by the error. After further investigation, it was found the container had undergone a main lift web replacement in May 2014. The work had been carried out by a Parachute Rigger under the supervision of an Advanced Rigger. At the time of the supervision and inspection, the mistake was not spotted, and it was signed off by the supervising rigger and the parachute system went into circulation.

The Parachute Rigger who carried out the work is no longer a British Skydiving member or holds any Rigging qualifications. The Advanced Rigger who signed off the work has been informed of the error and has offered to rectify the problem.



6 INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUMÉ

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

- a. There have been 13 Student injury reports received since the last STC meeting. 7 males and 6 females. One report was a student who strained a neck muscle whilst carrying out PLF training, caused by whiplash on landing. Three of the reports were Category System students. A first jump static line student twisted their ankle on landing. Another was a static line student on their fourth jump who landed downwind with their feet out in front, landing heavily on their bottom, resulting in a fractured vertebra. The third was a first jump static line student who did not respond to talk-down instructions, turned away from the PLA and landed off the PLA in a field. The landing was not observed, but it is believed the student did not flare. The student sustained a fractured femur. The radio was checked and was functioning correctly. Nine of the injuries were to AFF students. A Level 2 student flared high and rolled onto their hand, fracturing 2 fingers. Another Level 2 student flared high, between 50-100ft, reached out with their legs for landing, resulting in a broken leg. One Level 2 student dislocated their shoulder on what appeared to be their third practice pull in freefall. This caused the student to execute a weak flare for landing. The student also had some ligament damage to their shoulder. There was no history of previous shoulder problems. The fourth Level 2 student landed off the PLA hurting her leg, but no broken bones. A level 4 student landed with no flare, feet out in front and fractured 3 vertebrae on landing. Another Level 4 student flared late, lifted their feet up and landed heavily, resulting in bruising to their lower back. An AFF student on their second consolidation jump attempting a dive exit towards the tail of the aircraft, caught the edge of the door, or camera step, with their ankle, causing a small puncture wound, with bruising to their ankle. Another consolidation student turned low to the ground, did not flare, and dislocated and broke an ankle on landing. A student on their fifth AFF jump flared high and fractured their tibia. Quite a few students who had back injuries on landing were moved away from the PLA and then sent to hospital by car. Anyone with a back injury should not be moved until they have had professional assistance. An ambulance should be called.
- b. Twelve reports of injuries to 'A' Licensed skydivers or above have been received. 7 males and 3 females. A jumper with 39 descents flew to the corner of the PLA, turned low to avoid a fence, landed heavily scraping their nose. A jumper with 72 descents experienced back pain on landing, caused by aggravating a pre-existing injury. A skydiver with 98 jumps, deployed, had a very hard and quick opening (approximately one second), causing them to fracture a vertebra. It is not known what the cause of the quick opening was. A jumper with 151 jumps, on a canopy handling course, flared late for landing, injuring their knee. Another skydiver, with 223 jumps had a fast landing due to low winds, got a lot of lift on the flare, fell on landing, dislocating their shoulder. One jumper with 280 descents, dislocated their shoulder

whilst sit-flying. The jumper had previously dislocated their shoulder. A skydiver with 302 jumps, landed off the PLA in a field, experienced some turbulence, put their hand down on landing and broke a finger. A skydiver with 427 jumps, jumping in an accuracy competition damaged their knee ligaments reaching for the target. A jumper with 745 jumps tore a muscle in their leg as they touched down. Another jumper with 951 descents jumping a CF canopy felt the canopy distort a little on flaring to land, resulting in a heavy landing. The jumper fractured a rib on landing. It is believed that 4-ring CF assemble may have caused the problem. A jumper with 1,080 jumps made an ineffective flare and landed hard on their bottom causing lower back pain. A skydiver with 2,250 jumps, jumping a JFX 96 canopy, was carrying out a coaching CP jump made a low turn, too low to flare, impacting very heavily. The jumper sustained leg, spinal and pelvic injuries. At the time of writing, the jumper is making a good recovery.

- c. Six reports have been received of Student malfunctions/deployment problems. 4 males and 2 females. One was a Category System student and the other 5 were AFF students. The Category System student was a freefall student using a ripcord. The pilot chute got choked by the bridle line causing a pilot chute in tow. The student carried out their reserve drills. One AFF repeat Level 2 student lost altitude awareness. The primary instructor deployed the student's main, but the pilot chute entangled around the student's leg. The secondary instructor then deployed the student's reserve. Both the main and reserve inflated into a 'down-plane'. The student was instructed to cutaway by radio, which they did. The student landed safely in a sports field, off the PLA. A Level 4 student started to spin in freefall on instructor release. Re-stabled by 7,000ft. The instructor re-docked as the student de-arched and went unstable, backslid, and started spinning again. The student looked at the altimeter at 3,500ft and deployed at 2,000ft. and landed off the PLA. An AFF student with 5 jumps checked their canopy, thought they had a line-over malfunction, and carried out their emergency drills. A video of the jump showed the canopy had opened normally and was damage free. A Level 6 student experienced a line-over malfunction, and successfully carried out their reserve drills. A student on their 8th consolidation jump experienced a broken line, cutaway and deployed their reserve.
- d. There have been 27 malfunction/deployment problem reports received for Licensed skydivers. 20 males and 7 females. 8 of the reports were twists in the rigging lines, causing spinning or diving canopies, which the jumpers were unable to clear. 5 of the reports were of line over type malfunctions One report was for a stiff pull. 2 reports were for brake-fires. 2 reports were for broken lines. One report was for a total malfunction. Another report was for a 'step-through' malfunction. Another report was of a distorted canopy. Two reports were for a pilot chute in tow. Two reports were received for canopies with tangled lines. A report was received where a steering toggle detached when the jumper initiated a turn. One skydiver grabbed some excess bridle line instead of the deployment toggle, leaving the toggle in the pouch. They then went through their reserve drill, and as the reserve deployed the main bag released. The jumper landed safely under their reserve. 14 jumpers had between 20 and 500 jumps. 6 had between 500 and 1,000 jumps. Two between 1,000 and 1,500 jumps, and 5 had between 3,000 and 5,200 jumps.
- e. There have been 13 Tandem injury reports received. 8 males and 5 females. One report was an instructor who landed flat footed, caught their foot on landing and fell backwards, breaking their tibia and fibula. One student sprained an ankle on landing, by dropping their feet just prior to landing. Another student jumped, then had difficulty putting any weight on their ankle. It was discovered after that the student already had their ankle bandaged up before boarding the aircraft, as they had twisted their ankle in the spectator area prior to the jump. One student dropped their legs just before landing causing pain in their ankle, the student had not declared that they had arthritis in their ankle. Another student complained of shoulder pain, the student had previously dislocated a shoulder. One student passed out under canopy. The student had not eaten since the previous day. Another student appeared to land normally and later informed the PTO that they had broken their ankle. One student dislocated their shoulder in freefall. The student had previously had shoulder problems. One student suffered a hairline fractured vertebra. The student sat down hard during a slide landing. One student fractured their ankle reaching for the ground in gusty conditions. Another student bruised their coccyx on landing. The student's

legs were too high causing the student to land on their bottom. Both a Tandem student and the instructor was injured on a jump. The Tandem canopy opened very hard, causing back and shoulder pain to both. The canopy and slider had minor damage. The instructor decided to land the canopy causing lower back pain bruising to the instructor's buttocks. The reason for the hard opening had not been determined.

- f. Eight reports have been received of Tandem malfunction/deployment problems. One line-over. One spinning canopy, One with twists. One broken line and two with tension knots. Another had a broken steering toggle. A candidate on a Tandem Instructor course, with a bag, pitched their drogue which did not inflate. Failed to identify the problem and carried out their systems check, and two 360 degree turns. The candidate then identified the problem on the second systems check and carried out the correct actions.
- g. One report was received of a canopy collision. Two canopies were converging on finals and collided a few feet from the ground. Neither were injured and both received a full debriefing.
- h. A report was received of an AFF student's AAD being switched off when checked prior to exit (at approximately 9a.m). The student and instructor landed with the aircraft. The instructor is positive the AAD was switched on when checked on the flight-line. Jumping had ceased at 5p.m. the previous day. The AAD had been turned on at 12 the previous day. The AAD has been sent back to the manufacturers to test.
- i. A report was received of a jumper that was issued the wrong set of equipment by mistake, because a club member had put a set of their own equipment in the kit store, where the correct equipment was usually stored. The equipment was the same colour and looked very similar to the club equipment. However, the equipment issued was a 150 when the jumper who it was issued to, with 95 jumps, should have used a canopy several sizes larger. The jumper used the equipment issued and jumped without any problems. When the mistake was discovered, the CI put in place a number of procedures to prevent a similar occurrence.
- j. Five 'off-landing' reports have been received, 3 first jump students and 2 experienced skydivers.
- k. Eight reports have been received of items coming off on exit, or in freefall. 4 cameras, 2, a student radio and a pair of sunglasses.
- l. A report has been received of a Cessna 208 roll type door coming off as the aircraft was descending. There was no damage to the aircraft. The door has not been recovered.

Additional Incident Reports

The Chair reported that since the STC agenda had been circulated, the following Incident/Injury reports had been received:

One report was an AFF Student with 13 descents who had a brake-fire on opening and carried out their emergency drills. A jumper with 80 jumps twisted their ankle on landing, having not fully flared their canopy. One Licensed skydiver with 1,210 jumps was unable to deploy the main canopy and deployed their reserve. Another with 2,050 jumps had a brake-lock, due to a tension knot. A Tandem Student dropped their legs just prior to landing, injuring their ankle. Another Tandem student dropped their legs and caught their leg in the grass, breaking their ankle. One Tandem student suffered whiplash from a hard opening and also cut their thumb holding onto the harness. Another Tandem student fainted under canopy. A report was received of a Tandem canopy that had twists on opening, which the Instructor was unable to clear. A wingsuit jumper experienced twists and had to cutaway and deploy their reserve. Three off landing reports have been received, two jumpers carrying out CF on a display and a Licenced skydiver who had to clear twists on opening and was unable to make it back to the PLA. A skydiver had their GoPro knocked off their helmet during a 3-way exit.

7. CT BRIEF DURING BRITISH SKYDIVING INSTRUCTOR COURSES

The Chair reported that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda, as Paul Dorward is discussing his thoughts with Mark Bayada, Chair of the CT Working Group and with the STO, as Courses director.

The Chair stated that the WG are in the process of producing individual lesson plans for each CT exercise, which would be circulated to STC for consideration once they have been finalised by the WG. It was anticipated that this would be before the end of the year.

8. PERMISSIONS

The Chair reported that the COO and STO have issued the following six-month Accelerated Free Fall Basic Instructor (AFFBI) rating extensions:

Matt Cumming - Skydive Langar
Ben Fenwick - Skydive Hibaldstow
Robert Johns - Skydive Hibaldstow

The Chair stated that these were first BI extensions, and that any subsequent extension requests for these individuals would need to come to STC.

9. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

There have been two Instructor Courses held since the last STC meeting.

a. AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor - Skydive Hibaldstow

The Association wished to thank Skydive Hibaldstow for hosting the AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor courses from 13-15 June. The course report had been included with the Agenda and was for information only.

b. AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor - Sibson Skydivers

The Association also wished to thank Sibson Skydivers for hosting the AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor courses from 4 - 6 July. The course report had been included with the Agenda and was for information only.

10. A.O.B

- a. A letter from Alex Busby-Hicks had been added to the STC Sharepoint folder earlier this week. Alex had asked STC to consider removing the requirement for completing a night descent as part of one of the requirements to attend an Advanced Instructor course.

Alex Busby-Hicks had included his reasons for his request. He had stated that there are fewer night jump programmes being run with only a couple of DZs continuing to run them. He had pointed out that STC has already granted a number of exemptions to the night jump requirement for candidates planning to attend a Pre-Advanced Course.

The COO noted that USPA 'D' Licence (500 jumps) requires a night jump (& a water jump) to qualify. He stated that in his opinion, it was not unreasonable to expect an Advanced Instructor to have at least one night jump. He also stated that it is also a requirement that any display team carrying out a night display has an Advanced instructor present.

Following discussion, CIs present believed it was important that an AI should know how to organise a night operation and that they have knowledge on all aspects of skydiving and that this included night jump experience. They did not wish to see a lowering of the standard of the requirements to become an

Advanced Instructor and believed that the night jump requirement should remain as part of the AI syllabus.

It was felt by a number of CIs that a night jump programme could be seen as an onerous event to plan. This took into account operational restrictions and the CAA Notam requirements, which is currently 28 days notice. This was also amplified if the night operation, then has to be cancelled at short notice due to bad weather.

Richard Wheatley pointed out that a night jump programme only needed 5 days' notice, using the NATS Portal.

Following further consideration, it was proposed by Pete Sizer that the above request be accepted. There was no seconder to this request.

- b. A request from Frank Millerick had been added to the STC SharePoint folder on Tuesday. Frank had requested that he be granted permission to run night displays & night training jumps without an Advanced Instructor being present for Army parachute display team activity. Frank's letter states that he's currently the TL for the Tigers APDT and has been for the previous 9 years, with over 330 displays logged and over 20-night jump/displays, including night CF + SF & ancillaries. Frank Millerick's proposal requests the exemption for himself only, to be allowed to run night displays and not for any other Team leader of the Tigers.

In addition, the list below of control measures and restrictions would also be followed:

1. British Skydiving 'C' Licence 200 jumps for training night jumps.
2. British Skydiving 'C' Licence 500 jumps for display night jumps.
3. Attended team training.
4. Completed 1 night during team training.
5. No ancillaries for the first 10 displays.
6. No CRW before the first 2 night jumps.
7. Display JM must have a minimum of 100 displays.
8. Exemption is only for Frank Millerick's tenure as a Tigers APDT member.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Pete Sizer, seconded by Jason Webster that the above request be accepted.

For: 9 Against: 3 Abstentions: 0

Carried

Frank Millerick advised the meeting that following STC's acceptance of this request, this proposal would also be put forward to Home Command (British Army) for their consideration prior to anything taking place, which was standard procedure.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 29 September 2022 at 19:00
This meeting will most likely be held virtually by Teams.

The meeting closed at 19:50 (duration 00:50)

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

Accepted by STC on 29 September 2022
Published on 30 September 2022