
Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 13 April 2023 at 17:00

on Microsoft Teams

Present:	Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/STO
	Iain Anderson	-	Skydive St Andrews
	Dylan Bartle	-	RAF Weston on the Green
	Alex Busby-Hicks	-	Skydive Tilstock
	Stacey Canning	-	APA (From item 8)
	Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
	Bryn Chaffe	-	Skyhigh Skydiving
	Paul Floyd	-	Cyprus
	Reg Green	-	Pilgrims
	Nick Hynes	-	Black Knights
	Chris McCann	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
	Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB
	Andrew Pointer	-	Sibson Skydivers
	Nick Robinson	-	Skydive Ireland
	Pete Sizer	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee / Headcorn
	Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
	Jason Thompson	-	Beccles Skydivers
	Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
	Martin White	-	Skydive Isle of Wight
Apologies for Absence:	Jason Webster	-	Army AT Air Wing (N)
In attendance:	Mary Barratt	-	Chair British Skydiving
	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
	Liam Domin-Goddard	-	Communications Manager
	Dr Jake Hard	-	Medical Adviser
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STO/Secretary
	Tony Knight	-	CAA Liaison
	Craig Poxon	-	Council
	Martin Soulsby	-	Vice Chair / Chair Coaching WG
Observers:	Anthony Andrews, Mike Evans, Nathan Purver, Mark Robson, Mike Rust, Paul Yeoman.		

ITEM MINUTE

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the 2nd STC Meeting of 2023. He 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.

- 1.2 The Chair reported Dr John Carter is stepping down as Medical Adviser, after over 30 years. He stated that British Skydiving has appointed a new Medical Adviser, Dr Jake Hard who will be taking over from the 1 May 2023.

On behalf of the Committee, Chair expressed his thanks to Dr Carter for his dedicated service to the Association and wished him, his wife Debbie, and family, all the very best during his retirement. This will mean he has more time for skydiving.

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 FEBRUARY 2023

It was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks, seconded by Richard Wheatley that the Minutes of the meeting on 9 February 2023 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2023

Page 2.(Item 4 – Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – Fatality Panel of Inquiry)

The Working Group are still to finish their Working Group and complete their report.

Pete Sizer (WG Chair) stated that he had nothing further to report at this time.

5. RIGGING MATTERS

Pete Sizer reported on the Rigging Subcommittee held this afternoon and stated the Subcommittee had accepted a number of Rigging related forms.

Pete Sizer reported that a proposal had also been considered for the use of soft links on student main canopies. He stated that because certain manufacturers such as NZ Aerosports and Aerodyne, their canopies now come with their soft links, the Riggers' Subcommittee had agreed the following change to the wording in the British Skydiving Equipment Knowledge for Instructors Manual concerning soft links:

`Soft links may not be used on Student Main Canopies, unless the canopy manufacturer allows the use of specific Soft Links.`

6. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RESUMÉ

The Chair reported that a resumé of incidents had been included with the Agenda. He stated that there have not been many injury or other incident reports received, due to the poor weather since the last STC meeting.

- a. One report has been received of an injury to a student skydiver, an AFF Level 1 student. As the student prepared for landing, they flared unevenly and reached out with their hand, breaking their wrist on landing.
- b. There have been two Licensed skydiver injury reports received. A skydiver with 110 jumps appeared to make no attempt to avoid a fence, struck it, breaking or dislocating both ankles. The second was a jumper, with 81 jumps, who landed on their feet and felt a knee pop. The jumper was assisted off the PLA and went to hospital.
- c. There have been 6 malfunction/deployment problem reports received for Licensed skydivers. A jumper with 24 jumps experienced a brake-lock. Another

with 73 jumps had a line-over malfunction. A skydiver with 1,089 jumps had a large tear in the canopy, which was not controllable. One skydiver with 1,800 jumps and another with 2,016 jumps, both experienced twists, which were unrecoverable. The last involved a skydiver practicing for an AFF instructor course. Practicing a Level 3 jump, with an AFFI acting as the student and who was wearing a GoPro camera. After the exit, which was held, and after signals the secondary released, then the primary released, the practice student (AFFI) went under the primary. It was believed at the time that the GoPro snagged on the primary's reserve pad. However, looking at the footage, the primary backs off and goes high on release then drops into the burble and over the mock student. The reserve pad actually appears to catch the bottom edge of the helmet - it does not catch the camera mount or camera. The reserve pad is seen to have been removed at that point.

- d. Four Tandem injury reports have been received. Two students dislocated their shoulders after releasing the grips on their harness in free fall. Neither declared previous injuries prior to jumping. Another student felt unwell after landing and had been hyper-ventilating on exit and in free fall. The fourth was a student who had a hard landing, likely caused by turbulence from trees. The student complained of a sore back, went to hospital later where it was discovered that they had fractured their spine.
- e. There have been four Tandem malfunction/deployment problem reports received. The first was where a drogue bridle wrapped around the drogue preventing its inflation. The instructor pulled the primary after about 10 seconds, but there was not enough drag to deploy the main. The instructor then carried out their emergency drills. The second was a rotation caused by a tension knot in the lines. The third was a drogue in tow, and the last was a brake-lock.
- f. A report was received of a 'gentle' collision in free fall, resulting in one jumper's foot getting hooked on the other jumper's 'hacky sack' resulting in the main being deployed. The canopy opened normally.
- g. Five 'off-landing' reports have been received. Two Tandem pairs and a 'C' license skydiver. An AFF student on their first jump, landed off the PLA, in a tree. The student was uninjured. The last report was 2 Tandem pairs and a videographer, all from the same lift.
- h. Three reports have been received of items coming off on exit or in free fall. A helmet, a shoe, and a camera.

Additional Incident Reports

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

An 'A' Licence skydiver with 40 jumps was jumping in high, on the limit, winds, they were part of a group that exited the aircraft fairly deep. The jumper ran down wind, past the landing area and over the carpark area, then flew a short crosswind leg and landed almost into wind, hitting a concrete curbing stone, dislocating their hip, and fracturing some bones.

A Level 1 AFF student deployed successfully at 6,000ft, but then panicked and carried out their reserve drills.

Three reports have been received of Licensed jumpers experiencing twists. One jumper had 430 jumps, the other had 2,000 jumps, the other was a wingsuit jumper with 728 jumps. A skydiver with 1,308 jumps had their main canopy cutaway on deployment, due to the cutaway handle having been dislodged. Another jumper with 56 jumps had a line-over malfunction. One skydiver with 467 jumps had a stiff pull and was unable to deploy their main canopy. Two jumpers had brake-fires, one with 92 jumps and the other with 1,072.

Three off-landing reports have been received, two AFF Level 1 students, one of who landed in tall trees and had to be rescued by the fire rescue services. The third was a jumper with 41 jumps.

Two Tandem injury reports have been received. A student completed the jump without any signs or notification of injury or pain. However, after the jump, the student noticed blood in their urine. The student was advised to go to hospital. The other student complained of a head pain after landing and was advised to go to hospital after refusing for an ambulance to be called. Four Tandem malfunction reports have been received, 3 had rotations on opening, caused by tension knots and the fourth was a rip in the top skin, but the TI landed the main canopy.

One report has been received of a GoPro on a sticky mount breaking off after a low-speed free fall collision.

7. APPROVAL OF AMENDED PILOTS MANUAL

The Chair reported that a copy of the amended Pilots Manual had been included with the Agenda. He stated that the draft Manual was presented at the Pilots' SIG meeting in January and was accepted by the Pilots present.

The Chair stated that Tony Knight had spent a great deal of time updating the manual and was present at STC this afternoon to answer any questions relating to the Manual.

There being no further questions, it was proposed by Reg Green, seconded by Iain Anderson, that the amended Pilots Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair stated that the Manual would now go out for illustration, after which it would be uploaded to the British Skydiving website.

On behalf of STC, the Chair expressed his thanks to Tony Knight for the time and work he had spent updating the Manual.

8. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL

The following proposed amendments to British Skydiving Operations Manual had been included with the Agenda.

The Chair reported that both proposals should have been made at the last meeting following accepted changes to the Grading System and the ROCC requirements to attend an instructor course:

a. Advanced Instructor approval

Last year Andy Pointer made a proposal to STC, which was agreed, that for most skydiving Grades in various disciplines, the Operations Manual was amended to enable Advanced Instructors as well as Chief instructors to approve the types of jumps made. However, FS was inadvertently left out of the proposal. Therefore, the following amendments are requested:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS). Paragraph 6 (Formation Skydiving), sub-paras 6.3.2. & 6.3.3. Be changed to read:

6.3.2. Prior to obtaining FS1, an 'A' Licence skydiver may make 2-way jumps, when not carrying out coaching jumps, provided they have received a full safety brief and the other skydiver is at least a 'C' Licence FS1 skydiver or equivalent, approved by an Advanced Instructor.

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 Advanced Instructor approval (a logbook endorsement will suffice)

Following consideration, it was proposed by Alex Busby-Hicks, seconded by Gary Small that the above amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted

For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Andy Pointer)

Carried

b. Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC)

Also, last year, the requirement to have a ROCC to attend an instructor course was removed. However, in the rating paragraph of Section 4 of the Operations Manual, it was inadvertently left in. Therefore, it is requested that the following sub-para be deleted:

SECTION 4 (INSTRUCTORS). Paragraph 12 (Instructor rating renewals). Sub-para 12.2.7. be deleted, which reads:

12.2.7. All instructors (excluding TBIs or TIs) are required to hold a current Parachuting Radio Operators Certificate of Competence.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Bryn Chaffe, seconded by Dylan Bartle that the above amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

9. FOUNDATION COACH QUALIFICATIONS - UPDATE

Martin Soulsby provided a progress report regarding the work carried out so far, and where we are in relation to the Coaching Foundation qualifications.

A folder had been included in the STC Sharepoint section, which contained a large number of documents, which it was hoped members of STC had been able read before the meeting.

Martin Soulsby stated that it is proposed to run a series of pilot Courses at British Skydiving HQ to retest all of the systems and paperwork. Once these courses have been held, it is the intention of the WG to submit a number of amendments that will be necessary to the Operations Manual for consideration by STC.

Martin provided a breakdown of costs for a candidate attending a Coaching Foundation Course, and also gave details of the internal and external quality assurance processes and how that would work.

Martin stated that currently, Stuart Albon is our only Training Provider, who is providing these Courses at a number of locations. It is hoped to encourage more individuals or PTOs to become a training provider.

There was some concern raised by a number of CIs present with regard to the large amount of paperwork, which unless it's streamlined could discourage them as putting themselves forward as a training provider.

Martin Soulsby said that he is more than happy to spend time with potential training providers to go through the process.

Sara Orton reported that she had attended a training course and had completed all the work, which she had found to be an interesting and worthwhile experience, and urged CIs to attend a Course.

The chair echoed Sara's comments. He stated that the intention behind this is to better the type of coaching / instructing that we deliver. He stated that there has been a lot of

work that's gone on behind the scenes, so hopefully you would get to understand it from that respect.

Martin stated that the invitations for the 4 Course dates would be sent out within the next week. Places are limited and are offered on a first come, first served basis.

The Chair extended his thanks to Martin Soulsby for his progress report.

10. **PROPOSED ALTERNATE DZ/PLA - SKYDIVE TILSTOCK**

A paper from Alex Busby-Hicks had been included with the agenda requesting approval for an alternative DZ/PLA for Skydive Tilstock to use on a small number of occasions. The location is Bolesworth Estate, in Staffordshire. The request is for Tandem parachuting and D Licence jumpers, to be used on no more than 4 occasions per year and on days when parachuting cannot take place at Tilstock Airfield.

Bolesworth estate is located 20km north of Tilstock Airfield. The image below shows the proposed PLA in yellow, this is a wide flat area with scattered trees to the north and an ornamental lake in the eastern half, the black circle shows an area of 500m in diameter. Two main areas within the PLA are free from hazards which will be used depending on wind direction, the blue area is 400m x 150m and the green is 200m x 80m.

The ornamental lake is knee-deep and whilst it does not present a hazard, a boat will be on site should it be required. There are overshoots on three sides, and no powerline within 800m of the centre of the PLA.



When parachuting takes place, it would be under the following proviso:

DZ Control

DZ control will be run from the PLA, there will be always a minimum of 3 staff in attendance. DZ control will be run by at least an AI plus 2 assistants. All staff, instructors and camera fliers will have a briefing on site before the parachute programme commences, there will be a road legal vehicle available. First aid will be available on-site, the nearest hospitals are Wrexham and Chester.

Permitted Jumpers

Alex gave details of the TIs and camera flyers permitted to take part. Any additional jumpers would be required to hold a 'D' Licence with the CI's recommendation. TI's will have a minimum of 500 tandems.

Aircraft Operations

The aircraft to be used is G-VANX our GA 8 Airvan.

As aircraft movements are not allowed at Tilstock Airfield on Sundays, emplaning will be from Sleaf airfield and transiting to Bolesworth. Sleaf is a popular licensed airfield located 14km SW of Tilstock Airfield and 30km S of Bolesworth estate. Sleaf Airfield has an elevation of 275ft, and the PLA is at 200ft, AADs and altimeters will be offset, as necessary.

It is not intended to fly more than three parachute lifts per day.

The COO stated that he had inspected the location and supported the proposal.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Reg Green, seconded by Gary Small the above request be accepted.

For: 16 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Chris McCann, Alex Busby-Hicks)

Carried

11. PERMISSIONS

- a. A request had been included with the agenda from Iain Anderson for David Tee to be permitted to re-qualify as a Tandem Instructor without attending a TBI course directly and complete the required number of jumps which would be at the discretion of the course Examiners.

Iain's request stated that David qualified as a Tandem instructor in June 2018 and due to various reasons (work commitments and the pandemic) he let his rating lapse in 2020.

The request also stated that David has a total of 1,850 descents, 400 of which were Tandems and that he originally qualified on the Strong system. By the time of attending a course he will have met the 50 jumps in the previous 12 months requirement.

Iain Anderson stated that he would recommend David for a Course, once he is fully prepared and fulfilled the requirements of British Skydiving Form 254e. David would be attending the course with a Sigma system.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Paul Floyd, seconded by Mike Carruthers that the above request be accepted.

For: 17 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Iain Anderson)

Carried

- b. The Chair reported that the request that Alex Busby-Hick had submitted regarding Richard Cotton has been withdrawn, as Richard had completed his night jump last week.

12. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

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

- a. Instructor Course 2-2023 – Army Parachute Association

The Association wished to thank the APA, Netheravon, for hosting Instructor Course 1-2023 from 6-10 February. The course report had been included with the agenda and is for information only.

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

The Association also wished to thank Skydive Langar for hosting the AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor courses from 20-27 March. The course report had been included with the agenda. However, at that time the TI candidates had not completed all their jumps. This was due to poor weather.

The Chair reported that since then, the TI candidates have all completed their descents and all were successful. The successful candidates were:

Matthew Brennan (Sigma Container)	-	Go Skydive
Gregory Russell (Micro Sigma Container)	-	Go Skydive
Joe Mann (Micro Sigma Container)	-	Skydive Langar
Benjamin Wayte (Micro Sigma Container)	-	Skydive Langar
Ryan Stew (Sigma Container)	-	Skydiving London
James Goodley (Next Container)	-	Sky-High Skydiving

13. A.O.B

The Chair reported that a paper produced by Bryn Chaffe requesting a discussion regarding 'Cloud jumping' and 'The removal of the TBI rating' had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder for this meeting. He stated that Bryn has asked for the discussion as if there is unlikely to be support, he will not ask for the subjects to be progressed further.

13.1 Cloud & Visibility:

Bryn Chaffe spoke to his paper with regard to considering a proposal to change the current Operations Manual requirements regarding jumping in cloud restrictions. Bryn had proposed a working group should be set up to look at the various areas, stated in his paper and the implications involved.

A lengthy discussion ensued, after which, a show of hands by the majority of those present indicated support to set up a Working Group to consider jumping in cloud restrictions.

13.2 Removal of TBI rating and Course:

Bryn spoke to his paper regarding a potential proposal for removal of the TBI Course, and replace this with a number of options, as outlined in his paper.

Following consideration, a show of hands by the majority of those present indicated support to progress this further and to look at the way we currently train Tandem Instructors.

The Chair stated that this subject could possibly be looked at by the Tandem Working Group. Bryn Chaffe expressed some concern regarding the current situation with the Instructor Working Groups, and would like to see this move forward in a timely manner.

The meeting was informed that British Skydiving is currently undergoing a re-structuring process, and that there would be 3 people involved solely with safety. It was felt that this was an area that could be taken on board by the new safety / technical staff with consultation with Instructor Examiners and those involved with the training.

The Chair asked for further input to be submitted for consideration.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8 June 2023 at 5pm
Virtually by Teams.

The meeting closed at 18:20 (duration 01:20)

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

Accepted by STC on 8 June 2023
Published on 9 June 2023

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