
Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 8 June 2023 at 17:00

on Microsoft Teams

Present:	Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/STO
	Dylan Bartle	-	RAF Weston on the Green
	Stacey Canning	-	APA
	Paul Floyd	-	Cyprus
	Chris Good	-	Army Adventure Tng Wing (Netheravon)
	Nick Hynes	-	Black Knights
	Chris McCann	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
	Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB
	Andrew Pointer	-	Sibson Skydivers
	Mally Richardson	-	Skydive Jersey
	Nick Robinson	-	Skydive Ireland
	Pete Sizer	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee / Headcorn
	Jason Thompson	-	Beccles Skydivers
	Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
	Martin White	-	Skydive Isle of Wight
Apologies for Absence:	Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
	Bryn Chaffe	-	Skyhigh Skydiving
	Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
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
	Annette O'Neil	-	Editor, Skydive the Mag
	Craig Poxon	-	Council
Observers:	Andy Clark, Mike Patchett, Chris Sears.		

ITEM MINUTE

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the 3rd 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 welcomed Chris Good (new CI of Netheravon), and also Martin White (New CI of Skydive Isle of Wight).

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 13 APRIL 2023

It was proposed by Pete Sizer, seconded by Sara Orton that the Minutes of the meeting on 13 April 2023 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 13 APRIL 2023

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

The Chair reported that the Panel Report is a main agenda item.

Page 8. (Item 13.2 – A.O.B. – Removal of TBI Rating and Course) The Chair reported that at the last meeting Bryn Chaffe had put a paper forward for discussion regarding the qualifying of Tandem Instructors. Changing from the present two-course system (TBI and TI courses) to a one-course system. Bryn Chaffe had agreed to make further recommendations, which had been included in his revised paper circulated with the agenda. This had included suggested changes to the Operations Manual, the requirements to attend, and a Pre-Tandem Instructor Proficiency Card.

The Chair stated that in Bryn’s Chaffe’s paper, there was reference to removing Section 2. This was actually meant as Paragraph two within Section 4, so Paragraph 2 and Section 4 is the complete detail for the TBI rating itself. This may have caused some confusion.

The Chair stated that following discussion on this item this evening, the proposal will be sent to Instructor Examiners for consultation and feedback after which a finalised proposal, will be drafted, detailing the contents of a one-course syllabus. It is likely that there will be a Teams meeting with Instructor Examiners to ensure that everyone understands the changes involved.

The Chair stated that in his opinion, in the short term, the format for the Tandem Instructor course will also have to change considerably more from a coaching course to an exam course where there will be examination processes on the first day and potentially other written or verbal briefs, etc, which will extend the ground school training of the TI Course.

During the discussion that followed, a number of comments were made from those present regarding the Training Record Card that Bryn had drafted, which it was also felt required further clarification.

The Chair asked CIs if they had any further input or comments to forward them to either himself or to Bryn Chaffe, so that the consultation process could be started with Instructor Examiners to finalise a proposal for consideration at the next STC meeting.

5. RIGGERS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING – 13 APRIL 2023

The draft Minutes of the Riggers’ Subcommittee meeting of 13 April 2023 had been distributed to CIs previously.

Pete Sizer reported that since the last meeting, a number of rigging related forms had now been updated. There being no further questions relating to the previous Minutes, it was proposed by Richard Wheatley, seconded by Pete Sizer that the Minutes of the Riggers’ Subcommittee on 13 April 2023 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

6. **INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUMÉ**

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

- a. There have been 3 Student injury reports received since the last STC meeting. A student with 2 static line jumps, flared late and with legs apart, breaking their ankle. Another Static line student on their second jump, flared high, put their legs out and landed on their bottom, causing discomfort. The last was a static line student on their first jump who was fairly close to another student coming into land, trimmed their canopy to avoid the other student and landed awkwardly, spraining their ankle.
- b. There have been 6 Licensed skydiver injury reports received. Two reports involved CF jumpers at two different PTOs, one with 348 jumps, the other with 440 jumps. Both involved the misrouting of the CF bridle lines, causing the canopies to stall as the jumpers flared for landing, one jumper bruised their back, and the other jumper broke their leg. A skydiver with 850 jumps got distracted by another jumper whilst preparing to land, the skydiver pulled down on their front risers by mistake and took a heavy landing, resulting in a suspected spinal fracture. Another skydiver with 640 jumps was also distracted by other traffic whilst preparing to land, the skydiver made a 90-degree front riser turn, but did not let up prior to landing, resulting in a broken pelvis and fractured eye socket. A jumper with 2,400 jumps broke their ankle flaring too late. A jumper with 1,220 jumps sprained their ankle on landing.
- c. Three reports have been received of Student Malfunction or Deployment problems. All were Category System Students. A static line student with 4 jumps had a brake fire and carried out their reserve drills. Another on their first descent had an unstable exit, resulting in a misshapen canopy. The third student on their 13th jump, became unstable after exiting, went onto their back, made 2 attempts to deploy their main, unsuccessfully, and carried out their reserve drills.
- d. There have been 20 malfunction/deployment problem reports received for Licensed skydivers. A skydiver with 52 jumps dislodged their cutaway handle on exit, which resulted in the RSL deploying the reserve as the skydiver deployed their main. A jumper with 77 descents had a premature main deployment at 6,000ft, because the 'loose' main pilot chute extracted from the pouch as the jumper was free flying. Another jumper with 96 jumps had a hard opening, resulting in a large tear to the canopy. Another jumper with 120 jumps, cutaway from a spiralling canopy. Three wingsuit jumpers, one with 310 jumps, one with 493 jumps and the other with 2,184 jumps had twists in their lines which they were unable to clear. Five reports were received of other skydivers with twists which they were unable to clear, their jump numbers were, 700 jumps, 845 jumps, 1,280 jumps, 1,287 jumps and 1,566 jumps. A skydiver with 800 jumps had a bag in tow. Another with 963 jumps was unable to locate their main deployment toggle and after two attempts deployed their reserve. Two skydivers, one with 1,989 jumps and the other with 2,100 jumps had tension knots in their rigging lines. A jumper with 3,000 descents had a brake fire.

A skydiver with 194 jumps had a pilot chute in tow, because they made a weak attempt at throwing the pilot chute, resulting in the pilot chute folding back on to itself causing it to become knotted (see image below).



A skydiver with 207 jumps deployed at the planned altitude, and in his own words it was a poor throwaway due to being uncurrent and a tight BOC. His pilot chute was caught in the burble, so he reached back to attempt to clear or assist deployment. After no successful deployment on the main canopy, he immediately completed full reserve drills. It was only once under his reserve he noticed his main canopy was still attached suspended below.

Observed from the ground by the CI the main canopy was still in the bag, held in by two of the three mouth locks (see attached image below). No equipment was tampered with until the CI reached the skydiver at the landing point just off the PLA. The RSL was attached via the link to the main risers, and the Velcro of the RSL was still attached to the risers of the reserve. The three rings on both sides were fully detached and the cutaway pad was also fully removed (see attached image below).



Three Tandem injury reports have been received. One student had a hard opening resulting in chest pain. The other two experienced dislocated shoulders, one had previously dislocated their shoulder.

- e. There have been four Tandem malfunction/deployment problem reports received. The first was a Tandem Instructor candidate on a TI course who got into a fast spin in drogue fall and could not locate the primary handle. They deployed their reserve at 8,000ft. the drogue entangled with the reserve slider once the canopy deployed, the candidate un-entangled the drogue and landed without further incident. One report was of a line-over, another was for a broken steering line, and the last twists.
- f. Seven 'off-landing' reports have been received. Two were students, one of which landed in a tree. Neither student was injured. The others were experienced skydivers, including one wingsuit jumper and two on tracking jumps.
- g. Two reports have been received of shoes coming off, one student lost one on exit, and the other was a CF jumper who lost their shoe whilst docking their canopy.
- h. Two reports have been received of aircraft overflying PLAs whilst there were canopies in the air.

Additional Incident Reports

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

An AFF student with 13 jumps, on a consolidation jump, was too high on the final approach, completed a number of 90 degree turns to wash-off their height, was too aggressive with the input and turned low to avoid a hazard. The student broke a bone in their foot on landing. A static line student with 11 jumps fell backwards on exit, momentarily becoming entangled in the lines, which quickly cleared, but the canopy started to spin. The student carried out their reserve drills.

A Licensed skydiver with 320 jumps turned their ankle on a straight down landing causing it to fracture. Another with 3,000 jumps came in for a normal fast landing, caught their legs in long grass, tipped forward, rolled over, bruising their back. A skydiver with 2,700 jumps had a very fast opening, fracturing two ribs. Another jumper had a suspected perforated ear drum.

A Licensed skydiver with 113 descents experienced a step-through malfunction, caused during packing. A jumper with 1,360 jumps and a jumper with 2,650 jumps had brake-fires on deployment. A skydiver with 250 jumps on a tracking jump had a streaming malfunction. A wingsuit jumper with 526 jumps experienced a pilot chute in tow. Another skydiver with 1,784 jumps had a pack rotation, caused during packing. Two skydivers, one with 2,600 jumps, the other with 3,247 jumps, had rotations caused by tension knots.

Three Tandem Incident reports have been received. A Tandem instructor, with 2,000 Tandem descents had a spinning canopy caused by a tension knot. The other 2 reports were for the same instructor who had two malfunctions caused by tension knots, on two different rigs, five days apart.

Eight reports have been received for off-landings, including a first jump student and two Tandem pairs. A Category 8 skydiver with 20 descents landed in a hedge, causing laceration to their face. The rest were Licenced jumpers, one with 822 jumps who injured their ankle on landing.

Two reports have been received of items coming off. A shoe on exit and a camera falling off shortly after deployment.

7. PANEL OF INQUIRY REPORT - WESTON ON THE GREEN FATALITY

The Chair reported that a copy of the Panel of Inquiry Report following the Board of Inquiry into the fatality of Rachel Fisk at RAF Weston on the Green has been completed and was included with the STC Agenda, along with the draft amended Camera Flying Coaching Manual.

The Chair stated that the Panel was Chaired by Pete Sizer, and the other members were, Richard Wheatley, Iain Anderson, Jason Webster, and co-opted member Rick Boardman. A number of Panel members were present this evening to answer any questions relating to the report.

Mally Richardson asked whether consideration had been given to camera fliers wishing to undertake a water descent, where the audible altimeter they are wearing may not be waterproof. He felt that something should be included in the Operations Manual so that jumpers in this position could be exempt from this requirement.

Pete Sizer (Panel Chair) stated that this was a valid point that had not been considered by the Panel, which he believed could be included within the Operations Manual.

The COO pointed out that as this would involve an additional change to the Operations Manual, it would need to go out as a separate proposal for consideration by STC, and therefore, could not be considered this evening.

The proposed changes to the Operations Manual, as included in the Panel Report were as follows:

Operations Manual, Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 4 (Instruments), sub-para 4.4. Change to read:

- 4.4.** Skydivers jumping with camera equipment must be equipped with an audible altimeter. Tandem and AFF instructors must also be equipped with an audible altimeter when carrying out Tandem and /or AFF instructional descents.

Operations Manual, Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 6 (Cameras), sub-para 6.1.

Change to read:

- 6.1.** Cameras may only be used by British Skydiving 'C' licence skydivers after inspection and approval of a CI. The skydiver must have received an appropriate briefing, and this should be recorded in their logbook.

Operations Manual, Section 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 6 (Cameras), sub-para 6.3.

New paragraph, to read:

6.3. Camera suit/jacket wings

Before using camera suit/jacket wings, the skydiver must have received an appropriate briefing on the associated risks and have demonstrated their emergency procedures wearing camera suit/jacket wings, and these should be recorded in their logbook.

Operations Manual, Section 8 (Skydiving Limitations), Paragraph 4 (Opening Heights), Change to read:

Minimum canopy opening heights for main parachutes:

- | | | |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| 4.1. | British Skydiving 'B' Licence skydivers and below | 3,000ft AGL* |
| 4.2. | British Skydiving 'C' Licence skydivers and above | 2,500ft AGL* |
| 4.3. | Student Tandem Skydivers | 5,000ft AGL* |
| 4.4. | British Skydiving 'C' Licence holders, on displays | 1,500ft AGL* |

* The Height at which the parachute is to be fully inflated and be in a condition to be controlled by the user.

The Chair reported that the relevant changes to the Camera Flying Coaching Manual had been marked in the manual. He stated there may be some minor additional changes prior to its publication.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Pete Sizer, seconded by Richard Wheatley, that the Panel Report, including the proposed changes to the Operations Manual, and the draft Camera Flying Coaching Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

The Chair extended his thanks to the members of the Panel for taking the time to complete the report and for putting the recommendations and proposals forward for consideration.

8. AFFI TO CSI CONVERSION

The Chair reported that at the request of Paul Floyd, he had asked that this item be withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting. This was to give Paul the extra time required to put forward a more considered proposal, which will hopefully detail the actual training required and any suggested changes to the Operations Manual.

9. CHIRP REPORTING

The Chair reported that details of the Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Program (CHIRP) for skydiving incidents had been included with the agenda. He stated that this is a scheme that is independent of both British Skydiving and the CAA and that this has been in operation for many years for General Aviation.

The Chair stated that Dr John Carter has negotiated with the CHIRP organisation for it to be made available for skydivers.

The COO stated that it is the intention to publicise this scheme to the membership via social media, and the organising of posters for DZs to display.

On behalf of STC, the Chair and COO expressed their thanks to Dr Carter for all the work he has put into negotiating with CHIRP to include skydiving. They believed that this will be a useful tool for enhancing safety and spotting trends.

10. PERMISSIONS

- a. The Chair reported that a repeat request from the Red Devils has been received to carry out a display into an arena which falls outside the usual British Skydiving requirements. The request had been included with the agenda.

The proposed display is to be held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 8 July 2023. The display landing arena has a total area of 10,500 square metres (more than the 5000-square metre Operations Manual requirement).

However, the width of the arena varies as it has an irregular shape. It is 25-30 metres on the whole but in parts it widens to 50 metres. Therefore, the team do not have 50 metres of width for the whole arena. This arena was cleared previously by STC in 2022 and 2013 for the Red Devils

Because the arena curves around roughly in a circular shape, landing into wind will be possible regardless of the wind direction.

The Red Devils request to be permitted to carry out the display with the following caveats:

- i. The exact landing area will be dictated by the weather conditions on the day and will land directly into wind i.e., the cross will be moved to favour an into wind landing.
- ii. No landing of any canopy formations in the arena.
- iii. Each parachutist must have completed a minimum of 700 jumps to take part in this display.
- iv. Each parachutist must have completed a minimum of 30 parachute displays and deemed competent by the team leader.
- v. The organiser must ensure that the whole area (outlined on the image) is available for us to land on.
- vi. All jumpers must wear a floatation device (PLP).

All participants will be current full time team members and will have completed a full display season.

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

Carried Unanimously

- b. A request from Andy Pointer had been included with the agenda for Gerry Cepelak to regain his TI rating after a long lay-off. He has a total of 699 Tandems, the last of which was in November 2014.

Andy had stated that he anticipates Gerry completing a full TI course due to the length of time since the last Tandem but are asking to skip the TBI course.

Prior to attending the TI course, Andy will refresh the Methods of Instruction lecture with Gerry as well as run through some teaching practices. He will also familiarise him with current safeguarding procedure and the code of practice and code of conduct, as these procedures which are now introduced during the TBI

course and were not part of the course at the time Gerry originally gained his rating. Gerry has also been a CSI in the past, though this rating is also lapsed. He holds a current rigger rating.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Nick Robinson, seconded by Chris Good that the above request be accepted.

For: 13 Against: 1 (by proxy) Abstentions: 1 (Andy Pointer)

Carried

11. INSTRUCTOR COURSES

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

a. AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor – Sibson Skydivers

The Association wished to thank Sibson Skydivers, for hosting the AFF, Tandem & Pre-Advanced Instructor Course from 17 – 25 April. The course report had been included with the agenda and was for information only.

b. Instructor Course 2-2023 – Skydive Tilstock

The Association also wished to thank Skydive Tilstock for hosting Instructor course 2-2023 from 15 – 23 May. The course report had been included with the agenda and was for information only.

12. A.O.B

There had been no notified items for A.O.B.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 3 August 2023 at 5pm
Virtually by Microsoft Teams

The meeting closed at 17:38 (duration 00:38)

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

Accepted by STC: 3 August 2023
Published: 4 August 2023

AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of 8 June 2023 the following amendments were made to the British Skydiving Operations Manual:

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 4 (Instruments), sub-para 4.4. Change to read:

- 4.4. Skydivers jumping with camera equipment must be equipped with an audible altimeter. Tandem and AFF instructors must also be equipped with an audible altimeter when carrying out Tandem and /or AFF instructional descents.

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 6 (Cameras), sub-para 6.1. Change to read:

- 6.1. Cameras may only be used by British Skydiving 'C' licence skydivers after inspection and approval of a CI. The skydiver must have received an appropriate briefing, and this should be recorded in their logbook.

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 6 (Cameras), sub-para 6.3. New paragraph, to read:

6.3. Camera suit/jacket wings

Before using camera suit/jacket wings, the skydiver must have received an appropriate briefing on the associated risks and have demonstrated their emergency procedures wearing camera suit/jacket wings, and these should be recorded in their logbook.

SECTION 8 (SKYDIVING LIMITATIONS), Paragraph 4 (Opening Heights). Change to read:

Minimum canopy opening heights for main parachutes:

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