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## **Annual General Meeting 2023**

### **Minutes**

**Saturday 27 January 2024**

**At EMCC, Nottingham.**

Also, streamed live online in conjunction with EpicTech Media

**Lead participants:**

Mary Barratt	-	Chair
Robert Gibson	-	CEO
Natasha Higman	-	Treasurer
Wes Guest	-	Chair EPC

**Members present:**      Approx. 300 (including staff, 91 members voted ahead of the AGM).

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The AGM started at 10.04am following a brief thank you from Adrian Bond to all the sponsors, and the staff and volunteers who had worked hard to get the industry day and weekend's events organised.

The Chair, Mary Barratt, took the floor, showed the Video Review of 2023, and then introduced the AGM format.

Item    Minute

**1.    Apologies for Absence**

Mark Bayada  
Eleanor Southworth

**2.    Conflicts of Interest**

None received.

**3.    To confirm the minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held at EMCC Nottingham on Saturday 28 January 2023**

A motion that the published draft minutes of last year's AGM held on Saturday 28 January 2023 be approved as a true record was proposed and seconded from the floor.

***Carried***

**4.    To receive the Chair's highlights of the British Skydiving Year 2023 and a summary of Council's future strategy.**

The Chair went on to present her highlights of 2023 as Chair of British Skydiving and provided the members with a bit more insight into three main areas.

The Strategic Plan  
The onboarding of the new CEO  
The Safety, Training and Competitions team.

### Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027

The Chair spoke about the strategic plan that was briefly discussed at the previous AGM. She gave an update on the detail that had been added over the last year, which would enable the Association to achieve the strategic goals. Each goal had been expanded into a set of targets and aligned with Key Performance Indicators providing the basis for monitoring and adjustment if required throughout the five-year period.

### On Boarding of the New CEO

The Chair introduced the appointment of Robert Gibson, the CEO recruited in August 2023. She explained how the CEO role differed from that of the COO, and that Robert is well-placed to help the Association focus on driving the strategic plan forward and shaping a forward-focused, values-based culture across the Association's leadership team.

### The Safety, Training and Competitions Team

The Chair then handed over to Robert Gibson, CEO, who explained the new make-up of the safety team and how it would benefit the members, the Drop Zone Operators and the Association as a whole.

Rob went on to give some statistics on the number of malfunctions per 1,000 jumps, the number of injuries per 1,000 jumps and the membership year on year trends.

### Achievements

Following this, the Chair took the floor again and gave those present some statistics on how busy the members had been, detailing the number of competitions run, the number of courses held, and ratings gained, the number of Development Events and the record number of jumps achieved by one Drop Zone during 2023.

The Chair went on to give some details of the records set or broken during the year and a world first in Canopy Formation. She also spoke of the importance of the sense of community within the sport.

### We Remember

The Chair then asked the audience to join her in a minute's silence to remember those members and ex members who have died during the past year.

### 2024 and Beyond

The Chair stated that over the course of 2024 and beyond the Board of Directors would be addressing several challenges that are facing British Skydiving and air sports in general.

The board is supporting work to look at how the relationship between British Skydiving and the DZOs can be strengthened, including setting up a Working Group to explore ways forward.

During recent years as part of the Association's good governance journey, there has been a review of all the committees except for STC. This review is now underway and will be progressed throughout the forthcoming year.

Again, as part of the good governance journey, a full board review was undertaken last year, and the recommendations from that review will be progressed during 2024.

The Chair introduced some of those recommendations, including review of communication around what being a Director of British Skydiving involves and the approach to recruitment of Directors, review of the balance between NEDs and INEDs, review of Terms of Reference and role descriptions for volunteers, identifying skills gaps and developing a board succession plan.

5. **To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Report and Accounts for the Year ended 30 June 2023.**

The Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated to the members ahead of the AGM and taken as read.

A proposer and seconder to accept the Annual Report and Accounts were received from the floor and a vote taken.

***Carried with a majority.***

6. **To confirm the re-appointment of the Auditors, and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the forthcoming year.**

The Treasurer took the floor and spoke to Agenda item 7, to reappoint Rowleys as auditors. A proposer and seconder were received from the floor and a vote taken.

***Carried with a majority.***

7. **To set subscriptions payable for full and provisional members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2024**

The Treasurer spoke to Agenda item 8 to make a recommendation to the membership for subscriptions payable for full and provisional members from April 2024. The Treasurer went on to state that British Skydiving has no control over the insurance element of the subscription. Insurance element had increased by 5 %, below inflation, and the British Skydiving element, 12.5% above inflation, overall, the increase is 9.5% or £12.65.

She then gave some background information regarding the reasoning for proposing an increase in the British Skydiving element of the annual subscription.

Ahead of the vote, the Treasurer informed the members that Joint Membership would no longer be available from April 2024 and gave those present the reasons behind why this decision had been taken.

	Insurance	British Skydiving	Total
	£	£	£
Student Provisional	13.85	10.38	24.23
Temporary (1 month, incl. VAT)	13.85	11.98	25.83
Full membership (full year)	55.69	89.88	145.57

A proposer and seconder were received from the floor and a vote taken to approve the membership subscription rate from April 2024.

***Carried with a majority.***

8. **To receive the result of the membership's election of Elected Members of Council under Article 11**

The Chair took the floor again and thanked those Directors who had resigned during their term, Kate Lindsley and Alex Busby-Hicks, and those not re-standing, James Round and Eleanor Southworth.

Two Directors had been elected, uncontested, to the board: Karl Kojro and Theo Koutroukides. This leaves two casual vacancies to fill for 2024. The Chair explained that applications for the roles were invited from the membership, to be received by 19<sup>th</sup> February, and that the Board would consider the skills, experience, and diversity of the applicants in order to select the best candidates to fill the vacant positions.

The Chair went on to invite anyone who was considering filling either of these two positions to put questions they may have about the role to any of the Directors present.

9. **To receive and vote on, the recommendation of the Board to appoint Richard Lockwood for 3 years as an Independent Non-Executive Director**

*Patron: His Majesty King Charles III*

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The Chair explained that the Nominations Committee had invited six strong candidates to interview, and that Richard Lockwood stood out, offering expertise in Finance and diversity. She asked that this recommendation be accepted by the membership.

A proposer and seconder were received from the floor and a vote taken.

***Carried with a majority.***

The Chair extended her thanks to the outgoing INED, Joanne Shaw, and invited members to welcome two other people: Annette O'Neil as the new Editor and Dr Jake Hard as the new Medical Advisor.

**10. Close**

The Chair drew the meeting to a close, thanking all those present for their attendance and reminding all of the awards and medals presentation to follow.

The meeting closed at 10.46 am (duration 42 mins)

Drafted 2 February 2024, for approval at the AGM January 2025

