

Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 8 February 2024 at 17:00
on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/Head of Safety & Competitions
Kieran Brady	-	Skydive Strathallan (from item 08/24)
Alex Busby-Hicks	-	Skydive Tilstock
Paul Dorward	-	Skyhigh Skydiving
Reg Green	-	Pilgrims
Nick Hynes	-	Black Knights
Chris McCann	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
Rudy McClenaghan	-	Skydive Ireland
Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB
Andy Pointer	-	Sibson Skydivers
Mally Richardson	-	Skydive Jersey
Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
Richard Wheatley	-	Skydive Langar
Martin White	-	Skydive Isle of Wight

Apologies for Absence:

Mary Barratt	-	Chair British Skydiving
Iain Anderson	-	Skydive St Andrews
Dylan Bartle	-	RAF Weston on the Green
Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
Paul Floyd	-	Cyprus Parachute Centre
Chris Good	-	Army AT Air Wing (N)
Pete Sizer	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee / Headcorn

In attendance:

Tony Butler	-	Vice President
Kevin Dynan	-	STO
Robert Gibson	-	Chief Executive Officer
Dr Jake Hard	-	Medical Adviser
Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to Head of Safety/Secretary
Ryan Mancey	-	STO
Martin Soulsby	-	Vice President

Observers: Dr, John Carter, Bryn Chaffe, Josh Clark, Noel Purcell, Chris Sears

ITEM

MINUTE

01/24

WELCOME

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the 1st STC Meeting of 2024. 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 Rudy McClenaghan, new CI of Skydive Ireland and also Paul Dorward, new CI of Skyhigh Skydiving.

02/24 **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.

03/24 **MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

It was proposed by Gary Small, seconded by Nick Hynes that the Minutes of the STC meeting of 16 November 2023 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

04/24 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

4.1 **Page 2, Item 4.1 - Matters Arising from Previous Minutes - (Removal of the TBI Rating)** Ryan Mancey (STO) provided a progress to date and stated that a considerable amount of work has been carried out on producing a new TI manual and that by the next STC meeting in April, the intention is to have the first draft of the manual completed and ready for consultation.

Action: Chair STC, STOs

4.2 **Page 2, Item 4.2 - Matters Arising - (DSA Working Group)**. The Chair reported that the WG has a further meeting scheduled for the 19 February to continue the work on the recommendations from the DSA Service Inquiry. We also have a joint meeting with the MOD to discuss the outcome of the military WG recommendations from the Service Inquiry. STC will be kept informed of the outcome of any decisions made.

Action: Chair STC

4.3 **Page 2, Item 4.3 - Matters Arising - (Suspension of the TI rating)**. The Chair reported that currently the suspension remains in place. An external investigation has taken place, and a report has been submitted. The next steps are to invite the Instructor in question to attend an interview panel at British Skydiving HQ, to determine whether the rating is to be re-instated or to continue with the suspension. The interview panel will consist of the British Skydiving CEO, the 2 Safety & Training Officers and an independent member of the Board of Directors. STC will be kept informed of the outcome of any decisions made.

Action: Chair STC

4.4 **Page 2, Item 4.4 - Matters Arising - (STC Review)**. We currently have a draft survey waiting for approval from the CEO. Once approved, this will be distributed to all stake holders who come under the remit of STC, to obtain feedback, to allow us to progress to the next stage.

Action: CEO, Chair STC, STOs

4.5 **Page 2, Item 5.1 - Rigging Matters - (Consultation Paper reference the extension of the reserve repack cycle)**. The Chair reported that the Riggers Subcommittee meeting planned for today has been postponed for a couple of weeks due to the Chair being out of the country. The meeting is now scheduled to take place on 21 February 2024. Currently there are two proposals to extend the validity of a reserve repack, along with other papers for consideration detailing the pros and cons for the approval of an extension.

The Chair stated that whatever the outcome of the meeting, should any proposals be accepted, these will require ratification from STC at the April meeting. The Committee will receive all the relevant information, which will also be included in the Riggers SharePoint folder, which CIs can access. CIs should have already received an invite to the meeting, should they wish to attend.

Action: Riggers' Chair

- 4.6 **Page 2, Item 5.2 - Rigging matters - (Proposed amendments to the Operations Manual)**. This is a main agenda item.
- 4.7 **Page 5, Item 11.1 - (Proposal to include an FS2 grading)**. The Chair reported that this item had been on the main agenda for this meeting. However, the Chief Instructor had now withdrawn the proposal to allow for further consideration. One of the areas of consideration, is the inclusion and drafting of the FS Manual, to ensure we have a considered framework in place before accepting any changes.

Action: Dylan Bartle

05/24

RIGGING MATTERS

5.1 Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee Meeting of 16 November 2023

It was proposed by Gary Small, seconded by Martin White that the Minutes of the Riggers Subcommittee meeting of the 16 November 2023 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

5.2 Rigging Matters - Incident Resume

The meeting were given details of an equipment related incident report, which is included as part of the main Incident Resumé (Appendix A).

5.3 Rigging Matters - British Skydiving Safety Information

Following the incident involving the primary drogue release handle on the Next century Tandem system, British Skydiving issued a Safety Information, to all PTOs CIs and TIs. This is for information only and had been included in the STC SharePoint folder for this meeting.

5.4 Rigging Matters - Manufacturers Bulletins

Safran Electronics and Defence recently issued a Service Bulletin which applied to all Atom Parachute systems described in the Bulletin. This had been included in the STC SharePoint folder for this meeting. This Service Bulletin supersedes the Service Bulletin 740-25-005 published on the 24 October 2022.

06/24

PILOTS' SIG MEETING OF 27 JANUARY 2024

The Chair reported that the Notes from the Pilots' SIG Meeting of 27 January 2024 had been included with the Agenda. The Notes were for information only, unless any STC members had any questions. He stated that during the meeting Tony Knight, our CAA liaison officer informed the SIG of his intentions to retire at the end of 2024. British Skydiving will start a recruitment process, to look for a replacement for Tony.

The Chair expressed on behalf of STC and the Association, a huge thank you for all the work that Tony Knight had devoted over the years, and wished him all the very best during his retirement.

07/24

INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS - RESUMÉ

A resumé of incidents had been included with the Agenda. There had been an additional report received since the Agenda had been published, details of which is included in the full Incident Resumé (Appendix A).

Kevin Dynan (STO) provided a statistical overview of our 2023 data, which included a resumé of descents made, students trained and incidents for 2023. A copy of this presentation will also be included as a PowerPoint and pdf file in the STC SharePoint folder for this meeting.

Some of the notable findings included:

The incidence of Deflated Drogue in Tow on tandem descents. The STO reported that there were 4 reports received of deflated drogue in tow incidents in 2023 and that was a trend that was present from previous years. He reported that this issue was discussed at the Tandem Instructor seminar at the Industry Day and input had been received on risk mitigations from the Instructors present, Paratec and UPT.

The incidence of twists and tension knots as the primary causes of Tandem malfunctions. The STO noted that twists were primarily reported on Icarus Tandem canopies and tension knots on HOP Tandem canopies. However, he noted the Sigma, Icarus and HOP tandem canopies were some of the most common tandem canopies in use.

Problems deploying the main canopy was the main cause of CS/AFF student malfunction, mainly due to instability in freefall.

It was also noted that reports of problems deploying the pilot chute was a concerning trend causing deployment problems for Licensed jumpers and this was a trend that was also reported by several European NGBs. In many instances, these occurred with A-Licensed skydivers on hire kit and strategies were discussed to try and prevent this trend.

There were six reports received of AAD fires from Licensed jumpers, four from skydivers that lost altitude awareness. There is a notable incidence of malfunctions caused by twists, particularly from those on wingsuit jumps and a trend was also noted of reports received of tension knots on high / hyper performance canopies such as Peregrines and Leias.

The following injury trends were also noted:

On Tandem descents, there were six injury reports received of dislocated shoulders from Tandem students. Five of the students had undeclared shoulder injuries weakness, and the 6th had a previously unknown weakness in the shoulder only discovered following the injury sustained during a Tandem skydive. The meeting discussed the pros and cons of including the possibility of shoulder dislocation during a skydive for those with pre-existing injuries during the Tandem brief.

The majority of the Tandem student injuries occurred on landing and were mainly reported as limb or back injuries and fractures.

It was noted that BMI, weight, age and gender continue to be risk factors.

Solo student injuries continue to hold the highest risk at 1 injury per 661 descents. Most of the injuries occurred on landing; mainly lower limb injuries caused by poor flare technique. 33 of the injured students went to hospital, three by air ambulance.

Licensed skydivers have the lowest risk of injury at 1 injury per 4,000 descents and serious injury 1 per 7,800 descents. The majority of Licensed skydiver injuries occurred on landing, five were when conducting a high-performance landing and 11 of the injuries occurred to Licensed skydivers on off landings or hitting objects like fences, hedges, etc.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Kev Dynan for his comprehensive report, which he believed CIs would find useful. He asked that CIs disseminate the report to Instructors and Coaches for information. He stated that we are still missing information on near misses and off landings, and urged CIs to continue to submit this information so that we can track the data.

Action: Chief Instructors

09/24

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATION MANUAL

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

- 9.1. A paper from Dylan Bartle had been received detailing a suggested change to the Operations Manual, for the inclusion of a Formation Skydiving Grade 2 (FS2).

The Chair reported that this has been withdrawn for further consideration at the April STC meeting.

Action: Dylan Bartle

- 9.2 At the November 2023 Riggers' Subcommittee meeting, a paper had been presented with a proposal to amend the wording in Section 6, Paragraph 8, Sub Para 8.3.2 of the Operations Manual.

This refers to the renewal of Advanced Packer (AP) ratings, which currently allows Advanced Riggers or Chief Instructors (CIs) to renew the rating, and it was felt that any CI renewing the AP rating should hold an AP rating and be current.

Therefore, it is proposed that the words "who is a current AP" are added to the requirement in sub para 8.3.2:

SECTION 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 8 (Reserve Parachutes), Sub-para 8.3.2. change to read:

- 8.3.2. Advanced Packer ratings expire on the 31st March each year but may be renewed up to six months after that date. To renew an AP rating the AP must satisfy an Advanced Rigger or Chief Instructor, who is a current AP, that they are current in all aspects of advanced packing relevant to their status. Once an Advanced Packer rating has expired the packer may not exercise the privileges of that rating until the rating is renewed.*

Following consideration, it was proposed by Richard Wheatley, seconded by Rudy McClenaghan that the above proposed amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted.

For 12 (incl 1 by proxy)

Against: 2

Abstentions: 0

Carried

- 9.3 A further paper had also been presented at the November 2023 Riggers' Subcommittee meeting with a proposal to amend the wording in Section 14, of the Operations Manual, within the requirements to obtain Rigger ratings. The intention is to tidy up the wording, to keep consistency across all ratings and therefore establish a distinction from a Packing Certificate qualification.

Therefore, it is proposed that the word *qualification* is replaced with the word *rating*. This applies to three Rigger ratings, the Basic Rigger, the Parachute Rigger and the Advanced Rigger:

SECTION 14 (Rigging), Paragraph 2 (Basic Rigger BR), Sub-para 2.1.2. change to read:

- 2.1.2. Must hold an Advanced Packer (S) rating.*

SECTION 14 (Rigging), Paragraph 3 (Parachute Rigger), Sub-Para 3.1.3 change to read:

3.1.3 Must hold a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (S) rating.

SECTION 14 (Rigging), Paragraph 4 (Advanced Rigger), Sub-Para 4.1.3 change to read:

4.1.3 Must hold a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (S and T) rating.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Sara Orton, seconded by Mally Richardson that the above proposed amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

- 9.4 The Chair advised those present that a revised version of the Operations Manual would be published the following day, to include the above amendments, and to also cater for the current changes in organisational structure, to include terms such as CEO, HoST&C and Safety & Training Officers (STOs).

Action: Chair STC

- 9.5 The Chair reported that several changes to Form 169 (Advanced Packers Course Syllabus) had been accepted at the last Riggers' Subcommittee meeting and had been included for information in the STC SharePoint folder for this meeting. These changes had been highlighted in track changes. He stated that the amended Form 169 would be published in due course.

Action: Chair STC

10/24

PERMISSIONS

The Chair reported that Chris McCann from Skydive Hibaldstow had submitted two 'permission' requests, which had been circulated with the Agenda. These were considered and voted on separately:

10.1. Permission Request for Florin Cotofana

Chris McCann had requested a further six month extension to Florin Cotofana's current AFFBI rating which was due to expire at the end of March 2024.

The Chair reported that Florin had already had one previous extension to his AFFBI that had been awarded by HQ.

Chris McCann had included full details of this request within his proposal. He reported that Florin would be working closely with himself and Noel Purcell at Hibaldstow prior to him being put forward for another AFFI Course.

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

For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Chris McCann, Gary Small)

Carried

10.2 Permission Request for Barnaby White

Chris McCann had provided details of a military TI who had gained their British Skydiving TI rating in April 2023. They had then returned to Hibaldstow to continue their probation, but had only managed 6 live students, the last jump being on 27 April 2023. Following major surgery on their knee which had kept them off work, they had now rejoined their troop and were back to full fitness and back as training DS.

Chris McCann had asked STC for some guidance on what he should do to get Barnaby White current again without him having to attend another TI Course.

Chris had suggested that Barnaby has his medical revalidated, conducts a bag jump, a live jump and a hop'n'pop. All of his jumps would be video recorded as evidence.

Chris McCann reported that Barnaby now has his medical back in place and has been doing Tandems again in America. He has already completed 2 x live military Tandems and 1 bag jump on 1st Feb and is back jumping full time. In total he has completed 20 – 30 military Tandems and 10 civilian Tandems.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Paul Dorward, seconded by Reg Green that the suggestions put forward by Chris McCann in relation to Barnaby White be accepted.

For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 (Chris McCann, Gary Small)

Carried

10.3 – Proposed Change to Form 325 – TI Probationary Period Record Card

The Chair reported that as a result of the previous request (*10.2 refers*) the Tandem Instructor Probationary Period requirements on Form 325 was reviewed and it was suggested that the currency period be increased to 12 months for this scenario.

Kev Dynan (STO) provided an update and after discussion, it was agreed that Kev Dynan (STO) would consult with Gary Small to produce a draft of Form 325, which would be sent out to TI Examiners for further consultation.

Action: Kev Dynan (STO)

11/24 INSTRUCTOR COURSE REPORTS

There had been one Instructor Course held since the last STC meeting.

11.1 Instructor Course 4/2023 – Skydive Langar

The Association wished to thank Skydive Langar for hosting the Category System, Tandem, AFF, Basic & Advanced Instructor Courses, followed by the Category System Instructor Course over the second week.

The Course report had been included with the Agenda and was for information only.

12/24 A.O.B

There were no items under AOB for consideration.

13/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11 April 2024 at 5pm
Virtually by Microsoft Teams

The meeting closed at 18:31 (duration: 01:31)

Attached:

- **Amendments to the British Skydiving Operations Manual, 8 February 2024**
- **STC Actions Table**
- **Appendix 1 - Injury/Incident Reports Resumé**

Distribution: Chair British Skydiving, Council, CIs, CAA, Editor – Skydive the Mag, File

Accepted by STC: 11 April 2024
Published: 12 April 2024

AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of 8 February 2024 the following amendments were made to the British Skydiving Operations Manual:

SECTION 6 (Equipment), Paragraph 8 (Reserve Parachutes), Sub-para 8.3.2. change to read:

8.3.2. Advanced Packer ratings expire on the 31st March each year but may be renewed up to six months after that date. To renew an AP rating the AP must satisfy an Advanced Rigger or Chief Instructor, who is a current AP, that they are current in all aspects of advanced packing relevant to their status. Once an Advanced Packer rating has expired the packer may not exercise the privileges of that rating until the rating is renewed.

SECTION 14 (Rigging), Paragraph 2 (Basic Rigger BR), Sub-para 2.1.2. change to read:

2.1.2. Must hold an Advanced Packer (S) rating.

SECTION 14 (Rigging), Paragraph 3 (Parachute Rigger), Sub-Para 3.1.3 change to read:

3.1.3 Must hold a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (S) rating.

SECTION 14 (Rigging), Paragraph 4 (Advanced Rigger), Sub-Para 4.1.3 change to read:

4.1.3 Must hold a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (S and T) rating.

ACTIONS FROM STC MEETING OF 8 FEBRUARY 2024

Item	Action Required	Action Owner	Agreed Completion Date
4.1	Review of TBI Rating	Chair STC, supported by STOs	Ongoing
4.2	DSA Recommendations	Chair STC	Ongoing
4.3	Suspension of TI Rating	Chair STC	Ongoing
4.4	STC Review	CEO, Chair STC, supported by STOs	Ongoing
4.5	Consultation Paper re: Extending the Reserve Repack Period	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee	21 February 2024
4.7 & 9.1	Submission of Proposal to STC re: FS Grade 2 for consideration at the STC Meeting on 11 April 2024	Dylan Bartle	22 March 2024, for inclusion on the outgoing STC Agenda
8.24	2023 Stats Analysis – CIs to disseminate the report to Instructors and Coaches for information	Chief Instructors	CIs to Note
8.24	Reporting of off landings and near miss reports. CIs asked to ensure Reports are submitted to HQ	Chief Instructors	CIs to Note
9.4	Publication of updated Operations Manual & Amendments	Chair STC	Completed
9.5	Publication of Form 169	Chair STC	Completed
10.3	Form 325 – Draft to TI Examiners	Kev Dynan (STO)	11 April 2024

Injury/incident reports received since last STC meeting on 16 November 2023:

- a. There have been no Student injury reports received since the last STC meeting.
- b. There have been no Licensed skydiver injury reports received.
- c. One report has been received of Student Incident, Malfunction or Deployment problem. An AFF L2 student clipped the top of a windsock with the end cell of their canopy on landing. They landed without further incident or injury.
- d. There have been 6 malfunction/deployment problem reports received for Licensed skydivers.

Three reports have been received of jumpers having problems on deployment. An A Licensed skydiver with 28 descents made three unsuccessful attempts to locate the deployment handle before deploying the reserve. They went unstable on their second attempt. Another A license skydiver with 25 descents only pulled the pilot chute out roughly ½ arm's length on deployment, holding on to the pilot chute briefly before releasing it. The pilot chute hesitated, so the jumper initiated his reserve procedures. As they did so, they became unstable and rolled over, but this did not affect the reserve deployment. As they were pulled upright by the reserve canopy, the main detached and they landed on the PLA without incident.

A B-Licensed skydiver with 69 jumps on their first jump on hired equipment, conducted a 2-way FS jump. After tracking off at 5,000ft they made two attempts to locate the pilot chute but were unable to locate it. On their second attempt they rolled on to their back, they regained stability and pulled the reserve handle to deploy the reserve.

Two reports were received of experienced skydivers cutting away from twists. The first was a wingsuiter with 595 descents and the other was a C-license skydiver with 607 descents on an FS jump.

One report was received of a skydiver with 55 descents that had a possible line over. The skydiver reported that one side of the canopy remained collapsed after opening despite their attempts to inflate by pumping the toggles. The Canopy was a Navigator 260.

- e. Three Tandem injury reports have been received.

One Tandem student had a shoulder dislocation shortly after exit. An X-ray after the incident discovered a previously undiagnosed shoulder issue.

A Tandem student reported lower back pain following a sliding landing where their lower back hit the ground before the Instructor's legs. The Instructor had a total of 113 Tandem descents and the reported wind conditions were 8 knots.

Another student reported upper back pain following a hard landing. The student appeared to be okay initially but reported the possible injury when back in the clubhouse. The Instructor had over 1,000 Tandem descents, 402 in the last twelve months. The reported wind conditions were 5-10 knots.

- f. There have been two Tandem malfunction/deployment problem reports received. After an uneventful Tandem descent, an Instructor with 3,348 descents jumping a Next Century container pulled the primary drogue release handle only for the handle and tuck table to detach leaving the cable in place (see image below). The Instructor then pulled the secondary release handle and the main canopy deployed without further incident.

The Instructor lost the handle but on review of the cable left in the container, it appears that the handle had failed under the crimped area of the cable. It was not clear if this was a handle made by the manufacturer or was a replacement handle made by the PTO Rigger. All other primary handles were checked for wear at this point and the CI now includes a check

of the primary handles with the monthly checks of the Tandem harnesses. A Safety Information had also been issued.



Remaining drogue release cable exposed after handle has sheared off.

Photo taken from Next Century Owner's Manual.



Representation of the plastic tuck-tab handle in a serviceable condition.

One report had been received of tension knots that could not be cleared. The Instructor had 7,380 Tandem descents and was jumping a HOP330 canopy.

- g. One report had been received concerning AADs.

A newly qualified A Licensed skydiver returned to a UK PTO after completing their AFF training in Spain. They had a DZ orientation and refresh before their first jump in the UK. The Jumper deployed their main canopy at between 1,600 and 2,000ft AGL. As their main canopy deployed, their AAD also fired resulting in both canopies out. The canopies initially deployed in a bi-plane configuration and the jumper left the reserve steering toggles stowed. At 500ft, the canopies transitioned to a side-by-side configuration and the jumper completed small steering inputs, landing into wind on the PLA without flaring and without further incident.

- h. Two 'off-landing' reports have been received. One was an AFF student, and the other a Tandem pair.

Additional Incident Reports

The following Injury /Incident report had been received since the Incident/Injury Report resume had been circulated:

- a. One report was received of an off landing. A Licensed jumper with 35 jumps misjudged the strong upper winds and landed off in a large open field to the east of the PLA.