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## Member Development Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on  
**Tuesday 4 August 2020 at 12:00**  
Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

<b>Present:</b>	Mark Bayada	-	Chair
	Paul Applegate		
	Mary Barratt		
	(connectivity issues – see minute 32)		
	Jack Davies		
	Kate Lindsley		
	Ben Samuel		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Rai Ahmed	-	Technical Excellence Adviser (TEA) - Artistics
	Liz Ashley	-	Editor, Skydive the Mag
	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer (COO)
	Steve Hastings	-	TEA - Classics
	Mikey Lovemore	-	TEA - Speed
	Jeff Montgomery	-	STO / STC Chair
	Marcus Muir-Smith	-	TEA - CF
	Craig Poxon	-	Chair of Council
	Martin Reynolds	-	TEA - CP
	Martin Shuttleworth	-	Secretary-General (Secretary)
	Martin Soulsby	-	Vice President
<b>Apology for absence:</b>	Angel Fernandez	-	Communications Manager

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### Item Minute

#### **28/20 Declarations of interest**

Any declarations at this meeting would be taken at the item to which they related.

#### **29/20 Minutes of the meeting of MDC on Tuesday 5 May 2020**

The minutes of this meeting had been circulated with the agenda and were approved as a correct record subject to minor typographical corrections.

#### **30/20 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **31/20 Report from Coaching Structure Working Group (CSWG)**

Martin Soulsby, Chair of CSWG, reported that following the budget approval from Council on 16 June 2020, British Skydiving had signed a contract with UK Coaching to develop the qualification pathways for Level 1 & 2 and the bespoke training course for Training Providers. Level 1 was foundation level and Level 2 advanced coach.

The timescale was to deliver these syllabuses in November. On 22 July, the WG sent a briefing document to STC to inform them of its plans and asked for any feedback.

The August issue of Skydive the Mag would carry an article to inform the membership about the pilot scheme and invite feedback. If there was a significant response, the WG

would consider a Facebook Q&A session. A further article was planned for October explaining the new coaching structure in more depth.

The rationale for the new structure was to address the current level of inconsistency with coaches. The new arrangements would follow best practice in other sports by providing a structured and systematic programme of coach development. This would be under a third-party accreditation body, which would come in to evaluate and assure the quality of the courses.

There would be a pilot next year on FS coaching. UK Coaching's stated aim was 'to upskill the coaching workforce'.

### **32/20 Report from the Working Group on Skills Coaching Roadshows**

The Chair reported on behalf of Mary Barratt, Chair of the WG, who had connectivity issues which meant that she could listen in but participate in the meeting only intermittently.

Mary Barratt was liaising with sponsored athletes about the arrangements they had proposed to contribute back to the sport mostly in place of roadshows, consequent on the Covid-19 pandemic. She had agreed with Sam Lee (Chair, EPC) that she would be the point of contact on this.

There was a wide range of contributions athletes had proposed including training videos and articles for the Mag. Mary Barratt was responding to athletes to confirm agreement to their contributions, and to help to shape them where appropriate. She was liaising with Angel Fernandez (Communications Manager) and Liz Ashley (Editor, Skydive the Mag) on topics that would fill a need for a video or article, where a sponsored team or athlete was competent to deliver such content.

Provision of content for British Skydiving media was likely to be among the ways that sponsored athletes would be able to contribute to the sport going forward, as the specification for roadshows was likely to be changed significantly. The WG was considering arrangements for roadshows in the longer term, and their thinking on this was outlined in the supporting paper to the agenda.

### **33/20 Skills Coaching Roadshows**

Marcus Muir-Smith (TEA – CF) had requested to hold a CF Roadshow at Langar early in September. He declared an interest as a sponsored athlete. His request, which had been circulated with the agenda, set out arrangements he was proposing to reduce the possibility of spreading Covid.

The Chair was awaiting the advice of Dr John Carter, Medical Adviser, on whether a roadshow could yet go ahead safely in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. The Chair said that British Skydiving owed a duty of care to any event held in its name and needed to be confident about arrangements in place to reduce the risk of Covid transmission. The STO said that Instructor courses were not currently taking place and a trial TI course was planned for September or October with fewer candidates and a raft of special anti-Covid measures in place.

The Chair said it was ultimately for Council to decide when British Skydiving training activities could resume, however the Covid Working Group, including its medical advisory panel, could act quickly to reach a decision. It did not need a meeting of MDC.

Martin Reynolds (TEA – CP) raised an issue that the Chair said was a matter for EPC as it related to arrangements for the CP Nationals.

### **34/20 Report from the Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Working Group**

#### **34.1 Update from WG**

The Sport & Recreation Alliance had invited British Skydiving to join over 50 organisations in co-signing its Black Lives Matter statement, and this had been done. It had been a positive move in putting our name to these values publicly and openly taking constructive action in relation to issues of equality, diversity and inclusivity within our sport. The WG Chair and members were engaging with the wider sporting landscape by taking part in virtual conferences and events on women in sport. Other activities included a members' questionnaire and developing a media policy with the Communications Manager to help to promote equality, diversity and inclusivity.

### **34.2 Update from Kate Lindsley on Uncover Your Potential weekend**

Kate Lindsley said the weekend would be going ahead at Langar on 3-4 October. She outlined its planned content, with a ground school on Saturday and jumping on Sunday. She also summarised the precautions that would be taken against the transmission of Covid. Attendance of a speaker from the US remained uncertain because of the possible effect of Covid restrictions on travel arrangements.

The Chair said the event needed to be risk-assessed in association with the COO, STO and Medical Adviser. The female-led British Skydiving instructor course that was to have followed it had been postponed for the time being.

Kate Lindsley said the cost of the weekend would be covered by the 'NFTO fund'. She reported on the quote from a commercial company to video the Saturday presentations. The Chair suggested she might explore the possibility of using DZ in-house video facilities which might be more economical.

**[Secretary's note:** The STO held further discussions with Kate Lindsley after the meeting.]

### **35/20 Report from the Member Journey Working Group**

The Chair said this WG had been delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic, which had generated much additional work for the staff team. Mary Barratt said she was reviewing, with the Communications Manager, communications strategies related to different points of entry into the sport, and a test questionnaire was being developed. The Editor had noted a reference to the Starter Mag in the papers for this meeting and highlighted that the new issue was going to press very soon. Mary Barratt said she believed the reference related only to a small insert and would liaise with the Editor outside the meeting.

The Chair said the WG would consider surveys and studies to help to understand factors relating to retention in the sport. TEAs would have an important role to play in this, through their network of contacts. The Chair invited TEAs to feed back on their specialist disciplines to MDC or, through their CIs, on matters in scope to STC.

Consideration of member journeys was also likely to include a review of the grading system.

The COO said the Rise Up mentoring programme, developed and administered by Yassi Müller, was also relevant.

The meeting noted that questionnaires to the membership from this WG and other MDC WGs needed to be consolidated as far as possible to prevent too many being issued.

### **36/20 Communications to members and beyond**

#### **36.1 Skydive the Mag**

A paper from Mag publishers Warners on the June 2020 issue had been circulated with the agenda. With a significant decline in advertising during lockdown, there had been fewer pages and economies, as agreed by Council, had been made in paper quality and binding. The print run had been reduced to around 2k (being the number of then current full members) compared with the normal 6k.

The Editor reported that the August 2020 Mag would comprise slightly more pages and return to the normal quality of paper. The issue date had been put back by a fortnight to allow more content about jumping resuming after lockdown. Current full membership stood at about 3k.

#### **36.2 Digital communications**

Papers from the Communications Manager, on social media and website analytics, had been circulated with the agenda. These were noted with thanks.

### **37/20 Date of next meeting**

Virtual meeting by Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 20 October at 12:00 noon (with EPC meeting at 15:00).

The meeting concluded at 13:25 (duration: 1:25)

Approved electronically 25 August 2020