



60 YEARS  
**BRITISH**  
SKYDIVING  
SINCE 1961

**REVIEW  
OF THE  
YEAR  
2020**

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**Cover photo: Eve Mason by Dan Guest.**

*"This photo was shot this summer down at the Cornish Parachute Club, like a lot of people we couldn't really get away this year due to covid so had to look for trips a bit closer to home. We called in just for a day visiting down there on the weekend, only a small dz with a Cessna 206 but super friendly to visitors and the views speak for themselves! Best in the UK by far!"*



## **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR**

**CRAIG POXON: CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

When Martin Soulsby told me that he was intending to stand down from the board, and therefore as Chair, and I was considering whether I wanted to put myself forward for the role having been Vice-Chair throughout his nine-year tenure, I told myself that at least I knew what I was letting myself in for. I am starting to rue those words! 2020 has turned out to be the most unexpected year but I can say that I have relished the challenge... mostly!

Considering the reduction in jumping that the COVID pandemic has unfortunately inflicted on our sport, conversely, there has been a tremendous amount going on at British Skydiving. As part of our ongoing adoption of the principles of Good Governance, and the review of our committee structure, in 2020 we had planned to reduce our usual six meetings a year down to four, but with more focus on working/task-and-finish groups during the interim. However, with a series of emergency/task meetings dealing with financial assistance for PTOs, Return to Skydiving measures, challenges from the PTOA, as well as business as usual, we had a total of 14 meetings in the end! I cannot thank Council, staff, and all our volunteers for their selfless efforts working above and beyond the call of duty during this extremely difficult year.

For those of us fortunate to continue working and those with families, it has been even trickier to balance, but we have managed. Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of the Information Technology Strategy Group, the board and staff alike have taken to this new way of working, with the modern tools available, in its stride. But I feel that we have only scratched the surface and there are great possibilities for growing our membership as well as bringing it closer together.

This year we say goodbye to two of our longest-serving directors, Paul 'Apples' Applegate and my vice-chair, Adrian Bond, who have devoted 23 and 15 years respectively to the Association. I thank them for their commitment, counsel, and friendship from which I will doubtless continue to benefit. I look forward to working with the three new directors who have been elected. They will surely bring tremendous passion and valuable skills to the table.

I would also like to thank Sue Stanhope, one of our first two Independent Non-Executive Directors who joined us to help with our Good Governance journey and is now handing over the reins. I am very excited to welcome our two new INEDS, Rob Hartley and Joanne Shaw, who are both brimming with excitement and chomping at the bit to get stuck in.

We undoubtedly face one of our most challenging years as an Association, ever. The impact on the membership and the business will take time to recover and adds an unexpected challenge into the mix of the numerous existing ones. Some believe that the way our Association is funded is imbalanced and would seek to change that equilibrium. Evaluating the potentially significant ramifications will take considerable effort and there may still be great risk involved that could fundamentally alter the very fabric of our existence. As an organisation, our ethos has always been to work together for the benefit of all our members and great care should be taken to ensure that continues.

This year we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. The advancements and progress we have witnessed over those years are astonishing. I am fascinated and delighted to see the continuing evolution as we race into the future.

It greatly saddens me that we are not able to gather together at the Expo this year, especially with such a milestone to celebrate. Fingers crossed that we will be able to commemorate it appropriately in the Summer at a drop zone somewhere, and I have no doubt that next year's party will more than make up for missing out this year. 2020 was tough. We knew coming into the year that it was going to get harder before it got better. And while we still have some way to go, I do believe that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Know that with each day that passes, we are one day closer to jumping out of a perfectly good aircraft once again with our friends, at home and abroad, and enjoying that acutely missed, and just as vital, socialising together with our sporting family. We are all passionate about the sport we love but the stress of the past year has meant that it has sometimes been fractious. If we remember that our strength comes from our unity and mutual respect forged by our shared bond, our future will be brighter.

Stay strong and look after each other. I look forward to seeing you again at the drop zone and the bar. I wish everyone all the best for 2021.



# A YEAR TO REMEMBER

## TONY BUTLER: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

I cannot write a Review of the Year without at least referring to the subject that has caused more upheaval to the sport than anything else since I started skydiving, more than four decades ago.

Over four months during the summer with no skydiving at all, plus a further lockdown in November, means that both jump numbers and memberships will be way down on previous years. This means less income for coaches, instructors, packers, riggers, PTOs, anyone who relies on skydiving to pay their bills. It also means less income for the Association, not only for this year, but the knock-on effect will continue, at least for 2021.

British Skydiving has helped wherever it can, from grants and loans to PTOs, to membership discounts for this year and next. However, not everyone has been appreciative of what the Association has provided throughout this period and this has led to discontentment amongst some stakeholders, most notably some PTOs. This is probably a reflection of society in general, much like the government, you are dammed if you do and damned if you don't!

PTOs are calling for a fundamental change in the way British Skydiving goes about its business and we must listen to all our stakeholders and consult with all, remembering that we are a membership association and whatever the final outcome may be, it will take place through due process.

Much has been achieved this year. Our canopy working party, chaired by Mark Bayada, has been engaged in extensive research and consultation, nationally and internationally, on the relationship between canopy size and safety. The working group has formulated its recommendations and they have been agreed by our Safety & Training Committee (STC) and will come into effect from 1 April 2021. This is likely to lead to new rules and restrictions, and members should understand that these changes have not been taken lightly.

A whole Canopy Training grading system has been devised. You will read more about the changes over the coming months.

The excellent news on safety, as I am sure you are aware, was that in 2019 there were no fatal accidents. This was achieved again in 2020, though on lower jump numbers. We have not had a fatal accident in well over two years, something to be proud of.

A new committee structure came in force during 2020, so that the Association can better deliver Council's strategic plan. This structure seems to be working well. During 2021 Council will be reviewing the Safety & Training Committee and the Riggers' Subcommittee structures.

Craig Poxon became Chair of the Association in 2020, taking over from Martin Soulsby who was our longest-serving Chair (he had been in office since 2011). 2020 has proven to have been a bit of a poisoned chalice for Craig, with so much going on. Not a great year to take over, though I believe he has more than risen to the challenge.

Our rebrand has I believe been a resounding success and has started many a discussion in other skydiving associations around the globe – where British Skydiving leads others will surely follow.

At the beginning of 2020, Lise Moore took on the post of Finance Manager, taking over from Jon Gretton who retired after some 23 years. Lise has certainly had a baptism of fire, integrating a new finance system in this year of uncertainty, working long hours, and has not had time to take a holiday. She has also assisted with the work of the Secretary-General, Martin Shuttleworth, who is still recovering from illness. Martin we cannot wait to get you back in the driving seat.

After 40-plus years of outstanding service to us all, Sue Allen, the face, or more importantly the voice at the end of the telephone, has retired. I wish her all the very best for the future. I personally will miss her smiling face, chirpy voice, and most of all her outstanding work ethic. Enjoy your retirement, Sue. Towards the end of the year, we welcomed new (returning) staff member Meghan Sheedy who has taken over from Sue in membership services.

I would also wish to thank all our staff, for their dedication to British Skydiving and you the membership. They know how difficult it has been for many of you and I hope your dealings with any of them, has shown how important you are to us.

During 2020 our new membership database system, called Personal Information Management System (PIMS) which is based on the proprietary software OM.Net supplied by Eudonet (UK) Ltd, came online. This has proved to have been, to say the least, eventful, with many teething troubles. However, we are getting there and hopefully, it will make life easier for us all, including membership and rating renewals.

I should like to thank members of Council and its Committees, together with our valued team of specialist advisers and volunteers, for their contribution across the range of our activities during this unprecedented year.

Running a national governing body of sport today has far more dimensions than it did even ten years ago. Only by bringing so much talent and so many skills together in a financially sound association can we achieve the success that we have in British Skydiving. I am convinced we are primed to achieve ever more. It has not been an easy road, nor for the last year or so in all respects a smooth one; but we will emerge from our challenges even stronger and more robust.



# FINANCE

## NATASHA HIGMAN: TREASURER

I took on the role of Treasurer part way through the financial year and as that second part of the financial year was the more exciting one from Finance perspective will focus mainly on that part. I would like to express my thanks to Debbie Carter, who as Treasurer for many years kept the company in good financial health. She welcomed me as a fellow accountant, and we had been working alongside each other for some time before she stepped down and I was elected by Council to take her place. I would also like to thank Jon Gretton who retired in November 2019 for his many years' service to the association.

My first task as incoming Treasurer was the recruitment of a replacement for Jon. I am very pleased to have found Lise Moore, who started with us on 5th February. Lise has previous experience in the non-profit sector with its mix of volunteer and staff responsibilities which brings with it the need to be flexible with time – many volunteers are only available outside office hours so answers can take longer and setting up meetings can mean staff need to work late. Together with her years in a commercial Finance Function she has brought a wealth of experience, ideas, and enthusiasm to the team.

Following Lise's appointment, I had anticipated settling into a year during which I wanted to consolidate the Expenses policy into a single place, as well as review our investment policy. This was to be both in terms of financial and non-financial investment of our tangible (money) and intangible (safety reputation, sporting achievement etc.) assets. Unfortunately, both these projects have been delayed, however they have not been forgotten and I anticipate being able to report on at least one of them in my report next year.

The reason for the delay is hopefully understandable, the timing of COVID-19 related changes meant that my focus needed to be on more pressing matters. The timing of our financial year end coincides broadly with our highest annual cash position.

Like many in the sport and leisure industry, our cashflows are highly seasonal. We have a big increase to our cash through March and April, as our full members renew their annual membership and, as the weather improves, the income from provisional memberships starts growing which remains a relatively regular cash inflow until the autumn. From October onwards less cash comes in, however the cash earned earlier in the year sustains the company's financial position until the following March. The common perception that British Skydiving has a high cash balance is correct at the end of June in a normal year, however this presupposes full membership renewals and provisional memberships in the months leading up to our financial year end.

The lockdown at the end of March 2020 put everyone in the sport into an unexpected position. Many PTOs have a similar cashflow pattern to that of the association, and the inability to jump and earn income put some into a precarious position. The financial investment policy Debbie had overseen for many years was founded on the risk of not being able to get insurance cover and that British Skydiving may need to self-insure, for which a large sum of money would be needed. This risk was very high after the 9/11 attacks, however over the years has not manifested itself, in fact we have been able to increase the level of insurance. The reduced likelihood of self-insurance is one of the motivators for my proposed review of the investment policy. Fortunately, the money set aside for possible insurance was available to be used in this completely unforeseen situation of no income in the sport.

British Skydiving matched the Dropzone Defence Fund (DZDF) to allow for grants to PTOs and also created a loan fund to provide secured interest free loans to PTOs with suitable assets in need of more money than available from the DZDF. The process of application and approval for these funds was time consuming and at times frustrating for all involved and I'd like to express my thanks to Lise, Tony, Adrian and Craig for their time and scrutiny at the daily meetings to review applications and make recommendations to Council who met each week. The

whole process is fraught with moral hazard – we were in the process of giving away money entrusted by you, to people who some may argue had not put aside enough for bad times themselves. I know that some were frustrated by the information we were demanding. However, I could not stand in front of the membership and tell them that we had given money away to someone who we could anticipate not re-opening for jumping after the grant. I could also not justify awarding grants to PTOs who were not at risk of imminent closure. I am very relieved to be able to say that not only did none of the affiliated PTOs have to close for good, all re-opened for jumping and those with loans have all started making repayments.

The growing COVID incidence as I am writing this is concerning for all of us in the sport, and I hope that together we can weather the winter ahead of us. I do feel it is important to mention that British Skydiving is not a bank and although without PTOs there would be no need for a governing body, if British Skydiving were to cease trading ALL PTOs would need to close until a new agreement is reached with the CAA. It is therefore in everyone's interest to keep British Skydiving going as much as their local DZ.

Because of the very different circumstances in the last three months of our financial year, comparison of our financial results to prior year shows a reduction in income without an equivalent reduction in costs which would accompany a shrinking organisation. For the first time in my time in the sport we are showing a deficit for the financial year. Our net assets have also reduced, both in terms of the investments and our cash balance, as explained above.

I would like to thank Adrian Bond and Liz Ashley for their work on changing our supplier for The Mag, saving close to £15,000 per year on Magazine costs. The increased costs for website reflect the one-off investment arising from the implementation of PIMS.



# SAFETY & TRAINING

## JEFF MONTGOMERY: SAFETY & TECHNICAL OFFICER & CHAIR, SAFETY & TRAINING COMMITTEE (STC)

Whilst we welcome another fatality-free year, some of our members did suffer some serious injuries, which in some cases are attributed to the lack of currency after a prolonged period of time without jumping, both a combination of the winter period followed by a Government lockdown which lasted several months.

During the lockdown period, our Safety & Training Committee (STC) considered several one-off extensions to the requirements in our Operations Manual, around areas of currency, medicals, equipment reserve packing extensions and rating renewals, to minimise the impact on our Parachute Training Organisations (PTOs) and our members when returning to the skies. We also negotiated a deal with our insurers and Council agreed that members who have renewed their membership for 2020/21 at the full price will receive a discounted renewal price when renewing for 2021/22.

Carrying on from the work conducted by STC, we also formed the COVID-19 Return to Skydiving Working Group, composed of members who offered their expertise in fields such as medicine, science, aviation and skydiving, and whose contribution was invaluable to allow us to produce a set of COVID guidelines and protocols to assist our PTOs and members after lockdown.

The Canopy Working Group have consulted with STC and provisionally agreed to a system to enable British Skydiving to look after the safety of our members whilst under canopy, with a system that moderates and controls progression in

Canopy Piloting, with the view of reducing accidents and injuries. A new system that replaces our current Canopy Handling & Piloting system, with an updated and enhanced training program, which offers better guidance and coaching techniques to help prepare our members for the risks involved in Canopy Piloting. We hope to see the new changes come in to effect in April 2021.

I am also excited to report that we are close to launching our new British Skydiving Foundation Coach Level 1 in Skydiving, for which we hope to be able to announce the start of our pilot scheme in the spring, a new qualification that ensures all our coaches have better information resources available for their personal development.

The new coaching system is being developed in collaboration with external agencies such as UK Coaching, an organisation who works from grass-roots through to elite performance levels in sport, they inform Government on policy that supports and develops learning and helps coaches support the needs of the people they coach, and 1st4Sport, an organisation recognised and regulated in England by the Office of Qualifications and Examination Regulations (Ofqual) who also regulate vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland and further regulated in Wales by the Welsh Government and Scotland by SQA Accreditation, providing our coaches with a recognisable qualification outside of British Skydiving.

The new Coaching system will also form the foundation to help develop the new Instructor Courses accreditation system, following a similar approach of qualification, by working closely with the same external organisations.

In 2020 we only completed three Instructor courses covering 6 different ratings and training a total of 20 members, where 19 were successful. These low figures are due to the suspension of the Instructor courses in 2020 due to the risks associated with COVID-19. British Skydiving is hoping to deliver an increased number of Instructor courses throughout 2021 to cope with demand and enable those members to qualify as either Basic Instructors or Instructors in their chosen rating.

I would like to thank all those members who volunteered their expertise over 2020, to all those who I have worked closely with including Council, the British Skydiving staff and all those supporting us in such a difficult year for all involved in our sport.

As lockdown restrictions continue skydiving activity slows, and with it, our members' currency, I should like to encourage all skydivers to recognise the need to refresh their skills at the start of the next season, to remain sharp, and stay safe when taking to our skies, especially those keen canopy pilots.



# MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**MARK BAYADA: CHAIR OF MDC**

The Member Development Committee (MDC) was formed in January 2020. Although it took on much of the work of the distinguished Development committee, it was not just a name change. The main function of the MDC is to look at every aspect of the membership journey, from the first jump right through to becoming an experienced skydiver, coach or even an instructor.

The real focus over the next few years will be to try and find out why people leave the sport and how to improve retention. There are already several initiatives in place to help people through the more difficult stages of the membership journey, such as the grading system, which ensures all skydivers can get suitably qualified to participate in their chosen disciplines and the coaching roadshows which aim to make the coaching more accessible to all but as time moves on, all things need to be reviewed and updated as necessary.

MDC has set up two working groups to look at coaching. One led by Martin Soulsby, looking at the way coaches are trained and qualified and one led by Mary Barratt looking at the coaching roadshows.

#### **Coaches Working Group**

The aim is to deliver better and consistent quality of coaches, which equals better-skilled jumpers, better skydives and aids retention. This will also set a minimum standard across all grades of coaches which will be recognised and audited by external bodies and have transferable components to other sports coaching qualification.

The working group has been working with UKCoaching and 1st4Sport to develop 3 levels of coaches which will be recognised by Ofqual and aligned with Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) professional standards for Coach which will be split across level 1 & 2 and High-Performance Coach which is level 3.

- Level 1. Foundation Coach – teaching 1 on 1 basic skills (same level as current Coaches for FS1, FF1 & 2, etc.).
- Level 2. Advanced Coach – teaching groups, teams or running events.
- Level 3. Performance (elite) Coach – aimed at elite competition performance at National or International level.

This will be a very big change, especially in the current environment, so we will be running a pilot programme for FS Coach levels 1 & 2 in 2021 and then developing the other disciplines and level 3. All current ratings for coaches will continue for both renewals and issuing of new ratings where appropriate.

#### **Coaching Roadshows Working Group**

This Working Group was set up in recognition that, while the current Skills Coaching Roadshow arrangements have many strengths, the requirements of members and PTOs have shifted since the programme was introduced and an update would be timely if these events are to continue to offer good value for members and help them progress in the sport.

The WG started by consulting Parachute Training Organisations and British Skydiving's sponsored athletes. The responses drew attention to a need to: improve the organisation of the Roadshows; make sure that they are accessible to a range of skydivers; ensure availability to low experienced jumpers; and make sure those attending can get the most out of the events. It also drew attention to the need to make better use of sponsored athletes' skills. This fed into the WG's ongoing focus on two areas:

The relationship between Roadshows and sponsored athletes – specifically developing alternative ways of athletes 'giving back' that would make better use of their individual skills rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

The administration of Roadshows – specifically looking at responsibilities for running them and communication around them, such as providing a pre-event information pack and effectively gathering post-event feedback from the various parties involved.

Looking at loosening the link between sponsored athletes and Roadshows has enabled the WG to consider a more extensive revision of the Roadshow programme. Discussion at meetings has centred on models that would deliver good quality coaching to specific groups, and open up the running of Roadshows to hand-picked coaches and suitably qualified and experienced members, which would involve an application-based procedure (previously PTOs have 'bid' for a Roadshow and these have been delegated to sponsored athletes).

With the COVID shutdown and the cancellation of scheduled Roadshows, the WG's attention quickly shifted to the short-term, particularly ways that Roadshow resources might support less-experienced jumpers while unable to jump. This allowed configuring and testing out a list of alternative ways for sponsored athletes to 'give back.' Over the season this has proved fairly positive, generating some good resources that have been shared via social media, such as training videos, and articles for The Mag.

Moving forward, the WG can now continue its focus on putting together a proposal for the Sponsorship WG regarding changes to the relationship between sponsored athletes and the Roadshows, improving communication and shaping up an open bid-based approach with the emphasis on developing fundamental skills such as progression in the grading system alongside training for emerging teams.

Another working group that was started in 2020 is the Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Working Group led by Mary Barratt.

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has made it very difficult for the working groups to do their work. However, despite this, an incredible amount of progress has been made on all fronts due to the hard work of all those involved.



# ELITE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

SAM LEE: CHAIR OF EPC

Well, there is so much and so little to say about 2020 at the same time. This was the first year operating as the Elite Performance Committee, with the smaller committee now consisting of 4 Council Members and 1 volunteer (more volunteers are always welcome!), supported by the incumbent Judges Coordinator Liz Warner and John Smyth as the International Skydiving Commission delegate. The Discipline Reps also became Technical Excellence Advisors and now support any committee that needs their input and expertise, primarily EPC and MDC. There have been a few challenges with the new structure but it is a step in the right direction for a more agile structure and good governance.

Despite all of these changes it started as a promising year with a record number of Coaching Roadshows planned, supported by our many skilled sponsored athletes, and a full calendar of domestic competitions. There was also a lot of excitement about the Mondial 2020 hosted by Tanay in Russia, with a large number of teams and competitors planning to represent Team GB.

Sadly, this all came crashing down around us in March when the impact of COVID hit the UK. We initially acted by cancelling events gradually as it was clear they couldn't be held due to Government restrictions, but eventually we had to make a bigger decision about the year ahead. After consulting with the various competition hosts the Committee and British Skydiving Council eventually decided to cancel all National Championships, and the focus shifted to what was happening with the Mondial which was still up in the air. Eventually, this was also postponed to

2021 which has shifted the entire Calendar for First Category Events back a year. I respect the decision of Skydive Hibaldstow who opted to continue with the 'Unofficial' Nationals of 4-way, 8-way and VFS but we do believe the decision was the right one given the circumstances.

Looking forward to 2021 we intend to hold a full Competition Season and have had the initial bids in, which disappointingly didn't cover all events, although this is not too surprising given the effect COVID had on all PTOs. We have reopened bids and are actively pursuing hosts for each event. We also intend to have contingency plans should any of the events be affected again by more restrictions in 2021 and hope to start pursuing some of the goals of EPC to offer increased support to our Elite Athletes and aspiring medal winners of the future.

Sponsorship for 2021 was simply an extension of that offered in 2020 but not claimed, with no additional funds available. We are reviewing how sponsorship will be allocated in future years, but it will likely have to be scaled back overall to reflect the financial position of the Association with reduced income and fewer reserves to fall back on. We are welcoming feedback and input on how the sponsorship should be managed in the future and how it should be targeted to get the best value for money, so feel free to get in touch with me or Mark Bayada if you would like your voice to be heard.

Fingers crossed for a more active and competitive 2021!



# COMMUNICATIONS

## ANGEL FERNANDEZ: COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

When I joined British Skydiving, I could have never imagined that we would be in the middle of a global pandemic that has affected not just our day to day lives but also our sport. Unfortunately, it meant the cancellation of the Nationals, GPs, UKSL, Roadshows and the Expo, in turn, we saw drop zones close and the cancellation of boogies and load organised days. In terms of communications, our focus shifted from what would have been a year full of exciting content of competitions and jumps to the events that were happening with the uncertainty of the pandemic and the weekly Council meetings.

It was encouraging to see so many members and instructors offering online learning opportunities, in response to this we created a 'Social Distance Learning' area on the website that brought together some great new and innovative content. We also had an amazing response to our 'Key Worker Heroes' and were able to feature the incredible work that our members were doing to help in the fight against COVID.

### The Year Ahead

The Chair's Facebook Live Q&A session and the Council candidates Q&A sessions, organised by the candidates, with the membership were an enormous success. In this coming year, we will be arranging more Q&A and information sessions so that you can all get to know the people who sit on Council, the British Skydiving staff, and the people who all work tirelessly behind the scenes on the various committees and working groups.

Work has already started on some new and exciting projects and we are creating new resources to help and encourage members with their progression. We will also be surveying the membership on various topics to find out what you think about the projects that we are working on and the areas that are important to you. Please keep an eye out for these as your feedback as members and skydivers is important to us.

2021 also marks the 60th Anniversary of the Association and we are marking this special year with a logo that brings together the new branding and our heritage. You'll all be pleased to hear that we are also planning a special event to commemorate our anniversary, COVID allowing, and we'll be releasing details soon of how you can get involved and celebrate with us.

Other plans for the year are to look at the different ways that we can spread our reach further outside the skydiving bubble to attract more people into the sport to ensure our future viability. One of the ways we can attract more people is by showcasing the competitions and the ambassadors of our sport. As Sam Lee points out we are hoping to see the return of some competitions this year with some Nationals, GPs and UKSL events already planned. Building upon the work we started in 2019 we will be at as many events as possible reporting live on social media and looking to expand the coverage with more video, live Q&As and interviews with the competitors so that we can all find out a little more about the different disciplines and our star athletes.

### Skydive the Mag

British Skydiving's free bimonthly membership magazine, continued as scheduled in 2020. Council carefully considered whether this was the correct approach - should we simply cancel it, or go online-only during the pandemic? It was decided that, since the Mag is paid for by the advertising inside it and not by British Skydiving (who just pay for the postage), and since we wanted to support both the skydiving community and our publishing partners Warners, we should carry on and produce the Mag in as close to normal fashion as possible.

Things were clearly not normal though: since joining forces with Warners from the December 2019 issue, they have helped Editor Liz Ashley to produce eight magazines and two calendars, the majority of which have been during the pandemic! Our fabulous designer, Katie Wilkinson, implemented a cover-to-cover

redesign that incorporated the new British Skydiving branding and gave the Mag a fresh look. Despite an unsurprising drop in advertising leading to fewer total pages than normal, the number of editorial pages actually increased in 2020.

It was heart-warming that so many British Skydiving members stepped up to send their photos, articles, news and help to the magazine in 2020. The Mag has always been a community magazine, dependent upon the fantastic people in our sport who really make it what it is. This was never more so than last year when, despite there having often been no jumping since the previous issue, skydivers pulled together and made it happen. Thank you for being a part of it; we couldn't do it without you and we couldn't do it without our unsung hero, Liz Ashley, so a huge thank you for your time and dedication.

### Skydive the Expo

We also had to take the difficult decision to cancel this year's Expo, during the first lockdown we felt optimistic that January was far enough away to confidently proceed with our plans. However, the evolving situation meant that we had to prioritise the health and safety and wellbeing of our members, speakers, exhibitors, employees, and everyone who helps put Skydive the Expo on. A decision that has proven to be the right one as we find ourselves in a third national lockdown.

Skydive the Expo is an incredibly important event for the whole community and it is one of our favourite ways to connect with you all and celebrate together. The event team are already working hard to bring the Expo back in 2022 with some fantastic speakers and a party to remember.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful community for the support that has been shown to us and to the PTOs when jumping allowed during this difficult year. Stay safe and we hope to see you in the skies soon.



## Visit a British Skydiving **AFFILIATED DROP ZONE**

Parachute Training Organisation, PTO or drop zone, it doesn't matter what name you call it by, it's a place where you can get on a plane and jump out of it... For fun!

There are 26 PTOs that you can visit across the UK, there is even one in Cyprus if you want to travel a little further. They may be different sizes, they may have different aircraft and facilities, but what they all have in common is that they are all affiliated to British Skydiving. What that means is, you can rest assured that every single one of them maintains the highest safety standards in our sport to help keep you safe.

They all follow the same Operations Manual and furthermore, the Chief Instructors, Advanced Instructors, AFF Instructors, Tandem Instructors, Riggers and Packers have all worked to a high standard to obtain the ratings that they hold. It is this high level of training that ensures you will always be in safe hands.

Click on a logo to visit a PTOs website or go to: <https://britishskydiving.org/where-can-i-skydive/>



# Meet Your 2021 **COUNCIL**

10 Council Members are nominated and elected by the voting Membership, and two independent Council members are appointed at the AGM on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee of Council. The tenure of each elected or appointed (independent) seat on Council is three years. Seats come up for election/appointment in tranches of three or four a year (together with any casual vacancies). This helps to assure continuity with approximately 2/3 of Council members normally continuing from one year to the next.

Council Members are Non-Executive Directors of British Skydiving (BPA Ltd). Council may co-opt, as non-voting members on an annual basis, those whose skills may assist it in its work.

2021 sees the arrival of three new Council members and two new independent directors to the association. Alex Busby Hicks, Eleanor Southworth and Rob Spour each join Council on 3-year terms. Our new independent directors, Rob Hartley and Joanne Shaw join us for 1 year (vacant seat) and 3 years respectively



**CRAIG *POXON***  
**CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

During his 15 years as a Director of British Skydiving, he chaired the Development Committee from 2009 and was Vice-Chair of Council from 2012 before being elected Chair in 2020. He has been a delegate to the Royal Aero Club since 2014 and the International Skydiving Commission since 2017.



**TASH *HIGMAN***  
**TREASURER**

Tash has been on the board since 2016, initially serving on the Competitions Committee including as the Judges' Coordinator. In 2019 she moved to the Development and Communication Committees broadening her understanding of the organisation. She was elected as Treasurer in 2020.



**MARY *BARRATT***  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**

Mary holds a Doctorate in Philosophy, with a specialist interest in the body, risk, edgework and sustainable social change. As a Senior Lecturer with a highly successful UK university, she brings considerable expertise in matters of inclusion, retention and equal opportunities to her role with British Skydiving's Council.





**MARK *BAYADA***  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**

A Council member since 2017, Mark is the Chair of the Member Development Committee (MDC) and currently chairs the Canopy Working Group that created the CH and CP system. As an instructor examiner for the past 17 years, he assists at British Skydiving instructor courses and is involved with many inquiries and working groups.



**SAM *LEE***  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**

Sam joined Council and the Competitions Committee in 2019 and was the Chair of the new Elite Performance Committee for 2020.

Sam started skydiving in 2007 and has been an active formation skydiving competitor for most of that time including competing up to a World Cup level.

**ROB *HARTLEY***  
**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR - NEW FOR 2021**

Rob is a Project Manager within Sport England's Children & Young People team. Before joining Sport England, Rob was Head of Events and Competitions at the British Judo Association, delivering various Olympic and Paralympic ranking events across the UK and generating revenue for the organisation through the domestic competition pathway.



**KATE *LINDSLEY***  
**COUNCIL MEMBER**

Kate joined Council in 2020 and has competed internationally in FS and also competed in British Nationals in FF and CF.

Kate's day job is as a Physiotherapist and she brings expertise in understanding evidence-based research, safeguarding and policies and procedures relating to health and safety from her health background.



**JOANNE *SHAW***  
**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR - NEW FOR 2021**

Joanne is an accomplished Director, leading within various industry sectors achieving significant operational, commercial, people and business development objectives through Strategic Meetings Management programme.



**ALEX *BUSBY HICKS***  
**COUNCIL MEMBER - NEW FOR 2021**

Alex joins us with a 22-year career in the Army, a further 14 years of business experience and is currently the Chief Instructor at Tilstock. As CI Alex strives to provide a safe, customer-focused, inclusive experience for all jumpers, building a team that feels valued, trusted and has been given the opportunity and support to develop within the sport.





## **SIMON *SOPER*** COUNCIL MEMBER

Simon joined Council in 2020. A Tandem Instructor for the past 3 years, Simon completed almost 800 canopy formation jumps before building up 8 hours in freefall wingsuiting. Simon now has over 2000 jumps and still has the same love for the sport as when he started.



## **ELEANOR *SOUTHWORTH*** COUNCIL MEMBER - NEW FOR 2021

An experienced Senior Commercial Manager in Telecoms with 10 years' experience in IT in both customer-facing and internal roles. Eleanor believes that people and the skills of people are at the heart of any organisations performance and aims to act as a driving force behind grassroots development programmes within skydiving.



## **ROB *SPOUR*** COUNCIL MEMBER - NEW FOR 2021

A current and experienced Instructor Examiner who has been an active member of STC and worked as a CI of a large full-time UK PTO. Rob has built up his own Instructor Training Company and runs an AFF school in the UK and abroad. Alongside this, he has jumped, worked and examined at many PTOs across the UK.

# What Does British Skydiving **DO FOR ME?**

A question we are often asked, that has more than one answer. Here is just some of what we do:

## **WE REGULATE**

- We regulate our sport under an Exposition with the Civil Aviation Authority.
- Set, maintain and promote high standards of safety and training through the Operations Manual.
- Promote proactive risk management in the sport.
- Approve and audit British Skydiving Affiliated Clubs and Registered Display Teams.
- Maintain a membership database of British skydivers.
- Maintain a Register of Authorised Parachute Pilots.

## **WE REPRESENT**

- We develop the sport.
- We promote our successes and those of our members to the media and the general public.
- Publish 'Skydive the Mag', our members' magazine, six times a year both in print and digitally.
- Organise Skydive the Expo, the world's largest consumer skydiving exhibition.
- Represent our sport in the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom.
- Support the Royal Aero Club Trust's 'Flying for Youth' programme.
- Represent our sport in the Sport & Recreation Alliance, the General Aviation Awareness Council and the General Aviation Safety Council, and we are the point of contact on sport parachuting for the home countries' sports councils.

## **WE STAY SAFE**

- We maintain the highest safety standards in our sport.
- Insure the sport and its participants with third party public liability insurance to £10,000,000.
- Liaise on behalf of the sport with the Civil Aviation Authority and National Air Traffic Services.
- Investigate skydiving accidents and incidents.
- Compile and publish safety data.

## **WE EDUCATE**

- Set and maintain the progression system in the sport.
- Publish training and coaching manuals.
- Run training courses for all instructor ratings in the sport.
- Award coaching, instructor and parachute rigging ratings (qualifications).
- Provide educational seminars for members.
- Provide technical guidance and advice from world-class technical staff.
- Record the proud history of British Skydiving through the Archive Project.

## **WE COMPETE**

- Co-ordinate the British Skydiving British National Championships, the United Kingdom Skydiving League (UKSL) and UK Grand Prix skydiving competitions.
- Select and coordinate Team GB to the World Parachuting Championships, the Skydiving World Cup, the European Skydiving Championships and other recognised international competitions.
- Represent the UK on the International Parachuting Commission of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale – the World Air Sports Federation.
- Recognise achievement through British Skydiving Star Awards, Instructor of the Year and the Taz Causer Awards. .

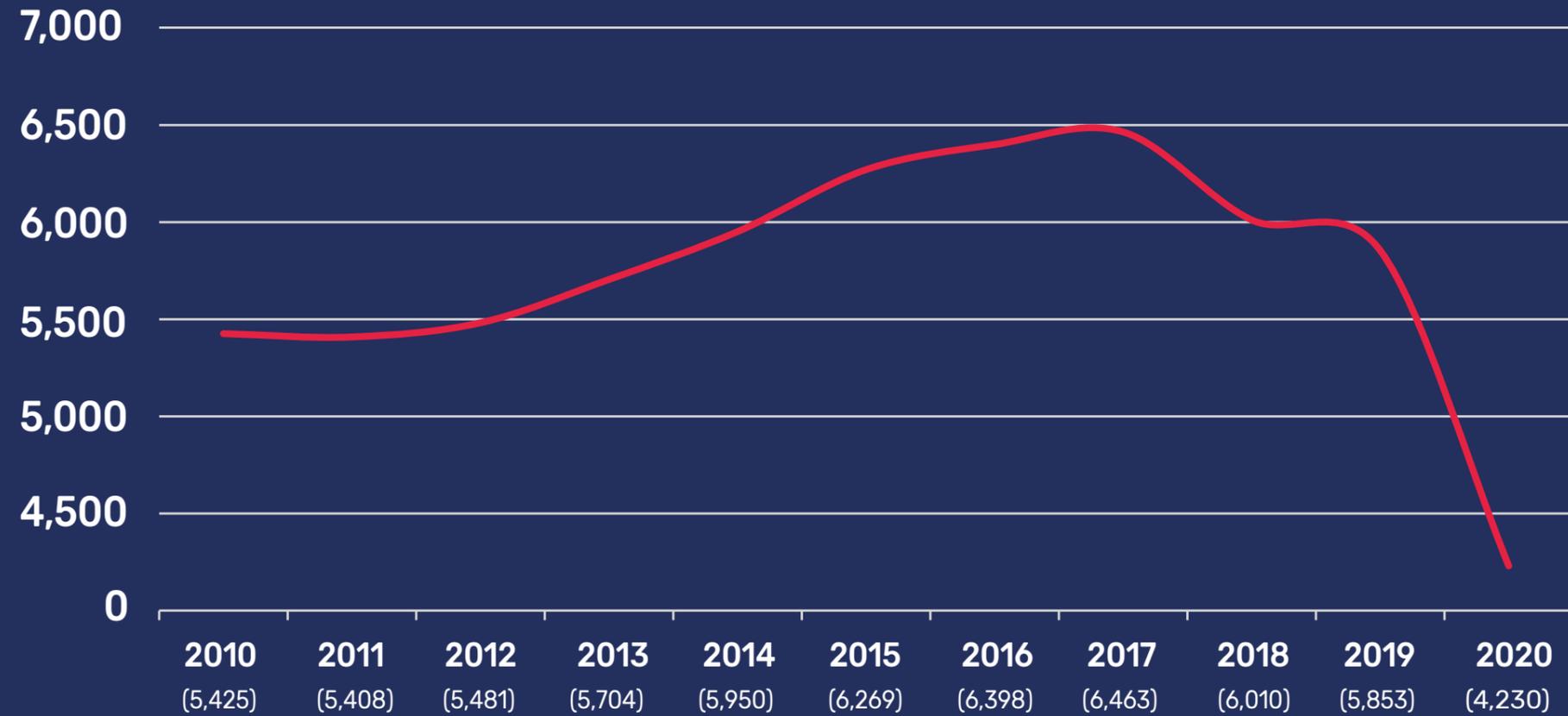
## **WE FUND**

- Provide free skills coaching roadshows to help members progress.
- Fund teams and individuals to help them achieve their best in competition.
- Administer the British Team Fund and the Drop Zone Defence Fund.

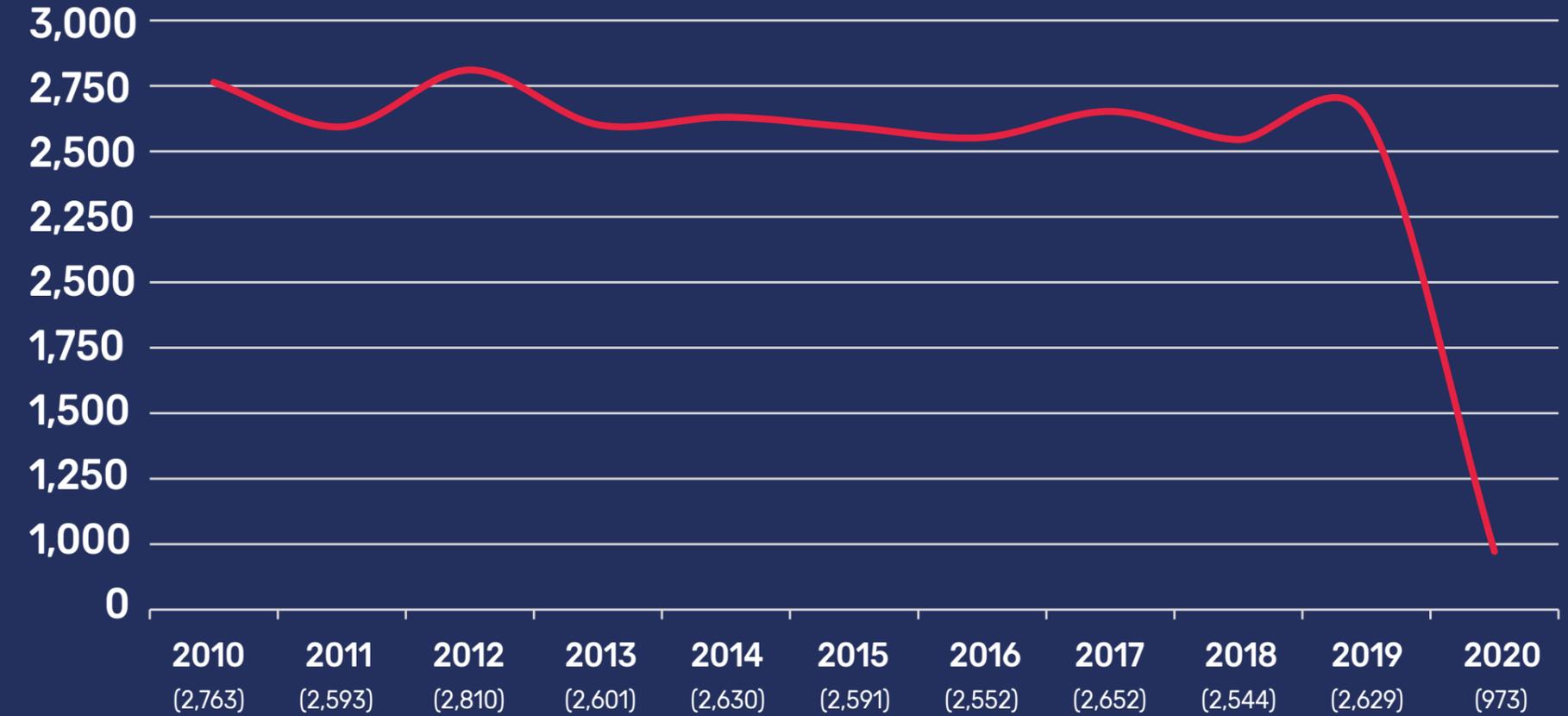
# MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Full / Temporary (inc JSAT) / Student Provisional

## FULL MEMBERSHIP



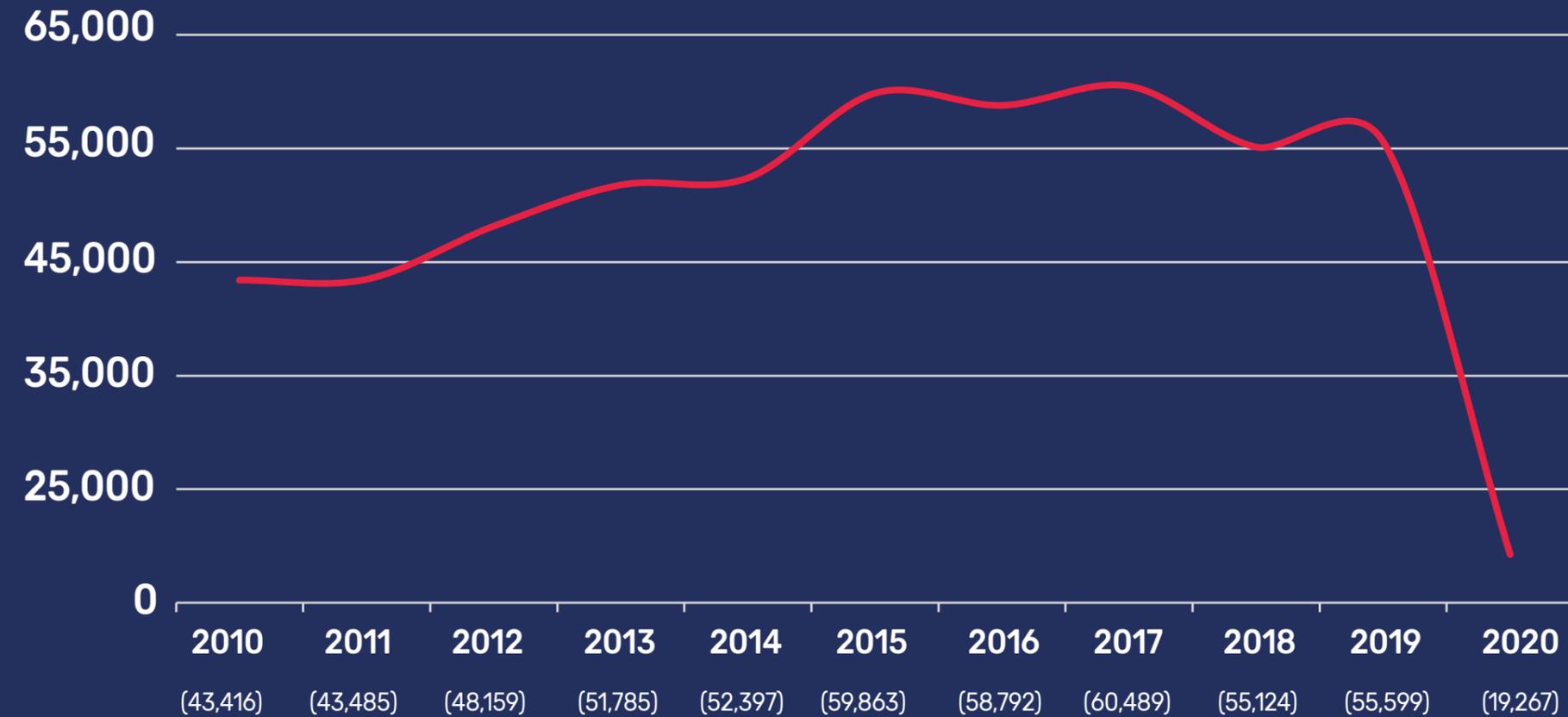
## TEMPORARY (inc JSAT)



# MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS (cont.)

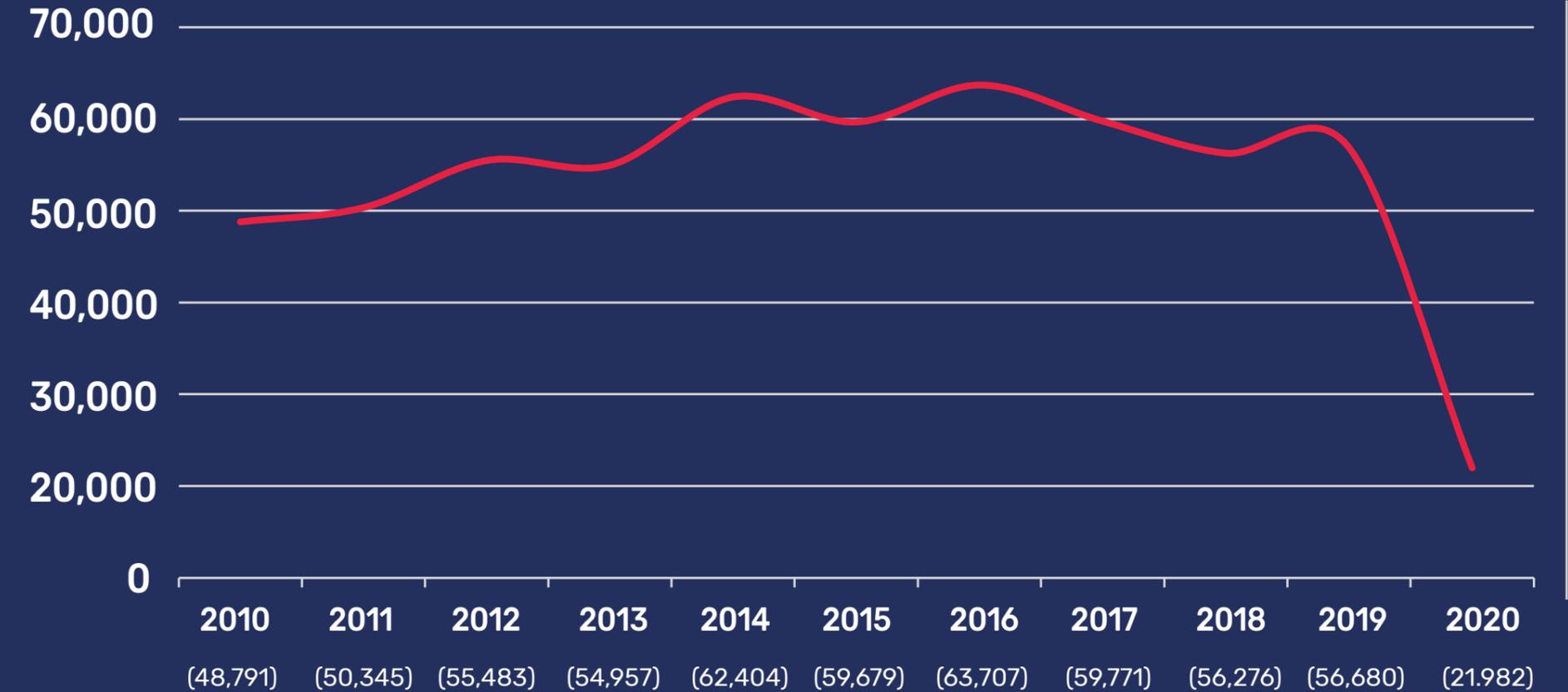
Full / Temporary (inc JSAT) / Student Provisional

## STUDENT PROVISIONAL



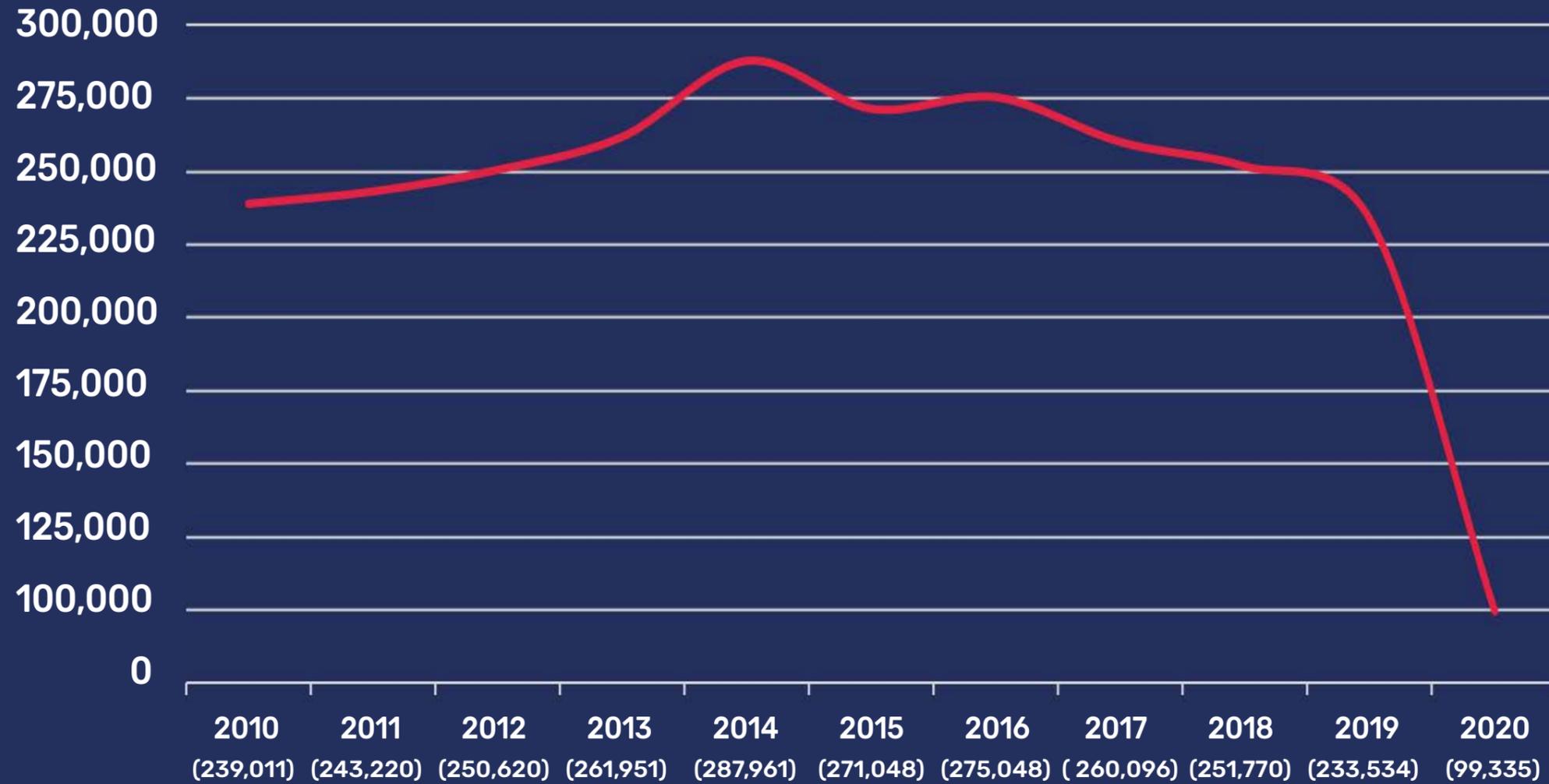
# TOTAL STUDENTS TRAINED

AFF / Static Line / Tandem



# TOTAL JUMPS

Experienced / AFF / Static Line / Tandem



## BRITISH SKYDIVING RATING

(N.B. An individual member may hold more than one rating)

	QUALIFIED IN 2020 (2019)	TOTAL RATINGS AT END OF 2020 (2019)
Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI)	2 (14)	9
Tandem Basic Instructor (TBI)	3 (12)	4
Accelerated Free Fall Basic Instructor (AFFBI)	1 (12)	10
Category System Instructor (CSI)	3 (9)	197 (217)
Category System Instructor (Ground ) (CSI(G))	0 (3)	9 (12)
Tandem Instructor (TI)	8 (29)	322 (347)
Tandem Instructor (Ground ) (TI(G))	2 (2)	21 (22)
Accelerated Free Fall Instructor (AFFI)	0 (14)	206 (213)
Accelerated Free Fall Instructor (Ground) (AFFI(G))	2 (1)	7 (6)
Advanced Instructor (AI)	2 (3)	84 (87)
Instructor Examiner (IE)	0 (1)	44 (46)
Basic Rigger (BR)	4 (7)	9
Parachute Rigger (PR)	2 (4)	47 (48)
Advanced Rigger (AR)	0 (0)	24 (21)
Rigger Examiner (RE)	0 (1)	7 (7)
Advanced Packer (New)	7 (13)	
Advanced Packer (Upgrades)	3 (7)	163 (166)
Formation Skydiving Coach	26 (59)	477 (536)
Basic Freestyle Coach	7 (8)	84 (92)
Freestyle Coach	2 (9)	80 (97)
Basic Tracking Coach	9 (20)	55 (60)
Tracking Coach	5 (11)	87 (98)
Canopy Formation Coach	2 (7)	54 (60)
Canopy Handling Coach	9 (30)	355 (385)
Canopy Piloting Coach	2 (1)	49 (56)
Wingsuit Coach	5 (7)	41 (51)
Judge	0 (3)	24 (24)

60 YEARS  
**BRITISH**  
SKYDIVING  
**SINCE 1961**

**British Skydiving (British Parachute Association Ltd)**  
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