

Skydive Chatteris Club Limited

Club AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on
16 December 2017 at 1730

At Clubhouse, Chatteris Airfield, Block Fen Drove, Doddington, PE15 0FB

In Attendance:

Anna Pavlish – Full Member
Bobby Islam – Full Member
Sebastian Spaghou – Full Member
Alison Peock – Full Member
Alex Juarez – Full Member
Pete Herrick – Full Member
James Rosling – Full Member
Tyrian Lannister – Member
James Moran – Full Member
Michael Russell – Full Member
David Edmonson – Member
Sophie Barnwell – Committee
Member

Dragos Lupu – Full Member
Tony Labbadia – Full Member
Jon Payne – Committee Member
Chris Beattie – Committee Member
Geordie Best – Full Member
Martin Crossley- Honorary member
Jan Zackl – Member
Si Chipp – Committee Member
Gary Small – Committee Member
Mike Rust – Chairman
Kenny Baker – Full Member (from
1820)
Kevin Dynan – Committee Member

Apologies for Absence

Graham Ablett – Committee Member
Tanya Burton – Committee Member

Declarations of interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any declarations of interest. There were none

Resignation and Election of Directors

As per the Club Articles of Association the Chairman asked that the current Directors formally stand down to permit the election of the club Directors for 2018.

There had been 10 nominations for the Club Committee and therefore, the following people are therefore elected to the Club Committee as Directors:

Bobby Islam, James Moran, Si Chipp, Chris Beattie, Kevin Dynan, Sophie Barnwell, Alison Peock, Graham Ablett, Gary Small, John Payne

Election of Officers

Mike formally stood down as Chairman and called for nominations for the following positions:

Chairman: Gary Small
Proposed: Chris Beattie
Seconded: John Payne
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

Vice Chair: Chris Beattie
Proposed: Gary Small
Seconded: James Moran
For / Against: Only Lloyd Quenby against, Elected by Majority Vote

Development: Graham Ablett
Proposed: Si Chipp
Seconded: Sophie Barnwell

Pete Herrick asked the Chair if it was appropriate that a person be elected to a position they could not agree or object to (as Graham Ablett was not in attendance). The Chair responded that he did not think this would be an issue.

For / Against: Only Geordie Best against, Elected by Majority Vote

Secretary: Kevin Dynan
Proposed: Si Chipp
Seconded: Geordie Best

Bobby Islam was also nominated
Proposed: Sophie Barnell
Seconded: James Moran

For / Against: Following discussion, Bobby suggested that he did not want to do the role and therefore Kevin Dynan was elected unanimously

Social Secretary: John Payne
Proposed Sophie Barnwell
Seconded: Alison Peock
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

Assistant Social secretary: Alison Peock
Proposed Gary Small
Seconded: James Moran
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

Treasurer: Martin co-opted on a point of procedure

Assistant Development: Si Chipp
Proposed Gary Small
Seconded: Alison Peock
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

Matters arising from previous minutes

Martin asked for an amendment on the first page of the previous minutes from "Martin Crossley (as the airfield owner and aircraft supplier) was asked to comment" be changed to...

"Mike Rust (the CI) had made his decision based around the legal agreement in place with Martin Crossley (the airfield owner and aircraft supplier) and such Martin was asked to comment."

Amendment completed: Lloyd Quenby 18/12/17

Chairman's report

Mike temporarily took the Chair to make his report on the 2017 season.

Mike reported that there had been 12,171 descents completed in 2017. Approximately 5,000 being tandem, 200 student descents and 7,000 experienced skydiver and tandem camera descents.

Nine new students had qualified over the period along with three new coaches and unusually only one new instructor, Vlad Vatavu (tandem instructor rating) although sadly, Vlad has subsequently moved on to new opportunities in Germany. There have been numerous FS1, FF1, TR1 and WS1 stickers gained and a handful of FF2 and TR2 stickers.

There has also been numerous coaching roadshows organized and several parachute descents from our balloon. Si Chipp has recently qualified as a Balloon Pilot and we will be applying to STC for special dispensation to reduce the hours required for parachute dropping from a balloon for Si given his considerable previous parachute flying experience. We are moving ever closer towards our aim of becoming self sufficient in balloon operations and several club members were also working towards their balloon pilot ratings.

Student of the year

The instructors had overwhelmingly voted for Dave Edmonson as student of the year for 2017. Dave had demonstrated considerable tenacity in achieving his A-License, attending the parachute centre on almost every suitable opportunity to complete the jumps required (and several unsuitable opportunities). Dave has considerable drive and has dedicated himself to achieving his A and B licenses and has nearly achieved his FS1.

There have been several other notable performances and the instructors took the difficult decision to award James Bonwick as worthy runner-up amongst numerous other strong candidates. Mike and the instructors paid tribute to the efforts of all the students who had worked hard to achieve their A-licenses in 2017.

Mike Rust retirement

Mike announced that he will be standing down from the committee forthwith and also from his position of Chief Instructor and DZ Manager on 31st of March 2018. Mike has been involved with the centre for the last 20 years however, he had decided to devote his time to pursue other interests. He will remain at the centre in a part-time capacity from May onwards.

Mike took the opportunity to thank all the staff members for their help and support over the years and called on all staff and club members to support Gary Small, who has been appointed to take over this role, as it was no easy task!

Gary Small paid tribute to Mike for all his outstanding work and took the Chair.

Treasurer's report

Martin formally thanked Tanya Burton for calling for the meeting held earlier in the year. Martin stated that it was a useful opportunity to address club members concerns and explain how the club and its finances worked.

Martin stated that if the Club Committee continued with realistic expectations then the club would work well, but warned that if this changed that the club would fall apart. Martin applauded the club as he had been involved with many that had failed over infighting and dissent and called for continued unity and discussion. He stated that the club was heading in the right direction and was working well.

Martin reported that the club was in a strong financial position and that it was important that the decisions of the committee were realistic and sensible so that this position continues. Martin undertook to monitor the club's financial standing and to report back immediately should the situation change.

Flight ticket prices

The Chair asked the committee to set the flight ticket prices for 2018. The Chair asked if the club thought the flight ticket prices should be increased? This failed to find support.

It was therefore proposed that flight ticket prices remain at:
£20 for the first 50 jumps (conducted at the club in 2018)
£15 for 51 to 75 Jumps (conducted at the club in 2018)
£12 for 76+ jumps (conducted at the club in 2018)

Considerable discussion followed about fuel and aircraft maintenance costs. Club Member Sebastian asked the treasurer under what conditions would these prices become unsustainable? The Treasurer stated that this is likely to happen if a large number of jumps were conducted at the £12 rate or that if tandem numbers dropped considerably. The treasurer undertook to keep a close eye on the financial situation and to immediately report to the club committee if this was likely.

It was therefore proposed by Sophie Barnwell that flight ticket prices be frozen at the same rates. This was seconded by Geordie Best.

This was put to the vote and opposed only by Lloyd Quenby. The motion was therefore carried by majority vote.

Report from the Development Committee

The Chair invited 2017 Club Development Officer Chris Beattie to present his report. Chris suggested that Graham Ablett and Si Chipp would make fine officers in this role in 2018 as they had been of considerable help to the development of the club in 2017.

Chris reported that the following activities were planned for 2018:

Night jumps – FEB/MAR 18. Sadly the weather had thwarted the nightjumps organised in December but we are planning to arrange nightjumps at the beginning of the season. Chris commented that with the nights drawing out at this time of year that timescales were becoming more limited.

Chris also took this opportunity to appeal to club members to use the relevant channels when suggesting events rather than unilaterally announcing the event through social media. He reminded club members that factors such as aircraft availability or official permissions may need to be considered before events are arranged.

Bigway Camp with Chris Shaw – this had proved to be a very popular camp in 2017 and that we looked forward to inviting Chris back in 2018

CRW Roadshow – once again this was a popular roadshow in 2017 and since we had organised this outside the BPA, it had opened up access to more of our own club jumpers. Therefore, it had been decided to organise another CRW camp in 2018 independent of the BPA. Sadly the CRW roadshow in 2017 had not attracted the usual good weather and jumps had been limited but we look forward to better weather for the event in 2018.

Wingsuit Roadshow – this had proved to be popular in 2017 and we hope to invite Sam Lamming back in 2018

Freefly Roadshow – this event had been poorly supported in 2017 and Chris opened this up to the members to discuss if an event would be more strongly supported in 2018. Considerable discussion followed during which James Moran suggested that diversity of disciplines would appeal more to club members. He suggested that inviting lead organizers in FF, Tracking and Wingsuiting may prove to be a more suitable attraction. James agreed to investigate this further and look at the costs such coaches might demand.

ACTION: James Moran

CP Coaching – Chris reported that two members were currently working towards their CP Coach rating.

Any Other Business

Shuttle Bus proposal

Si Chipp raised the suggestion following discussions with Josh Wheatly that a shuttle service from London to the Airfield would increase the number of London based jumpers visiting the DZ and in turn increase membership.

Martin suggested that this would have to be a private arrangement between the shuttle bus operator and the jumpers involved.

Si proposed that in the initial stages that the jumpers could pay and that the club pick up any initial shortfall in the early days of the operation.

Sebastian asked if this would be viable and considerable discussion followed.

The Chair and Treasurer agreed that this was a good idea but that it required further investigation. They suggested that this be investigated further by Si Chipp and Dave Edmondson (who has considerable contacts in the coach industry) and reported back to the Club Committee for approval.

ACTION: Si Chipp and Dave Edmondson

Club Social Media Presence

Bobby Islam asked if the Club could increase its exposure on social media. Si Chipp added that a closed group for the Club Committee might also be useful place for discussions and ideas. Lloyd Quenby noted that a social media platform already existed for club jumpers but it was poorly subscribed and moderated.

Martin agreed to look into whether discussions on social media were permitted under the Club Articles of Association and Bobby agreed to work with Lloyd Quenby to reactivate the social media platform.

ACTION: Martin Crossley, Bobby Islam and Lloyd Quenby

Purchase of Club Equipment

Gary Small proposed that the club purchase a new complete rig with a main canopy sized 260-280 sq ft for the use of newly qualified jumpers to replace the current equipment, with Manta main canopies that had gradually been phased out of use due to age.

Gary reported that there was currently a bottleneck with high demand for the larger equipment from newly qualified jumpers. Priority for the use of larger equipment is currently given to AFF students which means that it is frequently unavailable to newly qualified jumpers transitioning to smaller kit. To illustrate the point, Gary noted that of 741 jumps on club kit, 300 had been conducted on the larger AFF kit and that considerably more would have been conducted if more suitable kit had been available.

Gary therefore proposed that the club consider purchasing one complete rig, with a main canopy sized 260-280 sq ft, suitable for the use of AFF students, but for the priority use of club members.

Gary will therefore investigate the options and report to the committee in February with details of costs - which he estimates to be around £6,000.

ACTION: Gary Small.

No further business was raised. The chairman announced that the 2018 AGM would be held on the last day of jumping in Dec 2018 at a time to be announced and the meeting closed at 1930