

# Skydive Chatteris Club Limited

## Club AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on  
16 December 2018 at 1700/1730  
At Clubhouse, Chatteris Airfield, Block Fen Drove, Doddington, PE15 0FB

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### In Attendance:

Sophie Barnwell – Committee Member (From 1735 and point 7)  
Jon Payne – Committee Member  
Chris Beattie – Committee Member  
Martin Crossley- Honorary member  
Si Chipp – Committee Member  
Gary Small – Chairman

Kevin Dynan – Committee Member  
Graham Ablett – Committee Member  
G Watkins – Club Chief Pilot  
Lloyd Quenby – Club Member  
Ali Peock – Committee Member

### 1 - Apologies for Absence

Tim Hanlon – Club Member  
Chris Shaw sent his best wishes for all SCCL members in 2019 via Ali Peock

### 2- Declarations of interest

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

### 3 - 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 2019.

There had been 8 nominations for the Club Committee and therefore, the following people are therefore elected to the Club Committee as Directors:

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

#### **4 - Election of Officers**

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

**Chairman:** Gary Small  
Proposed: Chris Beattie  
Seconded: Kev Dynan

For / Against: Elected by Majority Vote (Abstentions: Gary Small)

Kev Dynan was also nominated by Lloyd Quenby but failed to find a seconder

Gary thanked all that nominated and voted for him and took the Chair.

**Vice Chair:** Chris Beattie  
Proposed: Kev Dynan  
Seconded: Gary Small

For / Against: Elected by Majority Vote (Abstentions: Chris Beattie)

**Secretary:** Kevin Dynan  
Proposed: Ali Peock  
Seconded: John Payne

For / Against: Elected by Majority Vote (Abstentions: Kev Dynan)

**Development:** Graham Ablett  
Proposed: Chris Beattie  
Seconded: Ali Peock

For / Against: Elected by Majority Vote (Abstentions: Graham Ablett)

**Assistant Development:** Ali Peock  
Proposed Gary Small  
Seconded: Kev Dynan

For / Against: Elected by Majority Vote (Abstentions: Ali Peock)

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

**Assistant Social secretary:** John Payne  
Proposed Chris Beattie  
Seconded: Kev Dynan  
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Treasurer:** Martin co-opted on a point of procedure

**Balloon Operations Manager (Balloon Guy):** Si Chipp

Proposed Chris Beattie

Seconded: Ali Peock

For / Against: Elected Unanimously

## **5 - Matters arising from previous minutes**

There were none.

## **6 - Chairman's report**

Gary reported that there had been 13,517 descents completed in 2018. 5,086 being tandem, 8,098 experienced skydiver and tandem camera descents which was up over a thousand jumps on 2017. The remainder were AFF and consol jumps. He stated that part of the reason for the increase in fun jumps had been the weather but he also paid tribute to Lloyd's efforts in making sure that fun jumpers were on as many lifts as possible.

Fourteen new students had qualified over the period. Two new canopy piloting coaches ratings had been issued and Dex had recently qualified as tandem basic instructor. There have been numerous FS1, FF1, TR1 and WS1 stickers gained and a handful of FF2 and TR2 stickers.

### **Student of the year**

Gary reported that the instructors have had heated discussions about this year's student of the year and after much debate had voted for Sebastian Ponari. Sebastian demonstrated considerable commitment to his training which he completed very quickly. He attended the centre on almost every weekend possible. He also paid for 4 of his colleagues to complete tandems at the centre.

In the hotly contested competition for student of the year, special mention went to Isaac, who the instructors nominated as a worthy runner up. As many of you will know, Isaac has overcome some serious obstacles but with tenacity and determination has recently requalified as an experienced jumper.

This year Gary decided to inaugurate two Chairman's awards to recognize the Most Improved Club Jumper as well as Club Member of the Year.

Despite a number of self inflicted setbacks, Alex Matei has completed his FS1, TR1, TR2 and numerous other gradings in a very short period of time. He is therefore the very worthy recipient of the first ever Most Improved Club Jumper award.

Alex Kean has repeatedly shown tremendous commitment to the club, bringing with him an almost endless supply of Oakham Ales finest brews. In recognition for being the Club Member of the Year I'd like to present Alex with a can of Fosters.

### **Instructors moving on**

Gary reported that Geordie had decided to hand in his Tandem rating but what this does now mean is that we have an Instructor solely dedicated to teaching and supervising our AFF students. This has already had a significant impact on the amount of jumps our AFF students have been able to achieve this year.

Lloyd has also decided to leave us at the end of the year and Gary paid tribute to his significant contribution to the running of the centre. Lloyd will be very sorely missed and Gary personally thanked Lloyd for all the hard work and effort he had put in, as an instructor, as a manifestor, as technical support and for all those mystical and grossly under-rated things he did behind the scenes, without which the club would completely collapse. Gary wished Lloyd Best wishes for the future.

Gary also reported that Si has decided to take a step back from his role as Chief Pilot to focus on other commitments. Si will be staying with us to fly but is handing over his duties as Chief Pilot to G. Congratulations G!!

Gary thanked all for their help in 2018 and wished every one a very Merry Christmas and a SAFE New Year.

### **7 - Treasurer's report**

Martin started off by stating that it had been a great year for all jumpers at the club and thanked all staff and fun jumpers for creating a fantastic atmosphere and great vibe at the club.

He stated that sadly costs had increased due to Brexit and the negative affect this had had on the strength of the pound. As aircraft parts were priced in US Dollars, the weak pound had increased costs by £60,000 in 2018 and if the UK crashed out of the EU without a deal, this could weaken the pound further against the USD and increase our costs further. There was currently no need to increase flight ticket prices at this stage but this may need to change if the pound collapses further.

Martin was introducing 15,000ft tandems that would be charged at an extra £60 on the tandem flight fee.

### **Clubhouse lease and maintenance costs**

Martin stated that the lease for the use of the airfield facilities and the clubhouse was set to expire in April 2019.

Si asked who the club leased the facilities from? Martin explained that Chatteris Leisure owned the facilities and leased them to the club for £65,000pa. He asked the Committee if the club wanted to continue the lease?

Chris Beattie proposed that the club agree to renew the lease, as offered by the land owners, on a permanent on going basis and in accordance with the current terms. Gary Small seconded the proposal and it was put to the vote. The vote was unanimous in favour of the club continuing the lease and motion was carried.

Martin continued and stated that the clubhouse cladding needed repainting and that he wanted this to be completed by a professional. Gary reported that he had received a quote for £1,730 which Jon Payne thought was high. Si Chipp offered to paint the clubhouse for £1,300 which Martin kindly rejected.

Gary Small and Jon Payne (who owns a property maintenance company) agreed to obtain further quotes for the work.

**ACTION: Jon Payne / Gary Small**

### **Flight ticket prices**

The Treasurer asked the committee to set the flight ticket prices for 2018. Gary Small and Kev Dynan asked the Treasurer if flight ticket prices should be increased following the increase in costs in 2018? The treasurer reported that £20 flight ticket prices remained viable but may need to increase if the pound collapses in value any further.

The Treasurer stated that the flight only fee for tandem skydives up to 15,000 ft were to be £60 more than the current fee.

Jon Payne proposed and Sophie Barnwell seconded the motion that flight ticket prices for fun jumpers remain at £20. This was voted for unanimously and the motion was carried.

The current discount scheme was then discussed. Lloyd Quenby put forward the motion that the three tier system be abolished in favour of a two tier system to make it easier on the manifest system.

It was therefore proposed by Kevin Dynan that flight ticket prices remain at:  
£20 for the first 60 jumps (conducted at the club in 2019)  
£12 for 61+ jumps (conducted at the club in 2019)

This represented a £3 saving if a club member completes 75 or more jumps.

Graham Ablett seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favour of the proposal, which was then carried.

## **8 - Report from the Development Committee**

The Chair invited 2018 Club Development Officer Graham Ablett to present his report.

Graham started by paying tribute to Lloyd on behalf of the fun jumpers and presented him with a token of their thanks. He continued that it had been a fantastic year for fun jumping due in part to Lloyd's help manifesting a 5 lift cycle on busy days which enabled the fun jumpers to get on more lifts.

Graham reported that there had been numerous FS1s, FF1s and TR1s. Chris Shaw's 'Coach the Coaches' and 'Introduction to Bigways' events had been very popular, as had Lawrence Fansa's Freely coaching events.

Kenny had organised a tracking weekend and there had been a successful Scrambles competition, although attendance had been down on previous years. It had been suggested that this was due to the dominance of Graham's teams, to which Graham countered by suggesting that he had handicapped his team this year by having Bobby Islam on it! Despite what some had perceived as a handicap, Graham's team had still been successful.

Sadly the planned wingsuit and Canopy Formation events had been affected by coaches' availability issues and bad weather but he hoped to rearrange these for next year.

Graham then handed over to Si Chipp to present his report on the Balloon activities which is shown below in Agenda order item 12.

Moving forwards, Graham reported that the shortage of FS coaches should hopefully be addressed in 2019 by new coaches. Michael Burns, Alison Peock, Jon Payne and Jill Judd are all hoping to obtain their FS coaching rating in 2019.

Jan Zackl and James Moran are hoping to complete their Freely Coaches rating in 2019 and Alex Kean and Oscar Lopez are hoping to complete their Tracking and Wingsuit coaches rating in the New Year.

Into 2019, further wingsuit and CF coaching events were already being planned. A CF coaching weekend had been confirmed for the Easter weekend and dates for the Wingsuit coaching event will be confirmed shortly.

Kev Dynan is planning to hold a Canopy Control coaching event aimed at newly qualified skydivers or anyone looking to improve their basic canopy handling.

Chris Shaw and Lawrence Fansa had both been approached to continue their very popular events in 2019.

Graham is looking into holding a Freely scrambles event and Lloyd suggested that a year long competition might be a better way forward than a scrambles event.

### **9 - Report from the Social Committee**

Jon Payne reported that there had been several club trips to the Algarve.

The club had held a party for Mike's retirement as well as very successful Beer and BBQ events in the May and August bank holiday weekends.

A very eventful Christmas Party had been organised which had included a Reindeer Rodeo. He complimented Alejandro who was the outstanding winner of the rodeo competition although there is some confusion as to where his winner's t-shirt is?

Sophie reported that the date of the Christmas party had been brought forward following feedback from Club Members and that it may be brought even further forward in 2019. Si Chipp suggested that charging for the event may improve attendance, as previous events that members had to pay for had seen much higher attendance.

### **10 - Changes to kithire arrangements**

The Chair reported that it had been suggested that Kit Hire fees be taken in advance following payment issues during 2018, with people leaving without paying for kit hire. Lloyd reported that this was not a major issue and that only one person (who brought large numbers of tandem students with him) was the main culprit.

Considerable discussion followed and it was decided that the situation be monitored but that no further action regarding Kit Hire payment arrangements be made.

### **11 - Jumpmaster shortage**

This item had been discussed earlier in the SMS meeting – please refer to the minutes of this meeting for further background.

It was proposed that a financial incentive might encourage more jumpers to act as jumpmaster. This proposal failed to find a seconder as the suggestions made in the SMS to encourage people to act as a jumpmaster might help alleviate the issue.

It was proposed that a Jumpmaster training day be conducted so that members can learn more about the responsibilities of a jumpmaster, such as determining exit order and what to do in an emergency. It had also been proposed that a new system allowing novice jumpmasters to JM smaller numbers of people be

instigated to allow for progression towards jumpmastering larger and more complex loads. Gary Small will look into these proposals and report back.

**ACTION: Gary Small.**

## **12 – Club Balloon**

Si Chipp, in his new capacity of 'Balloon Guy' addressed the meeting to report on Balloon Activities in 2018.

He reported that there had been 18 Jumps and 6 Balloon lifts in 2018. This was slightly down on previous years because Si was still not qualified as a Balloon Jump Pilot and so we were reliant on external pilots. Because of the good weather this summer, they had been busy elsewhere and the matter was compounded further because Rebecca had sustained a shoulder injury and was unable to fly. There had also been issues securing volunteers to help with take off and balloon retrieval.

### **Balloon Jump Pilot Training Manual Progress**

The Balloon Jump Pilot Training Manual had been completed in draft form and a copy was now with the CAA for their feedback.

In the manual, changes had been proposed to allow for a 25% reduction in the hours requirements to drop parachutists for Pilots holding a BPA C-License and above, in line with current requirements for Pilots of powered aircraft.

Other changes had been proposed to BPA Form 109a preventing Balloon Pilots with limited experience of dropping parachutists to sign up other pilots without a PTO Chief Instructor counter signing the form to check all other BPA requirements had been met.

Si also reported that Chatteris Airfield may also soon have it's own Met Office airfield location site. This will show the spot winds at various heights for our location.

### **Balloon Insurance and Maintenance Costs**

Si reported that the Balloon Insurance was now £1,700pa making the total cost for operating the Balloon around £5,000 (including gas) for the year.

### **Proposal for the Purchase of an off-road vehicle for balloon recovery**

Si reported that the current vehicle used for balloon operations is inadequate for the job and that another vehicle might be better suited. Martin, who owns the current vehicle and lends it to the club, also stated that he would appreciate the vehicle back. Si therefore proposed that the club look into purchasing a 4x4 type vehicle such as a landrover. He said that these were often available at



reasonable cost from Military Surplus Auctions. Martin and Si promised to look into this further and report back with possible costs

**ACTION: Si Chipp and Martin Crossley**

### **Future Use and Balloon Flight fees**

Si reported that Balloon Pilots Oli and Lynda had expressed an interest in supporting the balloon flying program and this should help us to fly the balloon more frequently and enable Si to achieve the required hours for the club to be self sufficient. He warned that this may still be a long process as it took a long time for Balloon pilots to obtain the relatively low number of hours required.

Si proposed that balloon flight fees remain at:

Club Members: First Jump of the Year – Free

Club Members: Subsequent Jumps - £20

Non Members: All jumps £60

This was seconded by Jon Payne and carried by unanimous vote.

### **13 – End of Day fun Jump Procedures**

The chair gave background to the meeting that it often takes a long time for fun jumpers to get organised following the last tandem lift of the day. On one occasion it had taken over two hours for one fun jump lift to be completed. He stated that the staff were paid per tandem and that it was unreasonable for them to be expected to stay for this length of time after the tandem program has ceased to facilitate a fun jump program.

Graham suggested that this was often due to waiting for packers to pack club Kit and Gary stated that next year there would be three full time packers and this shouldn't happen. Ali suggested that it was also due to fun jumpers not knowing when the final lifts would be taking off or if there were enough numbers to make the lifts viable.

Kevin Dynan stated that it would be reasonable for there to be an hour from when the last tandem lift lands for subsequent fun jump lifts to be completed. Beyond this point he proposed that funjumpers may want to pay for an instructor and pilot to be available at £30 an hour each, the cost for which could be divided between those on the lifts that take place.

G suggested that the staff provided a service and that the pilots would not be asking for such a payment. Discussion then ensued and it was concluded that an hour was a reasonable length of time to expect subsequent lifts after the cessation of the tandem program to take place and that it would not be necessary for staff to be available or paid beyond this point. The proposal therefore failed to find a seconder.

#### **14 – Jump ticket awards**

It had been put to the Club Committee and agreed via facebook poll that the following jump tickets funded by the club be awarded:

Student of the Year - 3 jump tickets

Student of the year runner up – 2 jump tickets

Most improved club jumper of the year – 1 jump ticket

Club member of the year – 1 can of Fosters lager

#### **15 – Any Other Business**

##### **Clubhouse cleanliness**

Martin stated that he was not happy with the state that the clubhouse was left in by club members, particularly at the end of the year.

Jon Payne, Graham Ablett and Ali Peock noted that some club members were doing more than their fair share of the cleaning. Gary also stated that it was the responsibility of a staff member to keep the clubhouse tidy but it was clear that this system had broken down.

Discussion followed and it was suggested that perhaps the club pay for a professional cleaning company to come and clean the clubhouse on a weekly basis, perhaps combining these duties with cleaning the airfield toilets.

Martin also suggested that he will look into getting the club BBQ professionally cleaned once a year.

**ACTION: Martin**

##### **Club forms amendments**

It was proposed by Kev Dynan and Lloyd Quenby that flight fees and dates of the AGM be removed from the membership agreements and replaced with a reference to the club website which could be more easily updated.

**ACTION: Lloyd**

##### **Dishwasher**

Sophie suggested that the club buy a small dishwasher and that this may alleviate some of the clubhouse mess. Considerable discussion followed on whether this would simply move the issue of cutlery and plates not being washed from the basin to the dishwasher. Ali Peock stated and wished it to be put on record that if a dishwasher be purchased, that she would be personally responsible for loading and unloading the dishwasher.

Ali therefore proposed and Sophie seconded that a dishwasher be purchased.  
4 people voted for  
3 people voted against

The proposal was carried and Sophie and Ali agreed to look into costs

**ACTION: Sophie and Ali**

### **Caravans for funjumper use**

Ali Peock reiterated her request for caravans for funjumper use. Chris stated that 3 caravans were being removed and replaced with two new caravans but that they were earmarked for staff use and unlikely to be available for club use. Chris agreed to instigate a waiting list and any club members wishing to be put on the list for a caravan should contact him.

### **16 - Dates of the Next Meeting**

No further business was raised. The chairman announced that the 2019 AGM would be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 at 1400.

The meeting concluded at 1920.