

# Skydive Chatteris Club Limited

## Club AGM – Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held on  
15 December 2019 at 1400 (meeting commenced 1430)  
At Clubhouse, Chatteris Airfield, Block Fen Drove, Doddington, PE15 0FB

---

### In Attendance:

Jon Payne – Committee Member  
Chris Beattie – Committee Member  
Martin Crossley- Honorary member  
(To point 11)  
Si Chipp – Committee Member 2019  
(Arrived at Point 5 and left after  
point 11)

Kevin Dynan – Committee Member  
Graham Ablett – Committee Member  
Tim Hanlon – Club Member  
Ali Peock – Committee Member

### 1 - Apologies for Absence

Gary Small – Club Chairman (Sends his apologies but other commitments have prevented him from attending the meeting)  
Sophie Barnwell – Committee Member (unfortunately unwell and unable to attend, the club committee wished her a speedy recovery)

As the Club Chairman was unable to attend the meeting, Kev Dynan (Club Honorary Secretary) agreed to Chair the meeting. Any references to the 'Chairman' refer to the Chair of the meeting and not the Club Chairman.

### 2- Declarations of interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that any declarations of interest be raised at the appropriate agenda item. 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 2020.

There had been 6 nominations for the Club Committee and therefore, the following people are therefore elected to the Club Committee as Directors:

Chris Beattie, Kevin Dynan, Sophie Barnwell, Alison Peock, Gary Small, John Payne

Si Chipp and Graham Ablett were standing down at the meeting and the Chairman thanked them for their contributions to the club over the previous years.

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

The Chairman and called for nominations for the following positions:

**Chairman:** Gary Small  
Proposed: Chris Beattie  
Seconded: Jon Payne

For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Vice Chair:** Chris Beattie  
Proposed: Ali Peock  
Seconded: Kev Dynan

For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Honorary Secretary:** Kevin Dynan  
Proposed: John Payne  
Seconded: Chris Beattie

For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Development:** Jon Payne  
Proposed: Ali Peock  
Seconded: Chris Beattie

For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Assistant Development:** Sophie Barnwell  
Proposed Chris Beattie  
Seconded: Ali Peock

For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Social Secretary:** Alison Peock  
Proposed Jon Payne  
Seconded: Kev Dynan  
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Assistant Social secretary:** Sophie Barnwell  
Proposed Jon Payne  
Seconded: Ali Peock  
For / Against: Elected Unanimously

**Treasurer:** Martin Crossley co-opted on a point of procedure  
(in a non-voting role and accountable to the club committee)

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

### **Point 7: Clubhouse painting**

Jon Payne stated that he had received a quote from Steve Rawlings to paint the clubhouse for £1,300 and at the time the committee had thought that expensive. He had sought out further quotes and that three people had said that they would quote but had failed to do so. On discussion, it was thought that £1,300 may be a reasonable quote. Chris Beattie also mentioned that he would ask the builder Graham to supply a quote.

**ACTION: Chris (speak to Graham the builder)  
Kev / Gary / Jon to look at quote from Steve Rawlings**

### **Point 10: Kit Hire arrangements**

In an email submitted by Gary prior to the meeting he states that people are still leaving without paying for kit hire. Discussion ensued as to why we didn't take this upfront. Kev explained that there was no mechanism in Ground Control to put money on account for kit hire. Ali suggested a paper ticket system.

**ACTION: Kev to look into putting a system in place to allow kit hire to be paid in advance in line with jump tickets.**

### **Point 11: Jumpmaster shortage**

Gary also mentioned in his email that he had now implemented a system where 'novice' B licence skydivers, with the appropriate briefs and qualifications, could act as jumpmaster for groups of up to 5 people in an aircraft. Currently two club members had taken advantage of this, notably Hussein who was progressing well and Vlad who had gone through the training and was now a 'full' jumpmaster, able to control lifts of more than 5 jumpers.

### **Point 12: Balloon Jumping manual**

A Balloon Jumping Pilot's Training Manual is currently still in draft form.

### **Point 13: End of day procedures**

Gary also mentioned in his email that the end of day procedures agreed by the committee were now in place and working well.

### **Point 15: AOB Club House Cleaning**

Graham mentioned that he seemed to be the only club member regularly cleaning the club house – Martin thanked him for this. Graham went on to discuss how the clubhouse had become a dumping ground for club member equipment such as tents and in particular kite surfing equipment.

Considerable discussion then followed and a number of suggestions made including looking into quotes for cleaners, a rota of on site staff to clean the clubhouse and Graham to be paid for regularly cleaning the clubhouse.

**ACTION: Chris to look into a viable solution**

### **Item 15: AOB Club forms amendments**

Gary mentioned in his email that references to changeable items such as flight fees and dates of the AGM had been removed from the membership agreements and replaced with a reference to the club website.

### **Item 15: AOB Dishwasher**

This had been done and in his email Gary thanked Michael Foulser for his efforts and agreeing to fund the parts at no cost to the club. Ali Peock had mentioned that some of the members were not using the dishwasher correctly and that she would design a sign reminding members of the correct way to load a dishwasher.

**ACTION: Ali Peock**

### **Item 15: AOB Caravans**

Chris reported that there was still a shortage of caravans for staff use and as such there are still no caravans available for use by club members. Discussion followed about one caravan in use by club members that were rarely here and Chris agreed to contact the club member/s involved to discuss relinquishing the caravan for staff / club member use.

**ACTION: Chris**

### **6 – Club Chairman’s report**

The meeting Chair then read out the Club Chairman’s report previously prepared by Gary.

Gary reported that this year we have completed some 11,828 descents, approximately 5065 being Tandem jumps and 6593 descents completed by experienced club jumpers.

12 New students have qualified during the year. Dex and Gus qualified as Tandem Instructors and Kev has passed the Advanced Instructor course. There have also been numerous FS1, TR1 and FF1 stickers issued as well as a handful of FF2 and TR2 stickers. We also had a number of CF1 stickers awarded following the successful coaching roadshow. Tony Labbadia has finally achieved 1,000 jumps, Sean Healey 2,000 jumps and Graham 3,000 jumps.

The instructors have had heated discussions about this year’s student of the year and after much debate have voted for Amjad al Smadi. Amjad demonstrated considerable commitment to his training, attending the centre on every opportunity possible, many of those occasions were unsuitable but Amjad filled his time helping the staff, running around catching tandems and helping wherever he could.

In the hotly contested competition for student of the year, special mention must also go to Rod Blair, who the instructors nominated as a worthy runner up.

Moving on now to the Chairman’s awards recognising the Most Improved Club Jumper as well as Club Member of the Year.

Svatopluk Danek (Steve as he's known to his friends and Geordie) has achieved a lot this year. Despite being unable to attend the centre as often as he would like due to his work commitments and travel challenges, Steve has achieved his FS1, B-licence, TR1 and FF1. We therefore, had no hesitation in awarding him the Most Improved Club Jumper award.

Michael Foulser has repeatedly shown great commitment to the club, plumbing in the club's much fabled dishwasher, providing the parts free of charge to the club which was greatly appreciated. In recognition for being the Club Member of the Year Gary would like to present Michael with a brick.

Sadly, former club stalwart Stewart Ewing passed away this year following a long battle with Cancer. Are thoughts are obviously with his family and Gary paid tribute to one of the club's longest standing members.

Gary also paid tribute to all members of the staff. Without exception they have been incredibly dedicated, hardworking and committed and Gary feels we have really worked well as a team. The newest member to that team has made particularly large impact and that's Diana. No one can argue that Diana has proved a real asset to the team and we look forward to seeing her again in April.

Some of the staff got their glad rags on and took a trip to London to witness Kim being awarded with the prestigious Certificate of Merit from the Royal Aero Club at the RAF club in Piccadilly. Kim received the accolade in recognition for her many years of services to parachute rigging.

Other notable events at the club this year included a visit from Buzz Lightyear. Skylark garden centre wanted to open their Maize Maze this year with a spectacular PR promotion and of course turned to us, the country's leading skydiving Centre to provide the stunt. Initially, the star was to be Gary in full Buzz Lightyear regalia but as many will have seen on the facebook pictures, the suit was a little too radical to be taken into the air. Instead, our own resident Buzz Lightyear Gus, donned a smaller suit to jump out of our otter and Marion's fine camera work was seen broadcast across many news outlets.

Gary summed up by thanking all for their help this year and to wished all 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.

He stated that there remained uncertainty as to what would happen when the UK leaves the EU at the end of January 2020. He suggested that he would like to see a slight increase in flight ticket prices as an interim measure but this may need to change if the pound collapses further following Brexit.

## **7i - 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 and had now been renewed. He stated that the club currently owed its creditors £330,000.

## **7ii - Flight ticket prices**

The Treasurer asked the committee to set the flight ticket prices for 2020.

Si Chipp suggested setting the prices at £23 for the first 60 jumps and then increasing the discount for 61+ jumps making them £10. Martin suggested that £23 and £12 was more reasonable. Considerable discussion then ensued, and Chris Beattie proposed that:

Flight ticket prices be set at:

£22 for the first 60 jumps (conducted at the club in 2020)

£12 for 61+ jumps (conducted at the club in 2020)

Jon Payne seconded the proposal.

Carried by majority vote  
(Graham Ablett abstaining)

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

The Chair invited 2019 Club Development Officer Graham Ablett to present his report.

Graham stated that the new manifest arrangements, procedures and protocols had caused a lot of disquiet and alienated a lot of the club jumpers and some had decided to move on to other clubs. The club's best year for fun jumping had been followed in 2019 by the club's worst. The situation had improved in the summer season when a full time manifestor had been employed.

The club had organised a CF Coaching event, a bigway coaching weekend with Chris Shaw, a wingsuiting event, a Canopy Handling seminar with Paul Dorward, a 3 way scrambles event that sadly suffered due to bad weather, an FF load organizing event with Lawrence Fansa, a Tracking event which was cancelled and novelty jumps from a Yak which had to curtailed early because James Baker broke the step!

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

Sophie had been unable to attend due to illness but in her absence, Graham, Ali and Jon reported that there had been some very successful Barbecues arranged. Sadly no Christmas party had been organised because it was not felt that any club members would attend due to ill feeling caused by the manifesting arrangements earlier in the year.

## **10 - Club Balloon**

Si Chipp reported that there had only been one Balloon lift this year for the purpose of parachuting. He mentioned that this was due in part because he was still 18 hours short of the 60 hours he required to drop parachutists unsupervised and because Rebecca (who usually supervised him or flew for us) had sustained an injury plus was busy flying her own balloon in a commercial

capacity. It was also noted that one of the main reasons for not running as many balloon lifts this year a lack of people to help retrieve the balloon.

### **10i - Balloon Insurance and Maintenance Costs**

The Chairman then asked Si and the Treasurer for a run down on costs. The treasurer reported that the Balloon Insurance was now £1,500pa but with other costs, the Balloon costs were around £2,000 this year. The Chairman then asked if this was a reasonable cost to sustain given that only 4 people jumped the balloon this year?

### **10ii - Future Use and Balloon Flight fees**

Considerable discussion then followed regarding methods that could be employed to remove the barriers currently in place to operating the balloon as often as we would like. These included abolishing free slots and using some of the money paid in flight fees to pay crew members assisting with retrieval. Martin warned that this may move us into the realms of a commercial operation which may then warrant the need to obtain an Air Operators Certificate and other complications.

The Chairman then stated that it looked unlikely that we would be in a position to operate the balloon for parachuting in the near future and as such the committee was not in a position to vote on the continued use of the Balloon or setting flight fees until this was resolved or we were in a position to actually run a jump program. He suggested that the insurance for the Balloon, which appears to be the major cost, should not be paid until it looked like we were in a position to operate the balloon on a jump program again. At this point, a meeting should be set for the committee to agree costs and set flight fees.

**ACTION: Martin to look into paying crew members and regulation issues surrounding this**

### **11 - Committee Facebook page**

The Chairman had noticed that previous members of the Club Committee who had stood down or resigned were still able to access the Club Committee closed facebook group. He agreed to work with Si Chipp who is currently the admin for the group to remove former Committee members from the Group.

**Action: Kev Dynan with Si Chipp**

### **12 - 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 Brick

Tim Hanlon suggested that the award of a Brick to the Club member of the year was insufficient and that he felt it warranted at least 1 jump ticket.

It was proposed by Chris Beattie and Seconded by Jon Payne that Michael Foulser should also be awarded 1 jump ticket in recognition for his work installing and paying for the parts for the club dishwasher.

This was carried unanimously.

### **13 - Any Other Business**

#### **13i - Transit van battery**

Gary had submitted to the committee that the club's transit van was likely to need a new battery, which he estimated would cost around £80.

Chris Beattie proposed, and Jon Payne seconded, the purchase of a new battery for the transit van at around £80.

This was carried unanimously

**ACTION: Gary**

#### **13ii - Club jumpers still welcomed?**

Ali Peock said that she had been asked by some club members to put to the committee if club jumpers were still welcome? Ali gave further background that a number of club jumpers had thought that with the number of jumps completed by club jumpers down this year compared to last, and with the manifesting arrangements in place earlier in the year that some no longer felt welcome at the club.

Chris Beattie said that club jumpers are very much welcome but reiterated that Tandem Jumpers must take priority.

The Chairman stated that this had been raised before and had already been discussed some years ago in a previous meeting dedicated to this subject and that those concerned might like to read the minutes from that meeting. [note see [Minutes 05.08.2017](#) available on the club website]

Tim Hanlon also made the point that the person manifesting was new to the role and should not be expected to be as capable in the role as Lloyd had been, someone who was incredibly technically capable and very familiar with the role.

The Chairman also gave background to the different manifest arrangements. He stated that a full time manifestor was only viable during the busy season, April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. Outside this period, manifest was conducted by other members of staff, usually himself. As a tandem instructor, his priority was to be acting as a tandem instructor or video person and not manifesting. To have a tandem instructor on the ground manifesting and not on a lift jumping a tandem was a waste of a valuable asset, reduced the number of tandems that could be jumped per lift which ultimately reduces efficiency and increases the amount of time and number of lifts it took to jump the tandem students.



In the absence of a full time manifestor, a 'cycle' of lifts must be manifest in advance. It is therefore not possible to manifest a second lift for fun jumpers unless there are sufficient fun jumpers to make two lifts of fun jumpers viable, prior to the commencement of the cycle. Manifesting club members for a second jump once a cycle had commenced was therefore only possible if someone was on the ground and available to manifest. Whilst last year, Lloyd was prepared to take a lift off to manifest during the cycle, current instructors manifesting were not.

Furthermore, in order to make the business viable, costings are set based on the assumption that we achieve 5,000 tandem jumps per year at an average of 5 tandems per lift. As we had not achieved the 5 tandems per lift average in the previous year, this had become a manifest priority.

The Chairman stated that the arrangements will be the same in 2020 and that a full time manifestor will be returning on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, possibly earlier if bookings allow.

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

No further business was raised. The chairman announced that the 2020 AGM would be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 1400.

The meeting concluded at 1600.