

Skydive Chatteris Club Limited

Club AGM – Minutes

Minutes of AGM meeting held on 26th November 2023 at 12:00

In attendance:

Gary small – Chairman
Chris Beattie – Vice Chair
Dave Edmondson – Development
Jon Payne –Social
Martin Cross;ey – Treasurer

1.Apologies of absence

There were none

2. Declaration 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 articles of association the Chairman asked the current directors to formerly stand down to permit the election of club directors for 2024.

There had been four nominations for club committee therefore the following people have elected as club directors Gary Small, Chris Beattie, Jon Payne, Dave Edmondson.

4. Election of officers

The Chairman called for nominations to the following positions.

Chairman – Gary Small

Proposed – Jon Payne

Seconded Dave Edmondson

For/Against – Elected unanimously

Vice chair – Chris Beattie

Proposed – Dave Edmondson

Seconded – Gary Small

For /Against – Elected unanimously

Secretary –Chris Beattie

Proposed – Jon Payne

Seconded – Gary small

For/Against – elected unanimously

Development – Dave Edmondson

Proposed – Chris Beattie

Seconded – Gary Small

Social – Jon Payne

Proposed – Gary Small

Seconded – Dave Edmondson

Treasurer – Martin Crossley co-opted

(In a non voting role and accountable the Club Committee)

Proposed – Gary Small

Seconded – Jon Payne

5. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matter arising from previous meeting

6 Club chairman report :

Chairmans report Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd 26th November 2023

Firstly i would like to thank everyone for attending.

As everyone knows this has been quiet. This year we have completed some 8361 descents, approximately 3914 being tandem jumps and 4555 descents completed by experienced club jumpers the remaining 92 being TAFF/AFF

The Chairman would like to point out that in the treasurers report it states that 5000 tandems are needed to facilitate the agreement with SCCL and Skydive Aviation therefore the committee would like NLSC to look into the drop in tandems students this year for improvements in next year.

3 new students have qualified during the year. Leigh and Dave got their tandem rating. Kev and Martha moved onto pastures new and we wish them well. Tim has been promoted to 2IC to myself this year and is ding a great job, keep it up. Alex, Laurie and Demi joined us this year. There have also been numerous FS!, TR1,2 and FF! Stickers issued.

The instructors have had heated discussions about this years student of the year and after much debate have voted for Vivky Capel. Vicky has demonstrated considerable commitment to her training, attending the centre on every opportunity possible.

In the hotly contested competition for student of the year a special mention must also go to Demi Dixey and Emma Chung who instructors nominated as worthy runners up.

Moving on now to the Chairmans awards recognizing the most improved club jumper.

Thomas Dulinski achieved a lot this year. He attended the centre as often as he could. Thomas has achieved his 'B' license FS1, CT1 and JM1. We therefore had hesitation in awarding him the most improved club jumper award.

I would also like to pay tribute to all members of staff. Without exception they have incredibly dedicated, hard working and committed and i feel we have really worked well as a team in a very difficult year.

The following newest members of the team Alex, Laurie and Demi have made a substantial impact on the team with their contributions.

Amy has also joined us this year on a part time basis, something we hope she will continue next year, hopefully on a full time basis. Amy has shown that shes keen to learn all aspects of the business and great success awaits her in her skydiving career.

Since our last meeting it,s with sad news, as most of us know Pete Herrick died last year. We all agree what a great guy Pete was and will be sadly missed. Pete Funeral was well attended and thanks to everyone from here who attended. All our condolences goes out to Sylviane and her family. RIP Pete . In August we held a memorial jump scattering Petes ashes, thank you to all those involved. Sylviane was very grateful and it was topped off with Sean cooking for everyone.

In the present economic climate a special thanks goes to Martin for balancing the books, keep up the goof wotk.

So all that remains is for me to thank you all for your help this year and to wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a SAFE New Year.

7. Treasurers report

8. flight ticket prices

Much discussion took place on the prices of the tickets. It was decided that the prices will remain the same the same for now but due to the economic climate may be subject to change. The was also discussion on the discount scheme but that again will remain the same but may be subject to change.

9.Report from the development committee

There has been a noticeable drop in fun jumpers this year and much discussion took place on how to increase those numbers. One way that the committee concluded may help is to increase the social media presence of the Club.

10. Report from the Social committee

Seans cooking was again the highlight of the year especially the food he prepared after Petes memorial jumps. Big thank you to Sean for all the hard work and effort that goes into making those nights such a great success.

11. Committee Facebook Page

It has been a quiet year but more effort will be made in increasing the presence of the Club on Facebook.

12 Jump ticket awards

It was agreed by the committee that the following awards be made.

Vicky Capel – 3 jump tickets

Demi Dixey and Emma Chung – 1 jump ticket each.

13 Any other business

There was no other business

14 Date of next meeting

The Chairman announced the date for the next meeting will be November 24th at 10:00

Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd

Treasurers report of 26th November 2023

Back ground

SCCL Operate skydiving flights for SCCL members.

Everyone making jumps with SCCL must be club members – this includes tandem and AFF students as well as experienced skydivers.

Every member of the club has a say in how the club is operated through a voting system to appoint committee members. This is done annually at the AGM.

The committee members control how the club is operated on behalf of the members for the coming year.

Any member that has made 20 or more jumps with the club for two or more consecutive years at the date of the AGM at which they are elected can stand for office.

Each member has a liability of £1 – reference the Articles of Association which can be found on the club web site at www.skydivechatteris.co.uk

All officers of the club are insured through a Directors Insurance Policy provided by Romero Insurance Brokers.

Legal Requirements to Operate

In order for flights to take place there must first be a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) “Permission” in place. SCCL has this Permission which is effectively a licence to operate.

The CAA Permission requires all operations of the club to be conducted in accordance with CAP660

CAP660 requires all operations to be conducted in accordance with an approved Operations Manual.

The CAA recognise the British Skydiving Operations Manual (BS Operations Manual) as being the accepted standard.

The BS Operations Manual requires a suitably qualified Chief Instructor to be appointed and put in charge of the operation.

The SCCL committee appoint a Chief Instructor (in this case Gary Small) in this role.

The Chief Instructor does not have to be a member of the club committee, but it is recommended.

The Chief Instructor is responsible for ensuring the operation is conducted in accordance with the BS Operations for which he or she has total control over the aircraft manifest.

When deciding who gets on the aircraft the Chief Instructor follows the instructions given to them by the SCCL committee.

These instructions are based around the leasing agreement of the aircraft.

Aircraft lease

The SCCL committee have entered into a legal agreement with Skydive Aviation Ltd (the "lessor") to "dry lease" Twin Otter N808PC.

Dry lease means the lessor provides the aircraft, maintenance, insurance and fuel for the aircraft, but not the pilots.

The club committee have appointed Gerwyn Watkins as Chief Pilot and Simon Chipp as Pilot.

The club pays the pilots for their services through the fees it receives from new tandem student members provided by North London Skydiving Centre Ltd, for which 5000 per year are needed.

The terms of the aircraft lease require priority to be given on aircraft flights to the new student members provided by North London Skydiving Centre Ltd, their instructors, cameramen, and other associated staff members.

In return North London Skydiving Centre Ltd provide the funds needed to cover not only the aircraft lease and the pilot fees, but also all the other fees and wages associated with the instructors and personnel needed for SCCL to operate, including those of the Chief Instructor.

The fees received from the regular club members contribute nothing to these costs.

The flight fees currently charged by Skydive Aviation Ltd as part of the aircraft lease agreement for regular club members who are qualified experienced skydivers is subsidised only because of this arrangement with North London Skydiving Centre Ltd.

The subsidised rate (not the rate the regular club member pays – see below) is currently £15.00 (£12.50 + VAT)). This is how the club generates its main income.

This arrangement allows an average of 5 spaces per flight to be allocated to regular Club members that are qualified experienced skydivers.

Records show that historically approximately 1000 flights are made each year with a comfortable maximum of 17 flights per day, weather permitting.

This means that on perfect weather days a maximum of 85 flight spaces are available for regular members, which regular members should be wary of when choosing to attend.

Weekends and Wednesdays are the busiest times.

With 5000 new Tandem students' members needed each year to make the operation viable, and 1000 flights available, an average of 5 tandems per flight is necessary.

There are often however another 144 spaces per day (8 lifts x 18 people) available for regular members on Thursdays and Fridays, weather permitting, which to date have not been utilised.

To utilise these spaces, regular club members should organise themselves to be attend in groups of at least 36 (so that a two-lift flight cycle can be operated) and be prepared to arrive early and stay all day.

This is an area the club committee might wish to explore.

Flight fees and drop heights for regular club members who are qualified experienced skydivers

The flight fees charged by the lessor for regular club members who are qualified experienced skydivers (see above) is only offered because of the arrangement the club has with North London Skydiving Centre Ltd.

Based on 1000 flights per year, and an average 2 lift cycle, it is estimated that under normal operating conditions, a flight in N808PC to 10,000 ft (excluding pilot fees) costs around £240 and a flight to 15,000 ft (excluding pilot fees) around £360.

An extra £150 is added to the cost of flight for a one lift cycle.

This means that on a normal flight carrying 5 tandems and 5 regular club members the aircraft should not go above 10,000 ft unless there is a tandem or AFF student on board who has paid to go to 15,000ft.

As a gesture of goodwill however, and as a general rule of thumb, the lessor is willing to apply a figure of **£20** to each “**paying**” place on the aircraft when working out the viability of allowing regular members on board a flight to go to 15,000ft.

Examples of this are as follows.

Example 1

On board the aircraft are 5 x 10,000ft tandems, 3 cameramen, and 5 regular members. The aircraft is on the 1st lift of a 2-lift cycle. Total spaces 18. $18 \times £20 = £360$. Cost of 15,000 ft flight = £360. The 5 regular members CAN go to 15,000 ft.

Example 2

On board the aircraft are 5 x 10,000ft tandems, and 8 regular members. The aircraft is on the 1st lift of a 2-lift cycle. Total spaces 18. $18 \times £20 = £360$. Cost of 15,000 ft flight = £360. The 8 regular members CAN go to 15,000 ft.

Example 3

On board the aircraft are 5 x 10,000 ft tandems, 3 cameramen, and 4 regular members. The aircraft is on the 2nd lift of a 2-lift cycle. Total spaces 17. $17 \times £20 = £340$. Cost of 15,000ft flight = £360. The 4 regular members CAN go to 10,000 ft or pay an extra £5 each to go to 15,000ft.

Example 4

On board the aircraft are 4 x 10,000 ft tandems, 1 x 15,000 ft AFF level 1, 3 cameramen, and 2 regular members. The aircraft is on the 2nd lift of a 2-lift cycle. Total spaces 16. $16 \times £20 = £320$. Cost of 15,000ft flight = £360. The 2 regular members CAN go to 15,000 ft without having to pay any extra as the aircraft is going to 15,000ft anyway with the AFF level 1. The same applies where there is a tandem onboard paying to go to 15,000ft.

Example 5

On board the aircraft are 18 regular members. The aircraft is on the 2nd lift of a 2-lift cycle. Total spaces 18. $18 \times £20 = £360$. Cost of 15,000ft flight = £360. The 18 regular members CAN go to 15,000 ft.

Example 6

On board the aircraft are 12 regular members. The aircraft is on a one lift cycle. Total spaces 12. $12 \times £20 = £240$. Cost of 15,000ft flight = £360 + £150 engine start = £510. The 12 regular members CAN go to 15,000 ft by paying an extra £22.50 each, or 10,000ft by paying an extra £12.50 each.

Example 7

On board the aircraft are 12 regular members. The aircraft is on the 2nd lift of a 2-lift cycle. Total spaces 12. $12 \times £20 = £240$. Cost of 15,000ft flight = £360. The 12 regular members CAN go to 15,000 ft by paying an extra £10.00 each, or 10,000ft at no extra charge.

And so on...

The chief instructor, (who has full control of the aircraft manifest on behalf of the club committee), is responsible for ensuring the above conditions are met and that any extra fees are paid - which can be delegated to the manifestor and overseen by the Chief Instructor if necessary,

If at any time, there are any questions about these charges the lessor should be consulted.

Treasurers recommendations for the coming year

Whilst it is up to the club committee to set the regular member flight fees for the coming year (based on the lease requirements of the aircraft and recommendations from the Club Treasurer) these fees also need to provide a surplus to cover other bills such as the club house lease.

As the number of jumps made by qualified skydivers this year has significantly declined and operating costs are again on the rise, the treasurer currently recommends (assuming normal operating conditions and no forthcoming surprises in the predicted future operating costs not yet known about) that the fees for qualified jumpers remain at £27 per flight for any qualified skydiver completing 1 to 60 jumps between February and December of each year, reducing to the minimum £17 thereafter for 61+ flights over the same period.

As a comparison the fees generated to date by qualified skydivers in 2023 totalled £19607 compared to £25203 in 2022.

The treasurer also strongly recommends that the committee look at ideas and ways to improve this situation.

Club House

The Club has an on-going a legal lease agreement with Chatteris Leisure Ltd for exclusive use of the Club House and other shared parts of the airfield it uses for its operation, which can be terminated by either party at any time.

The rent is £5000 per month (£60,000 per annum) excluding utility charges and building upkeep (meaning the Club members are responsible for keeping the building in good order and clearing up after themselves).

To date Chatteris Leisure Ltd has not enforced this agreement but has instead allowed the Club to accrue a debt to be paid back at the discretion of Chatteris Leisure Ltd.

Chatteris Leisure Ltd is prepared to continue with this approach as long as its representative (Martin Crossley) remains in the position of Club Treasurer with any surplus funds available at the end of each financial year being used to reduce this debt.

Short Term Loans

From time to time Chatteris Leisure Ltd also provides short term loans to the Club in order to maintain cash flow.

As of 28th November 2021, the amount of short term loans still outstanding with Chatteris Leisure Ltd is £0.00.