

Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd
Chatteris Airfield
Wimblington
March
PE15 0FB

Minutes of the meeting of the Directors of Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd. held at 3pm on 17th December 2016 at Chatteris Airfield. Block Fen Drove, Wimblington, March. PE15 0FB

Present:

Mike Rust (Chairman)
Simon Chipp (Vice Chairman)
Martin Crossley (Treasurer)
Graham Ablett (Secretary)
Chris Beattie (Development Officer)
Sophie Barnwell (Member)
Kev Dynan (Member)
Tanya Burton (Member)
Jon Payne (Member)
Gary Small (Member)

There were no apologies for absence

Declarations of interest were sought by the Chairman but none were declared.

Minutes of the previous meeting of 14th May 2016 had been circulated. The Chairman asked if these were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Martin Crossley & seconded by Chris Beattie

Carried unanimously

The Chairman reminded everyone that as we were now at the end of the year it was a requirement for all current Directors to now stand down and seek re-election. He also stated that because he had only received nine nominations for the ten places on the board all those nine people could be appointed and there wasn't actually a need to hold an election.

The following members were therefore elected as Directors of Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd.

Mike Rust
Simon Chipp
Graham Ablett
Sohie Barnwell
Kev Dynan
Tanya Burton
Jon Payne
Gary Small
Chris Beattie

Election of Officers

Chris Beattie proposed Mike Rust be Chairman. Seconded by Gary Small & carried unanimously.

Mike Rust proposed Simon Chipp as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Jon Payne & carried unanimously.

Mike proposed Graham Ablett as Secretary. Seconded by Kev Dynan & carried unanimously.

Gary Small proposed Chris Beattie as Development Director. Seconded by Jon Payne & carried unanimously.

Chris Beattie proposed Sophie Barnwell as Deputy Development Director. Seconded by Jon Payne & carried unanimously.

The role of Treasurer was then discussed. Mike Rust suggested that although Martin Crossley was no longer a director of the club he should be asked to continue as treasurer in a non-executive capacity. **Seconded by Tanya Burton & carried unanimously.** Martin Crossley agreed.

Graham Ablett proposed Tanya Burton as Social Secretary (New Role). Seconded by Sophie Barnwell & carried unanimously.

Mike asked Tanya if she thought she might need a deputy & she said she would. Tanya nominated Jon Payne for the position. This was seconded by Sophie & carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report – 2016 Season

Mike Rust said that a similar number of tandem students had been jumped as in previous years & that around 6,700 descents had been made by other members.

Eight new students had qualified during the year and the club also had one new tandem instructor, Gus Mera, as well as one new basic tandem instructor, Vlad Vatavu. Since the introduction of the Tracking Progression System earlier in the year we had qualified a number of tracking coaches and also issued a number of TR1 & TR2 stickers. There had been a number of successful FS 1 candidates as well as several FF1 stickers issued and at least one WS2.

The Instructors had decided that "student of the year" for 2016 was Rowan Salger. Since starting jumping Rowan had completed his AFF course, made over 80 descents, obtained his FS1 sticker and started to progress in freeflying & tracking.

The Chairman was disappointed to report that despite promising the club a FS roadshow the BPA had failed to organise the event. We had however organised a number of Big Way weekends utilising our own coach Chris Shaw. These events had been very well received even though poor weather had restricted jumping on occasions. There had also been a 3 way competition, BPA canopy formation & wingsuit roadshows, a small number of balloon jumps and plans for night jumps. Unfortunately a poor weather forecast had meant the night jumps were unable to go ahead on either nominated weekend. An Alter Ego canopy course had also been run but no jumps were made, again due to bad weather.

Treasurers Report

Martin Crossley said that the main item of note was that the club's long-running saga with HMRC had now finally been resolved in the clubs favour, the result being that the club could now benefit from a regular income. Martin also stated that approximately £25,000 had already been spent purchasing items for the club such wingsuits, rigs, and a club hot air balloon.

Flight Ticket Pricing (Regular Qualified Club Jumpers)

Martin Crossley said that he felt the club should retain a pricing structure that was competitive but that also rewarded loyalty to regular club jumpers. He felt that the current pricing structure met those requirements & should remain unchanged:

First 50 flight tickets in any one season to be £20
Next 25 flight tickets (jumps 51 to 75) to be £15
Any flight tickets thereafter (jump 76 onwards) to be £12

There was a general discussion regarding the current pricing structure and the number of club jumpers who had been able to take advantage of the loyalty element.

Chris Beattie then proposed that the club retain the current pricing structure for 2017. This was seconded by Gary Small.

Carried unanimously.

Development Plans – 2017

Chris Beattie said that plans for 2017 were already well in hand. Graham had booked Chris Shaw to organise four Big Way weekends in April, June, July & September. Another 3Way FS competition was also planned. Because of disappointment with the way the BPA events had been arranged (or not arranged) the club was planning to organise its own canopy formation & wingsuit coaching weekends for the benefit of its own members. Night jumps were also planned for either February or more likely November.

Balloon activities were also discussed. Martin was pleased to report that planning permission for balloon jumps outside of normal operating hours had just been obtained in November 2016 and plans to install a LPG installation on site to fuel the balloon were now progressing. He also reminded everyone that the balloon was a long term project that might take a number of years to fully set up. To this end he was extremely grateful for all the assistance the club had received from the local ballooning community. Martin also said that Simon Chipp's efforts to gain a ballooning pilots licence were going well and that to try and move things forward more quickly both he, Simon and Geordie Best were planning a training trip to Italy during the winter shut down period and would like to use the club balloon. Martin said that he thought the club should also consider supporting this trip financially (as it was ultimately in the clubs interest) as Simon for example had already spent something in the region of £1,500 of his own money to get to the point he was already at. There was a general discussion regarding this matter and it was agreed unanimously that financial assistance should be offered for accommodation and travel for all involved as well as use of the club balloon for the trip to include the cost of the LPG used for training. Martin thanked the committee for their decision.

Mike asked Graham if any progress had been made in the costing of a video storage / playback system for use by coaches, fun jumpers & load organisers in the upstairs packing area & clubhouse. Graham said that another club member, Andrew Mines, who has experience in this field had looked into various systems and costings earlier in the year. What was considered to be the ideal system with a central storage unit with playback facilities in the packing area & clubhouse came out at just over £1,000. It was therefore agreed unanimously that this should be looked at further and a £1000 be allocated to the project from the 2017 budget.

Gary Small asked if the bursary scheme for 2016 had been successful and whether it was intended to continue into the 2017 season. Mike said that two bursaries had been granted in 2016, both for £250. One had gone to Sophie Barnwell and the other to Andrew Mines. Both applicants had requested the bursaries to assist in training & coached jumps to obtain their FF1 qualification. Sophie was present & said that she had used her bursary for a mixture of solo practice jumps and coached jumps resulting in her obtaining the qualification. Graham said that as far as he was aware Andrew had completed some solo training jumps but no coached jumps and hadn't obtained his FF1. He believed that Andrew had had to stop jumping part way through the season due to personal circumstances. Mike said that he believed Andrew had only completed around 20 jumps at Chatteris during the year and that he would speak to him next season as regards what his plans were to progress and fulfil the commitment he made when applying for the bursary. Martin said that he was in favour of continuing the bursary system for any reason that benefitted the club members collectively as well as individually. Tanya said she felt having more coaches would be beneficial to the club and asked whether bursaries could be used to assist individuals obtain a coach rating. There was general agreement that this would seem to be an ideal use of a bursary provided any prospective coach intended to use the rating for the benefit of other club members. It was agreed that applications for bursaries would be invited for consideration early next season.

Graham asked whether the possibility of a "DZ tour" could be looked at again now that the HMRC saga had been sorted out as this was one of the more popular planned events that had so far failed to come to fruition. The committee agreed to the idea and suggested that Graham & Simon reported back into the possibility & costings of arranging the event.

Martin pointed out that 17th May 2017 would be the 20th anniversary of parachuting at Chatteris Airfield and suggested that an event or party should be considered to celebrate the occasion. Tanya agreed to arrange such an event.

The Chairman suggested that the Club liquor licence be allowed to lapse as no alcohol had been sold in several years and the licence was costing some £300 per year to renew. It was felt that the money could be better spent on other things. Carried unanimously.

There was no other business and the Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 4.40pm