

Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd
Chatteris Airfield
Block Fen Drove
Wimblington
March
PE15 0FB

Minutes of the Skydive Chatteris Club Ltd. Safety Management System (SMS) Meeting held at 4.50pm 17th December 2016 at Chatteris Airfield. Block Fen Drove, Wimblington, March PE15 0FB

Present:

Mike Rust (Chief Instructor)
Gary Small (Advanced Instructor) 2 IC
Chris Beattie (Advanced Instructor)
Kev Dynan (CSI & TI)
Simon Chipp (Chief Pilot)
Jon Payne (Member)
Tanya Burton (Member)
Graham Ablett (Member)
Pete Herrick (Member & Weekend DZ Controller)
Martin Crossley (TI) Airfield Owner

Apologies for absence - None

Declarations of interest

There were none. Mike said that the meeting had been well publicised but it was evident from the attendance and that of last years meeting that the subject was not popular. He asked if there were any suggestions for an alternative time or date for next year. There was some discussion but there were no suggestions.

Minutes of previous SMS meeting Sat 19th Dec 2015

Chris Beattie proposed and Pete Herrick seconded the minutes as a true record

Overview of SMS

Mike Rust began the meeting by giving an overview of the SMS explaining the proactive, reactive and routine auditing aspects of the system for the benefit of members who were unfamiliar with the process. Mike explained that as well as his input as Chief Instructor and his staff, that it was everyones duty to help ensure a safe operation. He gave an example of a reactive SMS consideration where there had been a fatality at another DZ with an AFF student. He had asked Gary to look into putting together a time elapsed sheet which gave guidance in progressing AFF students and A licence jumpers. This was due to the fact that nothing was forthcoming from the BPA until the Panel of inquiry had been completed and their recommendation accepted by STC. Mike said that this had now been adopted and written up in the latest SMS book.

General Discussion

Mike said that Chris Beattie had advertised a “safety day” event on Facebook intended for club members on an evening in October but that little interest had been shown. Kev Dynan suggested that a similar event at the start of the jumping season might be more beneficial & attract more interest. Chris Beattie agreed to look into the possibility of rearranging the event.

Mike said that the “aircraft loader” checks of jumper’s chest straps when boarding the aircraft had continued to go well & were planned to continue.

Gary Small asked about a “member on member” claim arising from an incident that had occurred in 2015 when a member on a coached FS jump had been injured on landing. The member concerned had said that his coach had asked him to wear a weight belt, allegedly without warning him of the differences this might make to his canopy flight. Mike said that the compensation claim had been dropped but that the member concerned was still recovering from his injury & hadn’t resumed jumping. He added that whilst the jumper had initially been asked not to attend the DZ so as not to prejudice any proceedings he had now been informed he would be welcome back when fit.

Incidents & Malfunctions 2016 season Gary Small

Gary Small addressed the meeting giving a breakdown of the 2016 season incidents.

There had been just one injury which had occurred when a camera jumper had experienced a pilotchute in tow malfunction on his main canopy & decided to go straight to his reserve. He had then suffered a main / reserve entanglement leading to a hard landing. The jumper suffered a back injury but had made a full recovery.

There had been just 5 tandem malfunctions, below what might normally be expected for the number of descents made.

There had been some 13 incidents involving sport jumpers, two of which involved cameras becoming detached from jumper’s helmets. Wingsuit deployments also featured in several of the malfunctions / reserve deployments. These jumpers had cut away their main canopies after experiencing twists on opening with one jumper having had his main deployment bag hit his feet as it left the container.

Safety Suggestions

Gary Small said that staff were always looking at ways to improve safety & learn from incidents at other centres as well as our own. He said that visiting “A” licence jumpers were always required to go through safety drills before being allowed to jump & this had frequently highlighted deficiencies in some jumper’s knowledge & procedures. “A” licence jumpers who had gone over one month without jumping were now also generally required to make a solo jump before engaging in coached or group jumps. Tanya asked Gary if the time elapsed sheet would affect her coached jumpers. Gary said that it may and that he would be pleased to forward a copy to her.

Gary Small informed the meeting of an incident at another centre where someone with 66 jumps had been grounded after falsifying a further 121 jumps so as to be able to jump a camera helmet sooner than he would normally be allowed. He said that these types of groundings were circulated BPA wide & would then be added to our manifest system.

Mike Rust asked Peter Herrick (weekend DZ Controller) and Si Chipp who often did DZ control if they had observed any trends during the season. Peter said that there had been a few minor issues mainly at the start of the season or when jumpers were uncurrent but nothing of great relevance safety-wise.

Any Other Business

There was none.

Mike thanked everyone for their attendance and aslo for helping to keep jumping as safe as possible and asked for the same in 2017

The meeting was brought to a close at 5.10pm.