

SPORT PARACHUTIST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION



AGM report
Camera jumping
Exits – CF and FS

March/April 1996

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—Norman Kent, Aerial Cinematographer



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Sport Parachutist Magazine

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MARCH/APRIL 1996

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Cover Photo: Fresh from the Cuba Boogie, this photo was taken on the climb to altitude by Bruno Brokken



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SPORT PARACHUTIST

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DIARY OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
March			20 - 24	Exam/Pre-Advanced Instructor course	Langar
16 - 17	10-way meet	Skydive City, Zephyrhills	25 - 27	JAPA student record attempt	Netheravon
16 - 17	10-way meet	Phoenix, Lake Wales	25 - 27	Scottish Nationals and Northern Regionals	Strathallan
16 - 17	St Patrick's day boogie	Skydive Sebastian	25 - 31	Bruno camera seminar	Ampuriabrava
17 - 26	Multisequential FS	Eloy, Arizona	25 - 2 Jun	4-way seminar	Dunkeswell
22 - 28	RW camp	Phoenix, Lake Wales	June		
23 - Apr 14	Easter boogie	Skydive City, Zephyrhills	1 - 2	8-way speed	Headcorn
23 - 24	SkyTribe CF seminar	Ipswich	7 - 9	FS & accuracy meet	Marseilles
24 - Apr 8	Nordic large formation camp	Skydive DeLand	8 - 9	4 & 8-way meet	Hibaldstow
29 - 31	Classics money meet	Marana, Arizona	10 - 14	Skydive U course	Hibaldstow
30 - Apr 7	40-way Easter competition	Skydive DeLand	14 - 26	World Championships in Canopy Formation	Indonesia
30 - 31	Southern collegiate meet	Ipswich	14 - 21	Friendship boogie	Slovakia
30 - 31	\$99 beach boogie	Skydive Sebastian	20 - 29	Sommerlagen boogie	Karlsborg, Sweden
30 - Apr 8	Easter boogie	Phoenix, Lake Wales	22 - 30	Large aircraft boogie	Langar
30 - Apr 14	Easter boogie	Ampuriabrava, Spain	29 - Jul 6	RAPA championships	Bad Lippspringe
April			July		
1 - 5	Collegiate progression week	Ipswich	1 - 7	Collegiate Nationals	Hibaldstow
1 - 8	Easter boogie	Skydive Sebastian	6 - 14	Moscow boogie	Moscow
4 - 6	4 & 8-way meet	Hibaldstow	13 - 14	Central Regionals	Langar
5 - 6	20-way meet	Phoenix, Lake Wales	13 - 14	SkyTribe CF seminar	Netheravon
5 - 6	20 & 40-way meet	Skydive Sebastian	13 - 14	POPS meet	Peterborough
6 - 7	16-way meet	Langar	15 - 19	Student progression week	Headcorn
12 - 14	SPOCK collegiate meet	Strathallan	20 - Aug 4	Skydive U camp	Ampuriabrava
13 - 14	CF speed 4 meet	Ipswich	25 - 1 Aug	Womens World Record attempt	Chalons sur Soane
15 - 20	POPS meet	Cyprus	27 - Aug 4	Pre-Vichy boogie	Ampuriabrava
20 - 21	8-way meet	Skydive City, Zephyrhills	27 - Aug 4	Formation Skydiving National Championships	Hibaldstow
May			August		
4 - 5	8-way scrambles	Langar	3 - 11	Espace boogie	Vichy
4 - 5	Scrambles meet	Headcorn	10	Headcorn dinner dance	Leeds Castle
4 - 6	12-way meet	Hibaldstow	3 - 11	Czech boogie	Karlovy Vary
4 - 6	POPS meet	Turnhout, Belgium	5 - 9	Bl/Advanced Instructor course	Strathallan
4 - 6	Northern collegiate meet	Hibaldstow	11 - 26	Elbrus expedition	Soviet Union
4 - 12	Spring fling	Skydive DeLand	12 - 16	Exam/Pre-Advanced Instructor course	Strathallan
6 - 10	AFF/Tandem Instructor course	Langar			
13 - 17	Bl/Advanced Instructor course	Langar			
16 - 23	Spring boogie	Avignon-Pujaut			
17 - 19	Benelux accuracy meet	Turnhout, Belgium			
18 - 19	POPS meet	Ipswich			

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This year's AGM was quite simply the most successful I have been to. Nice one, David Oddy and friends. If you weren't there, you missed out! But if you snoozed do not fear, Sport Parachutist is here, bringing you all the best bits. Although it might seem like old news, the AGM provided the starting point for much of this Mag.

We have a selection of features reflecting the talks which were given on the day; an article from Gary McGuinness of National CF team SkyTribe (p 18), a report on the Cypres (p 43) and the latest on the launch of the Guardian AAD in Kit News (p 12). People in the Sport features Dave Rugg, who was awarded Instructor of the Year at the AGM (see p 33). Plus of course all the news from the day (p 16) and Bob Card's report looking back on 1995 (p 36).

A new series starts on page 8; So you want to be a... (...tandem master, AFF instructor, judge, freestyliser, cameraflyer, etc). This series will give an insight into how to enter various aspects of our sport. We have started with the Basic Instructor since it leads to so many other ratings. If you have a qualification or specialist area and would like to write an

informative article for this series, please give me a call.

Don't forget to renew your BPA membership this month to make sure you get your next Mag! The forms were enclosed in the previous (Jan/Feb 1996) issue of SP.

Best wishes,

Lesley

Lesley Gale
Editor

PS. We don't know at the time of going to press who will be the publisher of the next issue, the Magazine Committee is reviewing a large number of bids. So, in the mean time, please contact me for any magazine queries, whether editorial or advertising related. For the same reason, I can't give you a publication date for the next magazine, but we will send it as soon as we can!

LETTERS

SPEND A PENNY

Dear Editor,
Would you please help me say a very big thank you to all my friends from the skydiving world for their friendship and support over the past year since my accident last March. I am grateful for all the cards, flowers and get well messages which were sent and I'd like to thank all of you who came over to see me. I would also like to thank Cark, Hibaldstow and Sibson for raising money to help me, I'll be sure to let you know how I spend it. You will have read in the December's Mag that Cark had a benefit weekend for me and I would like to thank everyone involved and everyone who donated for the auction, it was a brilliant

weekend. Last but not least I would like to thank Carl O'Mara for looking after me, without him I simply could not have achieved as much as I have done.

Before I sign off I have a message for Rob Colpus; I now feel fully qualified to endorse your 'bounce-proof' watches as I was wearing mine when I had my accident and it's still telling the correct time (but don't try this at home kids!).

**Blue Skies,
Penny Roberts D9627**

Editor's note: we are very happy to print Penny's letter in view of her exceptional circumstances.

However, a warning to those of you out there about to write 'thank you letters'. Write by all means but don't send to SP, send to those deserving of the thanks.

Our new policy is not to print thank you letters unless there is a very good reason.

FUNNY FLIERS

Dear Lesley,
Welcome to your new job and here's to a politics-free future for the Mag.

I'm offshore just now dreaming of warmer days and dry land and wondering what (if anything) is available in this country for the relatively new chute assis-ist. I know there have been seminars and things last summer but that was before I got bitten hard by this thing and I want to do a lot more with like-minded people.

There are currently quite a few of us in Scotland but the times when we are all around at the

same DZ with anything like the right weather seem to have been few and far between this winter.

If there is anyone out there wishing to arrange a seminar for the 'arse-flying jocks' please could they get in touch with either myself or with the guys at Skydive Scotland or Skydive Strathallan, as both centres offer a choice of aircraft and a great party atmosphere in the evenings, either on or off the DZ.

And for all of you who mock us for 'doing that Frenchy stuff', maybe you should get on your backside and see what you are missing.

Warm skies and moist and fluffy landings for all in '96.

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NEW RULES

Competitions committee has changed the rules for the regionals and Nationals with the aim of encouraging participation from more lower experienced jumpers. A team member's number of jumps will now be counted from when he or she qualified category 10 rather than from their first jump. The following new classification of teams applies:

4-way FS

Junior

- 3 people with not more than 800 jumps in total
- 1 person with unlimited jumps

Intermediate

- 3 people with not more than 1500 jumps in total
- 1 person with unlimited jumps

Senior

- all other teams

In addition, once the team has registered for 1996 as a particular category by competing in a regional or National meet, that is its classification for the full year. This applies even if subsequent jump totals exceed the limits for that level.

A further change for the FS Nationals in the 8-way event is the introduction of a new Intermediate category:

8-way FS

Intermediate

- 3 people with not more than 1500 jumps in total
 - 5 people with unlimited jumps
- This has been designed so that a Senior 4-way team could join with an Intermediate 4-way to do Intermediate 8-way. The dive pool for the intermediate category will consist of blocks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14 & randoms A, C, F, G, J, M and the competition will be run over 5 rounds.

SKYDIVE SLOVAKIA

Slavo Mulik, of World Team 216-way fame, is organising a boogie in Slovakia during June 14 to 21. The Friendship Boogie will be held at Tencin Air Base, about 80km North of Bratislava and accommodation and free camping will be at Lake Dubnik. Aircraft will be an AN-12, AN-26, IL-76 and two Mi-17 helicopters, jump prices \$14 to

12,500ft, \$16 to 15,000ft. For more information, contact Tim Moran at 0385 352 306 or e-mail 100344.1155@compuserve.com.

SKYDIVE YAH-U

Chris Allen is organising a second Skydive U Instructors course for the second week of June, at Hibaldstow. If you are interested, contact Chris on 01252 331 326.

ROYAL AERO CLUB

The Annual Awards ceremony of the Royal Aero Club will be held in the State Apartments at St James's Palace, attended by their President, HRH The Duke of York. St James's Palace is not normally open to the public, it is a unique building containing fabulous old paintings dating back to 1532. Tickets for the occasion are £20 a head including wine and canapés, dress is lounge suit and the time is 5.30 to 8.30pm, Friday 8 March. Call 01162 531 051.

ARNHEM VETS

A reunion of the Arnhem Vets will take place in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess at Netheravon on Wednesday 17 April with a buffet starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5.50 from Dougie Young on 01980 678 229.

BLISS JUMPS

The charity BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems) now run sponsored parachute jumps linking with any drop zone. BLISS is appealing to those of you who have friends who would like to make a parachute jump this year. If they are prepared to hassle friends for sponsorship and want to link with a charity, this can reduce the cost of their jump. Call 01630 658 470.

? 300-WAY ?

BJ Worth who brought us the near-World Record 215 and 216-way in 1994 is set to try again in 1996. A confident plan of action suggests that increasing the current FAI record of 200 by an additional 100 will be no problem (*no com-*

ment -Ed). The organisers promise improvements on 1994 based on experience, including a more consistent, rehearsed base, a full bench of replacement skydivers and three or four MI 26 helicopters. These beasts are each capable of taking 100 jumpers to 21,000 feet in 30 minutes. An oxygen system will be provided for the World Team by Dr Ben Massey, as before.

The record attempt will take place in Anapa, Russia on the Northeast shore of the Black Sea in late September/early October 1996. The dates, by design, do not conflict with other major skydiving competitions or boogies. The formation will be similar in design to the 215 and 216, with weedeater lines which can be pre-formed before docking. The attempt will occupy two weeks with some rest days built in, weather permitting. Rob Colpus is the Team Captain for the UK and will be choosing his team personally. Don't call him, he'll call you!

LADIES BIG-WAYS

There will be attempts to set a new Women's World Record this year, organised by Alexis Perry from 25 July to 1 August in Chalons sur Soane, France. The aim is a 120-way. Jumps will be from 19,000 feet, the price of 4,800 FF includes 20 jumps, accommodation, oxygen, transport and T-shirt. There will be an aeroplane flying directly from Chalons to Vichy after the event. Participants will be hand picked, but if any 'unknowns' would like a try-out, there will be a selection at Avignon in May. Interested parties should telephone or write to Lesley at Sport Parachutist.

An attempt at setting a new Women's British Record is being organised by Adrian Thornton at Dunkeswell in July (exact date not yet confirmed). Contact Adrian on 01404 44889 for a registration form.

WORLD 20-WAY

Skydive City at Zephyrhills recently hosted a test 20-way World Event sanctioned by IPC to see if it would be viable for the World Cup circuit. It was not an 'official' World Meet since 20-way is not a World discipline. The meet was open to any team wishing to participate but was only attended by four teams (2 USA, 1 Canada, 1 Germany).

Starting 28 December using a fleet of Otters, the event was run using the USPA rules and dive pool. It was won by Team *DeGuello* from the USA with an average of 4.8. A full report of the event will be given to IPC in a move to introduce a World discipline of 16-20-way in size. 16-way would probably be preferred by many Europeans as it is a good number in terms of variety of dives and, most importantly, available aircraft.

RAPS MANUAL

Doug Peacock and Andy Allman have just published *Skydiving Basics*, produced primarily as a RAPS manual for the student jumper. The illustrated handbook covers progression up to category 10 and is intended as a back-up to standard instructor briefings. *Skydiving Basics* costs £5.95 - for single copies. Discounts are offered to clubs and centres wishing to buy copies for resale. Call Doug on 01235 529570.

STOP PRESS!

The Riggers Committee has introduced a new system for CONFIDENTIAL reporting of incidents/accidents/malfunctions, with the aim of improving safety for everyone. If you have had a problem with your equipment which you'd like to share for safety reasons but you don't want everyone to know about, this is for you. A full report will be in the next issue of SP, but in the meantime, call or write to Allan Hewitt (of Sky Science), Chairman of the Riggers' Committee. c/o 103 Grosvenor Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3EE. Tel/fax: 01252 350377 or compuserve 100770,402.

British Parachute Schools

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1996 EVENTS

Aircraft Pilatus Porter here now until approx May
Let 410 arrives early April until late September
Cessna 206 or BN Islander

17th and 18th February

Valentines Day Party at LANGAR
4-WAY and 8-WAY MEET
2 Rounds of each, out of the PORTER

6th and 7th April

Easter Bunny Boogie
Return of our Let 410 with Leonid and Crew
16-Way Competition
BIG PARTY

4th and 5th May

HOLIDAY WEEKEND
8-WAY SCRAMBLES

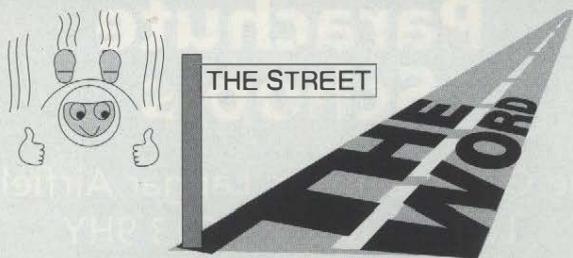
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one might expect the unit to fire at 1100ft and be in the saddle at 600-800ft." This is a little higher than Cypres (which WoTS believes has a firing height of 750ft) and a much greater margin of error but WHAT are you doing down there anyway?! Should you wish for more info call FXC on 001 714556 7400.

attract the world's best women for an attempt on the current World Record. It now stands at 100 (FAI) and they will be going for 120. He is looking for applications, so send him yours or you won't be there. (120 babes on the same DZ! I know where I'm going.....) Call Lesley Gale on 01733 557591, she will put you in touch with Alexis.

AMAZING AGM

Once again held at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Coventry it was attended by what seemed like all the skydivers in the UK. Nice One. There were numerous talks up for grabs, Cypres Update, Free Fly, Time-Out!! to name a few. All of these talks were well attended and some wicked video was shown. All the major manufacturers were present and Sky Science unveiled a new British digital AAD. Business was brisk at the many trade stands and there was lots of drinking done (nothing new there). Choons were bashed out to the masses by DJ Audio Terrorist, and even Hitch was seen to be ravin' away in the wee small hours. Thanks to all for attending and David Oddy for putting it all together. See you all

there next year! Oh yes, and to Jeff, a member of *Tactical Women's Alert Team* who ruined a very special for-eign friend's evening, Not Cool !

ASTRA TAKES OFF

WoTS hears straight from the horses', that the Astra AAD from FXC is now ready for shipping, if you have the dollars. Should you not know, the Astra is FXC's answer to Airtec's benchmark digital AAD - Cypres. According to the preliminary info sent to WoTS the unit is programmed to fire the reserve at a maximum height of 1199 ft above calibration height. "In the worst case situation where all the errors stack in one direction, one could be conceivably saddled out as high as 1300ft or as low as 400ft. Normally

SPEED FRENZY

Adrian Nicholas has returned to the UK after spending Christmas with the Clowns in Eloy. Olaf called Ady over to see if they could have some fun and come up with "New Stuff" over Christmas. One of these ideas was to see just how fast they could go. Speed was measured with a credit card sized electronic device. A top speed of 348mph was achieved by Charles. Awesome, that is over half the speed of sound! Ady tells me that he and Olaf were turning points head down at 230 mph. This is massive speed skydiving, nice one boys. Ady reported that his Time-Out!! performed perfectly even at this speed. Phewww.

WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD

Alexis Perry is once again trying to

25,000 CYPRES IN 4 YEARS

Airtec, manufacturer of the Cypres AAD, told WoTS that they have now sold in excess of 25,000 units since sales began in October 1991 and have saved 75 lives. How much is your life worth? Get one now! Skydiving is too dangerous without!!

1996 GIRLS BRITISH RECORD

Yes ladies, it's all going to happen again. Adrian Thornton is putting together a record attempt at Dunkesweil DZ with the dates tentatively set for week 2 of July. The magic number is 50. Adrian is chasing a major name to organise the dive and if he gets who he wants, you will all be smiling.....So wanna have a go? The dude to call is Adrian

TIME-OUT!!

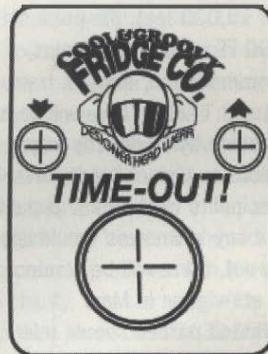
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UNCOOL THEFT

Our Editor's Cool & Groovy jacket has been stolen. It is black with a large C&G logo on the back and on the front is "Cool Chick" in yellow. If you see someone wearing a black G&G jacket with "Cool Chick" ON and no Lesley IN, please get it back, or let us know and we will get it back. Call 01788 860882.

I'M ANGIE, FLY ME

Angela Hickling has got herself certified (?) to fly Pilatus Porters. Porters are not the easiest to fly and this shows what a good pilot she is. The Porter will be based at Langar until May. The Turbolet returns to the DZ for the season in April. Langar will be offering all the services of last year with competitions, load organisers, food and beer. So give them a call and they will send you their calendar for 1996 (or look on page 5). Call 01949 860878.

BLIND SKYDIVERS - USA!

Reports come to WoTS of a blind

jumper who resides in Florida and jumps at Sebastian. This jumper is one of two that are regulars in the sky over Sebastian. How do they know when to pull and flare? They use TimeOut!!, and they have radios so an instructor can talk them down when they are under the canopy. Nuff respect to them and Mary O'Reilly, who taught them AFF and jumps with them too.

ELOY WRAP

On approach to the landing area, 2 canopies were involved in a mid-air collision. Both skydivers were very badly injured. Both were taken by air ambulance to a near hospital, in a critical condition. One was Larry, who flies the balloons at Eloy. The name of the other is not known (occurred some time over Christmas).

SKY TRIBAL WEAR

SkyTribe, the National CF Champions were at the AGM in force, thrusting T-Shirts at everyone, and then asking them for money. Their aim is to get more dosh to train with before they go to the

World Meet this year. They must be getting some money from the BPA BUT they could always do with some more. The shirts are tasty too, so BUY one! Contact Gary on 01908 235313 or see page 34.

CHRIS & JENNY RETURN

Chris Lynch & Jenny, who used to be based at Headcorn, have returned from their epic 14 month trip around the world. By all accounts they had a wicked time and were set to remain AWOL, but Chris received an offer that was too good to miss, a slot on Team 97. They hot footed it back to the UK, and were straight off to Sebastian to start the 300 training dives they want to do before the Nationals. Welcome Home!

HO HO HO SANTA MORRIS

Craig Morris, ex Langar jumper, now resident in Australia, made his 1,200th jump of the year at Christmas. As a Christmas present, he took his Mum into freefall with him on a tandem skydive and she had a great time. When Craig gave his Dad the same offer he said he

would prefer a pair of slippers as a pressie any day! Hi to Nigel & Julia down under!

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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Call or fax your words to George on 01788 860882.
Go on, do it now!

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SPRING RW CAMP
EASTER BOOGIE - FREAKER'S BALL
Organized 20-Ways and bigger
Extreme 20-Way Competition
Freaker's Ball Costume Party/ Band/Beer

March 16th & 17th
March 22nd - 28th
March 30th - April 8th
March 30th & 31st
April 5th & 6th
Evening of April 6th

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Memorial Day - Veterans jump for \$13
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Fathers' Day - Fathers jump for \$10 a jump
Independence Day - come celebrate with us - good fun, beer and Bar BQ
No Holiday Month - a \$10 per jump weekend
Labor Day - Relax from work and come skydive!

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May 25-27
June 14
June 16
July 4-7
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So you want to be... a BPA Instructor

The first in a new series examining how to enter different aspects of the sport. We explain the Instructor system and explode a few myths

The diagram on the right shows the BPA Instructor system and how to qualify. As you can see, the first step towards any of these ratings is to become a Basic Instructor (BI). This article discusses the process involved and what is required to qualify as a Basic Instructor.

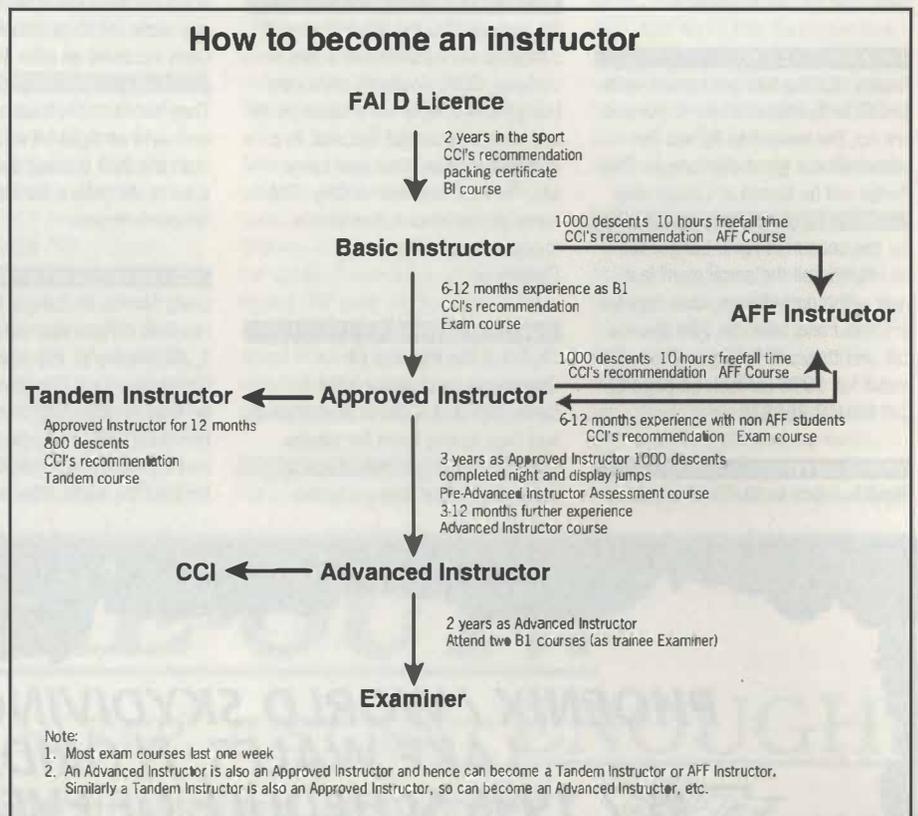
Once you have decided that you want to become a Basic Instructor, you will need to talk to your CCI and find out whether he/she will be willing to recommend you and whether your CCI is going to be prepared to train you until you have got the rating. You must want to be an instructor for the right reasons and not just to boost your ego as it will involve a great deal of work, both for you and your CCI.

To attend a Basic Instructor Course, which is only the first part of the process, you must have:

- been involved in sport parachuting for over two years
- an FAI D certificate (200 jumps and Category 10)
- a written recommendation from your CCI (and you must have been jumping at your current club for a minimum of 6 months on a regular basis)
- a BPA packing certificate.

Once you are qualified to attend the Basic Instructor course, you or your CCI must book a place on the course with the BPA office. Course details are in the magazine's Diary of Events page and take place four times a year, in February, May, August and November.

Prior to attending the course, it is advisable that you spend as much time as possible helping the instructors at your club and



sitting in on training courses. You will also need to obtain (from the BPA) a copy of the Instructors' Manual (£20). This includes an up to date copy of the BPA Operations Manual which gives details of all the requirements for parachuting at BPA affiliated clubs and centres.

The Basic Instructors' course lasts up to five days and is fairly intensive as you will generally be working until about 9 o'clock at night. The course is not an examination course but a coaching course, where you will practice giving lessons or briefs either from the Instructors' Manual or the way they are done at your own club. You will also be given a number of formal lectures, including; Methods of Instruction, The Category System, Display Parachuting, Incident Procedures, DZ Management.

There will also be practical periods on static line despatching and if the weather is

suitable your own personal parachuting will be assessed.

The course is primarily aimed at teaching you how to instruct not what to instruct (that will be done by your CCI). The specimen lectures given will be chosen to fit the training at your particular centre, eg the equipment lecture could be done using traditional, RAPS or AFF equipment. The content may be adapted to suit the candidates.

At the end of the week you will be given a written examination on the requirements of the Operations Manual. If you are successful on the course, and most candidates are, you will be awarded Basic Instructor (BI) status, which will enable you to return to your club and instruct, both on the ground and in the aircraft, under supervision.

Your BI rating is valid for a year and you



Instructor Tim Hazel briefing students on the flight line at Dunkswell

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SR1 3DH

PHONE: 091 567 8080

AFF Instructor Rating

There is no Basic AFF Instructor rating (the Basic AFF Instructor course was tried a couple of times as an experiment but was not, in my opinion, very successful). To become an AFF Instructor you need first to become a Basic Instructor, after which you can go on an AFF Instructor course. This can be the very next course, even if it is only a couple of weeks later. Assuming you are successful, you will then be fully qualified to teach AFF. You may also teach ordinary student parachutists (category system) until your Basic Instructor rating expires (12 months) or you can attend an Approved Instructor examination course if you also wish to obtain your Approved Instructor rating.

may return for final examination after six or nine months, depending upon the recommendations of the Examiners on the course. Once you have your BI rating, you will then need to spend as much time as possible instructing at your club, both in the lecture room and outside on the DZ. After six months (depending on the Basic Instructor course recommendations) you may then book yourself onto an examination course, again these are held four times a year, the week after each BI course. You will of course need your CCI's recommendation to attend the course.

The examination course can last a week, but is usually finished within about four days. On the first day of the course you will sit a written examination on the

Are you...

- ...a good example?
- ...observant?
- ...firm?
- ...alert but unhurried?
- ...confident?
- ...knowledgeable?
- ...approachable?
- ...systematic?
- ...safety conscious?
- ...enquiring?

These are the qualities of a good instructor

requirements of the Operations Manual, which you must pass (70% or above) to be permitted to continue the course. On the course you will be examined on various lessons and progression briefs. Your static line despatching and student critiquing will also be assessed.

If you are successful on the course you will be awarded Approved Instructor status, which permits you to teach student parachutists up to Category 8. From here, all other avenues of instructing are open to you as you can see from the diagram.

**Tony Butler
Technical Officer**

If you are interested in gaining an Instructor's rating, turn to page 33 for an interview with Dave Rugg, Instructor of the Year 1995

Council Matters

Members have written to the Mag asking for more information on Council (who are these people anyway?), so we have taken this up

If you are reasonably new to the sport, you may not know about or completely understand what Council is.

Decisions concerning the management and government of our sport must be made somehow. The system which has evolved is that we, the members, elect 15 people from our ranks to serve on Council, which makes these decisions. Council meets eight times a year to determine courses of action, which are arrived at by a process of discussion followed by a vote.

To deal with more specialist aspects, a formal system of sub-committees of Council has been created (see diagram below). Each committee has a specific area of responsibility. Its members will meet as often as they feel necessary, usually six times per year. Council members choose

between them which committee(s) they will be part of, according to where they feel able to contribute most or where their interests lie. They do not have to serve on any committee at all. We will be looking at this area in more detail as the year rolls on; each Mag will examine a particular committee and its members.

1996 Council

The results of the Council elections are in the table to the right and provided a few surprises. It was good to see that the number of votes cast this year was up by 191 votes, an amazing 40% increase on last year.

This year, 13 out of 15 Council members carry on from last year, which is excellent. For many years there has been discus-

sion of the need for more continuity on Council. Usually, an inordinate amount of time is taken up on Council going through old background for new members. Not only that, but the same subjects are raised time and time again by new members. A new Council member will spend the first six months getting used to what is going on, so if they only serve for a year it is difficult to achieve much. Having an almost continuous Council should alleviate many of these problems.

Are there any women out there?

If so, why did none of you stand for Council? Other than the lack of female representation, there is a healthy range of backgrounds, occupations and attitudes

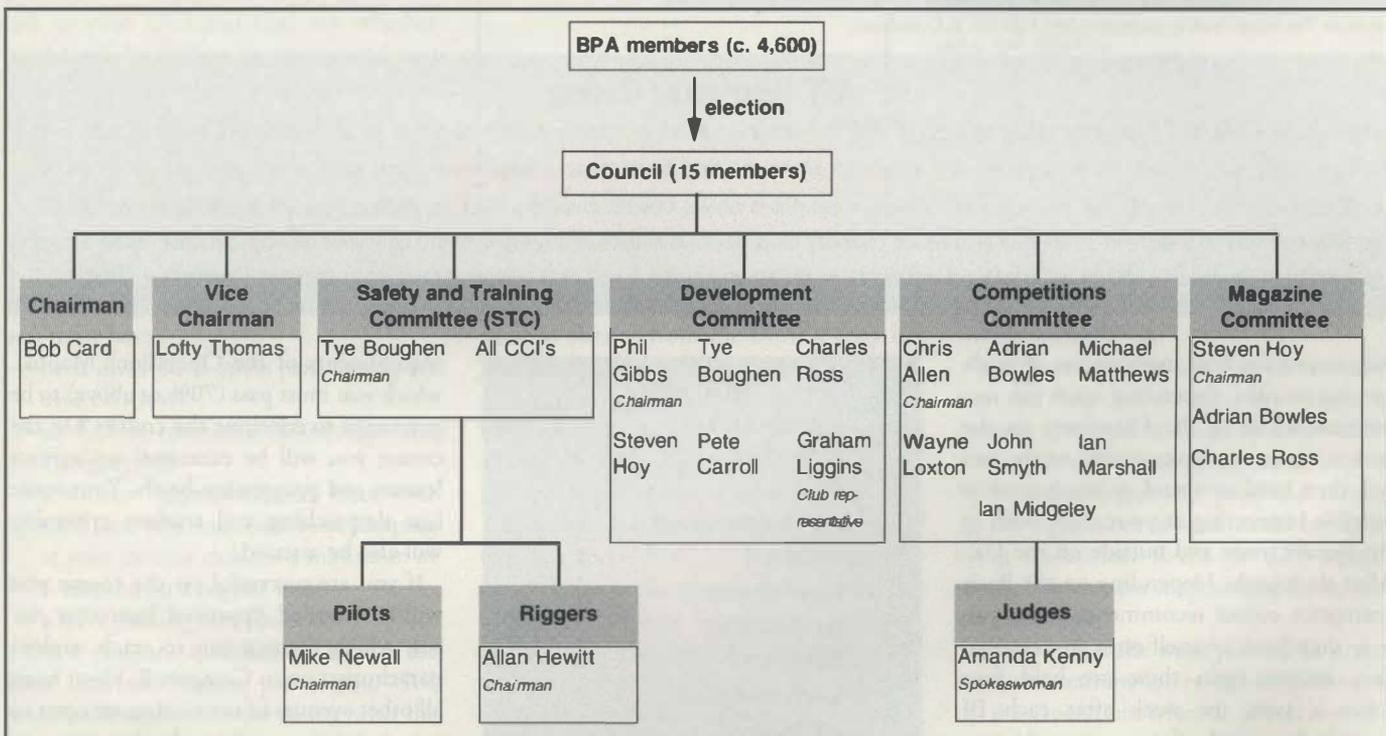


Diagram showing how our sport is governed

Notes: Seven members of staff are employed by the BPA to provide administration and safety functions. Two of these, John Hitchen and Tony Butler, our Technical and Safety Officers, sit on Council and each committee in an advisory capacity. They do not have a vote. Similarly, Debbie Carter, Treasurer, advises at all Council and Development meetings and other committees as required.

Council Election Results 1996

Council Member	Number of Votes
1 Chris Allen	490
2 Charles Ross	411
3 Lofty Thomas	408
4 Adrian Bowles	405
5 Steven Hoy	399
6 Bob Card	379
7 Tye Boughen	376
8 Pete Carroll	375
9 Phil Gibbs	363
10 Michael Matthews	351
11 Graham Liggins	344
12 John Smyth	343
13 Wayne Loxton	335
14 Ian Marshall	321
15 Ian Midgley	308

among Council members. Although this will inevitably lead to disagreement and controversy over issues raised during the year, it ensures that all opinions will be raised in open debate. This gives balance and is the reason we have this sort of gov-

erning system. There is no right or wrong opinion on any matter, only different points of view. Having a range of views on a democratically elected Council mirrors the different views held by the membership.

What is the BPA?

Well, the British Parachute Association is us, the membership and, just like a political system, we elect people to represent us. It has many of the same problems as our political system in that most of us are not really aware of what our MP or Council member is doing. Moreover, we only notice what we don't like and often fail to recognise positive achievements.

Very few of us know what issues the Council and sub-committees are dealing with. One of the reasons for this is that the minutes of the Council meetings must be ratified (okayed) by the Council before they go to the membership, just in case something has been misrepresented. By the time we get the minutes, events have moved on three months, so it seems

almost pointless reading them. This year, we aim to have greater links between Council, its sub-committees and the Mag, so we'll try and keep you in touch.

The BPA is small enough for your vote and your opinion to make a difference. Most of us know at least one Council member to speak to.

It is easy to criticise the BPA as though it is a single, constant entity. It is not. The BPA today is different to the BPA of 10 years ago; run by a different Council, different Chairman and different staff. How can it possibly be the same? But many of us still blame the BPA today for actions made long ago by people no longer around. If we want the BPA to be more of our organisation, we must recognise the changes which have happened and help its continuing evolution for the better. Look forward to the future, not backward to the past.

Lesley Gale

Rigging Innovations, Talon & Access/Visa, Performance Designs, Square One, Sunpath Products



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KIT NEWS

WHAT'S NEW

Javelins go up as well as down!

Sunpath, manufacturers of the popular Javelin harness/container have informed their dealers of an immediate price increase for the rig. Although the new price will apply to any rigs ordered from now on, Sunpath will not see the benefits of the increase for about a year, due to the currently stated 12 month delivery time. The company is concerned that although they will see no increase in their unit income for 12 months the costs of raw materials and labour will continue to rise over that period.

If anybody knows how to sew a Javelin and wants a job, call Derro Thomas at Sunpath.

Sunpath - 001 813 782 9242

Racers big and small

The Jump Shack, long time manufacturer of the ubiquitous Racer and Racer Elite

harness/container systems, tells us that the first two years in the field for the Racer Tandem system have been very gratifying. Jump Shack are relative new boys in the world of tandem and not as widely known as their competitors in this field, Relative Workshop, Strong Enterprises and Parachutes de France. However, Jump Shack now has almost 100 systems in the field. The company tells us that they recorded 10,000 jumps before the first operational main canopy malfunction occurred in the field and they now have over 20,000 main deployments without a second malfunction. Jump Shack is currently carrying out drop tests on a new construction of the system's canopies, these tests include drops of 600lbs at a run-in speed of 200 knots.

At the extreme other end of the scale Jump Shack has released what it calls the Power Racer. This is a Racer harness/container built for the smallest ram-airs currently available. The Power Racer measures 9" wide by 15" long and an actual full scale size photo of the rig will fit across the double centre spread of this magazine.

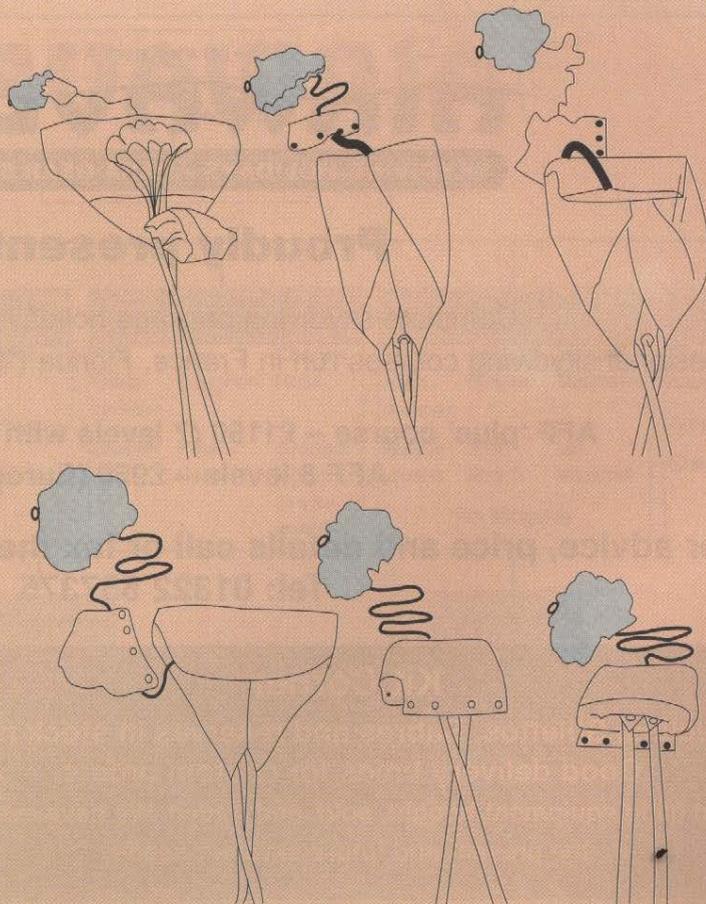
Jump Shack CD-ROM

Another example of skydiving's move into the high tech world of computers and Information technology is Jump Shack's multi-media CD-ROM catalogue. Just released, this disc contains a hour's worth of video clip showing the performance of many well known products from companies including PD, Precision, Flight Concepts, Relative Workshop, Rigging Innovations, North American Aero, Jump Shack and others. It also allows the user to point and click as they colour anything from pilot chutes to frappe hats to canopies and complete rigs. Orders may be placed via a modem transmission to Jump Shack's 24 hour server. The disc contains a complete catalogue of all components used in our sport from raw materials to finished products. The Raven reserve packing video is also part of this package. To run this disc you will require a IBM compatible computer with multi-media capability.

Jump Shack - 001 904 734 5867

"Holy Bat-Pack Batman"!

George Galloway of Precision Aerodynamics, has come up with a new method of packing difficult, slippery zero porosity canopies. Primarily designed for his company's high performance semi-elliptical canopy the Bat Wing, the Bat-Pack can be used on any other canopy. The unusual feature of the bat-pack method is that the canopy is turned once through 180 degrees and placed on the ground onto its tail after the usual stand-up pro-packing phase. It is then rolled tightly from the top down to the lines and slider and then stuffed easily into the bag which is of course at this stage also upside-down. The bag is then turned back through 180 degrees (the opposite way of course to avoid line twists) before the line stows are made. Some canopies may need a short bridle extension, which comes out of the side of the rolled fabric, to allow the stopper ring to be in contact with the bag's grommet. The openings are reported to be soft and reliable and the relative ease of stuffing the bag is considerable.



The Quadra Fándango Balance!

German innovator and designer Stefan Ertler, who gave us the dome-shaped one pin Pop top and the Nova series of ram-air canopies, has once again hit the market with a range of state-of-the-art equipment for the skydiver.

Working with the small but successful German rig manufacturer, Paratec, Stefan has released three new designs of ram-air main canopy under the new trade-marked name of *Wings Unlimited*. All three designs in the range are built under what Stefan calls the *True Shape* construction method. This method uses only a 3/8" seam allowance instead of the standard 3/4". The True Shape system also features what Stefan calls a simple yet effective new stitch pattern, resulting in a smoother airfoil with less point loading spots on the load-bearing ribs. He also claims a smaller pack volume than comparable canopy sizes from other manufacturers. The canopies feature triangular shaped deflectors which partly cover the cell openings at the nose and, according to Stefan, "enhance the aerodynamic performance while at the same time producing consistent, on-heading openings".

The first canopy in the Wings Unlimited range is a standard F111, 9 cell rectangle, available in 7 sizes from 150 to 280 sq ft. It is named the *Balance*, because of its balanced, moderate, performance in all modes of flight. According to Paratec the toggle stroke is long, the turns are pretty flat and the stall is stable and controllable. The *Balance* is ideal for the jumper who has just come off student status, or for display teams which require excellent slow speed controllability.

The second in the range is called the *Quadra*. This is a zero porosity rectangle in sizes from 120 - 170 sq ft. This canopy is designed for the jumper who has just made the step to zero P fabric and wants a canopy which is fun to fly, but not as radical as the top of the range ellipticals.

And finally, the jewel in the crown for Wings Unlimited is the *Fándango*. This canopy is a zero porosity rectangle with clipped corners and top performance. Stefan claims that the



The Fándango canopy showing its triangular shaped deflectors partly covering the cell openings

Fándango has the quick, smooth turning abilities of the ellipticals, combined with the on-heading openings and forgiving straight-in landing performance of rectangles such as the *Sabre*. The

Fándango comes in 6 sizes. For more news and views on the Fándango, ask Dave Morris or George Pilkington who're jumping their freebies this season. Paratec - 0049 6837 7375

Guardian Angel

In the last issue of SP, Kit News carried a piece about the new British designed and built micro-processor AAD called the *Guardian*. Since then Allan Hewitt of Sky Science made a well attended presentation at the BPA's AGM in January. In addition to the features we announced in the last issue, we were impressed by the innovative range of activation systems which will be available, including a pin-puller which loops around a conventional pin and produces up to 100 lbs of force (enough to straighten a bent pin), a cutter and a thermal pin.

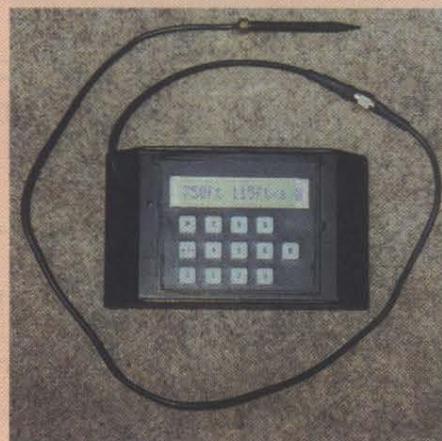
The thermal pin is a very interesting and impressive piece of kit, it heats up to a very high temperature at an incredible rate and melts through the closing loop. The speed of cutting cannot be discerned with the naked eye, and no damage is done to the container, free-bag or canopy.

Sky Science plans to put 125 units in the field with certain dealers and experienced jumpers as part of their final testing phase before the *Guardian* will be released onto the market proper.

Sky Science - 01252 27412



A talon fitted with the pin puller method



Guardian AAD with thermal pin

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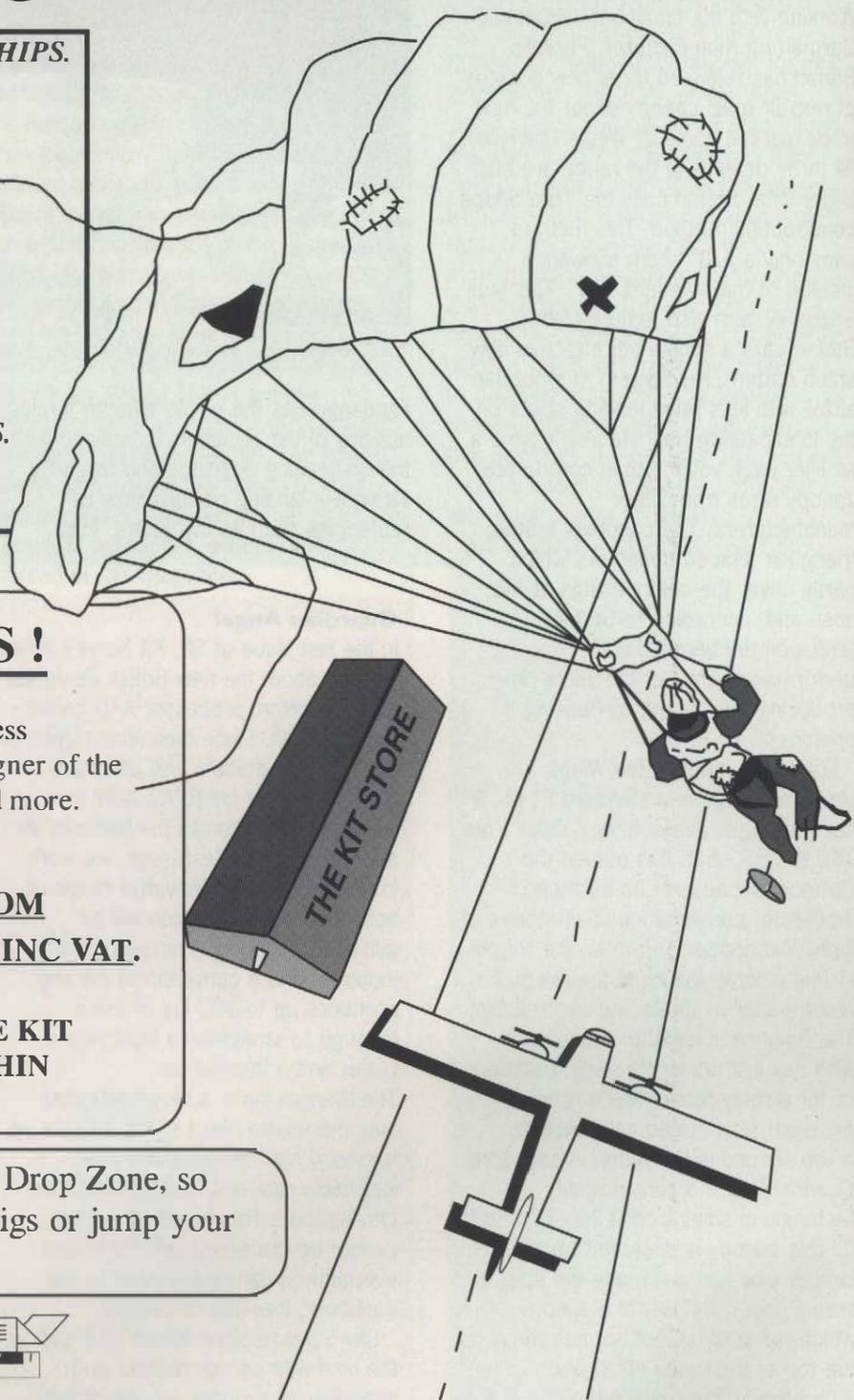


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Access

VISA



Cypres 4 year service

Responding to a flood of questions from Cypres owners about the 4 year maintenance check, Airtec has recently given dealers answers to the most commonly asked questions. Airtec states that the Cypres 4 year service period cannot be compared to a car's service period for instance. If a Cypres unit is sent in 5 or 6 months early it cannot be put through its service until it is exactly 4 years old according to its date of manufacture. In addition if a unit is 6 months late it will not receive a clean bill of health from the date of its late service but will be issued with another 4 year date from the official service date, or in other words – 8 years from its DOM.

The reason for this is that Airtec not only checks the electronics of the device for correct function, but also compares the measured data of the individual unit with data from other units of the same manufacture date. The data from a single unit may show no deviations, but when compared with other units of exactly the same life span deviations may show up which will lead to further comprehensive tests. Airtec states that this statistical procedure, which should guarantee the high quality standard of Cypres, requires that the **date of maintenance is met within 3 months either side of the DOM.**

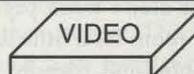
What is performed during the check ?

- All cables are visually and electrically inspected for wear and damage
- The processing unit case is split apart and the internal metallic electro magnetic shielding unsoldered and removed
- The unit is subjected to extreme hot and cold tests
- The technical data is compared to that from the original production phase
- The unit is subjected to simulated conditions which cause it to activate, thus testing the activation programming and data (electronic cycle, precise duration and magnitude of ignition impulse etc)
- The power consumption during various functions is tested and recorded
- The cutters are checked electronically
- Any applicable updates (technical improvements) will be performed (excluding the fitting of plugable cutters to a plug-less cutter assembly)

The price for the 4 year check is around £120 including VAT and the unit needs to be with Airtec for about 2 weeks.
Airtec – 0049 2953 8010

Rob Colpus

RAPS Malfunctions video



At the AGM I bought a copy of the RAPS Malfunctions video, which was filmed and produced at Netheravon, for my own centre (Ipswich). I was so impressed with it I thought I would give it a plug.

This up to date training video covers all types of malfunctions and "nuisance factors" associated with ram-air parachutes. Along with the video you get fourteen 8 x 10" colour photographs for a mere £25 including P&P, a good deal however tight you are.

The video is without sound thus allowing you to add your own, or ad-lib. Both video and stills are an excellent training aid and would benefit anyone involved in the teaching of ram-air parachutes. They also show how a square main and reserve fly together, and, 'even more exciting', the square main with a round reserve and the "ouch" landing.

If you are interested in the package contact Dougie Young at JSPC Netheravon.
Tel 01980 678229.

Tye Boughen
Chairman of STC

TARGET SKYSPORTS

1996 Events up to the FS Nationals

April 6-8

4-way and 8-way FS Meet – 4 rounds each
Coaching available by a 1995 4-way National Champion
Plus Fun Jumping and Organised Loads

May 4-6

12-way Meet – Organisers for scratch teams
Plus Northern Collegiate Meet

June 8-9

4-way and 8-way FS Meet – Plus speed 8 Limited entry
Register in advance

June 10-14

Skydive U Instructor course
Limited places – book through Chris Allen

July – DZ open 7 days per week all July for Team Training and Fun Jumping

July 1-7

British Collegiate Nationals and Progression Week

July 27-Aug 4

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AGM

news

This year's AGM was a storming success. Why was it such a winner? We canvassed the views of those who were there and report

The hotel

For many years at the AGM we endured the tired shabbiness of the same hotel in Leicester.

Every year it seemed to have become a degree grottier than the previous, until in 1994 was plain shoddy. The AGM was increasingly poorly attended and frankly, was on a bit of a slide downhill. Something had to be done to ring the changes. Well done to David Oddy for finding a first-rate new venue with a whole host of advantages at similar, specially negotiated prices.

The hotel used for this (and last) year's AGM was ideal for the purpose. Conveniently situated just off the M6/M1 junction, the Forte Posthouse is a quality hotel with clean, comfortable, well decorated rooms which were a joy to stay in. You didn't mind paying £41.50 per double room for a little luxury. The staff were helpful and friendly (ie not snotty!) and ran around at the last moment booking latecomers into alternative accommodation. The large reception area and the indoor swimming pool provided an ideal place to meet up with old friends.

Talks

Some imagination had gone into the planning of the programme, with a varied and interesting array of talks on skydiving related topics throughout the day. Attendance was excellent at the seminars which were generally much enjoyed. Subjects included a talk on freeflying, a CF seminar, an update on the Cypres, the launch of the new Guardian AAD, suggestions of a confidential reporting system,

discussions on how to get cash from the National Lottery and an open forum held by Hibaldstow on the FS Nationals.

Trade stands

No longer squashed into a tiny, dead-end room as was the case at Leicester, the trade stands were in an area adjacent to a bar just off the main function room. This ensured a steady flow of people and a good atmosphere in this area. Everyone felt happy browsing at the ranges of new products on show whilst concessionaires were clearly pleased to be doing good business.

AGM

A record attendance, with standing room only at the back and 300 full seats. Bob Card's report was well received and is presented in full on page 36. An item of special business had been proposed by Chris Jones, who was somewhat red-faced at not arriving in time to introduce it. He was delayed with his wife Liz, who was the second-son! Their absence actually had little effect on the motion which was discussed and quickly voted in.

The resolution directs the BPA staff to copy all incident reports to the Editor for selected publication along similar lines to other aviation bodies worldwide. In brief, this means that we will shortly have a regular column of selected incident reports in *Sport Parachutist*. It will take some time to arrange, as this has got to be done tight or not at all, but watch this space! At the AGM last year an astonishing 96% of respondents to Ola's magazine survey were in favour of incident reporting. Give the people what they want!



1



2



3



4



5



6



Awards/photograph captions

Photo	Award	Recipients	Photo	Award	Recipients
	(L = left; R = right; C = centre; N = not shown)				
Trophies					
1.	Instructor of the Year 1995	Dave Rugg	7.	CF Sequential Intermediate <i>Dave Morris Fan Club</i>	Mark Weaver (R) Dave Lewis (N) Mark Danvers (N) Heidi King (N)
2.	Mike Forge Trophy 1995	Wayne Thomas	8.	CF Sequential Senior <i>Cell Mates</i>	Paul Speller (R) Kevin Monk (C) Colin Dickson (N) Graham Ribbons (N)
Regional Overall Awards					
3.	Accuracy Landings Senior	Bronze: Carl Williams (L) Dougie Young (C) Silver: Nicky Johnston (N) Gold: Tim Andrewes (R)	9.	FS Sequential Senior <i>No Purchase Required</i>	Andy Pook (R) Trevor Cannell (C) Julie Cannell (N) Darren Birkin (N)
	Accuracy Landings Intermediate	Bronze: John Vennell (N) Silver: Julie Hughes-Jones (pic5) Gold: Paul Cooke (N)	10.	FS Sequential Intermediate <i>Team Tonka</i>	Jason Frost (R) Ian Gould (N) Eddie Coleman (N) Roger Millington (N) Chris Bowden (N)
4.	Freefall Style Senior	Bronze: Jason Baxter (N) Silver: Dave Ballard (C) Gold: Dougie Young (R)	11.	FS Sequential Junior <i>Orange Smarties</i>	Amanda Truman (R) Rob Stevenson (C) Sarah McEwan (L) Cath Simmons (N) Sharon Simonon (N)
5.	Freefall Style Intermediate	Bronze: Glenn Stephenson (N) Silver: Roger Flavell (R) Gold: Julie Hughes-Jones (C)	Other photos		
6.	CF Rotations Senior <i>SkyTribe</i>	Adrian Bowles (R) Gary McGuinness (C) PD Smith (L) John Gilpin (N) Chris Ware (N)	12.	Dougie Peacock (C) signs copies of Skydiving Basics	
			13.	Money flooded in at the various trade stalls	

A report by John Lines on the DZ Defence Fund had a mixed reception. At present, the DZ Defence Fund is presented as an optional contribution on BPA membership forms. John stated his wish to make it a mandatory contribution. It was clear that opinion was divided on whether the membership wished to support this initiative. However, there was no motion to vote on, the status quo continuing for the time being. It seems likely that a motion to make it mandatory will be on the cards for next year's AGM.

Regional Overall Awards and other trophies from 1995 were given out by our Chairman, shown in the photographs to either side of this report. Subscriptions were fixed at £55 per year, a rise of £2 on last year, figures assuming the insurance element stays in the same ball park as last year. The results of the Council elections are presented on page 11.

BPA

There seemed this year to be a perceptible and positive change in the attitude of the BPA. The organisation has always, understandably, been secretive for legal reasons. It was amazing to see no resistance to the idea of incident reports in the magazine, something which has been vehemently opposed in the past. Any suggestion of evaluation has previously been interpreted by the BPA as criticism, but now the BPA has initiated a complete review of the way it operates. It seems that times, they are a-changing.

The future

Let's hope the AGM goes from strength to strength with an even higher turn-out. Many congratulations to all the hard-working BPA staff for the good job they did this year. Please keep up the good work! Here are just a few suggestions of things to think about for future AGMs.

The range of talks was absolutely excellent. The only complaint about the seminars was that people couldn't get to all the ones they wanted to, as the times clashed. It would therefore be an improvement to spread them more thinly over a greater amount of time.

You guys at the BPA made the event too successful! It was so popular that the hotel was fully booked by the new year. This was a shame as there must have been people who would have come if they had a room to stay in. The Posthouse Forte did offer alternative accommodation at its sister hotels 10 and 20 minutes away, at the BPA reduced rate. Perhaps next year this link could be made in advance with free coaches between the hotels. This would require more organisation but would allow for a high attendance and encourage a community feeling.

And to the reader, why not get a group of people from your DZ and block book a table at the annual dinner next year?

Lesley Gale

7



8



9



10



11



12



13



Competition CF exits

Gary McGuinness, British National CF champion describes his team's fast and furious method of getting out of the door

Exits are the critical start for any team or individual in competition. This applies not only from a technical point of view, but also a psychological view. A bad exit will undoubtedly have a negative effect on the rest of the dive. Ideas and techniques change with any discipline and CF is no exception. As you can see to the right SkyTribe have adapted a fast and furious method for the quad build to suit their own specialist event of 4-way Rotations.

During a training camp in Clewiston, Florida in June 95, SkyTribe employed the services of Bill Hazlett, top Canopy Formation coach and designer of their AR7Z canopies. The team was taught the importance of a quick exit, speed is the name of the game. This is based upon a simple principle that additional time spent in exiting is extra distance that will be required to be made up getting together. There are many different mathematical calculations that can be used, but for example; an aircraft

running in at 90 mph will travel 132 feet in every second. A 4-way team which takes 4 seconds to exit will have a horizontal separation of 396 feet. This is a distance that must be closed whilst under canopy and the greater the distance the more time will be spent simply flying back to one another.

All out in less than a second

With this in mind, a quick exit is desirable, but the aircraft plays a major part in the speed a team can achieve. Small aircraft like the Cessna 195 will make for a slower exit because the door is smaller and it is harder to get all the team members in the door, remembering that everybody has to get out facing aircraft heading. During SkyTribe's training camp we were using both a Cessna 195 and a Porter. The average exit times for the team were 0.8 seconds from the Porter to around 1 second for the Cessna. This gives about a quarter of the separation described above.

Another major part of this technique is

The photo on the right may look alarming but is a practiced speed exit from National Champions SkyTribe



that the aircraft must be flying straight and level. Sometimes pilots have a tendency to reduce the power and start to descend although they keep the aircraft level – or even worse, dive away immediately after the last person has left. This will affect the openings and will vary the initial set up positions. The aim in exiting quickly is to try and standardise the positions on opening.

'An exit count and pulse are essential'

This technique also requires all the jumpers to be ready to leave the aircraft at the same time. The pin and base will always be floating shoulder to shoulder. Just like FS, an exit count and pulse are essential. Timing is critical on throwing the pilot chutes and a team will have to experiment a little to get their ideal set-up positions, but the pin must take a 1 second delay before throwing the pilot chute. Be sure to take a long enough delay so as not to throw the pilot chute over the tail of the aircraft. As soon as the pin throws his/her pilot chute they will be dragged back relative to the base who stepped off at the same time. Once the pilot chute is seen to have been thrown the base will immediately deploy. This will cause the pin to be just behind and above the base and a simple front riser shot. Different factors such as parachute design, wing loading, packing technique and type of deployment device all have an affect on the opening of your 'chutes, so a bit of experimentation will be needed. Third and fourth will simply open as soon as possible and should make a sashay approach down their chosen side.

The photograph to the right was taken out of the Skyvan at RAFSPA which has a tailgate, so you can almost launch a piece. The photograph demonstrates how close an exit can be although the team's usual competition exit out of a side door is slightly less cramped.



Porter exit

Photo by PD Smith



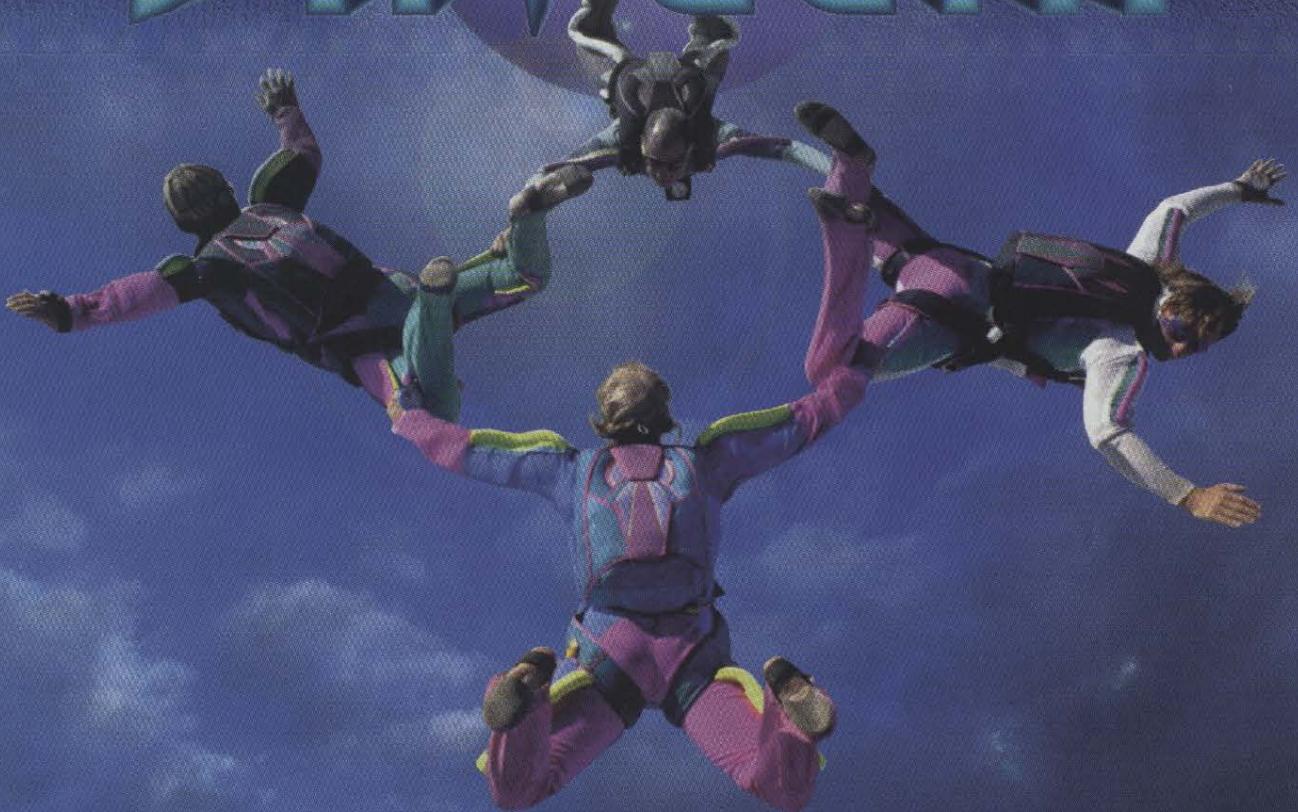
SkyTnbe pull off a tight exit from a skyvan

Warning: Do not try the suggested exit technique without the appropriate equipment, experience and supervision. – Ed

Photo by James Wilkinson

• SUNPATH •

JAVELIN



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'Isn't that really dangerous?'

One of the main questions asked is 'Isn't that really dangerous?'

The technique does depend on using the correct equipment and developing a trust in the team you are jumping with. The canopies need to have a tail pocket or similar device to try and ensure an on-heading opening. Deployment bags are simply not reliable enough as they have a tendency to spin in the prop blast. The container also needs to be compatible with the pilot chute retraction system. This again is very different from a standard skydiving bridle and requires the container to be compatible. SkyTribe decided to change to the Javelin container as their existing equipment was proving unreliable with some long pilot chute in tow problems encountered.

If the worst case situation occurs and one of the team does get an off heading opening, the canopies do not have a chance to build up any significant speed and they

will more than likely just bounce off each other. If it is really a major incident (which is very rare), with little forward speed in the equation, the equipment will not get damaged and the jumpers will be able to sort it out in their usual manner. This is in contrast to a direct head-on collision when both canopies have had 4 seconds to build up speed and the equipment is likely to be severely damaged.

This technique is not really intended for recreational CF, but for teams wishing to train to build fast CF formations in competition. What may seem very alien to people at first will almost become second nature. After practice and adapting it to your team's needs, your quad build times will come down rapidly. SkyTribe has seen their quad build times improve from 40 seconds to between 21 and 26 seconds. A good quad build is essential to achieve a good score, remembering that as you get towards the end of a dive, you will be scoring more points in a shorter space of time as you

gather pace. A good exit and quick build to start the dive will help give a positive mental attitude to the rest of the skydive.

Gary McGuinness

About the author:

Gary McGuinness is a member of SkyTribe CF Team, 4-way Rotations and 8-way Speed National Champions for the last 2 years. SkyTribe are the holders of the British Rotations National Record and are the only people ever to do canopy formations over the North Pole.



They will be representing Britain at the sixth CF World Championships in Indonesia. The other members of SkyTribe are Adrian Bowles, Chris Ware, John Gilpin and PD Smith. They can be contacted at: SkyTribe@fastnet.co.uk.

STOP PRESS! See page 34 for SkyTribe T-shirts and the latest on CF seminars

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Briefing and

We all know that dirt-diving is free and that we should do lots of it to get the most from our jumps. But do we know what to look for, what areas to cover and in which order? Pete Allum goes through a foolproof method of covering everything before and after the skydive

Many teams and coaches are spending a lot of time, money and effort to work out what the most efficient methods of briefing and debriefing skydives are. Although most people now use the same method it is still worthwhile clarifying these techniques or learning them for the first time.

The benefits of a well briefed skydive are obvious; you know what you are doing, how you are supposed to be doing it and at what time, not only that but the rest of the group has that information too!

The PAKSS system is still the most commonly used technique for briefing (I first heard about PAKSS from Scot Meek of the *Visions/Coors* team).

PAKKS

The idea of this system is to go from simple to complex, so that you are not trying to work out the little details whilst you are learning the dive at the beginning. This system works as well for a 4 or 8-way team or a fun load of any size and ensures you cover everything.

Puzzle – Work the dive out at its basic level, who goes in what slot and what the formations are. This part normally starts standing up but you may have to move to the creepers in order to check the logic of some moves. Go through the dive until everyone has grasped the puzzle. Now move on to...

GET LYNCHED!

Congratulations to Chris Lynch who has returned from 14 months on the other side of the world to take a slot with Team 97. Chris and Pete have a history of jumping together with Airtime and are delighted to be reunited. Craig Hill has a business to run, so has given up his full-time slot on the team, he is still first alternate and a most excellent dude.

Angles – This bit is generally best done on the creepers. Work out the precise angle that each formation is built on. It is best to use a grid (a taped or painted cross on the floor of the creeping area) in order to be accurate. Everyone should understand if their move is a turn or translation and to what degree. Add the angles to your dirt dive. Now think about...

Keys – Who gives what keys. Work out the most logical person(s) to be giving a key on each formation. This is normally one of the centre people in the dive, usually the one holding a grip on the other so that the action of releasing the grip is also the key. If there are no obvious grips to be released then 'flashing' (a short sharp move of the lower arms) your arms in or out shows a clear key.

Secret Stuff – These are the fine details, the technical information for a block, the exit presentation, showing extra separation from one particular point to another or what your references are, etc.

CREEPING

Well made creepers make dirt-diving so much easier. The best creepers that I have used are light with excellent (translated as expensive!) double bearing wheels, the centre wheel is best just a fraction (a few millimetres) lower than the other four. Handles on the front really help for some block moves (and carrying).

The creeping surface should be the

smoothest and most level area at the DZ (airport terminal buildings have the nicest surface but the most unwelcoming hosts). It is best to creep in your jumpsuits as they have the same grips that you will be taking in freefall, also they help build up the images that you can use for visualising the dive. It is worth getting your creeping technique down, as it will help you to focus on the briefing and the moves. Learn what it feels like to do all the different turns and slides on each new creeper that you use, also make sure that your centre point is in the middle of the creeper.

If you don't have creepers, I suggest you get some pretty soon (if you are doing FS!), in the meantime, bend over and make the formations as real sized as possible and even lay the odd one down on the ground to work out if the grips that you have are feasible.

Try running through the dive with your eyes closed as you do your move between points, opening them can be quite a revelation!

DEBRIEFING

The benefits of a positive, pro-active system for debriefing are that it maintains a sense of fun and achievement as well as fixing any problems. If you use a video and coach you will be gaining more from each dive but the same system can be used without.

First (assuming you have video), watch the dive through and state, in turn, your objectives for the dive. Then, one by one, say what objectives you achieved and other good points that you or someone else on the dive did. (*ie – what did you like about the skydive?*) After that, you should recognise what mistakes you made and state a

SORRY!

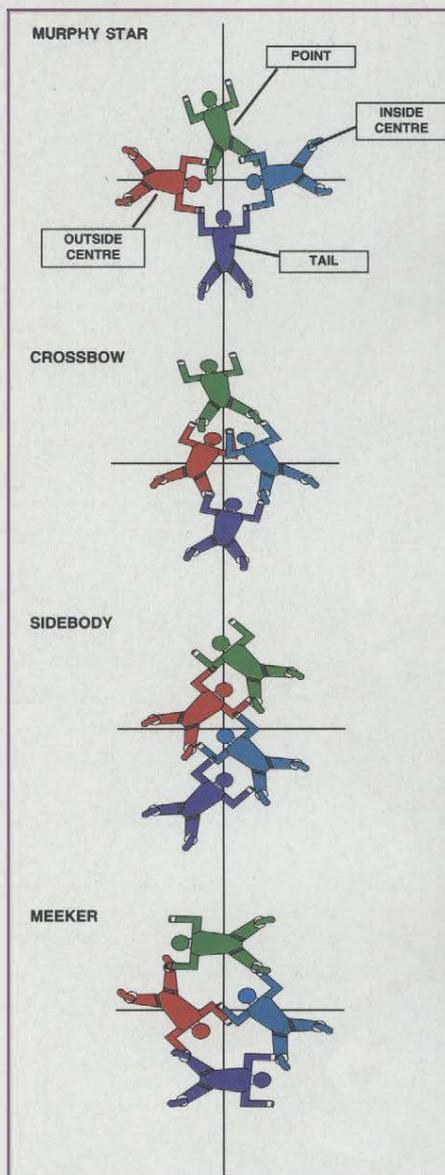
A big thank-you to Derek Thomas of SUN-PATH for the team's Javelin containers and a grovelling apology for mis-quoting his company in the last issue of SP. Thanks for being such a darling Derro, his comment was "No worries girl, but I didn't know you were BLONDE!"

– Ed

Did you know...

that the meeker was submitted by and named after US competitor and coach Scot Meek.

débriefing



The PAKKS system applied to a simple 4-way dive

Although all competition dives are a minimum of 5 points I have chosen 4 points for simplicity to illustrate the various planning stages of a dive.

When **Puzzling** this dive it makes a lot of sense to keep everyone in similar slots, ie the person who is facing out (green) will stay facing out for the whole dive. The two in the centre (blue and red) stay in the centre and the person facing in at the back (purple) of each point stays the same.

This keeps everyone's move short and efficient, if you were planning a team you would stay in these slots for most dives as each formation normally has a *point* and *tail* (or *flakers*) and an *inside* (core). This allows you to learn and improve upon a particular slot. Also the exits (I have planned this dive from a left hand door aircraft) are aligned in such a way that the *point* is usually at the front of the door, the *tail* at the rear and the two centre people are middle floater or diver (hence the term *inside centre* and *outside centre*, for the two middle people).

When you use the grid the **Angle** on which to build each formation then becomes more obvious to see and individual turns can be plotted to precise degrees to help you understand your moves.

For the **Keys** you need to pick people who can see or feel all the grips.

- In this dive it would be either of the two centre people on the first point, a *murphy star* (blue/red).
- On the second point, a *crossbow*, it would be the centre person who has the grip on the other centre, let us say that it is blue.
- On the third point, a *sidebody*, it would be the person who can see the front grips when complete and feel the tail, in other words blue.
- On the fourth point, a *meeker*, it would be the centre person who has the grip on the other centre person, for continuity within the dive let us say blue.

Now a pattern emerges for the keys... It is normally the inside centre who gives most of the keys, however you can use the "see or feel, all the grips" logic to decide who gives a key.

With regards to **Secret Stuff**, this topic is vast and each formation has logical references and set-ups as well as particular grips to be taken or slight angle changes, each exit has particular tips, although presentation and timing are still the most important ones!

Once you start going through the blocks each of the 24 have relevant details that make them easier to do. In order to get this information you can; get 4/8 friends and spend 2 years and thousands of pounds painstakingly working out each move, or you can hire a coach who has already done that! There are some books and videos which will aid your learning, for example: *Skydive 400* by Craig Buxton or *Block Info* by Pete Allum (*who's he? - Ed*). *Block Info* is a series of transition phases or 'mind maps' and is designed for use in conjunction with your coach and/or existing notes.

way to improve them. (*ie - what would you like to do better next time?*) You are responsible for your good and weak points so work on your skydive in order to improve your job. Being honest about your own performance encourages the same in oth-

ers. Slagging someone else off does not promote good team vibes!

If you are without video, follow the same plan. After the debrief get back on the creepers and work on those improvements (if there are any!).

Pete Allum

Pete is contactable at DeLand or e-mail 73572,3135@compuserve.

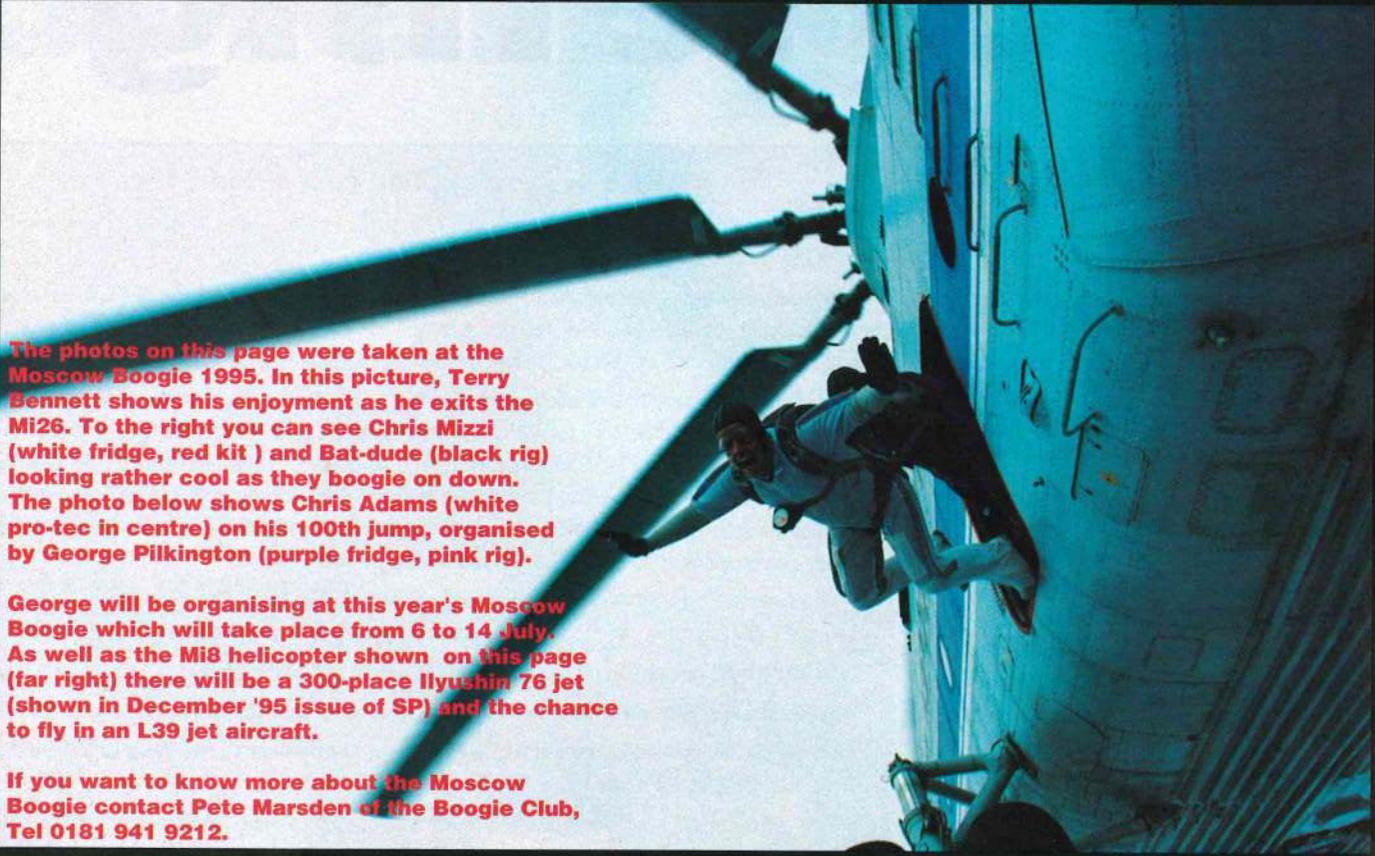
Next in Team 97's series - Mental Preparation by Toby Stafford.

STOP PRESS!

Team 97 could become *Team Sebastian*. A sponsorship deal is in the offing. If the team realises its goal of winning this year's FS Nationals, then Skydive Sebastian will give them free training jumps. Nice one Sebastian!

The team plans to do 300 jumps before this year's Nationals. *Team 97* won last year's FS Nationals with a convincing average of 13.4, well ahead of silver medallists the *Red Devils Black*, who averaged 9.8. *Team RAFSPA* averaged 13.2 in 1994 but has now split up. So, *Team 97* look 'hot to trot' at this year's Nationals, good luck guys!

MOSCOW B



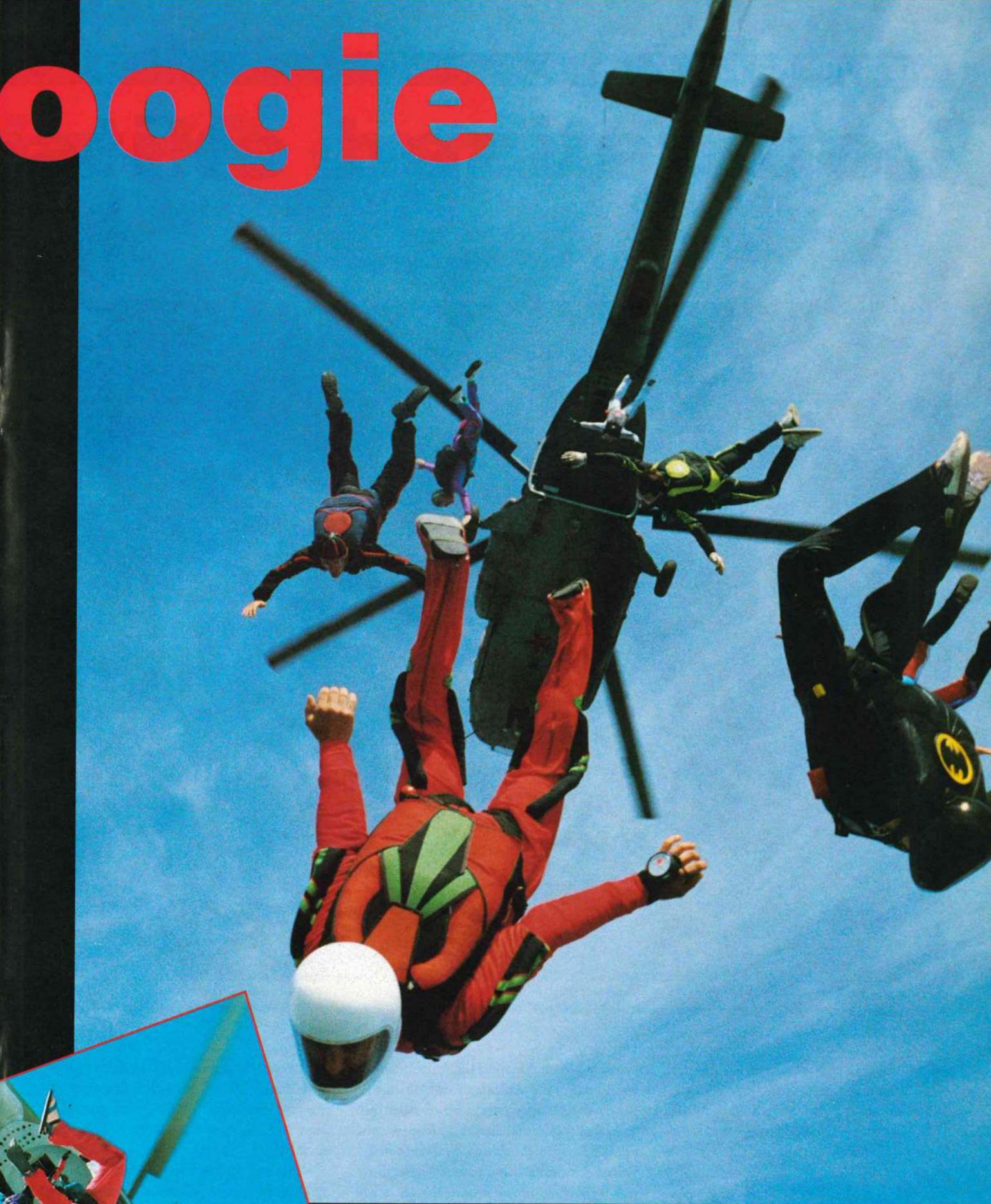
The photos on this page were taken at the Moscow Boogie 1995. In this picture, Terry Bennett shows his enjoyment as he exits the Mi26. To the right you can see Chris Mizzi (white fridge, red kit) and Bat-dude (black rig) looking rather cool as they boogie on down. The photo below shows Chris Adams (white pro-tec in centre) on his 100th jump, organised by George Pilkington (purple fridge, pink rig).

George will be organising at this year's Moscow Boogie which will take place from 6 to 14 July. As well as the Mi8 helicopter shown on this page (far right) there will be a 300-place Ilyushin 76 jet (shown in December '95 issue of SP) and the chance to fly in an L39 jet aircraft.

If you want to know more about the Moscow Boogie contact Pete Marsden of the Boogie Club, Tel 0181 941 9212.



oogie



All photos by Colin Bridges

Neutralised exits

A proposal is being tabled by the French to 'neutralise' the exit in FS competition. Is this the way forward or a step backward? Emma Moran has researched a hot debate amongst the world's best FS skydivers. This article kicks off an occasional series – *The Burning Issue* will examine current skydiving debates



Photo by Steve Johns

Mind Games launch in 1993

A quick transition from the launch to the first point has always been important to score highly in competition. Under the French proposal, it would become almost irrelevant.

Three years ago, the French introduced neutralised exits into their FS Nationals. This is a system whereby the first five seconds of competition skydives are effectively disregarded. They say this move has reduced the number of rejunps, simplified FS competition events for the general public and the media and made competition more affordable for less experienced FS teams.

But many of our top skydivers are strongly opposed to neutralisation. "The exit is an exciting part of the skydive and I would hate to be confined to a star launch on

every round" said Craig Hill, British 4-way FS Champion. David Smith, 3 times British 8-way FS Champion, sees the exit as "a challenging and integral part of competition FS which should not be disregarded". Darryl Moran, Ricoh Cameras National 8-way Team Captain, was unequivocal in his opinion: "I would consider exit neutralisation as a step backwards for our sport and not a way forwards."

Steve Scott, National Champion from 4-way team RAFSPA supported the French proposal from his team's experience "we had a nightmare leading up to the World

Meet because of the change of aircraft to be used for the 4-way." He added "in terms of competing an unfair advantage can go to the teams with the most access to the competition aircraft."

It should be remembered that a change of aircraft from a left to a right handed door not only affects the exit but also alters the slots team members will take throughout the skydive. Teams train block moves with specific persons in set slots and a different exit may make their familiar move unworkable. Exit neutralisation would remove this problem.

in FS competition

"Taking the exit away from the dive would change the format of FS for the worse in that it would take the fun and skills of subterminal flying away from the event. The teams that train the most and put the most effort in will always be at the sharp end whatever the rules are. You could simplify the meet to such an extent where all the tests are taken out, what would that prove?"

Pete Allum
British FS Champion

"The reason usually given for keeping the exit is based on history... Would it not be more logical in view of the (video and rejump) problems caused by the exit, to evaluate the performance of the teams on the rest of the jump?"

Frank Mahut
French and World FS Champion
member of the FS sub-committee of IPC

"The more I think about it the more sense it seems not to remove such a large part of the skydive, it would narrow the scope of freefall competition making it more uneventful and uninteresting and future teams would not need to learn the skills of flying on the relative wind"

Pal Bergan
Norwegian FS Champion,
member of FS sub-committee

"That old chestnut... the French bring it up every year"

Rob Colpus
National FS Champion
member of FS sub-committee
(Rob was not aware he was being quoted)

The French first opened the debate on exit neutralisation at the 1989 FS sub-committee of IPC. They have tried to broach the subject every year since, but complain that the question is never given the serious attention that it deserves. Now, they have distributed a letter, written by Jerome David and Frank Mahut (French 4-way Champions), to all international FS competitors, outlining the French proposal and asking for an in-depth discussion of what they feel would be a useful and progressive change to FS competition rules.

A neutralised exit would work as follows:

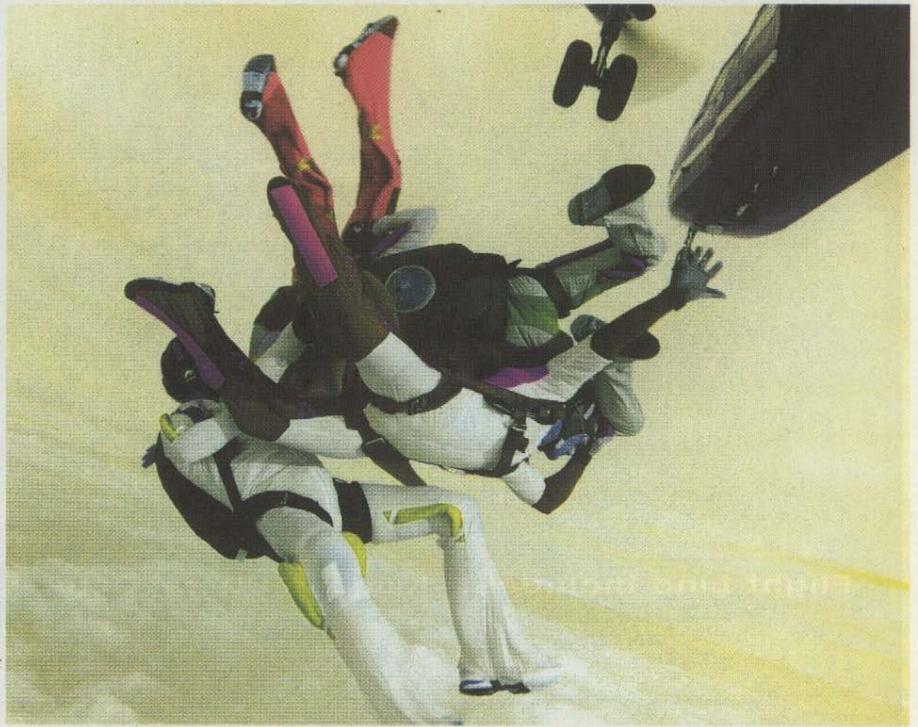


Photo by Steve Freedman

Short Straw – 1994 Nationals – not one of their better exits!

If the French proposal goes ahead a team in this position would have 5 seconds to sort themselves out before working time is started. Would this be for the better or for the worse?

"A standard exit would help to 'level the playing field' for all teams. The problems associated with judging the first point would probably be eliminated too."

Steve Scott
British FS Champion

"the importance of the exit is disproportionate to the rest of the jump"

Jerome David
French and World FS Champion

all international competition exits would be in a star formation; the star would not be counted as the first point, and working time would be calculated either from the break from the star to the next point or from five seconds after the exit of the first team member (see inset). Effectively, a neutralised exit would mean that the launch would no longer be a part of FS competition. The team would launch a star and give a key within five seconds of exit to indicate a break to the first move.

Some arguments for and against this proposal are presented overleaf.

The French Proposal

A change to the FS competition rules as follows:

1.1 to 2.4: No change

2.5 sequence: is a series of formations and inters which are designated to be performed on a jump. **The jump will always begin with a star formation which is judged in the same manner as other formations but which will not count as a point.**

2.6 to 2.9: No change

2.10 working time: is the period of time during which teams may score points on a jump. **Working time starts – either when the star formation separates if it is objectively visible and occurs within 5 seconds after the exit of the first team member, or after 5 seconds following the exit of the first team member, as determined by the judges – and terminates a number of seconds after as specified in chapter 5.**

2.11 to 8.2: No change.

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FOR

Arguments for the French Proposal

It would create a higher degree of fairness in competition. All teams, however experienced, talented, or current would begin each jump from the same starting point. No longer would some teams have the distinct advantage over others of being able to rehearse all launch possibilities from the competition aircraft. Only a few of the richer teams can afford to travel the world in search of the right aircraft.

The proposal would eliminate the plethora of judging problems created by the filming of the first 5 seconds of the jump and substantially reduce the amount of rejumps. The 1995 World Meet in Gap

saw over 20 rejumps. Most of these were granted on the grounds that the jump was Non Judgeable (NJ) as a result of poor camera footage of the exit and first five seconds. A reduction in the number of rejumps would make it easier for the public and the media to understand, enjoy and report on our international competition events.

For the last three years the French skydivers have used the system that they propose in their own national FS event. Their experience is that rejumps have now practically disappeared. They believe that they have seen a resurgence in the participation of lesser experienced teams in National FS

competition. It appears that these teams have benefitted from being able to concentrate their small resources of time and money on the actual formations and transitions, now that they no longer have to rehearse all the various launches.

For the same reasons, teams have found that they have saved money by being able to train at their home DZ, instead of travelling far afield to find the relevant aircraft to practise from.

**Compiled from proposal by
Frank Mahut and Jerome David
(French National & World Champions)
Tel: 44 53 7300 / Fax: 48 78 45 42**

AGAINST

Arguments against the French Proposal

To disregard the first five seconds of every competition jump would be to say goodbye to a valuable and challenging part of formation skydiving.

It should be possible to keep the exit and find another way to solve the current problems with judging the first five seconds of each jump. It cannot be considered a step forward to simply dismiss what can be a very exciting part of each round.

I think that if we concentrate on simplifying our sport for the media and the public, we run the risk of making it tedious. I feel sure that viewers would find it repetitive to watch 12 rounds of competition, with 50+ teams throwing the same shape out of the aircraft every time. Do we need to pamper to any particular sponsor that

insists we remove the exit in order to promote the sport? I don't think that would make the difference to our sport being accepted by the media.

I would hate to see a trickle-down effect where national teams and subsequently young hopefuls will no longer bother to take up the challenge of more complex launches. I feel that exit neutralisation could be damaging to our sport as we would lose the innovation concerned with launching unusual pieces and an entire aspect of the FS discipline could disappear.

In my experience, competitors enjoy the challenge of launching different formations. It would be a great shame to lose that sense of achievement an FS team feels when it successfully launches a difficult piece.

To disregard the exit would be to remove the unpredictability from FS competition scores. Teams would very rarely funnel a star exit. Speed of transition from point to point would be the only way teams could hope to make up lost ground. No longer would a team in second place be able to hang onto that slim but cherished hope that they are about to be catapulted into first place by an horrendous 10 second funnel on the part of the first placed team. It could take the fun out of the calculated 'all or nothing' gamble of going for a difficult launch.

**Darryl Moran
British National Champion
Ricoh Cameras Team Captain
Tel/Fax: 01252 712284**

Food for thought

As the French proposal points out, the move to live air-to-air transmission has all sorts of attendant judging problems which need to be addressed. However, rather than disregarding the exit altogether, a more progressive approach may be to guarantee film footage of every exit.

One solution which occurs to me, although I don't know whether it would be practical, would be to have secondary air-to-ground transmission from a camera fixed to the aircraft door/wing. This would be used only as a backup and, if done correctly, should eliminate all rejumps granted on the grounds that the exit was Non

Judgeable. I would be interested in any feedback on this idea.

I do not consider any of the other problems outlined in the French proposal serious enough to warrant changing international competition rules. For instance, I would be surprised if teams which have won their national championships did not have at least one training camp scheduled before the next World Meet. There is no reason why this should not be at a DZ with the relevant aircraft, or at least an aircraft with a similar door. After all, there are only three door variations. Also, even with the neutralised exit, teams which are familiar with the aircraft will have an

advantage in the same way that football teams playing at home have an advantage over those playing away.

I do not wish to dismiss the idea of FS exit neutralisation out of hand. It does have positive aspects and it may prove to be the only way that we can avoid costly and time consuming rejumps in international competition. I hope this article will raise the level of discussion as I agree with Jerome David and Frank Mahut that it is an area of FS competition which deserves close attention.

Long live FS and healthy debate!

**Darryl Moran
Report compiled by Emma Moran**

Jump camera at the Nationals

Fancy being in the camera pool for the FS Nationals? If so, Steve Freedman from Hibaldstow has some friendly advice

FS competitions have improved since the introduction of judging by air-to-air video. Generally teams get a fairer, more accurate score and a bit of cloud around the opening point doesn't interfere with the judging as it used to in the old days of telemeters.

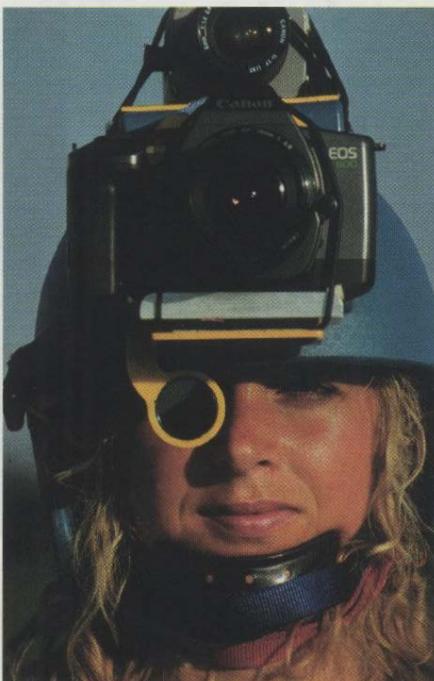
However, it is not quite all roses in the garden. The ability of the judges to score a dive depends on the cameraflyer doing their job correctly. Although most teams now have their own videographer, there are still many which don't, usually the teams of least experience. Thus at competitions we need a pool of capable cameramen and women, who have to be very switched on.

A videographer jumping regularly with a team is familiar with the team's exit, pace and "down the tube" ability. The poor old pool cameraflyer however has to work with variations in the count, deal with a pace that goes up and down like a yo-yo and follow groups all over the sky as they slip and slide from one block to the next. This can lead to problems in filming and, at worst, end up in a bust or a rejump. Not a very satisfactory situation, especially when we all know who gets the blame – that's right, the poor cameraflyer. Let this happen a couple of times and he or she ends up sitting on the ground for the rest of the meet or having to buy loads of beer.

The FS event of the 1996 Nationals will be held at Hibaldstow and the aim of this article is to improve the general standard of the camera-operators and reduce the number of problems caused by NJ (Non Judgeable) tapes. I assume that you already jump camera and you are very familiar with your equipment.

Camera problems

Before we get involved in the flying side of things I want to look at three camera problems which have caused rejets. They may seem a bit obvious, but I guarantee they have happened all too often!



Sorry, photographer unknown

1. Switched-off camera – teams do not appreciate being asked on a Nationals jump run if there is a red light showing or if the tape spools are going round! You have to be certain that your camera is on and running at least 15 seconds before climb-out. Either buy or make a reliable "video running" indicator. You can buy them from Swardy, but they are easy to make if you can handle a soldering iron. I made my own, which has proved very reliable and I can send you a circuit diagram with construction details for no fee other than a pint when you see me in the bar at Hibaldstow.

Always make sure that you cycle your batteries to avoid developing a memory effect. If there is any doubt about the state of your battery, then don't bring it with you. This is probably the most common cause of video malfunction – pathetic isn't it!

2. Run out of tape – I do know of a case where a rejump was given because the tape ran out five seconds into the dive. Put a

fresh tape in at the start of the competition or at least make sure you have enough tape remaining. Some videos have an indicator built into them. If not, you can film a digital stop watch.

3. Condensation – misting up of the front of your camera lens will obviously cause problems for the judges. This problem can occur even on a blue sky day. You can minimise the risk by using a good anti-mist spray. Also, try to keep the lens warm in the aircraft. Use of a UV filter fitted to the lens helps to reduce misting as well as protecting the front element from scratches.

Raindrops on the front of the lens can't be avoided, unless you abort the jump until the weather improves – a decision not usually taken by the cameraman or woman even though you risk ruining your camera equipment. Make sure the lens is set on manual focus and the image should still be okay. If you set the camera for auto-focus, it will try to focus on the drops on the lens front and give you a very blurred image of the team.

Flying skills

I don't want to get involved in the choice of helmet, jumpsuits, cameras etc, because I assume you are already fixed up with gear and have experience jumping camera – although not necessarily at competition level. Unlike videoing tandems, where you need to show the passenger's happy smiling face, the judges need to see the team from above, at as steep an angle as you can manage. This is a skill which must be practised before a live competition.

If you do not feel comfortable flying in the team's burble, then fly on the edge of it. You need to be able to see all the back-packs. You also need to fill at least 70% of the frame with your subject, but do not get so close that you chop important bits off the image – like grips. Judges cannot assume the grip is still there if they cannot see it.

Exits

Exits are what really sorts the wheat from the chaff. This is the point where you as the videographer need to have your wits about you. Make sure that you know what kind of count or rock the team will give. Try to go over to the aircraft with them so you don't get any surprises on the dive. If they are using one of the invisible kinds of pulse, then remind them – diplomatically! – that it would be in their best interests to exaggerate the rock so at least you have a clue when they might release.

The degree of difficulty in filming an exit depends much on the aircraft used. Generally, the further back you can get, the better. The best method is to hug close to the fuselage, go with the team on exit, but as you release, grab air with your wings and track forward at the same time. This allows you to stay above the team's back as the relative wind changes, but still keeps you close to them. Do it wrong and the four way team has a fifth member and you will be the talk of the bar that night.

A safer method is to hang low off the rail, keep your head turned away from the aircraft but keep your eyes on the team for the pulse. As the team releases they will flow into the view of the camera and you can release a tad late, keeping your camera on the team, allowing your body to follow and lining up with your head. This is the peel-off method and there's very little risk of colliding with the group. However, don't get flat on the team – you must be able to see all the back-packs through the exit.

After exit

Once you are all in the skydive proper, things get a little easier, but don't relax too much. With a wide angle lens you have to stay close above them. If the pace picks up a bit the image will rapidly dwindle in size. Judges hate peering at dots on the screen. Stay in amongst the action. On the other hand, don't get too carried away, fall into the burble and take the team out.

On transition, you must keep all the groups in frame – not a problem with experienced teams, but the others can make you work very hard! Rise away from the team if necessary to keep all the pairs/individuals in the frame.

Break-off

Make sure the team understands that you will be very angry if someone throws a pilot chute at you. They must have a clear break-off at the right height and ALL of the team



If you are jumping camera in competitive FS you must keep all the grips in frame, be especially vigilant on exit. Touch 'n' Go above Eloy, Arizona

Photo by Kia Wolf

must track. As soon as you see them go, pull. Do not under any circumstances go tracking off after one of them. A close friend of mine was killed doing that trick.

Once you have landed you still have work to do. At the Nationals you will immediately hand your helmet in for the tape to be dubbed off for the judges. If necessary, put your batteries on charge, then go and pack before you have a cup of tea. Also, it helps to let the manifest know you are packed and ready in case there is a problem at their end.

The FS Nationals should be a lot of fun. If you reckon you have the necessary skills then we want to hear from you. We are asking all those interested to send a recent tape

to Target Skysports, Hibaldstow and those who reach the standard required by the judges will be invited to join us this summer. Go out there, practice those skills and get in touch.

Blue Skies

Steve Freedman D2392
Tel: 01706 841439 or via
Target Skysports, Hibaldstow

About the author:

Steve has been jumping for over 20 years, has over 3,000 jumps including 1,000 + on camera and has videoed at the FS Nationals for several years.



Steve Johns above Mind Games 8-way team, captured by Bruno Brokken.

The team videographer will be used to the team's fall rate, the pool cameraflyer has to 'suck it and see'

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PEOPLE IN THE SPORT

Dave has just been chosen for the 1995 Instructor of the Year award. If you feel you might like to become a BPA Instructor, this interview will give you some tips

When did you start jumping Dave?

My local DZ is Ipswich Parachute Centre where I have jumped regularly since 1987. I started jumping at Halfpenny Green in 1981 moving to the Midland Parachute Centre, then Long Marsden, and now Ipswich. I have now completed 1500 jumps.

What made you decide you wanted to be an instructor?

I had thought about instructing for some time but was never willing to commit myself to regular weekend work whilst spending 14 hours a day Monday to Friday working and travelling. During 1994 I was made redundant and instructing at weekends became a realistic opportunity for me. I must have had about 1300 jumps then.

Was your BI course easier than you expected or harder?

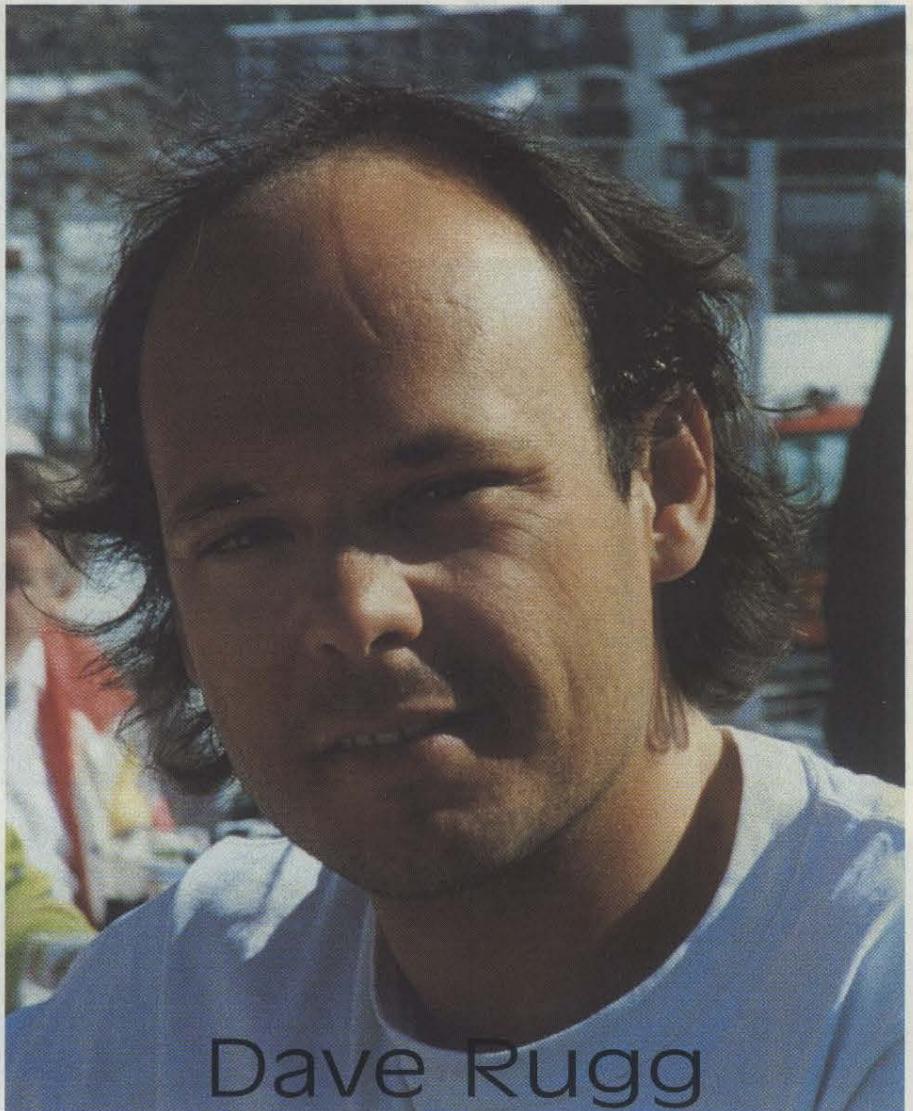
I attended the BI course at Netheravon in February 1995. I was a little apprehensive before going, not feeling too confident about my teaching skills. It became apparent soon after the course had started that everyone was there to help and encourage you. The BI course is an enjoyable course where you are coached rather than examined.

How about your exam course?

I did my exam course six months after the BI course. It is more stressful than the BI course as obviously you are being examined but overall I really enjoyed it. There was a good team spirit amongst the course candidates and I found the examiners helpful and accommodating. They were not trying to trick you into making mistakes but to assess your ability on becoming a BPA Approved Instructor.

Congratulations on your award Dave! Why do you think you were chosen?

Thank you. I must say that I was more surprised than anyone on receiving the award.



Dave Rugg

I don't exactly know why I was chosen but consider it to be a reflection of a lot of personal endeavour and sound coaching from the permanent staff at Ipswich during the six months between the BI course and the exam course.

What do you enjoy about instructing?

I enjoy all aspects of instructing from the ground training of first time students to the successful completion of a warp jump. The main satisfaction I find is in helping and encouraging people to achieve new challenges and objectives.

I feel that obtaining an Approved rating is really only a start to instructing and that there is a lot to learn and experience to gain. Like most things you get out what you put in.

Is there a natural progression to other ratings or areas?

Obviously the Approved Instructor rating

is a platform to build on, for example, Tandem and Advanced Instructor ratings are possible qualifications to be achieved. From a personal point of view I need to experience life as an Approved Instructor a bit more before deciding whether to pursue additional ratings.

I would like to work full time, but unfortunately would not find it financially viable in the sport.

Do you have any advice to anyone who may be interested in becoming an instructor?

Yes. Have an honest chat with your CCI first to ensure that you will have their full support and ensure that on a personal basis that you are prepared to undertake what is realistically nine months of hard work.

Begin by sitting in on student training sessions watching as many different instructors as possible and then start to compile your own lessons. Practice giving

PEOPLE IN THE SPORT / CF SEMINARS

lessons to friends on your own DZ before attending the BI course.

As a BI you need to stay current or else you will keep repeating the same mistakes. Ideally you need to instruct for a minimum of two weekends a month. Keep an open mind at all times as there are many ways to put over information. Be willing to

learn from more experienced instructors around you. Prepare well for the exam course as you could waste a lot of hard work by making basic mistakes like not passing the written exam. Good luck!

Dave Rugg

CF seminars – SkyTribe

British National Canopy Formation Champions past and present will be coaching at a number of seminars around the UK. The first seminar is on 23/24 March at Ipswich Parachute Centre. All experience levels will be catered for from complete beginner to aspiring national champion. The second seminar will be held at JSPC Netheravon on 13/14 July with *SkyTribe* on hand, fresh from the World Championships to give advice on the latest techniques, rules and equipment being used around the world. A limited number of modern CF canopies will be available to try out. No registration fees on either seminar and a limited number of CF canopies available, just call Spotty on 0860 428886 (eve) or Ian on 0171 733 5334 to reserve a place.

13/14 April sees the return of the Ipswich 4-way speed meet. This fun event is open to any team that can build a four stack and provides an excellent opportunity for novice teams to enter an easy competition for the first time. Coaching is available from experienced CF competitors. The fun aspect of this competition cannot be overstated. If you do not have a team then come along anyway and scratch teams can be built on the day. Call Tye at Ipswich Parachute Centre for more details.

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Annual Report

Our Chairman, Bob Card, reports on the activities and successes for 1995 and suggests some goals for 1996



Well done to Freddy MacDonald, Dave Burns, John Reid and Dave Drewette (all shown above), also Anne Beckitt and John Goodyear, who represented Britain at the World Freestyle Championships in Germany

Ladies and gentlemen, may I begin by welcoming you all to this the 29th Annual General Meeting of the British Parachute Association. In preparing the Chairman's Annual Report, I have cause to reflect on the year past and consider our achievements therein. Well I believe it was an excellent year for parachuting. The weather was magnificent; an enormous amount of jumping went on throughout the country, and indeed at our centres overseas.

"Our safety record has been excellent"

More to the point, I am able to record that despite the immense activity, our safety record has been excellent and credit for such an achievement is very much down to you, the jumpers. Equally, I congratulate and extend our most sincere thanks to the Chief Instructors, their staff and the DZ Operators for their efforts in this direction. Tye Boughen and his Safety and Training Committee may take comfort in the '95 statistics even though their year was far from uneventful.

Nevertheless, we still had three casualties

amongst our members. Penny Roberts, who sustained serious injuries in a skydiving accident at DeLand and is now sadly confined to a wheelchair. Julie Cannell, who was seriously injured when a parachutist landed on her whilst she was lying in the designated packing area!! And the biggest shock of all, Grahame Marley, God bless him. A jewel in the crown of Border Parachute Centre; Grahame died after accidentally falling from an aircraft last October. He is sorely missed. May I ask you to stand and join me in observing two minutes silence as a mark of respect for a lost colleague.

Freeflyers, freestylists and skysurfers "fly the UK flag"

On a brighter note, let us look to success. At the North American Freeflying Championships in Dallas last year, Adrian Nicholas won a silver medal. I have often stressed our need to win medals; well done Adrian, and oh! it was so close to gold. I was delighted to hear of our representation at the World Freestyle and Skysurfing Championships in Anipfing, Germany. Whilst these may be early days for such

disciplines, it is heartening to know that members like Anne Beckitt, Dave Drewette and John Reid along with their cameramen, John Goodyear, Freddy McDonald and Dave Burns are showing the way and were there in Ampfing to fly the UK flag.

Our staff and Examiners must take a bow for adding to our ranks a further 47 Basic Instructors, 24 Approved Instructors, nine AFF Instructors, three Tandem Masters, three Advanced Instructors, along with two more Examiners. This too has been a great achievement. Well done to you all. Whilst on the subject, there is an urgent need to see an increase in qualified personnel at the Advanced and Examiner level of Instructors and Riggers. How about working on this during 1996?

"a substantial increase in the number of provisional members"

I was pleased to note that during the period January to November 1995, there was a substantial increase in the number of provisional members. The figure has reached

26,953, an increase of 5,449 on the previous year. As other membership statistics are collated from the first of April, we cannot yet determine the final outcome, however at present it shows a drop in renewals and full members by 48, leaving a total of 3,674. Conversions are down by five to 642. I suspect therefore that we will be about on par with 1994. Associate members are also down by 18 to a total of 38. The second and only other increase so far, is temporary members, these rose by 147 to 1,131.

1995 saw staff changes within our headquarters. Both Joanne Connal and Steve Harratt left in order to broaden their opportunities and we wish them every success. Sadly they were a great loss as both played a full, efficient and productive part within our organisation. We have been very fortunate in having Christine Kerry and Kenny Griffin join us and we look forward to them serving the Association well. Welcome aboard Christine and Kenny. Whilst I am not in the habit of predicting the future, it is known that David Oddy has at last chosen to take up a well-deserved retirement this year. He has been of exceptional service to the BPA and I can tell you that men like David are hard to find. No doubt we will find suitable words of farewell when the day comes, but at the moment his departure is something I prefer not to think about.

"Let us now turn our minds to our champions"

To those who dedicate themselves to perfection within our sport and always at great personal cost. In the Classics event of Freefall, Style and Precision landings, the National Team Accuracy Champions were, once again the Army Team. And onward to what is perhaps one of the most important



Congratulations to the Red Devils who won the Intermediate Rotations section of the CF Nationals. From L to R: Steve Jelf, Steve Blee, Kev Waterhouse and Giles 'Lofty' Mahon



Congratulations to our Classic Champions. *H Troop* won the team event (names below), *Tim's Team* (Tim Andrewes, Kath Andrewes, Esther Reynolds, Tracey Hamson) took the silver and the bronze went to *Mustgetbeers* (John Smyth, Cheryl Smyth, Jason Baxter, Steve Hastings and Brian Shaw)



A better look at *H Troop*, from L to R: Les Carroll, Geoff Chandler, Dougie Young (Style Champion), Dave Ballard (Accuracy and Overall Champion) and Debbie Curtis (Overall Ladies Champion)

events involving the newcomers to our sport. In this case I congratulate the Novice Accuracy Champion, Dave Turner. Well done indeed, let's hope that you do not lose your taste for the odd dead centre.

The Intermediate Overall Champion, Mike Cain, is followed by one close to my heart, the Ladies Overall Champion, my daughter Debbie Curtis, who also took both the Style and Accuracy events. And finally to the British National Champion, Dave Ballard, success at last Dave. Well done to you all, the standard is very high and fortunately continues to improve.

In the Canopy Formations events we saw the Red Devils back in the frame at Intermediate level and we congratulate Kevin Waterhouse on leading his team of Giles Mahon, Steve Jelf and Steve Blee to

gold in the 4-way Rotations event. The Intermediate 4-way Sequential Champions led by Ian Marshall, (other team members Dave Corbel, Andy Sparrow, Scotty Melville and Pat Hammond), proved themselves worthy winners under the title Patamont Inter. The combination of SkyTribe and No Limits competing as Tribal Limits became the 8-way Speed Champions as well as tidying up the 4-way events between them.

Adrian Bowles led SkyTribe to become the National 4-way Rotations Champions. Well done Gary McGuinness, Chris Ware, John Gilpin and Paul Dennis-Smith, 'you done good'. Their 8-way team mates, Bob Lyttle, Steve Fitchett, Pete McLaughlin and Roy Bannerman, under the leadership of Paul Mansfield, struck gold once again

and re-affirmed their position as the National 4-way Sequential Champions.

Other than the acknowledgement that must surely go to the *ex-Royal Marines*, the art and skills of the CF discipline have been learned, developed and honed by a relatively small number of dedicated jumpers in this country. I would not dare to name them for fear of missing someone out, however they know as I do who they are. You are doing a great job within your discipline and I have to say that you have now made it a respectable, safe and exciting activity. Thank you for your efforts and you can rest assured that I will continue to support your work as best as I can.

Formation Skydiving is certainly the most popular discipline within our sport and the standards being achieved are to be admired. The skills demonstrated at the Nationals last year were no exception. We congratulate Darryl Moran who led his team of Kevin McCarthy, Dave Smith, Pete Allum, Debbie Allum, Allison Cronnelly, John McIver, Toby Stafford, Mark Rondel and cameraman Steve Johns to become the National 8-way Speed and Sequential Champions under the team title of *Ricoh Cameras*.

Pete Allum led his *Team 97* consisting of Craig Hill, Toby Stafford, John McIver and cameraman Steve Houlker to become the National 4-way Sequential Champions. The 4-way Intermediate Champions, jumping under the title *Not Purple*, comprised Andy Montriou, Debbie Clarke, Ian Lanham, along with cameraman John Drew and led by Jim Wier. Well done, one and all.

"It is disappointing that so few exercise their right to vote..."

I will now move to Council matters, and in particular the subject of election voting. Given the wide and varied views that always exist over the way in which the Council conducts its business on your behalf, it is always disappointing to find that so few actually exercise their right to vote. This year was no exception with only 580 valid votes received. It is very sad that a further 66 members were unable to correctly complete the voting slip, these were thus 'spoiled'. Nonetheless, spoiled votes were less than last year's 74, and at least the votes did increase by 191. To those who did bother to get it right, we are most grateful.

Despite my comment last year, plus the incentive of one free membership for every thousand votes received, the response was yet again appalling. Whilst I will continue to take the view that those who choose not to bother must be content with the dealings of the Council, many of those who do vote, leave me with the impression that it's some kind of popularity contest. I put it to you yet again, this is not an ego trip. There are many important issues to be tackled, issues which require wisdom, tact and a whole load of work. Being a Council member is about being prepared to work for the membership, yes, but also for the good and benefit of the sport as a whole. This is not a short term game to be made more interesting through internal bickering. There are many members in need of guidance. Elections must be taken more seriously.

"Our congratulations to the British teams"

On a lighter note I am sure you will join me in extending our congratulations to the British National 4-way Sequential team *RAFSPA* who were placed 15th out of the 29 nations at the World Formation Skydiving Championships in Gap, France, last year. Equally we congratulate the British National 8-way Sequential team *Ricoh Cameras*, who were 7th out of the 16 nations entered. I think you will agree, these are very respectable results, particularly when you consider the standards being achieved; an example perhaps would be the fact that during the 8-way event, the World Record was broken 3 times between the USA and France.

A final note on the Formation Skydiving World Championships has to be a mention of the judges. Jackie Glover and Sue Dixon successfully got through a very difficult evaluation phase and went on to be selected for the primary judging team. This is a great achievement and demonstrates the high standard of British judges and the respect they command at world level. I wish to congratulate and thank you both. May your work go some way towards silencing the endless criticism of our small and unappreciated, yet competent, pool of judges.

CAA charges - "the game is not over yet"

You will all be aware of the pressing subject of CAA charges. This time last year we faced a bill of something in the area of £115,000. It should therefore be of no surprise when I tell you that this was very high on my list of priorities to be tackled by the Council. Well the fact is that Tony Knight and his staff have been the major players, a great deal of time, effort, patience and enthusiasm has been applied by them all. Thanks boys, I know what an effort this has been.

They have brought about a change that entails the CAA authorising the BPA as an Approved Organisation for the control and conduct of freefall parachuting in this country. Our aim is to gain this approved status by 1st April; a move that will kill the threat of exorbitant charges. There is nevertheless an annual charge for approval in the area of £25,000 a year, upon which we have based our 1996 fees.

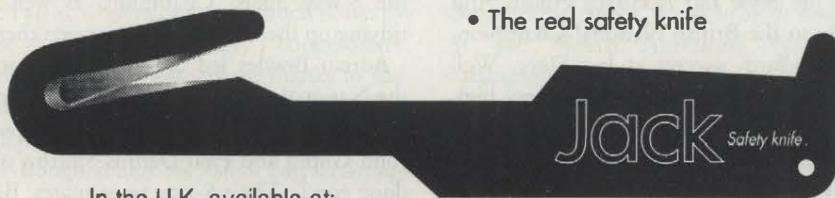
Some folks are under the impression that we gave in to the idea of paying charges last year; indeed one of our members even

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wrote to me on the subject. Please be assured that this most certainly was not and is not the case. I have spent a great deal of time talking to other heads of aviation sports and will continue doing so, regardless of my pending position as Chairman of your Council (if that is your wish). The game is not over yet.

The question of Sports Council funding is also of major concern. I am pleased to be able to tell you that a grant of £93,500 has been confirmed for the period from 1st July '95 to 30th June 1996. This is on a par with the last five years. A further £93,500 has been offered, subject to confirmation, later this year. We hope that this figure will be confirmed, however it may be necessary for the BPA to apply for funding thereafter. The funding situation does not look good at the moment, particularly for us minority sports. However, we just have to accept this as another challenge and fight on.

National Lottery funds

You will hopefully recall that during my ramblings last year, I planted seeds on the

subject of the National Lottery funds. I am therefore delighted to be in a position to congratulate all concerned at Skydive Strathallan on their initiative in going for cash and winning. Now you have the opportunity to hear how it was done from Kieran Brady himself this afternoon. Here is a tip, go listen to him, follow his advice and bid for a grant. Yes, it means a little work but you have every chance of success.

As I conclude and risk the dangers of forgetting someone, for which I apologise now, I cannot overlook the staff. They are an excellent team, they do a wonderful job and we should be proud of them. May I extend my thanks and the thanks of our members, for the work put into the Association last year and for the many demands that will be coming your way in the months that lie ahead.

Before casting my mind forward into 1996, I must not forget the team that went to skydive at the North Pole last year. I am led to believe that Dave Mitchell, Simon Ward, Fin Malloy, Adrian Nicholas and *SkyTribe* were so worried about Santa visiting them at Christmas, they felt the need

to go forth and prepare their case. Well done boys, that was a challenge taken and a mission well accomplished.

Thanks to Chris Allen for the sterling work accomplished by his competitions committee during the last twelve months and to Phil Gibbs and his development committee for they have been very busy last year on various subjects which are all essential for our future.

It is now time for me to go off and begin planning yet another invasion of Arnhem. Before doing so, I would like to thank Ricoh Cameras, Red Bull and Philishave for their generous support during 1995, for their assistance goes a long way to making things possible.

I know you will join me in wishing our National Teams every success in Hungary and Indonesia; go for gold. Please give some thought to election voting and go on to make this the safest skydiving year ever. In the meantime, I wish you all every success, enjoy the weekend and have a great year.

Bob Card
Chairman, BPA

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POPS CORNER



Parachutists over Phorty Society



All smiles for the nine over forties who set a new POPS UK record over Cark.

Remember Ray Sheriff (POPS 609), who was blinded at Arnhem as an 18 year old paratrooper? Ray undertook his seventh tandem in the Netherlands during '95, he achieved two cross country marathons and rounded the year off with some rock climbing too. The tandem jump was with Sergeant Major Dougie Young from Netheravon and took place during the 51st anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Arnhem. Not bad for 75 years old – congratulations Ray, what will you be doing this year for an encore? Next edition of SP I shall have some news for Arnhem veterans and others interested, of a demo jump by a group of these wonderful men on behalf of the equally wonderful McMillan nurses and a fund for their benefit.

NEW POPS UK RECORD:

Records have to begin somewhere, and so it was that in August 1991 the first POPS 8-way appeared over Long Marston. Now, we have a new official POPS record – read on in POPS 644, Jack Felstead's own words;

"The proposed 100-way POPS dive in Spain was not to be (see last issue of Sport Parachutist), but I was fortunate enough to be invited on to a POPS UK attempt. After asking where were all the reserves fighting for a place I was told – 'This is it, nine of us.' Only nine? To beat the UK record of eight POPS we only had to get a 9-way, in slots, free flown, with names registered in advance.

"At our fifth attempt at 1 pm on Sunday 26 November, we built the 9-way over Cark which was held for 7.5 seconds. The significance of this happening at Cark was,

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECORD BREAKERS:

	Age	Started jumping	No of jumps
Jack Felstead	54	1986	730
Jim Hynds	48	1992	260
Tony Massey	52	1984	850
John McParland	48	1991	222
John Parker	41	1989	750
John Parncutt	50	1987	320
Jeremy Porter	42	1979	560
Keith Sandle	52	1986	530
Alan Webster	43	1986	1750

firstly, that everyone on that drop zone wanted us to succeed. Secondly, the first official POPS 8-way has stood for over four years. Thirdly, POPS began at Cark in 1978. A case of right time, right place and right people. A special thanks to Dave Prince, Alan Morris, also Joyce for giving us so much help and support. Finally, thank you Chris Whitlock of team No Go for sorting out our exit and dirt dives. We had set a new official 9-way POPS UK record, upon which we can build towards the increasingly vaunted 100-way by a mixture of European POPS."

One of the participants Jim Hynds (POPS 466) has funded a trophy in memory of his mother Nan Hynds who passed away only days before this event. The trophy will be passed on to future record holders as the formations build. Our sympathies and thanks Jim. Well done to all of you especially since you're not regular jumpers with each other. Incidentally, as leader of this venture, Jack Felstead was interviewed by Granada television's Tonight programme on 4th January and a five minute slot devoted to the dive by the nifty nine. Bet that cheered up the over forties viewers.

POPS NATIONAL MEETS:

These are scheduled for:

Ipswich 18 - 19 May
Peterborough 13 - 14 July
Cark 24 - 26 August

Please note there is no meet at Ipswich on 4/5th May as previously advised. There is a POPS meet at Turnhout on 4/5th May.

TOP POP:

Michael Allum (POPS 252) is really getting into the swing of his new role as international TOP POP liaising with other POPS movements abroad. Michael will prepare from time to time a newsletter on the international scene, through which we aim that UK POPS will attend more overseas meets. Reciprocally speaking, we hope members of other nationalities will be encouraged to attend UK meets. The said newsletter will also keep you abreast of plans for the next world meet at Sun City

in 1997. Copy required? Then send an SAE to Michael or myself.

POPS ON THE INTERNET:

POPS is now on the Internet thanks to Pete Shew (POPS 478). If you get a chance to look at the web, our page is; <http://www.worldserver.pipex.com/sedgwick/shew/popsuk.htm>.

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Moira Mullins, Exeter 662
Jeremy Porter, Southport 663
Dave Tylcoat, Devon 664
George Poole, Northwich 665
Claire Jones, Bourne End 666
don't you dare forget your number Claire!
Robert Harmer, S. Glamorgan 667

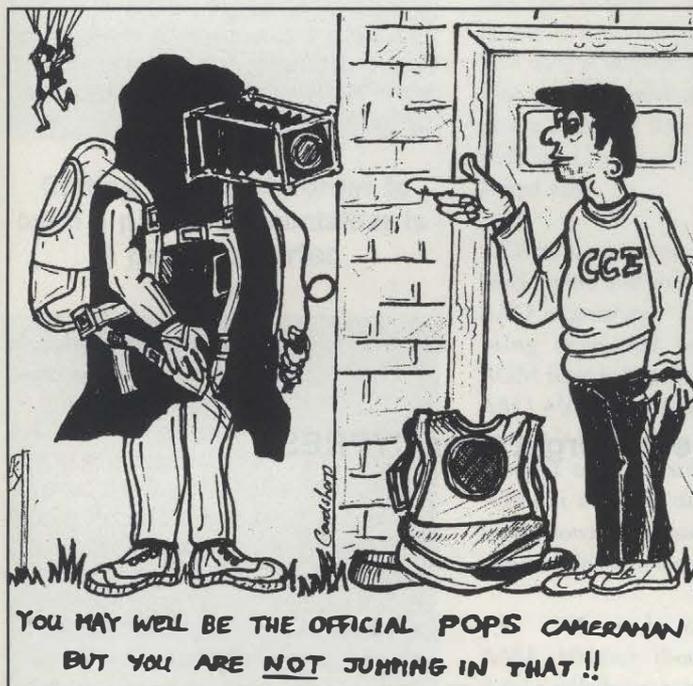
POPS LETTERS:

Don't forget that if you've something to say please write to me pronto and I'll do

my level best to publish. For example, recently someone (the Editor) asked me why we felt the need for the POPS UK movement, what did it represent and what was it for? Fair question I suppose and one never tabled with me before. I responded, not with a stream of invective but with reasoned explanation, followed up with a letter. Perhaps you'd like to write to me or to Sport Parachutist's letters page and say what POPS means to you. For my part I love you lot bar none, you're very special. Summer is a comin' guys, be sure to check your rig for the coming meets. See you next time.

John Crowhurst
POPS 475
Hon Sec & Treasurer

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It's a lifesaver!

As little as ten years ago, there were no AAD's on the market designed for use by experienced jumpers. The research, development and introduction of the Cypres was more than the launch of a new product, it was the beginning of a new era of safer skydiving.

July 1994 – Raeford, Northern California

Two members of an experienced CRW team were involved in a CRW wrap at about 6,000 feet. In the process, one of the jumpers' reserve ripcord handle had become dislodged and he thought that his reserve had opened and was part of the canopy wrap. This jumper cutaway from his main in the hope his reserve would then fly free. But, he remained suspended below the other jumper, hanging from the lines of his main parachute.

The top jumper started to cut through the lines to free the lower jumper, who screamed at the top guy NOT to cut the lines as he believed they belonged to his reserve. The top jumper carried on regardless and the bottom jumper then fell away from the mess. Believing he had no reserve or main parachute, the jumper in desperation began to track towards a small lake. He was surprised and somewhat relieved when Cypres opened his reserve parachute.

Cutting the loop in order to open a parachute container is a patent of Airtec

October 1992 – Sitterdorf, Switzerland

An experienced jumper was on a 4-way dive when the other jumpers tried to point out that his reserve ripcord handle was floating free of the housing. This confused the jumper who pulled his cutaway pad, even though he had not deployed his main. The jumper looked down, realised that the ground was getting close and reportedly gave up hope. The Cypres then activated his reserve deployment.

Turning the Cypres off uses more power than leaving it to turn itself off

Helmut Cloth started to dream of a perfect AAD after he watched his best friend impact during the 1986 European Record, in which both of them were involved. In those days, the use of AAD's was almost entirely restricted to student reserves. The AAD's available were bulky and considered to be likely to cause premature openings if used by experts. They gave out a student image, so that most experienced jumpers wouldn't even consider fitting one. The attitude then was very much 'if I didn't think I could open my reserve myself, I wouldn't be jumping'. About half of the incident report from the US finished with 'An AAD could have prevented this fatality' but very few people invested in one.

By creating the Cypres, Helmut Cloth and his company, Airtec, caused a rapid international change in attitude, for the first time it became cool to jump an AAD. The most experienced and respected skydivers were the first to become equipped with the Cypres and the masses wisely followed suit.

There are now over 25,000 Cypres in use world-wide and the market for the expert AAD is growing. Other AAD's are now being developed and introduced. The AGM featured the launch of the Guardian AAD which operates on a totally different principle but fulfils a similar role. FXC has brought out the Astra AAD for the pro. Without a doubt, the sport would not be so far down this road if it weren't for the remarkable company Airtec.

In 1986, as he conceived the dream AAD, Helmut thought "only an ideal device will have a chance to be used by experienced skydivers". It took four years of development, twelve generations of units and a cost of \$850,000 to realise his goal. Other people than Helmut must have thought along the same lines but not

July 1992 - Flensburg, Germany

A skydiver with about 270 jumps was jumping a strange rig on an unfamiliar DZ and participated in a 4-way RW jump. At break-off (3,500 feet) he pulled out his throwaway pilot chute and held it in his hand until Cypres activated his reserve. The jumper couldn't explain why he did not let go of the pilot chute.

Cypres has saved the lives of 71 skydivers and 4 tandem passengers

May 1994 – Anchorage, Alaska

An experienced skydiver was making his first jump with a surfboard and the CCI insisted he use a rig equipped with a Cypres. On the jump, the jumper experienced great difficulty in getting stable and was unable stay so. He cutaway the board, but only one side released. The jumper took out his hand deploy pilot chute but was afraid to release it for fear of it entangling with the board. Cypres activated at the correct height and activated the reserve.

To use a Cypres loop makes every rig safer regardless of whether there is a Cypres installed or not

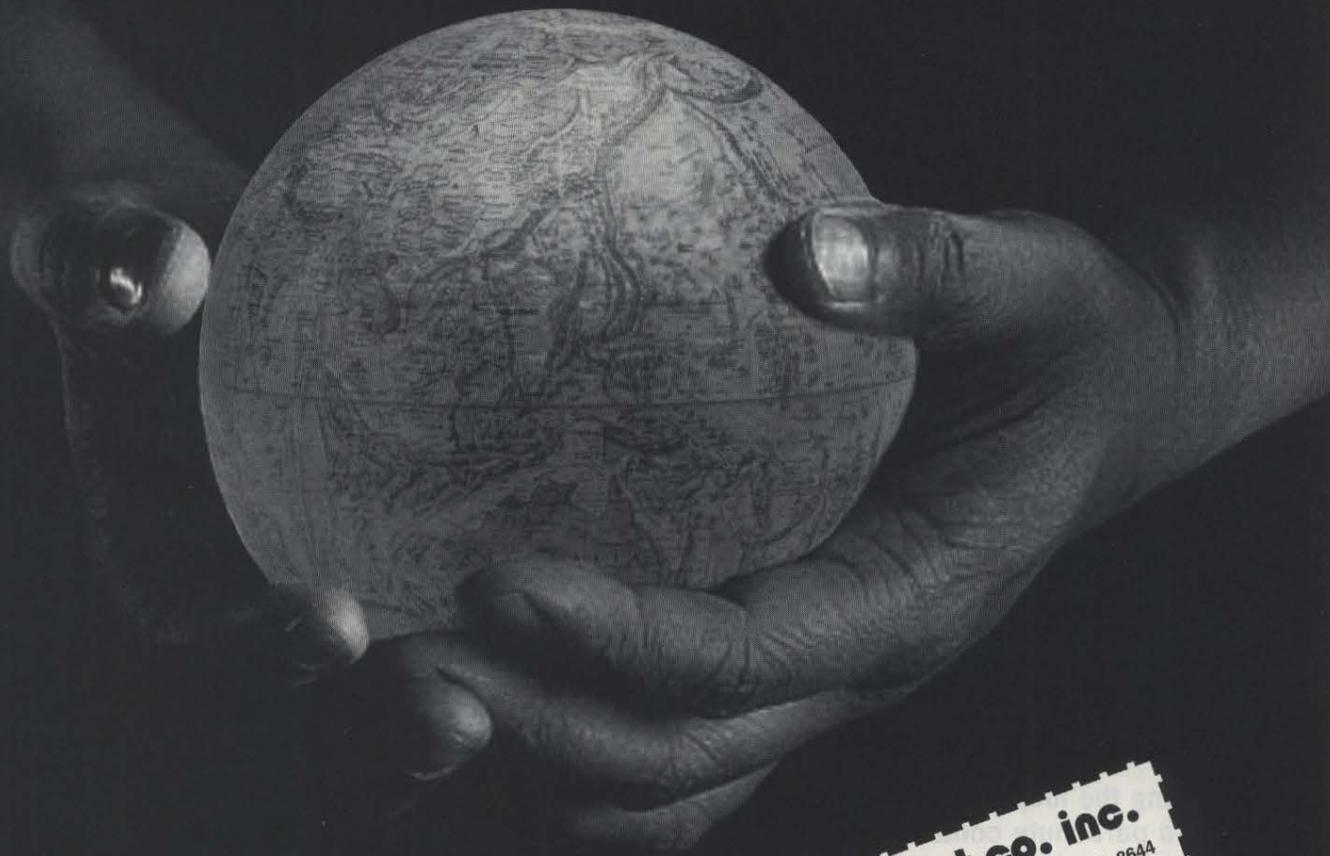
January 1993 – Heumoor, Germany

A female skydiver with 88 jumps became confused when she thought she had released her hand deploy pilot chute but the main parachute was not opening. She became more bewildered and looked for but could not find her cutaway handle. At this point the Cypres fired and activated her reserve parachute. Only then did she discover what had happened to her pilot chute – it was clenched between her teeth.

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CYPRES is the abbreviation of Cybernetic Parachute Release System

February 1995 – Waller, Texas

A skydiver with 143 jumps tracked away from a 4-way until his Cypres activated his reserve.

Only one Cypres save has occurred in Britain (Weston-on-theGreen, 1994)

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been prepared or able to undertake finding an answer. As the Cypres was launched, Helmut said that if he saved the life of one skydiver, he would feel that his life had been worthwhile. Today, Cypres has saved the lives of 71 skydivers and 4 tandem passengers. How many of us can feel we have contributed so much to our sport?

From the start, nothing but the best was good enough for Airtec. The company was not satisfied with the consistency of performance of existing batteries and hence developed their own. These will last for up to 2 years or 500 jumps, incredible when you think that the Cypres unit updates its ground level continuously when it is on. The cutter blade is made from titanium, as the hardest metal in existence. Airtec redesigned the reserve closing loop to reduce the force required to pull the reserve by up to 50%.

Cypres has provided information about the greatest mystery area of our sport - fatalities due to no pull or low pull. This used to be the largest single cause of fatalities. Partly thanks to the Cypres this is no longer the case. Skydivers who have been saved by the Cypres opening their reserve when the jumpers themselves were making no attempt to do so have subsequently spoken about their experiences. It seems that in some cases, the people concerned knew that they needed to operate the reserve but were literally paralysed with fear, their bodies refusing to carry out the required procedures. Others simply could not explain why they had not taken any action, as you can see from the documented Cypres saves in this article. How can any of us be sure this won't happen to us? The simple answer is that we can't. But, we can keep practising those reserve drills so that if the need arises, opening the reserve will be second nature.

We can also buy an AAD. The Cypres is a remarkable piece of engineering resulting from the vision of one man. Other amazing devices are quickly coming onto the market. The Guardian has been designed to achieve the same results as the Cypres but be invisible when installed and easily changed from one rig to another. When technology of this standard is available for less than the price of a new canopy, can any of us justify not having an AAD?

Lesley Gale

June 1994 – Teuge, Holland

A skysurfer with 700 jumps got into an inverted spin and tried to cut the board away. Because of his unusual, doubled-over position, the leg mounted release handle was very close to his cutaway pad and he pulled this instead. To his surprise the board did not release and he continued to try until, at 1500 feet he was successful in jettisoning his board. By now very dizzy, he quickly opened his main parachute which promptly disappeared. In a state of terror he was about to go for his reserve when Cypres operated.

There are now over 25,000 Cypres units in use world-wide

August 1995 – Italy

An 52-year old Italian skydiver with 120 jumps became unstable whilst attempting to pull his main at 3,600 feet. He tried two times and then went for his reserve handle. At this point he became even more unstable and 'decided to wait for Cypres to open his reserve' because of a previous reserve ride where he was 'almost strangled with a line around the neck because of opening the reserve in an unstable position.' He then concentrated on trying to remain stable as he waited for Cypres to activate his reserve but reports being 'very frightened'.

Airtec released the following comment after this incident: We are truly honoured by the incredible amount of trust that this skydiver has placed in us and in Cypres. On the other hand, we cannot condone this type of behaviour or 'logic'. Cypres is not designed to step in when a skydiver does not feel in the mood to open his/her parachute. In our sport it is necessary to make decisions quickly.... to receive proper training, to learn correct procedures and to put them into action without delay when required. Cypres is not meant to replace any of this but rather to be a back-up when all else fails.

So much for Chris Devine!
(see letters page, SP January '96)

- If you have a Cypres or similar AAD:**
- make sure it is installed correctly
 - change the batteries as recommended
 - service regularly as per the
 - manufacturer's instructions
 - switch it on!



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Contact Scotty Milne
Skydive Strathallan, Strathallan Airfield Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA
Tel: Mobile 0374 686161
Weekends 01764 662572

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Fax: 01786 870748

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The Commandant, JSPC
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury
Wilts. SP4 9SF
Tel: Bulford Camp 01980 633371
Tel: ext Commandant 8245
Chief Instructor 8229
Staff 8277

THE RED DEVILS

Queen's Parade, Aldershot, Hants
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Contact: Red Devils
Browning Barracks,
Aldershot, Hants

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Malmesbury, Wilts SN16 9EN
Tel: 01666 577756

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POPS UK

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Mobile: 0585 709965
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Duke of Gloucester Barracks,
South Cerney,
Cirencester, Gloucester GL5 5RD
Tel: 01285 861344/
01285 860551 x8259

CYPRUS COMBINED SERVICES PARACHUTE CLUB (CCSPC)

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Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield,
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Garvagh, Coleraine,
Co Londonderry,
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Peterborough PE8 6NE
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NT Hong Kong,
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Fax: 00 852 488 9341
Mobile: 00 852 9035 6467

RAPA JSPC(L)

(Rhine Army Parachute Association)
Flugplatz, 33175 Bad Lippspringe,
Germany, British Forces Post Office 16
Tel: 00 49 05254 98 2378 or 98 2740
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