

SPORT

PARACHUTIST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

A full-page photograph of three skydivers in formation against a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. Two skydivers in the foreground are wearing blue jumpsuits with red and white stripes on the sleeves and legs, and are in a spread-eagle position. A third skydiver, wearing a white jumpsuit with yellow accents and a black helmet, is positioned slightly below and to the right of the other two, also in a spread-eagle position. The skydivers are smiling and appear to be in a celebratory mood.

**Nationals Special
World Cup Report
Meet our British Champions**

October 1996

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Cover : Simon Ashenden (head down) and Rob Harmer (sit flying)
above Weston-on-the-Green. Photo by Simon Ward.

Some of the photos contained in this magazine may show skydivers
without helmets, in which case they were taken abroad. In the UK it is
mandatory to wear a helmet.

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Date	Event	Location	Contact
October			
30 Sept - 4 Oct	Reserve packing course	Curtis Rigging	Trudy - BPA - 01162 785 271
5 - 6	Southern Regionals		
	CF, FS, Classics	Ipswich	01473 710 044
5 - 6	Boogie Performance weekend	Roanne	0033 71 09 03 79
12 - 13	Boogie Performance weekend	Niort	0033 71 09 03 79
18 - Nov 1	Nepal boogie	Kathmandu, Nepal	Tim Moran 0385 352 306
19 - 20	Boogie Performance weekend	Colmar	0033 71 09 03 79
26	Night jumps	Skydive Sebastian	001 407 388 5672
26 - 27	10-way speed meet	Hibaldstow	01652 648 837
26 - 27	Pre-Nationals Freestyle forum	Hibaldstow	01652 648 837
27 - Nov 3	Halloween boogie	Skydive Arizona	001 520 466 3753
31 - Nov 3	Halloween boogie - \$10 jumps	Skydive Sebastian	001 407 388 5672
November			
1 - 3	4-way mini-meet	Ampuriabrava, Spain	0034 7245 0111
1 - 3	Day and night accuracy meet	Locarno, Switzerland	C Kaufmann 1/984 12 46
11 - 15	BI/Advanced Instructor course	Ipswich	BPA - 01162 785 271
18 - 22	Exam/pre-Advanced Instructor course	Ipswich	BPA - 01162 785 271
22 - Dec 1	Turkey boogie - 100way tryouts	Skydive Sebastian	001 407 388 5672
30 - Dec 15	8-way plus - Pete Allum	Skydive Sebastian	Pete 73572.3135 @compuserve.com or Lesley 01733 557 591 or Sebastian 001 407 388 5672
December			
2 - 16	FS coaching - Spanish National 4-way	Ampuriabrava, Spain	0034 7245 0111
10	EGM @ 6.30pm	BPA offices, Leicester	BPA 01162 785 271
14 - Jan 5	Christmas boogie	Ampuriabrava, Spain	0034 7245 0111
20 - Jan 5	Christmas boogie	Skydive Sebastian	001 407 388 5672
21 - Jan 5	Holiday boogie	Skydive Arizona	001 520 466 3753
22 - Jan 3	Christmas boogie	Gozo, Malta	Jo Sant 00356 582 153
27 - 29	USPA Collegiate championships	Skydive Sebastian	001 407 388 5672
January 1997			
16 - 19	100-way Javelin dive	Skydive Sebastian	001 407 388 5672
18	AGM @ 10.30am, Forte Posthouse hotel	Coventry	01203 613 261
	Annual dinner @ Forte Posthouse hotel	Coventry	BPA -1162 785 271

Hello Reader!

Well I make no apologies for the amount of space devoted to the Nationals in this mag. The FS Nationals was the most exciting for years, just being there was inspirational. We have features on both of the National FS teams, a sort of *Teams in the Sport* which replaces *People in the Sport* just for this issue. We can be justly proud of our National Champions; both 4 and 8-way teams have an impressive training plan lined up before the World Meet in September next year and we wish them luck.

Enclosed in your magazine are the BPA annual accounts, printed with the minutes of Council meetings. This enables you to see how your subscription has been spent. These accounts will be approved at the EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) on 10 December, so if you have any comments or questions, contact any Council member before then.

Also enclosed in your mag is a nomination form for Council. Anyone can stand and the more people who do, the better and more rounded Council we are likely to end up with. All you have to do is fill out the form, with your chosen proposer and seconder and return by the due date. Your name will then be included in the election and the fifteen members with the most votes will form Council, our governing body.

The BPA is changing at a rate which matches the rapid evolution of the sport. To continue this healthy growth, we need both continuity from the existing Council and the influx of ideas from new people. From the heart, I urge all current Council members to stand for re-election and as many others as possible to join them. With lots of candidates, an election sorts out who we really want to be making the decisions - not who is left after the least well known person is voted out. And another plea - no women stood for Council last year. Please let's change this.

If anyone is interested in being on Council but does not know what it involves, you can call me, the BPA, current or previous Council members to find out what it's all about.

Get that 'phone ringing!

Lesley

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AGM

**THE THIRTIETH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
of the Association to be held at
The Forte Posthouse Hotel
Hinckley Road, Walgrave,
Coventry on
Saturday 18th January 1997
at 10.30am



AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To consider, and adopt if approved, the Report of the Council. 2. To discuss any items of Special Business. 3. To fix subscriptions payable by non-provisional members for the 12 months commencing 1st April 1997. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To announce the election results for the 1997 Council. 5. Presentation of awards. |
|--|---|

Dated the 20th day of September
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six.

For and on behalf of the Council of the BPA
Tony Butler - Technical Officer

Events following the AGM

- 2 - 5.30pm** – Variety of talks, presentations, seminars
8pm – Annual Dinner (book tickets in advance)
10pm – Disco (open to all members)

Note: Members are reminded that under Article 31 of the Articles of Association, only such business as is notified to the BPA, in writing, at least **40 days** prior to the date of the meeting (i.e. **by midnight on Monday 9th December 1996**) can be included under Item 2 - Special Business.



CF RECORD

A new World Record in Canopy Formation has been set. A stack of 50 was completed on 4 September and held for 17.2 seconds. A larger stack of 56 was built on 8 September but was incomplete and only held for 2.3 seconds. Congratulations to all. British participants were Nigel Rogoff and Alan Fielding.

SUPER OTTER

Skydive Sebastian has bought a Super Otter with brand new engines which climbs to altitude in eight minutes, turnaround time 15 minutes. Taking 22 to 24 skydivers, the Twin Otter joins their King Air, they also have a Casa on call. The DZ is home to British National 4-way team *Sebastian XL*, world class skydiving skysurfing duo *Team Sebastian* among others, coaching services available. Tel: 001 407 388 5672 for a comprehensive information pack or e-mail: skydiveseb@aol.com.

STOLEN KIT

A dark blue talon with silver grey and gold trim was stolen from a locked car outside the Langley Hall pub in Berkshire on 31 August. There is a reward for information leading to its return or to finding the thief. Contents: blue/white/green Cruiselite 220, serial number F5088, white Firefly reserve, number 22,201. The serial number of the rig is 2264. If anyone sees this rig, please call Keith Murrell, the owner, who will be very grateful. Tel 01734 814430 (evenings) or 01734 824212 (days).

CANOPY U

The long awaited canopy handling video from Skydive University is out. Called *Canopy U*, it is available from the Kit Store on 01622 890967. No other details were available at the time of going to press.

GOOD PR

The Development committee has employed a PR agency to raise the profile of skydiving in the media, promote its

excellent safety record and drive more business to regional centres. This is for a trial period of two months, watch out for coverage. Please give the BPA any feedback (to Phil Gibbs), good or bad as *Image Wizard*, the PR agency will stand or fall by accountable results.

Image Wizard have worked with the British Sub Aqua Club, also drag racing and other action sports, creating media events and sponsorship opportunities. One plan is to promote first jump tokens as a Christmas gift. Also, to encourage journalists to try skydiving and write it up for their journal, which is already in motion. Weston-on-the-Green donated a tandem jump which received a full page of excellent coverage in the Independent and jumps are also planned at other centres for the Times and Rush magazine. The clubs involved are covering the cost of the tandems which will promote skydiving in general more than the individual centre. Such opportunities will be shared around a range of drop zones. Interviews with Zest magazine (Sarah Laughton) and Women's Hour (Lesley Gale) have also taken place. This is an ongoing project so keep your eyes open.

ONE IN A MILLION

Look out for *One in a Million*, presented by Philip Schofield on 14 October for a feature on Steve Treble's lucky escape from a fancy dress wrap. Programme includes a reconstruction by *SkyTribe*. Programme arranged by Paramedia, call Ian Barraclough on 01252 312540 for details.

NORTH POLE MISTAKE

A team of French recently claimed to have made the first canopy formation above the North Pole, unfortunately they didn't check their facts. As us Brits know, the first CF above the pole was carried out by *SkyTribe*'s Spotty Bowles and Gary McGuinness on the 1995 expedition. Capital Radio's

Adrian Nicholas just missed closing third by inches, but still became the first freeflyer over the pole.

The CF dive was as a result of a bet with Bill Booth who told *SkyTribe* others had tried but been unsuccessful, *SkyTribe* took up the challenge and succeeded despite limited vision, bulky clothing and of course the cold. Any disputes from the French, ask Spotty for the video evidence.

EGM

The annual EGM of the BPA will take place on Tuesday 10 December, 6.30pm at the BPA offices. The main business is to approve the annual accounts of the BPA, which are included in this magazine as an insert. See page 6 for more details. Announcements regarding the AGM are on pages 3 and 11.

NEW CHRISTMAS VENUE

A Christmas Boogie will be run in Malta from 22 December to 3 January, out of an MI-8 helicopter, lift capacity 22 jumpers. To find out more call Jo Sant on 00356 564 886.

COLLEGIATE INTERNATIONAL

Two international collegiate meets are planned at Skydive Sebastian in Florida. The first is a collegiate boogie, 22 - 29 March 1997 where main activities will be accuracy, 2-way and 4-way. The following year's event, over Easter '98, will be a competition run to decide the best collegiate jumpers/drinkers in the world. For more information e-mail skydiveseb@aol.com or skydiving@shef.ac.uk. Or view the web page on <http://www.shef.ac.uk/~sd> and click on world collegiate meet icon.

NANCY

Airtec, manufacturer of the Cypres, carried out test drops during the World Freefall

Convention (at Quincy), on a dummy called Nancy. She was dropped every morning on the first lift, equipped only with a reserve parachute, a Cypres and an altitude/speed recording device. The pleasing news is that the Cypres worked every time, deploying the reserve to be open at an altitude between 396 and 598ft. The reserve canopy ride lasted between 22 and 32 seconds, with an average time of 26secs. Skydivers watched the drops with interest, screaming at Nancy to pull and cheering enthusiastically when the reserve deployed successfully. Nancy wore a video camera which provided interesting evening viewing. For more info, call Airtec on 0049 2953 8010.

Stop Press

TROPICAL TRIP

The venue for Exotic Sky Adventure's annual tropical boogie has been announced, it will be in Madagascar, the island off the southwest coast of Africa. Call UK agent Rob Colpus for details on 01622 890967.

NEW CF RECORD

Another World Record in CF was set on Friday 6th September, a 53 way which was held for 5.7 seconds. British participants were Nigel Rogoff, Alan Fielding and Andy Sparrow. Full write up in the next issue.



COUNCIL MATTERS

An ongoing feature to let you know what's going on at Council and the various committees. In order to

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provide you with more up to date reporting, the news is written before the committee minutes are ratified by Council. Hence there is a small but finite chance that the decisions below may be altered or overturned.

CF WORLD MEET

Britain's bid to hold the 1988 CF World Championships at Netheravon is ongoing. An organising committee has been set up, headed up by the Chairman of the APA (Army Parachute Association).

COMPETITIONS

Competitions committee has decided to award funding to both National 4 and 8-way teams, *Sebastian XL* and the *Army 9*. They both made the selection criteria: Sebastian's average was 15.1, compared to a selection criteria of 12.5; *Army 9* just made the required average of 8.2 (when rounded up). The extent of the funding will be decided at the next meeting on 16 October.

FS Nationals

The recent FS Nationals was discussed and it was decided to purchase plaques for the new intermediate 8-way and junior 4-way events. In the light of letters received from *Totally Hatstand*, an 8-way intermediate team including a foreign national as a member, some discussion took place over whether foreign teams or individuals should in future be allowed to become National Champions in the intermediate event.

It was felt that the status quo should be maintained, ie foreigners can enter but if they should win, they will not be National Champions. In this event, the title National Champion will be bestowed on the second place team members. This has always been the case for the senior event, since the title implies the best in the UK and since a foreigner could not represent the UK at an international competition. Although the rule was re-examined the committee came to the same conclusion.

Judging

Jimmy Frith was awarded his FAI Accuracy judges' rating, his National rating in CF and was added to the list of trainee judges in FS, together with Dick Kalinski. Carla Cole was awarded her National rating for FS and was added to the judges list as a trainee in Accuracy.

World Cup

£1,400 was allocated to *Sebastian XL*, British 4-way

Champions, to attend the World Cup in Belgium in September. They competed and finished eighth with a 15.3 average.

Freestyle Nationals

There is not sufficient time to organise this event for 1996, especially as we have only one qualified freestyle judge, in the UK, Roger Flinn. It was decided to run a seminar culminating in a mini meet, at Hibaldstow on October 26/7. This will be an opportunity for freeflyers, skysurfers and freestylers to get together with judges and make suggestions for a Freestyle Nationals to be run in 1997. For more information, see page 15.

STC

Medicals

The situation regarding over 40's and over 50's medical forms is being re-examined at present as STC is aware of the financial implications of this requirement.

BI Instructor course

Nine candidates passed their BI, six their Approved Instructor and three their Advanced Instructor ratings at the recent BPA course held at Strathallan. Successful instructors are as follows:

Mark Willcox	BI	Border
Mike Rust	BI	Ipswich
Andrew Davies	BI	JSPC(L)
Tyree Pulham	BI	JSPC(L)
Fin Molloy	BI	JSPC(N)
Robert Nolan	BI	JSPC(N)
Iain MacDonald	BI	Strathallan
Chris Jones	BI	Cotswold
Phil Bates	BI	Silver Stars

Michael Brown	Approved	Services (NI)
John McCourt	Approved	Services (NI)
Andreas Kyriacou	Approved	Cyprus
Rob McGiff	Approved	Headcorn
Chris Miller	Approved	Target
Steve Blee	Approved	Red Devils
Tony Goodman	Advanced	JSPC(N)
Jon Stafford	Advanced	JSPC(N)
Carl Williams	Advanced	Services(NI)

RIGGERS

At present, there are a number of different forms being used as reserve inspection checklists. John Curtis is heading a project to investigate the possibility of manufacturing the checklists in the form of a book, which could be bought and sold by the BPA so that then everyone is using the same form.



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RW Course	18.11 - 22.11.96
4 Way Challenge	30.12 - 31.12.96
Big Formation Course	21.12 - 05.01.97
RW Course	10.02 - 14.02.97
RW Course	31.03 - 04.04.97
Big Formation Course	28.03 - 06.04.97

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JUMPS IN BULK

Congrats to Scotty Milne on his 6,000th skydive, and to Brian Robertson on his 2,000th, and to anyone else who has just passed a mile stone.....

AFF TIME-OUT!!

Scotty was jumping with an AFF student who was rather out to lunch. Scotty, being a cool dude, panics not, and just gives the ankle more signals. The skydive passes fairly

uneventfully, and Scotty gives the student pull signals starting well early. The jumper does not respond. Scotty's *Time-Out!!* is going and so he elects to dump the ankle out. Suddenly the student awakes and immediately pulls his main, beating Scotty to it! All the student can remember from the dive is the Flat Line from his AFF Time-Out!! in his ear! Good one Scotty! If there are any AFF Instructors out there, give Cool & Groovy a call for more information.



FLORIDA'S BEAUTIFUL DZ

Mick Hall, general manager, called WoTs with some figures which may be of interest to you. From 1 January 1996 until Wots went to press, the DZ graduated 100 AFF students, did 1,650 tandems and made 25,000 skydives from over 2,200 loads. 70% of the students are from Europe. For this year Andy has a Super Otter and a Casa, also another Otter on standby. They are in the process of building new team rooms, gym, parking lot and RV/camping facilities. Sounds like they are going EXTRA LARGE at Sebastian. So Dudes get yourselves out there and if you need a coach, it just happens to be the home of British National 4-way Champions *Sebastian XL*. Call the DZ on 001 407 388 5672.

phone, ask him about the new Wash 'n' Springo from PdF (see Kit News).

QUINCY

This year's very mad world freefall convention was attended by over 3,000 jumpers. They jumped from 6 Otters, 2 Super Otters, 1 Super Constellation, 1 737 Jet, 1 Biplane, 1 Casa, 1 Skyvan 1 DC3, 3 hot air balloons, 1 Bell Huey helicopter, 2 King Airs & 1 Tri-Motor. There are canopies in the air all the time, and if you want to jump a normal plane, like an Otter or King Air, then you just rock up with your gear and tickets and they say "you see the one landing? That's yours....!" If you had to wait 5 minutes to get on the plane, that was an exception. The sole Skyvan made 100 loads in the same day, a new World Record and on a few days the Otters made over 100 between them.

With so much jumping going on there were sure to be some injuries, which all occurred on the same day. Five jumpers were hurt due to hook turn errors, there was one fatality due to a canopy wrap and collision with a non movable metal object on landing, and one guy drowned in the swimming pool. (Pool Rule No 1 was 'Do Not Drown'.) The air felt nasty on this day, most experienced jumpers could feel a 'Bad Day' if you get my drift. On the whole the boogie was very safe and we did not see too much to frighten us. Run very professionally, this is a boogie you must visit once, but take your buddies, so you can jump and/or party till you drop. Go for it! (Dave & Jo Eardley, well done on your Cat 10, and the other UK DUDES, what a blast!)

PINK CRASH

The second Pink Skyvan (wicked paint job) was unfortunately totalled on 16 June. The aircraft was flying at the Hoogeveen Boogie in Holland. They took off with a load but ran out of fuel at around 9,000ft. The crew ordered everyone with a parachute out of the plane (they didn't take much persuasion!) and proceeded to make their way, silently back to the DZ. They arrived back on terra firma 500 metres short of the runway. The Skyvan was history but there were no injuries either to crew or to the sole passenger - who was a pensioner who had been strapped in with a video camera to film the exit. His only remark to the captain was to ask why he braked so hard?! The jumpers landed 18 km away. The Pinks have ordered a replacement Van, but I wonder if the pilots are looking for jobs...?

TROPICAL PARADISE

Hot off the press is the venue for next year's Tropical Boogie, always run by Exotic Sky adventures in the last two weeks of Feb. For 1997, the unexplored, fabulous island of Madagascar in Africa. Call Cool Cat Colpus for details on 01622 890967. While you're on the

FLY BOYZ KICK IT

The *Fly Boyz*, a German free fly team went to Eloy and did a staggering amount of jumps, 254 jumps in 16 days! Wow! At the height of the Boogie, Knut told WoTs they were doing 21 jumps per day. That's more time in freefall or in the plane than on the

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Notice is hereby given that an **Extraordinary General Meeting**

will be held at **The British Parachute Association Ltd** offices at **5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF** on **Tuesday 10th December 1996 at 6.30pm**

For and on behalf of the **Council of the BPA**

Tony Butler - Technical Officer

AGENDA

1. To receive, and adopt if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and Report of the Auditors for the period 30th June 1995 to 30th June 1996.
2. To confirm the re-appointment of the Auditors and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing financial year.
3. To set the Provisional Membership Subscription for the 12 months commencing 1st April 1997.

Dated the 20th day of September One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six.

ground! Skydive Arizona gave the boyz a special deal of as many jumps as they could do for \$1500. I understand that they had to re-hash the deal half way through coz it was costing too much money...Nice bit of negotiation Knut. The *Fly Boyz* (and their *Time-Out!!*'s) were second at the Extreme Games and are now based at Perris Valley. For hot free fly info, send Knut an EI on 106157.1566@com-puserve.com.

SIBSON SKILLS CAMP

Dazzle Moran and his team ran the skills camp at PPC late August. This was well attended by both FS & Ffly dudes. Daz was doing the FS and Alex Meacock the Free Fly training. All who were there had a good time and jumped for £12 all week. The word on the Sibson street is that they MAY be doing this again, so give 'em a call to see if it is true or rumour out of control. Incidentally over 200 Ffly jumps have been made there over the last month... 01832 280 490.

NO SPEED LIKE AIRSPEED

Airspeed are the current World Champions in 4 way, who have teamed up with *Arizona Vortex* (2nd US Nats '95) to attempt something never before achieved, victory in both 4 & 8-way FS at world level. Wots spent a week with *Airspeed* at the end of July. This team is very special! The vibe that is inside the team is like nothing I have ever seen before. They are always smiling and positive, never a harsh word. They are totally honest when referring to their own performance. During debriefs they concentrate on the positive things from the dive. On one dive during the camp they turned 30 points in time, we saw the video and it took our breath away! Very impressive, considering they have only been doing 8-way since February.

During our stay we were lucky enough to make an 11-way with the team (including the alternate), we launched the 11, turned 12 points and I looked like a "Flailing Geek"! But it was WICKED. We also did a friends 200th jump with Craig & John with no suits and

turned 20 points, Nice! Just to bring us all back to reality, we did a 5-way sit jump, 3 of AA and two of us, no one touched anyone, but did we laugh?!!! *Airspeed* are 'Full On' for the US Nationals in September where they have their hardest fight yet, against the reigning World 8-way Champions, the *Golden Knights*. When these two clash, we should see the sparks from here! *Arizona Airspeed* are heavily sponsored by Skydive Arizona, Performance Designs, Factory Diver, Relative Workshop and *Time-Out!!* WoTS wishes the boys the best for the Nationals, and as Craig says "If you're gonna go, Go Big Time until Time Out!!"

SURF'S UP!

Stephan Ertler, father of the *Fandango* range of canopies is working on a new high aspect ratio 7-cell for a certain Cool & Groovy. This has been named "Surfsup" because its main design criteria is for a loooooong surf. The prototypes should be in the surf by Christmas. Watch out for this one....stay tuned for more weather reports.

COMPLETELY NEW MOTION!

The BPA have hired a PR Company for the next few months in an attempt to get some GOOD publicity. This will make a change from the normal 'Shock Horror Probe Skydiver Plummets Earthwards in Desperate Attempt at Schoolgirl Vicar Orgy' type of tabloid /comic waffle we normally read! Nice One BPA. So far, coverage arranged in the Independent, the Times, RUSH magazine, Radio 4, Zest and many more...Watch out for skydiving in the media!

GLIDERS OVER SIBSON

A gaggle of cross country gliders appeared over the opening point at Sibson during extensive parachuting activity in August. One load that saw them contained Grantly and his Mum on a tandem. Grantly opened very close to one glider. They both had a shock! Another load was brought down from altitude due to the gliders' presence. Don't they read NOTAMS? Come on boys, we've been here for years...

George Pilkington

SKYDIVE SEBASTIAN

Schedule of Events 1996-97

OCTOBER

26th	Night Jumps
31st-Nov 3rd	Halloween Boogie – Fancy Dress Party. \$10.00 Jumps All Weekend \$15.00 Registration.

NOVEMBER

16th-24th	USPA AFF Certification Course. Call USPA to register (703) 836-3495
22nd-Dec 1st	Turkey Boogie – 100 Way Tryouts with Lyle. Beach Jumps and Oceanside Thanksgiving Dinner.
30th-Dec 15th	Eight Way Plus with Peter Allum (reg with Skydive Sebastian)

DECEMBER

20th-Jan 5th	Christmas Boogie – Fun Dives, Good Times. Hit and Chug Competition with Cash Prizes. No Contact Skydives with Lyle. Big Boys Dives (200lbs +) 2 Ton Twenty Way?
27th-29th	USPA Collegiate Championships

JANUARY

16th-21st	100 Way Javelin Dive
26th-Feb 4th	Post AFF/Spring RW Camp – £40 Registration

FEBRUARY

16th, 17th, 18th	Skysurfing Seminar with Bob Greiner.
------------------	--------------------------------------

Flight Line: The fastest super Otter on the East coast, Super Casa (35 slots) and King Air

Skydive CAD

Planning a skydiving formation or sequence usually involves either a messy ink pad and stamps or a metal board and magnets shaped like little men (or women!). With the ink pad you have to stamp out your formation and often when you get to the last slot, you find that the spacing is not quite right and your fingers are covered in ink. With the magnet board, the magnet men get lost or borrowed to hang messages on the fridge (the cold type). But now Gary Peek from California has brought out a computer programme called the *Skydiving formation planner*, which could save you from the above. Gary's programme allows you to lay out freefall formations with up to 24 slots which may be rotated to one of 32 different angles, so that a multitude of different formations may be designed. Each slot may be coloured with one of eight different colours for easy identification and, in the case of large formations, numbers can also be called up to further identify slots or docking order. For help in placing jumpers on the screen you can turn on a grid to help fine tune their position. The programme is menu driven and of course all formations may be saved on disc.



CLIP ART

Still on the subject of silicon skydiving - computer users will be familiar with the *clip art* type of software that provides ready drawn images which may be copied onto your page for inclusion in whatever it is you're working on. Well now Gary Peek has released a whole range of skydiving related clip art images, including round and square



canopies of different kinds, a large selection of aircraft types, AFF hand signals, freestyle skydiving positions, drop zone and airport symbols etc. Gary's clip art is usable by almost all PC programmes or Mac PICT files. Gary Peek - 001 314 946 5272
Email: peek@freefall.com














KIT NEWS

by Rob Colpus

Advanced packing course

The BPA has introduced a four day course with the aim of training jumpers to safely pack ALL types of reserve containers on the market according to the manufacturers' manuals. The course is followed by a two day examination period. All courses are to be run by BPA Advanced Riggers or Rigger/Examiners, and those eligible to attend must be BPA members and already have a BPA packing certificate. The course syllabus includes:

-  General rigging and assembly
-  Equipment compatibility (pack volume study)
-  Canopy and container inspection techniques
-  Inspection of Automatic Activation Devices (AADs) and Reserve Static Lines (RSLs)
-  Safety Notices
-  BPA Operations Manual
-  Packing lessons and practice
-  Packing tools - selection and safety requirements
-  Documentation
-  Contamination of materials
-  Cypres requirements

The final examination includes a written test and a minimum of four reserve packs on different types of equipment to include 1 x round reserve, 1 x ram-air reserve, 1 fitted with AAD, 1 fitted with RSL, 2 with damaged closing loops including a *Pop top* type.

If successful the candidates will be awarded *Advanced packer* status which allows them to assemble, inspect and pack all reserve container types, including those fitted with an AAD, but will not be cleared for any rigging or repair work or assembly which includes rigging. Anyone interested in taking the course should contact the BPA.

99 - Stop me and buy one

CF canopies are large, slow and docile - right? Wrong!! *SkyTribe* CF team members Adrian 'Spotty' Bowles and Gary McGuinness have been experimenting with some small *Triathlon 99* canopies. The guys are working on some rather radical CF photographs which will be appearing later. The speed of these canopies is fast, forget the old notion of 7-cells as slow 'skytrucks', lacking the performance of 9-cells or ellipticals.

Recently at Netheravon the guys hopped and popped at 8,000'. Five seconds later Steve Hastings left to do a style set. Guess who got their feet on the ground first?

SkyTribe have a variety of sizes of *Triathlons* which they have available to demo and can be found at RAFA-PA or APA most weekends.
Email: skytribe@powernet.co.uk

Skytronic



The leading Italian sport parachute company Parasport Italia has joined Larsen and Brusgaard and the Cool and Groovy Fridge Co in the audible altitude warning device market. Called the *Skytronic*, their new product is a microprocessor based audible alti which was first exhibited at the PIA symposium in 1995, but has only just been released onto the international market.

The *Skytronic* features a liquid crystal display which shows the altitude in feet or metres which may be selected by pushing one of 4 buttons. Like a Cypres, the unit must be switched on every day



Springo

Parachutes de France are back on the offensive in the top of the range, hot little parachute market. The French company took a giant leap ahead of the competition in 1989 when they released their *Blue Track* range of main canopies. The *Blue Track* was the first production, zero

porosity, semi elliptical on the scene and it left the competition standing. Following the success of the *Blue Track*, other manufacturers such as *Airtime*, *PISA* and *Precision*, started to produce hot zero p's to challenge the BT's lead. The most successful of them was the *Stiletto* from *Performance Designs*, which after a few years took the market lead from *Parachutes de France*. PdF countered the *Stiletto* challenge in '93 with the release of a smaller profile, smooth, elliptically shaped version of the old BT range, tagged the *BT Pro* series. The Pro certainly had a very small pack

volume for its square footage and its super lightweight toggle pressure and lightning fast response to toggle input were its trade mark. However, although popular for a while, it became apparent to PdF that the majority of experienced canopy pilots preferred the easy, long, fast 'turf surf' swooped landings that the *Stiletto* produced, over the sharp toggle response of the Pro. So, with their finger on the pulse, Europe's leading canopy manufacturer has now released what they claim to be the canopy with it all. Named the *Springo* – as in *Spring* (meaning

jump) and *go* (meaning go), this hot little canopy was first showcased to the world at the *Espace Boogie* in Vichy in August.

With the *Springo*, PdF claim that they have managed to combine the best features of the best designs to date. They went out to maintain the light and sharp toggle reaction during flight but to create a *Stiletto*-like long, 'turf surf' landing, this they claim to have achieved with the *Springo*.

The *Springo* is available in four sizes – 110, 120, 140, 160, and is constructed from PF3000 zero porosity fabric as used in the *Blue Track* range. Unlike the *Blue Track*, the

Springo features US *Spectra* 725lb micro lines, in place of the French *Optima* line which PdF has had problems with in the last few years. First reports from skydivers who test jumped the canopy in Vichy were favourable. Most reported the promised long, easy swoop landings, although there seems to have been a trade off for toggle pressure compared to the *BT Pro*.

UK retail prices are likely to be similar for other canopies of the same type.

Parachutes de France – 0033 134 32 7777 or UK dealers.



Competition for the British manufactured *Time-Out!!* as a new audible altimeter with multiple warnings, the *Skytronic*, is released onto the market. The *Skytronic* has two warnings compared with the *Time-Out!!* which has three

of jumping and it turns itself off after 14 hours. After the *Skytronic* is switched on it sounds a tone to say it is ready to jump. The unit's warning altitude may be changed by pushing one or other of the two arrowed buttons. A flat tone or an intermittent beep may be selected for the warning. A second warning will sound if the skydiver is exceeding 100ft per second below 1600ft.

The *Skytronic* also has the unique feature of being able to record and display its owner's maximum altitude and total freefall time.

Parasport Italia- 0039 121 69692
Email: parasport.italia@iol.it

Mirage again

Another container in a recent spate of new containers has been released onto the market by a Florida based company, *Mirage Systems*. The new *Mirage* (a 1980's container carried the same name) is a single, external reserve pin system, with an appearance very similar to the *Vector* / *Talon* type. This new container does sport some fresh ideas, such as a pre-installed second layer of velcro on the riser covers for when the first layer has worn out. The main and reserve pin flaps are both tucked to make them snag proof. Contoured leg straps give extra comfort and don't stick out sideways like most competitors. The *Mirage* comes with all expected mod cons of the 90's such as Cypres ready, availability of



ringed harness, and narrow yoke for unrestricted head movement.

Custom Mirages can be supplied in just 8 weeks.

Mirage - 001 904 740 9222
or UK dealers.

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AGM news

AGM Accommodation

£43 per double room per night – Book now!
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Fax: 01203 621736



The AGM and supporting programme, plus the BPA's Dinner, will be held on Saturday 18th January 1997 at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Coventry. The timings, subject to confirmation in the December issue, are likely to be as follows:

The AGM will start at 10.30am, (the official announcement and agenda are published on page 3) and will last until approximately 12.30pm. Following a break for lunch, the afternoon supporting programme of a variety of talks, seminars and video presentations will start at 2pm and last until around 5.30pm. The Annual Dinner will begin at 8pm and the usual disco, open to all members of the Association, will begin immediately following the dinner. If past experience is anything to go by, this will be at around 10pm and will go on into the wee small hours!

Facilities

The Forte Posthouse at Coventry has proved to be a popular venue for the past two years. Not only is it easily accessible from which ever direction you travel, but it is comfortable, has friendly, helpful staff and good facilities including a swimming pool.

Despite the fact that we take over most of the hotel for the event, accommodation is limited, so book early. The hotel has a total of 147 bedrooms, all of which are twin or double bedded rooms. The hotel has allocated 40 rooms for BPA members for the night of Friday 17th January and a further 130 rooms for Saturday 18th, all subject to call-off and strictly on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Cost

The cost this year will be £43 per room. Considering the fact that it was £41.50 per room two years ago, the hotel has been very co-operative in keeping the price down to what we feel is still a reasonable level considering the room quality and the facilities that are available to guests. We have deliberately kept the cost exclusive of breakfast, as we know that not everyone wants to eat in the morning, particularly after a hard night on the liquid refreshment!

There were a few complaints last year from members who believed that they could get a better deal from the hotel by buy-

ing a 'Weekend Break' package for around £26 for bed and breakfast, or £36 for accommodation, dinner and breakfast. I hotel about this and was informed that they only hold a few rooms for people wishing to take a Weekend Break package. The rooms are not as comfortable as those which we use, but the

important point is that those special prices are per person and not per room! At £21.50 per person for 2 people sharing a double or twin room, I believe BPA members still get a very good deal.

Inevitably, at a hotel of this type, the beer in the bar is somewhat expensive, but neither we, nor the hotel themselves, have any control over this.

Finally on the subject of accommodation, may I urge you to book your room in good time, by telephoning the hotel on 01203 613261 or faxing them on 01203 621736. Make sure that you tell Reservations that you are a BPA member when you book.

Seminars

I can't give you much information about the programme of talks for the afternoon session as we are still working on it. However, we hope to have a good selection of interesting items to select from.

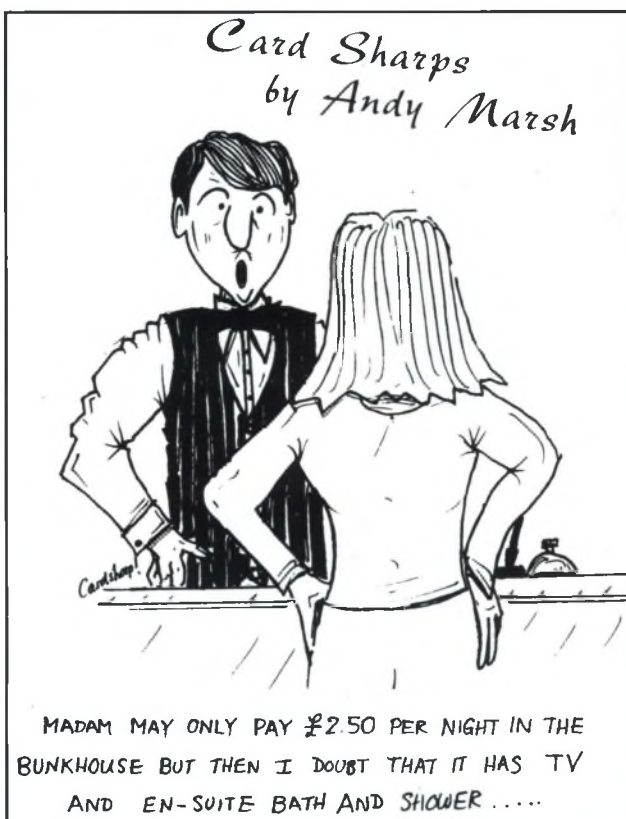
We aim to provide a choice of three topical items every hour from 2pm to 5pm which you can choose from depending upon your particular interest. If any of you have any ideas on subjects that you would like to have included in the programme, please let us know at the BPA office – we would rather have too many than to be scratching around for ideas!

Annual Dinner

In the December issue of the magazine, we hope to give you further information on the cost of tickets for the Annual Dinner. This proved to be very popular last year and it would be nice to beat the 130 tickets that were sold on that occasion.

New members need have no fear that because it involves an AGM, it is bound to be boring! If you have any doubts, ask someone who attended last year, and I am sure they will testify to the fact that it is an enjoyable event and provides an ideal opportunity to meet and socialise with like-minded sport parachutists from all over the UK. We look forward to seeing you there!

David Oddy



Ticket to Ride?



Freddy tries to hitch a ride with John Reid over Strathallan

Photo by James Stevenson

Sinister goings on

Part I

Amidst the frivolity and weather watching at this year's RAPA meet, a sinister terrorist operation unfolded. Wylie Coyote the lovable mascot of the *Upton Park* 4-way team (and probably their most promising skydiver) was callously kidnapped. A battered and traumatised Wylie was eventually returned by an armed police escort.



Part II

Wylie was still suffering Post Traumatic Stress from his humiliating experience, so *Upton Park* took him to the Army championships to try and cheer him up. In a scene reminiscent of *Carry on Doctor*, the unlucky coyote was diagnosed as having a broken leg and rushed into surgery. Allan Hewitt and Jonno Horne restored Wylie to full strength.

Photo by Steve Fitchett & Lesley Ames

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Photo by: Keith Larrett

Do it all at Quincy

From August 2 to 11, 3,926 skydivers from 36 countries registered for the World Freefall Convention in Quincy, USA. Just under 46,000 skydives were made; to achieve this there was a take off or landing every 1 min 18 secs.

Five jumpers from Border Parachute Centre ; Dave & Jo Eardley (pictured), Paul Gurteen, Chris Peacock & Graeme Baxter did 224 of those jumps. We were filmed for Discovery TV and Norman Kent filmed us lobbing out of the Bell 412 helicopter, hopefully to go in his new film, *Willing to Fly*. We jumped the Casa, Skyvan, 4 Super Otters, 2 Twin Otters, 2 King Airs and a Porter, at heights between 4,000 and 21,000 feet. Four of us went out Cat 8 or 9 and came back Cat 10 (thanks to Eddie Carroll, George Pilkington, Sonja and Graeme – who scared himself attempting skysurfing).

Quincy is definitely a place for fun. If you can look after yourself on mixed loads (belly flyers, butt flyers, surfers, tandems, head-downs and dogs in tandem) and are willing to fly heads up, go to the convention next year. It's a blast. Did I mention the nightly live bands and free beer?



Dave Eardley

Dave and Jo Eardley exit a hot air balloon

Too close for comfort?

Needless to say this shot was not taken in the UK!

Bob Neely who took this photograph was filming a promotional video for the pilot of this Beech King Air 200, who shall remain nameless.

The pilot is currently being investigated by the FAA and may lose his licence for another offence, allowing a jumper to stand on the tail of his aircraft. (See photo in *Skydiving*).



Photo by Bob Neely

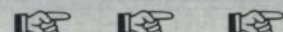
PAUL DIXON 16-WAY TROPHY

Once again the annual 16-way competition at Weston proved to be popular. Every year there are at least 5 teams who compete and this year was no exception. The usual groups were there with the exception of the northern team, led by *No Go*, who were sadly missed. However there was a new team this year, *White Stilettos*, an all female team from Weston captained by Nicky Homer, who made their debut earlier this year at Sibson. Weston fielded two other teams, Tim Homer captained *MARS* and Steve Mursell led *Oxford Arms*. Another Planet, captained by Dazzle Moran, turned up with what proved to be his strongest team yet. The *Army 9* and friends started putting together a team but, because of a few unexpected military exercises and an injury to the captain Brian Dyas, the team was on the verge of folding. Martin Soulsby took the reins and after a frantic Friday of 'phone calls, a phoenix rose from the ashes and *Just* was created, a mixture of jumpers from around the country; Weston, Netheravon, Sibson and Scotland plus a depleted *Army 3*.




White Stilettos – where do you want your men?

Photo by Colin Bridges



Weston 16

 The competition was over five rounds and used the 16-way dive pool. There was one change implemented where the easier points were put into a separate draw for the first point of the round. This was suggested following the first trial of the pool, at Sibson earlier in the year. Exits were from a Skyvan at 13,500ft with 50 seconds working time. Teams scored one point for each completed formation in working time, with a one point bust for an infringing formation.

The meet got off to a good start with the *Planeteers* showing what a little practice can do, by doing an 8 point 16-way, scoring 6. Hot on their heels were *Just* and *Mars* scoring 4 and 3 respectively. The *Planeteers* continued to strut their stuff with another two 8 point skydives, scoring another 6 and an awesome 7. We are not sure if a 6 has ever been scored in the UK in 16-way before, but all were agreed this was the first ever 7. Unfortunately it will have to remain unofficial since there were no FAI judges present.

Just were having problems with slow first point builds, flying 4 points in time with the fifth just out. A change in exit for round three produced a fast 15 but a collision resulted in someone low! They managed to salvage a 3. *Mars* had their own set of problems in round three with someone going low part way through leaving a disastrous 2 for them. Sunday proved to be interesting with the hardest rounds of the competition. The *Planeteers* put a 4 and another 6 on the board while *Just* got their exit sussed and put up two 5s, pulling away from *Mars*.

The competition was surely overall of the highest standard 16-way seen in the UK. Tim Homer worked out that if you averaged everyone's scores we were all on 2.8. *Another Planet* were fractionally short of a 6 point average in 16-way, *Just* a 4 point average and *Mars* on 3. Both the *Planeteers* and *Just* were both completing 1 or 2 points out of time on all the skydives. *White Stilettos* should be praised for achieving scores on almost every round, bearing in mind that many of the team have less than 500 jumps and have not done 16-way before.

Another Planet showed what training can do in 16-way and the 'Dicko' Trophy was retained yet again by a well deserving team. This is the fourth consecutive year they have won this competition.

CCI Dave Woods and his staff should be commended for great organisation and facilities. Dave bought 16 new dirt-diving trolleys in preparation for the competition. The apres-jump party was in the hangar which made a refreshing change. Graham Liggins lined up an excellent barbecue, a great disco and talented band featuring Nicky Fagen's brother and father. Tim Homer should be praised for the excellent job he did as Meet Director, keeping everyone informed and making sure the *Planeteers* were on the first lift on Sunday. Tim's enthusiasm has ensured success for all of the competitions at Weston this year.

The 16-way dive pool is being enhanced by several European countries, to present the pool with rules to IPC with a view holding a World Cup in 16-way. Hopefully we will see more teams training at 16-way FS and even higher standards of large sequential in the country. Maybe someone will beat the *Planeteers*....one day!!!!

Richard Hamblen

Team	Round					Total	Average
	1	2	3	4	5		
Another Planet	6	6	7	4	6	29	5.8
Just	4	3*	3	5	5	20	4
M.A.R.S	3*	4	2	3	3	15	3
Oxford Arms	3	2	3	2	3	13	2.6
White Stilettos	2	1	1	1	0	5	1
(* = bust)							

Falklands Freefall



L to R: Parachutists; (standing) Stephen Marsh, John Williams, Gerald Clarke, Dougie Young, David Tyler. Lynx Crew; (kneeling) Krist Zimmerman, Shaun Enever, Andrew Barber

On Sunday 16 June 1996, five army skydivers jumped from a Royal Naval Lynx helicopter, 10,000FT above Mount Pleasant Airfield, completing the first ever parachute jump on to the Falklands.

On completion of the very cold jump into deep snow at the British military base, the team departed for a second display at Goose Green on East Falklands, the scene of bitter fighting in the 1982 conflict.

The residents of Goose Green were clearly amazed and excited at seeing parachutists landing in the village, which was a first time for all of them. One resident said "The bond between the residents and the British military since 1982 remains very strong. Watching the Union Jack coloured parachute land here, guided by a member of the Parachute Regiment, brings back proud memories".

Stop Press!!

Good News! **Sibson** will now have the Turbolet right through 'til the end of October. 01832 280 490.

Also, *Ronnie's* tell us that they can supply *Javelins* in just 20 weeks and PdF rigs in 6 weeks. 01832 280 131.

Did you know...

...that ten years ago at the FS (then RW) British Nationals, the winning team averaged 7.3?

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Freeflying, Freestyle and Skysurfing Pre-Nationals Forum

**26/27
October**

Everybody is very welcome to join in this fun weekend at Hibaldstow. The aims will be to share information and ideas, to make suggestions for next year's Freestyle Nationals, to discuss judging criteria and of course to have fun!

The rapid rise of the newer disciplines of the sport; freestyle, freeflying, skysurfing has created interest in holding some sort of UK Nationals for these events. This is not easy to set up as we have a lack of knowledge and experience in the UK. Competitions committee wanted to arrange a Freestyle

Nationals for this year, but logistic and time problems have prevented this. However, in order to guarantee success for next year, a seminar will be held at Hibaldstow, the probable venue for next year's Nationals in Spring '97.

Competitors, judges and interested parties are all invited to attend. This is your chance to make your views count. It is worth noting that Hibaldstow held a pre-Nationals forum for the FS Nationals at

the AGM this year. Opinions were noted and acted on, which must have helped make this year's FS Nationals the success it was.

Freeflyers, surfers, freestyles

The idea is to take suggestions from skydivers practising this area of the sport, especially those with competition experience. Techniques and flying tips will be discussed and fun jumps will be made,

videoed and debriefed to improve every one's ability. As well as the coaching, there will be a mini-meet at the end of the weekend for any interested parties (not compulsory!).

Teams will be more able to train for Spring next year, in the knowledge of what type of scoring system will be used.

Cameraflyers

Cameraflyers will be welcomed with open arms, whether already with a partner or looking to join a team. Again, there will be the opportunity to learn from practised jumpers.

Judges

Judges will be invited, it is hoped that FAI freestyle and skysurfing judge Roger Flinn will be able to attend, although this was not confirmed when this article went to press. Competitions committee is hoping to be able to fund judges' expenses so that they can pool thoughts with teams and find out more about this most exciting but controversial area of judging.

Novices

Novices in any area are equally welcome, come and learn.

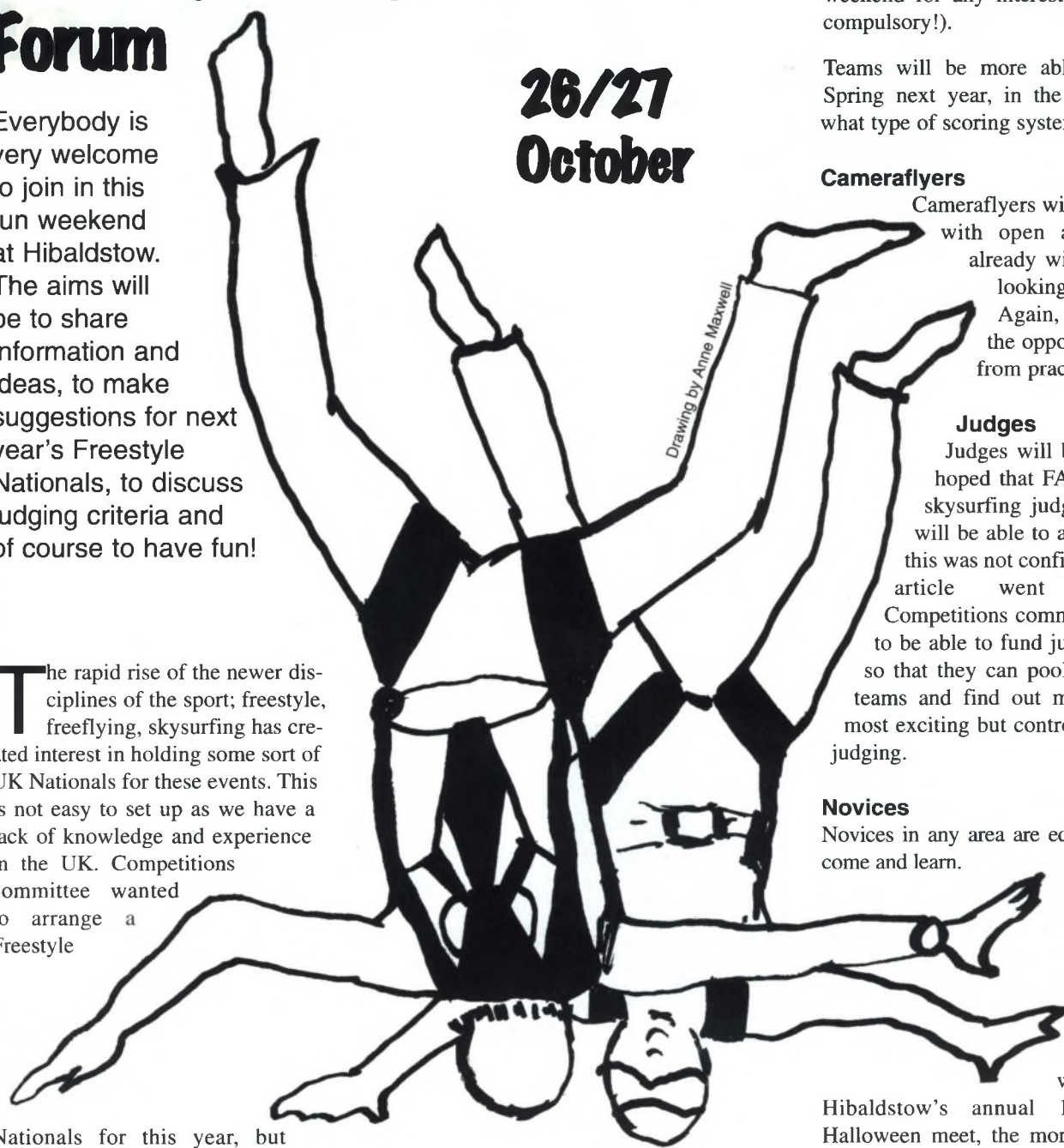
Formation Skydiving

The seminar has been arranged for the same weekend as

Hibaldstow's annual 10-way speed Halloween meet, the more skydivers on the drop zone the better. Anyone can join in both events for twice as much fun.

Of course the Saturday night will be a party night for all involved. Invitations have been sent out to interested parties and the more the merrier.

To find out more - call Target Skysports on 0113 250 5600, or Ann Beckitt on 0161 231 7693, or just turn up!





Gold: Senior 8-way: Army 9

Lee Love, Solly Williams (*coach*), Brian Dyas, Karl Lester, Chris Allen, Sarah Laughton, Mark Burby, Andy Scott, Andy Allman. *Sitting*: Aide Green, Lee Pugh, Mark Davies.

This year's FS Nationals was by far the most exciting for many years. Competition was fierce at all levels, the crowd around the scoreboard became progressively more enthralled as the week built up to a gripping climax in each and every event. Nothing was certain until the final scores were posted.



Silver: Large!

Pete Allum, Chris Lynch, Toby Stafford, Rhino, Kevin McCarthy, John McIver, Ben Rayner. *Sitting*: Lesley Gale, Debbie Allum, Steve Freedman (*camera*).



Bronze: Northern Exposure

Dave Ruffell, Mike Strachan, Kevin Sargent, Mark James, Ian Matthews, Pete Scott, Billy Somerville and Graham Harris. *Not pictured*: Andrew Hilton (*camera*).

Senior 8-way

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Jump Off	Total	Average	Position
Army 9	8	11	7*	6	7*	6	10	7	10	8	10	90	8.2	1 Gold
	8	9	26	32	39	45	55	62	72	80	90			
Large!	7	10	5**	7	7	10	9	7	9	9	8*	88	8	2 Silver
	7	17	22	29	36	46	55	62	71	80	88			
Northern Exposure	3*	6	5	5	7	4*	8	5	7	5		55	5.5	3 Bronze
	3	9	14	19	26	30	38	43	50	55				
No Go	5*	9	8	1*	5	6	5	1**	6*	4		50	5	4
	5	14	22	23	28	34	39	40	46	50				
No Touching Required	3*	6	7	2*	5	5	5*	5					4.8	5
	3	9	16	18	23	28	33	38						

FS Nationals

They were held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, from 27 July until 3 August 1996. The meet was a huge success – hindered by a crashed aircraft and bad weather – but ensured by the efforts of Steve Swallow, his wife Helen, all their staff and the local jumpers.

Preparation

Suggestions from previous Nationals had been taken into account for this year's event. It was refreshing to see a high percentage of the local jumpers taking pride in the preparations for the competition. They erected billboards and flags to welcome competitors and make the whole meet more of an occasion. A large creeper area was built and covered

with a roof strong enough to withstand a nuclear holocaust. A big screen TV was hired and installed in the bar for competitors to watch the completed rounds in the evenings and for general entertainment during bad weather. A marquee was put up and a medal winners' podium built from scratch. £1,800 was spent by Target Skysports on an impressive collection of medals, desired by every team present.

There was close co-operation between the judges, the video team and the competitors. Marie Kinsey efficiently organised three copies of each dive; one for the judges, one for the teams and a running master of all the dives. An audio announcement was made at the start of each dive to help the judges and prevent any possible confusion. At the end of the meet the teams were able to take their tape away, free of charge! Nice one Swalty! Also, each judge left on Sunday morning with a master copy of all the dives, about five hours of skydiving in total. These tapes are an important aid in training new judges, when used in conjunction with the actual collation sheets from the competition. They also help the 'old hands' keep their eye practised.

The Gathering

Although there had been a number of teams training during the week, Friday saw the majority arrive to be greeted by the news that one of the Dorniers had

All prize giving photos by **Craig Mercer**. Names of team members are given in order from left to right.



crashed on landing. A replacement Islander was on the way from Strathallan. The Islander, and subsequent door size change, gave officials and competitors alike a problem to overcome. Who was going to jump out of which aircraft?

This is a selection year for teams to represent Great Britain at the 1997 World Championships. In order to qualify for funding, the winning teams would have to meet a minimum selection point average; the exit from a smaller plane could affect whether a team would qualify for finding or not. A team leaders' meeting was held to find out which aircraft the teams would prefer to jump; the vast majority wanted the Dornier. The decision was made that only the junior teams and a few others teams who had requested it would jump the Islander, with the remainder jumping their preferred choice, the Dornier.

Day 1 - Saturday

Saw two rounds completed in most events and left *Team Sebastian* with a commanding 10 point lead over *Touch and Go* in the senior 4-way. *Air Ecosse* were delighted to be in third position with a nine point average at this stage, they were jumping with a last minute alternate Dave Ruffell, as Richard Buchanan had wrenched his shoulder the day before the meet. *Army Black* were just two points ahead of both *Quartz* and *4Pak* (joint second) in the intermediate 4-way, *Army White* had a commanding lead in the junior 4-way. In the intermediate 8-way

Totally Hatstand were joint first with *Army White*. In the senior event the *Army 9* were ahead of *Large!* with *No Go* looking good in third place.

Day 2 - Sunday

In the intermediate 4-way, *Army Black* pulled three points ahead of *4Pak*, who had left *Quartz* behind in third place. *Army White* still led the junior 4-way 10 points ahead of second place team *Who?* In the senior 4-way, *Team Sebastian* now held a 19 point lead on second place *Air Ecosse*, who in two rounds had come from one point behind *Touch and Go* to four



Gold: Open Intermediate 8-way: *Totally Hatstand*

Tracey Peake, Allan Garside (camera), Stan Peake, Sharon Wood, Lisa Crewe, Julien Chauzit, Andrew Tate. Sitting; Andy Campbell, John Baggaley.

points ahead. Kevin Sargent from *Short Straw* strained a muscle, so the team called in their alternate, Lesley, our editor. She was already jumping with two other teams so was known for the rest of the meet as 'Lesley ten teams'.

Day 3 - Monday

The cloud base was still not high enough for the 8-way event but the 4-way teams succeeded in jumping through unlikely conditions. *Team Sebastian* were now storming ahead, 35 points in the



Gold: Intermediate 8-way: *4Mation*

Craig Cunningham, Phil Lee, Louise Manley. Not pictured; Nick Lupton, Sarah Jones, Alan Jones, Jon Perkins, Tina McDonald.



Silver: Intermediate 8-way: *Army White*

Ed Bebb, Tomo Thompson, Alistair Macartney, Jason Patt, Taff Clarke (camera), Dave Tyler, Steve Jackson, Mark Whitehead, Steve Apps. Not pictured; Mark Farmer.

Intermediate 8-way

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average	Position
<i>Totally Hatstand</i>	3	1	4	5	4	17	3.4	1 Gold: 8-way Open Intermediate
	3	4	8	13	17			
<i>4Mation</i>	2*	0*	4	4	6	16	3.2	2 Gold: 8-way Intermediate
	2	2	6	10	16			
<i>Army White</i>	3	1	2	4	2*	12	2.4	3 Silver: 8-way Intermediate
	3	4	6	10	12			

Key:

* = bust

N = Not Judgeable

Sat 27	Sun 28	Mon 29	Tues 30	Wed 31	Thurs 1	Fri 2	Sat 3

"The standards achieved by the majority of the teams showed an improvement on 1995 and the introduction of the junior 4-way event with seven teams entered speaks for itself."

Bob Charters, Chief Judge

lead and had set a new British Record of 20 points in round five. A glance at the scores shows that the meet was hotting up in all events.

Day 4 - Tuesday

Had better weather and got another round and a half of 8-way out of the way. *Army 9* still lead by four points, with *No Go* and *Large!* now sharing third place after a disastrous four point double bust for *Large!* for one offence. In the 4-way, *Team Sebastian* now had a 38 point lead in the senior event, *Air Ecosse* was still a clear second, and for the bronze position, it was 'touch and go' between *Touch and Go*, *No Purchase Required* and *Short Straw*, who now had Kevin back on the team.



Silver: Air Ecosse

Mike Strachan, Dave Ruffell (jumping alternate), Billy Somerville and Graham Harris. Not pictured: Andrew Hilton (camera).

Day 5 - Wednesday

Held a shattering blow for *Army 9* in the senior 8-way, *Large!* had taken the lead from them and was one point ahead. In the intermediate 8-way event, *Totally Hatstand* just won the event – but could not win the National title, as they had a French person on their team. *Totally Hatstand* (who were not totally British) therefore won the Open Intermediate 8-way gold medal, which left *4Mation* as National Intermediate Champions and *Army White* with a silver medal.

In the senior 4-way event, the round nine cut off had taken place leaving just the four teams in contention to battle it out. *Team Sebastian* were well in the lead, with *Air Ecosse* in second, *Short Straw* (who had been steadily pulling back from a disastrous start) and *No Purchase*



Gold: Senior 4-way: Team Sebastian

Chris Lynch, Toby Stafford, Pete Allum, John McIver and Steve Freedman (camera).

"From a competitor's viewpoint, I found the 96 Nationals to be one of the most exciting competitions I have ever entered. The swift and dramatic changes to the scoreboard and subsequent position changes, were enough to keep even the most ardent *Hitchcock* fan on the edge of their seat, let alone a competitor trying to win the right to represent the country or secure a place on the rostrum."

Chris Allen

Required were in joint third. *Touch and Go* had a bust on their last round, leaving them just out of the cut off by two points with *No Go* one point behind them.

The intermediate 4-way did their last jumps, *Army Black* won the gold, *4Pak* silver (after some unlucky dives) and *Quartz* bronze. The junior 4-way was also finished leaving *Army White* with the gold, team *Who?* silver and *Get Your Coat* securing the bronze over *Skydive Scotland Black* who had a disastrous zero on the last round.



Bronze: Short Straw

Kevin Sargent, Lesley Gale (jumping alternate), Pete Scott, Mark James and Ian Matthews. Inset: Ian Brown (camera).

Senior 4-way

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Jump Off	Total	Average	Position
Team Sebastian	15 15	14 29	15 44	13 57	20 ^B 77	17 94	12 ^N 106	15 121	14 135	16 151		151	15.1	1 Gold
Air Ecosse	9 9	9 18	11 29	9 38	10 48	11 59	9 68	7 ^{*N} 75	10 ^N 85	8 93	9 102	102	9.3	2 Silver
Short Straw	8 8	6 14	8 [*] 22	9 31	10 41	10 51	10 61	10 71	11 82	11 93	7 100	100	9.1	3 Bronze
No Purchase Required	8 ^N 8	9 17	8 ^N 25	8 33	8 41	11 52	10 62	10 72	10 ^N 82	10 [*] 92		92	9.2	4
Touch & Go	10 10	9 19	8 27	7 34	10 44	8 52	9 61	8 [*] 69					8.6	5
No Go	8 8	7 15	9 24	8 32	10 42	8 50	9 59	9 68					8.5	6
Animation	7 7	7 14	7 21	5 26	9 35	6 41	7 48	9 57					7.1	7
Deliverance	4 4	3 ^N 7	3 ^{**} 10	5 15	7 22	6 28	4 32	7 39					4.9	8

All the *Army White* team members had time in the wind tunnel at Raeford (as used by the *Golden Knights*). Their performance was excellent, although there were some who questioned their 'junior' status. Others took the attitude of "Tunnel time? If you've got it, use it!" (Pete Allum)

Day 6 - Thursday

Saw *Army 9* now in joint first with *Large!* who were improving their exits. The Dornier's savage slipstream was providing some entertaining footage of extra large funnels followed by hectic rebuilds and some very quick points. In fact, *Large!* only had three clean exits in the whole of the meet, so were doing incredible salvage work to stay level. *No Go* suffered a tragic double bust, putting them three points behind *Northern Exposure* and calling the Samaritans. Today also saw a toy bunny rabbit (won at Cleethorpes seafront) placed on top of the marquee, was this a weather thing? Probably something to do with the junior/intermediate competitors who had finished jumping and started partying.



Silver: 4Pak

Nick Lupton, Phil Lee, Craig Cunningham.
Kneeling; Louise Manley, Al Garside (camera).

Day 7 - Friday

In the 4-way, Dave Ruffell said on his way to the aircraft for round ten, "If Sebastian funnel this one and we score a 40, we're in with a chance for first place." They didn't and *Team Sebastian* won with a 58 point lead and British record average of 15.1. Although their first place was not in dispute, *Sebastian's* scores stayed exciting to the end as the whole drop zone was behind their aim of a 15 point average. They needed a 15 on round 10 to make it and finished in style with a 16! *Short Straw* and *Air Ecosse* tied on the last round and had to jump off for second place – which was announced whilst these two 4-way teams were dirt-diving together (as *Northern Exposure*), for the last round of 8-way. In the jump off, *Air Ecosse* came out two points on top to secure the 4-way



Gold: Intermediate 4-way: Army Black

Taff Clarke (camera), Tomo Thompson, Alistair Macartney, Mark Whitehead (alternate). Sitting; Dave Tyler, Steve Apps.

Intermediate 4-way



"The prize giving was emotional beyond belief! I wish everyone had been there, it's so inspiring, seeing people who have worked their butt off stand on the podium and seeing their bottom lip quiver when the applause and screams of encouragement are raining down on them!"

Pete Allum

silver medal leaving *Short Straw* a well deserved bronze.

In the 8-way, *Army 9* had regained their lead in round nine, only for *Large!* to equalise again in round ten, pushing the 8-way into a jump off for first place. *Northern Exposure* picked up the bronze medal. There was no time that evening for the jump off so the two 8-way teams had to sweat it out until morning – the only people not to have finished. 🙌



Bronze: Quartz

Neil Sharples, John 'Goody' Goodyear (camera), Greg Reid, Chris Lees, Carl Bridge.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Average	Position
Army Black	6	9	10	9	11	8	9	10	72	9	1 Gold
4-Pak	5	8	10	9	11	8 ^N	5*	7*	63	7.9	2 Silver
Quartz	5	8	7	8	10	7 ^N	5	7	57	7.1	3 Bronze
Time Flies	2	5	7	5	7	4	6	7	43	5.4	4
	2	7	14	19	26	30	36	43			

Key:

* = bust

N = Not Judgeable

B = British Record

Sat 27	Sun 28	Mon 29	Tues 30	Wed 31	Thurs 1	Fri 2	Sat 3

CRAZY

**BUT NOT
SUICIDAL**

Photo by Charles Bryan

AIRTEC

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Free Fly Clown # 1 Olav Zipser and his team members rely on CYPRES.

Hibaldstow - What did the people say?

How did Hibaldstow cope with their first Nationals? We canvassed the opinion of competitors, judges and officials and report:

Thumbs Up

- ☺ Manifest
- ☺ Creeper pad
- ☺ Prizegiving
- ☺ Podia
- ☺ Fireworks
- ☺ Not mentioning the trashed marquee
- ☺ Most of the spotting
- ☺ Effort
- ☺ Friendliness

Thumbs Down

- ☹ Showers
- ☹ Food (although, in fairness, the usual canteen manger was off sick and the staff tried very hard)

"Noble effort. Steve Swallow and his staff get a man-of-the-meet award for keeping things going with one aircraft."

Pete Allum

"Hats off to Steve Swallow and the exceptionally hard working staff at Hibaldstow."

Solly Williams

"Hibaldstow put a lot of effort into making the Nationals a success and giving the competitors what they wanted. The covered creeper pad is now one of the best in the country. The prize giving actually felt like the prize giving at a National Championships with the podium, the organised party and the fireworks. I would not hesitate in supporting Hibaldstow hosting the 1997 National Championships."

Andy Allman

"The atmosphere of friendliness with all the competitors helping each other was unbelievable."

Martin Soulsby



Silver: Who?

Tracey Peake, Stan Peake, Julien Chauzit, Andy Campbell. Not pictured; Lynden Egg-Worth (camera).



Gold: Junior 4-way: Army White

Taff Clarke (camera), Steve Jackson, Ed Bebb, Jason Patt, Karl Lester. Not pictured; Mark Farmer.



☞ That evening, a large party was held by those who had finished the competition, and some who had not! The marquee became the centre of attraction for a climbing and BASE jumping seminar, everyone had a great time. The management were quoted as saying some thing along the lines of, "We don't care about the rabbit but can we have the flags back?"

Day 8 - Saturday

Jump off day, first thing in the morning for Army 9 and Large! For some members of Army 9, this was only their second Nationals and the first time any of the team had been in a round eleven jump off. To say tension was high on the way to altitude would be an understatement. The jumps took place and activity around the scoreboard was at an all time high when the judges walked out with the final score. Some team members waited eagerly for the scores to be announced, others couldn't bear to look. As the scores were finally posted, the ☞



Bronze: Get Your Coat

Diccon Vokins, Trish Jones, Noel Fanning. Kneeling; Steve Hamilton, Tania Starling.

Junior 4-way

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Average	Position
Army White	11 11	11 22	7 29	4 33	10 43	9 52	10 62	7 69	69	8.6	1 Gold
Who?	8 8	6 14	5 19	6 25	4 29	8 37	8 45	8 53	53	6.6	2 Silver
Get Your Coat	6 6	4 10	3 13	3 16	3 19	2* 21	5 26	4 30	30	3.8	3 Bronze
Skydive Scotland Black	4 4	5 9	2 11	4 15	4 19	4 23	6 29	0* 29	29	3.6	4
Low Tension	3 3	4 7	2* 9	3 12	3 15	4 19	5 24	4 28	28	3.5	5
Now Then	4 4	1 5	2 7	1* 8	0 8	1 9	3 12	2 14	14	1.8	6
In Focus	2 2	1 3	0 3	1 4	0 4	1 5	1 6	1 7	7	0.9	7



A CAMERAMANS VIEW



Conditional rejudges were abolished by IPC this year. Instead, if a point is not judgeable on screen, it is simply not awarded. The new rule was not popular with some teams, particularly those who lost points with a pool cameraman, who felt aggrieved. But is it fair to always blame the videographer? Or should the team take joint responsibility? A discussion by Steve Freedman.

Just a few words on the thorny matter of the Not Judgeable point, NJ for short. The bottom line is that if the team's video does not show the point, then that point cannot be scored, hence NJ. It is very easy to bitch that the point was there, even if the camera wasn't, and then blame the cameraman. Come on, get some competition maturity. When you have done a few meets, you will realise that no amount of feeling 'hard done by' will alter the rules or the scores. So you might as well share the responsibility with your cameraflyer.

Even with the most experienced videographer the team can float the first point out of the door. It does not make sense to transition quickly to the second point if the cameraflyer hasn't had a chance to get above the team to see the first. I had the pleasure to video *Team Sebastian XL* at the Nationals. They had the sense to check if the camera is

positioned for the first point. This wastes no time and can save you valuable points. Also if you do have to hold back a second or two then your air-speed will build up a bit and your transitions will be that much slicker. Incidentally, there are no grounds to put in a protest over an NJ, the rules are quite clear. Show the judges, or lose the point.

Finally, a word about the cameraflyers themselves. They were all brilliant. The sad fact of life is we are not appreciated, nobody cares about the money we spend on gear, the pain we suffer for our art, etc, etc. So, all you jumpers out there. Spare a thought for your eye-in-the-sky. Hug your cameraflyer, or better still, remember he is an important member of your team, buy him/her a pint, a meal or a pack job every now and again. Remember, getting your dive on video will save you loads of time, effort and money.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- ✓ British Champions *Sebastian XL* and *Army 9* – good luck in the World Meet
- ✓ Team *Sebastian XL* – for a new British Record (20); a British record average (15.1), a clean score with no busts
- ✓ *4Pak* – for increasing their average from 5.8 at the Langar Regionals to 7.9 at the Nationals two weeks later
- ✓ The judges – not a single protest in the meet
- ✓ *Air Ecosse* – for upping their average from 8.7 at the Scottish Nationals to 9.3, all with an alternate
- ✓ Dave Ruffell – Mr Alternate Extraordinaire!
- ✓ *Army White* – a junior team scoring two 11's. Nice one! Moral of the story – get some tunnel time
- ✓ *Short Straw* – who increased their average from 8.4 last year to 9.1 this year subsequently averaging 9.8 in the World Cup



Photo shows No Go above Clark taken by Steve Nolan

- ✓ *No Go 4-way* – as we all know they are 8-way jumpers but *No Go 4-way* did an excellent average of 8.5 with no busts (greatly improved from last year's score of 6.4)

crowd watched in awe and then started to scream. For those who could not see the score board, the only clue as to who had won was to see who was slapping who on the back and looking delirious. *Army 9* had won, the first time a military team had won the 8-way for 13 years.

With the Speed 8 event cancelled due to a lack of participants, the rest of the day was taken up by the Competitions Committee open forum (which was a short affair, as not many people attended), and the prize giving. An impressive firework display kicked off the party quite literally 'with a bang' and it continued until 5am when the bar ceiling was

destroyed. Most competitors were set on winning the 'who can drink the most' competition, which culminated in some of the local jumpers conducting their own naked Speed 8 competition. Andy Allman was rumoured to be so proud of the senior 8-way trophy that he, much to the annoyance of his wife Tracey, ended up sleeping with it instead of her.

Steve Swallow, who flew every Dornier lift (manifest said the DZ runs better when he's in the air), made up for his early nights in the week and drank so much he couldn't walk on Sunday – never mind fly. Still, he was entitled to relax, the Nationals had proved such a storming success.

Nationals write up compiled from reports by Chris Allen, Bob Charters, Steve Freedman and competitor's questionnaires.

Thanks to:

Aircraft Co-ordinator:	Steve Swallow
CCI/Safety:	Chris Lyall
Chief Judge:	Bob Charters
Panel of Judges:	Kate Charters Jackie Glover Sue Dixon Dona Crum
Video Co-ordinator:	Steve Freedman
Video Flak Taker:	Phil 'Eric' Parker
Meet Director:	John Hitchen
Manifestors:	Annette Houliker Kim Newton
Hard workers:	Baldrick, Gary & Jason

AND EVERYONE ELSE INVOLVED

New junior and intermediate categories

The Junior 4-way and Intermediate 8-way were new items on the event agenda this year. The junior event is designed to get skydivers competing at an earlier stage and encourage those with less experience to enter a National competition. The skydives are simpler, with no blocks involved and only three random points to remember.

The intermediate 4-way has a limited pool of easier blocks and randoms and the skydives only have three points. Reducing the number of points makes the skydives easier to remember and gives repetition to the moves the second time through. The intermediate 8-

way was designed to encourage a mixture of junior, intermediate and senior 4-way teams into 8-way teams and promote entry by people who may not have previously entered 8-way.

Last year, there were only three teams in the intermediate 4-way event. This year, there were a total of eleven non senior teams; seven teams entered the junior 4-way event (only one team short of the senior event total) and four teams entered the intermediate event. There has been criticism of the new categories but the number of entrants speaks for itself and the standard of jumping was well ahead of last year's intermediates.

"The new junior and intermediate categories are most excellent!

Gives a breath of fresh air to the Nationals and it's great to see new faces, new levels of competition."

Pete Allum

"Bloody good idea. It encourages people to have a go sooner."

4Pak

"I noticed that the junior and intermediate dives were really clean — hardly any busts, so the standard of novice jumper is definitely improving."

Andy Allman

British 4-way Champions

Sebastian XL are simply the best British FS team we have had for a long time, in a different league to the rest of the UK.

Sebastian XL are:

Pete Allum, Chris Lynch, John McIver and Toby Stafford.

Watching their videos straight away you have the feeling of world class. They look incredibly in tune with each other, with the rhythm of the skydive, so quick and positive about their moves, keys and flashes. They are so precise, not a single bust in the ten rounds of t h e

Nationals, despite the fact they squeezed in an extra 5.8 points per round more than the nearest team. On round five, *Sebastian XL* set a new British record of 20 - which was double the next highest score. This was not a 'one off' on as *Sebastian XL* also scored a 20 in the first round of the World Cup (good start guys!).

Skydiving has always been a sport where the best aid the rest. But *Sebastian* gave out an unbelievable amount of free coaching to other teams during the Nationals. They just love the sport so much they can't help sharing it. They would stop and press their faces up to caravan windows to watch tapes of a junior team's skydive - and then be really excited if the team did the move right.

The universal support for *Sebastian XL* at the Nationals was absolutely incredible. When they stepped onto the rostrum for the Nationals cup, the prolonged cheering practically lifted the roof off the marquee. Competitors, judges and spectators could all sense that here was a British team of amazing potential who could actually lift the whole of competitive FS in the UK - both by sharing knowledge and by providing inspiration. The standard already achieved is streets ahead of other teams. Combined with their individual talent and thorough training plans, there seems no limit to how good they could become. Everyone could feel that here was a British team we could be incredibly proud of. Chris Allen, Chairman of Competitions committee, said "Sebastian has more potential to win medals for Britain at international level than any FS team for the last decade".

Individually, the team members have been working for years towards a goal they all share - a full time 4-way team which has the potential, the time and the training plan to excel - the ultimate dream being an international medal. Each member o f

Sebastian XL has been 4-way British Champion on more than one occasion but the teams did not stay together. Now *Sebastian* has united four extraordinary skydivers, their individual goals may be realised.

Their journey so far has not been without pain. *Airtime*, the last team Pete and Chris were on together came to a tragic end in 1993 when a canopy collision between team members killed Andy Woodmouse and severely injured Kevin McCarthy. This year John broke his back and had to claw his way back to fitness for the Nationals in just four months. Full time commitment means that none of the team is able to have a normal job, they have none of the security you would expect at their ages. They have all been through financial hardship for the sake of the team. What keeps them going through all of this is a belief in the team so strong it is a religion in its own right. They are all happy in the knowledge they have found the like minded team mates they were looking for and have paved the route to go for their goals.

The guys had already committed to the team when they found sponsorship through Andy Grimwade of Skydive Sebastian. He was so impressed with the team he promised them 700 free skydives if they won the '96 Nationals. This sponsorship is only just being realised, contrary to popular belief the team were financially independent up to the Nationals. It is these sponsored training jumps which add the final magic to the team. There is no doubt they have the ability, their competition history shows they have the motivation and with the right training they will be devastating. The team described Andy's offer as 'awesome, a dream realised', it seems that all the

Team Sebastian XL

ingredients for success are in place.

History

The team started as *Team 97* in 1995 with Craig Hill instead of Chris, who joined them in February of this year. *Team 97* achieved an average of 13.5 after one year together, winning last year's Nationals hands down. *Sebastian XL's* first training camp was in February '96 in Sebastian where the team did 80 jumps, mainly self funded but with help from BLP (via Ian Cohen).

The second camp was supposed to be hundred jumps but John had a hard landing on a reserve (that was not a PD!) and broke his back. So they did thirty-five 3-way jumps to brush up basic skills. Although he was unfit to jump, John was at the camp and debriefed the jumps, acting as a coach. John did everything possible to be fit for the meet including visualising moves in preparation for their final camp at Hibaldstow, for three weeks before the Nationals. *Sebastian XL* did 40 jumps at this third camp, all self funded, doing mainly competition style dives followed with drills to fix problem areas, plus speed drills. Prior to the meet the team set an absolute dream goal of a 15 point average and were seriously ecstatic to exceed it by one point.

Cameraflyer wanted

Sebastian XL needed a cameraflyer who could commit to full time training with them. After the Nationals, they asked Ian Brown, a keen and talented cameraman, to join them. Aged 23, Ian has crammed in 900 skydives in three years and has been *Short Straw's* cameraman for two. He was a little apprehensive about the move but thought "well you only get one shot at life, you have to go for what you want". Ian jumped with *Sebastian XL* for the first time at the World Cup (thrown in at the deep end!) and said the pressure was unbelievable. But the boys said he did a good job and things can only get better.



Future training plans

In order to get more valuable

competition experience, *Sebastian XL* entered the World Cup in Belgium where they achieved a 15.3 average. Their entry fee was part funded by the BPA in an unprecedented move. After the Cup they flew to Florida for a week's training before entering the US Nationals in New York. Next it will be time to start training during the winter at Sebastian. In addition to the promised 700 skydives from Sebastian, the team will do as many more as they can afford, being coached both from within and outside of the sport.

They see the need for an increase in physical training in order to keep the energy levels up. Skydive Sebastian is setting up a gym on the DZ which, together with surfing at the inlet, should give the boys the fitness they need for stamina and going faster. They will be based in Sebastian and available for coaching when not training - so any teams or individuals who are keen to learn, give them a call.

Even though the training jumps are paid for they need to enter other meets, fund training outside of Sebastian, pay for coaching, travel expenses, oh yes and eat!

After the Easter season in Florida they will train in Europe for a while as well as entering as many other Nationals as possible, then train in Turkey for a few weeks prior to the World Meet in September 1997. The current plan is until the World Meet, allowing them to focus fully on one goal.



Thanks to :

Steve Houlker
Ian Cohen - BLP
Derek and Pat Thomas - Sunpath
Andy Grimwade - Skydive Sebastian
Rob Colpus - Symbiosis suits you sir!
George and his *Time-Outs!*
Steve Swallow
BPA
PD

Contact Sebastian XL on

E-mail 73572.3135@compuserve.com

Telephone

001 407 388 5672

Fax

001 407 388 2105

Sebastian XL are:

Pete Allum



Age: 32

Number of jumps: 10,000+

Time in sport: 17 years

Slot on team: Mr Green - outside centre

Pete has been coaching FS since 1989 and has made it a career, teaching teams from the UK, USA, Norway, Sweden and Italy. Most competition jumpers in the UK will have been coached by Pete at some time or other, so will be well aware of his talents. He has a firm belief in basic skills, but examines all aspects of coaching and training, from technical to psychological and physical preparation. His enthusiasm seems limitless and it is rare that anyone on the DZ does more jumps than Pete.

If you had to choose the most outstanding competition skydiver in Britain, Pete's name would be the first on most lips. Following five years of successive National wins with *Mo*, he threw his considerable energies into 4-way (*Airtime*) winning another string of golds in 4-way. *Airtime* teamed up with *Toy Company* to do 8-way (forming *Toytime* or *Games Company*) and won the event every year without training! Pete is not just into competing, he sees the training as being as enjoyable as the competition itself.

Favourite quote:

"It is not the critic who counts,
Not the one who points out how the strong man stumbles,
Or how the doer of deeds might have done them better.
The credit belongs to the man who is active in the arena,
whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood;
Who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again;
who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion
and spends himself in a worthy cause.
Who, if he wins, knows the triumph of great achievement
and who, if he fails, at least fails whilst

daring greatly,
so that his place shall
never be with those cold and timid
souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Teddy Roosevelt

Skydiving history:

- 1985 gold, 8-way, Blipverts
- 1986 gold, 8-way, *Mo*
- 1987 gold, 8-way, *Mo*
- 1988 gold, 8-way, *Mo*
- 1989 gold, 8-way, *Mo*
Mo fourth in World Meet
- 1990 gold, 4-way, *Airtime*
gold, 8-way, *Toytime*
Airtime fourth in World Cup
- 1991 gold, 4-way, *Airtime*
gold, 8-way, *Toytime*
Airtime sixth in World Meet
gold, 8-way, *Toytime*
- 1993 *Airtime* tied twelfth in World Meet
- 1994 silver, 4-way, *Air Games*
gold, 8-way, *Games Company*
(*Ricoh Cameras*)
- 1995 gold, 4-way, *Team 97*
gold, 8-way, *Ricoh Cameras*
Ricoh Cameras seventh in World Meet
- 1996 gold, 4-way, Sebastian XL
silver, 8-way, *Large!*
Sebastian XL eighth in World Cup

Age: 31

Number of jumps: 2,000+

Time in sport: 9 years

Slot on team: Mr Blue - tail

John has the ability to always see the funny side and his distinctive giggle can often be heard across the DZ. This light hearted exterior conceals an inner determination to succeed, which has kept him jumping through impossible times when mere mortals would have chucked in the towel. He likes to help others - at the Scottish Nationals he was giving free coaching to almost everyone, keeping six different skydives in his brain. He has an incredibly understanding and gorgeous wife, Judy, who has escorted him around the world with their two kids (Megan and Josie). John and Judy create a happy home anywhere, they are always smiling.

Favourite people: Judy, Anne, Pete, Toby and Chris for helping me recover from an injury that could have put a stop to my dream of being part of a full-time 4-way team.

Favourite quote: "Yes, we'll sponsor you"

Skydiving history:

- 1989 gold, intermediate 4-way, *Area Nav*
- 1990 bronze, 8-way, *Akiro*
- 1991 bronze, 8-way, *Akiro*
- 1992 silver, 8-way, *Mind Games*
- 1993 gold, 8-way, *Mind Games*
Mind Games ninth in World Meet
- 1994 gold, 8-way, *Games Company*
(*Ricoh Cameras*)
silver, 4-way, *Air Games*
- 1995 gold, 8-way, *Ricoh Cameras*
gold, 4-way, *Team 97*
Ricoh Cameras seventh in World Meet

- 1996 gold, 4-way, Sebastian XL
silver, 8-way, *Large!*
Sebastian XL eighth in World Cup



John McIver

Chris Lynch



Age:
33

Number of jumps:
4,000+

Time in sport: 15 years

Slot on team: Mr Pink - point (front diver)

Chris is a strong, energetic character who believes in living life to the full and taking all the opportunities which are offered. When trying to describe his sense of humour, the word 'barking' comes to mind. Chris and Pete enjoyed years of success with

Airtime, but the line up was changing too often so, "we never really had a chance to excel in a big way. Although, we did have some excellent moments like 18 points in round 10 at the 1991 World Championships (new British record) and at the 1993 World Championships another 18 in round 9, a very tricky skydive that only the medal placed teams scored higher than us". In 1994, he went travelling round the world with his girlfriend Jenni. They had been away 13 months and received a message in Nepal to say there was a slot on the team if he wanted it. The rest is...the future.

Inspirations: Watching a video of *Symbiosis* at the 1981 World Championships, at the time I did not know a donut from a capewell but it just blew me away. Dan Brodsky-Chenfield, Jack Jefferies, Jonathon Livingstone Seagull by Richard Bach & In Pursuit of Excellence by Terry Orlick but the most inspiring thing at the moment is the line up of *Sebastian XL* and the support from everybody.

Favourite quote: I am not good at remembering quotes but it would probably be something about living life to the max, pursuing your dreams, being excellent to each other & largeing it right up.

Skydiving history:

- 1984 Represented GB at World Cup of CRW in Australia with Gan Canny
- 1989 silver, 4-way, Airtime
- 1990 gold, 4-way, Airtime
- gold, 8-way, Air of Responsibility
- Airtime fourth in World Cup
- 1991 gold, 4-way, Airtime
- gold, 8-way, Toytime
- Airtime sixth in World Meet
- 1992 gold, 4-way, Airtime
- gold, 8-way, Toytime
- 1993 Airtime tied twelfth in World Meet
- 1994 gold, 8-way, Games Company
- 1996 gold, 4-way, Sebastian XL
- silver, 8-way, Large!
- Sebastian XL eighth in World Cup

Age: 28

Number of jumps: 2600+

Time in sport: 10 years

Slot on team: Mr Purple - inside centre

Toby started at sunny Ipswich as a gofer and decided his ultimate dream was to work in skydiving full time for ever. He has always been focused on sequential skydiving, starting off with lots of 2 and 3-ways. He spent all his time doing turns, side-slides, super positioning etc and hours (we mean hours!) watching tapes of top teams to glean info, style & technique. Toby has always absorbed information like a sponge.

He has soared to the top in meteoric fashion since 1993 when he was offered a slot on *Toy Company*, hence *Toytime* (which became *Ricoh Cameras*) winning the 8-way gold in 1994. He started *Team 97* with Pete, John & Craig late that year. Also did the world's largest formation (216) and became a superb BPA AFF instructor. In his words "Gosh '94 was a great year!" And '95? "Lots of 4-way training. Won everything at the Nats and did the World Meet, yippee. Decided to realise my dream of

becoming a full time 4-way skydiver, coach, instructor !! Went to the States, did USPA AFF & Skydive U rating. (Gosh that was an even better year.) *Team 97* became *Team Sebastian* in Jan '96. Chris Lynch joined us so we had four full time team members YIPPEE! "

Toby has an amazing capacity for enjoying life. Many people would say that he is lucky but he says it is not luck, it is having the guts to go for what you want. The route will not always be easy but if you stay focused you will get there. He is always positive, one of his sayings is "if life gives you lemons, make lemonade", ie you can always make some good come out of everything. For example, he comments "The team's roller coaster ride of injury, finance & personal strife has made us a much stronger team."

Personal quote:

I've been totally blown away by the support we've had from everybody, it is such an amazing energising feeling. The team is exactly what my dream was all those years ago when I started. I've discovered that the only difference between a dream & reality is to believe that

it can and will happen, watch this space.

Skydiving history:

- 1994 gold, 8-way, Games Company (Ricoh Cameras)
- 1995 gold, 8-way, Ricoh Cameras
- gold, 4-way Team 97
- Ricoh Cameras seventh in World Meet
- 1996 gold, 4-way, Sebastian XL
- silver, 8-way, Large!
- Sebastian XL eighth in World Cup



Toby Stafford

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Meet our champions ...

The **Army 9** overcame difficult challenges to achieve their goal of winning this year's Nationals – a goal their coach had jokingly called "Mission impossible." The team is a relatively new one, formed from promising newcomers eager to learn. Unlike most previous military teams, they are self funded, receiving only very limited sponsorship from the Army. Each team member had given personally to be there and their vision of the gold was an inner fire, not a duty. The **Army 9** came out of the Nationals as a more mature team, one which had been tested and found strong enough, giving a bond of confidence between team members.

Background

The army's only previous gold medal in the 8-way event was in 1983, when having won the Nationals they represented Great Britain at the World Championships in Canada. For the remainder of the eighties the **Army Team** competed unsuccessfully against *Mo*, probably the best British 8-way team. During the early nineties the division of the army's talent into an **Army Team** and a **Red Devils** team meant that neither was able to beat the 8-way teams based on Pete Allum's 4-way team and *Toy Company*.

At the end of 1994 Andy Allman became team manager and decided on a new strategy of training good young jumpers into a strong 8-way team. Andy together with Mark Davis, who had been on previous 8-way teams took on a squad of the best intermediate jumpers in the army and they completed over eighty 4-way jumps covering basic skills and the

Army 9



principles of piece turning. During this time several coaches were used; Pete Allum, Chris Allen and Solly Williams before the team finally asked Solly to be their coach up to the 1996 Nationals. The final **Army 9** were selected and they completed seventy 8-way jumps before

competing in the 1995 Nationals where they achieved a 5.5 average and a bronze medal.

Training

The coach realised that to win the gold in 1996, **Army 9** needed to work on increasing their anticipation and going faster, so that became the team goal. The **Army 9** completed 120 jumps on two training camps working toward this goal and they also had 13 hours of wind tunnel time which was a major help. In addition, the members of **Army 9** concentrated on a fitness programme based on increasing stamina and upper body strength for the piece moves. They also placed considerable emphasis on mental and psychological training that are essential parts of all athletic training.

Army 9 did not have a trouble free training schedule. Martin Haywood, the front floater left the Army and the team after

the 1995 Nationals and **Army 9** struggled to find a replacement. In the end Chris Allen was brought in as front float for

Provisional Training Programme 1997

Feb	2 weeks	100 Jumps+ Valentines Meet, Eloy
Apr/May	weekends	50-100 jumps UK
Jun	2 weeks	100 Jumps, DeLand
Jul	1 week	British Nationals
Aug	2 weeks	50 jumps, Europe incl. German or Dutch Nats.
Sep	1-2 weeks	World Meet

the final training camp. Six weeks before the Nationals Andy Allman, the centre float, hook turned into the ground – putting him in traction for four weeks and out of the Nationals. Brian Dyas, a veteran from the 1983 and 1994 team was brought in and two weeks before the Nationals the team completed a 30 jump training camp with 25% new team members. After 11 jumps **Army 9** had won the gold medal and achieved an 8.2 average. None of the team members will forget the moment when the scores for the jump off were posted and they saw they had won by two points!

Army 9 impressed many people with their competitive nature and how they held up under

pressure, but they had all coped with different forms of pressure throughout their Army careers. Furthermore, **Army 9** had a dream and many of the team members had made considerable sacrifices to make it happen. They had paid over £6,000 each, some had sold their cars, their Cyprus and even their souls to the devil to win the gold! The team members paid for all of their jumps but they were given some assistance towards the costs of coaching and travel. **Army 9** have been sponsored with Racer containers by Jump Shack but the remainder of the equipment the team have bought themselves.

Army 9 plan to complete over 300 training jumps before the World Meet in September 1997 (see training programme above). Again all of this will be funded by the individuals themselves. Although it is hoped that the BPA will offer some financial assistance and that a sponsor may help to reduce the financial burden on the individuals and allow the team to do more jumps.

Andy Allman
Team Manager

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Golden Knights

Sarah Laughton

1

Rank: Lt

Nickname: Ice Maiden

Age: 24

Time in the sport: 3 years

Number of jumps: 600

National medals: bronze 1995 Army 9

Character: Sarah being the only female on the team has to put up with a lot but she certainly is not quiet or demure and gives as good as she gets.

Comment: "I could not believe it when we finally won, it was a dream come true".

Mark Davis

2

Rank: Major

Nickname: Dark

Age: 35

Time in the sport: 12 Years

Number of jumps: 1,500

National medals: bronze 1994 Army 8, 1995 Army 9

Character: Mark is a serious competitor and sets high standards for himself and the team.

Comment: "Society has been served" (Note: In joke)

For more information on the Army 9, contact:
Team Manager Andy Allman on 0181 6582822

Army 9

Andy Allman

Rank: Major

Nickname: Mr Sheene

Age: 35

Time in the sport: 12 years

Number of jumps: 2,000

National medals: silver 1993 Army 8, bronze 1995 Army 9

Character: As team manger/leader and a competitive character, Andy found it hard being on the ground during the Nationals.

Comment: "I always thought when I stopped competing I would manage or coach but no way, this meet has shown the stress is worse on the ground."



Lee Love

10

Rank: Gunner

Nickname: Kirk **Age:** 21

Time in the sport: 6 years

Number of jumps: 1,500

National medals: bronze 1995 Army 9

Character: Lee being the youngest members of the team and on the ground is quiet and reserved but in the air he is a natural and has the potential to be one of the best skydivers this country has ever produced.

Comment: "I couldn't believe the pressure I felt in the aircraft. After this week my AFF course is going to be a piece of cake."



Aide Green

9

Rank: LCpl

Nickname: Radar O'Rielly **Age:** 27

Time in the sport: 4 years **Number of jumps:** 1,000

National medals: bronze 1995, Army 9

Character: Aide is the joker of the teams always ready with fast one liners and the complete dialogue from Pulp Fiction to Highlander.

Comment: "I didn't really know what was going on and all of a sudden someone put a gold medal round my neck, yoiks!"

Karl Lester

Rank: Sgt

Nickname: Butthead **Age:**

Time in the sport: 6 years

Number of jumps: 1,100

National medals: silver 1995

Character: Karl is the smallest and a good team player. He alternates at the Nationals.

Comment: "The tension was unbearable and I was on the ****"

Mark Burby

Rank: Civvy
Nickname: Zoom
Age: 30+
Time in the sport: 6 years
Number of jumps: 1,100
National medals: bronze 1995 Army 9

Character: Mark has been the Army 9 cameraman from the beginning and prides himself that out of 250 dives he has only failed to produce footage twice, unfortunately one was the first round of the Nationals. We didn't lose a single point through camera angle.

Comment: "I thought Steve Swallow did an excellent job in hosting the Nationals, much better than previous years."

3**Andy Scott**

Rank: Sgt
Nickname: Swoop
Age: 27
Time in the sport: 6 years
Number of jumps: 1,100

National medals: bronze 1995 Army 9
Character: Andy is the live wire on the team and a good team player, always the first to give a hand. Not the most handsome but gets the most girls.

Comment: "Large!"

4**Chris Allen**

Rank: Sgt **Age:** 32
Number of jumps: 5,000+
National medals: 8-way silver 1990, 1991 and 1994 *Red Devils* 4-way gold 1993, silver 1991 and 1992, bronze 1990 and 1994 *Red Devils*

Character: Chris was a new team member and did an excellent job front floating the Dornier. It must have been a strange feeling competing for gold with 5 people who he had been coaching just 18 months ago.

Comment: "At previous competitions I've either kicked ass or had my ass kicked, I have never been in a battle like this year's Nationals."

5**Lee Pugh**

Rank: Private
Nickname: Welsh Devil
Age: 24
Time in the sport: 4 years
Number of jumps: 1,100
National medals: bronze 1995 Army 9
Character: Lee is an independent character on the team – in the air he is one of the fastest.
Comment: "I come from a small town in Wales and no one there has ever been British Champion, not bad for a Welsh boy."

6

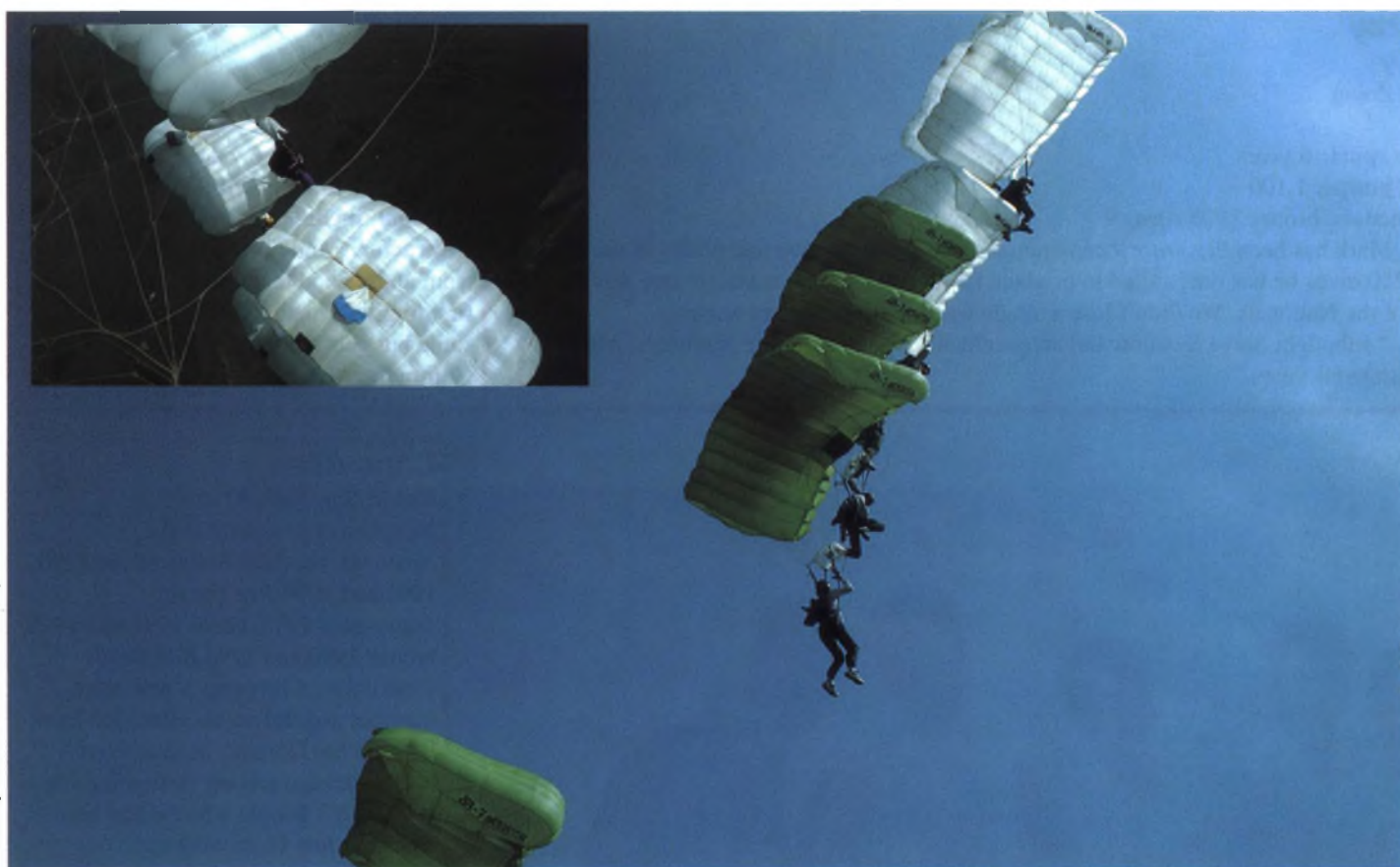
8
Rank: WO1
Nickname: Buddha
Age: 38
Time in the sport: 15 years
Number of jumps: 5,000+
National medals: 8-way gold 1983 Army 8, *Blipverts* 1985, silver 1987 and 1993 Army 8, bronze 1995 Army 8, 4-way silver 1985 *Mondays Child*
Character: Brian was an old hand on a young team and did pretty well stepping in at short notice to replace Andy Allman who was injured during a hook turn just six weeks before the Nationals.
Comment: "We went for a drive at the end, as I was driving I asked Jo my wife to hold the wheel, as she did so I punched both hands in the air and shouted Yes! Yes! Yes!"
Update: Brian sadly injured his foot during a sit flying dive and now cannot jump for 18 months. Andy Allman will, therefore, resume his slot on the team. Get well soon Brian.

was ***** unbeliev-
 *** ground"

Brian Dyas

Rank: WO1 **Nickname:** Buddha **Age:** 38
Time in the sport: 15 years **Number of jumps:** 5,000+
National medals: 8-way gold 1983 Army 8, *Blipverts* 1985, silver 1987 and 1993 Army 8, bronze 1995 Army 8, 4-way silver 1985 *Mondays Child*
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7



Tribal Limits, winners of the 8-way speed

CF Nationals



Tribal Limits, winners of the 8-way speed event

It was Nationals time again and the forecast said it was going to be the hottest time of the year so far. It was, which was lucky as the CF Nationals was only to be one weekend (with the next weekend as a reserve) to enable competitors to take part without having to use valuable holiday. This allowed some teams which otherwise would not have competed in the CF Nationals the chance to do so, also the Army Nationals sadly do not have a CF category. Conditions were hot and bright with a light breeze. This year was an 'off' year so just the National titles to compete for, the off years being the same year as the bi-annual World Championships, which were held in Indonesia 2 months before.

With the Classics National Championships being held over the forthcoming week and the Army Championships held over the forthcoming two weeks, Netheravon was a hive of activity. As with all well organised events, an event was made up before jumping started, 8-way speed for intermediates, only straight 8's to encourage 8-way at that level.

Sequential

The jumping started off with sequential which is always the case for some unknown reason. Ian Marshall managed to entertain us from the start by cutting away on his lonesome, with the only malfunction of all the competitions, a jammed retract system, which should pull the trailing pilot chute and bridle out of

harm's way. *No Limits* were storming away as expected from the start, in the sequential with *Cell Mates* slotting in to second place position. *No Limits* were defending a long line of national wins including last year's title. The only real fight being for bronze between *Paramount* and *SkyTribe*. The event included towards the end, lots of different interpretations of the rules regarding tied positions. *Paramount* thought they had won the bronze because they had the highest scoring round but after careful reading of the rules, it came to light that this was not the case. *Paramount* went to jump round six of the sequential to attempt to score an extra point but failed and therefore a jump off was required. *SkyTribe* decided that they did not wish to pursue the issue, so



SkyTribe, winners of the 4-way rotations event

that the 8-way could complete and the bronze was given to *Paramount* who were prepared to jump off.

Rotations

The rotations event was entered by all the teams competing in the senior sequential event except for *No Limits* (obviously there are limits!). *SkyTribe*, like *No Limits*, stormed ahead in their specialist event with no team even coming near them. This was expected as they had trained for rotations for a large part of the year. Again the real competition being around the silver and bronze mark, with *Cell Mates* just pipping *Paramount* at the post.

Speed

In the 8-way speed (senior) there were only two teams (*Tribal Limits* and *Paramates*) and it does not take much working out who was on which 8-way team, all were made up from 4-way teams. Again with the experience from the rotations and sequential, *Tribal Limits* had a very good start and with the light running out, time was not on our side. *Paramates* put on a good show but not quite good enough to catch up.

In the intermediate event (which was a play on numbers because some of the members of these teams had more jumps than some of the senior) 🖐



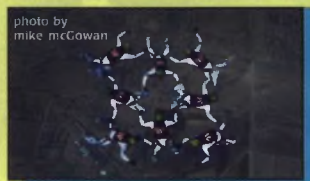
SkyTribe, winners of the 4-way rotations event. John Gilpin, Adrian 'Spotty' Bowles, Gary McGuinness, PD Smith and Chris Ware



No Limits, winners of the 4-way sequential event. Steve Fitchett, Bob Lyttle, Paul Mansfield, Pete McLaughlin. Alternate Dave Corbel (not pictured)

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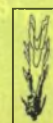
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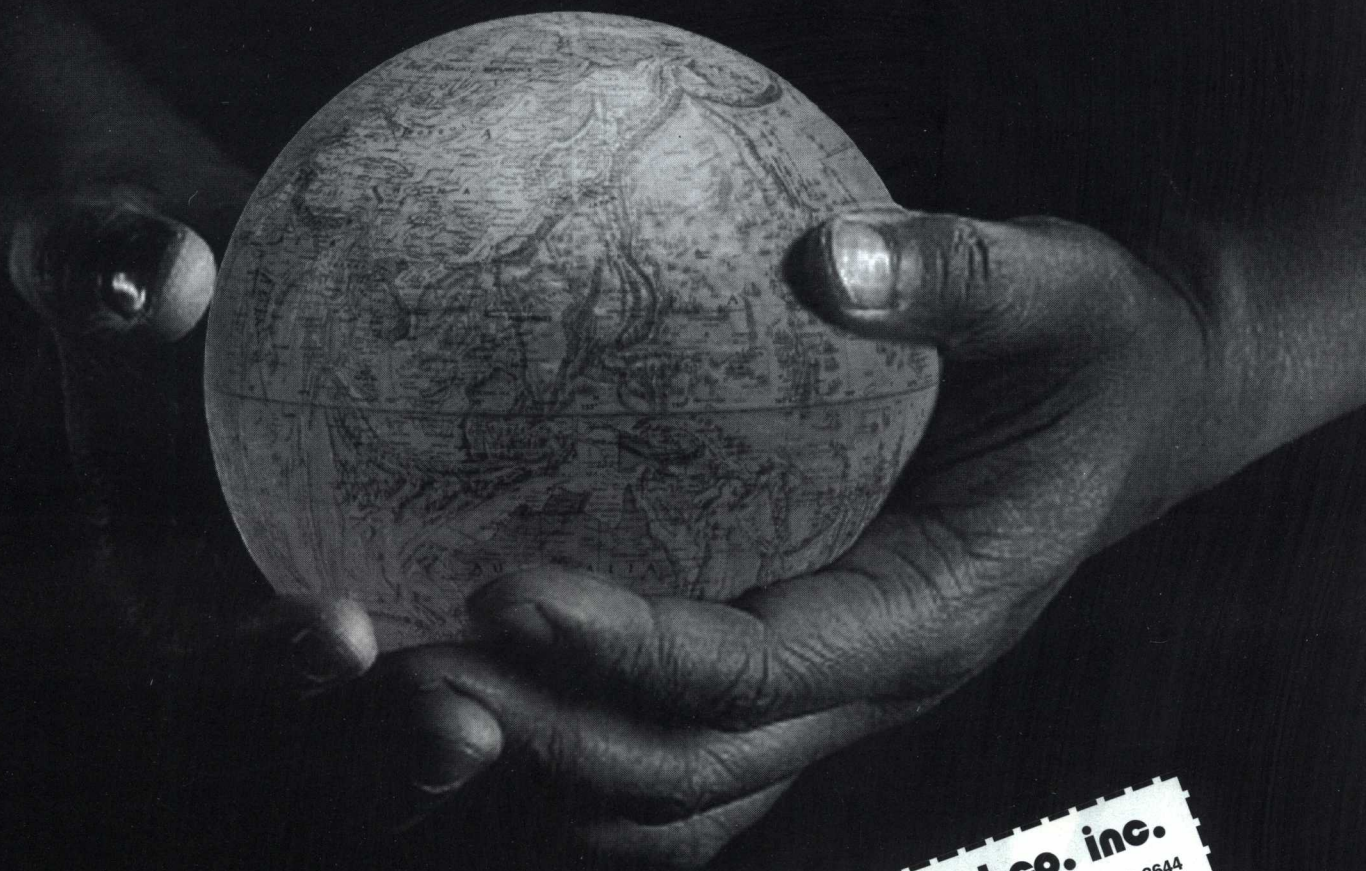
Oct 16-19 Freestyle Nationals
Oct 20-26 CRW Nationals
Oct 27-Nov 3 Halloween Boogie
Nov 28-Dec 1 Thanksgiving Boogie
Dec 21-Jan 5 Holiday Boogie (don't miss this one)

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RESULTS - BRITISH NATIONAL CF CHAMPIONSHIPS

4-way Speed Stack - Intermediate

							Total	Pos
Metropolitan Police	1.12	1.02	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	6.14	1
RAPA	1.16	1.13	1.11	1.08	2.00	2.00	6.48	2
Prince of Wales Regt	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.41	1.58	9.39	3

4-way Rotations - Intermediate

Metropolitan Police	4	2	4	2	6	4	20	1
RAPA	2	6	6	2	2	0	18	2

4-way Rotations - Senior

SkyTribe	12	10	13	13	N/A	N/A	48	1
Cellmates	4	4	4	5	5	6	24	2
Paramount	0	4	5	4	4	5	22	3
Over the Top	3	2	4	3	1	N/A	13	4

4-way Sequential

No Limits	4	6	5	5	5	6	25	1
Cellmates	3	1	1	4	1	N/A	10	2
Paramount	2	0	0	0	2	0	4	3
SkyTribe	2	0	1	1	N/A	N/A	4	4
Over the Top	1	1	1	0	0	0	N/A	5

8-way Speed

Tribal Limits	1.43	1.15	1.49					1
Paramates	5	1.47	N/A					2

Notes: 1. The N/A are teams who didn't wish to jump in order to speed up the turn-around and complete the meet.

2. Minimum number of rounds to call a meet was 3.

3. In the 8-way event the figure shown is the time taken in minutes/seconds to build an 8-way, a whole number denotes the maximum number of canopies linked at the cut off point of 2 minutes.



teams had altogether), there were three events which are designed to encourage but not overstretch people with low CF knowledge – which is, after all, where all the top teams started. The *Met Police* were top dogs in these events (4-way speed and 4-way rotations) with the staff from RAPA following very closely behind. RAPA being the only team using 9-cells (Sabres), all the other teams flying 7-cell canopies. RAPA wisely ditched their Sabres to compete in the 8-way intermediate event with the *Met Police* team, jointly known as *We 8 Coppers*.

Well done to everybody who competed. 346 jumps were done in one weekend with no problems, except for *SkyTribe* showing their lack of ability in the sequential event by having a double cutaway. They were back in the air doing 8-way within about an hour with no damage to anybody or equipment. The event marked the last competitions for *No Limits* and *SkyTribe* (for the time being), both teams have dominated the event for a number of years and wish to take time out to pursue other projects. Thanks to Netheravon for hosting the event on their busiest weekend of the year.

Gary McGuinness
SkyTribe



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Photo shows British entrants *Short Straw*, taken by Brian Rogers

World Cup

The World Cup and European Championships of Formation Skydiving were held at Paracentrum Leopoldsborg in Belgium from 16 to 25 August. The World Cup is held biannually during the off-year from the official World Championships. It is attended by the world's best teams and also used by IPC to try out any recent rule changes or new events at a top level competition prior to using them at the World Championships.

The Teams

Sixteen nations were represented with a total of twenty-three 4-way teams and nine 8-way teams competing. Countries are not limited to sending just their national teams and so World Cups provide a good opportunity for less experienced teams to compete with the world's best.

The UK was represented by two 4-way teams; *Sebastian XL* (1996 National Champions) and *Short Straw* (1996 National bronze medallists). As National Champions, *Sebastian XL* had received a £1,400 grant from Competitions committee to partly fund their attendance at the event, to gain valuable competition experience before next year's World Meet.

As usual the hot favourites were USA, France and Russia with everyone keen to see the first outing of the new 8-way machine from Arizona (*Arizona Airspeed*). One notable absence was the US Army's *Golden Knights*, reigning

World Champions who were apparently busy training for the forthcoming US Nationals.



Photo by Ian Mathews

British National team *Sebastian XL* finished eighth in the 4-way with an average of 15.3



Photo by Ian Mathews

Arizona Airspeed dominated the World Cup, winning the 8-way with an average of 19.7 and coming first and third in the 4-way

Judging

The meet was judged using live air-to-ground video transmission and the 'OmniSkore' system. Each cameraman carried a transmitter and teams jumped on individual passes, with all jumps shown live on a large screen. Official scores followed as soon as a second viewing had taken place and the on screen scoreboard was constantly updated. The system worked very well and acted as a centre-piece for the whole event. Both spectators and competitors would converge in the video tent, especially towards the end of each round to see the latest scores and the top teams in action. It gave the event a great atmosphere and everyone felt involved in the competition.

8-way event

All eyes were on *Arizona Airspeed* in this event. Comprised of the two top 4-way teams in the US, they only started training for the 8-way event on 1 February this year and had done between 550-600 training jumps. France had a brand new line-up so were something of an unknown quantity, together with the Russians. The official practice round set the scene with the top teams putting very good scores up. *Airspeed* in particular did an awesome skydive, putting up a clean 24 points in time.

The event started with USA and Russia neck and neck after three rounds, the French closely behind, then a large gap to the fourth place team. The Russian team's skydiving was very clean and precise. The event continued in a similar manner but with the USA beginning to pull away from the Russians, round by round, to finish 12 points clear after ten rounds on 197 points – to gain a 19.7 average in their first meet.

Russia finished second on 185 and France third on 175, fifty points ahead of the fourth placed Norwegians.

4-way event

The 4-way was a fiercely contested event, with reigning World Champions *Arizona Airspeed* everyone's favourite to take the gold. The French again fielded a new team, *Mauberge* and, along with Russia and South Africa, all had teams capable of medal placings. *Airspeed*, together with *Arizona Vortex*, had concentrated on the 8-way this year and had only done seventy 4-way training jumps prior to the meet. The first round saw seven teams put scores up of 20 plus, including British Champions *Team Sebastian XL*, who equalled their British Record of 20 points set at this year's Nationals.

As expected *Airspeed* dominated the event, maintaining a lead with consistent, fast skydives. The battle for silver and bronze was on and by round eight only seven points separated the second to sixth placed teams. By the end of round ten, *Airspeed* had confirmed their victory with 205 points. To the French team *Mauberge*, second place with 180 points and *Arizona Vortex* took third place with 175 points, making it a super successful meet for the US teams.

Sebastian XL finished in a very respectable eight place (fifth in Europe), with a 15.3 average, improved from their Nationals average of 15.1. *Short Straw* finally achieved consistency throughout the meet to finish with a 9.8 average, considerably improved from their Nationals average of 9.1.

Summary

Overall the meet was a great success with good weather, atmosphere and an excellent standard of skydiving. The top team's scores are now used for seeding teams for next year's World Meet. The new 'NJ' (non judgeable) rule seemed to work well and appeared popular with both competitors and judges. It greatly reduced the number of re-jumps and allowed the judges to put official scores up shortly after the teams had jumped. Some teams did lose points on exit and cameraflyers had greater degree of responsibility not to bust their team. The top team's videographers now all carry a second camera with a fish-eye lens to provide back up footage if the primary video is 'NJ'. An open FS subcommittee meeting of IPC held at the end of the competition suggested that judges may possibly be given more licence to interpret the video evidence at a future date but it seems certain that the 'NJ' rule will be carried forward to next years' World Meet.

From a personal viewpoint, *Short Straw* had an excellent meet and considered the experience gained well worth the time, effort and money required to participate. The World Cup is an invaluable opportunity for less experienced teams to compete at world level and we would strongly urge other UK teams to attend in two years time. *Sebastian XL* have a busy year ahead of them as they prepare for next year's World Meet. They continue to take the level of British 4-way to new heights and we wish them all the best in their efforts. Good luck guys.

Ian Matthews D7289
Short Straw

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POPS CORNER

Parachutists Over Phorty
Society



2nd Annual National Meet – Sibson

July's weather was more kind at Sibson than at Ipswich in May. Attendance was very good including Aussie POP John Leach, wife and family from Brisbane, and many northern and Scottish members. The barbeque hosted at 'Stoneacre', Wansford, by Peter and Ann Wilkinson presented an even warmer welcome. Results of our midsummer national meet were;

Hit-and-Rock (Rig on)

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. Harry Morgan | 17.58 secs |
| 2. Niels Hanson | 29.59 secs |
| 3. Jack Felstead | 35.76 secs |

Harry took Pete's Pot as well as the gold.

Accuracy (Three rounds)

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Harry Morgan | 3 discs!! |
| 2. Pete Shew | 26.14 cm |
| 3. Lenny Mobbs | 38.19 cm |

Harry also took away to Glasgow the Doncaster Plate. A message to Harry – everyone but everyone wants you at the World Meet in Jordan next year. Be there or else!



Peterborough PC's National POPS meet in July. From L to R - Pete Best (provider of Pete's Pot), Harry Morgan showing off Pete's Pot and the Doncaster Plate, Pete Shew, Niels Harrison, Jack Felstead and Lenny Mobbs

World Meet – Aqaba, Jordan 4 - 9 June 1997

Michael Allum, International TOP POP, has closed a deal with the Royal Jordanian Parachute Club, also Travel Plus Tours, Ipswich. Outline details are; Cost – \$619 per adult based on two adults sharing a room. Includes outward flight on Royal Jordanian Airlines (Sunday 1 June) from Heathrow; return flight (Sunday 15 June), internal flights to Aqaba; 14 nights accommodation at the Alcazar Hotel (breakfast only, evening meals extra), and all airport transfers; UK departure tax at £10 extra.

If you want to organise your own flight, book accommodation only or talk about single supplements then call Travel Plus on 01473 217838 and ask for Claire, who will also advise you on the very extensive tourist scene.

Free Jumps!

The BEST NEWS is that the Royal Jordanian Parachute Club is offering every POPS jumper TWO FREE DIVES from a Hercules, otherwise jump prices will equate

to USA prices. Even if Ampuriabrava does not field a 75/100 way for POPS at this year's Christmas Boogie, this meet at Aqaba certainly will. As George might say in WoTS – only POPS dudes need apply.

Olympic Bird at Ipswich PC

Inger Allum reports – 'On 20th June, Dieter Langar (USA POPS), world traveller and veteran skydiver, dropped into Ipswich PC in his spectacular airbrushed Maule M7-235 taildragger – halfway through his mission to touch down in all previous Olympic cities, with the final goal Atlanta by the end of July. No, Ipswich did not host the games but Dieter was met by TOP POP Michael Allum with Peter and Julie Shew, and between them flew a four way out of the IPC's Islander. This cool dive took place in the setting sun over the Orwell with Andy Page doing some fancy aerobatics to catch it all on camera. Thanks for calling on us Dieter, we loved your stories but would like a replay on the one about a spring loaded basket under your butt? This is not the first round-the-world solo by Dieter, who is also an expert flyer and which costs a bit as you might imagine.

National Meets 1997

Next year will see a new Hon Sec in and me out but meanwhile I have to consider the format. Because of the World Meet in Aqaba (remember, two free Hercy Baby jumps) I propose two national meets only. One in the north / Scotland and one in the south. All notions, suggestions or offers welcome. If none, I'll take it on myself to tell you where and when in the next Mag. Strathallan holds a lot of appeal if Scotty's feeling his usual amiable self?

Accuracy Brief

Harry, who stole the field at Peterborough, has written an excellent brief for budding accuracy artists. Harry is a top international competitor and even if you think you're good, read this and you could just become better. Ring me for a copy.

Best wishes.

John Crowhurst
Treasurer and Hon Sec



Andy Page, Julie Shew, Dieter Langar, Michael Allum and the airbrushed Maule 7-235 at Ipswich

2909

Congratulations Team Sebastian



Photo by Keith Larrett

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16-WAY



Another Planet



Skydiving Team



Aerial photos by Steve Johns, ground shot by Penny Johns

World Cup 16-way??

For next year, La Ferté could run the European Cup as a World Cup if IPC approved their application. This would be the first step in getting 16-way recognised as an official IPC discipline, which would raise standards and encourage this area.

European Cup

The annual European Cup in La Ferté Gaucher is usually well attended and this year was no exception. Eleven teams from seven countries competed over a ten round meet. The competition was fierce as most of the teams were trained, so the meet was of an excellent standard.

La Ferté Gaucher is situated three and a half hour's drive from Calais. The facilities are excellent with plenty of hot showers, comfortable bunk rooms, quality restaurant/bar, spacious creeping pad, pleasant packing area and large hangars. La Ferté is a busy French DZ which usually operates a Twin Otter and a Porter. For the competition, two Skyvans were brought in and the meet was run out of the vans and the Otter. This made life very complicated for the team leaders who had to remember which round was to be done next out of what aircraft. Team *O Funten* sadly did the wrong skydive in round two resulting in a tragic zero on the board.

Fantastic 16 are a strong, trained German team formed from the well known *Steam Team*. It was fairly clear from the outset that this team was ahead of the opposition, although of course in skydiving anything can happen. *Fantastic 16* put a seven on the board in round three (working time of 50 seconds) and went on to win the meet by a clear seven points.

The British team *Another Planet* had a disappointing start with some dodgy dives. Nevertheless, these scored not too badly in the circumstances (threes). High scores eluded *Another Planet*; a would-have-been six was bust down to a four and an almost-five-pointer was not quite in time. The team's consistent scores of all 4's and 3's just clinched the silver medal by one point on the last round. It was a nail biting finish as Planeteers waited for the final round scores to be posted because they knew the fourth point was right on the 50 second mark. The French team *Synchrony* were deserving bronze medallists hoping for a rematch next year.

A lively ceremony gave medals, prizes and champagne in special La Ferté bottles to all the teams. A continental multi course dinner was followed by an excellent live band, dancing on the tables and ranting well into the next morning.

The management at La Ferté Gaucher wanted to specially invite other UK 16-way teams to compete in the European Cup next August. Telephone La Ferté for details on 0033 164 04 01 73 or fax 0033 164 20 20 72.

European Cup scores – ten rounds

Place	Team	Country	Points
1	Fantastic 16	Germany	44
2	Another Planet	UK	37
3	Ville De Paris – Synchrony	France	36
4	Bullriders	Mixed *	31
5	Les Parrot's	France	28
6	Carpe Diem	Germany	25
7	Team O Funten	Germany	23
8	Performance 16	France	21
9	Les Derangeants	France	14
10	Alex's Team	Germany	12
10	Jydsk Telefon	Denmark	12

* Bullriders was a mixed team from Germany, Italy and Switzerland.



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The incident reports in June's magazine were well received and sparked a flood of suggestions and comments (see letters page). June's reports were written up by Chris Jones (BPA display team leader who has just passed his BI) and discussed with Jon Eels, a BPA Instructor. It was Chris who originally proposed that incident reports should be included in SP, at the AGM this year. The response has shown that they are both wanted and useful.

This issue, we present incident reports based on equipment problems, which have been written up by Allan Hewitt. Allan chairs the BPA Riggers committee and is running the confidential incident reporting system described in the June 1996 issue of SP. The reports presented here are a mixture of both incident and confidential reports. The information contained below is only a brief summary from each report with the aim of extracting educational information to try to prevent repeat incidents.

Allan is running the confidential reporting system on a voluntary basis as a temporary measure for the Riggers committee until someone else is found. Any suggestions or volunteers would be more than welcome.

We hope these reports will add to the existing systems in place to ensure a safer playground for us all.

RISER RELEASE

The jumper deployed the main parachute as normal and moved into position for a CRW introduction. During the approach to the student his right riser separated at the three ring circus causing a streaming malfunction. The jumper then cut away, deployed the reserve parachute and landed safely.

Conclusions: The equipment was inspected and the nylon loop at the three ring circus was found to be cut due to a sharp grommet on the right riser.

Recommendations: We have many links in this chain of events and any one could have prevented this incident from happening. We have the six monthly inspection and reserve repack, this is the type of damage that reserve packers are taught to

look out for as it is not uncommon to find a sharp grommet during an inspection. Then we have a system where a personal rig is usually checked prior to being tagged. Also, we have the user who could have done his own cursory inspection at the start of each day and of course let's not forget the flight line check. The overall message here is let's not get complacent and always aim to be thorough during any equipment inspection no matter how routine.

WRONG SIZE CANOPY

During a routine inspection of a set of kit prior to the drop zone tagging it for use, the inspecting rigger pushed the pop top on one side and this allowed the reserve pilot chute to easily move and stretch causing it to pop out one side.

Conclusions: The container was built for a canopy with a pack volume of 400 cubic inches, a rigger recently installed a new reserve that had a pack volume of only 200 cubic inches.

Recommendations: When changing canopies it is always wise to check the pack volumes as well as checking the actual pack job to include reserve deployment and reserve pilot chute launch.

SOFT HOUSINGS

During a flight line check a jumper checking a rig with soft cutaway housing found that the long cutaway cable was only protruding approx 1" past the riser loop. He pulled on the teflon cable which then protruded approximately 6" past the riser loop, the owner then commented that this is a regular occurrence and he once found the same situation while under his main canopy.

Conclusions: Some types of soft housings could allow the movement of the cutaway cable during routine use and gradually shorten the effective length over a period of time.

Recommendations: Jumpers with soft housings should be aware of this potential problem and regular inspections will prevent an unwanted early release of the risers.

RSL ROUTING

During a routine inspection of a set of kit by a rigger, prior to being tagged for a visiting jumper, the rigger noticed that the routing of the RSL was incorrect and would not have worked. The container in question was a Racer Elite and the RSL set up is attached to both risers. On cutting away the risers and pulling them upwards, the webbing linking both risers was trapped under the reserve top flap and would not release until the reserve handle was pulled.

Conclusions: The routing of the RSL was done with the reserve repack, this incorrect routing is

worse than not having an RSL as not only did it prevent the RSL from doing its job it could have interfered with the reserve deployment.

Recommendations: Read the manuals, this incident could have been prevented if the instructions in the manual had been followed, for example it recommends closing the reserve before routing the RSL. All reserve packers must have read each manual at least once and then refer to it as a reminder on a regular basis, and BPA rules call for the manuals to be available so this should never have happened.

CUTAWAY ROUTING

During a routine reserve inspection a rigger noticed that the cutaway cable was routed in the reserve tray which is incorrect. The container was a Javelin and the cutaway cable should have been routed through the channel in the top of the container.

Conclusions: Incorrectly routing the cutaway cable through the reserve tray effectively reduces the cable length by as much as 5". This is worrying as bearing in mind the length of cable that should pass through the riser loop is approx 6".

Recommendations: Read the manuals, this is another incident that could have been prevented if the packer had read the packing manuals. Not reading packing manuals is the direct cause of a lot of incidents that could have been much worse.

UNWANTED OBJECT

During a routine inspection and reserve repack a packer reported hanging the canopy on a canopy hoist and a shirt sleeve fell out of one of the cells.

Conclusions: The only conclusion that I can make here is that either the canopy was not previously inspected thoroughly or the reserve packing area was not very well controlled.

Recommendations: When packing reserves be thorough and prepare a clean and controlled packing area.

RESERVE PACKING CARDS

I have had lots of reports about reserve inspection forms and reserve packing cards that have been filled in incorrectly. Here is a list of the most common mistakes; no reserve packing card with the inspection checklist; no poundage recorded on the inspection checklist; no signature next to the poundage; no serial numbers on reserve packing cards; serial numbers on the packing card that do not correspond with the inspection checklist.

Conclusions: Documents that have not been filled in correctly is the reason why many jumpers are sent away and told that they can not jump with that equipment. If an

actual incident was to occur with a piece of equipment - even if the documents were not a contributing factor - the reserve packer would be in serious trouble and would be open to disciplinary action by the BPA Riggers committee and the STC.

Recommendations: This is the easiest of problems to solve and all it takes is a bit of patience and attention to detail, these qualities are also important for reserve packing in general.

JAVELIN RESERVE FLAPS

I have had two reports exactly the same as this one. During a flight line check a jumper noticed that the closing sequence of reserve flaps on a Javelin container was incorrect, the last two flaps were reversed with the lower flap on top of the upper flap. Both these reports show that the reserve packers were highly qualified and very experienced.

Conclusions: This closure sequence means that the reserve ripcord pin has no pocket for the end of the pin to fit into and therefore does not protect the pin in the way that it should.

Recommendations: Read the manuals, even though both the reserve packers were highly qualified and competent they had very little experience on this type of rig and reading the manual would have prevented this from occurring.

WRONG CANOPY!

During a routine reserve inspection and repack a rigger noticed that the old reserve inspection checklist showed the reserve as an X210R and the reserve packing card showed it as an X175R. On checking the canopy he found no data panel, during his investigation to find out what it really was he concluded that it was not an X210R or an X175R and in fact it was a pre production designed canopy which was not approved for use either as a main or a reserve.

Conclusions: This canopy should never have been rigged in as a reserve canopy and the list of people that previously packed it shows these persons mistakenly relied on the information that someone put on the reserve packing card.

Recommendations: When signing for a reserve inspection and repack it is the responsibility of all packers to check the details from the equipment and ensure that they are packing what they are signing for.

PIN PULLING PROBLEMS

I have three reports of reserve rides due to pin pulls being dropped and one due to a pin pull incorrectly routed.

Conclusions: The pin pull that was incorrectly routed has a direct pull on the container and no pull on the pin at all.

INCIDENT REPORTS

Recommendations: When packing a rig with a pin pull it is common practice to pull the pad gently and ensure that the pin will move as a final check after the pack job. It should also be a check for jumpers to ensure that the pin will not release from its position until the jumper has a firm hold on it, in other words if it can easily be knocked off prior to grasping it then the velcro or elastic should be checked for security.



Photo by Simon Hughes

CONNECTOR LINK UNDONE

During a normal canopy flight the jumper noticed one of his canopy connector links had come undone and the link had opened. The jumper carefully set up for a safe landing being sure not to make the situation any worse.

Conclusions: The mini link in question was an approved type and this certainly prevented this situation from becoming worse. This is the second report of this type in four weeks and it is an age old problem that keeps recurring from time to time.

Recommendations: There are many ways to prevent this incident from happening. Jumpers can check that the barrel of the connector link is at least finger tight plus 1/4 of a turn, inspect the barrel for hairline cracks. The use of an approved connector link cover can prevent the barrel from loosening during use; the use of lock tight can prevent the barrel from loosening; the use of a coloured nail varnish can mark the closed position which will aid a regular inspection. Some of the points that I have mentioned here also have some disadvantages and it is very important that you get advice before adopting a new method as the compatibility between connector link type and size, connector link cover, slider grommet size and what you do with the slider can all have a bearing on the best set-up for your equipment.

PREMATURE DEPLOYMENT

A jumper put his rig on prior to walking to the flight line check and his reserve deployed.

Conclusions: On inspecting the equipment the reserve closure loop had been cut at the base

where it was threaded through a washer; the washer was found to have sharp edges and it was used because it was supplied with the rig by the manufacturer.

Recommendations: It is the responsibility of the reserve packer to inspect the condition of all parts of the assembly including the smallest item such as a washer. The only preventative measure that can be taken here is to be prepared for these problems and make it part of a thorough inspection.

BENT RESERVE PINS

I have had three reports of this nature within a couple of months. During routine inspection and repacks the riggers/packers have noticed reserve ripcord pins have been bent which could cause a higher than normal pull force.

Conclusions: This type of damage could have been caused during the packing process or the pin could have been knocked since being packed.

Recommendations: When inspecting the ripcords pay particular attention to the pin and ensure that it is not bent prior to packing the reserve. Jumpers can also inspect the pins while in a packed state.

BAG LOCKS

I have had two reports of bag lock malfunctions and both reports seem to be very similar with two sets of line stows becoming entangled with tube stoes.

Conclusions: On inspecting the equipment both jumpers believed that the malfunction was caused by the line stows being too close together with all tube stoes on one piece of tape. One jumper had a rigger install another piece of tape to the bag to separate the line stows and has since done 200 plus jumps with no further incident.

Recommendations: This is an incident which will require further investigation. However if any other jumper has had a similar problem which he or she reports then this will help to decide whether a pattern exists or if this is just coincidence.

Allan Hewitt
Chairman
Riggers committee

Confidential Reporting

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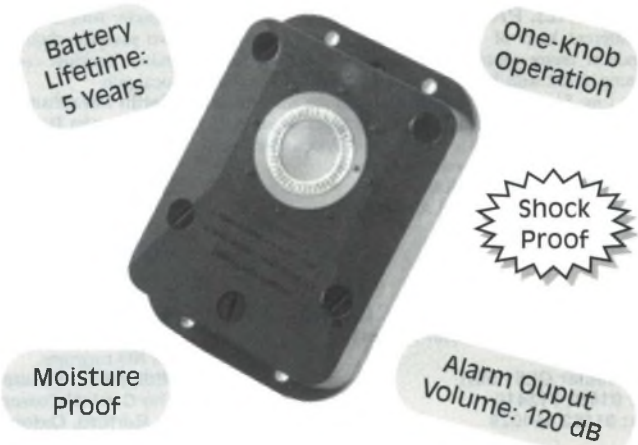
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Tel: ext Commandant 8245

Chief Instructor 8229 Staff 8277

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INCIDENT REPORTS

Dear Lesley

I would like to applaud Chris Jones for his article 'Incident Reports'. For all the time I've been in the sport, jumpers have been asking for incident reports to be published. It is good to see Chris take the initiative and actually write an article.

However, the contents do highlight the need for this function to be carried out by the relevant authority. Someone with access to all the information and with a sufficient breadth of experience to give objective comments and conclusions.

I am particularly referring to the second and third reports. Chris is presumably a leg strap throwaway user and seems to be outlining his prejudices. I have done a thousand jumps with a leg strap throwaway and chose to change to BOC specifically because it is less prone to premature deployments in freefall - I avoided sit flying until my new kit arrived.

The floating handle is a well known potential problem with the pullout system. However I have known incidents where a lazy pull on a throwaway has resulted in a similar incident to that described. With either system there is possibly some potential for the main pilot chute being dragged up with the reserve, so I personally agree with the 'full drill' decision.

This was an article well worth writing (and printing) so I hope Chris does not take this as a personal attack. A regular review of common - and less common - problems, complete with objective comment, is very helpful, particularly to less experienced jumpers. A full 'databank' of 'decision-making information' cannot realistically be taught as part of the student syllabus. Incident reports help jumpers learn from other people's mistakes.

**Yours sincerely,
Tom Cook D7200**

Dear Lesley

Here is a brief reply to Tom Cook's letter.

Tom taught me much of what skydiving I know so I read his constructive comments with particular interest. Anything I write must inevitably be coloured by my prejudices, one of which is a healthy suspicion of new ideas. But I try hard to be impartial and for the record, I have two personal rigs, one pullout and one BOC.

I don't know all the answers and try to get as many different views as I reasonably can, always including at least one experienced instructor. If Tom - or anyone else - feels they should be involved, I strongly urge them to come forward.

Chris Jones

Dear Lesley

At last!! Incident reports with constructive comment appearing in the mag. Pilot-type people have had this information appearing in a

variety of publications for ages and I defy any pilot, no matter how experienced, to claim that it hasn't helped to learn from others' mistakes.

But... the gossip in "WoTS" has been the only place for us to catch up on this type of information in the past and, whilst I endorse everything George said about tracking in the 'Worst Nightmare' at the Langer boogie, I don't think this is the place for this type of comment any more.

I don't know how accurate the story is - I wasn't at the boogie - or whether George spoke to either of the jumpers involved, but if incident reporting to the membership is to work then let's keep it confidential and impartial.

The format of the reports seems okay but it might be nice to have a bit more information like in the USPA mag reports - eg kit details, number of jumps, etc
Blue skies,

Liz Ault Walker C9720

I am glad you and others are pleased to see incident reports in the Mag at long last. Whilst I take your point about this being the place for comment, there seems no harm and only good done by reinforcing safety elsewhere in the Mag. Although George may wrongly come over as flippant, his attitude is one which could succeed in putting important safety points over to some readers where other approaches fail. For example, those who simply do not read the incident reports or those who may rebel against a more paternal attitude. Can we give too much safety advice? I don't think so. The unsolicited letter below tells its own story. - Ed

UNNECESSARY RISK

Dear SP

Congratulations should go to George Pilkington for his timely article on high performance landings in the last SP. As the general manager of Zephyrhills, it was my constantly held belief that errors of judgement rather than hook turns are the killers today, and this was certainly borne out by my experiences in dealing with the results of several tragedies related to the mishandling of canopies near the ground.

Nothing compensates for thousands of jumps worth of experience, as it is that maturity and experience which dictates the most important factor of a high performance landing; that is, the decision to abort one due to prevailing weather, traffic, or personal conditions. If that experience had been available to some of my friends, I would not have had to attend five funerals in the last 3 years.

I was a chief organiser at the boogie that he refers to in his article, and I couldn't agree more with his synopsis of the events leading up to the accidents there. What's the answer? As George rightly said, experience. Be honest with yourself. Can you execute the

manoeuvre with the maximum reduction of risk to yourself and others? If you cannot assess the situation and make that decision immediately, then abort your approach. If not, when you haul on that riser or toggle, you may have two seconds left to live.

Gareth Holder D7731 BPA 335194

(Gareth has 4000 jumps, is a sponsored PD canopy pilot, was chief organiser at Skydive City, Zephyrhills for three years and is now a senior organiser at Skydance Skydiving in California.)

IDIOT'S GUIDE

Hi Lesley

I really like what you have done to SP, what with excellent photos and more humour, it makes SP a far better read. But enough crawling.

I have just started in the sport but have reached 5 second delays already and I am definitely hooked. So, on behalf of all the student parachutists who haven't got a clue when it comes to types of parachutes to buy, could you do a feature for us on this? I thought 'Stiletto' was womens' footwear until recently.

Keep up the good work.

Paul Watts, Surrey

Any offers to write such an article? - Ed.

FOREIGN NATIONALS

Dear Lesley

Just to put you and other people in the picture re the British National 8-way Intermediate competition.

Who (a junior 4-way team) checked with Charles Ross back in February '96 whether Julien, a French national, could compete in the British Nationals. They checked this before the competition rules were issued and before they spent vast amounts of cash on a training camp. A fortnight later they received confirmation in writing saying "I have now had it confirmed by Chris Allen that the only relevant piece of the rules to your team situation is the document section where it states that competitors must have valid BPA membership; temporary membership satisfies this criteria." So it was understood that there was absolutely nothing in the rules that says a foreigner could not compete and win as long as they were not in the Senior category (and could if they won represent Britain).

Who and Deliverance decided just before the Nationals to get together and compete in the Intermediate 8-way, only to be told after four rounds that they were unable to compete for the British Nationals, instead if we won, we would be winners of the Open British Nationals.

It appears that the BPA have made a 'cock up' somewhere along the line and rather than stand by what they said originally, we were penalised. After all we competed in

good faith and it's not as though Julien was some hot skydiver with thousands of jumps, he was the least experienced member of the team with only 200 jumps.

**Lisa Crewe D9341
Totally Hatstand
Open Intermediate 8-way
winners**

Dear Lesley

I can fully understand this particular team's bitterness and resentment at the situation they have found themselves in. However, rather than this being a major cock up, it is in fact, purely a breakdown of communication.

Charles Ross did telephone me earlier on in the year, initially enquiring as to whether a French person could enter the Regional competitions? My reply at the time was, the only stipulation I could find, was that he would have to be a BPA member. A couple of days later I was then questioned again as to whether this person could enter the Nationals or not? My reply was yes, he could enter, but could not become a British National Champion, as he was not a British National. Which actually makes perfect sense to me.

This is not a new rule, the Nationals have historically been termed as "Open" to cover eventualities such as this and the possibility of a foreign team entering our Nationals winning a trophy and never returning with it. The American Nationals are run in a very similar manner. The National rules were available some two months before the start of the competition. All team leaders were reminded by the Chief Judge at the start of the competition to read the rules, they state quite plainly, if you are not a British National you can not become a British National Champion. Somewhere down the line, there has been a communication failure.

My only question to the team would be, why would you ask Charles about a Competitions committee matter when he is on the Development committee? You could have asked either myself as Chairman of Competitions committee or the nominated FS representative for 1996, Wayne Loxton, either via the BPA office or direct.

I resent the comment about the BPA having made a "cock up". The Council is made up of 15 people, of which only one is allegedly at fault here, and I can hardly stand by what was said originally, it was never originally said.

For the future, I would ask, as I have done in the past, that competitors with problems to do with competition, please talk to the Competitions committee before the relevant competition begins. That is what you voted us in for, we are there to help as much as is possible.

**Chris Allen
Chairman
BPA Competitions committee**

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