

SKYDIVE

THE MAG



October 2011
skydivethemag.com

The British Parachute Association Magazine

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* The FFU does not book your flights, when you book with us, we will advise of the flight cost and our ATOL protected travel agent will call you to make the flight reservation.

SKYDIVE

THE MAG



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Researching for the 'BPA through the decades' articles has continued to be fascinating, this time finding out all about the 1980s. The thing that stood out most for me was the Parashapes canopies (p 44). As a rigger myself, I was fascinated to hear that Dick was never actually a qualified Parachute Rigger and yet still made all these amazing, and indeed airworthy, canopies.

Many of our contributors for the '60s, '70s and now '80s have marvelled at how far the sport has progressed since their time, and wondered where it will go next. It seems to be showing no signs of slowing down, with the CP World Distance record going from 181m to 222m in a single weekend this July! That's nearly nine lengths of a swimming pool! The freeflyers have added another 30 per cent to the UK head down record, the Euro record went from 51 to 80 as this Mag went to press, and scores in all disciplines that would have won the Nationals 10 years ago aren't even enough to get near the podium today.

Al and Pixie are the only UK team to ever get on a Freestyle World podium, and they are now excitingly only a couple of points away from the gold standard – can they do enough to win in Dubai next year?

Meanwhile, over 400 people came together to celebrate our fantastic sport at the BPA's 50th Birthday Boogie at Langar. With former BPA Chairmen, Council members, Editors and staff making the trip alongside newer BPA members, and a display of historical photographs and equipment, this Mag really does mark a time to stop and see how far we've come in the last 50 years. Enjoy!

Liz Ashley

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

We have lots of overseas subscribers, non BPA members who get the Mag because they like it. If you take out a magazine subscription and subsequently join the BPA as a full member your magazine cost is deducted from your BPA membership fee so you don't pay any extra.

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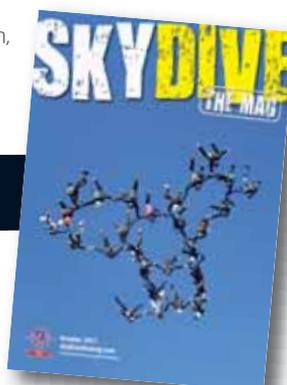
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Fancy contributing to the Mag?

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Some of the photos in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets or altimeters, or otherwise not obeying the BPA Operations Manual, in which case they were taken abroad. In the UK it is mandatory to wear a helmet and alti for obvious safety reasons. Students within The Mag are complying with BPA regulations.

Skydiving training and systems vary in different countries. If you are considering taking a skydiving course or qualification abroad, we recommend you first establish its relevance in the UK, through your CCI.

SUPPORTED BY



Cover photo The new UK head-down record 28-way, by Olly Burgin



Patrick Passe's group doing a challenging 'sidebody box' formation at the Picnic Boogie in Lalpisse. By Willy Boeykens

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DAILY AIRSHOW



Polish 113-way record



113-way, by Norman Kent

Despite less than ideal weather conditions over the week, the last jump at the Euro Big-way Camp saw a complete 113-way – setting a new record for Poland. Thirty nine countries were represented at the camp (including a smattering of Brits), one of the primary qualification events to the highly anticipated Dubai 500 project to be held in 2013.

Wingsuits wow all

This August saw Gap, France play stage to the biggest artistic wingsuit competition in the world.

The 4th International Artistic Wingsuit Competition 2011 saw an international roster of 2-way teams (plus camera) compete for the title in a series of jumps showcasing their creativity and flying skills.

Points are scored for displaying a combination of figures shown, camera work and flying style - where body position, smoothness of flying, controlled docks and forward flying speed all count.

British team *Aquila* from Netheravon entered the Senior category and placed



Aquila in round 5

eighth, while another Netheravon skydiver, Patrick Wake, was cameraman for Intermediate Spanish team *Overflight*, who placed first in their category.

The overall winning team were the Spanish *Bad Boys*, whose fantastic flying skills had to be seen to be believed.

wingsuitcompetition.com



2012 skydiver bursaries

The Royal Aero Club Trust has announced its bursary scheme designed especially for young people for the 2012 season. If you're aged between 16 and 21 years and are a citizen of, and resident in, the UK then the Trust is offering you up to £1,000 to advance your skydiving qualifications.

The Royal Aero Club Trust has been offering bursaries for 12 years. Last year, seven young BPA members were awarded a collective £3,400!

Applications, which must arrive at the Trust by 31 March 2012, are to be submitted through a sponsoring organisation, club or association. Full details, rules and an application form are available at:

royalaeroclubtrust.org

Team *Satori* try-outs

Team *Satori*, three times National 4-way FS champions, will be holding try-outs this winter for team selections in preparation for the 2012 British Nationals. The try-outs will be for all 4-way categories: Rookie, A, AA & AAA and will take place on:

13 November Bodyflight Bedford
11 December Airkix, Manchester
22 January Bodyflight Bedford

The chosen teams will each do a minimum of 80 jumps and four hours in the tunnel, and will be backed with dedicated coaching by the current British champions.

For a registration form, including prices, please contact the team at satori4wayteam@gmail.com or visit:

teamsatori.co.uk

Multiple records set at PD event

An amazing 448 competition jumps were performed over the last three days of the Performance Designs Big Pants World Record event this July and an incredible 16 world and national records were set.

The first day saw the world distance record of 181m broken twice. First by *PD Factory* team member Jonathan Tagle with a distance of 195m and then by Nick Batsch (flying the all-new Petra canopy), who later went on to win gold, with a distance of 222m.

Twenty five competitors from five countries took part in this record-breaking event at the Mile-Hi Skydiving Center, Colorado.

thepdblog.com

Photo courtesy of DZS

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Martin Shuttleworth >>

For the latest news from the BPA, visit bpa.org.uk
BPA office phone: 0116 278 5271 email: skydive@bpa.org.uk

BPA ZONE

AGM Day - Saturday 28 January 2012

AGM Day will be held in the Premier Suite, Reebok Stadium, De Havilland Way, Bolton, Greater Manchester BL6 6SF. The 2,000sqm Premier Suite will host both the AGM and the exhibition in one big space. The venue is near Junction 6 of the M61 and offers free car parking. By train, it is within easy walking distance from Horwich Parkway station, which has a direct service from Manchester and Manchester Airport.

Overnight accommodation (subject to availability, so book now!) is available at De Vere Whites Hotel, a contemporary four-star hotel, which is built into the stadium.

To book a bedroom at the De Vere Whites Hotel, telephone 01204 66 77 88 and quote the BPA AGM code DE 008 244 03. The cost is £80 per night for a double/twin, or £70 per night for single occupancy, both including breakfast. Other accommodation is available nearby, including the Premier Inn Reebok Stadium, www.premierinn.com. For the latest on AGM Day, visit bpa.org.uk/agm

AGM, presentations and seminars

The statutory AGM of BPA Ltd will be held at 10.30am, with confirmation of the result of your election of Council 2012 – this will already have been posted on the BPA website the previous Tuesday. The presentation of medals and awards will follow. For the afternoon, we're putting together a varied programme of seminars and meetings to offer something for everyone. If you would like to offer a 50-minute educational presentation (no sales talks, please), kindly contact the BPA Office.

Exhibition

There will be an exhibition of services, equipment and clothing, etc, for the enjoyment of skydiving in the UK. Exhibition space (3m x 3m) costs £125 + £25 VAT, total £150. Exhibition space may be booked through the BPA Office, payment is required to confirm a space reservation. All exhibitors need to book in advance.

Kit corner

Rick Boardman and his rigging colleagues will be coordinating Kit Corner, which will include a riggers' table. Planned displays include technical information, examples of damage, previously banned/grounded equipment, etc. With the help of some human mannequins (volunteers), there will also be a flightline test.

BPA 50th Anniversary Dinner

The BPA 50th Anniversary Dinner will be held at 19.30 for 20.00 in the Lion of Vienna Suite. A formal dinner was much missed at the last AGM, and what better way to bring it back than to round off our celebrations of 50 years of the BPA, 1961-2011. There will also be a fun theme to the evening: Bond and his baddies, with prizes for best Bond, best Bond babe, and best Bond baddie, all presented by who else but BPA Communications Chair Adrian Bond! The seven remaining Golden Tickets for a year's free BPA membership will be raffled on the night. Tickets £25 each from the BPA Office. Tel 0116 278 5271.

After dinner, entertainment will include the always-popular disco. All members and their guests are welcome. There is no charge. Fun casino tables will also be available.

BPA FilmFest 2012 sponsored by Airkix

One of the highlights of AGM Day will be the final of the BPA FilmFest 2012, sponsored by Airkix, to be held in the early evening. Martin Soulsby, BPA Chairman, says: "This is the third year of the BPA FilmFest and second year of Airkix sponsorship. As always, the BPA FilmFest is one of the major events of AGM Day and I expect the quality and entertainment value to be even higher this year." For the overall winner, there is a prize of one hour of tunnel time and a great trophy. The four runners-up will each receive 15 minutes of tunnel time. There will also be a special prize, the Airkix GoPro Award, awarded for the best use of humour in a film. All films should be no more than six minutes long. Closing date for entries is Tuesday 8 November 2011. Films need to be submitted in DVD PAL format. Full rules and an entry form may be downloaded from the BPA website.

Attendance is free!

Attendance at everything on AGM Day, except the 50th Anniversary Dinner, is free of charge to members and their guests. You pay only for food and drink as taken, and accommodation if required. AGM Day offers lots of sponsorship opportunities. Ask the BPA Office for details.

Goody bag and sponsorship

Offers of business gifts and fun promotional items for the goody bag are invited. Contact the BPA Office. Promotional literature that isn't a 'goody' will be charged for.

British Parachute Association Ltd

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GM

Notice is hereby given that a **General Meeting** of the Association will be held at BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF on Tuesday 6 December 2011 at 18.30.

Agenda

- 1 To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and the Report of the Auditors for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011.
- 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 beginning 1 April 2012.

Issued for and on behalf of the Council of the British Parachute Association Ltd, 1 October 2011.

British Parachute Association Ltd

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AGM

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Association will be held at The Premier Suite, Reebok Stadium, De Havilland Way, Horwich, Bolton, Greater Manchester, BL6 6SF on Saturday 28 January 2012 at 10.30am.

Agenda

- 1 To receive and adopt, if approved, the report of the Chairman of Council.
- 2 To consider any items of Special Business*, including proposed updated BPA Articles of Association (to be circulated in the December 2011 issue of *Skydive the Mag*).
- 3 To set subscriptions payable by non-provisional Members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2012.
- 4 To close the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

Other items of business

- a To announce the result of the election for the 2012 Council of the BPA.
- b To present various annual awards.

*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 (by midnight on Monday 19 December 2011) can be included under agenda item 2, Special Business.

Issued for and on behalf of the Council of the British Parachute Association Ltd, 1 October 2011.

Stand for Council 2012

Could your knowledge, skills and innovative thinking help our sport? Can you seize new opportunities and help to resolve often complex issues? Then stand for election to next year's Council! Details of the nomination procedure for BPA Council Members 2012 are available on the BPA website, from Clubs and Centres, and on request from the BPA Office. Completed nominations, each supported by a proposer and seconder, must reach the BPA Office by noon, Thursday 20 October 2011.

Skydiver of the Year 2011

Nominations from the membership are invited for the BPA Taz Casuar Skydiver of the Year Award 2011. This is for an experienced UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year are worthy of special recognition. Please email your nominations giving the name of your nominee with reasons (no more than 250 words) to skydive@bpa.org.uk by no later than Thursday 24 November 2011. The Council will consider all nominations and decide on the winner at its December meeting. The trophy will be presented at the AGM.

Please note, all of the new ratings will be included in the next issue



The time, money and effort to bring everything together for the one weekend was much appreciated. Roll on the next 50 years, although not that long 'til the next Boogie!

Paul Seymour

50 years young

The BPA's 50th Birthday Boogie took place over the second weekend in September, and the buzzword was 'FREE'!

The BPA and Langar provided free registration, free coaching, free load organising, free food, free beer, free t-shirts and free entertainment, including a free prize draw every day to win lots of amazing big-ticket prizes - including free jumps!

There was a particular focus on progression for lower-experience jumpers, and plenty of world-class coaches had given up their weekend for free. New BPA member Luis Guedes takes up the story...

Welcomed

My expectations were quite low as this was my first UK boogie, and I assumed that as a foreigner on my own, it would be difficult to find people who would dare to jump with a totally unknown Venezuelan skydiver, with an A Certificate and a brand new FS1 sticker, got the weekend before. I was wrong.

I was introduced to Lesley Gale, the group's organiser, who asked me to put my name on the list. We were eight already, then a last minute addition took us to nine in total. I told Lesley that I had never done more than a 6-way and that was from a C206 in Venezuela with only one point. She gave me a position with a low degree of complexity. I then realised that we were not only trying to do a 9-way, there were also points involved... I started to be a bit anxious.

On the AN28 I went through the jump in my head quite a few times. I was in a floater position right by the side of Lesley who was

wearing a bright yellow suit that could not be missed. The exit was non-linked and went very smoothly, I was centimetres from Lesley and a few seconds later I was in place. We did the first and the second point perfectly, then the big star - done. I could not believe it, and we were still around 8,000 feet. I saw Lesley's face - totally happy. Then Maria decided to go for a star spin, and it became the best jump of my life so far. The second jump was a 12-way (pictured above); I was Mr Happy, with a big smile that could not be erased.

Newly qualified

The following day, with a big hangover, I managed to get all the briefings needed for my CH2 and JM1, thanks to Geordie Page, who gave 49 briefs on the Saturday. I have been trying to convert to the BPA grading system since I started to jump in the UK around six months ago.

Anyway, after the BPA Boogie, I ended up with my personal record 12-way, two beautiful jumps on video, which I got for free (thanks Tony and Gary), excellent skydiver friends and all the boxes ticked to submit my C Certificate application - what more could I ask? Thanks to the BPA for the wonderful boogie, Langar for the facilities and friendly staff, Lesley and the group for those beautiful jumps and to the guys at Headcorn for helping me with my Certificate.

Luis Guedes



Andrew Hilton showed off some olden-day kit



Milko's group build a 15-way

A piece of history - current and former BPA Chairmen, Council members, Editors and staff



Photos by Tony Danbury

“The fact it was a storming success even when the weather proved a howling failure is testament to the superb concept and the way it was carried out. I was happy to contribute my services to such a thoroughly well-intentioned Boogie, run for the good of the members. Roll on next time!

Lesley Gale



UK head-down formation record

and better Bigger

The 2011 UK head-down record was once again organised by the *Bad Lieutenants*. Following on from all the craziness and fun of yet another fantastic year at the UK Nationals, it was scheduled for the last weekend of August at Skydive Hibaldstow. The benchmark set in 2010 was 22, and although we would be without some familiar faces from previous years, the continued rise in the skill level of UK freeflyers promised a new and much larger record

Charlotte Kemp of Kinetic selflessly sacrifices a shoe in pursuit of the record, by Andrew Lovemore





Building, by Olly Burgin



Andrew Lovemore



Olly Burgin



On Saturday morning we woke to beautiful blue skies. Everyone was ready and waiting to smash the 2010 record

28-way UK record participants:

Matt O’Riordan, Jim Harris, Sean Freeman, Rob Silver, Dave Pacey, Matt Elliott, Alberto Mazzucato, Ady Wild, Tiziana Rossetti, Duncan Aspinall, Darren Glover, Carl Baines, Charlotte Kemp, Gary Crisp, Steve Howes, Paul Cooper, Andy Newell, Ally Milne, Ted Foster, David Geffin, Ben Cornick, James Davies, Dan Parker, Mikey Carpenter, Frazer Smith, Glenn Phillips, Jason Southall, Will Blackie

Video: Olly Burgin & Andrew Lovemore

Andrew Lovemore



Having initially told everyone he didn't have it, our cameraman of three years Olly Burgin changes his mind and we're in the clear, a new 28-way UK record, clear as day

Last minute training

The event kicked off with warm-up jumps from Wednesday to Friday organised by Matt O'Riordan, Jim Harris and Mike Carpenter. These three days provided an opportunity for people to come and show their skills, get in some vital last minute training and build the confidence that could fire them into the big-ways, which were to come at the weekend.

The skill level was generally excellent and we were soon bringing the smaller groups together to fill a Dornier load and by sunset on Thursday we were organising our first two-plane formation, a 17-way using one Dornier and a Turbo Finist. Our dreams of breaking the record before the weekend were dashed as Friday was unfortunately a washout with no jumping.

On Saturday morning we woke to beautiful blue skies and everyone was ready and waiting to smash the 2010 record. In previous years the base group had been given the opportunity to do a practice jump to ensure the core of the formation was strong. However with concerns about the weather, this time around it was decided that we would take our chances and go directly for a 28-way, this being the largest formation possible from two Dorniers with two camera flyers. The formation chosen was a 6-way base with three 5-way pods and right hand stingers either side of the pod closer.

The first jumps went well and we were getting closer and closer, carefully making small adjustments, attempting to strengthen certain areas of the formation without

upsetting the overall balance, searching for the right formula. As usual the weather had to play its part and we ended the first day with only three attempts under our belts and no record. With the knowledge that we were so close to building the 28-way and everyone eager to move on to a larger formation to allow those on the bench to get involved, Sunday couldn't come quickly enough.

It's not often you see 30 freeflyers on a load at 9am on a Sunday morning but this was the day and it suited us fine. With three jumps behind us we were becoming comfortable with our jobs, getting used to the approach and finding our way to our slots, everyone becoming more efficient and that much faster. The jump seemed to go well, and when we landed there was the usual looking around to ask others if they thought it was complete. No one was sure.

Clear as day

In the organisers' debrief there was the feeling that it was close but not quite there. As we watched the video the formation built cleanly, pods slowly coming together and outside stingers waiting to pounce as soon as the opportunity was available. Everybody was on except for the one second stinger, and then there it was, just for a moment, but there nonetheless, a completed 28-way. Now did we have the all important photo? This could be tricky to judge from the video and no one was sure it would pass. Then finally, having initially told everyone he didn't have it, our cameraman of three years Olly Burgin changes his mind and we're in the clear, a new 28-way UK record, clear as day.

With the 28-way complete providing a respectable increase on 2010 it was decided that there was only one way forward and that was to go BIG. Mathius Holtz of *Skywalkers* fame had been organising jumps for the guys'n'girls on the bench and this allowed us to keep track of how everyone was flying, and everyone was flying well! We added everyone that we felt could be safe and had the ability to get to their slot. We were now a 38-way and about to do the first three-plane freefly formation load in the UK!

Unfortunately, the weather gods had to yet again have their say, and after one attempt which went well but did not complete, we were grounded for the day. We continued into Monday, but having lost several strong flyers we soon trimmed down the formation in an attempt to at least break the 30 barrier. Although we came very close on more than one occasion and gave it everything we had, we were unable to better our 28-way record from the previous day.

Yet again we were left with the feeling that the weather had held us back, but it had been a fantastic few days nonetheless. It was great to watch the skills of the less experienced flyers improving dramatically over such a short period and the number of new flyers involved. There is no doubt that next year we will go much bigger again. Bring on 2012!

Matthew O'Riordan

The Bad Lieutenants would like to say a huge thank you to all the freeflyers who took part in the event – around 40 flyers over the six days; everyone at Skydive Hibaldstow for their great aircraft, awesome manifest and providing the organisers for FREE; Mike Carpenter and Mathius Holtz for brilliant organising and invaluable help with organising the record jumps; and finally our sponsors for providing support for the event and the raffle prizes: Airlix, Larsen & Brusgaard, Infinity Rigs, Airtec (Cypres AADs).





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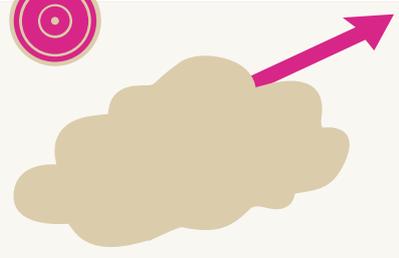


Nationals 2011

A whopping 55 4-way FS teams, record scores in Artistics, an all-new stage with giant judging screens... it can only be the BPA Nationals 2011



Photos by Andrew Lovemore, Mick Thornley and Blair Stent



4-way



Rookie

Bronze
Satori Blue



Gold
4mula



Silver
Skyvandals

Despite the gloomy forecast for the Nationals 4-way weekend, no fewer than 55 teams jumped in their cars and headed to North Lincolnshire and prepared themselves for a weekend of tea drinking, biscuit dunking and cake eating. Regardless of the rain, the atmosphere was excellent with much good natured bantering and general rainy dropzone fun taking place. All teams were excited to get going despite the delayed start on

Saturday and made the most of the free time by dirt diving, creeping and catching up with friends that the Nationals always brings together. There were indeed many cups of tea drunk, biscuits dunked and cakes demolished (at least in our team room) but, as usual, Hibaldstow did an astounding job of getting lifts up in the gaps between clouds on both the Saturday and Sunday, and by the Monday there were only two rounds of the

AAA competition left to complete. A new element to the competition this year was the fantastic stage, which was built behind the club house. It was an impressive structure and was made use of throughout the weekend by housing screens showing live judging and entertainment in the evenings. The medal presentations were made even more special by the stage and pyrotechnics, which caught a few people by surprise!



Rookie team LSOS with their coach Simon Cathrine from SonicNutz, by Mick Thornley





It seems nothing can stop the inexorable progress of the fantastic Full Stop

Full Stop, by Gary Wainwright

Rookie

There seemed to be a theme throughout the Nationals this year in that the biggest excitement came from watching teams battle for silver and bronze, and the Rookie category was no exception. *4mula* very comfortably took gold this year, 31 points ahead of silver.

Skyvandals, *Satori Blue*, *RAFSPA Hurricane* and *EJ3* were all in second place at some point throughout the competition, which made it very exciting for anyone watching the scores. By round 5 *Skyvandals* had it in the bag and took silver three points ahead of the consistent *Satori Blue* who, in turn, were only three points ahead of joint fourth place teams *RAFSPA Hurricane* and *EJ3*.

A

In the A class, *High Altitude Heroes* did exactly what it says on the tin and put in a heroic performance, comfortably taking gold eight points ahead of *Incognito*. As with the other classes, the real battle was for silver and bronze, with everyone's favourite teams *Raykipo*, *Incognito* and *RAFSPA Phoenix* putting in strong performances. *Incognito* and *Raykipo* matched each other point for point on the first three rounds putting pressure on both teams to pull ahead. *Raykipo* had a great round 4 pulling away by four points, but *Incognito* obviously saw this as a challenge and slowly clawed back their lead taking silver by one point. *RAFSPA*

Phoenix went from strength to strength throughout the competition meaning that after eight jumps they were neck and neck with *Raykipo*. A jump off was avoided when *RAFSPA Phoenix* couldn't stay and gallantly handed the bronze to a very excited *Raykipo*.



A

Bronze

Raykipo



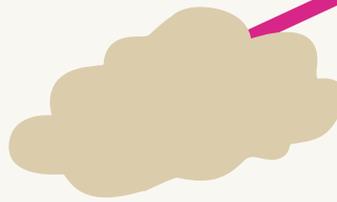
Gold

High Altitude Heroes



Silver

Incognito



AA

Bronze
Gr4vity



Gold
Full Stop



Silver
Satori Red

“ The good number of teams in every category once again proves how strong 4-way is as a discipline in the UK



AA

It seems nothing can stop the inexorable progress of the fantastic *Full Stop*. In 2009 they won Rookie, in 2010 they won A and in 2011 they won AA. Are we seeing a future winner of AAA? Time will tell. *Full Stop* led from the start and as such the most thrilling battle was for second and third place. Satori Academy team *Satori Red*, *Full Stop's* old rivals *Gr4vity* and *Brit Chikkos* all fought their corner hard for the silver and bronze medals. In the end there was only a three point difference between all three teams but *Satori Red* pipped *Gr4vity* to the silver post and *Brit Chikkos* missed out on the bronze by one point. The whole of the AA field was surprisingly close together with a mere nine points separating seventh place (*Eclipse*) from second. Well done to all the teams who competed.

AAA

The AAA category was really strong this year with 17 teams taking part, meaning those who had medal ambitions were going to have to produce some excellent skydiving. *Satori* reigned supreme throughout the competition finishing with an impressive 19.6 average. This is the third Nationals win in a row for *Satori* and for two of their members is something of a record; Milko and Aaron have just become only the fourth and fifth people to ever win 4-way and 8-way in the same year. Not content with this accolade Milko is the first person to ever win AAA, AA and 8-way in the same year - impressive stuff!

That said, *SonicNutz* went large with their training this year and were hot on *Satori's* heels, finishing with an excellent 17.1 average. They equalled *Satori* in one round and were a mere two points off *Satori's*

scores on five other rounds.

Given that for most of the competition *Satori* were first and *SonicNutz* second, possibly the most exciting scrap of the AAA competition was for bronze. The two open teams *Boogie Nights* and *Vision* were fighting it out fiercely for a notional third place given that they couldn't medal due to having 'foreign' player/coaches on the team. The standard of skydiving from both teams was excellent but *Vision* led from the start and came a notional third and *Boogie Nights* a notional fourth. The battle for bronze was fierce and could have easily gone to *Bodyflight Aerodyne*, *Kaizen*, *Army Nemesis*, *Escondido* or *Eureka*, with all four teams matching each other almost point for point throughout the competition. After a tense few minutes watching round 10 being scored live the medal



AAA

Bronze
Bodyflight Aerodyne



Gold
Satori



Silver
SonicNutz





VFS podium, by Olly Burgin

went to *Bodyflight Aerodyne*. We were delighted! It was a fantastic way to end our first season as a team. A special mention should go to *Escondido* who, after having a disappointing World Cup, jumped out of their skins and had a superb competition. Well done the 'Dido'!

And so the Nationals is concluded for another year. The good number of teams in every category once again proves how strong

4-way is as a discipline in the UK. Have we seen future AAA winners taking their first tentative steps in the Rookie category? Will the medallists in AA blow everyone away by collecting bling again next year in AAA? Are there A teams who will take the competition by storm and create new AA scoring records next year? I for one can't wait to find out!

Victoria Bradley
Bodyflight Aerodyne

VFS

Last year's winners the *Bad Lieutenants* found themselves up against more competition than ever before at this year's Nationals, as *Volare* put in a team consisting of Mikey Carpenter, Frazer Smith, Adam Mattacola, Ady Wild and Fabian Raidel. With such strong flyers it was set to get interesting, and both teams scored a whopping 21 points on round 1. The *BLTs* took a couple of rounds off *Volare*, then *Volare* took a couple back, but the scoreboard had the *BLTs* pulling ahead.

In the end the *BLTs'* training showed through and they finished with an excellent 13.3 average, a point and a half clear of *Volare's* still-impressive 11.8. Meanwhile, scratch team *VFS15* lived up to their team name by scoring 15 points over the eight rounds, giving them the bronze. Only last year an 8.5 average got the *BLTs* their gold, so they have upped their game by more than 50 per cent in 12 months... where next for the exponentially increasing level of UK VFS?



Milko receives gold medals in AA and AAA





8-way



Senior



Bronze
Supersonic8



Gold
Microclim8



Silver
Brit Chicks

With eight senior teams - the biggest number of teams in the category for years - the appeal of 8-way is clearly growing. *Brit Chicks* finally brought the competition for reigning champions *Microclim8*, following the ladies' strong performance at the World Cup only two weeks before. Despite entering the slim ranks of British 8-way teams who have delivered above a 10 average, the girls couldn't do quite enough to dent the lead of the boys. *Microclim8* showed their class and experience, pulling away from the girls gradually as the competition developed

and finally finishing a comfortable 12 points ahead of the ladies' 11.9 average. With this being a selection year for the World Meet 2012, will the boys want to go to Dubai or will the *Chicks* get a chance to show on the world stage what they can achieve after another year of training? Either way, British 8-way has undoubtedly benefitted from another strong team on the scene and early indications are that the girls will come back in 2012 to have another go for gold. Scratch team *Supersonic8*, a group of strong 4-way jumpers, posted some

respectable scores, but some spectacular exits, beating off the competition to take bronze. They provided competition for American team *SPX8* who had made the trip across the Atlantic to take part. *SPX8* team captain and big-way organiser Tom Jenkins was very impressed by the Hib machine: "It was easily one of the best and most efficiently run meets I have ever had the absolute pleasure of attending. The team was thrilled to have the opportunity to come to Hibaldstow to make some training jumps and the awesome experience of a great



Microclim8, by Jim Stevenson

Visiting American team SPX8, by Andrew Lovemore



“It was easily one of the best and most efficiently run meets I have ever had the absolute pleasure of attending



Sian's 1,000th jump with 8 A Cake, by Mike McNulty

8-way competition to learn from for our own Nationals in November.”

Simon Cathrine organised a 42-way in their honour following the competition, allowing the team jumpers to have a bit of fun and show that they can do big-way too.

With no training and a couple of line up changes, *Discombobul8* returned after enjoying the 2010 Nationals as a scratch team. They pulled off another 10 perfect exits, but couldn't hold their early lead over *Supersonic8*. Paul 'Chirpy' Housley explained: "We could see our improvement from last

year, but our performance perfectly shows the value of training. A) You remember the dive and B) you take the right grips! That helps to score more points!" But after two years of sweet exits and improving scores, Chirpy thinks that with a little bit of training, the team could do impressive things. Let's hope we see them back next year with a few training jumps under their belts.

In the intermediate category, four times 8-way champion Phil Curtis brought a talented team of young jumpers from Langar - *8 A Cake*. They won with a massive 24 point

lead over the other two scratch teams and were so far ahead by round 8, they had a bit of fun posing for some pretty pictures to celebrate Sian Stokes' 1,000th jump.

Silver medallists and local Hib jumpers *Reprob8s* suffered a rare 20 per cent penalty in the final round as they had no footage of the exit due to a camera malfunction, but they were safely in second, more than doubling the score of *St8 of Confusion*, who took the bronze.

Jo Hawley



Intermediate

Bronze

St8 of Confusion



Gold

8 A Cake



Silver

Reprob8s



Jessna, by Olly Burgin

Artistics

Newbies

This being the first year that *Team APA Jessna* had graced the Artistics Nationals with our presence, we only had a very rough idea of what to expect, based entirely upon the reports of others. After the registration forms had been handed in on Friday, we listened intently to the various briefings given to competitors while frantically checking weather reports, praying for some great Saturday weather... and bought the opponents tequila.

As luck would have it, the weather gods were on our side for most of Saturday. We got up unusually early for a weekend and drove towards the DZ. The sky was pure blue; winds were nil. Then, just at the turning for Hibaldstow, I remembered I'd forgotten our matching pink bun nets. We decided that our pink and white face paint should (hopefully) make up for our lack of hair co-ordination.

Turnout

The Artistic events were well attended, with four teams entering the Freestyle A class and five in the B class. There were two Freestyle A teams (*Airkix Freestyle* and *Freestyle 99.com*) and one in Freestyle B (*Team Alex*). Nationals kicked off to a great start, with regards to both the weather and first round scores.

Freestyle A

Freestyle A had a very good competition. It was very close between all the teams, with *Volare* only just hitting the lead with 8.1 in the first

round and staying neck and neck with *Kinetic* for gold. Round 3 scores from Freestyle A served to support the final outcome of the competition, although there was always the chance that the ever-increasing cloud could dictate otherwise...

Volare had a blinder of a round four, with an 8.4, which was also repeated in their next round. Finally, even though *Kinetic* were the highest World Cup-ranked British team, they took second place behind full-time freestyle coaches *Volare*, who took gold with 57.1 points. *Euphoria* were in bronze position with 49.6 points.

Freestyle B

In Freestyle B, *Area 99* came out top with 8.2 in the first round. There was not one team that scored below 6 (7 was the benchmark for Freestyle A competitors).

Compulsories were next and we came out top here in Freestyle B with our best score of the competition (8.0!) - we were super chuffed as this had been our worst dive throughout our practice jumps. *Area 99* came a close second with a 7.9, although still maintained the lead by 0.4 points.

With the introduction of a little cloud into the jumping arena came round 3 (routines), where scores were extremely close across the board. *RTFR* (*Read the F*****g Rules*) and *Volition* had 0.1 points between them, while *LSF* (*Leigh, Scott and Fran/Langar S*** Faced*) managed to secure a clear lead ahead of them both (I'm sure that was down to their

impressive exit move). Ourselves and *Area 99* came away with a nail-biting tie of 7.6. A tie between *LSF* and *RTFR* in round 4 of 6.3 levelled the playing field slightly with *Volition*, who were now making the most of their impressively technical exit move. *Area 99* took the lead with a 7.7.

The final hurdle

It was at this point that our team became somewhat hindered - Jess lost her trainer (we had matching ones) as we completed our final move. I say lost... it was more like I pulled it off while gripping on for dear credibility/points (in that order). If there are any local farmers reading, please can you have a look for her shoe as they weren't actually that cheap for such chavvy-looking trainers...

Despite having to wear un-matching shoes for our final jump, we pushed on. We had mastered the cycle of jump, land, retouch facepaint, repeat.

Every team competing put in an enormous amount of effort, proven by the outstanding flying



Bronze
Airkix Euphoria



Gold
Volare



Silver
Kinetic

Freely B



Bronze
LSF



Gold
Area 99



Silver
Jessna

The points were tight between us and *Area 99*, with cumulative scores of 30.7 and 31.4 respectively. *LSF*, *RTFR* and *Volition* had two points between them all and it was going to take something big to change the order that late in the day.

The second round of compulsories began in round 5, and we even let our face paint smudge as every team put their all into their final attempt for points. *Area 99* pushed out all the stops with an awesome 8.8, securing their gold medals with an overall score of 40. We were pleased with our 'looked-better-than-it-felt' round score of 7.6, which landed us silver medals. *LSF* took third place while *Volition* overtook *RTFR* to fourth place by 0.8 points.

Freestyle

Freestyle A was taken spectacularly by *Airkix Freestyle*, Al and Pixie, whose final move involved spinning off into the horizon literally as fast as a bullet. Cat Adam and Andrew Lovemore of *Freestyle99.com* took silver and showed consistently improving scores throughout the competition, finishing with a 7.3 for their routine on the final round that left Cat grinning. In Freestyle B, *Team Alex* took gold giving cameraman Andy Godwin his second medal of the competition - he also won bronze in Freely A with *Euphoria*.

So what of the future of Freestyle in the UK? - well it

seems that although the pool of competitors is small, the standard is very high. Al and Pixie improved on their World Cup bronze medal-winning score and are now only 2.1 points behind the score that won world gold. With a late Dubai World Meet in November 2012, they now have 14 months to train. With the support of Langar, Jan Wildgruber and Airkix, they truly believe they can close the gap even further and even push for the UK's first ever Freestyle World gold.

Shona Blainey & Jessica French, Jessna

Speed

This year there were four competitors in the Speed competition - three who had previously entered and myself. Simon Brentford and Mike Lovemore were both previous winners and Leigh Birchenough had a fast personal best, so it was looking like a good fight for the title of the UK's fastest man.

Once the competition started I was a little unsure about the best way to approach it - I had only ever done two speed jumps the day before. However, Mark Calland, a former world champion, was about and he gave me some very useful tips and advice.

Simon began with a very impressive 264mph, setting the bar high from the first jump. Mike and Leigh also scored fast speeds on the first round. I set a new personal best of 238mph, which I was very pleased with.

There was a lot of discussion about which outfit was most appropriate to score the fastest speed; Simon stuck with his tight lycra but, as this was a new area for me, I choose jeans and a T-shirt for a bit more stability. Mike and Leigh swapped between tight and slightly baggy trousers to try and get a more consistent average.

Mid-way through the rounds, Simon was getting consistently faster and, by the end of the competition, had managed to break his PB five times out of the six rounds. He scored an extremely impressive 283mph average on the final round, giving him a winning average of 280mph. Mike had a good competition but was slightly slower than last year and finished second with a 243mph overall average. Leigh scored some very fast speeds but had a few slower rounds, lowering his overall average. I managed to beat my PB on the final two rounds, which gave me an overall average speed of 240mph and third place.

My first attempt at the Speed event was a strange experience, but extremely enjoyable and addictive - you just want to jump again and go faster. Everyone was very helpful when it came to giving advice and tips for a better performance. I would definitely recommend that anyone who is thinking about trying it should have a go and see what you can do.

The UK Speed Skydiving Championships is an ISSA (International Speed Skydiving Association) sanctioned event. See their website for all Speed events and ISSA competition rules: www.speedskydiving.eu.

Finally, I and the other competitors would like to extend a huge thanks to Larsen & Brusgaard for sponsoring the event and providing some prizes for the winners.



Speed

Eddie Monteith

Freestyle A
Gold

Silver

Freestyle B
Gold

Silver

Gold

Bronze

Airkix Freestyle

Freestyle99.com

Team Alex

Eddie Monteith

Simon Brentford

Mike Lovemore

Canopy Piloting



Stu Meacock



Competitors after a run



Brian Vacher

The 2011 Canopy Piloting National Championships were held in July at the Rhine Army Parachute Association in Bad Lippspringe, Germany. This year saw a record number of competitors enter the national and open categories alongside the German National Championships - 38 in total. All the judges agreed that it was the largest national championship to be held thus far.

Bad weather greeted competitors on their arrival for the start of training and remained right up until the start of competition. There were several worried looks on some of the organisers' faces with regard to the success of the championship, but on the morning of the first day the skies cleared and remained clear for competitors to wow onlookers with displays of great skill.

Accuracy

The first round of accuracy opened in fine fashion with seven competitors scoring in the

national category. Brian Vacher and Martin Reynolds achieved maximum points, closely followed by Kieron Hayes. The second round saw further max points from Brian Vacher and Stu Storey. A successful third round from Stu Storey was enough to secure third place ahead of Stuart Meacock. Kieron Hayes proved his consistency by attaining silver, with the gold medal going to Brian Vacher.

Speed

With the threat of bad weather arriving on the second day of competition the judges took the decision to press on well into the evening completing the speed event. Once again Brian Vacher showed his experience by excelling in all three rounds into gold medal position. Spence Hogg and Martin Reynolds both put in excellent results, obtaining silver and bronze medals respectively.

By the morning of the second day of competition, only one round of distance

remained. The Met report was annoyingly correct, however, with high winds and showers putting a halt to proceedings on several occasions throughout the morning. A break came in the weather, allowing Brian Vacher and Martin Reynolds to show their skill and finish one and two on the podium. A great third round for Matthew Fogarty secured bronze.

The completion of the third round of distance ended another successful (injury-free) CP championship - a true testament to the professionalism of the judges, RAPA staff and competitors themselves.

Congratulations go to all medal winners but special thanks go to all competitors for taking part in the biggest CP Nationals since its inception. We hope to see you all back again at RAPA next year and more. Until then, in the words of the Commandant of RAPA: "Keep it long, fast, accurate and safe!"

Dougie Macpherson



Stu Storey

Overall combined results

National Category

- Brian Vacher - Gold
- Martin Reynolds - Silver
- Stuart Meacock - Bronze

Open Category

- Christian Wagner (AUT) - Gold
- Brian Vacher (GBR) - Silver
- Tobi Scherrinsky (GER) - Bronze

Martin Reynolds, Brian Vacher, Stu Meacock



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What's happening in Manchester?

Simon Cathrine

FS Scrambles is back hosted by UK National and European Medalist Simon Cathrine. He will be also hosting an FS Skills Camp.

The Bad Lieutenants

UK National Champions The Bad Lieutenants host an Intro to VFS.

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Escondido

All photos by Rob Frost

A monster British delegation of eight FS and Artistics teams descended upon the World Cup held in Saarlouis, Germany, followed by a Brit contingent of five swoopers attending the CP World Cup in the Czech Republic three weeks later. With the UK providing judges for both events too, read on to hear how they all fared...



Brit Chicks, by Jim Stevenson

World Cup 2011

UK delegation



Formation Skydiving in the UK has a strong following and with 55 teams in this year's National Championships, it was no surprise that we would have a strong delegation going to Germany. Three teams represented the Open 4-way: *Escondido*, *SonicNutz* and *Unagi*. The other 4-way team, *Bodyflight Aerodyne*, represented the UK in the Female 4-way class. Lastly, there was another well known all-girls team, *Brit Chicks 8*, who were in the 8-way.

Round 1 experiences

All the teams already knew each other reasonably well and that made for a great camaraderie and atmosphere both at the dropzone and in the hotel where we stayed. At 8am on day one, the first 15-minute calls were announced to beautiful weather. Chatting to various teams after their Round 1, they each had different experiences. For example, *Unagi*, who had won the AA class the previous year, felt the pressure and were nervous on the ride to altitude. Whereas, seasoned competitors *Brit Chicks 8* had had a lot of mental training from their coach Marco Arrigo and were well prepared. Kate Burn explained: "For us it was a case of let's have fun. Round 1 felt very bizarre in that we felt so prepared and unstressed." *Unagi's* objective for the competition was to do a respectable average and, round by round, they were consistently a point up on anything they had done before in training.

Escondido v Unagi

Between *Escondido* and *Unagi*, a friendly mini competition arose. *Escondido* had already been to the World Cup in Prostějov in the Czech Republic two years earlier. However, at this World Cup, *Escondido* sadly did not seem to have their mojo and were a few points down on their average. Chatting to Brian Cumming: "We simply did not seem to be firing on all cylinders, we didn't perform as we had hoped!" They did an 11.6 average scoring 93 points to *Unagi's* 100 points and a 12.5 average.

“” The strongest of the UK 4-way teams, though, were *SonicNutz*, who had done an impressive 300 jumps and 15 hours tunnel this season and 15 hours tunnel this season



Brit Chicks 8 after landing

SonicNutz

The strongest of the UK 4-way teams, though, were *SonicNutz*, who had done an impressive 300 jumps and 15 hours tunnel this season. Again, they also did not have the greatest of competitions. Darren explained: "All our practice rounds were great. Come the competition, we didn't perform. We seemed hesitant and our jumps didn't flow freely. After the first day, we regrouped and the rest of the competition was better."

Following a bad Round 5 however, they did start to pick up their pace and were able to move up a few rankings in the final three rounds, passing the French *Espoir NPC B1* and *B2* teams. Coming back from a poor start is a very difficult thing to do and is testament to their skills. They successfully qualified for the semi-finals and finished with a 14.9 average.

Interestingly however, both *Escondido* and *SonicNutz* came back with a vengeance at the UK Nationals. *Escondido* reversed their position with *Unagi*, and *SonicNutz* scored a fantastic 17.1 average, taking the silver medal.

4-Way Female

For those of you who know all about the 4-way Female category, the UK has had several World Championship gold medals. *Bodyflight Aerodyne* had changed two members of their team by introducing the talented Bradley twins. It was always going to be a tough competition as the French, Norwegians and Russians all had strong teams. A highlight for them was the final Round 10 where they equalled the Norwegians and beat the Russians. They finished with an almost



Bodyflight Aerodyne

A team perspective

Unagi at the World Cup 2011

After forming in 2008, *Unagi* found 4-way FS. In 2009, following a change in the line up, we established some long-term team goals, and relevant short-term goals were laid out: to get coaching, to focus on quality training and perform well in the UKSL competitions. After a great second year, in which we won UKSL and the UK Nationals in A, we raised the bar to compete in AA the following year. During 2009, we realised that our long-term goals were achievable, but that there was work to be done. The team line up also changed again.

A very ambitious but respectable goal of representing Great Britain at the 2011 World Cup was in our sights. We knew that if we won the 2010 UK Nationals in AA, which was an 'off year' as it was the year of the World Formation Skydiving Championships, this would automatically give us a place to compete the following year at the 2011 World Cup in Saarlouis, Germany.

2010 was a hard year, as getting to the World Cup wasn't going to be an easy feat. After recruiting two new teammates at the beginning of the year we knew that we would have to train harder than ever, as no doubt some talented teams would come out of the woodwork and compete at the Nationals for the much sought after place at the World Cup.

The UKSL meets came and went with great results, the training continued with our sponsors, Bodyflight Bedford and Skydive Hibaldstow. As the Nationals approached whispers of closet teams began to leak out as we felt our World Cup goal so close, but so very far away. The 2010 Nationals were a battle and the pressure built as we felt the opportunity to represent Great Britain in our hands. We'd done it! 2010 AA National Champions - *Unagi* had just won their place at the 2011 World Formation Skydiving Cup!

Then came the realisation that we were competing in AAA with some of the best teams in the world. There was no time to sit on our laurels, AAA is a whole new ball game and we would need to work hard in order to not embarrass ourselves at such a level; the rest, as they say, is history.

As a bonus to the whole experience, once qualified for the World Cup, *Unagi* were allocated a slice of funding from the BPA, which helped the team along.

Without doubt, being part of the 2013 World Formation Skydiving World Cup and GB delegation will be a fantastic opportunity for any new AAA team. If you're AA in 2012, work hard, sweep up and enjoy the experience!

Glen Lowerson

The World Cup has been my best experience in skydiving by far, it makes three years of team training and an empty wallet worthwhile

Jon 'garnish' Dundee



Head of delegation, Ash Kemp

identical score to *SonicNutz*, scoring a total of 148 points. When speaking to Rebecca Bradley, she said: "We were really pleased with our performance at the World Cup and we had loads of fun on every dive. A highlight for us was the very positive and supportive attitude of the teams who took part. It was the first experience of a global competition for two of our team and there's nothing quite like it. The atmosphere on the dropzone was buzzing from start to finish! We'd recommend anyone attend if they get the chance."

There was plenty of time between rounds, as the competition was held over five days, and this added some interesting dynamics for many of the newer competitors. Performing well after long gaps between rounds becomes harder. You have to keep yourself in the zone, be motivated and not waste energy chit chatting. This is what makes for a strong team at a World Cup.

Head of delegation

The role of head of delegation/team manager went to Ash Kemp (with Shane Wood acting as his sidekick). He could always be found at the emplaning area checking off the teams, conferring with the dropzone management to find out if particular teams could expect to finish Round 'xyz' that day. His help cannot be underestimated and he allowed us to concentrate on the job at hand.

Brit Chicks 8

Returning to the story of the 8-way team, *Brit Chicks 8* - they were very pleased to be ranked fifth out of nine teams. Their 150-jumps training and 15 hours tunnel had really paid off, to give them an 11.6 average. Their cameraman, Stikkos Janssens, also did brilliantly, having learned his difficult job in a single season.

At the top of their field, it was a battle between the US *Golden Knights* and the French *Aerodyne Maubeuge* teams. Only a few points separated them between rounds and it was amazing to see how fast and beautifully 8-way could be done. Going in to the final round, the French were ahead by only a point and there were many hundreds of people watching the big screens at the DZ. Rounds of applause emanated out as the *Golden Knights* pipped them to the post by a single point, scoring a 19 over a 17.

Personal experiences

On a personal note, I can remember back to the mid 1990s when I wanted to represent my country at world level - that was finally achieved this year. As an experience, it was more than I imagined it would be. Even though I knew my team *Unagi* was never going to beat the French in the 4-way, I felt honoured to have been there and will cherish the many memories and friends I made.

I would strongly encourage any AA teams competing next year to give it a go, train as hard as you can and represent your country. Put simply, I would jump at getting another slot at a World Cup.

Simon Brentford

All photos by Rob Frost



Unagi

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Artistics

Freefly

Going into competition as the under dogs, is something that *Kinetic*, Great Britain's 'second' team, are well acquainted with. After the usual scrimping and saving to afford some training jumps this year, something that I'm sure all the teams can empathise with, we turned up in Germany for this year's World Cup somewhat unprepared and were feeling a little nervous about how things would go. Luckily the weather just about held out and the team got in a few last minute jumps in order to polish and tidy up a few loose ends.

We were very nervous for our first jump but our cameraman, coach, mentor and all round team guru Jim Harris, of *Outbreak* and *BLT* fame, helped us to stay calm and focused by geeking us on the exit. *Kinetic* were in fun mode, nice work Jim, and that's just what we needed to get us on track for the rest of the competition. Round 1 went really well and when we heard our score we couldn't believe it! We had got a 7.3, my teammate, Pete Brookes, and myself just looked at each other in disbelief and laughed! To say we were delighted with that score would be an understatement.

After the first few rounds it was clear the French team *Kristal* and Norwegian team *42* were going to take gold and silver respectively, but third place was still open with us and the two Russian teams very, very close, at one point there was 0.2 of a point between the

““ **Seeing the more experienced teams and how they put their free rounds together has already given us a lot of ideas for next year**

three of us. Just below us and chomping at all of our heels were the Norwegian team *Sweet* and the most experienced UK freefly team, *Euphoria*, who were battling hard and still remained a considerable threat. This made the competition very interesting putting pressure on all the flyers.

By the last round we had definately started to relax, possibly relaxing a little too much as our Round 7 saw us make a bit of a slip on the very last portion of our jump. Nothing like coming out of a transition to see one of your teammates (have a guess which one) looking the wrong way! Eager to see how things were playing out all the freeflyers congregated in one of the TV tents to watch the scores for Round 7 as they came in. Knowing that we had potentially screwed it up, the waiting game was very nerve-racking. However

Kinetic - totem dive, by Jim Harris



“ With so many highly skilled freestyle teams representing at this World Cup the scores were going to be tight



Euphoria, by Andy Godwin



Airkix Freestyle, by Chris Cook

Freestyle

We had British Champions Al and Pixie of *Airkix Freestyle* representing the UK once again, who were hoping to build on their silver medal success from last year. There was some stiff competition from last year's gold medal winners - the French - and from the Americans, Finnish and a new team from France. From the start of the competition it was clear that the French first team were going to dominate, and that the French second team - in their first year of competing in freestyle - were going to be tough to beat on account that the performer was wearing a top hat, giving them an artistic advantage...

With so many highly skilled freestyle teams representing at this World Cup the scores were going to be tight but Al and Pixie, showing off super smooth and consistent free rounds, successfully held back the majority of the teams with only France one and two just managing to get ahead of them. Their awesome overall performance was reflected by their scores, closing the points deficit between the winners and themselves, from 10 points last year to just five points this year. The team are now expecting to close this gap even further at next year's world meet.

Al and Pixie had a great competition and would also like to thank Ash Kemp for doing a truly amazing job as head of delegation during the competition. Oh and we do too, nice one Ash. Thank you.

Charlotte Kemp

despite our mistake we still scored well for the round and secured fourth place for ourselves.

Meanwhile, *Euphoria* were disappointed with their seventh place and 5.7 average, feeling that they had been unable to please the judges. They regained their mojo a fortnight later at the British Nationals where they took the bronze behind *Kinetic*, upping their average to a much happier 7.1.

It was a really great competition and we enjoyed ourselves immensely. Seeing the more experienced teams and how they put their free rounds together has already given us a lot of ideas for next year. For us it was great to fly in such a tight competition with all the teams in the middle of the pack having scores so close together! Can't wait to do it all again next year!



THANK YOU!



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Canopy Piloting



Martin Reynolds, half way through a 'miracle man' in the freestyle trial event, by Iveta Zitkova

The World Cup of Canopy Piloting was held at Klatovy, Czech Republic, from 23-25 August 2011 and it just keeps getting bigger and bigger and the standard better and better. The event had 101 competitors from 25 countries, 70 of which were also competing in the 2nd FAI European Canopy Piloting Championships.

Meet director Uschi Iragorri did an excellent job heading up a safe and smooth competition. The site, and purpose-built pond, had been very well prepared for the event and a lot of hard work had obviously gone into the show. Even some trees around the pond had had to be removed for the safety of the competitors. A pre-requisite to holding a World Cup FAI event is that the landing area needs to be the same length as the world record distance plus 50m, and after Nick Batsch set the record at 222m at the recent PD Big Boy Pants event, this meant having a clear run for 272m from the entry gate on the pond, which is a long way on a small dropzone.

The weather conditions for the competition were as near to perfect and the nine rounds (three of each discipline; distance, accuracy and speed) with 101 competitors were completed in two and a half days.

Distance

The distance event was dominated by Nick Batsch, who collected 296 out of 300 possible points. Nick was flying the new N.Z. Aerosports Petra, and everyone at the comp was keen to see what this canopy could do after setting the distance record a few months ago at 222.45m. Both canopy and pilot did not disappoint.

Nick has been improving year on year, slowly closing in on Jay Moledzki's five-year domination of this discipline, and this year succeeded in defeating the champ. Building up incredible speed using an 810 degree rotation performed to expert precision, Nick used his trademark flat track flying posture to maximise the conversion of this speed into distance: pretty inspirational and a pleasure to watch.

Speed

Word on the street was that the Petra was a good canopy for distance, but not so good at the speed event...Wrong! Once again Nick dominated and, using his 810 rotation, was able to develop the power needed to score consistently fast times and to win. This event is usually the favourite, and normally the property, of Greg Windmiller from the US Army and this year he won two rounds but just went over the gate on one of the three.



Brian Vacher

“Nick has been improving year on year, slowly closing in on Jay Moledzki's five-year domination of this discipline



One of the nicest people in the sport, Pablo has established himself as Europe's best pilot

Accuracy

Jonathan Tagle put in three near perfect runs in the accuracy to win this event, collecting 294 out of 300 points. Jay Moledzski also put in an outstanding performance (as expected of him) and Pablo Hernandez also scored consistently near perfect runs.

Overall

Nick Batsch's lowest score was 71 in Round 4 of the accuracy event but he triumphed with either maximum or near maximum points in all other rounds - going on to win the overall by a good margin and establishing himself as the one to beat in future events.

The combined 2nd FAI European Canopy Piloting Championship was won by Pablo Hernandez from Spain. One of the nicest people in the sport, Pablo has improved year on year over the last six years to establish himself as Europe's best pilot (although Wuzi can never be ruled out in future events) and will be a serious contender for world champion in 2012.

The Brits

The UK team at this event consisted of Brian Vacher, Spencer Hogg, Alan Westley, Matt Sweeney and Martin Reynolds and all enjoyed the week.

Brian put in a few very good scores, but uncharacteristically missed a few gates while pushing for a big score, costing him the chance of a typical top placing. Spence and Wez from team *Heat* also had some mixed results. Spence showed some real form in the speed event, but a few other rounds let him down.

Both Spence and Wez do a lot of work for the Help the Heroes charity and put in a lot of effort trying to get the perfect picture of their poppy canopies to raise awareness of this worthy cause. Trying a little too hard to get the right shot, Spence clipped the water too fast and unfortunately went from 'help the hero' to 'score a zero!'

Matt also missed a few gates, impacting heavily on his score, but also put in some good runs. However, still fairly young to this event he's now got to a level where he can hold his own at a World meet. Martin (Dangerpants) Reynolds (a personal favourite of mine!) had a fairly good competition and managed to place 'top Brit', which I know he was happy about, putting in a fairly respectable score having played it safe and consistent on each run.

Finally, with the competition finishing early, there was time for a three round freestyle trial event. About 50 of the competitors entered to show off their tricks on the pond - a great event for both participant and spectator and a fun-filled finale to an excellent competition.

Martin Reynolds
Bad Lieutenants



Bruno Brokken



Overall winner Nick Batsch on an accuracy run, by Rod McCrory



Bruno Brokken



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25th (Friday) • 8-Way FS Competition

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10-Way Classic

Open to freeflyers and flatflyers competing side by side. The formations will also be posted on the Facebook page and Skydivcity.com. **Winning 10-Way, either Flatflyers or Freeflyers will have the 10-Way meet COMPED!!**

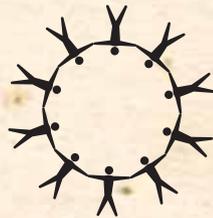
Rules — Formations are designed for both disciplines and are considered equal for this competition

- This event will be 4 rounds
- A team consists of 10 flyers and one camera flyer
- A team can enter as a belly team or a head down team
- There are 4 formations in the dive draw
- Each team will exit from 13,000 feet
- Maximum amount of working time is 50 seconds
- No show, anything goes for exit (no floaters)
- Clock starts when any part of a person or gear (excluding the camera flyer) breaks the plane of the door
- From the time the team exits to the time the formation is built will be timed
- The formation grips must be shown with control on the video for the clock to stop (a judge will judge and score the video)
- If a team does not complete the formation within the working time they will receive a 50 second time for that round
- The team with the lowest total time wins
- If there is a tie, the team with the lowest time in any one round wins

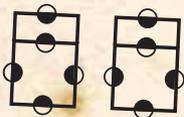
Head down



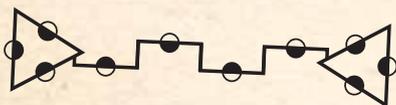
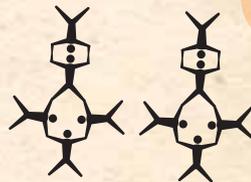
Star



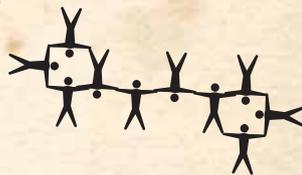
Belly



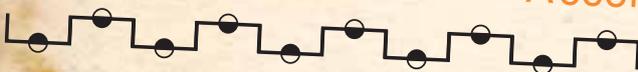
Side by Side



Pinwheel



Accordian



RELAX

....when you want to jump

Skydiving in the 1980s

80s jumper? Do you remember...

- tie dye?
- lycra?
- painted toenails on men?
- bumbags?
- boogie trousers?
- *Symbi* warmwear?

Yes? Don't worry, we won't tell anyone!



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Dear Member,

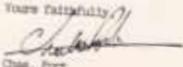
I enclose your Membership Renewal Form for the coming year.

The subscriptions made by members are extremely important to the Association and we appreciate your support. However we would remind you that your Membership Fee is due to be paid before the 1st April.

The amount due for payment for Full Membership is £23.00
 The amount due for payment for Joint Husband/Wife is £38.00
 The amount due for Associate (Non Jumping) is £17.60

If you wish to change your Membership or require any additional information please contact the BPA Office.

It is most important that renewal fees are sent by the due date to ensure that you are covered by the BPA Third Party Liability Insurance.

Yours faithfully,

 Chris Cole
 SECRETARY GENERAL, BPA

Robert Noble (D3470, BPA 32132) taken by Australian jumper Geoff McLaine using a hand-held camera while peering through the tiny focus-lens



Geoff Wood, Sian Pipes and Wendy Smith, by Simon Ward



The first all-girl 10-way, by Dave Waterman

Magic memories

I made my first jump at the end of the '70s when square parachutes were still very much a novelty and, at the DZ that I started at, a 3-way FS (or RW) jump was still a pretty big deal, especially as the aircraft only took three jumpers to 10,000ft (if it was cold, you were all light and there was enough fuel). However, the '80s claimed my formative years in the sport and along with dodgy hair-dos, early electronic music and the eventual reduction in the size of jumpsuits, my fashion and tastes were affected by this decade.



As a kid I had spent enough time at the DZ to amass a few heroes and put their posters up on my walls. Alongside Led Zep, Blondie and Jimi Hendrix were Symbiosis, Cleareye Express and Mirror Image – teams that inspired me and gave me my first dreams of competition.

The aircraft of choice in the UK, for the big DZs anyway, was the Britten Norman Islander, a twin-engine beast that hauled nine jumpers to altitude in 30+ minutes. These all lacked doors until the '90s when we got soft and also started crying out for turbine aircraft!

Static-line was THE way to start in the sport and, after spending a couple of years in the packing shed, I joined the ranks of instructors teaching the 40 or so people every weekend to make their one and only charity parachute jump. In 1984, Brian Dyas persuaded me to go to the USA and get my AFF rating. As one of the first UK instructors, we started Slipstream Adventures and got the ball rolling with a far more intensive and personal style of instruction. This suited me a lot more than the mass static-line market and it was fun to be involved at the beginning and help develop AFF, and then tandem, in the UK.

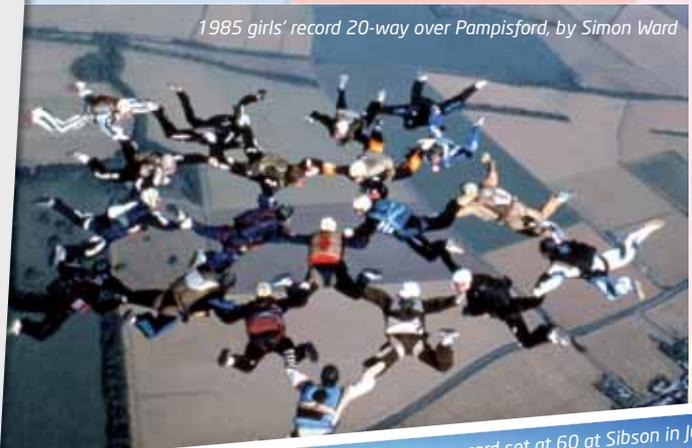
My first pilgrimage was to France, as my instructors had impressed upon me that the roots of the sport were also to be found there. It was a very enjoyable summer spent hitch-hiking to all the French DZs, each of which would stop jumping for two hours in the heat of the day and have a big lunch accompanied by wine, followed by a few more jumps in the cool of the afternoon.

Equipment was going through its own progressive streak and, alongside military front and back gear, you would find the first piggybacks and throwaway pilot chutes. I was fortunate to have gear to borrow – initially my mum's Papillon in a front and back Jerry Bird system and then my dad's huge green and white Wonderhog/Strato-Cloud with a belly band throwaway! By the end of the decade I was jumping 9-cell 168' Wildfires and slim Thomas Sports Teardrops.

In 1985, my first daughter was born and the competition bug bit hard. I was fortunate to be asked to join my heroes Symbiosis for their last year in competition; we won the 8-way and were third in 4-way. This gave me the opportunity to attend my first World Championships representing the UK, and cement a relationship with FS competition that lasts to this day. In 1989, we trained hard, making 300 jumps but still just missing out on a medal at the World Championships in Empuria.

Every UK skydiver growing up in the '70s and '80s had the idea that Zephyrhills was THE skydiving Mecca and, finally, just before the place split up and changed forever, I put all my possessions in a kit bag and along with my wife and young daughter made the trip across the pond...

Pete Allum



1985 girls' record 20-way over Pampisford, by Simon Ward

The decade ended with the British open big-way record set at 60 at Sibson in June 1989, by Simon Ward

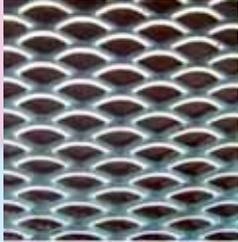


Ricahrd Branson, who disconnected his main just as his instructor opened it... cue a reserve ride! By Simon Ward

1980s experimentation...

Long forgotten?

At 76 years old, parachuting is just a memory. However, I was a bit of an inventor of the Slots parachutes, Parashapes and the Parachute Landings Simulator, all now long since forgotten.



Being entirely round-canopy orientated for half of my time in the sport, I sometimes thought about the radical performance difference between flat, circular canopies and the Lemoigne type, such as PCs and Papillons. One day, while such idle thoughts were present, I was sat at work in front of a loudspeaker with an expanded metal front cover, as shown on the left.

The idea for a new type of parachute was born. Why not make a single-layer square parachute with lots of drive slots all over it, which you can't do on a round?

Slots experimentation

First off, I made a small model to see how the idea would work. It did, so I tried to calculate how big it would need to be to carry me. Ram-air parachutes inflate to their actual size, but rounds do not. For instance, a 28ft diameter flat circular is only about 19' 4" diameter when inflated, so I needed to know how big to make it.

Not having access to a wind tunnel, one night in the dark, I lashed a pole on to my car roof rack, projecting sideways some six feet. The model was tied to the end of the pole while I drove and my son took photos by flash. This eliminated all background and gave the result required. The photo clearly showed the angle of the lines and since their length was known, the inflated size could be calculated.

The first full size canopy, Slots 1, shows the similarity to expanded metal (see below). Never having made a parachute before and not knowing if it would really work, Slots 1 was built of some very suspect, cheap rip stop and, as such, did not last long - six panels blew out completely on a terminal opening.

Slots 2 followed, quite a bit smaller and made of a fairly reasonable rip stop material that survived all the terminal openings it was put to.

All of the three Slots canopies were made with one-piece panels from stabiliser to stabiliser, though reinforced with tape where needed. These long panels are parallel lengths of material requiring no fancy shaping. Slots 2 had four lift panels (there were five on Slots 1) and two stabilisers, so just six panels all in all. It had three rows of six slots. Slots 3 was identical in size and shape to Slots 2, but built from F111 material and rigged slightly differently. On Slots 1 and 2, the trailing edge of one panel is joined directly to the leading edge of the one behind by tape, seven times on Slots 1, five times on Slots 2 and not at all on Slots 3, resulting in just three large slots from stabiliser to stabiliser. Slots parachutes were never developed to their full potential, there was no point, ram-air parachutes had taken over.



Slots 3



Slots 1

The invention of this type of parachute was successfully patented, though that has long been allowed to expire. Before being allowed to live-jump home-made parachutes, every stage had to be reported to the STC and all early jumps were on a cut-away rig. Later, Slots 3 did get approval to be used as a main parachute by C Certificate holders and above. Jim Crocker, who was the then STC chairman, arranged a £350 development grant paid to me by the BPA in recognition of the work carried out. Only two models of Slots 3 were built though. Four more are under construction: one in the UK, one in the USA, another in Canada and the last in Venezuela. Mine is on loan to Henny Wiggers at Paracentrun Teuge in the Netherlands.

Parashapes



WALLY parashape

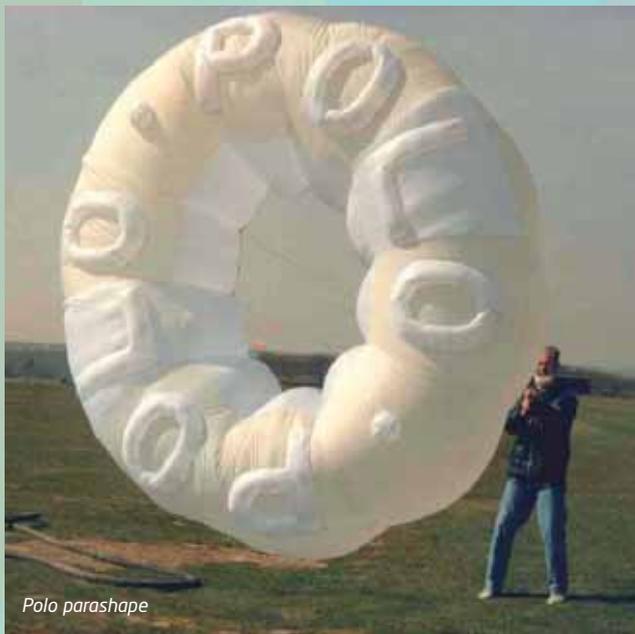
After the fun of designing, building and testing the Slots, the decision was made to try something completely different... Parashapes.

Leo Dickinson and Peter Reynolds had just launched their first Wally Gubbins video, so I wrote to Leo and offered to make a WALLY parachute. Not a parachute that said Wally on it, but a parachute - or perhaps five parachutes in formation - that said Wally.

WALLY was designed to be steerable, with the vain hope that it might be landed; this is why it was built to be read from below. On the first live jump, a pull on the right toggle did result in a slow, shuffling right turn. A pull on the left toggle caused utter confusion with all five letters thrashing about; cut-away time. After sewing all the drive slots shut, two more live jumps confirmed that cutting away was a good idea. WALLY was ready for Wally Gubbins. Only two more live jumps were made, enough for Leo to get all the filming required from above, and for Peter Reynolds to get the amazing opening sequence from a chest-mounted cine camera.



WALLY in flight



Polo parashape

Polos and VWs

After making two uncontrollable, unlandable Parashapes, I looked for a shape that would be easy to recognise and control. OXO was a thought because it reads the same from the back or front and above or below, but was too similar to WALLY.

Polo, the mint with a hole, was a nice idea so a 6' diameter model was made to test the lettering required.

Not wanting another copyright problem, permission was sought from Nestlé, who would not give it, but did send a large complimentary pack of Polo mints.

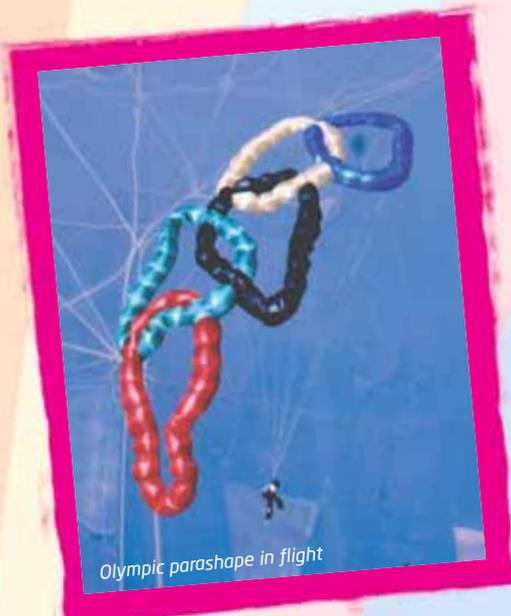
The next idea was the Volkswagen logo, for which the British concessionaires did grant permission, so it became Parashape 3. After it was built, jumped and photographed, pictures were sent to VW.

Some time later, I received a letter, in which they offered to fly me to the Ulster Air Show (which they sponsored), put me up in a hotel and let me jump the VW Parashape at the show... on the day of my daughter's wedding.

The VW logo was a safe, controllable but very slow canopy, always landing somewhere on the DZ, twice in the pit but never on the disc.



Volkswagen parashape



Olympic parashape in flight



My first live test was a bit disappointing; it opened, it supported me, but rather than resembling the Olympic Rings it looked like a bunch of coloured sausages

Olympic glory

Parashape 1 (WALLY) was followed by Parashape 2, The Olympic Rings. This idea was conceived sometime before the 1988 Olympics at Seoul, when we heard the Americans were rehearsing making a freefall formation of the Olympic Rings. Could we go one better and make an Olympic Rings Parachute?

In order to get the exact shape, the rings had quite a large diameter but very little width, so a massive parachute was required to support a man. My first live test was a bit disappointing; it opened, it supported me, but rather than resembling the Olympic Rings it looked like a bunch of coloured sausages.

Modifications were made, resulting in the rings tending to be oval but constantly changing in orientation. A further modification of adding radial lines across each ring, rather like the spokes in a bicycle wheel, gave much better results.

The rigging of the rings is rather complicated. There were 168 primary lines attached to the canopy, 40 secondary lines and 20 tertiary lines. Two extra lines were

needed, which acted as both secondary and tertiary, and there were also 50 radial lines. The lines were very, very long; they had to be for such a large canopy. This, in turn, led to a near 50 per cent malfunction rate caused by one ring opening before the others, stretching those lines and allowing the still unopened rings to pass through. All of the live jumps, bar one, were cut-away jumps. The resulting tangle of five rings and 280 lines usually took some five hours to undo, so progress was slow - never more than two tests per day. Finally, some decent pictures were obtained, then disaster.

When Leo offered his footage to the TV company, the first thing they asked was "Do you have permission to use this copyright

logo?". A hasty letter to the British Olympic Committee cleared things up; they even told me, so long as no more than 12 were made, they would turn a blind eye. By this time it was too late; the TV Olympic schedule was fixed and we were not included.

After a lot of expensive fun, including the Polo and VW creations (see box above), that was it - finish.

I'm still busy 'inventing' now, making things as a volunteer for Remap, a national charity that makes one-off aids for people with disabilities if no such suitable aid is available commercially. So far 82 people have my aids, every one tailor-made for them.

Dick Gays



Olympic logo in flight

A brief summary of the 1980s

(and the record that still stands)

It's almost five years since I last stepped from an aircraft; I get my adrenaline rushes from very different means these days, so my skydiving 'involvement' is reduced to the occasional nostalgic glance over my shoulder to what we considered the glory years of our sport and videos on YouTube.

Fun times

The 1980s were packed with new parachute technology, teaching methods, competition and outright unashamed decadence. Sky gods and sky goddesses pushed the boundaries, showed us the way, passed on their skills and taught the rest of us as parachuting stepped aside for skydiving and all of a sudden we were having fun.



Side view of the stack

24-stack World record

The people

In the early '80s the military clubs still had a grip on the central and developing scene, but that grip was loosening.

However, they began to open out and see the benefits by including civilians more and looked at new teaching techniques to keep pace with emerging design and canopy technology.

Accelerated Free Fall and the extraordinary phrase 'sensory overload' found its way across the Atlantic and allowed first-time students to launch from 12,500 feet; they stayed in the system and shone.

Then, hot on the heels of AFF, Tandem graduated from a training method to a commercial diamond, allowing profit, and a pattern began to emerge... not just a sport, but exciting, fun and outrageous weekends with healthy Monday morning accounting for DZ owners and operators. The sight of aeroconical parachutes and round reserves were blissfully resigned to history.

There were bigger and faster aircraft as clubs became more confident... we were on a roll; the sport was in good hands and things were happening. Happy days!



Parachuting stepped aside for skydiving and all of a sudden we were having fun



Snake stack!



Fun after break-off

The record that still stands

Allow me a moment or two of a little self-indulgence because, in 1986, a world record formed over Dunkeswell. A monolith 24 Corps coloured canopies held for 12 seconds and 25 years... the record is still to be beaten. Some of the attempts were more successful than others (see our snake stack!).

In the 1980s...

DC3s flew over Netheravon in a mass drop from 26 biplanes; an outrageous Hell's Angel band rocked until the early hours; and Skyfest was born. Wally Gubbins fooled around on VCR and the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics were opened by skydivers. We won



Inside the formation



A monolith 24 Corps coloured canopies held for 12 seconds and 25 years... the record is still to be beaten

gold in RW and silver at CRW World Championships. Teenage students and 80-year-old grandmothers experienced terminal strapped to the front of yahooping instructors and high fived as we unclipped our harnesses (on the ground!). AADs saved lives but low-hook turns took almost as many. More and more people arrived to take up skydiving now that it was becoming cool. Stars made way for big-ways of 100 or more and for us 'larger chaps' the unfortunate slide to spray on Symbiosis/Tony Suits invariably meant we were put in the 'base' or just went low! Lofty Thomas found himself in an 8-stack. People jumped off bridges, aerials, tower blocks in London and cliffs on the south coast and then, most bizarrely of all (and I still don't get it), people started to fly upside down, facing the wrong way in funny hats, but there you go...

Reflections

I enjoyed my Instructor, AFF, Tandem and competition days in the '80s. I miss the skydiving community and the time when more people had more money to spend on leisure weekends and foreign DZ skydiving holidays and thought we had the best of it. But I can't help but look on in awe at some of the 'stuff' that is going on now... it's staggering. Only in our sport can you have people so passionate that, 30 and 40 years on and looking very wrinkly (you know who you are), they still have the desire to skydive. I think that it was in the 1980s that skydiving developed so much to become a sport with longevity.



Nige Watson Clark



Magic memories

My memory of the eighties is of big parachutes (mine was a very large Fury), sky gods with open toe sandals and huge baggy, colourful sky suits and... those round reserves! July 1986 is a date I will never forget! A group of Physical Education students from University College Cardiff were doing a sponsored static-line jump for charity at Swansea Parachute Club. As their tutor, I was also planning to jump.

I went to Swansea airport to arrange it, only to find that Swansea Parachute Club was holding a Boogie with Tandem jumpers. I was persuaded to go up with Bob Smith – "you could be a sack of spuds" – and I was shown a video of an 80-year-old man, who literally was like a sack of spuds! So I went, at the age of 54, for an experience that blew my mind and has had me addicted ever since.

AFF and boogies

Dave Howerski made the controversial decision to allow me to do AFF, although some of his staff felt I was too old. A few adventures and misadventures (with Dave Hickling being my saviour) were to follow, but I was determined to be a skydiver and duly qualified.

Eventually a qualified skydiver, I went to the States whenever I could. I left numerous Wal-Mart \$20 tents at numerous dropzones, before acquiring my own trailer in Zephyr Hills and, when that dropzone closed, I acquired one in Marana, Arizona. It was great fun as, around the world, skydivers are the same: generous, enthusiastic, often funny and often broke, so these bases were shared by innumerable committed skydivers known and unknown, but without accommodation – a ready-made global family!

Unforgettable jumps

Memorable fun times include jumping into a remote ranch in California on the anniversary of Pearl Harbour (my, could those GIs boogie the night away!) and trying to identify tyre smoke on some vague spot roughly mapped out in the Californian desert.

Another unforgettable experience was jumping out of a Hercules into the Wadi Rum Desert (the first civilians to do so). This International Pops Boogie was a guest of King Hussein of Jordan and it happened to be my 65th birthday. It felt as if the whole show, camels, the four-wheel drives that took us into a Bedouin tent for entertainment and banquet had been put on for me and, again, did we dance under the stars!

In 2000, I was fortunate enough to take part in the Freestyle British Nationals and, although it was more to do with my teammate Tony Danbury (Team 110) that we got a medal (silver), it was the high spot of my life and undertaken with committed practice in swimming pools, NLP coaching and fitness training.

Last year, I am proud to say that Dean, Stan and I took part in Inside Out (a BBC Midlands programme). We skydived into Langar for the camera to show that one is not dead at 'retirement' age and that skydivers come in all ages, sizes and abilities, but all love life.

Thank you to everyone involved in making me a skydiver and allowing me to enjoy the sport for so long, though now I merely 'play' in the sky and have impromptu fun. I believe I'm the oldest female skydiver at 79 years old, and I'm still an expert at 'freestyle' landings!

Dilys Price OBE



Magic memories

In the summer of 1986 I was 22 years old, rode a motorbike and weighed 20 stone! I'd done my first three jumps at Bridlington a year earlier, but that seemed a long way to go from Derby, so I stopped. Then one day, a workmate told me about another place where he had

jumped. So I went along and retrained; well, it had been a year. My weight did raise a question or two but, as I'd jumped before (no weighing in at registration in those days), I was allowed to do the training.

The weather was not good that weekend but a couple of weeks later the winds dropped (10mph limit on rounds) and I returned. My instructor squeezed me into the kit, an Aeroconical main and I 24 front-mounted reserve. The seven of us walked out to the Islander, and I was off.

Now, when you weigh 20 stone, you may not be the most graceful thing on land but under canopy you are the same as everyone else... a jumper. I was the butt of many jokes on the ground but up there I could escape. You also learn how to steer your canopy into wind for landing and keep your feet and knees together when you land!

I progressed quickly and was off 'the rope' after about four or five jumps but, when it came to three-second delays, I hit the wall. After six or seven, shall we say, 'varied' exits, the same instructor that kitted me up for the first jump took me to one side and told me if my next jump wasn't a 'VGT' I'd be back on the rope and "I'd lose a bit of weight if I were you". I asked him how much and he told me the max should really be 14 stone.

I went home dejected – I'd tried to lose weight before but had always fallen off the wagon, as it were. I remember looking at my log book that night and making a decision that was to change my life. I'd tried lots of activities in the past in an effort to lose weight but nothing had made me want to as much as jumping. When I jumped I became a different person, not necessarily better, but the person I wanted to be. The diet started.

On 1 August 1986 I weighed 20 stone, on 1 February 1987 I weighed 12 stone – it's amazing how fast weight falls off when you're on a 600-calories-a-day diet and no booze!

I kept jumping throughout my dieting (yes, my next jump was a VGT and I never did go back on the rope) and, about three months in, another instructor asked me what weight I'd got down to. I told her the weight I'd put on my medical declaration before my first jump. She was shocked and asked me what I had actually weighed; when I told her, she replied: "If I'd have known that we would never have let you jump."

"That's why I didn't tell you," I answered with a smile.

I remember one day going to the packing shed and my regular 'larger' round canopy (a PX) was being used, so I picked up a C9, landed it in the pit and never looked back. My first square was a Hercules, a huge light blue canopy that took me half a dozen jumps to manage a stand-up landing, but it was all fun. A group of us started a 'club' called the Leaping Lepers and we did some fun, if a little unorthodox, jumps. Friendships that last a lifetime are made in this sport, no question.

Jumping changed my life in the '80s, and in the '90s I decided to give back. In 1993 I became an Approved Instructor and then a Tandem Instructor in 1996. To me there is nothing macho or gung ho about our sport, it's just something I believe everyone should try... if only once!

Phill 'Hippo' Allen D8279

Contributors

Phill Allen
Pete Allum
Dick Gays
Dilys Price
Jackie Smith
Simon Ward
Dave Waterman
Nigel Watson Clark

Were you a '90s jumper?

We are gathering together pictures and stories from jumpers in the 1990s for next issue's look at skydiving through the decades. We can only print what gets sent, so email your memories and any accompanying images by 25 October to editor@skydivethemag.com

A ROYAL OCCASION



Above: Bob Charters receives the Prince of Wales Trophy on behalf of the Mountain Men from I.R.H.

Left: Bob won gold and silver at the very first CRW World Meet at Z-Hills in 1980

BPA news bites from the 1980s

1000th JUMP AND FLYING HOUR

Ex-Red Devil Dick Kalinski made his 1000th jump and reached 1000th flying hour on the same sortie. Dick an Army helicopter pilot flew in a display at 656 Squadron Army Air Corps Open Day and then banded the controls over after reaching his 1000th hour and did a parachute display.



A MOST ADVANCED LADY

Jane Buckle the first female advanced instructor, the first woman to receive an AFF and Tandem Rating. Jane is photographed at Bridlington after receiving her awards.



WANTED VIDEO OPERATORS!

The B.P.A. video is only as good as the operator. To ensure both competitors and judges can make full use of the equipment in future National championships, the Competitions Sub-committee are anxious to train a number of genuinely interested voluntary operators.

The picture above shows Danny Hennessey operating the video at this year's RW National Championships.

For the technically-minded, the equipment consists of a 400-1,000mm zoom lens (electrically operated); a JVC 1900 KY video camera; and a JVC U-matic portable tape-recorder.

Anybody interested, contact Dave Waterman (0242) 35982.



NICK'S AWARD

In June last year the Army 8 way team were training at Netheravon prior to the Nationals. During one of the practice dives from the Islander at 7,000ft, the exit funnelled and Jim Scarrott who was centre floater was hit and his container opened and the bag and canopy deployed leaving the pilot chute in the leg strap pocket causing a horseshoe type malfunction.

Nick Harrison, a member of the team, was not involved in the funnel and saw the problems that Jim was having. He flew over to him and attempted to release the pilot chute. On his second attempt he was successful and both jumpers ended up under their main canopies at a reasonably safe height.

Nick Harrison was awarded the Commander in Chief United Kingdom Land Forces Commendation for quick thinking and courageous action, which prevented a possibly fatal accident.



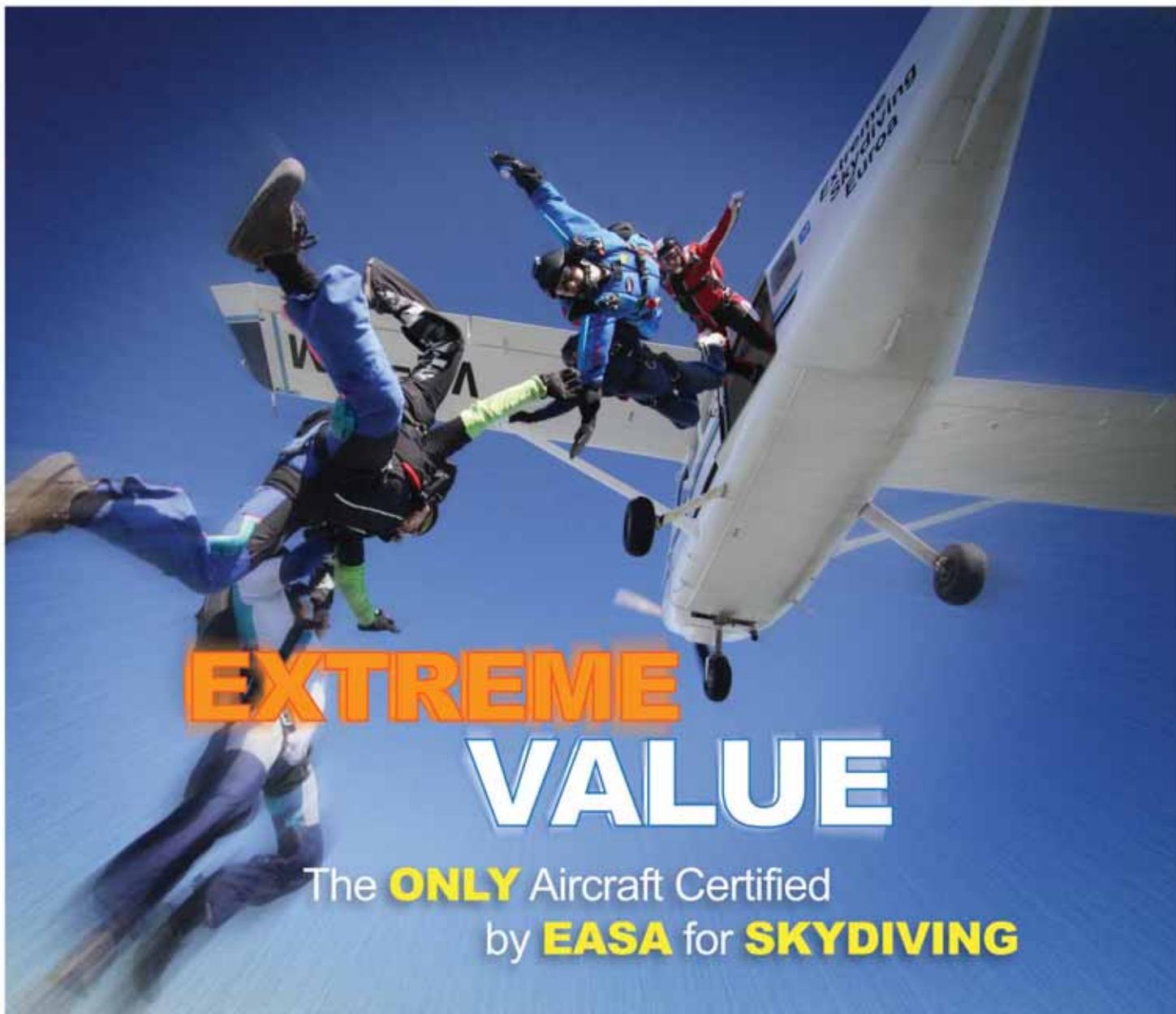
The photo shows Nick receiving his award from the then Chief of the APA Brig. K. Jebens in the presence of Nick's fiancée Tracy.



Photos By: Nik Daniel & Brian Festi

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Lloyd Newell

14 April 1979 - 16 June 2011

Lloyd touched many lives. Everyone *who* knew him saw his immense passion for life. This rubbed off on all of us. Many people will remember Lloyd for his infectious smile and Weetabix sideburns, always looking cool and always ready with a witty comeback.

Lloyd was an Essex boy through and through. In his younger years he was a self-proclaimed boy racer. Even in his 30s he was still trying to pimp up an old van with flash alloys. Lloyd was often at the centre of many pranks, jokes and *Dares*. If not instigated by himself, he was more than happy to join the banter, much to someone else's demise. Although, it has to be said, he didn't like to be on the receiving end!

His love of parachuting started in the military, completing pre-Parachute selection (P Company) and his Basic Parachute Course in 2000 and 2001. Having caught the bug,

he attended a RAPS course at Netheravon in 2003, progressing quickly on to longer delays and then completing his full AFF. Having joined the Elite Pathfinder Platoon in 2005 his jumping continued to progress, completing his FS1 and moving on to camera work with several trips to DZs in California.

It wasn't long before he'd saved up for his first rig, helmet and alti. An old tatty jumpsuit he wore came courtesy of the RAF, with the grips dyed black so as not to arouse suspicion. Lloyd would never turn down a freebie...

Spare weekends were spent jumping with friends such as Frenchy, the two Toms, Andy and many others at various DZs including Netheravon, Old Buckenham and UK Para's new DZ at Beccles. It was while jumping at Beccles that he achieved one of his greatest *wins* in skydiving - getting a free jump ticket from Tommo. It must have been his Essex charm!

Lloyd was a man of many talents - within the military he served with many units and several cap badges. He completed some of the toughest courses the Army had to offer.

Lloyd was sadly killed while on operations in Afghanistan on 16 June this year. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind a wife, a young daughter and many, many friends.

Lloyd we will remember you. Blue skies and see you on the next Ronnie Way.

Tom Grady

“Lloyd was a man of many talents. He completed some of the toughest courses the Army had to offer



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ANDY RING

“Andy will be long remembered by the thousands of people who came into contact with him over many years through his love and enthusiasm for skydiving

I first met Andy in 1979 when I started the Headcorn Parachute Club. By that time he already had several hundred jumps. He was a popular character and Treasurer of the, then, weekend-only British Parachute Club.

Andy stayed with us and became a static-line instructor in the early 1980s, with tandem and AFF ratings soon to follow.

For the greater part of his adult life, skydiving, Headcorn Airfield and, in recent years, Headcorn village life were - apart from his profession - very much what he lived for.

Andy had no siblings and lived with his parents in Maidstone until he was approaching 40, when he moved out and bought a house close to the parachute club in Headcorn. He was not the best communicator in the world, partly due to being rather deaf and having a tendency to mumble when speaking. But despite this, he was an excellent instructor with a huge depth of knowledge and plenty of time for all.

The perception that he may have been lacking in the personality department was more than made up for with a strong determination to succeed and by constantly displaying not inconsiderable courage in the face of the challenge that is life. This is admirably proved by his colourful and successful career in the parachuting world over the course of some 35 years and 3,600 jumps.

Andy had his own personal and, let's say, unique sense of humour. He had the ability to laugh with others and at himself. In the early years he became known as 'Andy Ring the Cutaway King' after three cutaways in as many weekends during 1979. It was with some affection that he was also known as Droid (as in Android), which although rather irreverent, he saw the funny side of and enjoyed it nonetheless - he was certainly not unaware of his own personality traits. His more universal nickname, however, was Ringo.

As a club member, Andy was invaluable; he was involved in all aspects of club life. He was the first to volunteer for any of the myriad of tasks that go with running an active dropzone or any other non-parachuting club activity. You could rely on him to do whatever task it was conscientiously and to the best of his ability. If anything needed doing and he could do it, all one had to do was ask. Apart from instructing for many years, he was also the weekend face of the club's shop.

Although Andy never married and has left no close family, he will be long remembered by all of his many friends at Headcorn Parachute Club and village, and by the thousands of people who came into contact with him over many years through his love and enthusiasm for skydiving. These are not just close to home but spread far and wide around the globe.

Andy was a particular character and is a great loss to us all.

David Parker

Ringo sadly died in August following a non-skydiving accident



James' 50th jump



James climbing Chimborazo, Ecuador

JAMES BROWNHILL

30 September 1988 – 1 July 2011

James Brownhill first started jumping at Cark as part of the Manchester Skydive Club in 2009 when he began his RAPS. He qualified within 23 jumps and soon started really enjoying everything from FS to tubes and shuttlecocks, with the aim of getting into freeflying. On Sunday 19 June 2011, James left Cark for the last time, after what he described as "one of the best weekends at Cark ever". On 1 July 2011, James died while climbing the Frendo Spur in Chamonix, doing the only thing he loved more than skydiving.

James' passion for climbing was echoed in the list of places he'd been and the climbs he had accomplished in a short 22 years. Most notably, James had summited Mont Blanc (twice), climbed Volcan Chimboraza, Pisco and the spine of the Andes. James was a very caring individual - this was shown when he and his brother helped a seriously injured climber in the Italian Alps.

This caring nature was also reflected in his choice of career; he had just graduated with a 2:1 in physiotherapy and was pursuing a role within the NHS. Despite being a 'poor' student with expensive hobbies and travels, and being pushed for time while undergoing unpaid, full-time placements, he always found time to help massively with the uni club. At freshers' fayres, at the DZ, at meetings and, of course, on drunken nights out, James was an essential and irreplaceable part of our lives, with an unmatched capacity for compassion. He was always interested in how people were, available for a big hug if something was wrong and always up for a laugh. When it came to taking the piss, he always gave as good as he got, with a big grin on his face.

A testament to the love he had for others was reflected at his funeral where there was standing room only. A packed-out ceremony - represented by friends not only from school and skydiving, but climbers, hockey players, travelling buddies and Scouts to name a few - remembered James for who he was. One thing that was clear from the funeral was how much he meant to so many people, not least to his family. James leaves behind his parents Gary and Christine, elder brother Tom, twin brother Joe, and girlfriend Sinéad. Although James and Sinéad hadn't known each other long, it was clear how

James and twin brother Joe climbing a Chilean volcano



much they meant to each other. Our thoughts go out to all who knew and loved him.

After the funeral, a large flock of skydivers descended on Cark, where the BCPA Nationals were just beginning to start. Many of us first remember James from the early days of the RAPS course and, in the best tribute we could think of, we all went back to that first static-line jump. It was one of the best and most memorable jumps we have ever had. Perhaps fittingly, James actually packed one of the rigs we jumped and Cez had to endure nine twists! We can't be certain if it was ALL down to the pack job though...

James was an essential and irreplaceable part of our lives

There is one thing that we can all be sure of. Like the rest of us, he loved having even the smallest picture of himself in the Mag. It is fitting, then, that he has this whole page to honour and remember someone who, above all, was a mate we couldn't forget if we wanted to.

Due to James' love for climbing, his family has set up a memorial fund to help encourage a higher level of safety, good practice and sustainability within university climbing clubs. The fund will award volunteer leaders with bursaries to undertake courses to develop safe climbing practices for teaching new and experienced climbers: justgiving.com/James-Brownhill-Memorial-Fund.

Nick Markham, Karen Pickering & Manchester Student Skydivers



James with fellow skydiver Matt Enright

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Rob Colpus >>



It's all the Rage



The Rage, by Paratec

The guys from Paratec in Germany tell us that they've recently been working on some fine-tuning upgrades to their innovative 'Rage' main canopy range. The Rage concept was first introduced to the skydiving world in 2001.

The principal aim behind the Rage design was to create a 'stiff' wing where the airflow at the leading edge is smooth and not disturbed and broken as it is in most conventional ram-airs, where the pressurised air passing out and over the front of the cells at the nose is met by new air trying to get in, thus creating a collision of air spilling over the top surface and destroying lift.

The Rage attempts to alleviate this by the addition of a flap of fabric inside the nose of each cell, along with the top skin at the leading edge extending inside each half cell, which channels the air via two gaps or valves. Those Teutonic aerial boffins at Paratec tell us that this arrangement not only pressurises the air trapped in the nose but also encourages the escaping air to trickle out

under the nose, thus not adversely affecting the all-important airflow over the top surface.

The company informs us that it has recently been working on the planform (shape) of the wing using state-of-the-art 3D design applications, as well as on its performance dynamics. The main change, though, has been made in the sizing – it is keeping a 107sqft model but, in the new form, has added a 118, and will round up the product line with a 129. The smaller sizes (86 and 97) will then be discontinued.

Paratec believes that the new Rage fits somewhere between a 'conventional 9-cell' and the very high-performance 'cross-braced' designs, such as the PD Velocity or Icarus Extreme, as favoured by the top swoopers. It believes that there are plenty of jumpers out there who are a bit tired of "just another 9-cell" but do not particularly want to be a swooper on a pocket rocket, and the new Rage should fit that bill nicely.

paratec.de/en/new-rage

Incompatible compatibility

A battle of words is steadily brewing in the sport parachute manufacturing industry concerning so-called 'approved compatibility' between items built by different manufacturers.

Responding to a recent published statement by the United Parachute Technologies (UPT) company in Florida, which made the point that it does not endorse or approve the use of any canopy other than their own in its Sigma tandem system, Aerodyne inc, who manufacture a popular tandem main canopy – the A2 – responded with a lengthy rebuttal.

Bill Legard of Aerodyne pointed out that: *"The United States Federal Aviation Administration, which issues TSO certificates, has granted NO manufacturer any right of 'approval' of main parachutes. They allow for a TSO of a harness/container and of a reserve canopy. While many tandem manufacturers like to speak of a 'system', it is important to understand that in the eyes of the FAA, there is no 'system'. There are TSO'd rigs and TSO'd reserves, and any rigger has the authority to determine compatibility of their components."*

They went on to say that it is every manufacturer's right to endorse what they wish, but neither the FAA nor the FAR (Federal Aviation Regulations) give any manufacturer the right to 'approve' main parachutes. They pointed out that Aerodyne can, and does, say that it approves the use of an A2 main in a UPT Sigma system, but that its 'approval', like UPT's, amounts to a recommendation only.

Legard went on to answer UPT's claim that it has tested the Sigma as a complete system, by claiming that these tests are UPT's internal tests and have no FAA standing. He said that while UPT may have tested certain components together, the FAA process requires separate submission of test results for reserves and test results for harnesses and containers.

Aerodyne were keen to point out that there are in excess of 100,000 documented tandem jumps around the world in which A2 canopies were used in Sigma rigs without any compatibility issues arising.

He finished his statement by attacking UPT's warning that *"the usage of a tandem canopy not recommended by UPT will result in the end user assuming all responsibility for any and all consequences and damages"* and countered with: *"If you read UPT's user agreement you will see that you also accept all responsibility and indemnify UPT if you do use UPT equipment. The bottom line is really this: if you use a complete UPT system, you are responsible and hold them harmless. If you use a UPT system with an Aerodyne A2 main, you are also responsible and must hold them harmless."*

Me thinks this debate is not over yet...

Night moves

Alti2 inc have posted a warning to all Neptune, Neptune 2 and N3 audible owners who intend to make a night jump that certain rules need to be observed.

The company tells us the Neptune, Neptune 2 and N3 audible have an electroluminescent backlight, which is necessary to see the display in low light conditions, including night jumps.

If the backlight is enabled, when you're on the ground or in the aircraft the backlight will illuminate briefly whenever you push a button (it does not stay on to conserve the battery). When the unit detects that you've left the aircraft and switches to freefall or canopy modes, the backlight will stay on until the unit returns to ground mode.

It's important to note the following, say the Alti2 people:

- 1 The backlight drains the battery at a much greater rate than normal operation, so ensure you use a fresh battery for night jumps.
- 2 The Neptune and N3 are primarily designed to be used as a visual OR audible altimeter. The unit will not support both the backlight and alarms being active at the same time. For safety reasons the alarms are given priority. If you're using the unit as a visual for a night jump, make sure the freefall and canopy alarms are disabled. If the alarms are not disabled, the backlight will go out during the period that an alarm is sounding.

alti-2.com



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Photo: Gary Wainwright



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Liz Ashley >>

All stitched up



X Thread pull with broken stitching

Dropzones often have little places where your canopy can snag on something as you walk back from a jump, whether it's a fence post, the DZ bus or a corner of the packing shed door. It goes without saying that if you catch your kit on something, stop and carefully untangle yourself – but you may have gained a thread pull in the process. If the thread has not broken, the seam should be manipulated back to normal before the next jump. This is quite easy to

do by just straightening out the bunched-up part until the stitching is even again. If this is not done then the thread will almost certainly snap on the next opening. Keep an eye on it after that to make sure no further damage occurs, but the chances are it will be back to normal.

If the thread has already snapped, as in the picture, then a judgement call is needed as to when to fix the broken stitching. It is an easy fix for a rigger to do – they will simply cut off the loose thread and stitch a new line of stitching that crosses the gap and overlaps the remaining good stitching at both ends. Canopies have double lines of stitching and so a small gap in one will probably be fine for the rest of the day only, especially if it is a non-load-bearing seam and it is the secondary line of stitching that has broken. However, it should be checked after every jump and if it shows signs of getting worse, it should be fixed immediately. If it is a load-bearing seam that is damaged then there is a higher risk of it getting worse over the next few jumps, and if it is a cross-braced canopy then it should probably be mended straight away.

It's one of those problems that's not got a clear-cut answer as to when it NEEDS repairing, so advice is hard to give. If in doubt, or it gets worse on the next jump, stop jumping and take it straight to a rigger.

Brake fire

Most jumpers will experience a brake fire at some point. It happens when a toggle releases prematurely during opening, and can be due to bad packing or incorrect stowage. It will usually lead to an abnormal opening, as instead of a nice even deployment, the canopy will be on half brakes on one side and full drive on the other. If the toggle fires at a late stage in the deployment, then the result is likely to be a good canopy that is turning, but that can be corrected by releasing the other toggle. However, if the brake fire happens early on, as in this photo, then the canopy has much more time to become uneven during the deployment itself, leading to twists, as is happening in the photo below.

Quickly releasing the opposite brake is still probably the best course of action if possible, but it may be the case that the twists have 'locked in' the unevenness in the canopy. If so, then instead of kicking

out of twists on a nice level canopy, you may find yourself trying to kick them out while stuck in a half-brake spiral. The chances of you needing to cut away and use your reserve are pretty high at this point! Other things to be aware of are that you can rapidly lose altitude while trying to sort the problem out, and that you do not have full control of your canopy while doing so, so cannot avoid other canopies. Recent incident reports have shown jumpers being surprised at just how much height they lose in a continuous spiral, so have one good attempt to fix the problem and then do your drills if you can't.



Out of the loop



When it comes to closing loops, it isn't just the loop itself that can wear out. Damage can occur anywhere along it – in this case a tiny nick on the metal washer was wearing away the material just above the knot. This will usually be hidden under the grommet that holds the loop in place, so make a point of checking it every so often. Remember, if the washer has caused the damage then that will need replacing too, along with the loop.

WHAT IF?

We ask the questions... you provide the answers. The aim of this section is to get people thinking about abnormal skydives and considering how they might react. There often isn't a 'right' answer, and the situations are deliberately vague to allow for maximum discussion around the DZ. After all, isn't it better to cover every angle while on the ground, with input from all your local hotshots, than to have to work it out for yourself under pressure when it happens? Do not change any of your drills without first consulting a BPA instructor and/or your CCI.

What if...

- ...someone you don't know asks to jump with you?
- ...you are at the emplaning point. It seems a lot windier than where you were on the flight-line. An experienced jumper takes themselves off the lift and starts walking back.

REPORT IN CONFIDENCE

These kind of safety articles rely on people sending me their stories – so please do!

Liz Ashley

editor@skydivethemag.com

– in complete confidence

CLUB ZONE

For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com

The three-DZ tour group, by Johnny Moore

Sibson

skydivesibson.co.uk



Grant Lancaster (after 1,800+ FS jumps) finally has a go at freefalling! By Andy Sauer

40th birthday 40-way, by Scott Mackenzie

Happy birthday!

What a great time we are having at UK Parachuting Sibson at the moment. Since our last club news we have had a couple of open weeks as well as our usual Thursday-Sunday operation, not forgetting the 40th Anniversary Boogie week, culminating with the hangar bash. The open weeks have proved a great success. Fun jumpers and AFF are really keeping the aircraft flying and much fun is being had by all. This issue's club achievements really reflect the amount of jumping that has been going on.

This year saw Sibson have its 40th birthday. Sibson is the oldest civilian parachute club in the UK and has a rich history. The Boogie week started with a little bit of bad weather, low cloud, etc. As the weather started to lift we managed to get the helicopter up to cloud base of just under 3K, allowing for some interesting hop and pops.

The three-DZ tour went down a storm. We basically filled our aircraft full of jumpers and jumped into Chatteris. Once packed and ready, we then flew in to UK Parachuting at Beccles and jumped in there. Again, all packed, we flew back to Chatteris and jumped in again before the final flight and jump back in to Sibson. Initially, the guys were jumping in their normal groups, FS and FF, etc. But on the way back, the guys really got in to the spirit and were doing 16-way hybrid jumps. Watch this space for next year's tour, which is rumoured to be going further afield including an overnight stop. Contact the DZ for more info.

A number of our regulars completed their first demo jump on to the local Caravan Park, thanks to Mark Harris for organising this. We are looking to do another one before the end of the year so come along and get signed up. We also displayed into a local military show at Ramsey and congratulations to Rod Crews, one of our pilots, for his first demo.

Skydive Choreography had planned to do 40-ways, however the weather was not kind; the third and final attempt of the Boogie was the sunset jump, Paul stepped in with a 20-minute call and the 40-way was built. All 40 people docked just in time for break off. Thanks to all the organisers and plane captains Brian, Caroline and Caroline. Also massive thanks have to go to Rob Titchner for making three aircraft mock-ups in a day for the 40-way crowd to play with during their downtime.

The party in the evening was held in the canopy-decorated hangar. Andy Lapsley had made up a bar and mortgaged his house to stock it. The party was 1970s-themed! Chris McCann the CCI just pulled his costume out of his wardrobe while Grant Richards went crazy on eBay, including some bright purple Converse (rumoured to be still in use). Nick Davison just paraded round in his undies, which was nothing to write home about, while Grounded played a great set, with some guest appearances from Chris Hollis and an amazing performance by Zolo on drums. Grant's brother Matthew spun the decks until the early hours. It was also great to see some old faces, including John and Sue Meacock and one of Sibson's past CCLs, Ronnie O'Brien.

So over the Boogie week, we managed 105 lifts; 100 in our Caravans and five in the helicopter, making a total of 1,387 jumps! A great 40th birthday party. We are now planning the 41st Boogie! Watch this space.

At the time of writing, our teams are just back from the Nationals. *Escondido* managed eighth in AAA and a 14.1 average. *Raykipo* picked up the bronze in A with a 10.1 average. Well done, guys, from all of your followers at Sibson. For all of UK Parachuting Sibson's forthcoming events please check out www.skydivesibson.co.uk/events or follow us on Facebook.

Paul Dorward

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Asa Murphy, Tony Spittle, Clare Kirby, Steve North **FF1** Emma Pilkington **WS1** Jon Moulder, Chris Horrabin **WS1&2** Charlotte Fletcher, Sam Matthews **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Gemma Harris, Eoin O'Mahoney, Andrew Cobb **100** Suzi Scott **200** Liz 'Basil' Soley, Lesley Kent, Ben Barber **300** Joel Edwards, Pam Hawes **400** Chris Begley, Joanne Dawson **500** Johnny Moore, Peter Colville, Liz Moor **700** Alison Chapman **1,000** Matt Robinson **1,200** Damo Hewitt **1,900** Michael Wilson-Roberts



Emily Plant, by Paul Dorward

Duncan geeking, by Kev Coffey

CLUB ZONE

For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com

Cark

skydivenorthwest.co.uk



ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Mohammad Asghar **Cat 8** Ali Woodhouse, Kieran Bridges, Thomas Hynes, Alec Hennis, Stuart Howarth, Sam Lee, Lauren Choong **IS1** Marc Fletcher, Ailwyn McGeoch **FF1** Nick Markham **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Steve Steward, Ali Woodhouse, Lawrence Fsadni **100** Cez **300** Mark Atherton **2,000** Gary Turner **3,300** Peter Connor



Pete, Gaz, Les and Duncan in action, by Kev Coffey

A tribute to James

It was with great sadness that we received the news that we had lost a very close friend and a truly great skydiver when James Brownhill was taken away from us in a tragic climbing accident. James' first love, climbing, had taken him all over the world and his second love was skydiving. He leaves a very big space in the university skydiving fraternity and will be sadly missed by all at the centre. In memory of James, his very close uni buddies completed an 11-out-on-one-pass static-line load, which on final approach was simply amazing, with all 11 canopies in the same colour scheme. Go to page 54 for his tribute.

Love is in the air, with Steve Hankey popping the question to the new love of his life Amanda. He finally plucked up the courage and surprised Amanda with a tandem (how unusual!). It's fab to have Amanda on the team and congratulations from us all.

Cark Week started off full speed ahead with brilliant blue skies and zero winds. Mike and Duncan swapped seats for chutes as they juggled the

flying with the jump programme. Dan, Helen and Gary assisted our student programme with refresher and progression training. Noggin kept the camera team in order with his miraculous bar chart tally, ensuring no one missed out, while Dennis smothered his head in factor 50. Sadly the weekend passed and the weather began to decline and by Wednesday we had horizontal trees and an outside swimming pool. Our week ended again in an abundance of sunshine and smiling faces, with quite a few of our regular students becoming qualified. Well done to all our achievers and thanks to all our hard-working staff.

Steve Freakes and Sarah Garrett made the most of the centre being closed for the steam fair and got married. The weather was lovely (typical) and, as usual, the skydivers hung around the free bar that we accidentally found while the speeches were completed.

It was au revoir to Lauren Choong, who has now gone down south to work. We will all miss you, Lauren, and come back to see us soon.

Stu Morris

Jersey

skydivejersey.net

Overseas relations

Skydive Jersey has been enjoying the summer sunshine, and treating locals and visitors alike to the amazing views over the Channel Islands. We also continue to have personal achievements; congratulations to Pete Dolbel for achieving his Tandem Basic Instructor rating, Alun Griffiths for 800 jumps and Pete Marsden for flying his official first 'para' flight.

'The Jersey Royals' parachute display team made its first appearance over the castle at Grouville, with a good turnout at 'Dom's Caff' for an evening meal on the beach.

A club trip to Vannes in France gave opportunity for some good progression, and a chance to practise Francais parlez. We are also establishing good relations with our closest French DZ, in Grainville, for some exchange visits.

Richard visits from England



Billy the pilot takes a leap



The club also made its annual visit to Guernsey in September.

Mal Richardson

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Ben Wood and Tim Parton, by Phil Symons

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JUMP NUMBERS
300 Jan Wood 4,500 Ben Wood



Phil Symons on St Agnes beach, by Jayne

We have been getting plenty done, both at Bodmin and Perranporth. Well done to Tim Parton on completing his AFF; it's been a long slog.

Visiting jumpers continue to arrive over the weekends (I'm guessing not to jump the 206) but all have been amazed by the views! The Hinton crew, who come down each year, have seen the amount of hard work and effort that goes into making

the small club grow and were more than impressed with the new facilities, although some never made it past the beach bar...! It was great to see you all.

Ralph's help has been much appreciated as always, especially him driving three hours to come jump on to the beach at St Agnes for the RNLI lifeboat day. A fantastic demo. Also, thank you to all involved at the club for helping it grow and run smoothly on a daily basis. We could not operate without your assistance.

We will be open until Saturday 3 December this year, with the end-of-season party starting when jumping finishes, so if we don't jump it could get messy. There will be live music, food, beer, wine and, of course, my famous fruit punch! Finally, congratulations to Julian and Abi on their 10,000ft engagement.

Ben Wood

found a marquee fashioned from an old round canopy, a DJ, a fire and booze aplenty. The crowd watched a few lifts parachute into the adjoining landing area then the night kicked off in true Strathallan style with drinking games, banter and pyrotechnics.

Strathallan's annual August Week swung around again. The porter from BKPC flew up and the club rattled through around 710 descents despite the iffy weather. The keen ones got huge amounts of progress done with a few FS1s and around 80 FS coaching jumps over the week, with coaching slots as usual paid for by the club. The club also welcomed back Paul Yeoman and co for the CRW course. Progress here was rapid as usual, and we've now got five more PSOBs to add to last year's batch of dangermen! STAND BY!

Jonny Danks

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Javier Gonzalez, Andrew Macdonald, Andrew Morson, Jamie McLevy, James Thomson, David Mitchell, Craig Muirhead, Heidi Philips, Steven McDonald, Russell Black, Adam Ross, David McArthur **Cat 8 & CH1** Lisa Johnson, Angela McGavin, Calum Firth, Kieth Ratcliff, Ivor Smith, Zuzka Vobecka **FS1** Justin McCall, Mark Wall, Barry Hyde, Carol Murray **CF1** Kat Konstanti, Kieran Thomson, Angus Scott, Tom Curran, Sandy Smart **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Briony McKenzie **100** Michael Lee **300** Angus Scott **600** Kenny Shaw **1 hr freefall** Ian Millar



August Week tracking jump, by Greg McEntee

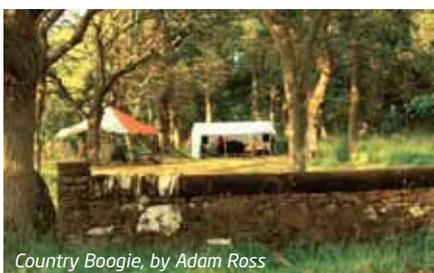
Strathallan

skydivestrathallan.co.uk

It's a country thing

It's been a few months of impromptu parties, birthdays and boogies at Strathallan. The carpet has never been filthier, with the volume of beer and cake imbibed and ground into it by dancing feet. Jen aged a year and was gifted one of Sandy's celebratory raps, Kelly got on a bit and was given a sparkler and KB went over the hill and found himself standing in a room full of fake moustaches. The club also acquired itself a new packing weight in the form of Mark Bellamy. Many congratulations to Adelle and Bob!

The highlight this month, without a shadow of a doubt, was Lord McCall's Country Boogie. The organisers did a phenomenal job of sorting out the



Country Boogie, by Adam Ross

greatest drinking session in the woods ever. Details were kept top secret apart from the dress code (tweed and sartorial splendour!) until the day came. Most DZ members were driven through the winding paths and hidden shortcuts of the Strathallan Estate to the secret location, where they

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Black Knights

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SFS success

The Stig

The Black Knights Parachute Centre once again hosted the Safe Flight School with Brian Vacher and Mike Gorman. This now annual event was very well attended with two full courses – 24 jumpers in total. As always it was a huge success, especially as the weather decided to play ball with us and everyone completed all their planned jumps.

Yet again, a huge well done to all the progressive AFF students. The efforts of all the AFF instructors, including Chris Ivory, Sandy McRobbie and Dick Kalinski, are hugely appreciated by all.

Don't forget the Christmas party has now been confirmed for Saturday 17 December at The Crofters Hotel in Garstang. Please get your deposits to Megan as soon as possible to secure places. All rooms are reserved for BKPC; you just need to call the hotel to book yourself a room. The end-of-year DVD is already coming on a treat, so you don't want to miss out on that and a good laugh. If you have any footage that John can use, get it to him ASAP.

Our very own *Team Sirius* got an average of 11.8 at the Nationals and had no busts whatsoever. Coming 12th out of 17 teams in AAA was not bad for their first year. Good going guys!

FS, WS and CF coaching is always available at the dropzone so get yourselves down here. Whether you just want to give something a try or fine-tune those skills, you are all more than welcome.

Sharon Beeson & Megan Bee

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Niall Rooney **AFF Grad** Mark Lord, Phil Greenland, David Smith, Steve Burton, Kevin Quayle **FS1** Simon Eagles **WS1** Jean-Philippe Dufrainge, Marvin Lloyd **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Andrea Walker **100** Lewis Gwinnett, Adrian Lambert, Simon Eagles **200** Ben Henshall **300** Steve Searle **400** Christine Dawes **700** Ruth Morrison **800** Pat Priestley **1,000** Gus Tomison **2,000** Danny Rowlands **8,000** Dick Kalinski **1 hr freefall** Jayne Girdham, Clint Gaskell **12 hrs freefall** Ruth Morrison



Chris with AFF students

Headcorn

headcorn.com

A great turnout

There has been lots of AFF progression at Headcorn. Del had a great stag do, with him and Jane tying the knot on 26 August.

Del and Jane, by Dennis Anthony



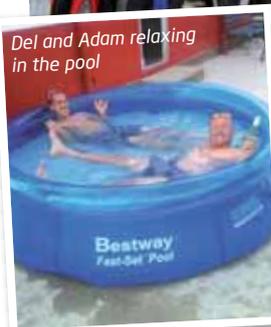
There were five Headcorn teams at the Nationals, who did us really proud. Between them, they comprised 25 per cent of the Rookie category and nearly 10 per cent of all the teams that entered all categories. And to cap it all, *Sky Vandals*, in their first time as a team and first time at Nationals, came home with Rookie silver medals. A brilliant outcome for them and for the other teams: *Silver Fox*, *Space Invaders*, *EJ3* and *Hydra*. Mary and Simon went as team packers, and Ruth and Penny were part of the judging team. So a pretty strong Headcorn turnout!

Sadly, Andy Ring, who was a stalwart instructor here at Headcorn between the late 1980s and 2009, died in August. See p. 53 for a tribute to him.

Ruth Cooper



All HPC teams at Nationals, by Elisia



Del and Adam relaxing in the pool

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Steve Love, Sean Malia, Marcus Muir Smith **AFF Grad** Karen Firmin, Ben Rosenquist, Ben Holten, Dominic Bentley, Dan Honey, Aimee Goodayle, Steve White, Mike Hitchcock **Cat 8 & CH1** Michael Morton **FS1** Richard McCarthy, Tristan O'Brien **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Gareth Corfield **300** Nick Mentz, Tim Price **800** Janos Leszko **12 hrs freefall** Tim Humphries

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CLUB ZONE

For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com



Tandem instructor Paul Kendal with Ian Rhodes and Martin Rhodes, by Nick Anthony

South Cerney silverstars.me.uk

Faces new and old

The weather gods have been quite kind to us down here in the Cotswolds and we have enjoyed a busy period of tandems and AFF alike. New faces show up all the time, some old ones are making a welcome return and it's really good to feel that summer vibe ebbing through Cerney.

Our Yorkshire massive have returned after a short break and are once again throwing themselves into the RAPS training. We had a group of MOD civil servants attend a RAPS course, which made for an interesting weekend of static-line jumping. Funky exits and some canopy control issues meant that DZ control had quite a busy time!

With Chas McNiel most definitely back on his feet, it's the turn of our illustrious leader Matty Holford to have the duty crutches. An argument with the tuffet during the Armies, in which the tuffet won, has put Matty firmly

on the ground for a while and we wish him a speedy recovery.

After being in the sport for over 10 years, Martin Rhodes finally got his brother to do a tandem. Martin also mentioned that he has never had his photo in the mag. That's not something you should really mention to the club rep so, just for you Martin (and a case of beer for us) your mug shot is here; cheers mate!

Bank holiday weekend saw a full-on festival of FS/FF coaching, tracking dives, an Accuracy competition and even two planes flying! More weekends and events are being planned for the remainder of the year so keep an eye out on our Facebook page or visit the website. See you soon!

Paul Gibbs



MOD civil servants ready to jump, by Paul Gibbs

Dunkeswell skydive99.com

Freely fun

It's been a busy summer down in Dunkeswell with many events taking place and teams getting ready for the summer competitions. In July the dropzone held a Dunkeswell-skydivers reunion, with many old faces coming back and sharing stories of the old times. Andy Lovemore hosted a Euro Sequentials skills camp, giving people the chance to take part in some challenging organised freeflying, with a chance of being invited to the main event. Phil Curtis came to organise some big-ways for the flat flyers but

unfortunately the weather decided not to play ball. However, Pete Stone has been here putting some good stuff together as always.

In August, Frazer Smith was around getting people involved in some relaxed freely organising, including tube jumps and a massive 12-way hybrid. We also had the cast of *Band of Brothers* come to do tandem skydives, accompanied by lots of fans who turned up in World War II gear.

As we approached this summer's major skydiving competitions, the teams were out in force training hard, taking advantage of the fast turnaround times of the Beech and our new team rooms for debriefing. In particular, 4-way team *Gr4vity* were training hard and did 15 jumps by 4pm on one of their training days before hitting the beer.

It's been a great year competitively for Dunkeswell-based teams in one of our best turnouts in recent times and we would like to congratulate all our teams on their achievements. Hopefully this will inspire more people next year to put together a team and compete.

We have recently taken on Andy Lovemore to oversee the conversion of new buildings we have acquired on the airfield and, when complete, we will have a dedicated rigging area, extra bunkhouses and a new bar and restaurant!

Dan Guest



Dunkeswell Artistics teams at Nationals

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ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 & CH1 Roland Chua, Raph Barbier, Laura Rainbow, Amy Rowe, Scott Higham, Troy Winfield, Alex Whitehead, Ricardo Quail **CH2** Malcolm Murdoch, Sunny Verma **JM1** Malcolm Murdoch, Sunny Verma **FS1** Christian Miller, Kelly Spittle, Tom Valentine, Raph Barbier, Malcolm Murdoch **FF1** Tony Thomas **FF2** Paul Dewey, Jon Rivers **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Bryan Buswell **100** Tony Thomas, Mike Watson, Malcolm Murdoch, Sion Roberts **200** Matt Kite, Hannah Tillyard, Tom Valentine **300** Paul Dewey, Cath Anderson, Nick Robinson **400** James Pritchard **800** Ryan Briddon, Weed Stoodley **900** Wayne Glenn, Gary Davidson **1,000** Paul Lomax, Sian Stokes **1,200** Caroline Guest **1,300** Gareth Thomas **1,500** Chris Cook **1 hr freefall** Joanne Woods, Matthew Flint, Jimmy Cripps **24 hrs freefall** Ivor Flowers, Chris Cook **1,300 hrs Jump Pilot** Gareth Thomas

A summer of celebration

Langar

skydivelangar.co.uk

Cath Anderson's 300th jump at Langar, by Gary Wainwright

Awesome AFF track, by Gary Wainwright



Well, the big news is that Langar was proud to host the BPA 50th Anniversary Boogie at the end of the Langar Boogie in September. We laid on an awesome aircraft line-up including a Twin Otter, an Antonov 28 (tailgate!), a Beech 99, a Bell Long Ranger helicopter and even a Thruxton Jackaroo biplane – along with our own two Grand Caravans, of course.

In the spirit of the 50 years celebration, Dean Fisher did his first freefall baton-pass in 40 years with Baz Carey and, later, Stan Hopkins joined them for a 3-way baton-pass. Dean reckons that was the first time that's been done at Langar. What's a baton-pass? Try Google and YouTube!

After a long layoff due to injury, Angela is back in the cockpit so the other pilots can slow down a bit after a busy year so far. In fact, we're now really busy with experienced jumping midweek, so we can recommend a weekday visit to all of you who fancy a sudden illness and day off work.

Langar jumpers made a great showing at the BPA Nationals again this year. Medal-winning teams were *LSF*, *Airkix Freestyle*, *Full Stop* and *8 A Cake*. Special congratulations are due to three team members (Cath Anderson, Kyle Price and Sian Stokes) who won double golds this year. Our very own Milko came home with three gold medals (which he reckons may be a first in FS)

with *Satori* AAA 4-way, *Full Stop* AA 4-way and *Microclim8* Senior 8-way. That made Milko's points total for this year's Nationals 456! Nice!

Conratulations to Ross Lambert, who is now a Wingsuit coach and Simon Donnelly, who is now an FS coach.

We're planning a 6-way FS meet for 29 October. Also, don't forget our annual Bonfire Night display and party on 5 November and we'll organise some night jumps as the evenings get darker. Watch us at www.skydivelangar.co.uk to keep up to date.

Tony Danbury

Swindon

skydivelondon.co.uk

G-HTFU at Redlands

Well, the new plane has landed with a bang – not literally, like the last Airvan. The New Turbo Airvan has bedded in nicely and has flown more than 100 hours since it arrived in early June. Brucie finally bowed to peer group pressure and registered the plane G-HTFU, now a common saying at Redlands. It has even been to 15,000ft above Redlands; I don't know if Crazy mentioned that to anyone.

With Redlands now all grown up and able to fly to 12,000ft, our AFF programme is getting busier, with Naudes teaching as many students as he can and Chris Goodwin and Jo Freemantle steaming through their training. Jonny Moulder has now officially 'changed' after getting his CSBI and WS1, well done Jonny. There's been A Certificates aplenty, with Andy Tyrell and Hazel Gibson finally qualifying. I think three years is maybe a little too long, but congrats! New super FML Claire Briggs has surprised all with her stealth FMLing keeping HTFU flying. Redlands even managed a tour to Hibaldstow, where I am told Stubert is still suffering after tending the bar, but we didn't break the pilot like last time.

Griggys has finally realised that having a stalker is not all its cracked up to be and has now finally got his FS1. Benson is still stressed after working seven

days a week and buying his extension on eBay, only for it to be replaced properly in a year's time.

The legend known as Naked Phil made a welcome appearance at Redlands BBQ and many a story of Crazy stripping, carrots, a skateboard and roly-polies on a bar were had around the fire pit. Buncy is miserable so has gone on holiday to Greece with Mattridge, Ed and Chrissy to recuperate.

Dylan Griffith-Jones

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Marius Kaminski **FS1** Andrew Griggs **JUMP NUMBERS 600** Pieter Potgieter, Mark Benson, Rob Spour **1,100** Buncy **1,200** Mattridge **1,900** Dylan Griffith-Jones **WS1** Jonny Moulder



G-HTFU, by Mike McHale

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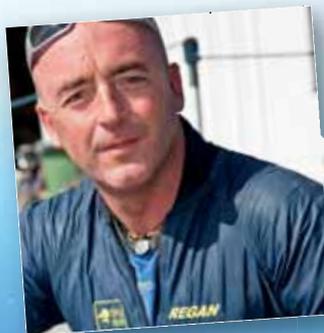
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ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 & CH1 Claire Humphreys
FS1 Cat Lees, Jordan Simcoe, Patricia Hall, Konstantin Khomo, Owen Tomkins, Ant Hill, Matt Lancaster **FF1** Holly Heathfield **JUMP NUMBERS**
50 Jordan Simcoe, Patricia Hall, Cat Lees **200** Helen Brooks, Kris Cavill **300** Tom Ruttle, Blyth Davies
400 Debbie Williams **500** Adam Pencharz
600 Charlotte Fletcher, Lynne Foreman **1,000** Stu Selly **1,200** Jason Kierman **1,300** Ane Brentford
1,600 Jo Burns **1,700** Jo Hawley **2,000** Liz Ashley, Dave Honeybone **1 hr freefall** Richard Cotton, Owen Tomkins, Anthony Kinsey



Coached exit, by Mick Thornley



The after-Nationals 42-way, by Dave Head

Hibaldstow

skydiving.co.uk

Summer shenanigans

And so summer finally arrived and, with it, some of the year's best events. The annual 28-way Meet was well attended and competitive as ever. Three teams fought for the coveted trophy but there can only ever be one winner and this year it was *Chasing Tails*. Next year, *Hibnosis!* Next year!

Dave West's 8-way Scrambles meet was a huge success – the new idea of higher-experience scrambles paid off, with some jumpers even managing to launch the elusive 8-way chunk. Congratulations to *Shell's Sugars*, who stormed the meet and won the free booze.

Yet again the BPA National Championships were well frequented and this year we again became the largest 4-way Nationals ever, with 55 FS and three VFS teams competing over the first weekend. A new-look event this year, with a huge outdoor stage for bands; big screen judging video and the medal

ceremonies went down well too. Congratulations to all the Hib-sponsored teams who stormed the medals and took the podiums.

After several warm-up weekends throughout the year, the *BLTs* led the British head-down record at Hib. Looks like the practice paid off as the boys set a brand new UK record 28-way. Needless to say, the bar was a messy one afterwards!

If you joined in this summer, thanks for being part of a great season and we hope to see you soon. Keep an eye out for our events every month – always varied in the winter and don't forget our huge Halloween event at the end of October. This one is going to be a monster!

Stu Ferguson

out of 51 and received the prize for best female performance.

By now Spike and Jackie were at Spa in Belgium before the Cains arrived! All four then went to Schaffen in Belgium for an impromptu wingsuit meet. So that was it, bringing the total to seven Netheravon flockers, seven European dropzones and seven very empty bank accounts. *Team Aquila* are organising several events at Netheravon so keep your eyes on the website and come join the flock.

The weather did its best to thwart the Armies but we carried on regardless with only one or two mishaps – get well soon Matty Holford! Well done to Baggers who not only got married to long-suffering Nicola, he was also awarded the Joe Reddick cup for his contribution to the APA and a very deserving Tanya Corbett was awarded the Werner Kroeger trophy for all her hard work in the APA Office – we know it can't be easy in there!

Congrats to all the successes at the World Cup and at the Nationals. Everyone at the DZ wishes Mike Desmond a speedy recovery after his recent spectacular mishap – we all hope you're up and about soon!

Kath Salisbury & Elana Cain

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Madeleine Leong, Jessica Dodd **FS1** Franky Lock **FF1** Neelfred Mallo **JUMP NUMBERS**
50 Colin Spottiswode, Franky Lock
200 Paul Aubrey-Rees **1,200** Tom Canty
3,000 Andy Godwin

Netheravon

netheravon.com



Flocking abroad

Schaffen flock

Wingsuiters from Netheravon flew the nest this summer and headed over to Europe to spread their wings. Spike and Jackie Harper visited most DZs. With Nether's wingsuiter 'Murf' Murfin, they make up *Team Aquila* and entered the senior section of the Artistic Wingsuit competition. Patrick Wake, videographer for the Spanish team *Overflight*, was entered in the junior category. Both teams performed well, with *Team Aquila* improving on last year's score and *Overflight* taking first place in their category – well done Patrick! The Nethers presence continued to grow when Melissa Dando arrived to join in the organised post-competition flocking, proving without doubt that Brit birds really know how to fly!

Meanwhile in Siofok, Hungary, Elana and Paul Cain attended the International Wingsuit Performance Competition. Jumping from the M18 Helicopter – 29 jumpers and nine mins to 13,000ft – wingsuit pilots aim to achieve the best glide ratio possible and, after 10 competition jumps, Paul claimed a fantastic third place – much to his own amazement. Elana placed a respectable 20th



Wingsuiters at Gap

CLUB ZONE

For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com

Billy Payn big-way, by Rob Belman



Beccles

ukparachuting.co.uk

Big-way fun

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Brad Dimmocke, Shane Murphy, Andrew McMillan, Lee Wilkins, Lewis Young **JUMP NUMBERS** 400 David Ney 700 Mike Wemyss 1,000 Barrie Bremner

Another busy two months have passed by quickly since the last club news. Billy Payn and Kev Sargent came back again to pay another visit to Beccles and organise some big-way formations over the Suffolk coast. As always, it was great fun and everybody learned something new. Really big thanks to you both.

There have been a few comings and goings recently. We have said goodbye to Arron Ellen and Rob Bellman. Arron, who has worked full time with UK Para since 2004 (working his way up through the system from an AFF student to a tandem and AFF instructor) has decided on a career change, and Rob has moved to the USA to continue his work in the arts now he has finished his degree. It is very sad to lose them both but we wish them the best of luck.

We have added three new faces to the team on the packing mat, so a big welcome to Freddie, Billy and Thomas, who are working hard to keep things moving in the hangar.

We also welcomed a group of Sibson jumpers to Beccles on their three-DZ tour as part of the Sibson 40th Anniversary Boogie week. We are probably thought of as the UK Para country cousins and we didn't disappoint, as there was a tractor cutting the grass close to the PLA when they landed! Hopefully they enjoyed their brief visit before heading on to Chatteris and we look forward to seeing them here again soon.

As always, keep an eye on the club zone and our Facebook page – Beccles fun jumpers – for all the news and upcoming events.

Mike Wemyss

Simon Dodsworth, by Mike Wemyss



RAPA

jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk

The staff of JSPC(L) and RAPA



Record numbers

The last two months have been very busy here at RAPA. The centre hosted another successful CP National Championships in July with record numbers of competitors attending. More and more students have attained their A Certificate

through the several courses that have taken place since June.

Our annual summer party also saw large numbers attending, with everybody getting into the spirit of the Dead Famous theme. The party was continued a few weeks later with the DZ moving to Haxterberg airfield for a day of fun jumping. Although the weather was not in our favour, it did not stop the BBQ lighting in the evening!

The centre had success at the Armed Forces Parachuting Championships in July, with bronze medals awarded to our 4-way teams Final Flight and Guillotine in the A and Rookie class respectively. Podium places also went to Dave Icelly for Junior Accuracy and the entire Senior Accuracy team.

We say goodbye to Alex and Dougie who leave for other things next month. We wish them good luck and hope to see them back in the future. With the prospect of an Indian summer on the horizon, we encourage everybody once again to come and use our facilities.

Dougie Macpherson

Britta Freitag on her Cat 8 qualifying jump



For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com

Lofty takes to the sky

The past few months have been eventful at Skydive GB, the highlight being the legendary Lofty Thomas completing a solo jump for his 80th birthday. Former BPA Chairman Lofty took to the skies with his sons Derek and Chris, and his grandson Kyle. Despite an 18-year break from jumping, he proved his consistency by demonstrating an 'arrival' in true Lofty style. This time the eagle finally has landed – much to the relief of his wife Grace. Lofty and his family raised a considerable sum of money for Hedley Court, a military rehabilitation centre, and the event attracted the local media.

Another VIP to grace the skies of Bridlington was Mr Nigel Hague – father of a certain politician. He proved to be a sprightly 83-year-old and raised £54,000 for the NSPCC.

Skydive GB has encountered a run of bad luck with our aeroplane. A few hundred phone calls and a respectable level of begging has ensured the centre has remained operational where possible.

Alec Flint and yours truly have successfully completed the CSBI course at Langar, meeting some lovely people in the process. Samuel Cavendish has achieved B Certificate and Mick Cosgrove has smashed the 400-jumps barrier – many congratulations!

Skydive GB's canteen is now facilitated by the amazing Brendon, Jenna and DZ baby Alisha. They are doing a fantastic job and we are eternally grateful.

Sara Orton



Lofty kitting up Donald Sutherland in *The Eagle Has Landed*

Bridlington

skydivegb.com



Lofty's AFF-style exit with his son Derek



Lofty Thomas with his sons Derek and Chris, and grandson Kyle

Tilstock

theparachutecentre.com

Summer party time

We have welcomed Sally Thompson back to manifest after a year on the beautiful Caribbean island of Utula. She is, however, yet to take her sweatshirt off as it is too cold in England! In the short time since she has returned, she has done a fantastic job completing all the maintenance jobs around the DZ. Thanks Sally!

After the success of Sally's leaving party we just had to have a party to welcome her back. The theme was fairytales/heroes and villains, with local band The Unknown playing a set. The music then continued into the morning and was once again supplied by Rob Wilson. There was plenty of home-



Ann Furmedge with Steve Cooper after her 100th jump

Dale Hamilton after his first freefall

Eddie Milnes after his 100th jump

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Dale Hamilton, Martin Price **Cat 8, CH1&2 & JM1** Roger Hughes **CH2 & JM1** Andy Pritchard **FF1** Hannah Spring **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Eddie Milnes, Steve Parton, Michelle Tilley, Ann Furmedge **300** Johnny Galbraith **900** Mike Allsopp **1 hr freefall** Ann Furmedge

flavoured vodka going round supplied by Woof and Johnny. Most people settled on a sniff of the chilli vodka, however Batman decided to down it, much to his dismay and everyone else's amusement! The beer fridge was also emptied, which resulted in Pinocchio and Batman removing the tent poles from Robin Hood and Maid Marian's tent as they slept! Further entertainment was provided by Hannah Spring performing a fantastic pole display. Everyone else then had a go on the pole, resulting in quite a lot of bruises...

We have continued the monthly Tilly tunnel trips to Airkix in Manchester, which is really helping everyone progress. Johnny Galbraith managed a 99-second flight from 10,000 feet on one of his many wingsuits, and Mike Allsopp took part in a successful Polish record 113-way (see page 7). We have two new pilots, Steve Lamb and Paul Durbin. We've run another successful packing course and are taking names for the next one, which will be on a Sunday. If you are interested in a place, call the DZ for details.

The Christmas Party and AGM is booked for 3 December at the Hill Valley Hotel in Whitchurch. Tickets are £29.50. If you would like to come, drop Colin an email on skydive@theparachutecentre.com. If you have any special dietary requirements and /or would like to book a room, please let him know.

Finally, congratulations to Alex Busby on his BPA Instructor Examiner rating!

Ann Furmedge

CLUB ZONE

For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com



Steve Wood back in the air

Manifest on your mobile!

Peterlee

skydiveacademy.org.uk

Photos by Ian Rosenvinge, Mal Smith and Oli Clark

We have seen the introduction of the Ground Control integrated manifesting and booking system as developed by ex-Durham University student Mike Lehan, which now enables manifesting from your iPhone or Android. It offers visibility of the lifts including the names of the jumpers on a departure viewer, as well as on screens around the centre.

Since the last issue, we have had another progression week, as well as CF coaching by Brian Vacher and Steve Saunders, FS coaching with Tom Fletcher, Paul Dorward, Joanne Dawson, Steve and Karen

Saunders, and freefly coaching by Tony Fernyhough. Steve Wood's wedding went ahead despite his injuries; he is taking up flying again and has been back in the air getting some familiarisation training in the centre's Caravan. Dave Taylor has now amassed 1,900 jumps; that's probably 800 solos, 1,099 tandems.

We are now gearing ourselves up for the return of our University Clubs with their newly qualified (in skydiving) management committee members; Oli Hare and Alex Varty (Northumbria), Teddy McManus and Stephen Milburn (Durham) and newly qualified first freefaller Laura Perry, the newly elected President of Newcastle University Student's Union - congratulations Laura on both counts.

Ian Rosenvinge

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Johanna Mands, Andrew Spencer, Simon Flisher, Laura Perry **Cat 8 & CH1** Oli Hare, Jonathan McManus, Steven Milburn, Alex Varty, Shaun Hovels, Bryn Dixon, Kelvin Richardson **AFF grad & CH1** Lisa Wilkinson **AFF grad** Lisa Wilkinson **FS1** Luke Bumley **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Paul Clark **100** Michelle Tilley **300** Paul Hardy, Nigel Peacock **400** Oli Clark **900** Andy Brumby **1,300** Lee Elliot (nee Saunders) **1,900** Dave Taylor



Dave Taylor's 1,900th jump

Swansea

skydiveswansea.co.uk

New plane at Swansea!

There's a lot of excitement and anticipation at Swansea because, at the time of writing, G-LEAP has been sold and soon departs for sunnier climes. Then we are due to take delivery of our Cessna Caravan in early September to help cope with the workload!

Shamus is just about to start work on a new shower block for the campers among us, and 'Tomstug' is proving a very popular purchase as it now only takes one person (Tom) to move the plane in the morning plus a 'Tommobile' has arrived to get people and equipment back from the landing area.

On the jumping front it's business as usual with Handsome Rob completing his 1,000th (even though he tried keeping it quiet), well done to Tom Hare who has been in the sport 10 years and to Justin Underwood for his A Certificate.

The end-of-year bash will be at The Tree Tops Country Club, Nr Morriston on Saturday 5 November. £18 for food and drink. See Ben Jenkins for tickets and directions... especially as he owns the place.

Carl Williams



The new Cessna Caravan!

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Daniel Jones **FF1** Toby Lewis **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Paul Robinson **100** Becky, Paul Hutchings **400** Ben Jenkins, Andy Costa **500** Ricki Davies, Grayson Buckley **1,000** Rob

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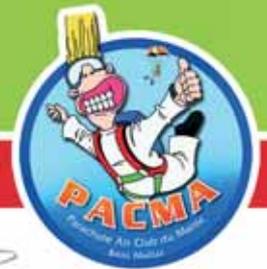
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bkpc.co.uk
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For more event details, visit the Events Zone at skydivethemag.com

Council at AGM Day 2011



BPA Council

Could your skills help move the BPA forward? Are you interested in shaping its future? If so, why not stand for Council, and what better place to start than by attending the BPA Council Meeting on Tuesday 11 October? Meetings are open to all BPA members, and are a great way of getting to understand what Council members actually do. The main Council meeting is at 6.30pm at the BPA offices in Leicester, and you could also attend the sub-committee meetings earlier in the day. Communications is chaired by Adrian Bond, Competitions by Steve Saunders and Development by Craig Poxon.

If you decide you want to stand for Council, then you'll need to find a proposer and seconder, and complete a nomination form which can be downloaded from the BPA website. The deadline for nominations is midday on Thursday 20 October.

So if there's anything you think could be improved, don't just moan about it - get involved and help make our Association even better!

bpa.org.uk

Get in the know

If any of your contact details change, it is vital you let the BPA office know so you don't miss out on your Mag! Contact them on skydive@bpa.org.uk or 0116 278 5271

KEY

BPA EVENTS
CANOPY PILOTING
FORMATION SKYDIVING
CANOPY FORMATION
STYLE & ACCURACY
BOOGIES/FUN
ARTISTICS
WINGSUIT
UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS & BCPA)

OCTOBER

7-9 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

8-9 FF Skills Camp
Netheravon • netheravon.com

8-9 FS Scrambles
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

11 BPA Council Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

12-16 California State Record 200-way
Perris, California • dubai500.com

13-14 Wingsuit Course
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

15-16 Wingsuit Coaching
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

20-28 Equinox Boogie
Toogoolawah, Aus • ramblers.com.au

21-23 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

22-23 First-Time Formation Loads
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

29-30 6-way Competition
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

29-30 10-way Speed Frostbite Friendly
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

28-30 Halloween Carnival
Eloy, Arizona • skydiveaz.com

29-30 Hot Weekender
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

NOVEMBER

3-8 Progression & FS Course (B Cert)
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

5 Bonfire Night Party
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

5 Swansea End of Year Bash
Tree Tops, Nr Morrision • skydiveswansea.co.uk

5-6 Winter Warmers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

7-11 BPA Inst Course (CSBI/TBI/AFFBI/Adv)
Hibaldstow • bpa.org.uk

11-13 BCPA Freshers
Hibaldstow • mail@bcpa.org.uk

11-13 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

14-18 BPA Inst Course (CSI/TI/AFFI/PreAdv)
Hibaldstow • bpa.org.uk

14-18 Learning Curve Camp
Toogoolawah, Aus • ramblers.com.au

17-18 Wingsuit Course
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

24 STC & Riggers Meetings
BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

25-27 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

25-27 CP Basic Course
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

29-18 Dec Dubai Int Champs & Gulf Cup
Dubai • skydivedubai.ae

DECEMBER

3 Tilstock Christmas Party & AGM
Hill Valley Hotel • theparachutecentre.com

6 BPA Council Meeting and GM
BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

9-11 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

10 Hibaldstow Christmas Party
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

15-16 Wingsuit Course
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

17 BKPC Christmas Party
Crofters Hotel, Garstang • bkpc.co.uk

23-Jan 1 Christmas Boogie
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

24-Jan 1 Christmas Boogie
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

26-Jan 3 Christmas Boogie
Florida, USA • skydiveseb.com

28-31 6-way Weekend
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

JAN & FEB 2012

28 Jan BPA AGM & 50th Anniversary Dinner
Reebok Stadium, Bolton • bpa.org.uk

18-19 Feb BCPA Indoor Championships
Airkix, Manchester • mail@bcpa.org.uk

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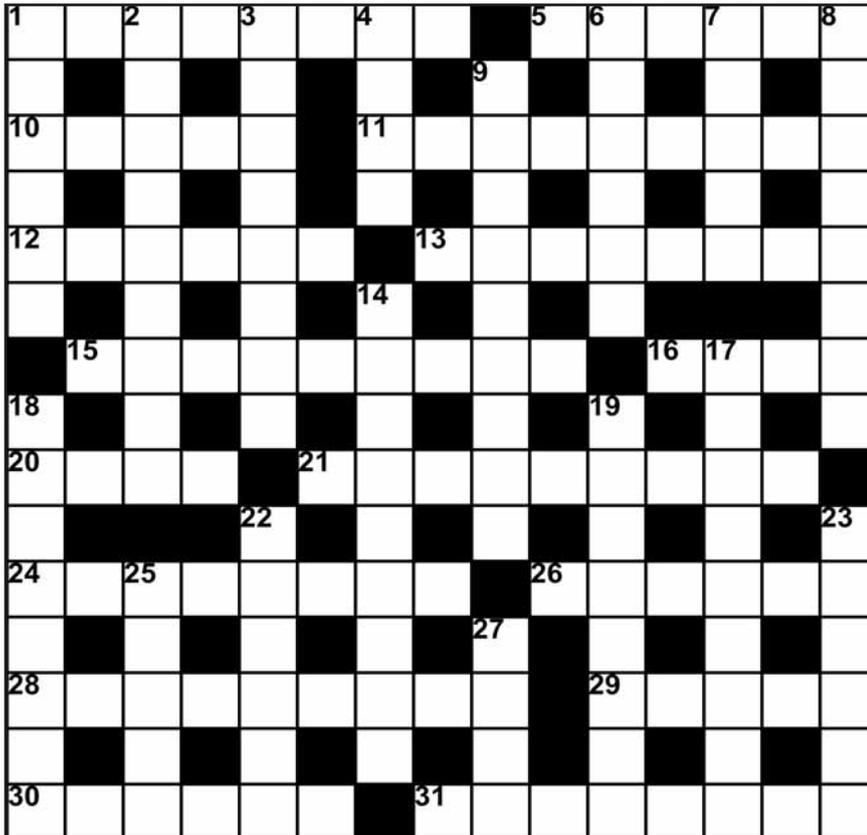
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Paul Boorer >>



MAIN Cryptic

Across

- 1 Formation skydiving trainers, EG Virginia and Ivy (8)
- 5 To one side of loud group (6)
- 10 Indicate glass has nothing in it (5)
- 11 Over-hasty tamer savaged in clean cage (9)
- 12 Well practised to make strenuous effort with power (6)
- 13 It makes stopping hard, time to hesitate (8)
- 15 Move for example left to right round back of opal (4,5)
- 16 Don't succeed to trap one in Cornish river (4)
- 20 Not starting to talk foolishly and scold (4)
- 21 Brilliant poet gets nothing right (9)
- 24 Selected parts of encrypted texts about motoring organisation (8)
- 26 Tear body part in exercise (6)
- 28 Field where rodeo mare bucks (9)
- 29 Loudly laments Prince's place (5)
- 30 Carelessly do deal to become rich (6)
- 31 Those learning medical speciality in horse farms (8)

Down

- 1 Automatic cutter trimmed tree (6)
- 2 Where to jump as first wife's sex appeal's heading south perhaps (4,5)
- 3 Favourite Queen's endless Welsh vegetable town (8)
- 4 Supermarket's backward training scheme (4, initials)
- 6 Ran around a King's spread (6)
- 7 Comically bearded Cupid turns head in street (5)
- 8 In rioting hamlets robbery starts to provide warm clothing (8)
- 9 Ray's mad after transfer of lesser importance (9)
- 14 Being buoyed up by boiling oil (not fat) (9)
- 17 It stimulates rain laden storms (9)
- 18 Unforced motion of danger to shipping in winter (4-4)
- 19 Succeeded in thrashing lewd fool (8)
- 22 Hold light (hot rather than cold) (6)
- 23 They could concentrate the light in fifty five points (6)
- 25 Better ramparts filled with earth (5)
- 27 Almost match waistcoat (4)

RESERVE Quick

Across

- 1 Training trolleys
- 5 Displaced laterally
- 10 One formation of a series
- 11 Early (deployment)
- 12 Highly skilled
- 13 Mass times velocity
- 15 Lateral movement (4,5)
- 16 Be unsuccessful
- 20 Speed
- 21 Right
- 24 Takes out
- 26 Dive
- 28 Airfield
- 29 UK country
- 30 Placed aboard
- 31 Learners

Down

- 1 AAD
- 2 Skydive start location (4,5)
- 3 Durham skydiving centre
- 4 Training system (4, initials)
- 6 Decelerated to land
- 7 Showy feat
- 8 Rising air
- 9 Reserve
- 14 Support by liquid
- 17 Hormone (from thrills)
- 18 Uncontrolled descent (4,4)
- 19 Went after
- 22 Control lever
- 23 Camera accessories
- 25 Earth
- 27 Weight carrying garment

TIME ZONE

Sgt Mark Clayton >>

Sgt Clayton, current RAF *Falcons* member, celebrates the team's long and distinguished history

50 years ago



In 1961, six Parachute Jumping Instructors from the Parachute Training School formed the *Big Six*, soon to be know as the RAF *Falcons* - a team that would become famous around the world.

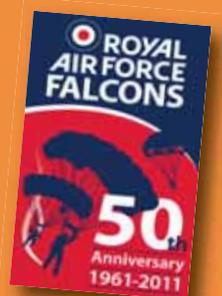


At inception, the *Falcons* were primarily involved in trialling pioneering parachute equipment for the military, pushing the boundaries and setting records that still stand today. In the present day, the *Falcons* still display before millions of spectators each season, performing a key role in the RAF's strategy for engaging with the general public. Team members work hard to earn the coveted Military Freefall and High Altitude Instructor qualifications. These qualifications prepare them for future roles training Airborne Soldiers in specialist, advanced military parachuting. "It is a great honour to be an RAF Falcon, displaying at some magnificent venues and promoting the 'Best of British!'"

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The pioneers of 1961 were:
 Flight Lieutenant Hearn
 Flight Lieutenant Thirtle
 Flight Sergeant Moloney
 Sergeant Peacock
 Sergeant Robertson
 Sergeant Mcloughlin

Sgt Mark Clayton
 2011 RAF *Falcons*



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