



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com

October 2012

skyDIVE

the mag



INSIDE: 4-WAY, 8-WAY AND ARTISTIC NATIONALS BREAKING THE HEAD-DOWN WORLD RECORD STANDING FOR COUNCIL IN 2013 JUMPING WITH THE 2012 OLYMPIC TORCH BLESMA'S UNSTOPPABLE SKYDIVERS PLUS THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

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Aranjuez where we 'hang out' in the evenings is a modern city of 100,000 Spanish city workers who make the short daily commute to Madrid, European city of culture for 2005. Alternate activities, restaurants, music bars, clubs and skydivers bars number in the hundreds!

Sample Package available.

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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.



I've just realised that I'm now starting my third year as Editor – wow, that's gone fast! It's great fun putting it all together each issue, and never more so than in the summer months when so much has happened and the pages are full of the best of British skydiving.

The lead article this issue is the report from the world's biggest ever 4-way Nationals (who'd have thought it of a small rainy island such as ours?). *Satori* reigned supreme yet again, with another gold medal and a 20-point average, which reflects their hard work and commitment. They followed this up with a trip to the World Cup where they came away with bronze – the UK's first Open 4-way medal on the international stage since *Symbiosis* in 1979.

Over the quieter winter months, it will then be time to complement the event articles with a plethora of educational articles, so let me know what you'd like to read about. If you fancy stepping up to the challenge of writing an article then also get in touch – no writing experience is necessary, all you need is a passion for the sport and for helping other people progress through it.

On another note, the underwater cover last issue was what I call a bit of a 'Marmite' cover in that you either loved it or you hated it! Most reactions were generally "it's amazing" with a few being "it's irrelevant/pointless" and nobody taking the middle ground that I've heard from. Personally I think it's both amazing AND a little bit pointless, but who said that the cover has to be relevant? It's a great place to showcase beautiful skydiving photography, which is what this is. What did you think?

Liz Ashley



British Parachute Association Ltd

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RECOGNISED BY



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Welcome: Following heavy rain, Keiron Hayes swoops Clark's new water feature! By Ian Chick

Contents: Derek O'Neill, Greg McEntee and Nick McMahon fly a CF pendulum over Chatteris. By Simon Chipp



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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.

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CONTRIBUTE

Anyone can contribute to *Skydive the Mag* and we welcome news, articles and photos from everyone, regardless of experience.

If you'd like to get involved, email editor@skydivethemag.com.

Deadlines you need to know for 2012/13 are:

Issue
December
February
April

Copy deadline
October 23
January 1
February 26

To reader
November 29
February 21
April 16

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WORLD CUP MEDALS

The World Cup and European Championships were held shortly before this *Mag* went to press, and a full report will follow next issue. However, the main headlines are of great success, with medals in all categories entered. *Satori* won double bronze in the Open 4-way with an awesome 20.2 average. This is the UK's first Open 4-way medal since 1979! *Euphoria Freestyle* came away with European silver and World Cup bronze, while *Euphoria Freefly* picked up European bronze. Well done to all.

UNOFFICIAL WORLD RECORD

Big-way records exist in flat, sequential, head down, wingsuit and CF, but until now head-UP big-way has never really been much of a 'thing'. So after the recent head-down record attempts in Canada, the Canadians decided to throw down the gauntlet by building an unofficial world record head-up 18-way.



by Brian Buckland

Mission to the edge of space

Felix Baumgartner is on course to jump from 120,000 feet in the first half of October. He successfully jumped from 71,615 feet in March 2012 and then 97,063 feet in July, when his freefall speed was 536mph. The current altitude record is still the 102,800 feet jump by Joe Kittinger in August 1960, but perhaps not for much longer. Keep an eye out for a new record shortly after this *Mag* comes out...

redbullstratos.com

World Wingsuit League

Wingsuiting continues to make a huge impression on non-skydivers, and this is set to continue with the introduction of a 'league' designed to determine who is the fastest in the world. The 16 competitors selected to take part are at the absolute top of their game and the first Grand Prix will be held in China on October 13-14. This race will be down the side of a mountain wearing BASE rigs and the structure is designed to be media-friendly to showcase the sport. There will be eight elimination runs with two wingsuiters per run, with the fastest of each pair going through to a final. These eight will compete against the clock.

The UK has two representatives competing: James Boole and Tony Uragallo – good luck guys!

worldwingsuitleague.com

KID ZONE

The 2013 FAI Young Artists' Contest gives the opportunity for budding artists to express themselves artistically about a subject related to aviation. The contest is divided in three age categories (6-9, 10-13, 14-17 years old) and medals will be given for gold, silver and bronze in each age group.

This year, the theme for the contest is 'My Favourite Airport'. This could be skydiving, but it could also be any one of the other ten categories of airports that come under the FAI umbrella. Further guidance can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/Young-Artists-Contest>

Entries should be sent to David Phipps of the Royal Aero Club by Friday March 22 2013. These will then be shortlisted and the best entries from all the UK's airports sent to the FAI in Switzerland, to be judged by an international panel in April.

Entries should be clearly marked as FAI Young Artist Contest and sent to:

Mr David Phipps, General Secretary
Royal Aero Club, Chacksfield House,
31 St Andrew's Road,
Leicester, LE2 8RE



Young fan
Felix James

BC Blogs

4-way guru and now motivational speaker Dan BC has got a new website and has started a blog that is proving popular amongst FS jumpers and beyond. Recent topics include going after your dreams and overcoming performance anxiety. For a bit of inspiration, check out danbrodsky-chenfeld.com

2013 Women's Vertical World Record Attempts

The next Women's Vertical World Record Attempt (VWWR) is scheduled. Skydive Arizona will once again host the event during its 2013 Thanksgiving Boogie. Event dates are November 26 - December 1, 2013.

The last VWWR, set in November 2010 at Skydive Arizona, was a 41-way. This record more than doubled the 2008 record. Event organisers are very excited about breaking the current record and all the planning that goes into it.

Event organisers are Amy Chmelecki, Sara Curtis, Melissa Nelson, Domitille Kiger and Anna Howerski. They would like to break the current record by at least 20, but are not putting any restriction on how big they go! "People have been asking me how big the record attempts will be and I have trouble answering this question. We will go as big as possible. Skydive Arizona has all the aircraft we need to go as big as we need, and there is so much new talent constantly getting developed that we do not want to put a limiting number on how big we go," said Amy.

Several US training camps have been scheduled leading up to the record attempts, and European camps will be on the calendar shortly. Potential participants are encouraged to attend these camps as they are a great way to gain the skills and experience needed to be on the record. The camps are also a good opportunity for the organisers to meet the new talented ladies who would like to participate in the record. Anna and Domitille will be overseeing the European warm-up camps and helping to support new flyers to get stateside.



by Gary Wainwright

UK HD record beaten by weather

In a story that has been unfortunately all too familiar this summer, the attempts to set a new UK head-down record were spoilt by the wrong kind of weather. Hopes had been high,

as the current record 28-way was achieved last year in similar circumstances and had left UK freeflyers knowing that they could go much bigger if they got the chance. This year, three attempts at a 42-way were made before the cloud closed in and denied the chance to try again. Next year!

Safe Flight School and Flight-1

Brian Vacher, owner of the Safe Flight School, which has provided comprehensive canopy courses across Europe since 2004, has announced that the company officially closed at the end of June 2012. Brian Vacher, now based back in the UK, continues his work as a canopy instructor to both sport and military clients with Flight-1, the education business of the *Performance*

Designs Factory Team (of which Brian is a member). Flight-1 was also established in 2004 and provides all levels of canopy education to the sport and military markets worldwide.

In April 2012 Flight-1 also launched a new curriculum and teaching format for its canopy courses worldwide. The new format is modular, split into six one-day courses with more to be added soon. This is a change to the three-day format previously used by the Safe Flight School. The courses cater for all levels and experience of canopy instruction and are currently being translated into a number of languages for Flight-1 clients across Europe.

For availability on all Flight-1 courses and private coaching worldwide visit flight-1.com or contact Brian Vacher at brian@flight-1.com.

NIGEL YONGE 1926-2012

Our sport has sadly lost one of its real characters – Nigel Yonge has passed away aged 86. He remained forever the consummate gentleman in spite of having his chosen career in the Army unexpectedly cut short. He was commissioned into the 60th Rifles in the closing stages of WW2 and was deployed with the battalion to Palestine during the terrorist campaign of the late 1940s. His armoured car was taken out by a land mine and a wound from glass splinters caused him the loss of one eye. He was subsequently fixed up with a glass eye, which he used to remove in the evenings to replace with a home-made piratical black eye patch. But he was determined to remain an action man and, following his love of beagling and sailing, his family were not altogether surprised when Nigel started skydiving at an age when many would pack it in. While he was never destined to be a 'sky god', he loved the camaraderie of

the sport and was jumping regularly into his seventies. In the late eighties he became a regular member of the *Tiger Moth Diamond Nine Skydiving Team* – he simply loved jumping out of Tigers, and he was always impeccably turned out for the subsequent parties. On one memorable occasion, having jumped into a Steam Rally near Reading, Nigel made a bungee jump from a crane – we were all hugely impressed as he'd managed to retain his glass eye. On being asked how he'd enjoyed it, he replied: "Bloody marvellous, but for God's sake don't tell the Mem-Sahib!" Sally, his lovely Mem-Sahib, was wonderfully long-suffering! To Sally and the rest of Nigel's family we extend our deepest sympathy as we remember with huge affection one of the true gentlemen of our sport.

Charlie Shea-Simonds



Nigel (far right) walking off the drop zone at the Shuttleworth Trust at Old Warden after a Tiger jump in the late '80s with the Ruiz twins, Charlie S-S, Julie Hanks and Steve Plank



2012 British National 8-way team Brit Chicks 8 in their Javelin Odysseys training for the World Parachuting Championships in Dubai, UAE.

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Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld
Keynote Speaker



BPA STAR AWARDS

Nine nominations were received during the launch month of August for the new BPA Star great service awards nominated by, and for, A licence holders and above. Nomination for this year's BPA Stars remains open until Monday 3 December 2012. The winners of BPA Stars – and their nominees – will be recognised on AGM Day. **For full details, see bpa.org.uk/star**

Experienced Skydiver of the Year 2012

Nominations from the membership are invited for the BPA Taz Causer Experienced Skydiver of the Year Award 2012. This is for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nominations, giving the name

of your nominee with reasons (no more than 250 words, please) to skydive@bpa.org.uk to arrive by Monday 3 December 2012. The Council will consider the nominations and decide on the winner at its December meeting. The trophy will be presented on AGM Day.



British Parachute Association Ltd

Company limited by guarantee no 875429

Notice is hereby given that a **General Meeting**

of the Association will be held at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF on **Thursday 13 December 2012 at 1830**

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2011.
- 3 To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and the Report of the Auditors for the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.
- 4 To confirm the reappointment of the Auditors, and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing financial year.
- 5 To set the Provisional Membership Subscription for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2013.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy (who does not need to be a member) to attend and vote in their place. A form of proxy is available on request from the BPA Office.

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting**

of the Association will be held in The Grove Suite, Leicester Marriott Hotel, Smith Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester LE19 1SW on **Saturday 26 January 2013 at 1030**

Agenda

- 1 Welcome.
- 2 Apologies for absence.
- 3 To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Bolton on Saturday 28 January 2012.
- 4 To receive and adopt, if approved, the report of the Chairman of Council.
- 5 To consider any item/s of Special Business*.
- 6 To set subscriptions payable by non-provisional Members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2013.
- 7 To close the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

Other items of business

- a To confirm the result of the election for the 2013 Council of the BPA.
- b To present various annual awards.

*Note: Under Article 23, the BPA must give 21 days' clear notice of a Special Resolution. To enable the BPA to do this, any such business must be notified in writing to reach the BPA Office by no later than Wednesday 19 December 2012.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the AGM is entitled to appoint a proxy (who does not need to be a member) to attend and vote in their place. A form of proxy is available on request from the BPA Office.

Issued for and on behalf of the Council of the British Parachute Association Ltd, 1 October 2012

STAND FOR COUNCIL 2013

Could your knowledge and skills help our sport? Have you got new and innovative thinking to offer? Could you help our sport to seize new opportunities and help to resolve complex issues? Then stand for election to next year's Council – get a nomination form and start lobbying!

Details of the nomination procedure for BPA Council Members 2013 are

available on the BPA website - bpa.org.uk - from Clubs & Centres and on request from the BPA Office. Completed nominations, each supported by a proposer and seconder, must reach the BPA Office by noon on Tuesday 30 October 2012. Don't delay, act today!

See the article 'My first year on Council' on page 46.



UKSL results 2012

Congratulations to Kaizen in AAA, *Hyrrokkin* in AA, *RAFSPA Venom* in A and *RAFSPA Hunter* in Rookie, the winners of the UK Skydiving League 2012. Medals for gold, silver and bronze in each category will be presented at the 2013 AGM. For the full list of results, see <http://tinyurl.com/UKSL-2012>

New ratings

CSBI

Sian Stokes
Will Major
Edward Petrie
Tom Fletcher
Tom Grady
Michael Lee

TBI

Robert Gunson
James Waring
Ricky Davies
Michael Cosgrove

AFFBI

Simon Guest
Robert Dawson

CSI

Ruth Jordinson
Henry Nkwanga
Harriet Watson
Jamie Hart
Alec Flint
Guy Reynolds
Jon Moulder
Sara Orton
Daniel Morgan

AFFI

Neil Wilcox
Kenny Craigh
Andrew Myers
Sarah Hall
Dean Aven

TI

Alastair Macartney
Adam Hughes
Grant Macpherson
Janos Leszko

Advanced Instructor

Mal Richardson

Instructor Examiner

Mark Tether

Advanced Packers

Martin White (S)
Dylan Bartle (S)
Philip Bell (S)
Mathew Knight (S)
Andreas
Papadopoulos (S)

AGM DAY

SATURDAY 26 JANUARY 2013

AGM Day will be returning to the heart of the country in 2013. Our venue is the four-star Leicester Marriott near M1 J21/M69 J3. We've arranged special BPA bar prices of £2.75 for a pint of selected lager or bitter or a glass of house wine, plus 20% off the normal price of spirits and cocktails, from noon on Friday until noon on Sunday.

Hotel bedrooms should be booked direct with the Leicester Marriott, which is offering them for Friday 25 and/or Saturday 26 January 2013 at the BPA rate of £80 per night double/twin, and £70 per night single occupancy, including full English breakfast. Car parking is complimentary. You can book: **Online** at cwp.marriott.com/emalm/bpa (this link is also on the BPA AGM web page, see below) or by **telephone** on 0116 282 0100 then option 1, option 1 again for reservations. Quote BP1 for the BPA rate.

For other accommodation options and tourist information, see goleicestershire.com

For the latest on AGM Day, visit bpa.org.uk/member/agma

AGM, PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

The statutory AGM of BPA Ltd will be held at 10.30, with confirmation of the result of your election of Council 2013 – 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 planning 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 skydivers in the UK. To book space, please

contact the BPA Office – see the BPA website for prices. Payment is required on booking. Advance bookings only.

BPA ANNUAL DINNER AND DISCO

The BPA Annual Dinner will be held at 19.30 for 20.00. Themed entertainment is also planned to make for a fun evening – keep an eye on the BPA website for details. And the BPA Dinner doesn't end with typical, tiresomely long post-prandial speeches: instead, the lights go down and the colourful glint of a mirrorball heralds the ever-popular disco to party the night away! The post-dinner disco, from about 22.00, is open free of charge to all members, whether dinner guests or not.

See the BPA website for the three-course dinner menu including coffee. The main course will be beef, alternatively a vegetarian option may be ordered at the time of booking. Dinner tickets are available from the BPA Office, telephone 0116 278 5271, priced at £25 each. Please have your payment card ready when calling. Clubs, Centres and groups are encouraged to reserve a table – details on request.

BPA FILMFEST 2013 SPONSORED BY AIRKIX

One of the highlights of AGM Day will be the final of the BPA FilmFest 2013, sponsored by Airkix.



Martin Soulsby, BPA Chair (pictured), says: "This is the fourth year of the BPA FilmFest and third year of Airkix sponsorship. The BPA FilmFest is now a lynchpin of AGM Day and I'm looking forward to another inspired cavalcade of creativity and comedy." 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, which is a GoPro HD Hero awarded by Airkix for the best use of humour in a film.

Entries must be no longer than six minutes, submitted as DVD PAL format and on YouTube. The closing date is Monday 3 December 2012. Rules and an entry form may be downloaded from the AGM Day page of the BPA website.



CALENDAR 2013

Attention all cameraflyers! The December issue of *The Mag* will include the free 2013 calendar and we are looking for stunning skydiving shots from BPA members. For a chance to see your photography in print, send your best pics to editor@skydivethemag.com before 23 October. The calendar will be printed in landscape, as opposed to portrait.



Recently we sent Travis Mills a Storm for the weekend.
We forgot to tell him it wasn't crossbraced...

He didn't seem to care.

STORM

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ONLY BE **NATIONALS 2012** →

BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

4-WAY NATIONALS

2

“Every team has got its own competition going on within its own section of the scoreboard and I only wish this magazine was big enough to bring you every mini-battle rather than just the news from the top”



2012 SAW THE BIGGEST EVER 4-WAY NATIONALS BY A LONG WAY. WITH 76 TEAMS ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES, IT WAS TIME FOR HIBALDSTOW'S DORNIERS TO LIVE UP TO THEIR REPUTATION AS WORKHORSES THAT COULD POWER THROUGH THE 200+ LIFTS NEEDED. CCI NOEL PURCELL KICKED OFF THE DRAW ON FRIDAY NIGHT BY RANDOMLY PULLING OUT HIS OWN NAME FOR ROUND 1 (D-N-O-E-11) AND THE CREEPER PAD BECAME A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY

WORDS LIZ ASHLEY

AAA

With 19 of the 21 AAA teams posting a double-digit average, there is no doubt that British 4-way is going from strength to strength. This included five Open teams with non-British members. It is always pleasing to welcome teams from other countries, and this year both the South African and Swedish national teams joined us as part of their preparations for the World Championships in Dubai. There were also teams that included Italian and Danish nationals. Although foreign teams are ineligible for

medals unless they win gold overall, it is always great to have extra teams on the scoreboard. With so many teams in total, every team has got its own competition going on within its own section of the scoreboard and I only wish this magazine was big enough to bring you every mini-battle rather than just the news from the top. Due to the sheer size of the competition, it has not been possible to include the results tables in this article. However, full results for all categories, including round-by-round scores, can be

found at bpa.org.uk/competition/nationals

Leading the way in British 4-way is *Satori*, who not only returned to claim their fourth consecutive Nationals crown but also brought with them ten Academy teams. All ten have been trained by the team this year, committing to a minimum of one training camp plus four hours of tunnel, with some doing more on top. They are spread across all four categories and coaching them has been a significant part of *Satori's* year.



Progressing as part of a team

The Satori Academy offered a possible way to enter the world of 4-way for someone who had no knowledge of what it took to put a team together, find a coach/camera and organise training camps and tunnel time. The *Satori* coaches have been instrumental in bringing together 40 individuals and making them into 10 teams this season from rookie to AAA. I have learnt a huge amount about developing my skills as a skydiver, but also now jumped at over five other DZs this year and made so many new friends.

I am now able to take these skills and friendships back to my home DZ and have the confidence and knowledge to start my FS coaching course under the guidance of well-established coaches – hopefully being able to continue to pass on the enthusiasm and skills needed for FS1.

For me the Satori Academy has filled a gap that offers individuals the chance to be part of an FS team. The academy is really well organised, supported and enthusiastic – clearly shown in the record-breaking FS teams in the Nationals this year.

Carol Beaumont, Satori Sunshine

Satori were chasing a 20-point average, a huge milestone for them. The draw had some fast rounds near the beginning then the last three would be slower, so they

needed to go into round 8 well above a 20 in anticipation of then dropping down. This they did, with 152 points in their first seven rounds... which turned out to be exactly what they needed, scoring exactly 200 points in the ten rounds. Behind them, South African team *Voodoo* scored 17.4 but were ineligible for medals so behind them *Kaizen* stood on the AAA podium for the first time with 15.6. Next, *Vision* scored an impressive 15.1 but Pete Allum's switch from British to Italian nationality a few years back meant that they too could not take a medal. So bronze went to 'scratch' team *Pink Panthers* with 14.7. I say 'scratch' because, although they were not a trained team and launched an H for every round, three of them are on *Brit Chicks 8* together and all four have a long and distinguished history of competitive FS. However, this year was one of the toughest yet for getting on the podium, so congratulations are due all round.

Swedish national female team *Fire* needed a 13-point average in order to be allowed to attend the World Championships later this year, which they had narrowly missed out on at their own Nationals. Everyone was delighted for them when they achieved exactly 13.0 and they were welcomed up to the stage for their own special celebration – good luck in Dubai, girls. →

1 Satori by James Stevenson

2 Simon Brentford geeks while filming Dynamite Wolf Squadron, by James Stevenson

3 Satori on the top of the podium yet again, by John Williamson

4 Satori in training over Hibaldstow by Dave Head

5 Satori Academy teams by Dave Head

Puzzle a bit of fun

The following anagrams are all of 2012 4-way teams – can you work out which ones?

1. Hi Ho The Ugliest Dear
2. Dodgy Gorilla They Fret Banana
3. Plasma Brit Chick
4. Me Again
5. Winning A Vast Sanity Jar
6. Egomania Tarts
7. Babe Adds Grass
8. Squirted Fond Laywoman
9. Commit Men Tissues
10. Topless Hobo

Answers on page 20



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BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012



AA – THE BATTLE FOR GOLD

Although the smallest category at just 10 teams, there was excitement all the way in AA. Being a non-selection year, the battle for gold would bring with it an opportunity to move up to AAA and attend the 2013 World Cup in Banjaluka, Bosnia. *Hyrrokkin* and *Raykipo* were the hot contenders, putting some high scores on the board. *Hyrrokkin* pulled ahead in round 1, *Raykipo* fought back by round 3 and for the next three jumps they matched each other point for point. Interestingly, however, *Raykipo* had made the decision not to scoreboard so were blissfully ignorant of the developing situation, while *Hyrrokkin* were only too aware! The final two rounds saw *Hyrrokkin* pull ahead by three points to finish on a 12.5 average to *Raykipo*'s 12.1. *High Altitude Heroes* secured a confident bronze with an 11 average despite rain having put paid to much of their training plans this year.

A – THE BATTLE FOR BRONZE

The 18 teams in A continued with the theme of posting some impressive scores. Established team *4mula* led from the start and stayed consistently strong to win gold with a 13-point average, while *Fiasco*, also an established team, took a solid silver with 11.4. However, the fight for bronze was where the excitement happened, with *Mental Blox* and *RAFSPA Venom* out in front of the rest of the field and level with each other after round 8. A jump-off would decide which team would stand on the stage with their bronze. So, with the rest of the competitors already heading for the bar, a Dornier was fired up yet again for a trip to 10,500 feet to decide their fate. With nine points to *RAFSPA*

6 *Hyrrokkin by Sam Bemment*

7 *Hyrrokkin take gold by Emma Pilkington*

Venom's six, *Mental Blox* took the final spot on the podium – a well-fought battle.

ROOKIE – THE BATTLE FOR SILVER

It was fantastic to see so many new teams having been bitten by the 4-way bug, with 23 rookie teams competing. At the top end of the table *Equal Pay 4 Women* took gold with a 14-point average. They also set a new British record for the most points in time in the rookie class, with a

staggering 26 on round 2, a blisteringly fast draw of M-F-O. Behind them was another nail-bitingly close competition in the form of *Well Wild* versus *Langar Squared*. Level on 100 points after round 8, the single A jump-off lift gained a back-up as they too went up for one last jump to decide the medals. It was close, *Well Wild* performed well with a nine but *Langar Squared* took the silver with a ten and *Well Wild* went wild for bronze instead. →



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BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

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NEXT YEAR

There's no doubt that 4-way in the UK is absolutely booming. How big can our Nationals get? One thing is for sure – such a huge-scale competition requires huge-scale organisation and logistics. Stu Dobson of *Satori Purple* commented:

“The event was smooth and ran so efficiently. I was blown away by how Noel and his team kept the biggest ever 4-way meet running so professionally. Rubbing shoulders with legends of the sport was a great experience – with so many approachable and like-minded people in one area the whole affair for me was surreal. My family came along for the weekend and also noted how the Hib staff, whilst incredibly busy, were very professional but at the same time great with my two boys! Overall a superb weekend and one that I won't forget for a very long time.”

Despite a smooth event overall, competitors can help add to the efficiency by being organised in advance. Online pre-registration and payment was available but not taken up by all teams, and it is likely that there may be an earlier deadline next year so that the DZ knows firmer numbers to arrange catering and other aspects. A lot of teams also turned up without cameraflyers, relying on the DZ providing pool camera. Hibaldstow would like to thank the many cameramen who 'doubled up', filming a second team as well as their own, and ask all teams to please bring their own camera if at all possible next year. ●

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VFS – THE BATTLE FOR BRONZE

Just a few years ago, VFS was introduced into the 4-way Nationals at a time when there were only a handful of people who had the talent to take part, let alone to attempt to film it. It is ridiculously hard, and the teams at the top internationally have got there through years of dedication and usually full-time skydiving and tunnel training, so this year's biggest ever turnout of four teams was a good indication of the ever-growing skill level of UK freeflyers. At the top end, a combination of *Volare* and *Bad Lieutenants* team members put together the *VLTs* and won convincingly

with a 10-point average. However, their scores increased throughout the competition and their final round saw them turn 14 points in time, an impressive feat. *QFX* were always in line for silver, but did so in style with a 5.4 average, far higher than any second-placed team in previous years. Finally two new teams, *Goat Throwers* and *AFM*, were working hard to put each single point on the board in the race for bronze. The fact that great flyers were delighted with a total of just three points (*AFM*) and four points (*Goat Throwers*) over eight rounds is a testament to the complexity of this category.

8 *The VLTs* by *Olly Burgin*

9 *Goat Throwers* take bronze by *Olly Burgin*

1. High Altitude Heroes 2. Bodyflight Aerodyne At Langer 3. Karmic Bitchslap 4. Enigma 5. Anti Gravity Ninja Swans 6. Satori Magenta 7. Bad Ass Badgers 8. Dynamite Wolf Squadron 9. Commitment Issues 10. Stotophobes





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BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

8-WAY NATIONALS



AFTER DELIVERING AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE WITH THE 4-WAY, HIBALDSTOW DIDN'T DISAPPOINT WITH THE 8-WAY EVENT. SEVEN SENIOR TEAMS AND TWO INTERMEDIATE TEAMS REGISTERED AND THE COMPETITION WAS COMPLETED ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON DESPITE A SLOWER START AND SOME HOLDS DUE TO THE WEATHER

WORDS AUDREY ROWE, BRIT CHICKS EVOLUTION

The vibe throughout was great fun, with plenty of banter being exchanged between the teams from the start and experienced competitors and coaches passing on their skills and knowledge freely.

INTERMEDIATE

Both teams entered were scratch teams but despite this both posted decent scores – with team *Hadron* posting several six-point rounds. Not bad going!

Hadron was led by Kev Sargent and Rod Fairweather, both experienced 8-way flyers, and *Reprobabies* was a spin-off from team *Reprob8s*, with some relatively low-experienced jumpers, some with less than 200 jumps.

Overall Intermediate results

| Rank | Name | Total | Avg |
|------|-------------|-------|-----|
| 1 | Hadron | 33 | 4.1 |
| 2 | Reprobabies | 17 | 2.1 |

“Had a shed load of fun, met a great bunch of talented people and walked off with a gold, result!”
 ROD FAIRWEATHER, TEAM HADRON



“ I had a great time. 8-way is great fun with its interesting blocks and, of course, regularly funnelled exits. We got some great coaching, principally from Derrick Kent and Sarah Cannon. *Reprobables* gave it a good go and had loads of fun on the way. We averaged over two points per round which, considering our experience level, was a great success. I will certainly be back for some more 8-way fun next year! ”

MIKE ALLSOP, *REPROBABIES*



1 MicroClim8 by Dave Butterell

2 Hadron win 8-way Inter by Aimee Southwell

3 Gold medallists in 8-way Senior yet again by Charlie Pearce

4 The Brit Chicks teams took silver and bronze by Charlie Pearce

SENIOR

The battle for gold was always going to be between reigning champions and 8-way veterans *Microclim8* and the all-female team *Brit Chicks8*. This ensured that both teams put in strong performances with some impressive scores posted from a pretty challenging draw. *Microclim8* had the edge after 10 rounds, claiming gold with 127 points and a 12.7 average. *Brit Chicks* took silver with 120 points and a 12.0 average. Notably, Andy Pook won his 14th consecutive gold 8-way medal and Milko won double gold in 4- and 8-way for the second year. Respect!

It was also brilliant to see two teams posting these averages!

Brit Chicks8 are en route to representing the UK at the World Meet in December and this was a valuable meet for them to gain more experience as part of their overall plan. They have another training camp scheduled in before Dubai; watch this space for an even stronger performance from the *Chicks* come December!

Bronze was hotly contested between *Brit Chicks Evolution* and *Vision of Kizen's Nutts*. *Evolution* is the *Brit Chicks8* squad team, developed by *Brit Chicks8* to further the development of women's skydiving and 8-way in the UK as well as acting as a feeder team to the main team. *Nutts* are a scratch team of very strong AAA jumpers from *Kaizen*, *Vision* and *Sonicnutz*.

Evolution had an initial training commitment of two hours' tunnel and 60 jumps, training alongside the main BC team. Unfortunately, the good old British weather got in the way and we ended up only doing a total of four jumps with the full line-up (and 17 with alternates!). However, many hours were spent on the ground walking jumps in the rain (!) and learning the dive pool. This, combined with a fantastic team vibe, expert coaching from the main team, Stumpy and Pooky, and our commitment to personal visualisation before the meet, meant that we turned up raring to go.

From round 1, scores were tight between both teams and after round 7 on Saturday night *Evolution* were only two points clear. Time to focus! A steady last three rounds on Sunday left *Evolution* ahead by seven points, finishing with an 8.8 average to take bronze. *Nutts* came in with an impressive 8.1 average and kept us on our toes! This meant that there were 17 skydiving women on the senior podium, which was fantastic and has to be a UK first.

Exasper8, *Totally Wicked Awesome Team Squad* and *Reprob8s* also posted some great scores, demonstrating the strength and depth of UK skydiving.

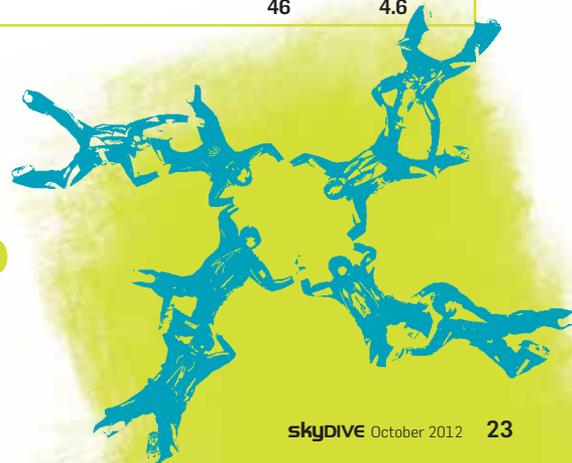
So what's stopping you getting a team together for next year? See you there! ●

Overall Senior results

| Rank | Name | Total | Avg |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|
| 1 | Microclim8 | 127 | 12.7 |
| 2 | Britchicks8 | 120 | 12.0 |
| 3 | Britchicks Evolution | 88 | 8.8 |
| 4 | Vision Of Kizen's Nutts | 81 | 8.1 |
| 5 | Exasper8 | 59 | 5.9 |
| 6 | Totally Wicked Awesome Team Squad | 54 | 5.4 |
| 7 | Reprob8s | 46 | 4.6 |



“ A great atmosphere and great competition ”
MILKO, *MICROCLIM8*





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- Rhys Kempen, Owner,
Skydive Franz, NZ

BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

ARTISTICS



AS ANY PROPER ENGLISHMAN SHOULD NOT, I HAVE NEVER FELT COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE PERFORMING A HIGH-FIVE. HOWEVER, GOOD MANNERS DICTATE THAT WE MUST OCCASIONALLY SET ASIDE THE TIME-HONOURED AND FOR MANY FAR MORE AGREEABLE TRADITIONAL HANDSHAKE AND ENGAGE IN THE HIGH-FIVE WITH STRANGERS, ACQUAINTANCES, AMERICANS AND CHILDREN

WORDS JOEL STRICKLAND, *VARIAL FREEFLY*

As an evolution of the high-five, competitive skydiving teams all seem to have adopted their own pre-jump ritual that happens in the space between when you faff with your gear one last time and the door opens for you to get out of the plane. Some variation of the usual business, often performed as a group, sometimes first as a whole and then between individual members within said group. A confusing and confounding ballet of fist-bumping and finger-wiggling.

I will happily perform the standardised skydiving handshake thingy with everyone within arm's reach, knowing that it has assured the imminent success of everyone involved. However, I am equally happy not doing so in exactly the same way as willingly opening an umbrella under a ladder or

throwing a black cat over my left shoulder will not cause a jot of difference to my path through life. These little rituals are not important to me.

Anyone who has a head with a face on it can tell you that the British weather has been spectacularly British this season. Every active skydiver in this country will likely have had some of their plans ruined by its persistent crapness and we are no exception. Two training camps in this country abandoned as near total failures left us with a single week in Spain to compose and complete a competitive artistic routine for the UK Nationals. We sweated away at Empuriabrava and came home with a total of 60 training jumps the week before we were due to be at Hibaldstow for the competition.

In this year's Freely A category we would be up against *Volare*, *Kinetic* and *Euphoria*, who took gold, silver and bronze respectively in 2011. →



BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012

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Round one dumped us firmly into last place. While the jump itself was not a shining example of our free routine, it was coherent enough in structure and timing for us to immediately feel that last is where we would be staying and the only course of action available was to complete the competition as best we could without being too sullen about it – to lose well, with grace and dignity. This was not to be the way of things.

Round two is the first of the two compulsory rounds, in which the competitors must complete four set manoeuvres in an order chosen by the teams and elected in advance. We hadn't had any time during training to compose fancy links between these moves so we just arranged them in the order that seemed easiest to not get wrong and hoped for the best. This went well, put us in second place and opened up the competition. It was, as they say, now on.

Rounds three and four saw all the teams settle down and improve their free round scores. *Volare* were out in front and both *Kinetic* and *Euphoria* were scoring higher than us meaning the only way we could stay in contention was with another good compulsory round. We

were back in last place, going into round five with four different moves to perform. Despite ending up dirty low, we got it done and were the highest scoring team for that round.

It transpired that *Euphoria* had made a mistake with their first move and had been marked down enough to put us in the medals if we could hold it together to the end, but it could so easily have been the other way around. *Varial Freestyle* undone by a cat barrel roll and *Euphoria*,

already on their way toward a silver medal, making it a certainty. If you want to pile on the pressure, make a freestyle team do something on their bellies.

Going into the last two free rounds we were in second place again but by less than half a point. *Euphoria* had been scoring second highest for their routine but, major disasters aside, they were not going to catch us now. *Kinetic* were getting more points than us too, but not by much. If we nailed two more rounds we could possibly

1-3 *Varial in training*
by Joel Strickland

4 *Volare take Freestyle A gold again*
by Charlie Pearce

5 *The Freestyle B podium*
by Charlie Pearce

6 *Freestyle A teams Euphoria and Airkix Freestyle*
by Charlie Pearce

7 *Speed champion Simon Brentford*
by Charlie Pearce

3





stay in front, but still it would only take a tiny mistake from anyone to secure a victory for the other team.

Third would be a good result for us. We began this season believing that first and second place were a given and we would have to battle to get up on the podium, never entertaining the idea that we would be in contention for silver. We were up against teams that have BPA funding behind them, many times more training jumps and collectively a significant amount more skydiving experience. It can be seen as less of a challenge to place well when there are merely four teams in a competition, but when the people you are up against at the top are established, practised and good, it matters not if there are four teams or 40 – if you want to take home a piece of shiny metal, you are going to have to earn it.

With all seven rounds completed in one day, we dropped our gear into a messy pile, unpacked and in disarray, carelessly discarded in favour of the immediate consumption of large amounts of booze. It didn't matter anymore – the competition was done with and we had won a medal, be it silver or bronze.

It was a draw. Joint second. This meant

we would be doing another round in the morning. A jump-off. Freefall elimination. So, instead of cavorting and shenanigans and the other such behaviour we had planned, we all shuffled off toward a reasonably early night, our fair and totally legitimate idea of just tossing a coin to decide who won so we could all get pissed falling on deaf ears with the judges.

Our situation was now this. One more free round against a team that had scored higher than us in every free round of the competition. Do you go for broke and add something to your routine, hoping that you nail it and the potential bump in points is enough? If you get it wrong, you have lost for sure. Do you stick with what you have got and hope consistency carries the day? One mistake from the other team and it is yours.

What would you do?

It takes time, money and effort to put together any kind of artistic skydiving performance, and everyone who entered a competition this year should be applauded. The three of us may have a rarefied advantage as full-time tunnel instructors, but that is no guarantee of success in the sky. You may have tunnel skills akin to that of a circus dolphin, but you soon learn it is all too easy to overcook the simplest of manoeuvres and wind up skydiving over separate English counties, wondering where the hell your team went.

I can't speak for the drama, being too busy at the time concentrating on not letting my own sh*t come unstuck, but in the Freestyle B category *Rekka* took silver with a 5.7 average and *Volition* won the gold with 6.6, with a bad final round from *Rekka* putting paid to what had been a close competition. As for the freestyle competition, *Airkix Freestyle's* monopoly over the whole business extends into yet another year, scoring an 8.4 average. But *Pixie* and *Al* might just have some competition in the form of relative newbies to this category *Alex Dand* and *Andy Godwin*, aka *Euphoria Freestyle*, who took silver with 5.8. Finally in the Speed Skydiving event, *Simon Brentford* successfully defended his title with an average speed of 256.52mph, although it was good to see some new faces both in the competition and on the podium. *Stephen Steward* took silver with an impressive 251.44mph and *Ben Cannon* (good name for a Speed Skydiver) averaged 232.13mph for bronze.

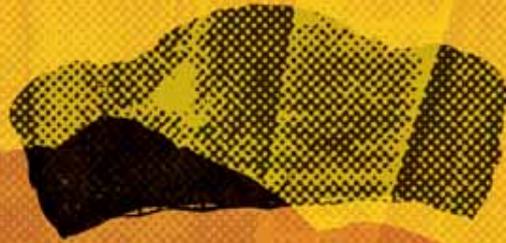
From our perspective, this year's Freestyle A competition hung in the balance from start to finish. Any mistake along the way could have sealed our fate and every jump was a vital part of the whole effort. At the start when it looked like we would be soundly beaten, I tried to convince myself that I didn't care anyway, but by this point you have already invested too much for it to mean nothing. It doesn't matter much and it doesn't matter too much, but it matters enough.

At the beginning of all this we didn't have a team ritual for the back of the plane – now we do. The details are not important, but the act itself might just be. ●



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- SkyVenture Orlando**
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FLYING THE FLAME



CELEBRATING A SENSATIONAL SUMMER OF SPORT IN STYLE

1 Charlie Smart and Mark Smitherman in a freefall torch relay over Langar, by Chris Cook

2 Official torch bearer James Colley in his London 2012 tracksuit with Chris McCann over Sibson, by Mark Harris

3 Deane Smith, Spence Hogg and Al Macartney of Jump4Heroes over Netheravon



Congratulations to Patrick Passe

During the Picnic Boogie 2012,
Patrick celebrated his 25th year
as a big way organiser!

With Vigil ;-)



Photo's and art-design: Willy Boeykens



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CELEBRATING COACHING



Lucy Smith-Wildey coaching FS student Liam, by James Stevenson

For a rainy little island, the UK has got an incredible wealth of skydiving skills and knowledge. From weekend warriors to world champions, there is an abundance of good practice out there

Within a two-hour radius of almost anywhere, you are spoilt for choice in almost any discipline. There is something to suit everybody, from the coaches who do it for free out of pure altruism and because somebody did it for them, to the full-time professionals who spent a fortune getting to where they are and are quite rightly trying to make a fraction of it back. If I could offer only one piece of advice for skydivers across the board it would be a simple message: get coaching. Our sport is far too expensive to waste jumps being a bit rubbish

at things – coaching opens the door to new opportunities and better jumps. Do it!

“BUT I CAN NEVER FIND A COACH!”

This new section of Progression Zone will print new coach ratings along with the dropzone that they were received at. It's great to see so many skydivers stepping up to the challenge of coaching, and hopefully this will also help to match up people who need coaching with the latest coaches on their local dropzone.

This series of three photos shows Ally Milne coaching FF student Michael Phillips, by Gary Wainwright



COACH RATINGS AWARDED SO FAR IN 2012

FS COACH

Blyth Davies, Hibaldstow
Ant Hill, Hibaldstow
Richard Wiggins, Dunkswell
Sean Hughes, Netheravon
Chris Ocomore, Cark
Lucy Eldred, Peterlee
Danny French, Beccles
Peter Long, Beccles
Phillip Kimpton, Black Knights
Edward Moss, Netheravon
Jack Bradford, Netheravon
Ben Lawford, Netheravon
Nadine Hall, Headcorn
Michael Wemyss, Beccles

Neil Lakin, Netheravon
James Bruce, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Mark Clayton, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Niel Flanagan, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Gary Nicholson, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Jon Parkhurst, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Robert Priestley, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Paul Aubrey-Rees, Netheravon
Martin Jarvis, Chatteris
Graham Ablett, Chatteris
Rowena Owen, Chatteris
Lizzi Nichol, Netheravon
Daniel Wright, Netheravon
Connor O'Brien, Chatteris
Paul Capsey, Netheravon

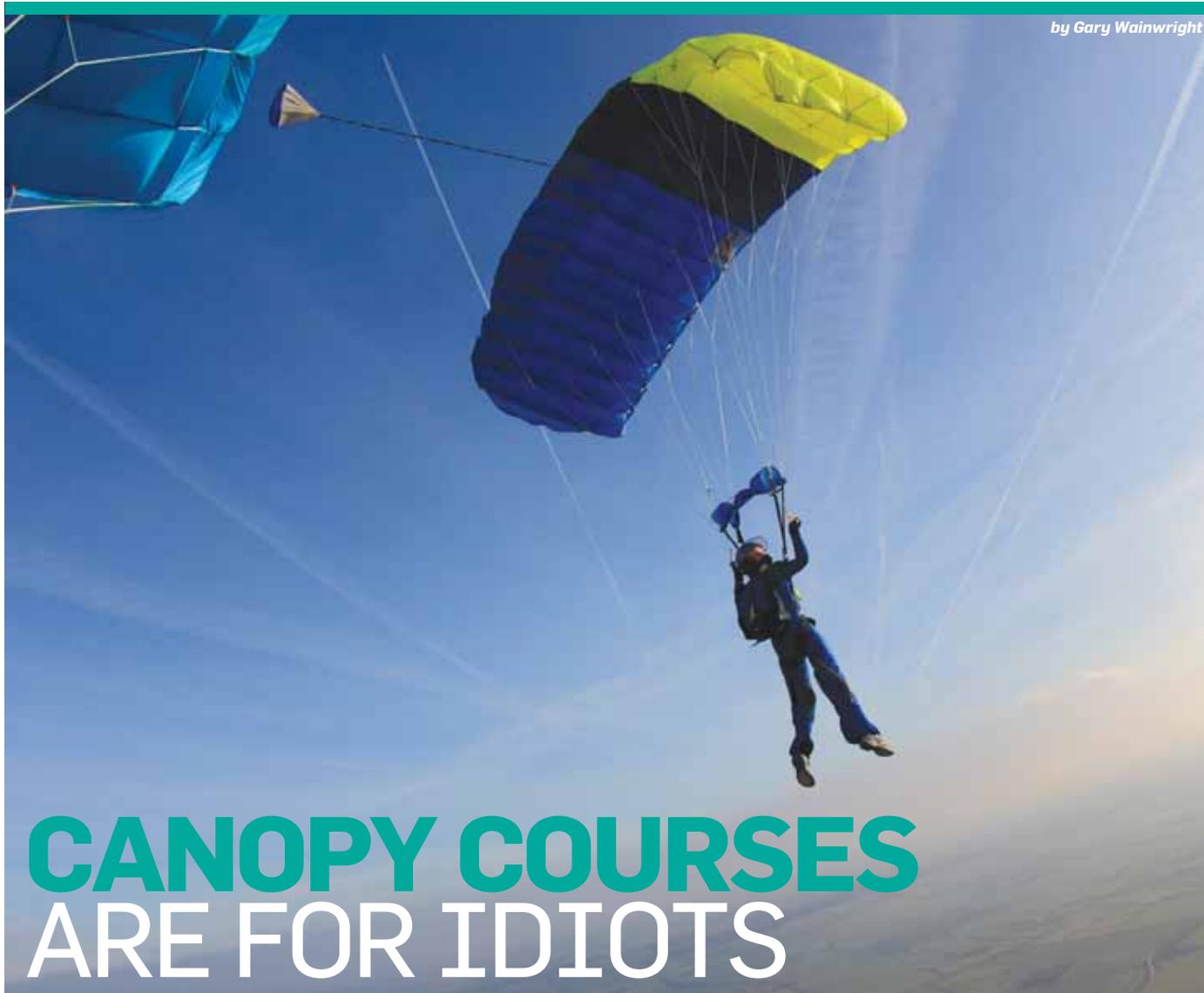
Andy Myers, Netheravon
Philip Wakefield, Hinton
Geoff McVey, Netheravon
Alex Mining, Netheravon
Alexander Smart, Strathallan
James Stevenson, Strathallan
Tim Hanlon, Chatteris
Jonny Flowers, Sibson
Robin Fisher, Netheravon
Shona Blainey, Hibaldstow
Rachel Limna, Chatteris
Tim Roberts, Silver Stars
Kev Keogh, Netheravon
Jonathan Francis, Langar
Em Green, Redlands

FF COACH

Ben Cornick, Hibaldstow
Lee Rhodes, Tilstock
Sean McKenna, Wild Geese
Paul Capsey, Netheravon
Sergiy Rulikovskyy, Strathallan
Victoria Sutton, Cark
Peter Connor, Cark
Jonathan Rivers, Langar
Martin Hopkins, Langar

WS COACH

Stu Storey, Netheravon
Andy Shaw, Netheravon



CANOPY COURSES ARE FOR IDIOTS

How many skydivers out there have done a canopy course? How many had over 100 jumps when they attended the course? Over the years I have run lots of canopy control courses, but only a small number of people attending have had more than 100 jumps

WORDS KEIRON HAYES

People with low jump numbers are keen to learn anything that they feel will make the sport safer for them. Canopy control lessons on a RAPS or AFF course are pretty basic, and a new skydiver can go from flying a 280 student canopy to a ZP 190 or 170 in 20 jumps. They have probably messed up at some point, landed downwind or mistimed a flare and taken a hard landing, so they are keen for any help they can get.

So why are more experienced skydivers less likely to do a course? They will have only had the same basic training as the newbies – does having lots of skydives mean you are less likely to mess up? I think we all know the answer to that one.

The most common excuses I hear are “I can land where I want to, on my feet every time, why would I need a course?” or “I don’t want to swoop”. That’s not what these courses are

about. They’re about learning how to get the most out of your canopy, flight planning and the right flare, amongst other things.

I find that as soon as someone who has done a canopy course makes a mistake – lands in the wrong field, spansks in on landing – there are experienced guys and sadly some instructors who will say “see, told you that canopy course was a waste of money”. Would they say this if a 4-way team funnelled a launch? “See, told you all that coaching off Dan BC was a waste of money.” People will make mistakes when learning new things.

This attitude doesn’t help, making people feel foolish for trying to learn. Maybe that’s why experienced skydivers won’t do courses – the fear of how others will see them.

Someone once said to me “canopy courses are for idiots”. At 1,500 jumps I did Chris

Lynch’s Wing Tips course then two of Brian Vacher’s Safe Flight School courses, and a couple of training camps with the PD guys, so I guess I am an idiot.

There are plenty of courses available: as well as the ones mentioned above there are the HEAT guys and Simon Larcombe at Dunkseswell.

I feel that if we are all practising and teaching the right methods from novice to skygod it might limit some of the accidents we are experiencing. Maybe it’s time to rein in our egos.

Kieron Hayes is the National Champion in Zone Accuracy, a member of the British Canopy Piloting Team and an AFF instructor with 3,500 skydives.

TOP TIPS: FREEFALL TIP

If you're struggling to master a new skill, go back to basics. Are you starting from a great body position? Are you relaxed, smiling even? Are you stationary and on heading at the start of the manoeuvre?

TOP TIPS: CANOPY TIP

Be a considerate canopy pilot. Know what your ideal canopy pattern would be, but be prepared to adjust it if you can see it would be helpful. Think ahead and consider where other people are. If they are on smaller canopies they will probably land before you, so make gentle manoeuvres rather than spiralling as this helps build and maintain vertical separation.

OPS MANUAL QUIZ

An introduction to the BPA Operations Manual forms part of the requirements for JM1. Each issue we'll ask relevant questions and answer them in the wording of the Ops Manual.

- Q1** What are the requirements to freely in a group?
- Q2** What are the requirements to begin wingsuit training?
- Q3** Must restraints be used in the aircraft and, if so, when?

Answers at the bottom of the page



By Sam Bemment

TOP TIPS: EXIT TIP

Doing a solo? You can still practise different exits that will be useful when jumping in a group. Front dive, rear dive, facing up, down or across the hill, front float, rear float, centre float, camera float. The first time you try each one it can take a moment to work out where to put your hands and feet, so why not get that bit sorted on a solo? Find out where the rails are when it doesn't matter if you end up playing solo Twister, rather than feeling the pressure doing it at a time when you've got to leave space in the door for others.

A3 Section 10 (Safety), paragraph 1.9
Where parachutists restraints are fitted, they are to be used during take off and landing.

A2 Section 2, paragraph 6.9.1.
... must be a BPA 'C' Licence parachutist with at least 500 descents or at least 200 descents within the last 18 months and must demonstrate (in a belly to earth position, as in 6.4.1) the ability to:
a) Control fall rate.
b) Control horizontal movement (forwards, backwards and sideways).
c) Achieve 'docking' techniques.
d) Turn in place.
e) Dive and approach a target.

A1 Section 2, paragraph 6.7.3
Once FF1 has been obtained, the parachutist must not make FF descents with others without CCI approval (a log book endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).

66 We want to show them that we can still skydive and do it well 99



Unstoppable

REHABILITATION AFTER TERRIBLE INJURY AND JUMPING OUT OF A PLANE AREN'T AN OBVIOUS COMBINATION, BUT THESE MEN SAW IT AS A CHALLENGE

WORDS TERRI JUDD

Ly ing in a hospital bed almost six years ago, Sergeant Stuart Pearson had just survived a day of unimaginable horror. Caught in a minefield in Afghanistan, he and his fellow soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment had valiantly fought to save each other. One by one, they were hit by exploding mines. Three of them lost legs while Corporal Mark Wright died trying to help his friends, an act of such bravery that the 27-year-old was posthumously awarded the George Cross.

Days later, a bloody mess in hospital in Birmingham, Stuart knew his life was changed forever but he refused to relinquish it all.

Sitting at Netheravon, he explained he knew the perils of throwing himself out of a plane, having broken a leg more than 10 years ago, but joked it was no longer an

issue as the leg has gone completely.

Surrounding him, his fellow amputees spanned the history of modern British conflict, from the Falklands and Bosnia to Iraq and Afghanistan. Between the seven of them, they proclaimed with a smile, they have just seven legs and 13 eyes.

Yet only weeks after beginning training, most with no experience of freefall, they had been transformed from a group of wounded soldiers and Royal Marines to Britain's first ever disabled skydiving team.

The genesis behind the idea came from Sergeant Dave Pacey, 30, a member of the military's freeflying team *Euphoria*, and his wife and fellow skydiver Alana.

Having served on tours in Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq as well as three in Afghanistan (the last of which he was lucky to emerge unscathed from after a roadside bomb attack), Dave was all too

aware of the value of projects such as Battle Back, which offer wounded servicemen and women opportunities through sport and adventurous training.

So, in the winter of 2010, Alana raised £1,000 for Battle Back so that Dave and fellow *Euphoria* team member Andy Myers could take a group of injured soldiers to Airkix for tunnel time as part of their rehab.

Dave and his team approached the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA) and they agreed to sponsor the project as well as find members willing – or mad enough – to give it a go. But, as they explained, fear is not a new emotion to them.

"I have had more scary situations being shot at. It is just a different sort of fear," said Corporal Glynn McNary, 34, a former Royal Marine. In 2009, he was hit by an IED (improvised explosive device) in

Afghanistan which killed a friend and seriously injured three others. He lost his right leg below the knee and, he added with a grin, his 'left a*se'.

"Since being blown up you do get more fearful, more hesitant. The worst thing was that I thought 'That is my job over, that's me done.' It was not a job, it was my life. Most of us miss that military camaraderie, that peer pressure. It is the job we do. It is dangerous but it is exciting and it gives you that adrenaline rush. By doing this you are facing your fears and getting that confidence back."

The first test for the new team was to do tandems, Dave explained: "It was to make sure they were happy jumping out of a plane and get them used to landing a canopy. That was the bit we were worried about without legs.

"But they did an awesome job. Just to see the look on their faces, it felt like they had got a part of their lives back, that adventure, that freedom."

The group then moved to Airkix at Milton Keynes, which offered them subsidised tunnel time. Through patience and negotiation, the team managed to find a way to balance without all their limbs – a compromise between the usual training and what they could achieve.

Earlier this year they headed out to Elsinore, where the Americans welcomed them with baffled admiration as they progressed through their AFF. Despite the bravado amongst the group, each one had their moment of trepidation in the jumps towards achieving the coveted A licence.

"There is that fear that you are going to do yourself even more of an injury, damage what you have got left. You could see when somebody got a bit quiet. Everyone went through it. We would just start joking like typical squaddies," explained Allan.

He was on only his sixth jump when he had a mal and was spinning badly.

"There was no flapping. I just realised I was going to have to buy the beers," he said with a nonchalance that seems inconceivable until you hear about the day in March 2010, while working as a private military contractor assisting reconstruction projects in Baghdad, that a bomb hit his vehicle: "It was like slow motion, the bang, the heat and then I looked down and thought one out of two legs isn't bad." But the second leg was beyond saving.

2



1 John Reeves, Allan Roberts, Stu Pearson, instructor Dave Pacey, Vince Manly, Dave Scott, cameraman Mike Jeng and Glynn McNary

2 Glynn McNary on an AFF level with instructor Deane Smith

3 Vince Manly during AFF

4 The full BLESMA crew including instructors, cameraman and Alana Pacey as project manager

"During the trip, their stumps would start swelling and their prosthetics would be uncomfortable. They would be tender and sore," added Dave. "But they have all been through more than that before so they could cope and keep fighting through it."

"As an amputee you are in pain constantly. But the best thing about this sport is there is no pressure on your legs, you are pain free," explained Allan.

In July, Stuart and Rob Copsey, 41, a former Royal Engineer who lost a leg to an anti-personnel mine in Rwanda, competed in the Armed Forces Parachute Championships (AFPC). They achieved a respectable 10 points, beating numerous other Rookie teams. Stuart even managed a score of 1.18m on one of his junior accuracy jumps. Describing the whole experience as "the ultimate rehabilitation" and boost to self-esteem for the

wounded, Rob said: "It was an awesome experience to be part of this year's AFPC. An honour to represent the injured and to push the boundaries of the sport so that others in a similar situations to Stuart and I can see that it's inclusive and not exclusive."

Now BLESMA Trans4mers is looking to the future, using the experience gained to train up a whole new team of amputee skydivers next year, with the original pioneering members acting as mentors.

It is simply another hurdle for men who have had to teach themselves to learn to walk once more.

As Allan insisted: "I thought I would give skydiving my best shot. When I was injured I was going to prove to the world that I could set these goals that seemed out of reach and actually reach them and go beyond. And, when you get there you think you can do anything." ●

3



4



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- 13-14th First Time Formations With Simon Cathrine
- 20-21st Foundry FS Coaching Weekend
- 27-28th Hibbleween Speed Meet - Flat vs Freefly 8-Way

NOVEMBER

- 3-4th FS1+ Small Group Load Organising
- 10-11th Foundry FS Coaching Weekend

DECEMBER

- 8-9th Christmas Party and Awards Weekend
- 15-16th Final Weekend of 2012

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One for the books

1



2

“ I had to get noticed to get my name on the list of maybes ”



3



4

7



“ Everyone had taken their grips, no-one had seen anyone off – the party atmosphere was building! ”



“ As a Brit in other countries I was an unknown; the level on the camps was exceptionally high and slots were very limited ”



5



6

Vertical RUSH

THE WORLD'S MOST TALENTED FREEFLYERS CAME TOGETHER TO TAKE THE HEAD-DOWN WORLD RECORD FROM 108 TO 138... VIA AN UNOFFICIAL 142-WAY

WORDS PAUL COOPER PHOTOS BRIAN BUCKLAND (BB), ROLF 'KURI' KURATLE (RK) AND NORMAN KENT (NK)

When I first heard that there was going to be an attempt at breaking the current 108-way head-down record set in 2009 and that slots were available, I set myself the goal of getting an invite. This was a new format – previous record attempts had all been a matter of turning up 'on the day' and either being known as having the necessary skills and experience

for the job or being lucky enough to get a chance to show that you're up to the task. This was in December 2011, the record attempt was to be held during Summerfest 2012 and the biggest formation I had been on at this point was the 28-way 2011 UK record. I had less than nine months to get my act together. The invitations were allocated at nine try-out camps. Seven of these were in the USA, one in Dubai and one in Picton, Australia.

1 RK The completed 138-way

2 BB Six-aircraft exit

3 RK Under canopy after an attempt

4 BB With oxygen and blankets on the hour-long ride to altitude

The European slots were selected from participants of the 2011 80-way head-down Euro-Record. If you weren't on the Euro-Record, the only other possibility for an invite was to attend one or more of the try-out camps to get one of the slots allocated for other nations.

The camps were typically three days of jumping – five jumps a day from 14-ways, up to 60+ ways if the aircraft were available. The first camp I attended was



One for the books

Previous record attempts had all been a matter of turning up 'on the day' and either being known as having the skills and experience for the job or being lucky enough to get a chance to show that you're up to the task



run by Arizona Arsenal at Eloy in November 2011. The camp went well and the handful of Brits who were there all flew exceptionally well. Unfortunately, at the end of the camp, we were told that no invites would be given at that time as Arsenal had limited invites to allocate so both of their camps needed to be taken into account. However, we had made some awesome jumps, made some new friends and gained some insight into what the organisers of the record would be looking for - the journey had begun!

The next camp was at the Sebastian Invasion Boogie which was between Christmas and New Year. There were a lot of familiar faces from the Eloy camp and a lot of new ones. This camp really opened my eyes as to how difficult it was going to be to get an invite for the record. There were around 80 jumpers ranging in ability from awesome to slightly less awesome. At the end of this camp there were only eight invites given out!

I went on to attend camps in Dubai in

January, back to Sebastian in March and finally back to Eloy in April. The journey around the M25 to Heathrow's Terminal 5 was becoming all too familiar and my BA Avios points were building fast. I could now use fast-track and was only a few points away from complimentary lounge access!

UNKNOWN

The problem was that as a Brit in other countries I was an unknown; the level on the camps was exceptionally high and slots were very limited. I had to get noticed to get my name on the list of maybes. However, as the idea on big ways is not to get noticed, I had a dilemma! At the April Eloy camp, a mixture of luck and determination got me through that barrier - at last I was noticed and not for the wrong reasons! At the end of the camp I was given the invitation that I had travelled so far and worked so hard for along with some friends from around the world who had made the journey with

5 BB The formation builds

6 BB Dirtdiving

7 RK Vertical records are much more compact than FS formations as each flyer takes up a smaller area of sky relative to the ground, so as the formation builds it is densely packed.

8 BB Docking on an already huge formation

9 NK Finding slots

10 BB Exit

11 NK Breakoff

me. We were going to Chicago, a journey that was going to earn me BA complimentary lounge access!

So at the end of July, myself and a handful of other Brits headed to Skydive Chicago for Summerfest - the biggest boogie in the skydiving calendar. At the end of the boogie, we were going to try to build a 142-way head-down formation out of a Sherpa, four Otters and a Skyvan, setting a new world record. We had already been allocated our slots on the formation and exit positions in our allocated aircraft. I was given slot 139, stinging on the outside of the formation and first off of the step in the left rear trail Otter. A super-deep floating pressure slot!

The days leading up to the record attempts were pretty chilled out, catching up with friends and jumping in small groups. There were some really nice organised loads for all levels in a really relaxed and laid-back atmosphere - despite the fact that there were more than 800 jumpers registered for the boogie!→

One for the books

On the two days leading up to the record attempts, the organisers started to put some 20-way, 40-way and 60-way loads together for the record participants to warm up and practise their slots.

Before I knew it, August 1 arrived and 142 skydivers from around the world were standing in front of Skydive Chicago's hangar holding hands in the sweltering heat. This was something we were going to spend many hours doing over the next few days! After drilling aircraft procedures, climb outs, finding slots, building the formation and breakoffs, first jump nerves and tension started to build as we walked to our aircraft boarding areas for record attempt number one.

RECORD ATTEMPTS

The record attempts were from 17,000 feet up to 19,000 feet with the first wave breaking off at 7,000 feet, which didn't allow us a huge amount of time to get 142 people together in the sky! The first couple of attempts showed how high the level was on these jumps and how well they were engineered. The plan of having the three lead planes diving and the three trail planes floating was working well. Most of the formation was building with only one or two problem areas – this was going to be easy! In everyone's minds we were already drinking the case of tequila supplied by the event sponsors to celebrate. Then some issues started to creep in... on jump three, the trail plane (Skyvan) left late, everyone exited and looked up towards the lead plane waiting for the base to appear... it didn't, the formation was already building 1,000ft below. This put some of the trail plane jumpers on edge so on the next jump as soon as the word "GO" was heard, half of the jumpers exited. Unfortunately, they didn't hang around to hear the rest of the sentence which was "...ING AROUND!" With the teething problems resolved and the command for aircraft going around changed to "STOP!" the attempts continued without further aircraft issues.

By day two the formation was getting very close to building! Rook Nelson gave an excellent inspirational talk during the morning brief, we knew we had this in the bag – everyone could already taste the tequila and was looking forward to partying hard! The formation was frustratingly close to completing on these jumps with just one or two grips 'off', then on the fourth jump of the day, we knew we had it! As 142 canopies (mostly Velos!) landed, the buzz was going around the landing area! Everyone had taken their grips, no-one had seen anyone off – the party atmosphere was building! Then the announcement came over the PA system "All vertical world record jumpers to meet in front of the hangar with gear immediately!" We all knew this was a wind up, we were expecting to be told that we had it and it was time to celebrate! We were told to build the formation and the FAI judges appeared and walked around. My heart sank as one →

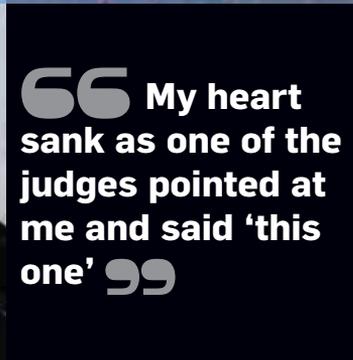
12 BB Sit-flying cameraman

13 BB Emptying aeroplanes

14 BB The unofficial world record 142-way

15 BB Another tight exit

16 RK Turbolenza t-shirt gang



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**ATMONAUTI
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RECORD**

DECEMBER 29TH - JANUARY 5TH

MARCO TIEZZI &
GIGLIOLA BORGNIS

**THE EURO
SEQUENTIALS**

DECEMBER 28TH - JANUARY 3RD

KRISTIAN MOXNES,
HAVARD FLAAT,
MIKE CARPENTER
& FABIAN RAIDEL

17



18



of the judges pointed at me and said 'this one' – I was in the wrong slot and gripped with the wrong hand. 141 people were ready to party and looking at me, I was about to lose some Facebook friends! As it turned out it wasn't only me but my opposite on the other side of the formation too. Imagine our relief when we were told that we had taken the right slots but the drawing submitted to the judges was wrong! We were still in the game but we also still had work to do. The last attempt of the day was not successful so the tequila stayed in the case and we had to meet early the next morning to get the job done.

On day three, we had four more attempts at the 142-way but one pod was not quite building every time. Eventually, the organisers decided to cut that pod and we became a 138-way. On the next attempt, once again we knew we had it, once again we were called to the front of the hangar with full gear, once again we had to rebuild the formation as the judges came out. Then they announced it – we had done it! We were all 138-Way FAI world record holders and had built the world's biggest head-down formation with the 142-way (unofficial) record.

The tequila was drunk and we partied long and hard into the night at the Tiki

17 NK *The completed 142-way*

18 BB *Happy record holders*

19 BB *The 138-way almost built*

20 RK *The completed 142-way*

21 BB *During breakoff with one wave left to go*

bar. It had been a long, emotional and expensive journey – was it worth it? Would I do it again? Definitely! ●

Representing the UK...

- ▶ Mike Carpenter
- ▶ Paul Cooper
- ▶ James Davies
- ▶ Jim Harris
- ▶ Kurmet Jaadla
- ▶ Claudio Lettieri
- ▶ Matt O'Riordan
- ▶ Martin Reynolds
- ▶ Frazer Smith

19



“ The record attempts were from 17,000 feet up to 19,000 feet with the first wave breaking off at 7,000 feet, which didn't leave us a huge amount of time to get 142 people together in the sky! ”

20



21



A Judge's View

Although sitting at the official judges' desk sounds quite glamorous, in fact most of the judges' time was spent checking, re-checking and sorting out over 150 participants' licences and FAI sporting licences, logging their validity and on many occasions highlighting problem areas, which soon sent many scampering to their emails and mobile phones to sort out. Any record attempt with participants without the relevant paperwork would not be valid, as simple as that. One participant had to stand down, relieved when his National Aero Club provided the missing information, and even more relieved to be reunited with his record slot!

As each attempt was made, the organisers would hand the judges a formation and confirm participants. After every attempt, in the huge Skydive Chicago auditorium, organisers would scrutinise the videos and take feedback from each sector leader. Then came the tough decisions of who to cut and who to bring in. Judges then prepared for each attempt, updating the adjusted paperwork. In between each attempt, it was with anticipation that the spectators, in 90°F heat and wall-to-wall sunshine, watched six planes majestically take off into formation snaking into the distance. Then the long wait, up to an hour, for their climb to formation some 18,000 feet above.

Lying on the ground, manifest would call "running in" and people would point as the sun caught the planes. Shouting "they're out" and hearing the unmistakable and unique sound of such a huge fast formation building. Was it built, wasn't it? Everyone had their opinions. Then came the incredible sight of more than 140 skydivers breaking off in wave after wave, then the seemingly never-ending sight of canopies landing.

In a darkened room, it was obvious the organisers had something special to hand the judges, and as we all huddled around the picture evidence, judge Anna quickly identified a cruel problem. The formation had built – 142 linked – it looked perfect but the paperwork depicted directional docking (therefore designated hand stinging) of the final outside stingers, so a couple were therefore incorrect. It could not be a record.

Eventually, as the 142 formation repeat was elusive, a brutal final decision to lose a pod meant some changes and a cut of 4. This time anticipation wasn't premature, as the judges went through, grip by grip, then the delay for verifying Swedish FAI judge Elizabeth in a completely different time zone. 138 was confirmed. A new world record was announced. You can of course imagine the roar and cheers in that auditorium as the video was paused and the record was announced!

And here is the complicated bit: the 142 was a state record, and could have been submitted as a National record. However, if it had been submitted as a National record this would have deemed the 138 world record invalid. As FAI rules state, any record submitted must be a national record. Had 142 been pre-submitted, a 138 could not have taken that accolade and technically the 138 would not have been valid. Whatever your take on paperwork and rules, having people who know their bacon is imperative, and the excellent administration of judges Jamie and Anna saved the day.

I was proud to watch all the invited BPA members make the record. I learned loads, just listening and watching, and perhaps I might have a little go at big way. You never know, it's the women's record in 2013. I was definitely inspired, just some skills to gain now...

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My first year on Council

ONE OF THE NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN COUNCIL THIS YEAR GIVES HER THOUGHTS ON HOW THE YEAR HAS GONE AND ON WHAT REALLY GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BPA

WORDS KAREN BAIN



The BPA will shortly be requesting nominations for candidates to stand for Council in 2013. Whether you are thinking of standing or just want to know what on earth those annual elections are all in aid of, all BPA members should read on...

FIRST THINGS FIRST – WHY DID I DO IT?

It's a question I ask myself from time to time! In all seriousness though, everyone's reasons for standing for Council will be different. I had a few simple reasons for deciding to stand for Council. In no particular order:

- ▶ I am a little bit nosy and like to know what goes on behind the scenes.
- ▶ Working full time in skydiving now, I felt I had more to offer the BPA (although this is by no means necessary for the role).
- ▶ Being part of Council is great personal development for me.

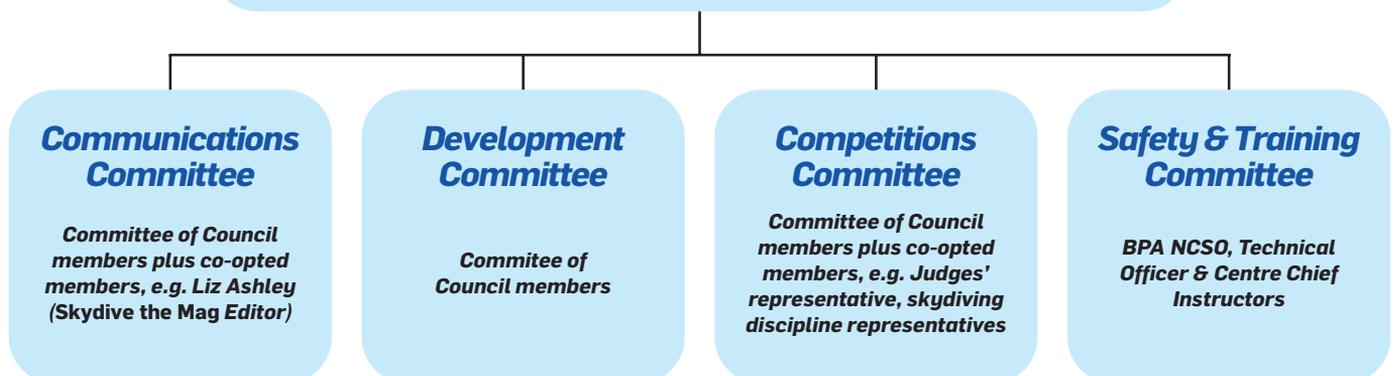
- ▶ I am sure we have all questioned a BPA decision or process from time to time but I am a firm believer that if you are not prepared to get involved in the solution, you should think twice about being critical of the problems.
- ▶ The BPA has a very high reputation in the skydiving world, and it is great to be part of this and to be able to contribute to maintaining and building upon it.
- ▶ And, probably most simply put, I care! About the BPA and about skydiving in the UK.

SO WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Essentially, when you become a Council member, you become a director of the BPA and therefore play a part, along with the rest of Council and the BPA office, in the running of the BPA. Each year's Council is inaugurated at the initial meeting at the AGM in January and then meets six more times through the year. In addition to the full Council meeting there are a number of Committees and also the Safety & Training Committee made up of all of the CCIs. The basic structure is set out below.

BPA Council

15 elected Council members plus BPA officials and co-opted members



WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CHALLENGES?

Getting to grips with the procedures and formalities of the Council environment takes some getting used to during your first few meetings. All items are discussed and then voted on democratically, and meetings are chaired and minuted in a formal manner. Meetings are open to all BPA members to attend as observers and minutes can be viewed on the BPA website once ratified.

It is also a challenge coming into the Council as a new member and picking up on a lot of the historical discussions and information that have been built up over many, many years. This is something that cannot be overcome quickly and just takes time and attention to build up the knowledge that others have acquired over time.

Finally, simply finding the time to do the job well is a constant challenge for all Council members, all of whom take on the role voluntarily and in their own time.

SO WHAT HAVE I DONE IN MY FIRST YEAR?

I have taken on the role of Classics discipline rep on the Competitions Committee and as part of this role I attended the Accuracy GP in Headcorn in May. I hope to organise some accuracy roadshows in 2013, so please contact me if you are interested in hosting or attending one.

I have also jumped into the Comps and Council meetings with both feet this year, asking lots of questions. Is it possible to ask too many questions? Maybe my fellow Council members can answer that one!

WHAT HAVE I LEARNT?

My eyes have been well and truly opened to the activities and scope of the BPA. They are not just the remote office that issues our membership forms, produces the *Mag* and organises the AGM each year. Clearly they are responsible for setting the framework for safety and regulation of skydiving in the UK. They set out a world-recognised training system for new students and instructors, have a significant representation on the international competition circuit and international skydiving bodies and work hard to influence European flying legislation to ensure that the interests of skydiving are well represented. These are to name but a few of the activities of the BPA and the Council – perhaps we get a little more for our membership fee than we first realise!

THE FUTURE. WILL I CONTINUE?

Well that all depends on the election! But yes, I hope to stand for Council again. I don't think it is a role that you can do justice in just one year in office, as I am sure that the many others currently on Council and Council members who have preceded me will attest to.

The BPA and the Council itself face

many challenges constantly. Currently priorities include membership retention and growing our membership numbers which have remained fairly static for a number of years, succession planning for key members of staff in the BPA and reviewing the premises of the organisation to ensure they remain suitable for the BPA well into the future.

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY?

Martin Soulsby

CURRENT CHAIR OF COUNCIL

"The most important lessons I have learnt are to listen to all sides of the debate before making any decisions and that while a debate can be frustrating it will generally ensure reaching the best decision."

Paul Applegate ('Apples')

LONG-STANDING COUNCIL MEMBER

"Having served on Council for a few years now, I know that the rich mix of old and experienced with new and enthusiastic is what makes Council work well. It's an opportunity to contribute to the running of the sport and to gain a real insight into the behind-the-scenes work of the Association. The main challenge of being a Council member is making the right decisions for the silent majority, while listening to the noisy few."

James Swallow and Marc Fletcher

ALSO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 2012

► What advice would you give to someone considering standing?

Marc: *Have at least one positive goal in mind when running for Council; it helps keep your initial contributions focused until you find your footing. If you don't feel like standing for Council but still want to contribute, you could speak to an existing Council member or perhaps write a letter/email to the BPA about your ideas.*

James: *Are you passionate about skydiving? Can you look at agenda items with an open mind and accept that sometimes the best decision for the members and Association may not be the best decision for you personally? Do you have a particular skill you feel can benefit the BPA Council or a particular goal in mind? This is not a definitive list, but these were some of the questions I asked myself before deciding to stand for Council.*

► What have you got out of being on Council?

Marc: *Lots of things but, as a newcomer to Council, primarily a much better understanding of how the BPA and skydiving operates within the UK/Europe.*

James: *A much better understanding of the workings of the BPA, and confirmation that we as the BPA are making the best decisions possible for the Association and members as a whole.*

AND FINALLY...

Asked to sum up my thoughts in just a few adjectives I would probably say "challenging, enjoyable, frustrating, valuable, important".

I hope that this article may inspire a few other members to at least look into the role of Council member and consider standing for the role in the future. We really do need YOU! ●

How to stand for Council 2013

If you would like to stand for election to BPA Council for 2013, you need two members to nominate and second you plus provide your nomination text. The form can be downloaded from the BPA website and the deadline for nominations is October 30. If more than 15 nominations are received there will be an election with the results being announced shortly before the January AGM.



SMILING PEOPLE



*AFF training of the Norwegian ski jumping national team
with the management of Skydive Oslo*

THE FUTURE OF SKYDIVING

“Since the 26 April 2012 the P-750 XSTOL has been in operation in our drop zone in Oestre Aera (Norway). We had been looking for a plane which would take our skydivers to jump height fast, efficiently and at the lowest possible cost. Four months later and after more than 12,000 jumps we can say: the P-750 XSTOL is the optimum solution for us – also for the years to come.”

Jan Erik Dietrichson
General Manager

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New, stainless and black

Velocity Sports Equipment of Oregon USA are now offering black, yes BLACK, stainless-steel hardware on their Infinity harness/container system.

The company tells us that the black hardware holds up well to wear and tear and that all new customers choosing black hardware will also receive CWH Friction adaptors in black as well.

Velocity were keen to point out that this is, however, not a free option, carrying a \$200-\$300 surcharge depending on degree of articulation.

velocityrigs.com

Small but perfectly formed!



Skysystems Inc, those innovative milliners from Florida, have now released a XXSmall shell size for their popular and long serving full-face helmet the Factory Diver.

The company tells us that the XXS shell will fit even the smallest head sizes out there. The Factory Diver is now available in eight sizes from XXS to XXXL!

skysystemsusa.com/portfolio/factory-diver-2



EYES IN THE SKY

Sky Eyes goggles, popularly known as Tube Stow goggles, have been a regular SkySystems product now for around two decades. Well at last the Floridian company have released the latest generation, carrying the name on to the market with their new SkyEyes Curves.

Sky Eyes Curves are a wrap-around type goggle with a hard polycarbonate lens that is reported as anti-fog (where have I heard that before?) and anti-scratch with

multiple vent holes. The new goggles closely resemble the popular Sorz, which have been around now for many years, although Sky Eyes Curves have a nicer, wider and more comfortable strap.

Curves come in clear, smoke, and yellow lens colours and are supplied standard with a hard case and a soft lens-cleaning bag.

skysystemsusa.com

BACK TO SQUARE 1!

Those guys from Square One parachute supplies in California are offering a nice little snag-resistant mount for the Go Pro camera system.

This contoured mount, which leaves no gap under the camera for lines to snag on, has been designed exclusively for skydiving and can be ordered with either a flat or curved bottom for fitting on to almost any kind of skydiving helmet.

The new mount allows for adjustment of the camera angle and the opening of the Go-Pro's weatherproof case while still mounted on the helmet.

<http://tinyurl.com/square1-GoPro>

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!

In the June issue of KZ we appraised you of the earth-shatteringly exciting news that Alti 2 were now building their N3 audible alti in three new colours – blue, yellow, and green.

Well this month they've hit us with another bombshell – the fashion-conscious N3 is now also available in...wait for it...purple, silver and orange!

alti-2.com

GOGGLE CHIC

Those Guccis of the skydiving fashion world, Parasport Italia, have released on us a new range of trendy but some might say 'very expensive' goggles!

Called the PSX range, these new goggles range from around £22 to £60 per pair.

PS3 integral goggle



The cheaper model, the PS3 Integral Goggle, features a polycarbonate lens with UV protection and is available in clear, tinted, orange or mirrored.

At the other end of the price scale resides the PS2 Sunglass goggle, which as their name implies resembles a pair of sunglasses, with normal over-ear arms plus a Parasport neoprene neck strap to keep them in place when jumping. The PS2 has a Grilamid frame with

PS2 sunglass goggle



grey rubber inserts. The lenses are decent polycarbonate, tinted with UV protection.

The mid-price range PS1, retailing at around £55, is described as a 'modular' goggle. Every part of the PS1 is removable, and the temple area where the strap meets the lens is flexible and adjustable for a comfortable fit.

parasport.it

PS1 modular goggle





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The climb out is a time when one person's sloppy kit could endanger the whole load. Photo by Chris Cook



GEAR CHECKS

WORDS HANNAH BETTS (WORLD CHAMPION 2008 WITH GB TEAM *BODYFLIGHT STORM*)

Please continue to be anal about any loose pilot chutes or loose BOCs on rigs, especially old gear. Blom, our tail, had a premature main out the door on Saturday as I was about to start the count. The canopy went over the tail and she struck the tail. I assumed she was dead. My brain couldn't process how fast she was pulled and how hard she struck. It looked like a computer game or a movie. She was unconscious under a spinning main until 5,000 feet when she came to and cut away.

The BOC was in good condition, but it was an old rig, so not as tight as the new mega-modern rigs. She had a hacky handle and it was the pilot chute that came loose. The pilot chute was tucked in before she climbed out, and the way she climbed out did not seem as though she could have caught it on anything at all. We had been in the door a few seconds (she is tail, outside rear door) and it happened as I was starting the count. The camerawoman was still on the step and did not have time to react as the main inflated. Blink and you would have missed it. The lines went past her but she stayed on the camera step with no injury or contact with Blom's canopy. Blom struck the very end of the tail, canopy over the top, she got pulled round the side of the tail – thank God.

She had blown out cells and broken lines and brake lines. Her RSL was attached – thank God – as she's convinced she

wouldn't have been able to reach her reserve due to injury/lines around her.

She saw me following her (I pulled high to try and guide her) and luckily she followed me into a corn field. Top tip – if you throw grass/corn stalks in the air, the person landing can see which direction the wind is coming from if you've landed off! She stood up and collapsed straight away. Her jumpsuit was ripped down one side, her whole side was black and blue, just one fractured bone in her neck. She must be made of steel. She is going to be okay – fractured C7 that hopefully does not require surgery and she has no paralysis. She'll be in a hard collar for two to three months. Her whole body is bruised but amazingly she has no other breaks.

The plane has some pretty amazing dents, and the pilot kicked everyone else out after us at 10,500 feet because the whole plane shook and he said it didn't feel like it was flying well after the impact. They say the tail could have ripped off.

Stay sharp on gear checks my friends... we'd love to make sure other people aren't lax about their pilot chutes! Having said that, we don't know how we could have prevented this one. Kind of frustrating.



The scenarios in this regular 'what if?' column are deliberately vague. There could be a number of different 'correct' answers depending on your experience and other information not contained within the question. However, following feedback, it has been decided to reproduce some previously printed scenarios along with 'answers'... or at least things you might want to consider.

What if... the aircraft makes a sudden loud noise, the pilot looks back with a tense expression and utters the immortal words "exit exit exit"?

Once you've had a think, see page 52 for more ideas...

Got any good ones? Send them in!

TOP TIPS: SAFETY TIP

First jump on a new container? Do a practice touch shortly after exit. If there is a problem then you've got about 10,000 feet to fix it – far better than finding out at pull time!

TOP TIPS: KIT TIP

Always cock your pilot chute before you put your canopy in the bag, not after. Otherwise the act of cocking it could pinch your canopy between the kill line and bridle, causing little holes in the top skin of your canopy.

BACK TO BASICS

It's time for a reminder of the obvious: that skydiving is a risky activity and that the consequences of getting it wrong can be serious. Following a fatality-free two years, two jumpers were killed within 48 hours when each of them made a dangerous low turn under canopy. Remember your landing priorities:

- Land under a flat and level canopy (this includes flaring evenly)
- Into a hazard free area
- Into wind (this is ideal but not at the expense of the above)

This isn't rocket science: it's all stuff we learnt as part of CH1 and CH2. But was it a box you ticked and have never revisited? When was the last time you practised life-saving drills such as flat turns? As a minimum you should go back over all the CH2 exercises every time you change canopy. If it's been a while since you did anything structured, why not dedicate a jump soon to reminding yourself what your canopy can do, beyond the usual 'left turn, right turn, flare'. Clear your airspace and initiate an aggressive turn up



Al Hodgson landing,
by Gary Wainwright

high, then stab both toggles down to recover – see how long it takes until the canopy is flying straight and level again and how much height you lose.

Now practise flat turns and slow flight until they become intuitive and effortless, then keep practising regularly. There are many situations where these skills could literally save your life. If you ever do find yourself landing off into a tight space, or suddenly aware of a hazard near the ground such as an unseen power line or another canopy, you'll be less likely to panic and get hurt.

Back to basics – the sequel

All incidents that occur on BPA dropzones are reported to the BPA and collated to look for trends. Every two months CCI's meet and, among other things, discuss pertinent incidents and any action that may be needed.

One thing that caught my eye recently was that there had been nine reports of AAD firings in a two-month period, a particularly high number. Five were jumpers who opened their mains too low while the rest involved some sort of deployment problem. Of these, two were high-speed malfunctions, one person dislocated their shoulder and one person had a problem locating their main toggle and had not managed to pull anything at all by the time the AAD fired!

Inexperience could well be blamed in part, with four of the nine jumpers having under 30 jumps each. However, the other five were all experienced jumpers, with hundreds and thousands of jumps.

If we rewind 20 years, AADs were in their infancy and not at all common. In fact there was even a stigma about 'needing' to jump with one, as if the choice to use one said something negative about how you thought you'd cope in an emergency. Thankfully that attitude has now long gone, but have we gone too far the other way? Your AAD should be the absolute last line of defence, something to have but never ever use if you can possibly help it. If there's one fundamental thing to do on every jump, surely it's to open a parachute?! Maybe I'm being an old fart, but I can't help but feel a bit ashamed that, as a group, we've fired so many AADs in such a short time.

- Consider...
- 1) What altitude are you at? Is it high enough to exit? How high is that? Have you thought about this in advance or will you be losing time trying to make a decision if it happens? Is the plane losing altitude and how much more will it lose by the time you get the door open?
 - 2) Are you the jumpmaster? Who else is on board? Safe exit altitudes may be different for different types of jump, e.g. tandems need a lot more height to exit safely than solo jumpers.
 - 3) Will you use your main or reserve canopy? Again, the answer probably depends on what height you're at, so it makes sense to decide a hard deck in advance then use your main above it and your reserve below it. Are you aware of going above that altitude on every plane ride or would you have to waste valuable time making decisions under pressure?
 - 4) Is there anyone else on board that could do with some help? Perhaps a new A licence jumper who's looking unsure and could do with some clear direction?
 - 5) Bear in mind that exit separation will be going out of the window, so be aware of other canopies and ready to steer to avoid them. It's also likely you won't be over the correct spot, so start looking early for a suitable alternative landing area, and land with others if possible.

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DZ focus

1



3



2



4



FOCUS ON...

NETHERAVON

DEDICATED TO DIVERSITY
WORDS ELANA CAIN AND ROB CAMPS

YOUR DROP ZONE: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Netheravon is committed to using its huge resources to ensure that every single skydiving discipline, training method and category of skydiver receives the highest standard of service. As a progressive and evolving DZ, we recognise that today's skydiver comes in many forms and although the club was originally set up to promote skydiving within the military community, the benefits of diversity among jumpers has proved to be massive and something we are putting all our efforts into nurturing.

HOW DID YOUR DZ BEGIN?

As you would expect from a military dropzone, Netheravon started with a bit of a battle! In 1962 after vigorous and persistent campaigning by Lt Col Dare Wilson MBE MC, then commanding officer of 22 SAS, the Army Parachute Association was formed. Today, Skydive Netheravon remains the home of the Army Parachute Association but benefits from being an 'open association' welcoming all skydivers; military, civilian, veteran, student, club jumper and one-off thrill-seeking tandem students.

WHAT FACILITIES DO YOU HAVE?

- Huge packing hall with padded mats and heating
- Purpose-built progression student facilities:
 - Mock-ups
 - Ramps
 - Hanging harnesses
- Dedicated AFF classroom
- State-of-the-art kit store with more than 60 student and progression rigs
- Three classrooms with HD monitors and PCs
- Full rigging services
- Packers always available
- Free Wi-Fi with terminals for public use
- DZ bar – well stocked and open Fridays, Saturdays, and Bank Holiday Mondays
- Canteen for hot and cold food (and the cheapest brew in the south!)
- Free bunkhouse
- Campsite with shower facilities
- The Drop Shop, selling everything you need on the DZ

WHAT DO YOUR KEY STAFF MEMBERS DO?

Paul Blair, our secretary, and Rob Camps, his right-hand man, alternate weekends at the DZ to ensure smooth running of the

1 60-way by Sam Bement

2 Packing at Nethers

3 Formation aircraft for the 60-way

4 The huge packing hall

5 Getting students into the air

6 Wez Westley of Team HEAT

7 'Crazy snake' wingsuit formation

business while Mark Bayada, our senior APA instructor and Operations Manager, is our man on the ground taking every opportunity to get jumpers in the air. Other faces you may see are Caroline and Jeannine (our manifesters), Jay Webster (our CCI), George P (our chief rigger) and all the friendly reception, packing and instructing staff. Behind the scenes, Tanya co-ordinates the courses and tandems, Angela looks after the books and Simone runs the canteen, keeping us all fed and watered.

WHAT AIRCRAFT DO YOU USE?

Three Cessna Caravans – total lift capacity 47. We also use other aircraft such as the Skyvan and Antonov AN2 for big ways and boogies.

ONCE OFF STUDENT STATUS, HOW DO YOUR JUMPERS DEVELOP?

This is an area we are prioritising! Plans for FS Coaching Weekends to be held once every six weeks and FS coaches available every operating day are now under way. Already we have two duty instructors on site every day providing free FS coaching when not dispatching students, and incredibly cheap coaching tickets (only £10.00).



IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU PROVIDE COACHING?

Again, diversity rules! With regular coaching available in: Formation Skydiving, Free Style and Free Fly, Canopy Piloting and Wingsuiting.

WHAT EVENTS DO YOU RUN?

Skydive Netheravon sponsors top-level National and International teams who run regular coaching and charity events.

- HEAT Canopy Piloting courses
- *Team Aquila* Wingsuit weekends
- *AirKix Euphoria Freestyle* and *Freefly* "Fall for the Fallen" Tandem event

We also run many other events and competitions: Big Ways, Accuracy competitions, Scrambles, Wingsuit competitions and the hugely popular SkyVan Weekends.

DO YOU HAVE UNIVERSITY CLUBS?

Yes – Bristol, Bath, Southampton and Portsmouth, as well as visiting clubs from other areas. They are without doubt a loyal chunk of our membership that is firmly established at Nethers and certainly entertaining both in the sky and the bar!

DO YOU FEEL PART OF THE BPA?

Absolutely, but it would be nice to see more of the BPA at Netheravon: there is always a bacon butty and brew available!

WHAT TEAMS REGULARLY JUMP AT YOUR DZ?

As well as our sponsored teams of *AirKix Euphoria* and *Euphoria FreeStyle*, *HEAT Canopy Team*, *Team Aquila*, *Army Apex* and *BLESMA Trans4mers*, we are proud

to say that numerous other teams call Netheravon their home, including the World Champion SOS team *Sioifur 330*.

HOW DO YOU FEEL RUNNING A UK SKYDIVING BUSINESS HAS CHANGED?

The days are gone when skydivers used to turn up at the DZ every Friday regardless of the weather and then depart on Sunday evening. Skydivers are now scrutinising the met and many will not make the journey unless there is a guarantee of a jump. This is probably due largely to the cost of travelling. The financial pressure of running the largest and busiest DZ in the UK is also significant, particularly keeping several million pounds' worth of aircraft in the air. But we try not to think about that too much and just focus on making sure everyone has a good time and the service we offer is second to none.

DOES THE CLUB HAVE A GOOD SOCIAL SCENE?

With a bar as good as ours – hell yes! Although we have regularly organised parties with bands and DJs, Saturday night is always party night. And for the more sophisticated among us (yes, there are a few) we even have a Black Tie Gala Ball. This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary with the Golden Ball on October 20.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR DZ?

Yet again: diversity, diversity, diversity! Our world-class facilities make it possible to cater for all skydivers. Whether you are a 10,000+ jump sky god or first-time static liner, a head down freefly freak or

big way belly jumper, you are welcome at Skydive Netheravon.

WHAT ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA?

We may be in one of the largest open plains in the UK, but we are not that far from civilisation. There are numerous local pubs and restaurants on our doorstep as well as B&B and hotel accommodation – some within walking distance! Jumpers who use public transport get the train to Pewsey or Salisbury where it is only a short bus ride (or cycle) to the DZ.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

We have so many! As previously mentioned, we aim to increase the availability of FS coaching. We also plan to build on the successes of our Load Organised and Big Way weekends – after all, we have three great aircraft, let's use them. And "Walk Up" load organising for lesser experience jumpers: that's already in the pipeline as well as plans to host another International Wingsuit Competition. If you have suggestions for the next year, let us know – all ideas welcome.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT?

If you haven't been to Netheravon recently, come and visit soon. There have been many, many changes, resulting in our DZ becoming one of the most fun and inviting skydiving centres in the UK. We have quadrupled the amount of DZ staff, slickened the jump operation and, most importantly, we welcome, listen to and act upon the views of all our members. Oh and we've just launched our new website netheravon.com. ●



Saturday 3rd November
Fireworks and
Halloween Party

Bonfire at 6:30 Fireworks at 7:00

Party with DJ 'til late!

Scary fancy dress - prize for best costume!

10th and 11th November
BCPA Freshers Meet

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DAILY THROUGHOUT WINTER TOO!

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✉ **Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY**
☎ **01949 860878** 📧 **info@skydivelangar.co.uk**
British Parachute Schools

CLUBZONE

AFFILIATED DZs
AVAILABLE TO BPA
MEMBERS – HOW MANY
HAVE YOU JUMPED AT?



BPA Affiliated DZs in the UK

1 Black Knights

Black Knights Parachute Centre
Hillam Lane, Cockerham,
Lancashire LA2 0DY
DZ: 01524 791820
T: 01772 717624
Mob: 07501 223151/2
info@bkpc.co.uk
bkpc.co.uk
Turbine Porter

2 Bridlington

Skydive GB
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road,
Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB
T: 01262 228033
Mob: 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
Cessna 206

3 Cark

North West Parachute Centre
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh,
Nr Grange-over-Sands,
Cumbria LA11 7LS
DZ: 01539 558672
T: 01229 889516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

4 Chatteris

North London Skydiving Centre
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea,
March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ: 01354 740810
T: 0871 6640113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish

Cornish Parachute Club
Perranporth Airfield,
Higher Trevelas, St Agnes,
Cornwall TR5 0XS
T: 01872 553352
Mob: 07790 439653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

6 Dunkeswell

Skydive UK Ltd
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell,
Devon EX14 4LG
T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
info@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
Beech 99

7 Headcorn

Skydive Headcorn
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn,
Kent TN27 9HX
T: 01622 891670
info@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan, Islander

8 Hibaldstow

Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648837
T: 01113 2505600
info@skydiving.co.uk
skydiving.co.uk
Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92
single turbine, Cherokee 6

9 Hinton

Hinton Skydiving Centre
Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,
Northants NN13 5NS
T: 01295 812300
info@skydive.co.uk
skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

10 Jersey

Skydive Jersey Ltd
States Airport, St Peter,
Jersey JE3 7ZR
T: 01534 747410
info@skydivejersey.net
skydivejersey.net
Airvan, guest Turbines

11 Langar

British Parachute Schools
Langar Airfield, Langar,
Nottingham NG13 9HY
T: 01949 860878
info@skydivelangar.co.uk
skydivelangar.co.uk
2 Cessna Grand Caravans,
guest aircraft

12 Netheravon

Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
T: 01980 628250
generalenquiries@netheravon.com
netheravon.com
3 Cessna Caravans, guest aircraft

13 Paragon

Paragon Skydiving
Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol,
Perthshire PH2 7TB
T: 01821 642454
billy.gollan@btinternet.com
paragonskydiving.co.uk
Cessna 182

14 Peterlee

Peterlee Parachute Centre
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery,
Co Durham DH6 2NH
T: 0191 517 1234
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182, Cessna Grand Caravan

15 Reading

London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield
Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS
T: 0845 1307194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

16 Salisbury

Skydive Southcoast Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
T: 01722 323628
info@skydivesouthcoast.co.uk
skydivesouthcoast.co.uk
Airvan, Cessna 206 and 172

17 The Silver Stars

Silver Stars
29 Regt, Duke of Gloucester
Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester
Gloucestershire GL7 5RD
DZ: 01285 868111
T: 07716 792942
info@silverstars.me.uk
silverstars.me.uk
Cessna Caravan

18 St Andrews

Skydive St Andrews
Osprey Road, Fife Airport,
Glenrothes KY6 2SL
T: 0845 189 5865
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206

19 Strathallan

Skydive Strathallan
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder,
Perthshire PH3 1LA
DZ: 01764 662572
T: 07836 201953
kkbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestrathallan.co.uk
3 Cessna 206, guest Turbine

20 Swansea

Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood,
Swansea SA2 7JU
T: 07779 019655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
skydiveswansea.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

21 Swindon

Skydive London
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm,
Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA
T: 01793 791222
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

22 Tilstock

The Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch,
Shropshire SY13 2HA
T: 01948 841111
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
theparachutecentre.com
Airvan

23 UK Para Beccles

UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough,
Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
T: 01502 476131
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
ukparachuting.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

24 UK Para Sibson

UK Parachuting
Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
T: 01832 280490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

25 Weston

RAF 22 Training Group
Availability TBC

26 Wild Geese

Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrrowreagh
Rd, Garvagh, Coleraine,
Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
T: 028 2955 8609
jump@skydivewildgeese.com
skydivewildgeese.com
Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

Cyprus

Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58,
Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus,
T: 0035 724 744337
info@skydivecyprus.com.cy
skydivecyprus.com.cy
PBN Piston Islander

RAPA

**Rhine Army Parachute
Association**
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse,
33175, Bad Lippspringe, Germany
T: 0049 5254 982 2378
atgg-jspclcc@mod.uk
skydive-badlippspringe.com
Cessna Caravan

Parachuting Societies

BCPA

**British Collegiate Parachute
Association**
Jack Bradford, BCPA Chairman
mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
A community for university
skydivers

POPS

Parachutists Over Phorty
Jeff Chandler, Top POP
1 Beaulieu Road, Boscombe Down,
Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7PD
T: 07779 580399
jeffchandler@hotmail.com
pops.org.uk

SOS

Skydivers Over Sixty
Contact: Niels Hansen
Flat 14, 21 Victoria Sq, Clifton,
Bristol BS8 4ES
nielshsn@yahoo.co.uk



BLACK KNIGHTS bkpc.co.uk

Changing times

Well, it's all change up here at BKPC. With Tony and Liz coming in as the new owners and Paul as the new CCI, we hope to have many years of fun and laughter along with the ups and downs that go into the daily running of a busy parachute centre. Jan has been promoted to office manager and we have two new girls who help out in the office on our operating days – welcome to Alex and Rachael! On a sad note, Megan has moved on to pastures new and we all wish her well for her future.

The August open week was once again a great success and we only lost one day to the weather this time. We would like to thank all of our instructors, both visiting and regular, for helping to make the centre a good place to be. We hope that our regular skydiving friends enjoyed the sunshine and continue to progress with their skydiving skills.

BKPC and F-GODZ had a little 'holiday' up at Strathallan once again. Thanks to everybody at Strathallan for a fantastic time and we hope we can repeat it again next year.

We are having a safety training day at the beginning of September and we will offer more dates throughout the year once we have evaluated its success. To all of those with beer fines (and you know who you are), the fridge is in the clubhouse!

The Christmas Party will be held at the Holiday Inn at Lancaster this year, so book your place and room in order to avoid disappointment.

Blue skies,

Sharon Beeson

SILVER STARS silverstars.me.uk

Hot, cold and lucky

The long overdue summer sunshine at South Cerney has rewarded our club jumpers with an array of achievements, particularly in Freely at both levels. We have Gareth Williams recently getting his FF1 as well as his 300th jump, John Grant (who has just returned from his South American travels) achieving FF1 as well, Ricky Wheeler has just celebrated getting his FF2 and our resident Freely coach Alex Murphy has just surpassed 1,500 jumps.

The warm July weather prompted a recent naked skydive to celebrate the 100th jump of Emily Doman, who was joined on her jump by our tandem co-ordinator Ann Lewis and about five cameramen. Photos can be seen, somewhere on Facebook! Emily is now B Licence and has just had the great news of a job offer at Skydive Spain in Seville, starting in a fortnight's time. All of us at South Cerney wish her all the best, and she can soon work on her all-over tan while skydiving naked out there. A big leaving party is in the pipeline!

One of our club jumpers, Tim Kalisch, had an incredible incident out in Skydive Empuriabrava on a jumping trip. He was accidentally knocked unconscious while skydiving in a group, his life being saved by his CYPRES AAD and his only injury a couple of scratches. A very lucky man! There is an interview after the incident with Regan Tetlow on the CYPRES

channel and YouTube.

On a calmer note, two of our Silver Stars instructors, Geordie Brown and Dougie Macpherson, have achieved their Private Pilots Licences (PPLs) and our regular tandem instructor Tom Blakey has just reached 3,000 jumps. Tim Roberts is now an FS coach and an AFFI (USPA), as well as reaching 900 jumps and 14 hours of freefall. His partner Pamela Jones has just surpassed 300 jumps. We also have Jamie Neville and Spencer Bailey on their 50th jumps and working hard towards their FS1s.

The DZ also welcomes back Jon Eeles after a 14-year break – he last jumped at South Cerney in 1998! Now that's a lot of weekends wasted not jumping out of planes – don't leave it so long Jon! For the newer members of the club, ask to see his logbook for verification and a lot of very interesting jumps!

We have a small number of staff leaving us in September, with some pursuing projects outside of the Army and others moving to Cyprus. For example, our rigger Chas McNeil joined the Centre with just 50 jumps and now has a phenomenal 1,800 as well as ratings of CSI, Tandem, AFFI and Advanced Packer in just seven years. We wish all of them all the best in their travels and hope that their replacements are just as hard-working as they have been.

Hannah Davies



Martin Rhodes wingsuiting over Cerney by Martin Rhodes

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM! Emily Doman, James Spelman FF1 Gareth Williams, John Grant FF2 Ricky Wheeler WSI Martin Rhodes **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Jamie Neville, Spencer Bailey 100 Emily Doman 300 Gareth Williams, Pamela Jones, Joe Newrick 400 Rachel King 900 Tim Roberts 1,500 Alex Murphy 1,800 Chas McNeil 2,800 Nick Anthony 3,000 Tom Blakey



4-way exit by Chicky

CARK

skydivenorthwest.co.uk

Good times, fast times

July and August were busy months for us. Our CCI Dennis got married to his long-standing partner Sabrina and father-of-seven Peter Connor and his fiancé Courtney welcomed Harvey (Wallbanger) Connor. Congratulations to you all.

The third and final UKSL 4-way comp was held on July 14-15. Sixteen teams registered. Cark's 4-way team were pipped at the last minute and they were relegated to fourth even though the scores were tied. Tally ho guys – it was a great meet and we thank all the competing teams for your commitment to the competition.

Never mind the Olympics – Kieron Hayes and Steve (Gunner) Steward brought the medals back home to Cark after their Nationals success, with Kieron winning silver and bronze in Canopy Swooping and Steve winning silver in his first ever National Speed event. Steve narrowly missed out on gold after a 1mph discrepancy

was found between his speed readings. Well done guys, brilliant efforts.

The start of our Sky Fest following a week's rainfall in a day saw a waterlogged field and Alpha Yankee crept out of the hangar on plywood boards to prevent her sinking into the sodden grass. This also presented us with our own makeshift swoop pond for a few days. Many intrepid regulars dared to fly over it, inching their toes into the gloomy water depths.

The week continued to be blessed, with some great weather assisting to dry out the puddles and keep the club regulars in the air. Kieron ran his safe canopy course for those wanting to improve their canopy flying skills and our students banged in a load of jumps over the days. We also had a farewell party for Ned Blyth who is off to pastures new in Qatar to earn a tax-free crust. Ned has been a great asset and addition to our

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Tom Bird, Gary Kirby
GRADUATED AFF George Neate, Jason Neate, Brett Miller, Chris Johnson **CAT 8** Carmen Rivera, Amanda Taylor, Jason Neate, George Neate, Paul Henshaw, Dez Blyth, Phil Lowrie, Chris Johnson, Brett Miller **CH2/JMI** Ming Chu, John Bradley **FSI** Amanda Taylor, Ming Chu, Alec Hennis, Jon Bradley, Don Tomkinson **FFI** Cez Crazycovski **ISI** Steph (google) Stephens **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Fred Richards 200 Fraser Dootson, Jon Bradley 500 Kevin Coffey 1,900 Duncan Haynes

Dave Honeybone
by Ian Chick



team over the last two years and his laid-back persona will be sadly missed by us all. Of course, we will assist Dez to spend the jumps tickets you left behind...

It's nearly Christmas, so just a quick note to say that our party is at the White Water Hotel on Saturday December 1. It will be the usual black tie and awards ceremony.

Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT 8** Daniel Semper, Sam Carter, Arron Blane, Joseph Dillan **CH2** Sean Sapsford **FSI** Sean Sapsford, Jeremy Carter **FFI** Danny French **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Sean Sapsford 200 Gaz Mooney

BECCLES

ukparachuting.co.uk

First class *Fiasco*

Summer has turned up at last. It has seemed a long time coming this year on the east coast, but everyone around the DZ – especially the AFF instructors – has welcomed the hot sunny weather.

Congratulations to Arron Blane, who completed all eight levels of his AFF course at Beccles on the same day. Our main AFF instructor Stu Murther said he was probably the best student he has ever coached, which is a fine compliment as Stu has coached a lot over the years, and is all the more impressive since Alan only had 20 minutes' tunnel coaching prior to starting his AFF course.

The newly formed RAF Honington Skydivers Club have been making regular trips up to Beccles to keep up their jumping currency and to bang out some fun jumps. They are a really great bunch of lads who, aided and abetted by some of the club jumpers, have been keeping the Cessna Caravan busy. If you are free on Wednesdays, the action starts around 1pm and will keep on going as long as people want to jump.

Thanks to some last-minute proactive planning (and keen weather forecast watching from Tomo and co.), Billy Payn and Kev Sargent's Big Way weekend was switched from Beccles to Sibson as the weather was looking a little bit patchy on the east coast. Plenty of the Beccles regulars made the trip west with the added bonus of having the Sibson crew to jump with as well and, as always, Billy and Kev organised some great formations. We will look forward to welcoming Billy and Kev back

to Beccles some time very soon.

Congratulations also to Team *Fiasco*, who seem to go from strength to strength. They moved up from Rookie Class to A Class this year and have even surpassed last year's achievements of silver in the Rookie Class by winning silver again in A Class at this year's Nationals 4-way event. Well done from everyone at Beccles!

Michael Wemyss



RAF Honington Skydivers Club
by Michael Wemyss



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HINTON

skydive.co.uk

How many for cake?

At the beginning of July, we welcomed an official adjudicator from Guinness World Records and 160 tandem students. This won us a new world record for 'the most tandems jumped out of a single plane in 24 hours'. It was a fast-paced day, but the staff worked hard to make it a great day for all.

Our pilot Liam has now returned to his home country after 18 months working here in the UK. We now have a new pilot called Glen, who is also from New Zealand.

Tent City Boogie 3 was a busy week, with lots of club members taking a few days off work to play in the skies. The highlight of the week for Gouldy (our on-site master rigger) was the first Hinton bake-off! A large number of cakes/desserts were entered during the week and, after the Master himself had tasted the goods, queues quickly formed to sample anything left! A special mention should be made for the hard work Carol Beaumont put in to make her cake a tasty treat and a useful PLA tool. The winner was Lucy Maycock with her consistently lovely cupcakes and second was won by Carol Beaumont.

Mental Blox did Hinton proud at the 4-way Nationals by winning bronze in A Category after a tense jump-off. *Optimus Quattro* and *Atmosfear* did great averages and Carol Beaumont had mega fun with *Satori Sunshine* too.

On a gorgeous day in August, some milestone jump numbers were achieved on the same 8-way jump – Rich Lumb's 1,000th jump, Gary Watson's 1,100th jump and Cris Murphy's 600th jump. With only a dirt dive as practice, they turned three points.

Sarah-Jane Peart



Carol Beaumont's Hinton DZ cake

By Rich Madeley



ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Jezz Moore, Spencer Bailey, Kraig Evans, Lee Foxall, Charlie Hall, Paul O'Sullivan, Micheal Hashim, Andy Thomas **FSI** Dom Chilvers, Nick Collins, Mike Poli, Sam Evans, Chris Nesbitt-Smith, Stuart Scattergood, Lee McNaught **JUMP NUMBERS 50** James Sprat **100** Rachel Walker, Chris Nesbitt-Smith **200** Lorene Latour, Nick Collins, Max Valentine, Louise Joyce, Darren Hallett **300** Hannah Corbet, Justinas Kubilinskas, Amanda Jones **600** Cris Murphy **900** Phil Wakefield **1,000** Rich Lumb **1,100** Gary Watson

Rainbow with Lee Bennett by Pete Wood



POPS

pops.org.uk

Speeding up

What a good year for the POPS, with Brits in 60-way SOS, 15-way over 70 and 9-way Europe over 70 – they do say life begins at 40! There will be a Facebook group for POPS so we can communicate and share both ideas and events. It is hoped we will have an event or two in the UK in 2013 as it is an off year for POPS Worlds. The next POPS Worlds (2014) has not been finalised, but it is planned for the west coast of the Americas (Canada/USA/Brazil/Argentina) to be decided by Dec 1 2012. POPS Worlds 2016 is planned for Russia.

The POPS Award for 2012 is presented to Niels Hansen for the Most Improved, Best Medals Performance and Dedication for 2011/12. At the World Meet, Niels achieved three golds, a silver, a seventh place in 4-way FS (SOS/NATS), 4-way Scrambles, Sport accuracy and Speed 7 with Team *Siofur*. The British team took 15 medals.

The photo is from the British Nationals Team Cirrus formed by Polly Chandler, who is also now a POP. The team is Jeff Chandler SOS (second alternate), Polly Chandler POPS, injured Lizzy (with only 250 jumps) Bev (150 jumps) and Scouse (first alternate). This jump has both alternates jumping. Polly hopes to join Dad at the next World POPS, might be a first.

Jeff Chandler

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High spirits

SIBSON

skydivesibson.co.uk

What a great few weeks – some exceptional weather, finally! We have been choc-a-block full of events and goings on. This has enabled us to run the Black Hawk Caravan to its full potential. We have had some very fast lifts up to 15k as the pilots get used to the power.

Firstly, a super massive well done to our home 4-way team *Raykipo*. They have trained hard all year, with Sarah Cannon as coach and Grant on camera. They just took silver at the 4-way FS Nationals in the AA category. Well done team – we love you guys!

The BCPA lot arrived for their Nationals, and boy did they throw a party! It started with delivery of the hot tub, followed by the arrival of hundreds of students from all over the UK. Then we had the inflatable bungee run and the bouncy castle – not to mention the driving simulator and the absolutely huge Scalextric set in the hangar. Every night was party night, with the BCPA sound system in full

swing and DJ Fletch and Ed on the decks until either very early or very late depending on if you had slept at all. Of course, they did a bunch of jumps out of our Black Hawk and standard Caravans.

Shortly after the BCPA had cleaned up, we set the place up for the Sibson Boogie 2012 – ten days of jumping and glorious weather. The event started on the Thursday, with people arriving and pitching tents in what later became tent city in our rear field. We jumped every day of the Boogie, with thanks to our regular jumpers as well as some new faces visiting to check us out. As the week went on, the helicopter arrived and everyone managed to jump it as again the weather played ball. Some people jumped it three times. Massive thanks to the helicopter crew, who gave us a great fly-past on their departure. Watch our Facebook and Twitter feeds for more helicopter jumps.

The hangar party went into full swing on the Saturday evening. Andy at the Phoenix Bar provided food and our house band Grounded, who played an amazing set with the upgraded sound system, provided live music. The night finished up with Grant's brother spinning the wheels of steel...

Brian Vacher held the Flight 1 course and had a very successful few days. All of the participants had a great time and the learning curve was clear to see. It was very entertaining watching the stall drills and rear riser landings. A safe and fun course was had by all. Next year's course will be around the same time next year, so book early to avoid disappointment.

The bank holiday weekend was a mixed bag. We were surrounded by five thunderstorms and had lightning all over the place – a typical bank holiday, some may say. Yet there was still one tandem student who couldn't figure why we weren't jumping...

Another demo in to the caravan park was made by our club jumpers. This is a B-Licence demo, so it needs a huge landing area. It finishes with a burger at the caravan park – not a bad demo if you can get on it.

Local Freely Coach Paul Cooper was on the 138 way official head down record (and 142-way unofficial record) at Skydive Chicago earlier this month. Paul is also representing the UK in a VFS team *QFX* at the Mondial Dubai World Championships this November.

Huge congratulations to Sarah Hall, who is now an AFF instructor. She has also taken her first few real AFF jumps and is relaxing in to it with the Vulcan death grip slowly fading away. Well done dude.

Why not follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook or check out our website at www.skydivesibson.co.uk/events to keep up to speed with all the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson.

Paul Dordard

ACHIEVEMENTS FSI James Graham White, Paul Masters, Asa Murphy FFI Dan Dixon, Ollie Hudson WSI/WS2 Helen Brooks, Peter Trotman WSI Dan Pestatio, Ollie Hudson, Jonny Moore, Charlotte Pope **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Katie Wilkinson 200 Susan Llewellyn, Guri Melcher 300 Charlotte Pope, Kye Bromley 400 Kye Bromley 700 Liz Moor 1,000 Allan Eastwood **12 HOURS FREEFALL** Eric Dangoor

CYPRUS

skydivecyprus.com.cy

With the end of the summer approaching fast, the DZ has been busier than ever. One-jump courses and numerous Tandems have made the club jumpers as determined as ever to break their tradition and arrive at the DZ before 10am!

The arrival of our old friend George Panagopoulos enabled three of our instructors – Martin White, Phillip Bell and Dylan Bartle – to achieve their Advanced Packer Rating. The big question is who will pack their own reserve first!

There was also another arrival – well two! Our Chief Pilot Raymond became a father for the first time when his wife gave birth to twin boys. A big congratulations goes out to the Nahhas household.

July also saw the return of 'The Cyprus Parachute Championships'. This hugely successful event, organised in conjunction with The Cyprus Parachute Association, saw more than thirty competitors battling it out

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL George Harb CAT B George Wyndham, Gareth Edwards, George Marsden FSI Chris Sphicas, Marc O'Brien WSI Mike Bates WS2 Mike Bates, Oily Child **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Joe Hall, Ben Humphries, Marios Tziourou 150 Tim Pringeur 300 Tom Hollands 600 Marios Christodoulou 2,000 Stavros Kyragoras

in 4-way and Accuracy. The event took place over three days in the blistering heat and also gave us what only can be described as the biggest party Kingfield Airfield has ever witnessed, with roughly 300 people attending and enjoying both music from local DJs and dance displays from numerous Zumba and martial arts groups. A few sore heads the following morning, I would imagine!

To top it all off, we also took arrival of our very own Mock-up. Club jumper Russ Mellish was the instigator and what a good job he did! Now there aren't ANY excuses for all those folded exits!

The imminent approach of the summer shut-down should see the Club reopen in September with our ever-reliable Islander sporting a new lick of paint and some freshly oiled parts too see us through to the winter.

Dylan Bartle



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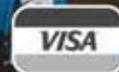
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WILD GEESE

skydivewildgeese.co.uk

Previous weather had been very unforgiving for the regular jumpers and tandem students at the Wild Geese, but a recent improvement had everyone smiling. Display work has been enthusiastically received by the general public on various events, including Armed Forces Day. Plenty of tandems kept the TIs busy and a modest flow of RAPS students was encouraging, especially as one of them completed her first free fall on her seventh jump – well done to Joanne Wilson! Success with the regular jumpers has seen FS1 achieved by David Dornan, Stephen Campbell, Michael Telford and Ciaran Walsh – nice one guys.

Some tunnel time helped improve skills for a number of jumpers, but the biggest success (and MASSIVE applause) must go to the *Well Wild* rookie 4-way team. Made up of Kate Lindsley and Elizabeth Carroll and our home-grown talents Nadine Bibby, Wendy Hyland and Rudy McClenaghan (camera), the *Well Wild* team secured first place at the Hibaldstow Cup as well as an impressive bronze medal at the recent UK Nationals – a great achievement of which they should be very proud!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, it was BBQ

time again. A well-supported fun weekend was the order of the day. Good weather filled the skies, after which the annual fundraising BBQ collected £200 to help a local eight-year-old and family on their forthcoming trip to Great Ormond Street Hospital – good luck to young Joshua! So, hoping for continued good weather over the coming weeks, let's hope we can progress all of our jumpers to bigger and better things.

Blue skies,

Simon Finlay



Frank McNicholl exiting G-ETHY



Joanne Wilson landing after her first freefall

CHATTERIS

ukskydiving.com

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 Harry Wilkins, Hagen Schumacher, Steve Bruce
CH2/JMI Stephen Landau, Sarah Ashworth **FS1** Tom Currington, James Rosling, Austin Patton, Emma Kelty, Garry Weatherley, Aleksandra Kostinenkova, Dragos Lupu **FF1** Ben Smith, Firat Erozkal **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Stephen Landau, Ben Smith, Aleksandra Kostinenkova **200** Firat Erozkal **300** Jason Fox **600** Adam Gooch **7,000** Lloyd Quenby **11,000** Gary Small

Despite the 'great British summer', we have actually done more jumps so far than we did last year. Our new club house is looking fantastic, and you should come check it out if you haven't already. Also, welcome to Dragos, our new packer from Romania.

We are planning on having a 3-way scrambles soon and there's talk of a group trip away this Christmas/New Year while the DZ has its winter shut-down. Take a look at our Facebook page for updates and details.

Lorraine Dixcey

SWINDON

skydivelondon.co.uk

As I sit here writing this we are getting ready for the first-ever bank holiday beer festival at Redlands – Crazy wanted a party. He has organised a veritable feast and an unattended adult bouncy castle. What could go wrong? So, once again, I will use my crystal ball – Crazy will get a strop on, Dan Morgan will be legendary again, Brucie will burn some pubic hair and Em will leave him to sleep in his car. I will be told we have to leave early, someone will go missing and MHW will be grinning holding a spade and some lime. As it's his last weekend with us I'd like to say good luck Martin – we will miss you.

Redlands went on tour to Hib and, once again, the chant of 'buca buca' and 'what happens on tour goes on Facebook' could be heard. We, as normal, won the bar games and people even jumped there – GVK getting his FS1 and Em finally realising she is an FS coach. There was also Redlands' first wind tunnel Scrambles, but as I wasn't involved it's not so important. We have some new DZ controllers who haven't changed one bit (until they are given

a radio and pen). We also have a good few students knocking around and the Red Angel Tandem Section (RATS for short) have formed – they do a fantastic job, even GK1. Cath has persuaded Rick to take up AFF, so he should be passed by now. Marius has finally completed his RAPS course. Dermot has his FS1 too, and boyfriend Jason was very happy as they can now hold hands officially in the sky too. Buncey is still miserable and Team *Sexual Chocolate* are still awesome. It's a great atmosphere at Redlands and the place just gets better. All we need is for Dave and Jay to accept that RAPS is not for them and follow GK1 to the AFF darkside. Oh, and Crazy? I can't mention you more than twice and your D Licence jump was a camera jump and not news.

I also have to apologise for missing the *Mag* last time – I know a lot of you read this, so it won't happen again.

Dylan Griffith-Jones



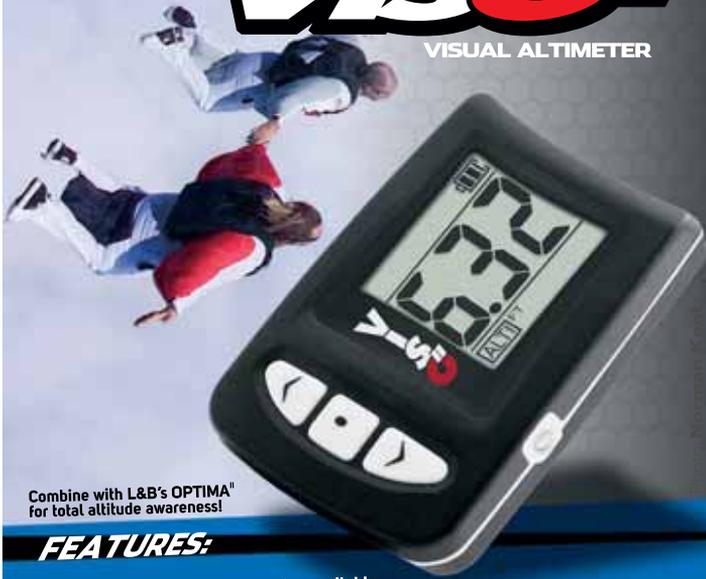
Marius Kaminski on his Cat 8 qualifying jump by DZphotos

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Cassandra Bassinger-Carpani **CAT8/CHI** Cath Thorne, Andy Thomas, Ian Marsh, Marius Kaminski **FS1** George Von, Dermot McCrystal, Paul Shortman, Andrew Griggs **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Lewis Reddie **200** Pit Pony **Birdy 500** Moulder Cresdee **1,000** Crazy **1,200** MHW **1,400** Lukey Ingram **300 HOURS FLYING** Brucey (meh)

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ACHIEVEMENTS FSI Liam Goddard **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Jordan Simcoe, Krystian Groom **200** Charlie Pearce, Rich Cotton, Konstantin Khomko, Kerry Wesley **300** Jakob Aungiers, Gill Kirk-Burgess **400** Kris Cavill, Jay Leighton, Lucy Eldred **800** Ant Hill **1,000** Aillie Hardman **1,300** Brian Cumming **1,900** Jo Burns **2,000** Shell Meakins **1 HOUR FREEFALL** Billy McHale

The biggest in the world! The Nationals arrived and, yes, we have achieved the biggest Nationals Competition in the world to date! We had 72 4-way teams and four VFS teams – what a turn out! Our office staff and DZ staff worked hard day and night on the Friday to book in all the competitors, registering everyone by 9pm as some teams got some last-minute training, and then the draw began. There were a lot of ‘oohs’ and ‘aahs’ as the randoms and blocks were drawn by the officials, then everyone proceeded to the creeper pads.

The competition began with an 8am start on the Saturday. We had more than 3,000 parachutes in the air over the weekend, with three aircraft (and their pilots!) working hard to complete the competition in one and a half days! Next came 8-way – seven Senior and two intermediate teams made up the competition. *Airix Freestyle* team Pixie and Al set the bar high with newcomers *Euphoria Freestyle*, and Freely teams *Volare*, *Kinetic*, *Varial* and *Euphoria* battled it out for the Freely A Category. Speed Skydiving saw Simon Brentford, Stephen Steward, Brian Cumming, Ben Cannon and our very own CCI Noel Purcell compete.



Thanks again to the DZ staff for completing the second weekend of Nationals in one and a half days. We have FS Scrambles, Foundry Organising and our annual Hibbleween Speed meet coming up in October.

Finally, our thoughts are with the family of Pete Hahnefeld, who has sadly passed away. Pete was a regular at Hibaldstow who was very popular in the skydiving world and will be sadly missed by so many.

Kerry Wesley

DUNKESWELL

skydive99.com

Eddie Monteith swooping the pond and losing a shoe by Jane Hartley



Summer has finally arrived, just in time for the Twin Beech Boogie! With well over 100 people signed up for the week and world-class load organisers, Dunkeswell was able to break its own head down record, which now stands at 12. The Boogie saw plenty of progression, with many people gaining their FS1s and FF1s, and a number of jump hogs also managed to cram in 50-60 jumps. Dave Morris was also there to help big-way jumpers hone their flat skills. With the perfect weather, all the organisers and a great party on the Saturday night, you really could not have asked for more. Sadly, we had to restrict numbers and stop any more people registering to prevent overcrowding – something that we will try to address at the Boogie next year. (More Beeches, did I hear you say? Keep your eyes open for next year’s line-up...)

Significantly, the Boogie saw the addition of our new plane the ‘White Beech’ to be based here alongside the current ‘Black Beech’, the first real use of the new swoop pond and the opening of the new rigging loft. Watching the swoopers use the pond is quite impressive – we are, however, all still waiting anxiously to cheer the first person to go swimming. Could it be YOU? Use of the pond is limited to CP2 – for full information on using the pond or to find out the exact dates of both our Canopy Handling and Canopy Piloting courses, please contact the office. Courses are run as needed but at least one per month.

Blue skies,

Miko

ACHIEVEMENT CAT8/CHI Ollie Lee, Tracy Bond, Alison List, Elliot Mitchell, Jessica Lee, Ross Johnson **CH2/JMI** Jon Bryan, David Hyde, Rob Paton **FS1** Paul Sherman, Claire Rushworth, Michael Perks, Elena Sansivieri, Matt Nineham, Mike Marchant, James Collinge, Jimmy Meen, Rob Paton **FF1** Emily Boland, Tom Bennet, Chris Frost, Joe Mathews **FF2** Ben Broad **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Claire Rushworth, Greg Eden **200** Michelle Larson, Neil Empringham, Jimmy Meen, Kevin Fear, Mark Kurylo **500** Chris Begley, Fee Franklin, Aaron Cosbey **600** Gary Powell, Guy Wells **800** Wes Guest **900** Sam Cady **1,000** Rob Gray, Steve Howes **1,400** Shane Hardwick

CORNISH

cornishparachuteclub.co.uk



Jumping in the match ball for Help For Heroes rugby game



Ben Wood and Popey by Phil Symons

Firstly, apologies to anyone reading the last club news – due to a technical error, it appears it was the same as last August (not me, ha ha).

There has been a lot going on since the last time we included an update. A record May for jump

numbers was followed by an even better July. The jump numbers are coming on nicely, seeing both Shawn Ferris and Sam Looker going through 200 jumps and Phil surpassing his 800 (surely a Tandem rating on the cards soon, but it’s all about responsibility...). Dave and I are both approaching milestones in our jumping and we aren’t sure a crate of beer will suffice – bubbly may be the order of the day...

The club have welcomed the arrival of little Isaac – well done to Tim and Helen – and a visit from my long-standing buddy Floyd with Sharon and the very precious Cerys (never thought I would see the day). The babies just keep coming – Ross and Laura should be proud parents of a little girl by the time this goes to press and Popey and Charlie are also expecting. A crèche surely has to be a money-spinner for the DZ...

The demo season is in full swing after amazing displays into the Golf Club, Camborne Rugby Club and also our favourite Constantine Skydive for friends Anne and Jamie Fowler with Smokey and crew. Our old girls are always keen and waiting for us.

Bodmin continues to be very busy – congratulations to Mike Brown and Joe Robinson for finally completing your AFF courses, and it’s great to see you both in the air. A welcome return to Aaron Polhill, who has sailed through his course after a three-year lay-off!

How do you give a massive buzz to a fast jet pilot who flies around 100ft off the deck at 500 knots? Simple – AFF level one and two! Nice one, Nick – glad you liked it!

Caroline’s birthday weekend came and went without too many hangovers – amazingly everyone in the group managed to do a skydive! Great to see a good crowd as always, and thanks for the cake, Sis! Amazing to see little Nick up at the airfield after his kidney transplant from dad Tom – you both look a picture of health and we hope Tom is flying again soon.

As always, I would like to thank the whole team involved in the club. We know we can’t do it without you. Special thanks at this time to Steve our chief pilot, who has taken on the flying of three pilots over this busy period.

Ben Wood

NETHERAVON

netheravon.com

Looking back with pride

The **Armed Forces** Parachute Championships were yet again held at Netheravon over July 7-13. Despite numerous regulars either deployed on operations or assisting with the Olympics, we still had over 25 4-way teams and nearly 150 competitors in total. The event followed the normal pattern of starting off slow due to the rather poor weather, reaching a midweek peak (50 lifts on the Wednesday) and then finishing with the prize-giving on the Friday. Following the prize-giving, a commemorative plinth was unveiled to honour 50 years of skydiving excellence by the APA at Netheravon. The plinth was unveiled by one of the founding members of the APA and the first APA Chairman, former BPA Chairman and British National Team Captain Major General (Retired) Dare Wilson.

Following this, a dinner for more than 100 former and current APA members was held at Upavon with vivid photographic and video displays of the APA's achievements over the years, not least the spectacular charitable activities of BLESMA *Trans4mers* and the RBL *Extreme Human Flight Team*. All disciplines were represented and the evening's activities culminated back in the bar at Netheravon for some more traditional and predictable late-night antics. A big thanks to Mrs Debbie Kennett for organising the dinner and audio-visuals.

Congratulations to Netheravon-based Rookie 4-way FS team *Entropy*, who competed at their first BPA Nationals. Representing the University of Portsmouth Skydive Club, *Entropy* consists of Peter Hodges, Eoin Kerr, Madeleine Leong, Lauren McNerney and Mark Andrews (camera). *Entropy* placed eighth with a total of 69 points and an 8.6 average.

Netheravon Wingsuiters had a particularly successful time at the World Wingsuit Championship in Siófok, Hungary this August, with great scores in both the artistic and performance categories. Team *Aquila* (Jackie Harper, Spike Harper and Elana Cain on camera) improved on last

1 Lake Balatin from Andre's tail wing

2 The unveiling of the APA 50th anniversary stone



ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 Pete Rendall, Clive Ayling, Mike Anelli, Adam Renak, Alistair Whitelaw, Sophie Meakin **FSI** Mark Andrews **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Rebecca Casbeard, Alison Gale **100** Oz Gardner **200** Harry Joseph **24 HOURS FREEFALL** Phill Elston

BCPA

bcpa.org.uk

Goodbyes and high dives

For the first time in a decade, the BCPA Nationals went to a new location. Sibson did a fantastic job of accommodating us and the event attracted a record 200 jumpers. We managed to complete all three competitions between intermittent weather, with some of the best entries seen all year in each of the competitions. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, not least our various sponsors who managed to put together a raffle prize fund totalling a whopping £18,000.

Southampton retained their title as National Champions, winning both the Competitions League and the Achievements League, with Warwick close behind. Bath closed the gap significantly from previous years and Portsmouth have a very strong club for the coming year, so the battle for the title is on – heads up Southampton!

| Rank | University | Competition points |
|------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Southampton | 1125 |
| 2 | Warwick | 978 |
| 3 | Bath | 680 |

| Rank | University | Achievement points |
|------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Southampton | 410 |
| 2 | Bath | 310 |
| 3 | Portsmouth | 221 |

| Rank | Name | Individual points |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Jack Bradford | 284 |
| 2 | Martin Roberson | 238 |
| 3 | Jakob Aungiers | 228 |

We say a reluctant goodbye to Sam Lee, who has done a fantastic job in each of his roles after three years of very hard work on the BCPA committee, and to James Lee, who organised this year's foreign trip to Elsinore. Tim Gaines has retained his position on the committee and will be organising this year's foreign trip, Matt Gottwald will be heading up the League and Competitions side of things and I will be taking on the role of Chair. Sam has certainly left me a lot to live up to, but I'm looking forward to the challenge!

Event dates for the year have all now been confirmed – put them in your diaries now! Plans include Skyvans, helicopters, balloons, all the usual coaching and load organising and, of course, many legendary BCPA parties. We are also aiming to beat our big-way record, which currently stands at 22.

The event of the year is Freshers, which will be held at Langar on November 9-11 and will include discounted jumps and coaching, load organising and all of the usual competitions. Registration is now open on the BCPA website.

year's placing by coming in a respectable fifth place and increasing their points average significantly, while Patrick Wake, the cameraman and member of *FlyLikeBrick*, joined them on the podium in third place with some stunning sunset footage.

Spike and Jackie also entered the performance category along with Redy Redfern and Andre Taylor. Although the competition was dominated by the larger Apache suits, André achieved an amazing seventh place – beating several of these larger suits and getting the best score for the S Bird suit by flying 3.34km distance in only 1km vertical descent. Redy and Spike travelled almost identical distances of approximately 2.7km on a nil-wind day and Jackie took second place among the female competitors, scoring 2.1km in her Stealth.

The *Brit Birds* really hit the headlines when Spike quite unexpectedly found himself on the front page of a Hungarian newspaper. No-one is quite sure what the headline actually says, but a picture paints a thousand words in any language. Well done Spike!

During the Netheravon invasion of the Moorsele Boogie in Belgium this summer, a new and exciting skydiving discipline was developed that combines all the daredevil and precision skills of the highest standard of parachutist with the agricultural requirements of the arable farmer. Thus 'HayBaling' was born!

Assisting local farmers with the collection of this season's hay, jumpers from Netheravon swooped and scooped until the crop was carefully stacked into hay bales of varying sizes and designs. It was to be noted, however, that sportsmanship was not at its highest standard, with 'stack stealing' being prevalent amongst several of the participants – you know who you are! For further details of this new and exciting form of pastoral parachuting, please seek out your local DZ HayBaling co-ordinator...

Finally, Nethers joined in with the Olympic spirit when Al Macartney, Deane Smith and Spence Hogg took Ben Parkinson's Olympic Relay torch for a skydive – the torch outperformed some members of the team at FS!

Andrew Kennett, Rob Camps, Kath Salisbury and Madeleine Leong

The second event of the year, Indoors, will be at Bodyflight Bedford and time will be going on sale at the start of November at the fantastic rate of £10/minute.

The 'Monthly Draw' competitions are already up and running with 3-way FS and 2-way FF competitions, and this year we are trialling an 8-way speed competition that will be open all year. Put a team together with neighbouring universities for a chance to win some big points for your uni!

This year we are trying to put a lot of focus on supporting small and new university clubs. If you're at a university without a club and would be interested in creating one, please get in touch with me and I'll do everything I can to help you out.

Jack Bradford

BCPA Nationals by Chris Judd



By Sara Orton

BRIDLINGTON

skydivegb.com

Onward and upward

Skydive GB has been busy over the past few months and the weather has finally been kind to us. Student progression has been particularly noticeable recently and we have some new and excitable faces around the drop zone. RAPS students never cease to amaze me – their tenacity and enthusiasm to progress is inspiring. A particular mention must go to Steve Kilvington and Shaun Ruffle, who are both bulldozing their way through the progression system. Their wives are apparently sick to death of the blow-by-blow accounts of each jump!

Tracey Bartley and John Benson recently organised a charity event at their local pub in aid of CDH, a condition that affected their daughter Madison. Everyone from Skydive GB attended and had a truly enjoyable night. Over £1,400 was raised for the charity, and prizes were both donated and bid on by people linked to the Centre – thank you to all. It is fair to say, however, that the majority of Skydive GB jumpers have no moral standards – everyone Googled the answers to the charity quiz. Tracey also hosted a jumping day for CDH. She filmed the majority of tandems, and her boundless energy and dedication to this charity is admirable.

Andie Harrison is starting a Bird Man craze. He undertook his first wingsuit jump recently and is clearly addicted. His long-suffering partner Lisa has decided that she cannot beat him and that it is easier to join him, so she has started RAPS training herself.

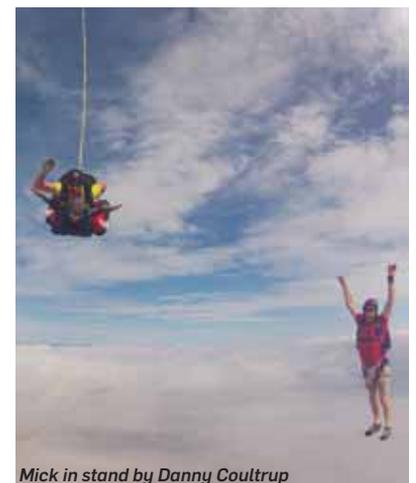
There have been many charity events at the Centre recently. The Leeds Teaching

Hospital had a massive turnout for their event and raised a considerable sum of money to put towards their cause. The Yorkshire Bottle Makers also raised large sums of money, due to being badgered into tandem skydiving by our very own Ian Kirton and Dave Saville.

Alec Flint and myself recently attended the CSI course at Langar – we now have two new static line instructors on site! The course was excellent and I would advise any potential instructors to go for it. Though it will never make you rich, teaching RAPS is rewarding.

Overall, a successful few months. Hopefully the summer will last just a little bit longer so we can all enjoy more jumping in the sunshine.

Sara Orton



Mick in stand by Danny Coultrup

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Steve Kilvington **FSI** Brendan Ireland **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Brendan Ireland **500** Andie Harrison **800** Mick Cosgrove



WALK UP AND WALK INTO THE WORLD OF FORMATION SKYDIVING

On October the 27th and 28th, coach and organiser Chris Shaw will be Load Organising at Skydive Netheravon



As well as coaching FS teams on the DZ and in the wind tunnel, Chris has developed a friendly and progressive system of Load Organising which has been particularly popular at UK drop zones. He encourages participants to try new things and fly different slots without fear of failure or being singled out. "Apart from people who are unsafe, I don't carry a sharp axe!"

Who can attend?

This event is open to all FS1+ jumpers, although is aimed at the lesser experienced skydiver who would like to progress to big- way jumping.

What will you learn?

Chris teaches the various slots, options, skills and techniques required in a formation skydive. He designs the jumps carefully, allowing you to increase your skill base and confidence.

How much does it cost?

There is a small fee of £5.00 per day, payable in advance or on the day.

Do I have to register?

To guarantee a place, telephone the APA office on 01980 628250 or email coursesmanager@netheravon.com.



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We have eventually managed to get some jumps in now that summer has arrived. There have been plenty of students progressing through the static line system, with Neil Williams and Dan Cope completing their first freefalls. Lyndsey Berry has achieved her Cat 8 and CH1 and Sara Heath has passed her FS1.

There has also been lots of FS competing going on. Steve Lamb's team *RAFSPA Hunter* came first in the overall UKSL competition in Rookie. They also came second at Peterlee and Cark and first at Langar. Ellie Southworth, Caroline Vaughan and Phil Jenks won gold at Cark UKSL in Rookie along with Hib jumper Richard Cotton as *Sky Tramps*. At the Nationals, Caroline Vaughan's team *Tr4ck* came sixth, Steve Lamb's team *RAFSPA Hunter* came ninth and Ellie Southworth's scratch team *Lawn Darts* came 14th in Rookie. Mike Allsopp's team *Satori Turquoise* came seventh and my team *Satori Green* came 13th in Single A.

We had another Tilly fancy dress party with Rob Wilson again supplying the tunes in the packing shed. True to form, Tilstock was transformed with pretty much everyone dressing up. However, Mike Pritchard and Barry Jones came as skydivers – as usual! We

were supposed to be having a BBQ; once again the English weather wasn't playing ball, but we didn't let that ruin our fun. There was drinking aplenty and various people attempting to look graceful on the pole – most failed!

Colin is planning the Christmas party and AGM, which will be held at the Macdonald Hill Valley Hotel in Whitchurch on December 8. Tickets are £30 and we have negotiated a discounted rate on accommodation at the hotel. If you haven't been to a Tilly Christmas party before, come along because it's always a great night. This year, the hotel is laying on a 'Las Vegas'-style entertainment with casino tables as well as the live band and disco. If you want a ticket, please let Colin know.

We have two new manifesters – Lyndsey Berry and Ellie Southworth – who have settled in really quickly and are doing a great job.

We are open on Fridays, Saturdays and bank holiday Mondays. We are also open every Thursday until the end of September, with the exception of August 30. We are taking names for the next packing course, which will be run on a Sunday. If you would like a place, give the DZ a call.

Ann Fleming

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Dan Cope, Neil Williams **CAT8/CHI** Lyndsey Berry **FS1** Sara Heath **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Martin Price **100** Martyn Berry **300** Ann Fleming, Roger Hughes **1,600** Lee Rhodes **2 HOURS FREEFALL** Ellie Southworth, Roger Hughes



1 Sara Heath's FS1 dive with Phil Jenks, Caroline Vaughan and Ann Fleming by Alex Busby Hicks

2 Sky Tramps take gold with Caroline Vaughan, Ellie Southworth, Phil Jenks and Richard Cotton

3 Dan Cope after his first freefall with CCI Buzz

Holly Goodfield by Joe Laming



Going higher in

Diggers by Jane Buckle-Hopkins



G-GOHI

HEADCORN headcorn.com

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Luke Warren, Isaac Gentle, Chad Smith, Stuart Sharp **GRADUATED AFF** Dean Andrews, James Vassallo, Felix Weaver, Jon 'Benny' Benson, Darren Street, Sam Stuart **CAT 8/CHI** Jonathan Allen, Luke Sole, Sean Malia, Gareth Reid, Chris Dane **CH2/JMI** Trevor Richardson, Holly Goodfield **FS1** Ben Holten **FF1** Holly Goodfield, Craig Crosbie **FF2** Ben Broad, Joe Laming **WS2** James Stancomb **CPI** Joe Laming **JUMP NUMBERS 100** John Woodward **200** Jex Pearce, Nicole Calcraft **300** Richard McCarthy **400** Joe Laming **700** Nads Hall **1,000** Peter Collins **9,000** Clem Quinn

It has been good to see lots of Headcorn skydivers venturing further afield and achieving great things. Mary Barratt, Mark Smith and Sarah Pilling all attended the CF Grand Prix at Dunkeswell and came back with medals in all three colours! Then we had Chris Shaw and Freddy Deman along with two others win the World Championships in a 4-way for Skydivers Over Sixty!

It was also good to see so many Headcorn jumpers involved in *Satori* teams at the Nationals this year. Good on all of you for what you have achieved.

The summer finally picked up in fits and starts and we got some decent spells of jumping in with lots of AFF and Category System progression. Our fears about the Olympic Airspace proved unfounded and we carried on operating to flight level 120 happily throughout the games.

FS week was a resounding success with lots of progression happening.

Our new Caravan, aptly registered G-GOHI, has arrived

and we look forward to jumping it once it has returned from Germany with its door and rails fitted. Our trusty Islander is still going strong and we have not found a buyer for her as yet. She has been on a few outings year with various display teams, most recently to drop the Red Devils into the V Festival!

Adam Hughes and Janos Leskzo are now tandem instructors – well done them!

The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Display Team 'The Tigers' have officially adopted Headcorn as their home DZ and have been seen hard at work practising their skills.

The club scene continues to thrive, with much merriment and lots of impromptu parties. There has been lots of Freely progression, tracking dives, hybrids and a growing flock of wingsuiters. Swoop and chug after the sunset lift has rounded off many a perfect day throughout the summer.

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| 14000ft | 27-29 | 43-47 |

LANGAR skydivelangar.co.uk

Al and Pixie National Gold Medal Freestyle-Training over Langar by John Baggaley



Dilys Price's 80th birthday jump by Tony Danbury

Ben White's 300th by Paul Dewey



Podium perspective

Langar jumpers got medals in nine of the ten possible events at this year's BPA National Skydiving Championships – none of our guys entered the Speed competition, so we missed out on that one! Stars of the show have to be current World Freestyle silver medallists Al Hodgson and Pixie Hodgson-MacLeod, who won their fifth National gold medal in a row – now they're after gold at World Championships at the end of this year. Watch this space...

Gold medals went to Langar FS jumpers in 4-way for AAA, AA and A, and at both Senior and Intermediate level in 8-way, plus silver

and bronze for Rookie 4-way and silver and bronze for VFS. The artistic golds were rounded out nicely by Kate Lindsley and Lizzie Carroll in Freestyle B. So, if you need competition coaching for FS or Artistic events, come over and see Milko, Ally Milne, Will Cooke, Siân Stokes and Al & Pixie. Congratulations to everybody involved, and keep up the good work!

Talking of coaching, our BPA FS Roadshow was well attended with lots of good learning. Thanks to all the coaches, and especially the *Bodyflight Aerodyne* girls.

A lot of fun was had at Bullet Freely's Trackstarz

tracking weekend, taking advantage of Bullet's newly expanded premises.

Despite the awful run of weather earlier in the summer, jump numbers are as good as ever. We're doing more and more midweek jumping. We've had lots of AFF graduations recently, as you'll see from the achievements list, so we've got loads of new skydivers on board.

We've also got a fair few older skydivers! Dilys Price celebrated her recent 80th birthday by jumping with Dean Fisher, Baz Carey, Stan Hopkins and Tony Danbury. The total age

on the dive exceeded 350 years with an average age of more than 70. Blimey.

Other notables: Pete 'Sonic' Bacon made his first skydive for a while on a Tandem with Rab Petersen, so welcome back to him. We'll mention Ross Lambert's 500th wingsuit jump here as it doesn't fit into the standard achievements list. Nice one Ross!

Remember, Langar never stops jumping – we're open all winter too. Come and join us – and keep track of what's happening at facebook.com/skydivelangar

Tony Danbury

- ACHIEVEMENTS**
FIRST FREEFALL Adam Lomas
GRADUATED AFF James Sherwood-Jones, Simon Tole, Rob Jenkins, Sally Hearson, Neil Denbow, Terry Stubbs, Rob Stanley **CAT 8/CHI** Adam Owen, Andrew Thompson, Adam Lomas, James Sherwood-Jones, Simon Tole, Tamsin Gulliver, Sally Hearson, Neil Denbow **CH2** Becky Frew, Ben Mitchell, Andy Barton, Si Flisher **JMI** Becky Frew, Ben Mitchell, Andy Barton, Kelly Spittle, Si Flisher **FSI** Alan Lomas, James Sherwood-Jones, Andy Barton **FFI** Ricardo Quail, Chris Evans **FF2** Ben White **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Heeral Poria, Ben Mitchell, Steve Palmer **100** Joanne Woods, Alex Whitehead, Jo Hendley **200** Alex Green, Raph Barbier, Paul Wood, Sion Roberts **300** Ben White, Jenny Hewitt, Alan Foulkes-Williams **400** Charlie Walker **600** Nick Robinson **700** Ruth Jordinson **900** Charlie Smart **1,200** Gary Davidson **1,400** Siân Stokes **1,500** Will Cooke **2,000** Martine Howland, Chris Cooke **1 HOUR FREEFALL** Alex Whitehead **132 HOURS FREEFALL** Phil Curtis

PARAGON paragonskydiving.co.uk

- JUMP NUMBERS 700**
 Alice Gillies **1,500**
TANDEM Steve Lambert

We staged our very own Olympics here at Paragon. The ceremonies got underway with the lighting of the Olympic Brazier, followed by the Paragon athletes competing in events such as the hammer throw, planking, Roman wrestling and, everyone's favourite, the beer and wine tasting events. Unfortunately, some of us had to retire early (before 9pm) due to some sort of chronic fatigue. Health and Safety were called in as Ian almost sustained third-degree burns when attempting to extinguish the Olympic flame at the close of the Games. All in all, it was an excellent evening – just as well it will be another four years before the next Paragon Olympics. That should give the lightweights plenty of time to sort out their training regimes.

While on the subject of training, Billy and Alice's apprentices are both doing well – Connie on manifest and Jenna in the packing shed. Keep up the good work, ladies. Let us not forget the great job rookie jump pilot Cameron is doing in getting us to altitude as well.

We have seen some old faces recently too – or should I say familiar faces? Irene is doing a bit of holiday cover on manifest and we have also had a visit from the most pierced face in the world just to say "hello baby!"

The last few weeks have brought the usual frustrating Scottish summer weather, which postponed our only Demo this year three times. However, the weather did provide us with the opportunity to do some hop and pops, and the CCI even managed to out-jump the Tandem Instructors. We also did a bit of CF where Peetay gained his CRew puppy status and couldn't stop smiling. So, as is usual at the UK's most northern parachute centre, we have been making the most of what the weather gods give us.

One of our resident camera flyers, Chick Adams, swapped the camerasuit for a wingsuit and has instantly become the club's most experienced wingsuit jumper. Well done to him – now we can start working on some XRW!



Alice, Roy and Jenna by Peetay

As the nights grow shorter and we look forward to bringing out the thermal gear, it's time we started thinking about the Christmas party again. Anyone who is interested should remember to ask at manifest for the details. It promises to be a fun night, as always.

Finally, everyone at Paragon would like to congratulate The Vowel, Mo and Erin as the proud parents and big sister of Baby Elsa, born on August 8.

Happy landings!

Markie



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ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Jenny Jones, Darren Porter
JUMP NUMBERS 200 Dan Jones **300** Tanya Quigley, Mike Phillips **600** Ben Jenkins, Pedro Garcia **700** Paul Sheehan **800** Ricky Davies

New faces, new fun

Despite the challenging weather conditions this summer, the AFF courses have been full and most students have managed to at least get their first jumps out of the way.

Well done to Jenny and Darren, who have also achieved their A licences. Jenny and Darren are our newest A licences, and Darren has since become the newest member of the packing team. Welcome aboard, buddy.

It's been great to see a few visiting jumpers swelling our club jumper numbers and taking in the stunning Gower views. The tandem instructors have been issued with matching jumpsuits and, not wanting to be left out, the camera boys treated themselves to one too. However, a slight washing error has turned the red and white camera suit into a pretty red and pink one – nice one Ben!

We've had quite a few jump number achievements recently, which shows that we are definitely making the most of the jumpable

weather days we have been granted this summer. Ped left the dark side for a flat jump for his 600th that even I joined him on. It was great fun, but perhaps a 12-way was a bit ambitious. Hutch smashed 10 lifts back-to-back for a club jump record, but still hasn't paid his beers – being overseas is not an excuse! Congratulations to Ricky Davies for passing his TBI course. In preparation for the course, his tandem jump had more cameramen on it than you usually see on the DZ in total!

Congratulations to our resident FS coach Kris Wojciechowski, who reigned supreme at the Nationals with his team *Amula* as they moved up to the A Category and still came away with gold medals.

We are open on a number of Fridays over the next few months in addition to the usual weekends and bank holidays. Please look at the Skydive Swansea Facebook page for dates and information.

Carl Williams



PETERLEE skydiveacademy.org.uk

The Full...Nick?

It's been extremely busy here at Peterlee – so much so that we need to say big congratulations to Paul Robinson, who started and finished his AFF course on the same day after managing to complete all eight levels before the last lift.

Hayley Nelson was surprised when the girls at the DZ organised a surprise hen party. They took her out for a meal with a few surprises

and gimmicks up their sleeves. When back at the DZ for drinks with her fiancé Nick Brown, her dream of having Nick perform a striptease for her was fulfilled! Nick carried out his performance (not quite the Chippendales) for Hayley and the rest of the bar – thank God he left more than his hat on...

Due to the sad news regarding the BPA Council endorsing the STC's decision to place age limits on parachute pilots, we will see the devastating loss of Tony Cowan, Stuart Palmer and Ken Glendinning as of March 31, 2013.

More sad news regarding Fred Deakin, who died aged 88 in early August. Fred made three tandem jumps with us for the St. Cuthbert's Hospice after his wife died. He became a regular at the centre, helping out, refuelling and towing the aircraft. He will be sadly missed.

Both the Wilkinsons are having a little break from skydiving while they recover from broken limbs. Lisa W suffered a broken ankle and Will W a broken wrist. We wish them all the best and hope they have a speedy recovery.

We now have a new email address and Twitter feed for Skydive Academy Ltd. Anyone wanting to keep up to date on Peterlee Parachute Centre can now get up to date information from our new Twitter feed @PeterleeParaCen and can keep in touch via our email address: info@skydiveacademy.org.uk

Shotton Airfield celebrated its 25th anniversary on Saturday September 8 with a function in Shotton Hall.

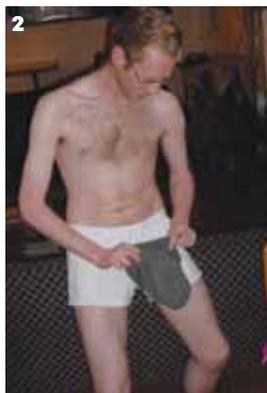
Finally, we're looking forward to getting all the university students (old and new) back in a few weeks' time.

Oliver Hudson



1 Ian Rosenvinge celebrates 25 years at Shotton airfield

2 Nick Brown performing his strip tease



ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Janjilla Chirnside, Paul Robinson **CAT8/CHI** Adam Boxall, Mateusz Tatarczuk **CH2/JMI/50 JUMPS** David Fuzz Fusaro



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October

October 3-7

B/F **Funshine Boogie**

Location: **Skydive Spain** · skydivespain.com

October 6-7

FS **FS Scrambles**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

October 9

BPA **BPA Council Meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

October 13-14

FS **FS99 weekend**

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

October 13-14

FS **First Time Formation Loads**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

October 18-21

FS **'Arizona Sunset' 125-way picture dive**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona** · theworldteam.com

October 19-20

FS **12/24-ways**

Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

October 20

B/F **APA 50th Anniversary Ball**

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 20-26

B/F **Girls' 'Week Long' Weekender**

Location: **Empuriabrava, Spain** · skydiveempuriabrava.com

October 20-28

B/F **Equinox Boogie, Toogoolawah**

Location: **Toogoolawah, Australia** · rambler.com.au

October 25-28

A **French Women's Vertical Record Attempt (WVWR qualifier)**

Location: **Pamiers, France** · domitillekiger@gmail.com

October 27-28

A **Euphoria Skills Camp**

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 27-28

FS **Hibbleween Speed Meet**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

November

November 5-9

BPA **BPA Instructor Course – CSBI/TBI/AFFBI**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

November 9-11

B/F **BCPA Freshers**

Location: **Langar** · bcpa.org.uk

November 9-11

A **Freefly Essentials**

Location: **Skydive Spain** · skydivespain.com

November 11-14

FS **Team Elite II (High end 36-way sequentials with Guy Wright and Gordon Hodgkinson)**

Location: **DeLand, Florida** · guywright@me.com

November 12-16

BPA **BPA Instructor Course – CSI/TI/AFFI**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

November 15-18

FS **'Kaleidoscope/SkyQuest' 104-way Sequential**

Location: **DeLand, Florida** · theworldteam.com

November 17-18

A **TrackDayz**

Location: **Skydive Spain** · skydivespain.com

November 17-18

A **Euphoria Skills Camp**

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

November 22

BPA **BPA Riggers and STC Meetings**

Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

November 22-24

A **Thanksgiving Boogie (WVWR qualifier)**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona** · amyhmelecki@hotmail.com

November 28-December 9

U **FAI World Parachuting Championships and 2012 Mondial**

Location: **Dubai, UAE** · fai.org

December

December 5-9

U **POPS World Record Attempt**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona** · bigwayjumpers.org

December 8

B/F **Xmas Party**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

December 8

B/F **Xmas Party**

Location: **Tilstock** · theparachutecentre.com

December 13

BPA **BPA Council Meeting**

Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

December 13-16

U **Indoor Skydiving World Championships**

Location: **Singapore** · iflysingapore.com

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December 22-January 6

B/F **Empuria Christmas Boogie**

Location: **Empuriabrava, Spain** · skydiveempuriabrava.com

December 26-27

A **Invasion Boogie (WVWR qualifier)**

Location: **Sebastian, Florida** · melissaairheart@yahoo.com

December 26-January 2

B/F **Skydive Sebastian Invasion**

Location: **Florida** · skydivesebastian.com

December 28-31

FS **P3 Holiday Power Play**

Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

January 2013

January 26

BPA **2013 BPA AGM**

Location: **Leicester Marriott Hotel** · bpa.org.uk

February

February 16-17

B/F **BCPA Indoors**

Location: **Bodyflight Bedford** · bcpa.org.uk

March

March 8-10

B/F **BCPA Hib**

Location: **Hibaldstow** · bcpa.org.uk

March 25-29

U **PIA Symposium**

Location: **Daytona Beach, Florida** · pia.com

March 29-31

A **Easter Boogie (WVWR qualifier)**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona** · amyhmelecki@hotmail.com

April

April 6-12

FS **2-point 222-way with BJ Worth**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona**

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KEY

- BPA** BPA EVENTS
- CP** CANOPY PILOTING
- FS** FORMATION SKYDIVING

- CF** CANOPY FORMATION
- S&A** STYLE & ACCURACY
- B/F** BOOGIES/FUN

- A** ARTISTIC
- WS** WINGSUIT
- U** UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)



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50 YEARS AGO

50th anniversary of first jump

I did my first jump on October 7 1962 at Kidlington. I was introduced to parachuting by Frank Ridgely, an ex-Para, who on getting demobbed said he'd found a club that did sport parachuting and I should join him. At the time the club was run by Mike Longthorpe and training was fairly rudimentary, but my Para friend taught me how to 'hit and roll' – I used to practise by jumping off a four-foot brick wall in my parents' house.

A few weeks went by and we couldn't jump because of the weather. I was then informed that I could buy a rig from a friend who had broken his leg a few weeks earlier; this I did. Come the day of the jump it was too windy in the morning, but we were reliably informed it would improve in the afternoon. Later in the afternoon the wind dropped and we were kitted up. Mike Longthorpe relented and allowed me to use one of his rigs; I wish he hadn't! We were led over to the plane, which was a Dehavilland Dragon, and I was told by the dispatcher, who was an American (in those days anybody who came over from the US was considered a 'sky god'), to get in first and sit behind the pilot.

I walked up to the pilot who gave me a big smile; she was a very attractive dark-haired lady in her early 40s, with very large breasts covered by a fairly low-cut crisp white blouse. We took off and reached jump altitude of 2,200ft. There were lots of shouts of "left, left" coming from the door but, being 22 at the time and with testosterone coming out of my ears, I was more interested in peeking over the pilot's shoulder to get a glimpse of her breasts. Eventually there was a furious shout from the dispatcher: "Hey you! Tell her

left!" "Er... OK left", "LEFT!" "Left!" "Oh no! SH*T! Tell her to go round again!" This I did. Back on the run in it was: "left", "left", "right", "left", "right", "left." Eventually the dispatcher shouted "cut!", and threw out a WDI. "Go round again!"

On run in it was again "left", "right", "left", "left", "right", "left." I could see the pilot grinning all over her face. Eventually he shouted "cut!", and the RAF officer got out on the wing. Fortunately he was a very switched-on guy who happened to look down. I saw him holding on by one hand and gesturing down with the other. With that the dispatcher looked down and shouted "OH SH*T!" and dragged him back into the aircraft; we were flying over a Tiger Moth that was directly below us. Round we went again with the usual directions: "right", "left", "right", "left". Eventually an RAF officer went with another guy, and around we went again with the usual comedy of errors.

Two more went, the plane went around again and I went. As I looked up the parachute opened and I got covered in newspaper! In those days they got so many line-overs that they covered the tears with sticky tape, and to stop the folds sticking together they used to put sheets of newspaper between them. All of a sudden I rotated 360 degrees and seemed to drop a foot. I clung onto the risers in desperation all the way to the ground, thinking that I had dropped out of the harness: nobody had told me about twists. When I landed all I got was a telling off for not steering. I never saw any of the other jumpers again. It also turned out that the dispatcher didn't have sufficient jumps so I never saw him again either.

On my second jump I jumped using my newly bought rig. I was dispatched by John Murphy, and as I landed on the airfield, and having not broken my leg, I thought I had done well. But John came up to me afterwards and told me that I had been lucky. "Didn't you see that line-over that cleared itself?" "Look at the tears in the top of your canopy." Oh dear, back to the sticky tape! Like Bob King, on my fifth jump I was dispatched by Brian Porter who asked me if I would like to spot, to which I replied: "Yes." Unfortunately nobody had taught me how to spot. I was studiously looking down at the airfield as we were flying over, wondering when to get out, when a voice said: "If you don't get out now you'll never make the airfield!" Thanks Brian. He used to entertain us by daisy chaining his lines when jumping... I wonder if he is still alive?

Clive Plummer, BPA 380 D-581

1



50 YEARS AGO

Freefall Pioneer

This year is the 50th anniversary of Alf Card's 1,000th jump in 1962

50 years ago, on September 14, 1962, Alf Card completed his 1,000th jump – a significant achievement at the time. Alf was one of the pioneers of UK freefall parachuting in the 1950s. He began his parachuting career as a Parachute Jump Instructor with the RAF in the Second World War, training many of those who jumped at Arnhem as well as members of the SAS, SBS and LRDG. In 1950, Alf became a founder member of the Edward Bear Club, a very early parachute club, at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

During the 1950s he was a contemporary of the legendary "Dumbo" Willans, who was one of three British jumpers who attended the first World Championships in 1951. At the time, most parachutists had strong links with the military and teams selected for international parachuting competitions composed of serving members of the Armed Forces. In 1954, due to a shortage of jumpers, Sir Raymond Quilter, manufacturer of the famous Wartime 'X' type parachute, approached the RAF with Dumbo Willans to recruit a team for the 1954 World Championships at St Yan in France from the Instructors at No. 1 Parachute Training School at Abingdon. The rationale was that, being experts in their field, the instructors would be able to adapt to freefall descents very quickly.

Following trials, Alf was selected for the team and attended the event as a reserve. As none of the RAF instructors had any freefall experience, qualifying for the team entailed a steep learning curve. Alf also contributed to the evolution of sport parachuting in the UK as it gained momentum in the mid-1950s. He participated as an instructor in the early days at Fair Oaks with Dumbo Willans and played a key role in the foundation of the Oxford Parachute Club. In 1959, Alf attended a military freefall course at Pau in France with Peter Hearn, as, by this time, the RAF were realising the potential of this type of descent for military purposes and the French were already extremely proficient. →



Clive with George Field who sold him his first rig, his broken leg now repaired. Early 1963

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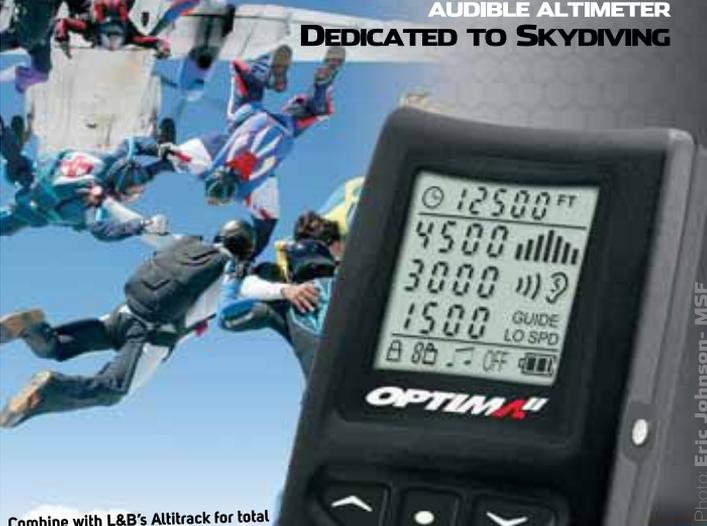


Photo: Eric Johnson - MSF

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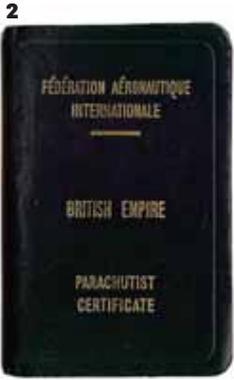
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- 2 Alf's FAI Certificate D-6. Note 'BRITISH EMPIRE' designation!**
- 3 Alf's Royal Aero Club Competitor's Licence covering the 1954 and 1960 World Championships**
- 4 Alf Card exits on his 1,000th jump in 1962**
- 5 Alf and son Graeme on the DZ with his 1,000th jump award**

In 1960 Alf was again selected for the British team at the World Championships in Bulgaria, with consideration now also being given to sport parachutists for team membership – although military dominance would still be prevalent in 1962 when the entire team was composed of members of 22 SAS Regiment. Shortly after his 1,000th jump in September 1962, Alf broke his leg badly following a low-level entanglement with another parachutist. Despite making a full recovery, he retired not only from the RAF, having accrued a well-deserved AFM and Bar, but also from sport parachuting. Sadly, Alf passed away in 2002 but prior to this he recorded his parachuting experiences in a privately published biography *'It don't mean a thing, if you don't pull the string!'* – an appropriate title given his significant contribution to the development of freefall parachuting in the UK.

the strut and dropped away. I flung out my arms and legs as wide as I could and held my head back. I could see the sky, then the ground, and I knew I was somersaulting. I seemed to have fallen for ages so I brought my hand in and looked at my stopwatch and the small pointer ticking around to 10 seconds. Heavens – only 10 seconds! It felt a lot longer.

"By now I had stopped somersaulting and was falling with my back to the ground and slowly rotating. I thought 'to hell with the stable position' and brought my hand in to look at my watch again. I felt quite comfy dropping in that position, then I saw the pointer coming up to 20 seconds so I pressed the button on the watch to stop it and waited for my chute to open. Nothing, no familiar back-breaking thump. With a start I

realised that I had not pulled the ripcord, so I yanked it as hard as I could and to my relief I saw the wire and pin waving in my slipstream and I fell. But still no vicious jerk of the opening chute. Desperately I looked around me and on the left of my body I could see a blob of white. Grasping it I threw it away and was rewarded with a terrific jerk as my chute filled and arrested my fall.

"I looked down at the ground and seemed to be about 800ft or so and away from the DZ, coming down in the field a good mile away. Getting to my feet I was greeted by Lady Quilter who had brought her estate car over to collect me."



The following is an abridged extract from Alf's book and is reproduced by kind permission of Alf's son Graeme Card.

"The cloud base was given as 4,500ft and Dumbo, Jimmy Blythe and Sir Raymond all agreed that we could just possibly get in a 20-second delay from that height. It would mean opening at about 1,800ft, still time for us to operate our reserve chutes in emergency, though the original opening height of about 2,200ft was preferable – after all, we were only beginners. So while the Rapide flew to Weston, we collected and fitted our chutes and went by coach. Our stopwatch, to time our fall, was secured to the backs of our left hands and Dumbo was to start them for us as we left the aircraft. Just before we took off, we received news that the cloud base had lifted earlier than expected, so we would be jumping from 5,000ft after all.

"Soon we were at the dropping height and running in to drop Norman Hoffman. He got his chute ready and climbed out at Dumbo's behest – a pause, thumbs up and away he went. We watched fascinated as he plummeted earthwards. He seemed to go a long way and had practically disappeared from our view when we saw the puff of his parachute blossoming far below. As far as we could judge he seemed to have had a good position. The Rapide banked and started the run in to drop me. I got ready and waited for Dumbo's signal to get out on to the wing. Dumbo gave me a grin and a few final words of advice: 'If you don't get stable, don't worry. Concentrate on opening your chute on time.'

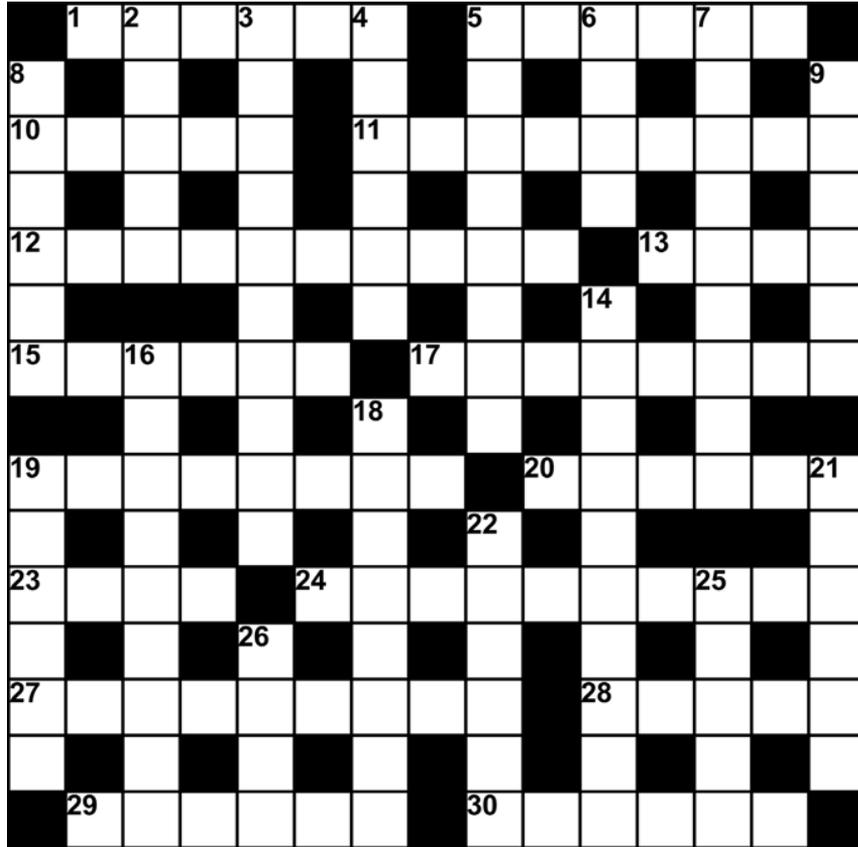
"I watched Dumbo, then suddenly he held up his thumb and pressed my stopwatch and I let go of



PUZZLE



Paul Boorer



Across

- 1. Attacks the king
- 5. Arrange luggage again
- 10. Warning to airmen (acronym)
- 11. Colleague
- 12. Packing aid (4,2,4)
- 13. Position in formation
- 15. From Denmark
- 17. Learner
- 19. Upside down

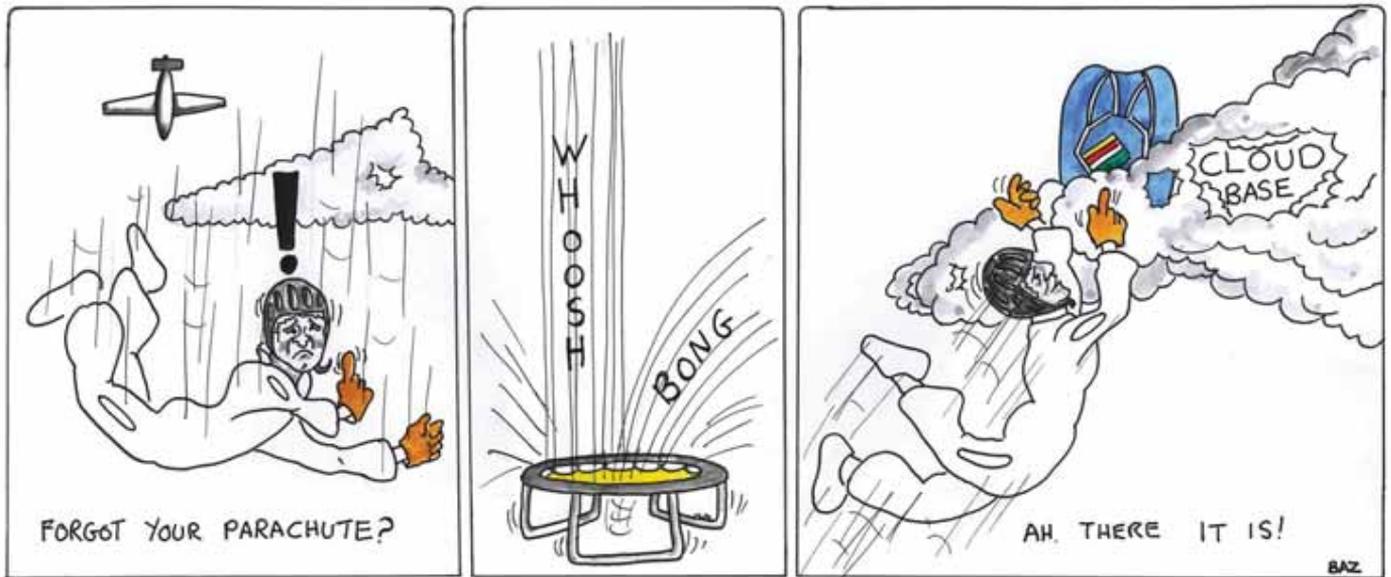
Down

- 2. Phonetic letter
- 3. Obligatory
- 4. Canopy deployment jolt
- 5. Back-up canopies
- 6. Speed
- 7. Dare
- 8. 4-way formation
- 9. Relative Workshops container

- 20. Flow
- 23. Toy bricks
- 24. Type of rattlesnake
- 27. Countrywide competitions
- 28. Stupid person
- 29. Canopy connector
- 30. Targeting aids

- 14. Skydiving practice (4,6)
- 16. Route finder
- 18. Pause in deployment
- 19. Ticking over
- 21. Parachutes De France canopies
- 22. Camera parts
- 25. Travel with the flow
- 26. Swoop landing area

CARTOON



Across
 1. Checks 5. Repack 10. NoTAM 11. Associate 12. Pull up cord 13. Slot 15. Danish 17. Beginner 19. Inverted 20. Stream 23. Lego 24. Sidewinder 27. Nationals 28. Idiot 29. Bridle 30. Sights

Down
 2. Hotel 3. Compulsory 4. Snatch 5. Reserves 6. Pace 7. Challenge 8. Unipod 9. Vector 14. Dirt diving 16. Navigator 18. Hesitate 19. Idling 21. Merts 22. Lenses 25. Drift 26. Pond

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