



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com December 2012

skyDIVE

the mag



INSIDE: FELIX BAUMGARTNER AT THE EDGE OF SPACE WINGSUIT WORLD RECORD THE BRITISH TEAMS IN DUBAI EUROPEAN SKYDIVING LEAGUE IN BELGIUM BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CF, ACCURACY AND 8-WAY SPEED WORLD CUP BRONZE FOR SATORI

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What a year 2012 has been for achievements! *Satori* have won World Cup Bronze, the first Open 4-way FS medal on the world stage since 1979. Felix Baumgartner has broken the record for the highest jump, along with a whole load of other records alongside it. Wingsuits have grabbed headlines and pushed new boundaries with a new 100-way record and a new time record of over nine minutes for Jhonathan Florez – not to mention Gary Connery landing his!



However, this year has not all been good news. There were four skydiving fatalities in just a few months this summer, and the future of the sport is currently dependent on European legislation that those at the top are watching carefully.

As we move forward into 2013, it would be nice to make some New Year's resolutions that can benefit us all. What would yours be? I think if I could wave a magic wand, I would love to change attitudes to canopy flight and engender a strong culture of coaching – doing so much more than just ticking the CH1 and CH2 boxes. Understanding that you don't have to jump a tiny canopy to be cool, and learning to fly considerably as part of a lift rather than selfishly as an individual.

I'd also like to encourage people to think how they can put more into the sport. At one end of the spectrum, everybody has time to help new A licence jumpers to find their way. At the other end, some people are dedicated enough to stand for BPA Council and help shape the BPA for the better. Wherever you fall on that spectrum, please do use your vote.

Liz Ashley

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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.

Cover: Felix Baumgartner on a test jump in July 2012, before stepping off his capsule and into the record books, by Jay Nemeth/Red Bull Content Pool

Welcome: Cameraflyer Scott Mackenzie, by Tony Danbury

Contents: A 60-way stadium approach at Langar Boogie 2, by Tony Danbury

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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 2013 are:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
February	January 1	February 21
April	February 26	April 16
June	April 23	June 7

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DEALER FOR ALL MANUFACTURERS





By Niklas Daniel

British 4-way Nationals biggest in the world

Last year's 4-way FS Nationals with 57 teams was beaten only by USPA's Nationals two months later with 65 teams. We had the second biggest Nationals in the world, but also had our eyes on the top spot and 2012 was the year we did it! A whopping 72 teams competed at Hibaldstow in August and, with the USPA Nationals taking place in October, we watched eagerly to see what they would come up with. As registration closed and a piddly 61 teams were entered, there was time for a little smug satisfaction from our rainy island before settling back to watch *Airspeed* take Gold yet again with a 26.6 average.



By Niklas Daniel

Online tunnel competition

Skydivers from all around the world competed against each other on November 5 without ever leaving their own countries. The first ever Online Indoor Skydiving Competition was held at 10 vertical wind tunnels simultaneously around the world – from iFLY Hollywood at 9am to iFLY Dubai at 9pm, all on the same day. The performances were recorded and uploaded to the competition's YouTube and Facebook pages for spectator viewing and are being judged as this Mag goes to press.

Seven Brit teams competing at Manchester made up more than 10 per cent of the worldwide entrants across the five categories: 4-way FS, 4-way VFS, 2-way VFS, 2-way Freely and Neo-Freestyle (solo performance combining both Freely and Freestyle).

The event will run again in 2013, dates TBC.

By Mike Gorman



BRITS DOMINATE 16-WAY AGAIN

Milko's team lifted the trophy yet again at the annual European 16-way competition in Empuria. Team *Sore Point* was made up of the usual smattering of past and present British National Champions. Having spent most of the competition in second place, they leapt ahead of Martial Ferré's leading team in the final round with a fantastic five-point 32-way. Patrick Passe's team took the Bronze after a slightly contentious penultimate round.

There were Brits in most of the eight teams that entered, including each of the podium teams. Billy Payn's *Muffintops* took fourth place and fifth place went to Dave Lewis' team. It all added up to a performance to be proud of, both in the sky and in the car wash...



UK SOS RECORD

A new record was set at Netheravon on November 3 for the largest ever UK formation of SOS members. The previous Skydivers Over Sixty record was a 5-way, but is now an 8-way. Back row, L-R: Steve Tomlin (60), Chris Shaw (62), George Raft (66), John Knight (75), John Houghland (65). Front row, L-R: Jeff Chandler (65), John Flower (70), Caroline O'Hagan (66).



European big-way training

The Dubai 500 European Team Captains' Big-way event in Empuriabrava took place November 1-4 and attracted 111 jumpers from 21 countries. Kate Cooper-Jensen, Martial Ferré and Pete Allum took turns to work with three different groups, alternating coaches each day. The groups trained new skills with the top two

groups, averaging about 35 people in two Otter formations and working on multiple-point skydives. The lower-level group was focused on building a base, safe radial approaches in a stadium set-up and formation tracking groups in waves from 6,000ft. This was made easier by the higher altitudes of 15K that the groups made on each jump. The final day saw the formation increase to 55 with the addition of the Dornier (thanks H). British skydivers Tony Kirk-Burgess, Les Dalziel, Ron Wands, Rod Stone, Heather

Little, Ruth Green and Paul Myers all took part. The dropzone was cranking with a high-level freefly group with Fabian Raidel, Babylon workshop, German National 8-way team, Swiss National 4-way team, Al and Pixie and a variety of fun jumpers – not bad for November. To round things off nicely, the new Empuriabrava tunnel was running from morning until night, and many participants took advantage of tunnel coaching from Pete and Martial at the end of the day.

Obituaries

Skydiving is a small community and, when we lose one of our friends, it affects us all. Usually this Mag publishes a few obituaries per year, celebrating the lives of those who have gone too soon with a page full of memories of them. However, this has been a terrible summer and the usual memorial to each and every jumper is unfortunately not possible due to space constraints. At the same time, it would be unfair to include pages for some but not others. It therefore brings me great sadness to report here the deaths of far too many of our friends.

Lee Clifford was killed on an AFF jump at Black Knights after cutting away below 200 feet.

Pete Hahnfeld was killed on his 998th jump at Hibaldstow after initiating a radical turn under canopy at low altitude, which he did not complete before hitting the ground.

Steve Wall had 263 jumps when he made a radical turn at RAPA that his parachute had not recovered from before he impacted with the ground.

John Ritschel landed in a tree at RAPA and received serious injury when he fell during the rescue. He died later in hospital.

Patrick Sandeman died following a canopy collision shortly before landing at Sibson. He had 677 jumps.

Jonathon Wickham was killed on a jump in Portugal. He did not open either of his parachutes.

In non-skydiving related news, long-time skydiver and *Team Pumpkin* founder Martin Williams succumbed to cancer in late September.

Finally, Irish skydiver Michelle Hennessy died in October.

All will be missed and our thoughts are with their loved ones.



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AGM DAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 26 2013

The **BPA AGM 2013** will be held in the Leicester Marriott Hotel, Smith Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester LE19 1SW at 1030 on Saturday January 26 2013. The agenda is on p11 of the October 2012 issue of *Skydive the Mag* and online.

ASSOCIATED EVENTS

A presentation ceremony of medals and awards will take place immediately after the morning AGM. This will include presentation of the new BPA Star Customer Service Awards. During the afternoon, a choice of seminars, presentations and meetings aims to offer something for everyone.

One highlight of the afternoon will be a presentation on the Red Bull Stratos programme by BPA member Anu Ojha, Director of the National Space Academy based at the National Space Centre in Leicester. It will include some of the physiological commonalities/challenges of spaceflight, the history of failed attempts including demonstrations of the effect of low pressure on liquids, suit challenges to mobility, aerodynamic control (or lack of it) in the high stratosphere at sub-terminal speeds and an analysis of that nasty transonic spin. Anu will also show two high-altitude pressure suits that are almost identical to the one used by US pioneer Joe Kittinger in the 1960s.

Among a variety of other meetings and presentations will be the final of BPA FilmFest 2013, sponsored by Airkix. For full information about AGM Day, see bpa.org.uk/agm

Attendance at all associated events, except for the optional dinner, is free of charge to members and their guests. This includes the evening entertainment and disco.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Hotel bedrooms should be booked direct with the Leicester Marriott, which is offering them (subject to availability) for Friday January 25 and/or Saturday January 26 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 or
- telephone 0116 282 0100 then option 1, option 1 again for reservations, quoting BP1 for the BPA rate.

Please book early to avoid disappointment, as our venue hotels in the last few years have become fully booked by December.

For other accommodation options, visit goleicestershire.com

EXHIBITION

Space may be hired (subject to availability) at the AGM Day exhibition of services, equipment and clothing etc, for the enjoyment of skydiving in the UK – details are at bpa.org.uk/agm. To book, please contact the BPA Office. There are also sponsorship opportunities and the chance to put your branded gift in the popular BPA Goody Bag – terms and conditions apply, details available on request.

BPA ANNUAL DINNER

Tickets cost £25 each and are available from the BPA Office – please telephone 0116 278 5271. A booking form is available on the BPA website. Dress code will be dinner jacket for men and evening wear for ladies, or optional fancy dress on the theme of Hollywood Night.

BPA Annual Dinner 2013 Menu

**Roasted Plum Tomato Soup,
Focaccia and Parmesan Croutons**

**Eight-hour slow-roasted Beef Brisket,
Sautéed Leeks and Onion, Garlic Roasted
Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Pan Gravy**

or vegetarian option

(available only if ordered at time of booking)
**Greek-style 'Byaldi' Vegetable Parcel, Feta Cheese,
Tomato and Oregano Sauce (v)**

Classic Crème Brûlée, Sable Biscuits

Coffee



ELECTION OF COUNCIL 2013

There are 16 nominations for the 15 seats on Council 2013 – Paul Applegate, Karen Bain, Adrian Bond, Kieran Brady, Jackie Harper, George McGuinness, Pete McLaughlin, Ian Marshall, Paul Moore, John Page, Craig Poxon, Steve Saunders, Mark Skarratts, Martin Soulsby, James Swallow and Thea Westley. An independently administered election will therefore be held. Members should receive their ballot pack in the post by Monday December 10 (UK) or Monday December 17 (BFPO and overseas).

The following members of Council 2012 have not offered themselves for re-election: Marc Fletcher, Richard Head and Weed Stoodley.

Votes may be cast either online or by post. Please use online voting if you can – it's quick and easy, and it saves the BPA paying the return postage!

The results of the election will be posted on the BPA website on Tuesday January 22 2013 ahead of the inaugural meeting of Council 2013, which will take place after the AGM.

ROYAL AERO CLUB TRUST BURSARIES

It's that time of year again – the Royal Aero Club Trust has once again released details of funding available for young air sports enthusiasts. If you are aged between 16 and 21, you can apply for up to £1,000 of funding towards your skydiving progression. Skydivers have historically been very successful at applying for these bursaries, with thousands of pounds given to dozens of BPA members for progress towards qualifications such as FS1, FF1 and instructor ratings.

The deadline for applications is March 31 2013 and full details can be found at royalaeroclubtrust.org



New ratings

Advanced Packer

Stuart Ambler (S)
Anthony Fernyhough (T)
Paul Strickland (S)

AFF Instructor

Ewan Cowie
Sandra Keith
Frank Millerick
Georgie Roles
Darren Rose

Tandem Instructor

Michael Cosgrove
Chris Cox
Ricky Davies
James Waring



Anti Gravity Ninja Swans launch
aP a tN ationals, b yC hrisJ udd

BPA Office holiday closure

The BPA Office will close at lunchtime on Friday December 21 2012 and will re-open on Wednesday January 2 2013. The staff wish all members a happy holiday.

2013 FS competition dates set

The 2013 4-way FS Nationals will be held at Skydive Hibaldstow during the August Bank Holiday weekend (August 24-26). The same format as previous years will be followed, so the following weekend (August 31 - September 2) will see the 8-way and Artistics competitions and will be the 4-way backup weekend. Finally, September 7-9 will be the reserve weekend for the 8-way and Artistics competitions.

UKSL (UK Skydiving League) dates have also been set. The three competitions will be held on May 11-12, June 8-9 and July 13-14. Locations will be decided at the next BPA Competitions Committee meeting on December 13. As in previous years, the overall UKSL champions will be the team in each category who accumulate the most league points over the three UKSL competitions and the Nationals.

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HELD THIS YEAR IN DUBAI →

Fact box

► **World Championships** are held every two years, with World Cups usually held in the years in between.

► **Mondial** – Usually, World Championships in different disciplines will be held as separate events in totally different locations. However, these World Championships are being held as a 'Mondial' (Mon-dee-al) and everything from FS to Artistics, CF to CP and Classics to Speed Skydiving will all be held at the same event.

► **The first ever Mondial** was held in Gap, France in 2003. Dubai will be the second Mondial.

► **The event is shaping up to be HUGE!** Over 1,000 competitors are expected from around 60 countries. It is rumoured that Rihanna and Jay-Z will perform at the opening ceremony, while Katy Perry will close the event!

By Neil Atkinson

AIRKIX FREESTYLE

We have been flying together for almost 10 years, but we decided to enter the Nationals with a freestyle team six years ago. We have more than 600 training jumps so far this year, mostly at Langar from the Caravans and Jan Wildgruber's Beech 99, as well as a training camp with our coach Martin Kristensen (who we also put in a lot of tunnel hours with at Manchester Airkix) in Eloy in January. We are in Empuriabrava as I write, jumping Jan's Beech and getting some exit practice from the Twin Otter. We hope to get another couple of hundred jumps in while we are here.

We are the current British National Freestyle Champions for the fifth consecutive year, 2010 World Championship Silver medallists, 2011 World Cup Bronze medallists and 2011 European Championship Bronze medallists. Our hopes for Dubai? We always train to win so we are, of course, aiming for Gold at what is going to be the biggest World Championships ever. But, whatever happens, we are honoured to compete for our country and forever thankful for the constant support from our amazing sponsors.



By Dave Head

By Jim Harris



VOLARE (FREEFLY)

How did your team get together and how long have you been going?

The *Volare* team started in 2008 with Mike Carpenter, Adam Mattacola and Andrew Newell and we have been competing since then. To keep the team going, we have taken on new members: Alberto Fuertes joined us in 2009, then Fabian Raidel in 2010 and finally Frazer Smith and Dan Parker joined Mike in 2011 to complete the current line-up heading to Dubai for the 2012 World Championships.

What training have you done?

So far we have done around 350 jumps and we are looking to do a further 250-300.

What have you achieved so far?

We have won the British Freefly Nationals in both 2011 and 2012 with this current line-up.

What are your hopes and dreams for Dubai?

We are training to win. We also have to make sure we manage our expectations. This year will mark the most competitive Freefly competition in the history of the discipline. *Babylon* are back, as well as current World Champions *SoCal Converge* from the States. You also have the 2011 World Cup Champions *Kristal* from France, the current US National Champions *Norcal Alliance* as well as both the current National Swedish and Norwegian teams. Basically, any of the top five teams could end up anywhere in the top five. There is no clear favourite at this stage, so it's set to be one of the most exciting Freefly World Championships we have ever seen!



By Jim Harris



KINETIC (FREEFLY)

How did your team get together and how long have you been going?

We first entered the Nationals as a scratch team in 2009 with only 25 jumps training together and had to beg around for someone to film us. This was a very last minute thing as the team that Pete was going to be entering with fell through. In our first year, we were pleased with our score and our fourth place.

What training have you done?

This year we have done about 150 training jumps together and one hour in the tunnel. In total, we have about 400 jumps as a team and about three hours in the tunnel together.

What have you achieved so far?

So far we have taken two Silvers and one Bronze medal at the Nationals and last year we also came fourth at the World Cup in Germany.

What are your hopes and dreams for Dubai?

Just getting to go to Dubai in the first place is a dream come true for us. We hope to be able to pull off our best jumps, be pleased with our score, hopefully place in the middle of the pack and, above all, have loads of fun!

BRIT CHICKS (8-WAY FS)

How did your team get together and how long have you been going?

Our team got together as a scratch team for fun at Nationals 2009. We won a Silver medal, with our 'training' being just a couple of hours in the Bedford wind tunnel. We had so much fun we decided to stay together and train. This is our third year, although in that time we have had many changes in line-up – as seems to be the way with 8-way teams.

What training have you done?

As a team, we did about 10 hours tunnel time in Bodyflight Bedford in the first two years, a few hours in Paraclete (Raeford, USA), two one-week camps and a few weekends – totalling about 150 jumps. This year, with the World Meet coming up, we pushed the boat out and did three one-week camps and a bunch of winter tunnel. Total jumps are probably still around 150, as the most recent camp was dogged by bad weather and injuries.

What have you achieved so far?

We are the first-ever all-female 8-way team to be selected to represent their country and, as such, will be the first all-female 8-way team at a World Championships competing on equal terms with the male and mixed teams. We are now in the small group of 8-way teams worldwide who have a double figure average, and I believe we are the only UK team to achieve this without having Pooky on the line-up.

What are your hopes and dreams for Dubai?

Our Tail flyer, Maria Russell, dislocated her shoulder in Empuriabrava on October 16 and could not complete the training camp with us. She is now undergoing physio and working very hard to get fit again for Dubai. Our hopes are that she will be able to jump with us. If not, we have a world-class alternate in Sarah Smith but, of course, we would prefer our teammate to recover and compete in the Championships she has worked so hard to prepare for. We would like to improve on our UK Nationals 2012 average (12), have a stunning experience jumping over the Palm and be good ambassadors for the UK and for female skydivers.

SATORI (4-WAY FS OPEN)

How did your team get together and how long have you been going?

The team formed at the end of 2007 with a three-year plan to win the Nationals in 2009, and compete at the World Championships in Russia in 2010. In 2007, the team line-up was myself (Julia Foxwell), Aaron Faith, Katie Woods and Liz Matthews. Liz left the team in 2008 and John McIver joined the team. Katie left the team after the World Meet in Russia and Milko joined. The team is currently myself and Aaron, John and Milko with Dave Head on camera. We then decided to continue for another two more years to compete at the World Championships in Dubai 2012.

What training have you done?

Each year has varied depending on finances. Overall, we have done about 1,200 jumps together and about 30 hours in the wind tunnel. We mainly jump in Skydive Spain, Seville and Hibaldstow and train at Bedford Bodyflight in the tunnel.

What have you achieved so far?

We have recently won the British Nationals for the fourth year in a row and got a Bronze Medal at the World Cup and European Championships. The medal means a lot to us, as it's the first medal an Open 4-way team has brought home since 1979. They are hard to come – the top teams are all full-time and generally do more jumps in a month than we do in a year.

We also achieved the highest ever average at the British Nationals and then broke that record a month later by achieving a 21.3 average at the European Skydiving League. We have also won the European Skydiving League. Probably one of the best jumps we have done in training is a five-point random dive where we achieved 71 points in time (35 seconds).

What are your hopes and dreams for Dubai?

We had such a great competition at the World Cup and, although each round wasn't perfect, we were able to deliver our best performance when it counted. We would love to be able to do that across all 10 rounds, and that is something we are currently taking into our training. We know we can't compete fully with the full-time professional teams, but it would be good to give them a run for their money on a few rounds.

By Stikkos





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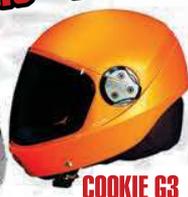
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BODYFLIGHT AERODYNE (4-WAY FS FEMALE)

My name is Sarah Smith Cannon and I am a member of the UK female 4-way team. Our story is unusual for two reasons: one being that we will have only been together as a team for two months by the time the World Championships come around and the other being that our camera flyer, Alan Thompson, is deaf.

Alan was born profoundly deaf and is now one of the few skydivers fluent in sign language. He is the only deaf person I know of representing his country at a world level (in the female category of 4-way formation skydiving, the camera flyer can be male or female).

The reason this team will only have been together for two months is that the original team that qualified a year ago and trained throughout this year disbanded a month ago due to personal issues. Two other British jumpers stepped in to complete the line-up and now have the opportunity of going to the competition in Dubai. The team will train as much as they can in the UK wind tunnel at Bodyflight Bedford and at Langar DZ in the UK in the short amount of time available. The UK female teams have won Gold at the World Championship competitions for many years, so it would be a shame for the UK to not even be represented in this category – especially at what will be the biggest Mondial yet.

The team is made up of myself, Sian Stokes, Laura McLelland, Helen Arnold and Alan Thompson.



By Martin Robiette



By Jim Harris

QFX (4-WAY VFS)

How did your team get together and how long have you been going?

QFX are a relatively new team, having only formed in the last six months. All of the team are experienced freeflyers and the members met either at BLTs' tunnel camps, the UK head-down record or just fun flying at Airkix Manchester. QFX stands for 'Quad Effects', meaning the power of four – it's named after a four-band fluorescent compound developed by one of our team sponsors.

What training have you done?

The team have completed 120 jumps since starting and several hours in the tunnel. We did a training camp in Seville with Jim Harris from the BLTs and Kinetic, and have learnt a great deal.

What have you achieved so far?

We have achieved a Silver medal at the BPA Nationals and all of the team including camera are UK FF record holders. The team also has one world record holder and two European record holders. We got the invite for Dubai as VFS 15 won Bronze in the 2011 Nationals and comprises of two current members of QFX.

What are your hopes and dreams for Dubai?

Our hopes for Dubai are to gain international level experience and use that experience to help develop the team's skills. Some of the team coach both in air and in the tunnel and this will positively benefit their students. The team is open to sponsorship opportunities.

TEAM CFUK (CF 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL AND 4-WAY ROTATIONS)

These teams are the end result of various teams from past years forming and reforming as different people join and leave...

The current line-ups can be traced back to two teams from around 2004 – the original CFUK 4-way team, which has competed with various members at the world meets in 2006, 2008 and 2010, and 8-way Speed team *Cenobites*. However, CF 8-way Speed was removed from international competition after 2006 to be replaced with 2-way sequential, so the 8-way team dispersed to form various 4-way and 2-way teams.

The current 2-way team (Gavin McLeod and Doug Preston with Martin Robiette on camera) formed in 2009 with the intention of advancing the discipline in the UK and going to the 2010 World Meet. We started by downsizing onto small PD Lightning canopies (126 and 113) and getting an initial head start from a training camp in Sebastian coached by Chris Gay (current 4-way and 2-way World Champion, organiser and pilot of the 85-way and 100-way world records). This was such a successful experience that, after the 2009 Nationals, we then downsized again onto the first competition PD Storm canopies in the UK (107 and 97 loaded approx 2:1) and had another two training camps with Chris before placing seventh at the 2010 World Meet in Menzelinsk (and setting a new British 2-way record in the process). Since then, we continued to train in the UK in 2011 and kicked off 2012 with another successful Sebastian training camp.

Unfortunately, the following plans for the summer have been hampered a bit by the weather, but we are still going to Dubai with hopes for a good performance and potentially raising the bar again. We then want to bring all the accumulated experience and training to share on CF coaching roadshows in 2013.

The 4-way Rotations team (Gavin McLeod, Doug Preston, Martin Robiette and Colin Dickson with Craig Poxon on camera) has had less formal training. While we have all competed together on different teams in previous years, we have not had this exact line-up before 2012 (having had to change one member since the 2011 Nationals due to conflicting team commitments). We are also jumping Storm 107 canopies for rotations and practice jumps over the summer have gone well with the team coming together, sorting out the inevitable teething troubles and scoring some personal best scores at the Nationals. Aspirations for Dubai are to continue improving, put solid consistent good scores on the board and hopefully push our limits further.



By Jackie Smith

TEAM PH36 (CF 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL)

The team is made up of Jamie Flynn, Mark Skarratts and Pete Lindstrand on camera. We were introduced by Pat Hammond at the beginning of 2009 and have jumped together ever since. The team has undergone a few changes over the last four years, also participating in 2-way and 4-way events and big-way camps around Europe, but now we primarily compete at 2-way. When Pat passed away, we named the team after him - PH36 for Pat Hammond, 1936.

We have been jumping and training at Dunkeswell for two years. In preparation for the World Meet, we will have done a two-week training camp in Empuriabrava in November.

So far we have only competed at Regional and National level, but our biggest achievement has been getting new people interested in CRW with the roadshows around the country.

Our goal in Dubai is to go and enjoy the competition, have fun and gain experience from the event and the different teams from around the world.

CLASSICS

The UK is putting forward its core of seasoned Style and Accuracy experts, fresh from the British Nationals. Overall British Accuracy Champion Esther Reynolds yet again joins the delegation, which also includes Glenn Stephenson, Pete Sizer, Richard Bissett, Janos Leszko and Jeff Chandler.



By Nigel Rowlan

CANOPY PILOTING

As you'd expect, the Brit CP team reads like a *Who's Who* of the UK's top swoopers – Brian Vacher, Martin Reynolds, Keiron Hayes, Stuart Meacock, Simon Larcombe, Spence Hogg, Deane Smith and Wez Westley will all be representing us in Dubai. The maximum number of entrants in this event is eight per country and our full complement of high-class CP competitors shows the UK's strength in this discipline. There will be 132 swoopers from 31 countries, also including former Hibaldstow staff member Eddie Monteith competing for Ireland. As ever, the newest World Championship event comprises Speed, Distance and Accuracy rounds, all taking place over a purpose-built swoop pond right on the Palm.



By Iveta Zitkova

SIMON BRENTFORD – SPEED SKYDIVING

For the first time, Speed Skydiving will feature at the World Championships in Dubai. It will take the form of a demonstration event and is the first step towards full recognition by the FAI. In fact, Speed Skydiving already has a governing body: the International Speed Skydiving Association (ISSA).

I tried Speed Skydiving for the first time in 2001 and found it to be an exhilarating sport. Over the years, I have slowly built my speeds up and have won a few competitions. My best jump to date saw me reach the average speed of 283mph. For those that know me, I think this proves that you don't have to be fat to go fast.

I will be representing the UK and will compete as part of a group of 10 competitors. For those of you who don't know, Speed Skydiving is where you try to go as fast as you can (preferably on your head) between 8,858ft and 5,577ft – a vertical kilometre. You don't have to be a freely god to take part – I don't even have my FF2 – but what I can do is track well. Speed Skydiving is simply a slight alteration to the orientation.

In preparation for Dubai, I have been doing some training jumps at Skydive Hibaldstow (who have kindly sponsored me). But at the time this issue of the Mag goes to press, it's getting very cold to train in the UK wearing Lycra!

As for my aspirations in Dubai, I have few. I will be up against the best, who can regularly go over 300mph. I will simply do my best, pick up some tips from the hotshots there and bring that knowledge back to the UK for next year when I hope to run some more roadshows. ●

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CF, ACCURACY AND 8-WAY SPEED



Canopy Formation

WORDS MARY BARRATT

I'm passionate about Canopy Formation, but I've never really done anything serious with it. So, when I shared my plan to get 'competitive' in 2012, my canopy-bashing buddies were a little dubious. They took some persuasion, but eventually the four of us were planning a training schedule and suggesting team names. With many ups, a few downs and a bit too much wrapping along the way, we eventually made it to the Nationals this year as two 2-way Rookie teams – the *Canopy Pirates* and *2 Girls 1 Camera*.

The lovely British weather meant that, despite working with some fantastic coaches and setting aside plenty of time

for training, *2 Girls 1 Camera* arrived at the Nationals with just five team jumps behind us. No, that's not a typo; Sarah and I really did have a mere five jumps together! Luckily, *2 Girls 1 Camera* is not one of those 'serious' teams. As the song goes – *2 Girls... just wanna have fun!*

We wanted to have fun, but we also had aims – to experience competing at the Nationals and to improve our canopy formation skills. Well, as we were all set to achieve these aims anyway, we weren't going to let our lack of team jumps bother us. In fact, *2 Girls 1 Camera* really do like a challenge, so we added to the disadvantage. We'd dirt-dived a demanding new exit to perfection

1 Smash and Grab,
by Craig Poxon

at our previous training session, but stormy weather meant that we didn't get to put it into practice. We decided to test it out on our first jump at the Nationals.

While a fairly small number of teams turned out for the Nationals and the weather continued to be a little challenging, this certainly didn't dampen the vibe. All of the usual CF suspects were there and the competitive banter flowed (I'm pretty sure no other discipline demonstrates such style and proficiency in this area!). The supportive comments abounded too, and the guys from *PH36* and *CFUK* even found time between their rounds to help the Rookie teams with some spontaneous coaching.



“ **2 Girls 1 Camera** arrived at the Nationals with just five team jumps behind us. No, that’s not a typo; Sarah and I really did have a mere five jumps together! Luckily, **2 Girls 1 Camera** is not one of those ‘serious’ teams ”

As the only competitors in the category, it was clear from the outset that *CFUK* would take Gold in the Senior 2-way Sequential event. The Intermediate 2-way Sequential event was dominated by *Colin*, who also ended up with a well-deserved Gold. The 4-way contests seemed to capture most attention; these larger formations were easily viewed from the ground and had many spectators ‘ooohing’ and ‘ahhing’ as the point-building tension grew round-by-round. A scratch team named *4 Dawgs* took Gold in the Intermediate 4-way Rotations/Speed event and *CFUK* secured Gold in the Senior version of this event.

Without a doubt, the most hotly

contested event of this year’s CF Nationals was the Rookie 2-way Rotations. After the first three rounds, *Smash and Grab* consistently high scores suggested that they would be the Gold medallists of the event. It looked like *2 Girls 1 Camera* would be taking Bronze and the *Canopy Pirates* Silver. Then, as a judging error became apparent and the scores were reviewed, the competition suddenly heated up; *2 Girls 1 Camera* were now in a nail-biting head-to-head for Silver with the *Canopy Pirates*. Just to add to the tension, *Smash and Grab* let their scores slip a little over the next two rounds, although they did pull it back and take Gold in the end. The *Canopy Pirates* put up a brave fight

but ended up collecting Bronze while, much to our surprise, *2 Girls 1 Camera* stood on the podium proudly sporting Silver medals.

Taking part in the CF Nationals has been a fantastic experience. We have learnt far more than we anticipated, and had a whole lot of fun in the process. In fact, it was so good that I’m already looking forward to more competitive CF in 2013. As interest in the discipline seems to be growing, I’m hopeful that we will be seeing a few more teams at next year’s CF Nationals. As *2 Girls 1 Camera* found out, you don’t need to be too serious or highly experienced to take part and you can get a lot out of just getting together and going for it! →

2 *Rookie 2-way Rotations podium, by Nigel Rowlan*

3 *Senior 4-way Gold medallists CFUK, by Nigel Rowlan*

4 *Pokie, by Craig Poxon*

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“I was talking with Janos Leszko (who took UK citizenship last year “just so he could be eligible for BPA National titles and represent the UK at Accuracy”) and he said that you have to land on the tuffet no matter what you do even if you’re going to miss the pad because it’s just too fast to land if you miss the tuffet”

Nigel Rowlan

There’s something to be said about Accuracy that I never would have realised before having practised camera at the Headcorn meet earlier in the year. The Accuracy jumpers can come in at a very fast rate – from the top of the shot to the pad, five feet in 1/8th second. They’re coming in between five and 12 metres per second straight down and you have to practise to get the timing right so that when the shutter goes you get that photo - just an inch above the yellow dot. I was talking with Janos Leszko (who took UK citizenship last year “just so he could be eligible for BPA National titles and represent the UK at Accuracy”) and he said that you have to land on the tuffet no matter what you do even if you’re going to miss the pad because it’s just too fast to land if you miss the tuffet. How they can they land on a sixpence under these conditions is just incredible – my hat off to them!

Accuracy

WORDS RICHARD BISSETT PHOTOS NIGEL ROWLAN

A big thank you to Grant Richards and his hard-working team at Sibson for hosting the Nationals Precision Accuracy Event on September 8-9. Twenty four years after she jumped into the Seoul Olympics Stadium, Esther Reynolds proved she is still a force to be reckoned with. Her final total score after seven jumps onto the 2cm target was 18cm – not only

confirming her place as top female accuracy jumper, but beating the best UK male jumpers too!

It was encouraging to see intermediate competitors Simon Brentford and Marcus Muir-Smith in their first Nationals Accuracy, but also disappointing that some medals went begging due to a lack of competitors. GB Accuracy had far more participants a few decades ago, and was held in much higher esteem on the

1 Intermediate Winner
Simon Brentford

2 Top male competitor
Glenn Stephenson

3 Esther Reynolds

4 Podium (left to right)
Silver Glenn Stephenson, Gold Esther Reynolds, Bronze Janos Leszko

international stage. Fortunately, a few DZs still foster accuracy as one of the most basic skills in our sport.

Top male placings:
Glenn Stephenson (23cm), Janos Leszko (33cm), Jeff Chandler and Pete Sizer (both on 47cm total)

A full table of results appears on the BPA website under Competitions →



“It wasn’t until almost presentation time that we had any idea of how we were doing (cue people shouting “WHO WON?” “YOU DID” and so on)”

8-way Speed

WORDS JOEL GLUTH

8-way Speed seems to be regaining popularity, and deservedly so. It’s exciting, it’s easy to understand and, importantly, you can strategise to the nth degree if you want to. It also has endless opportunities for Cutaway quotes.

This year’s meet was at Sibson again after a one-year absence and some of the teams had a familiar look. *One Foot In The Door* and *Cerberus Schmerberus* had crossed swords under other names and looked to be the main bets to run off with the Missing Trophy. However, there were

also half a dozen teams who looked like they might be in with a chance, including one lot of local 4-way jumpers incorporating recent Nationals AA Silver medallists *Raykipo*.

Due to an unfortunate judge shortage, some of the usual tension and round-by-round rivalry was absent this year – scoreboarding was rendered impossible by the lack of scoreboard! Nonetheless, we contrived to put ourselves under pressure as best we could: lurking in each other’s debrief videos, lying about funnelled exits and losing our camera flyers to sneaky work jumps. Also, for

1 & 2 Silver medallists One Foot in the Door by Nigel Rowlan

some of us, repeatedly whacking into the Caravan door on exit.

With this in mind, it wasn’t until almost presentation time that we had any idea of how we were doing (cue people shouting “WHO WON?” “YOU DID” and so on). In the end, past champions *Cerberus* got home ahead of *One Foot*, followed by surprise package the *Royal Engineers* on the podium at their first attempt.

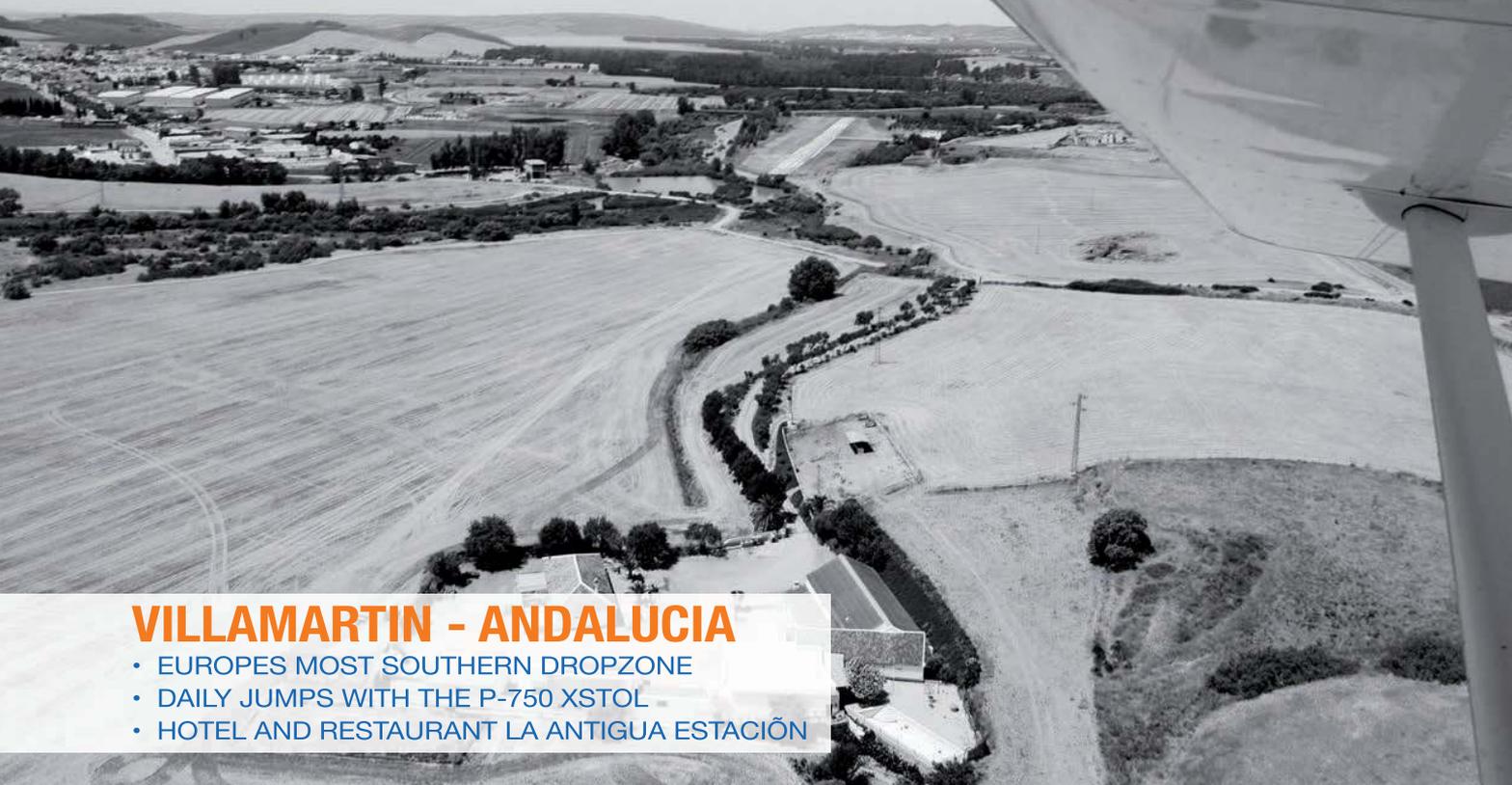
It was great to see so many teams this year! UK Parachuting is a nice venue for competitions, and it’ll be great to come back next year and do it all again. ●

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FS & Artistic WORLD CUP

WORLD CUPS USUALLY HAPPEN EVERY OTHER YEAR, BUT THIS EVENT IN PROSTEJOV IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC WAS A SPECIAL CASE. IF YOU TAKE THE BRILLIANT SKYDIVING, THE ENTHUSIASTIC PARTYING AND THE FANTASTIC ATMOSPHERE INTO ACCOUNT TOO, IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL CASE INDEED...

WORDS JODIE GODWIN

When skydivers from around the world look back on the events of the World Cup 2012 in Prostejov, Czech Republic, there will be no question that Team GB were there and there in force. As well as dominating all three competitions, they made their mark in the days before the competition even started. Whether it was the unnamed freestyler who arrived at Stansted with his team mates to discover that he had picked up his fiancée's passport instead of his own, the two team members trying to debrief their own routine from a hand camera that one of them had 'luckily' packed just in case or the infamous FS team member who managed to break the door on the DZ's only Turbolet on his first training jump, it was safe to say everyone knew that Team GB had arrived.

On August 27, the World Cup and European Championships 2012 were officially declared open in an opening ceremony with a difference. Anyone who's ever been to a Category One competition will know that the opening ceremony is as talked about as the competition itself and this year was no exception!

After the initial excitement was over (and our flag was turned the right way up) the draws were made and the fun

was over. Teams frantically began walking through the dive pools, filling out drama sheets and turning points on the restaurant tables.

DAY ONE

Tuesday morning saw the start of the competition and, with blue skies as far as the eye could see, a DZ that matched Netheravon in size and over 20 teams registered, the competition quickly got underway in style.

Satori kicked off with a clean score of 16 after round one, leaving the other FS teams in no doubt that they meant business – at the end of the first day's jumping, they were in third position. In high spirits but knowing there was only two points between themselves and the next two teams, *Satori* knew they had everything to lose but even more to gain.

A technical hitch with the camera feed meant that, while FS rounds were being judged live and shown on the main screen outside, the Artistic events were shown on the screen in the canteen on a delayed loop. However, it proved to be worth the wait and, when the scores of the first free routines were out, *Freely Euphoria* were in joint second place just 0.2 behind the French. Also, *Freestyle Euphoria* were only 0.2 behind Venezuela – all three competitions were well and truly on!

Day two hosted weather that Team GB

1, 3 and 4 Alex Dand of *Freestyle Euphoria* in training over Netheravon, by Andy Godwin

2 *Freely Euphoria's* Dave Pacey and Andy Myers, by Paul Capsey

don't normally experience and it's fair to say it may have affected their performance. *Satori* started the day with their usual style and flair, but after an uncharacteristic round eight they had slipped down to fourth place, just one point behind the French. *Freely* and *Freestyle Euphoria* were both doing an exceptional job, but the end of day two saw *Freestyle Euphoria* in third and *Freely Euphoria* joining *Satori* in fourth position.

With an uncertain weather forecast for the remainder of the week, the decision was made to aim to complete the competition on Thursday and bring the closing ceremony forward to the Friday, so the pressure was on for day three. Watching the screen with eager anticipation, *Satori* delivered an amazing round nine with 19 clean points, only to be followed by the French team also gaining 19 points. In preparation for round 10, the rest of the GB delegation decided that focus and concentration was seriously underrated and, armed with Union flags, descended upon the emplaning point to give *Satori* a walk out to remember. The high fives on landing were unmistakable and it was clear that they had again delivered a round they could be proud of. Now they could only wait with bated breath to see if the French team landed with the same relief and excitement.

Fact box:

▶ Although 2012 is a World Championship year with the Mondial happening in Dubai in December, the European Championships were unusually upgraded to a World Cup just a few months before the event too. Normally World Championships happen every two years, with World Cups happening in the years in between. The last three World Championships were in 2008, 2010 and 2012 while the last World Cups were in 2009 and 2011 with the next due to be held in 2013, so a 2012 World Cup was a bit of an anomaly!

▶ The last time the UK medalled in 4-way FS on the world stage was when *Symbiosis* took Silver in 1979. *Satori's* Bronze medal is the first for more than 30 years.



MEDALS FOR GB

The Artistic events came to an end early on day three, with *Freefly Euphoria* gaining Bronze in the European Championships and fourth place in the World Cup, narrowly missing out on Silver and Bronze with a difference in scores of just 0.35. *Euphoria Freestyle* finished their competition with a Bronze in the World Cup and Silver in the European Championships, again just 0.38 behind their closest rivals.

By the time the French FS team had landed, the entire dropzone were sat →

in front of the scoreboard waiting to see the round 10 jumps. The judges added to the nail-biting by announcing that they would not score any jumps until all teams had jumped. As the French team joined the waiting crowds, it was easy to see that their round had not gone to plan but what wasn't clear was how much of an impact it would make. As the videos began to play, it soon became clear that round 10 hadn't been an easy draw, but *Satori* had risen to the challenge and thrived with an impressively clean 20 points. The applause and hugs began, but still nobody knew if their best would be enough. As the French team climbed out onto the rail, it felt like everybody was holding their breath – but it didn't last long. They struggled to gain their first point and the British delegation watched from the edge of their seats as

they scored their final 16 points. It was over and *Satori* had secured Bronze medals in both the World Cup and European Championships. It was the first time that Team GB had medalled in an FS Open 4-way international competition in more than 30 years and it couldn't have happened to a nicer team.

Those of you who have seen the photos and heard the stories will be aware that I have not yet told the full version of events, because the GB delegation comprised of four teams, with the most surprising yet to be mentioned – they are, of course, *Quagis*. *Quagis* (a rough Latin translation of "What's up?") were a scratch team of experienced skydivers who first jumped together just two weeks before the competition began and proved themselves to be worthy competitors, placing eighth in the world.

5 Freestyle Euphoria flying the flag, by Andy Godwin

6 *Satori* on flightline ready to defend their average

7 The first British Open 4-way medals in over 30 years: a well-deserved Bronze for *Satori*



The closing ceremony was one to be remembered, with Team GB on the podium in all three disciplines and a staggering 17 medals in total. This naturally meant that the closing banquet and subsequent party was one that will always be remembered, not only because of the massive achievement that all four teams made, the 48-hour drinking session, a certain FS team member's podium picture with a difference, the events that half of us don't remember and never will, but also for the good friends that were made both within the GB delegation and across a number of others. It's safe to say that, if partying was a competition category, Team GB would definitely have brought home the Gold as well!

Lastly, the entire GB delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank an amazing Head of Delegation – Kate Charters. Whether she was clarifying judges' decisions, helping to provide a clearer perspective, biting all of her nails off or crying through the entire awards ceremony, she really was great and we could not have hoped for a stronger or nicer person in Team GB's corner. ●

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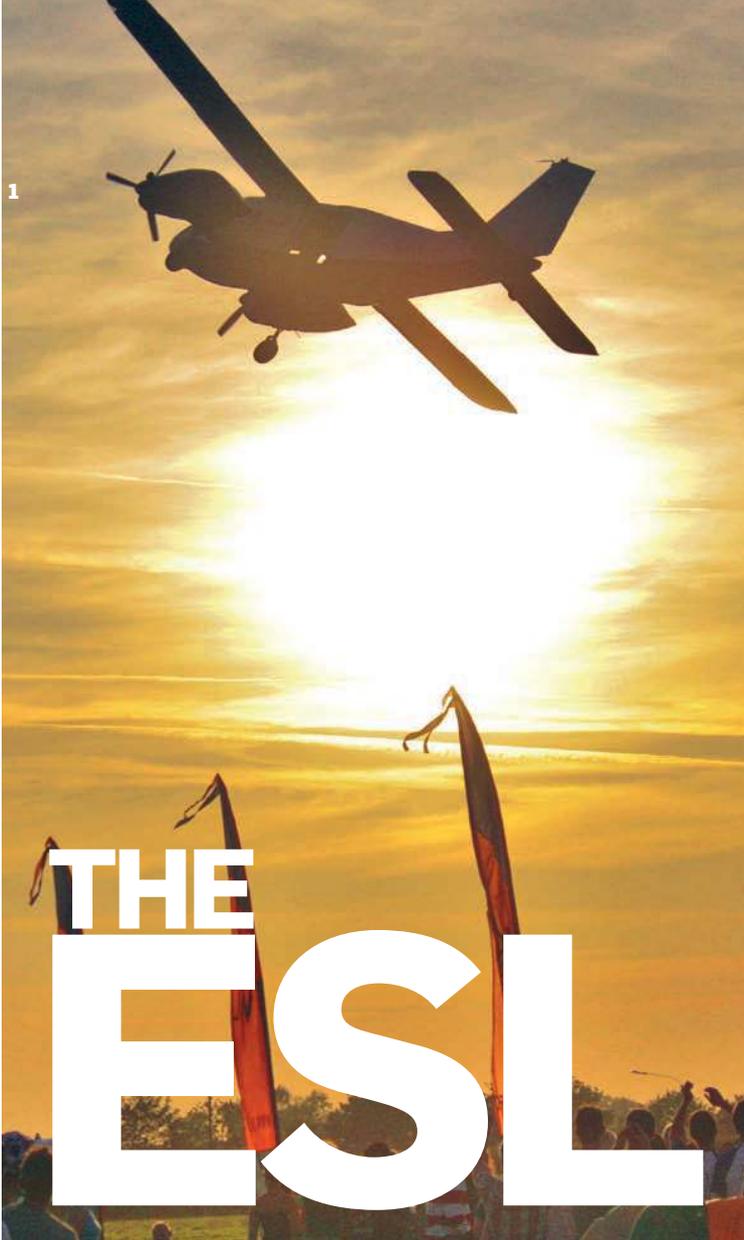
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THE ESL

WITH FRIENDLY RIVALRY, GLORIOUS SUNSHINE AND PLENTY OF SKYDIVING, THIS YEAR'S EUROPEAN SKYDIVING LEAGUE PROVED THAT THE TAKING PART IS JUST AS GOOD AS WINNING!

WORDS SAM BEMMENT



5

Like all of the best plans, it was formed in the bar – this particular time, at the Nationals after-party. That was a big party. My recollection is hazy, of course. Rumour had it that Great Britain, fresh from hosting the biggest 4-way Nationals competition in the world, didn't have an AAA entry into the ESL finals competition this year. A novel scoring system meant that this may have been the difference between taking the Spirit sword back to Blighty on the ferry or leaving it in the hands of one of those rival European countries famous for beer, garlic or dykes. Well, we couldn't have that, could we?

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

A hangover, some phone calls, an hour of tunnel, more phone calls and a ferry booking later, we were committed. After three off seasons, we'd got the band back together. Well, almost. Our old point, Laura Hampton, was working in Seattle and couldn't make it, so we put a call →

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“Simon Nath, out filming *High Altitude Heroes*, kindly agreed to fly camera last minute, or ‘watch from a safe distance’, as he put it”



out for an equally attractive replacement. We landed Chris Judd. Beggars can't be choosers. I had spent the previous three seasons flying camera and it took me a day to fix up my FS suit with duct tape – longer still to remember how to slow-fall without wings. Pete Harries had spent the same period packing – a ninja with a bungee, but he had already put his rig to bed. Luckily, Jonny Flowers – who got pretty good jumping with *Eclipse* since we were last in *Enigma* together – came along. Unluckily, he decided to give point a go, having never tried before – all 6ft 4in of him. Simon Nath, out filming *High Altitude Heroes*, kindly agreed to fly camera last minute, or ‘watch from a safe distance’, as he put it. One thing remained, since we were no longer really *Enigma* – a new team name featuring some high-brow humour and a clever play on words.

So it was that *Colostomy* (we're a bag of crap, get it?) mustered at the ferry terminal in Dover, along with most of the rest of the delegation. It was quite a sight – the ferry company had managed to put all the GB teams into the same marshalling area and the returning French holidaymakers looked terrified.

THE BRITISH ABROAD

DZ Moorsele is about an hour and a half inland from Dunkerque, somewhat difficult to find until you've found it. A fantastic little place, it features a long, slim hangar providing plenty of covered packing and creeping space along with

several indoor mock-ups. In between the hangar and landing area is the cafe-bar with large outdoor area, serving jumpers and many visiting locals all day, and just beyond that was a swoop lane marked with rows of wind blades especially for the competition. The finals had been arranged to fall on the same weekend as the Belgian Nationals, so naturally there were many Belgian teams and many Union flags and more noisy Brits waving them. Happily, the guest plane for the AA and AAA competitions turned out to be familiar – HA-VOC, flown in by BPA Council member James Swallow, adding even more weight to the ‘Britain on tour’ feel at the DZ.

The competition got underway early on Friday morning with perfect wall-to-wall blue skies. The Dornier, along with two local Grand Caravans, marched through the rounds at an impressive pace and the judging kept up. By round four, it was clear to see Team GB were very much in the running for winning the Spirit sword, but the competition was tough from the Dutch and the Belgians – with teams from seven nations competing altogether.

In Rookie, Team GB accounted for five of the 10 teams. After round three, *4 The Queen* were in a solid second behind the Lithuanian team *Equinox*, with *Jesters* and *Team Tetley* close in tow. A 1-2-3 podium was looking very possible, but the Lithuanians were looking equally good for their lead with an 18 on round six

1 James Swallow flying one of his Dorniers, by Sam Bemmet

2 Team GB fly the flag on the ferry, by David Rodgers

3 Colostomy dirtdiving, by Jamie Pockett

4 Team Tetley in action in GB shirts, by Sam Bemmet

5 The Brits go playing on the Sunday, by Sam Bemmet

6 Team Tetley on flightline in GB shirts, by Sam Bemmet

pushing them further out in front. First thing Saturday morning, *4 The Queen* responded with a round seven dive Lizzy herself would have been proud of, clawing back three points. However, by round eight *Equinox* had established an almost unassailable lead and the real fight was for Silver and Bronze, a fight which GB won convincingly with *Jesters* joining the podium places. Honourable mention goes to *Entropy* and *Jumping Jellybeans*, who put in great effort to achieve respectable averages – especially given their levels of training, experience and partying. *Team Tetley*, incidentally, got huge laughs from the locals every time they were put on a call – ‘tetley’ translates as a local slang word for breasts. *Tetley* swore they meant the teabag but, probably never having experienced British skydiving, the locals didn't believe them. It didn't matter, as their strong fourth was to prove vital in the race for the sword.

SHOWDOWN TIME

At the top of A, *4Mula* were locked in their own battle with no less than six teams within a two-point average of the leaders after the six complete rounds of Friday. This meant a single funnel was really going to ruin someone's day and the pressure was on. *Anti-Gravity Ninja Swans* were just outside the pack waiting to pounce. Saturday dawned as glorious as the Friday but the Swans didn't, having spent the evening trying to ply their rivals with the super-strong

Abbey beers served in the bar. A commendable tactic, but one which left them languishing in seventh at the close. Meanwhile, *4Mula* kept their cool, didn't get caught by the air gremlins and brought home a Silver just three points behind the German *Paradox Kassel*, overtaking the Dutch *Mach4* in the final two rounds. This meant the Brits now had two Silvers and a Bronze.

Team GB only had a single entry in AA – the *High Altitude Heroes*, sadly in their final competition together. The AA competition was the closest of the bunch, with only 13 points across a field of 10 teams after four rounds. At various times, the *Heroes* were as high as second and as low as sixth as the field swapped and changed with each small mistake. It finished with the winners, the Dutch *Cool Runnings* (and cool they are, with matching Rasta jumpsuits) earning a Gold with 107 points and the *Heroes* just edged out of the medals in fourth with 102, turning

a one-point deficit from Dutch team *Habanero* to a one-point lead in the last round – a move that was overlooked by other nations, but which was to prove absolutely critical to the ESL Spirit leaderboard.

So, what were the results in AAA and how did *Colostomy* fare? Well, all the top 4-way teams will tell you it is important to set personal goals for each training session, meet, or even Nationals. Aiming for an average is more advisable than a target of a podium finish, as it removes some of the disappointment of being drubbed by people who are just plain better than you. In this case, that's exactly what happened. But that's not important to us, as we were there to have an awesome time and that we most definitely did. For this meet, *Colostomy* set three goals – we were to attain a 10-point average, be the last in the bar every evening and each pack five rigs per jump in order that we could afford the next jump ticket! We failed on the first two. We achieved a 9.3 – not too shabby.

7 Sunset swoop and chug, by Pete Hodges

8 The crowd awaits the big-screen scoring of Round 10, by Sam Bemmet

The *Swans* found out about our second goal and forcibly ejected us from the bar on two occasions in order that we fail – 1 would be bitter, but it was a hilarious effort and I think is on film somewhere. The third goal we succeeded in, so in a way we were kindly sponsored by the rest of the GB delegation. For providing us the opportunity of this hard labour in the blistering sun, we are very grateful.

The real story in AAA was *NMP-PCH Hayabusa*, jumping with an alternate due to illness, in a tie after 10 rounds with Belgian *Thunder* – both teams scoring 213 in the race for the Belgian and ESL Senior Gold. The Brits took the opportunity of the Dornier firing back up at sunset for the tiebreaker by quickly manifesting an impromptu 14-way followed by a swoop and chug, which left the Dutch delegation asking if it was some sort of strange British tradition for when we lost competitions. Judging was live on the big screen immediately after both teams swooped in formation through the waiting crowds. *Hayabusa* got the Gold, to a huge cheer from all on the DZ including *Thunder*.

For the sword, this result was academic anyway. The keen 4-way geeks in the audience had already worked out that getting a 1-2 in AAA meant the Belgians had won it with 31 sword-points to GB's 27, leaving the Dutch (the previous holders) in third with 26. The *Heroes* and *4mula*, both gaining placings in the final few rounds, meant the Brits had overtaken the Dutch to place second at the final whistle. Our swoop and chug wasn't so commiserative now...

Afterwards was a huge party featuring teams from seven nations. Apparently a swing band and a DJ played us late into the night, and there was much fun had by all. I would describe it in detail, but I don't remember too much. I was probably busy forming a half-baked plan for a team next season... ●



What is ESL?

ESL, or European Skydiving League, is a single-event competition held at a DZ somewhere in Europe. In the recent past, it has been held at Moorsele in Belgium, Texel in the Netherlands and our very own Skydive Hibaldstow. Usually, the previous season's winners have the first refusal on hosting the competition. Due to the Belgians winning this year, it is likely the competition will again be held in Moorsete next year, though this will be confirmed nearer the event. It is an open competition, meaning any team from any European country can enter. The emphasis is on fun rather than tough competition, but there is a healthy rivalry between nations! Teams compete individually, but the ESL Spirit sword is the prize awarded to the winning delegation calculated by a system of points, which means a Gold in Rookie is worth the same as a Gold in AAA, but which ensures nations cannot win by flooding the competition with teams. GB last won the Spirit sword in 2008 – if the author has anything to do with it and you come and help, we will win it again in 2013...





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From baby bird to Big Bird – a journey from first WS jump to World Record Holder

WORDS JIM SCOTT

SO WHAT IS THIS WINGSUIT STUFF ALL ABOUT?

Well, I wanted to have a go last year, but there did not appear to be anyone nearby qualified to show me. I contacted a few friends of mine and came up with the name Mark Harris as a renowned wingsuit pilot/cameraman/guru. I contacted Mark and arranged for him to come up north to 'Cark Week' in Cumbria to run a first flight course. Over the next few days, a number of us were introduced to wingsuiting and I qualified with my WS1 and 2. I loved it and wanted to hear all about the various disciplines within wingsuiting such as Performance, Artistic and flocking. 'Flocking' – what the heck is that?!

I still had not got my own wingsuit, but was keen to get involved. After speaking to Mark, I ordered a Tony R-Bird which would allow me to try all of these disciplines (including flocking). However, there was a five-month waiting list for the wingsuit to arrive.

Mark had said that there was a flocking world record being attempted in September and I thought that would be an awesome event to observe. I had a look at the Mag to find what

wingsuiting events were available this year and I found a wingsuiting competition down in Netheravon, so I spoke to organiser Elana Cain and she invited me down. I got another Scotsman to be my teammate for the Artistic and also tried the Performance Competition.

Although I did not know what I was doing specifically, I was still encouraged by all there to 'give it a go'. I had a ball – a refreshing new discipline that I was excited about learning. Upon my return, I examined the websites and did a timeline to try to get to the World Record Pre-Camp. This was to learn the skills and have the opportunity to fly with others, creating bigger flocks.

Over the summer, I visited over eight UK DZs in search of wingsuiters and coaches to train me. I had taken over eight weeks' holiday trying to get cheap jumps at boogies and saver weeks at Hibaldstow. In this time, I had only four days of full wingsuit jumping. I eventually got a breakthrough at the Sibson Boogie, where we had five fantastic days of jumping and wingsuiters to learn from.

I still did not have the 100 wingsuit jumps required to attend the Pre-Record wingsuit camp in Perris, CA, so I arranged a summer holiday with my wife Karin to allow me to travel to Ireland for their Performance Competition. A great time, but the weather was cruel again. Then it was off to Hungary for their competition, where we had more than a week of fantastic jumping with other wingsuiters out of an MI8. I even came 13th out of 79 in the Open Class alongside these 'flying carpet' wingsuit types. At last I had 101 wingsuit jumps, so I was right on the phone to Mark when I returned.

I was introduced to Taya Weiss (the main organiser) and was invited onto the camp – mission accomplished. It had been hard work trying to get the required wingsuit jump numbers, but I was so happy planning my trip to America.

I had made it to Perris, CA, USA. What an amazing journey over the year just to get there! I had arranged to have a couple of extra days before the camp to get familiar with the DZ and their rules. I met wingsuit pilots coming in for the main record and the camp from around the world and they were all fantastic with their help, advice, friendship and encouragement. Wingsuiters are amazing creatures who just want to embrace any and all forms of piloting wingsuits in any type of formation.

I had met a few of the Brits arriving for the Pre-Record Camp and I think they were surprised to see me. I had achieved my goals for the year and was just so happy to be there. The guys were great and they had known what I had done to get there – I had kept meeting them at DZs in the UK.

On the morning of the first day of the camp I suddenly realised that I had not flown successfully in a tight flat flock. There are various styles of flocks, which I was just realising. We quickly started with large formations, dirt dives, visualisations, aircraft dive exits for speed, dive lanes, approach speeds, safety briefs, deployment break-off pods, heads on a swivel, watch for off-headings and other canopies, get safely into clear airspace, clearing the wingsuit for landing, clear predictable landing patterns and more. What a learning curve!

So now I am on a 21-way flat flock and the first flock I was in ended up 3.5 miles away over the middle of a main power station and town. By the third and final day of the camp, we did a 59-way and four 61-way flocks successfully from three aircraft. What a day and what a camp – my learning curve and my smiles were going through the roof! After the camp, I was buzzing and happy to start chilling out, quite knackered with all the hard work having been done – up at 0530, five formation jumps a day and lying out in the sun in a wingsuit (boil in a bag) at over 105° Fahrenheit!

After speaking to Taya at the end of the camp, I had been invited onto *Team Awesome* and the Record event but could not be promised a slot.

I could not believe what had just happened – I had already achieved more than I had dared to dream for the year. I was on cloud nine, literally.

The record jumps were extremely hard work for everyone – 100 jumpers and so many different skill levels. Any single skill or concentration lapse by any single jumper, and the formation would fail, someone may have been hurt or worse. For the formation to succeed, we needed every single skydiver to be at their maximum performance and a lot of luck.

Not many years ago, it would be great to just see another wingsuit in the sky together. Since then, skills have evolved and boundaries been exceeded. Even within the skydiving community, it was thought that this record was not possible. All other skydive records have a grip of each other and fall vertically down. Piloting a wingsuit formation takes everything into a fourth dimension – flying the formation forward at around 65 miles an hour without grips.

The record was definitely a change in pace and expectation, but I was loving the experience. The groups started with various

formations and our group was even used to experiment with radical ‘base out last’ possibilities, but that was not working. After the second day, we were realising that we were the ‘bench’ group and the main group was getting close to an 81-way formation. Our group bonded well and had a perfect gridded 21-way formation by the end of the third day. Although our formation was smaller, we were putting a lot of pressure on the main group.

On day four, we were told that we were going for the 100-way. I was expecting to still be on the sidelines but found, to my complete surprise and shock, that I had been given a slot on the 100-way record. I was the third-last diver from the last plane – fourth back from the left corner, rear row in the formation.

I had made it in on my first 100-way and I am sure you could have heard me hollering under canopy – we had done it. No, we had not – one of the planes could not get the door to stay open, it was just an 80-way – *bugger*. Next jump we did a 100-way attempt, but some were not in. On the third jump, a camera flyer fell off and started all the formations going out

of sequence. By the fifth jump, it was looking good and a photo was submitted to the Guinness Record judges. They appeared to take hours to agree and confirm the record – I could not believe it, I was part of a skydiving wingsuit 100-way formation Guinness World Record. I had a couple of bottles of whisky to share and it was well earned.

What an unbelievable experience with an amazing group of talented individuals within an awesome team! I was the only Scotsman on the record, along with seven others from the UK, and was honoured to share such a tight bond with so many friends – WE DID IT!

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 How often is your reserve due a repack? What about your main – is there a maximum time that can stay packed without being jumped?

Q2 What is the minimum opening height for main parachutes:
 a) for students?
 b) for A Licence holders?
 c) for tandems?
 d) if taking part in a demo?



NEW COACHES

Got your A Licence and now want to jump with your mates? FS1 is so much more than just a four-point 4-way. You'll learn how to safely plan jumps from exit to breakoff, as well as developing the skills to have lots of fun along the way.

FS COACH

Steven Wickham, Beccles
 Pamela Hawes, Beccles
 Andrei Paven, Beccles
 Neill Tunstead, Netheravon

Kathryne Vaughan, Swansea
 Karen Pickering, Cark
 Jeff Limna, Chatteris
 Neil Empringham, Dunkswell
 Rod Stone, Netheravon

Gareth Hicks, Netheravon
 Ralph Mitchell, Dunkswell
 Wesley Grant, Netheravon
 Richard Hughes, Netheravon
 Ian Cain, Netheravon

Lucy Mancey, Dunkswell
 Christopher Murphy, Hinton

FF COACH

Karen Wilson-Roberts, Sibson

4.1. A.F.F. & Category System Student Parachutists: 3,000 ft AGL.
 4.2. BPA 'A' Licence Parachutists and above: 2,000 ft AGL.
 4.3. Student Tandem Parachutists: 5,000 ft AGL.
 4.4. BPA 'C' Licence holders, on displays: 1,500 ft AGL.

DECEMBER - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1-2 – Wicked Wingsuits weekend with Simon, FMI
simon.repton@wickedwingsuits.com

9 FECC – Flight Essentials Canopy Course. The cost for the course is \$50+jumps. For questions, comments and concerns, contact aaron@skydivecity.com

15-16 – FurtheranZe: The act of advancing – RW Camps designed to help build skills and experience for 4, 8, 10 and 16-way. Bob Byrne, veteran competitor and formation skydiver, is hosting camps for up-and-comers. Contact Bob at byrnerj@yahoo.com. For more information and the registration form, or to book a slot in any of the camps, go to our [reservation page](#) and choose 'FurtheranZe FS Skills Camp' from the pull-down menu. \$25 per day plus plan five jumps each day. You can do Saturday, Sunday or both on any camp.

19 Jan 2013 – the Finnish Invasion at Z-Hills. Tervetuloa ystävä!

22-23 – Wicked Wingsuits and Tony Suits sponsor a Speed Diamond Weekend. FMI simon.repton@wickedwingsuits.com

22-23 – There's a new organisation in town. It's called F.A.S.T – Fifty And Still Trackin'. There is POPS for the over-forties, SOS for over-sixties, JOS for over-seventies. The first event will be a FAST World Record three-point 50-way at Z-Hills the weekend of December 22-23. This also celebrates ZHills's 50th year! Numbers will be issued, T-shirts printed. Other sequential dives are planned as well. Then it's party time at the Hills! Contact Steve Woodford sasteve49@gmail.com

23 – ACSC – Advanced Canopy Skills Course. The cost for the course is \$75+jumps. For questions, comments and concerns, contact aaron@skydivecity.com

22 Dec - Jan 6 2013 – Annual Christmas Boogie – 1000 skydivers from around the world will descend on Z-Hills for a week of madness. Open every day at 8am and we have the most badass Boogie on the planet.

- 22 – Night Jumps
- 23 – High Altitude Wingsuit Loads
- Christmas Day – we open at 10am
- 27-30 – Eric and Markku organizing 60-ways – contact bickelator@yahoo.com or mteivainen@yahoo.com to get involved.
- All week – dinners and music, compliments of your party hosts.
- New Years Eve is a Monday. We will have Night Jumps and Pirate Day! Get your Pirate On – ARGHHH!!!
- 29 – Night Jumps
- 30 – Sunday A.M. High Altitude Loads
- Jan 5 – TK's Birthday, Night Jump Camp
- Jan 6 – High Altitude Load
- Jan 6 FECC – Flight Essentials Canopy Course. The cost for the course is \$50+jumps. For questions, comments and concerns, contact aaron@skydivecity.com
- Jan 13 ACSC – Advanced Canopy Skills Course. The cost for the course is \$75+jumps. For questions, comments and concerns, contact aaron@skydivecity.com



FREEFLY GATOR GAMES

Organized by Melissa Nelson and hosted by Skydive City/ZHILLS

February 1-3 FFI: ZhillsGatorGames@gmail.com

Cost – \$90 for the event or \$35 per day

Register at: www.skydivecity.com. Go to the Calendar for the event and click on reservations. At the pull-down menu, choose 'Gator Games w/Melissa Nelson'

Freefly Friday – Pylon races, Hybrid Jumps, Spaceball Jumps, Angled Tracking (all skill levels welcome)

Sequentials Saturday – 8, 10, 12, 14-way Freefly Sequentials (intermediate-advanced skill levels)

Sunday Scrambles – freefly organized dives (all welcome)



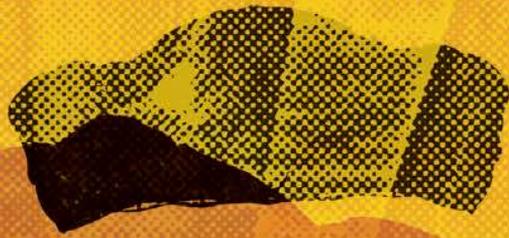
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- On-Site Trailer Rental**
- Camping**
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A great gathering place and a view of the landing area

SERVICES

- Sunshine Factory Pro Shop**
30 years providing gear to the world
- Skydive Ratings**
Providing all USPA ratings since 1993
The only full-time ratings school in the world
- Paragone Rigging Shop**
Run by world champion Sally Hathaway
- Tony Suits**
Tony Uragallo, still at the top of his game!
World-famous wingsuits
- Hard Dock Cafe**
- Nylon City Packing Service**
- Wingsuit School and Coaching**
- East Coast Freefly School and Coaching**
- Free Load Organizers**
- SkyVenture Orlando**
- Tandems and AFF**



“ Sometimes you have to go up really high just to see how small you really are. I’m coming home now ”

FELIX BAUMGARTNER, MOMENTS BEFORE JUMPING



1 Felix jumps out of the capsule during the final manned flight for Red Bull Stratos in Roswell, New Mexico, USA, by Jay Nemeth/Red Bull Content Pool

2 Felix tries to fix the problem with the visor of his helmet, by Jörg Mitter/Red Bull Content Pool

3 USAF Colonel (ret.) Joe Kittinger of the United States and Felix Baumgartner, by Jörg Mitter/Red Bull Content Pool

THE GREATEST JUMP OF ALL

On October 14 2012, history was made. After years of planning, Felix Baumgartner took off in a capsule that would take him more than 24 miles above the Earth's surface. Wearing a pressurised suit to protect against the hostile stratospheric environment, he rolled open the door of his cabin, stood up onto the platform and jumped.

The ascent had not been without incident. It was the second attempt at the record, after an aborted take-off three days earlier due to rising wind conditions. The team only had two balloons and were down to their last one. This would be the only attempt left. As the balloon was released and the forklift guided the capsule to a safe lift-off, the ground team cheered in elation. Inside the capsule, however, Felix's journey was just beginning.

Millions of people watched the live stream of Felix's ascent and of the view inside Mission Control as he rose ever upwards. At the other end of his radio was 84-year-old Colonel Joe Kittinger who, in 1960, jumped from 102,800 feet – a record unbroken until now. Felix passed the Armstrong line at 63,000 feet, above which the lack of pressure would be deadly outside the capsule and the blood would boil in his body. He would be jumping from twice as high, wearing a special suit which he would fully pressurise shortly before depressurising the capsule and opening the door.

However, there was another problem. Sat inside the capsule, Felix could see →

JUMP OF ALL

THE SKYDIVING WORLD HAS LONG KNOWN FELIX BAUMGARTNER'S NAME, BUT NOW THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS WATCHED HIM MAKE THE GREATEST SKYDIVE IN HISTORY

WORDS LIZ ASHLEY PHOTOS RED BULL CONTENT POOL



FELIXB AUMGARTNER

his breath causing fogging of his visor, meaning his visor heating system must not be working. Without it, there was a strong chance that his visor would fog or freeze completely on exit, leaving him blind in freefall. Viewers heard him mention a visor problem, before the sound on the live radio broadcast was turned off while the team worked to find a solution. The decision was made to unplug from the power in the capsule and instead plug into the chest-pack battery. This was a risk, as it meant losing radio communication with the ground temporarily – with the danger that it would not be regained.

It was a risk that paid off. As the capsule passed the reported planned exit altitude of 120,000 feet, a barrage of safety checks started and the altitude kept on increasing. On the ground we all thought that Felix was proving to be a typical skydiver wanting a bit of extra altitude, although it transpired afterwards that the planned exit altitude had always been 128k. Unlike most skydivers, he was about to freefall 10 times further than the average skydive and his pin check would be done by live video feed.

The cabin depressurised and the world gasped as he rolled the door to one side and revealed the beautiful view of brilliant blue, the curvature of the earth arcing away from him. Sliding forwards to the edge, slow and cumbersome in the suit, he pulled himself upright using handrails reminiscent of swimming lessons in a school pool. Unlike the kids that he will have inspired, though, he was not about to bellyflop gracelessly into water but instead step noiselessly into the record books.

The exit was perfect. A simple step and he was falling, upright and on heading. At jump altitude, the atmospheric pressure was similar to that on the surface of Mars – less than one per cent of that on the Earth's surface – and the corresponding lack of atmospheric density meant that he would accelerate towards the sound barrier in a predicted time of less than 40 seconds.

Any turn that started would be hard to stop. As the speed increased, that turn did start. Skydivers everywhere watched with hearts in mouths as he entered a spin after 22 seconds which rolled him five times clockwise followed by 22 times anticlockwise – nearly a minute of spinning. During this time, he passed through the sound barrier and well beyond, reaching a top speed of an incredible 834mph. But the milestone came and went and the atmosphere stayed tense: everybody knew the dangers of the spin he was in, and that the jump was a long way from over. The reality was that he could still die on the way down. Suddenly he regained stability and a wave of relief went around, but still the freefall timer kept counting. Two minutes, three. His voice was heard on the radio; it sounded a long way away. He said he was having visor problems. His mum held his fiancée's hand tightly,



4 The crane launches the capsule during the final manned flight, by balazsgardi.com/ Red Bull Content Pool

5 Eva Baumgartner watches her son during the launch, by Stefan Aufschnaiter/Red Bull Content Pool

6 Felix's capsule floats to the ground, by Garth Milan/Red Bull Content Pool

7 Felix performs during the high altitude test jumps for the Red Bull Stratos mission, by Luke Aikins/Red Bull Content Pool

8 Felix celebrates after successfully completing the final manned flight for Red Bull Stratos in Roswell, New Mexico, by balazsgardi.com/ Red Bull Content Pool



“I’d like to give a special one-fingered salute to all the folks who said he was going to come apart when he went supersonic”

COL JOE KITTINGER



and still Felix kept falling. At 5,200 feet AGL, he deployed his main parachute and the Red Bull logo blossomed above his head. A cheer erupted in Mission Control and was echoed around the world. Red Bull had indeed given him Wings. Well, for the record, it was actually an Infinity, but who's counting?

RECORDS BROKEN

- ▶ Highest manned balloon flight.
- ▶ 834mph top speed – the fastest ever. Felix is the first human to travel faster than the speed of sound without being inside a craft.
- ▶ 128,100 ft exit altitude – the highest ever.
- ▶ 119,846 feet fallen – the furthest ever.

AND ONE RECORD NOT BROKEN

- ▶ Four minutes and 20 seconds in freefall – this is not as long as Joe Kittinger's four minutes and 36 seconds in droguefall in 1960.

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ▶ The 30-million-cubic-foot helium balloon is 1/10 the thickness of a polythene bag, yet weighs more than 3,000 pounds. Stretched out, it would cover about 40 acres.
- ▶ Felix went supersonic, breaking the sound barrier around 33 seconds into the jump and achieving Mach 1.24. As he slowed down to subsonic speeds again, his sonic boom could be heard on the ground.
- ▶ The first human to break the sound barrier in level flight was Chuck Yeager, an American test pilot. He flew an experimental aircraft at Mach 1 at 45,000 feet on October 14 1947. Baumgartner became the first human to break the sound barrier in freefall on the 65th anniversary of Yeager's flight. "It's hard to describe because I didn't feel it," said Felix, when asked what it felt like to go that fast. Being in the suit, he continued, is "like being in a cast".
- ▶ The Guinness World Record for the longest freefall currently belongs to Jhonathan Florez, who achieved nine minutes and six seconds in a wingsuit earlier in 2012.



BPA AGM

BPA member and National Space Academy Director Anu Ojha will be giving a presentation about the history and science behind the project at the BPA AGM in January, and an article accompanying it will appear in the February 2013 Mag. See page 11 for more details. ●

MISSION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

4:20 minutes freefall from the edge of space. Each moment closely followed by the CYPRES Stratos unit specifically designed to cope with the dangerous radiation, hostile environment and unique jump scenario.

1

100-WAY DIAMONDS ARE A BIRD'S BEST FRIEND

From September 15-23 2012, the Wingsuit World Record team completed ten 81-ways and multiple smaller formations before dirt diving for the big goal.

On Saturday September 22, 100 wingsuit skydivers exited from two Skyvans and three Twin Otters over Perris Valley, California to attempt a new record for the largest wingsuit formation. The team included Brits Dave Butterell, Rob Gray, Mark Harris on video, Ross Lambert, Richard Parkin, Stephen Such and Steve Thomas, with Jim Scott proudly representing Scotland.

The largest officially judged formation before this was the 68-way US National Record in 2009. Wingsuit skydivers had never attempted a formation larger than a 74-way. On the fifth and last attempt of the day on Saturday, the group pulled off a beautiful 100-way diamond. Three on-site FAI and nationally rated judges were on hand to support the application to Guinness, with the paperwork in progress at press time. (The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, skydiving's highest sport governing body, does not recognise wingsuiting as a discipline.)

A YEAR IN THE MAKING

Plane captains, supporters, and organisers held camps all over the US and the world to qualify participants and fine-tune skills in a safe environment. I was the lead organiser and a plane captain, joined by plane captains Scott Callantine, Ed Pawlowski, Michael Swearingen and Stéphane "Zun" Zunino, and fellow organisers Will Kitto, Eli Bolotin, and Dan Dupuis of Raise the Sky. Will Kitto and Joachim Pfahler, in addition to flying slots on the record, spent the days leading up to it coaching a smaller (two-plane) formation group that later →

1 Diving for the formation, by Matt Hoover

IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE THE LAST WINGSUIT WORLD RECORD, INTEREST IN THE DISCIPLINE HAS SOARED. WAS AN ALMOST 50 PER CENT INCREASE TO THE MAGICAL 100 POSSIBLE?
WORDS TAYA WEISS





integrated into the big-ways. Videographers, led by Craig O'Brien, included the indomitable Norman Kent, the talented Noah Bahson of Skydive Dubai, well-known wingsuit photographer Matt Hoover and, of course, Mark Harris – the master of backflying under large formations.

The organizers embraced the challenge of engineering a 100-way wingsuit diamond using two Skyvans and three Otters. We experimented with building the formation from the centre out as well as several other new ideas before settling on the successful formula of building larger chunks from each plane and flying them in together like pieces of a puzzle.

The pilots at Skydive Perris are some of the most experienced formation flyers in the world and were an integral part of our team. Formation skydiving big-way organiser Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld (author of *“Above All Else: A World Champion Skydiver’s Story of Survival and What It Taught Him About Fear, Adversity, and Success”*) was on site every day, giving input on everything from dirt diving to focus and mindset.

Temperatures in the Southern California desert reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the week, making dirt dives an endurance event. Imagine everything you think a big-way dirt dive needs to be to prepare the team safely –

- 2 Happy 100-way participants, by Dan Dupuis**
- 3 Brit cameraman Mark Harris landing, by Dan Dupuis**
- 4 The flock from the side, by Norman Kent**

then imagine doing all of that wearing a specially crafted thousand-dollar-plus nylon bag. The most successful athletes on this type of record are those who can stay intensely focused on their individual job, but still see the bigger picture and function like part of a whole. The staged breakoff began at 5,500 feet in groups that flew together as a unit until 4,500 feet and deployed at 3,500 feet after separating. The front four-way diamond was the last to break off. Deployment happened over a span of several miles, and so did landings. Sponsors Airtec, Performance Designs, Mirage Systems, Wicked Wingsuits and Chuting Star Rigging were integral to team safety,





bringing wind blades to demarcate even the farthest reaches of the landing zone.

The spectacular footage and inspirational stories from the Wingsuit World Record event will become part of the Flying Dreams Project run by Raise the Sky, a non-profit organisation. Flying Dreams brings skydivers into schools to support and mentor kids (especially at-risk kids and those from underserved communities) and teach them about finding and following their dreams.

For this team and all those who will be inspired by our accomplishment, there's no diamond worth more or sparkling brighter than the nylon one we built in the sky over Perris.

INTERVIEW WITH BRIT PARTICIPANT ROSS LAMBERT

How did you prepare for the record?

In terms of preparation for the 100-way I was, I suppose, relying on the fact that I have done nothing but wingsuit for the last three and a half years. I had a lot of time in the suit, but I knew that I did not actually have that much flocking experience. Therefore, it was important to me to get out early, acclimatise, attend the pre-record camp and treat it like a training event, trying to learn and improve on each jump and push myself to be the best possible flier I could be to qualify. The organisers at the camp did

5 The 100-way through the eyes of Mark Harris

6 A bird's eye view of the formation, by Norman Kent

a great job of pointing things out, hinting and helping, so thanks for that guys.

What was your biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge during the event, and so weakness, was my state of mind. I got very frustrated flying in a smaller group for a couple of days and not understanding why I was there, let alone not standing up a few landings in a row in light to no wind and bouncing through the dust, tearing a wing on an exit - which improved my emotions no end. However, it was all just bullsh*t in my head at the end of the day. A friend pointed out I wasn't finishing my flare, another friend made me laugh, another bought me a drink, another





untangled my pilot chute and another showed me a video of my flying the days before. Guess what? There wasn't actually anything wrong with the world, we were the luckiest people alive AND knocking out some awesome "littler big-ways". I now feel even more humbled by the reaction of friends and family from both within and outside the sport since getting back. Thank you seems just too small some times.

What did you enjoy most?

After the general flying experience of the camp and record event, where I flew seven different slots in seven days, I got to be the last person out of the lead plane – which was just amazing. I will remember that view for the rest of my life. I still feel incredibly lucky and privileged to have been part of such an amazing team, covering everyone on the ground and in the air, and I keep looking

7 Colourful rows and a sense of speed, by Noah Bahnsen

8 The building flock flies past Lake Elsinore, by Matt Hoover



at the photos. However, the most enjoyable parts were actually seeing old friends from different countries and making a ton of new ones, as well as seeing how people had grown in skills since first meetings and continued to improve during the whole event. It is the people around you that lift you, that make everything worthwhile and that show you what is possible in yourself; roll on the next wingsuit challenge!

few years gave me a lot of skills that cross over into wingsuit big-ways. The exit frame concept especially helped flyers to visualise what they could expect to see immediately after exit. Flying as part of the 100-way was an intensely focused experience. Reducing waves through the formation was much more difficult than flat flying, having to overcome the instinct to respond quickly to stay with the reference lines as they moved.

Wingsuit World Record 2012 At a Glance

- ▶ **Oldest Event Participant:** Eike Hohenadl, 71
- ▶ **Youngest Event Participant:** Kiefer Grossi, 22
- ▶ **Travelled Farthest:** Oliver Nothen, Cape Town, 9,923 miles (if he had flown direct in his wingsuit. Probably more with stopovers by commercial aircraft)
- ▶ **Nations Represented:** 21
- ▶ **Continents Represented:** 6
- ▶ **Women on Record Formation 100-way:** 11
- ▶ **Average vertical speed of base flyers:** 67mph
- ▶ **Average distance travelled on attempts:** 2 miles
- ▶ **Exit altitude:** 12,500 feet-13,500 feet

INTERVIEW WITH BRIT PARTICIPANT ROB GRAY

How did you prepare for the Wingsuit World Record?

Personally, the Elsinore record in 2009 was good preparation for the wingsuit part, but I would say that big-way flat skydiving up to 200 ways over the past

What did you most enjoy?

Grabbing a dip in the pool after packing and before the debrief was definitely a welcome part of the event! I also enjoyed watching the learning take place, of a discipline developing and evolving, hopefully with every participant walking away with new skills to pass on to other people to bring back for future events. ●

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Vector in demand

United Parachute Technologies (UPT) have announced in a recent newsletter that their current delivery time for their Vector, Student Vector and Sigma Tandem harness container systems is now a staggering 37 weeks – that’s nine months in old money!

The Florida company said that they themselves are stunned by this figure and are making all the moves necessary to bring this lead time down, such as the building of a new 10,000 sq ft building (which is structurally finished, we’re told, and now in the process of receiving work stations etc.)

UPT were at pains to point out that this full order book was, contrary to popular misconception, not bulked out by military orders.

The company does not expect to see a noticeable reduction in these long lead times in the imminent future, but in the meantime they say they are working overtime to keep up with the increase in orders. However, demand is currently higher than they can produce in a timely manner without compromising high quality standards.

Nice work if you can get it!

unitedparachutetechnologies.com

Gone soft in the pad!

Sunpath, manufacturers of the Javelin harness/container system, have published a Service Bulletin that calls for the immediate and mandatory inspection of ‘soft pad’ reserve ripcord handles manufactured before January 2006.

The background to the Bulletin is that some incidents of premature reserve activation have occurred with the use of the older-style flat soft pad handles with plastic inserts. It seems that if the plastic has shifted during its life or the foam degrades, it’s possible for the metal ball on the end of the metal ripcord cable within the handle to become lodged. This can result in the extraction of the reserve pin if the rig is incorrectly fitted to a person too large for the harness, the incorrect reserve ripcord yoke size has been fitted or just by crouching tightly in an aircraft – who would do that?

The Bulletin calls for all SPJ-01-001 soft pad reserve ripcords to be inspected by a certified Rigger, who will determine (by applying a method specified by Sunpath) if the ball is making contact with hard plastic inside the handle. If this is so, the handle should be replaced with a new or modified soft pad handle.

If a handle fails the test, a choice of replacement handles – the same soft pad type, a Phat Daddy tube insert type or a metal D handle – will be available at no charge to the customer.

A form is available online at http://sunpath.com/old/web_en/support/spsb007replacement.htm in order to facilitate replacement.

If the original handle passes the inspection, then the Rigger will write the code of SPSB007 XXX on the handle’s label and then submit a web form to Sunpath.



Voodoo Curvs

Rigger Sandy Reid of Rigging Innovations (RI) states on a recent news release that he is “proud to again be an innovator in harness/container design”.

Sandy was referring to the release by his company of the latest incarnation of its Voodoo system – the Voodoo Curv.

The Arizona company claim that the Curv introduces several new features hitherto unavailable on current harness/container designs on the market to the sport.

For instance, the Curv incorporates what the company calls their ‘Bio-Curv’ backpack where the profile of the backpad, instead of being straight, is curved inward at the midpoint and follows the natural curve of the wearer’s back. This, they claim, allows the container to closely hug the back and eliminate the gap between wearer and rig.

This Bio-Curv also allows for an increase of approximately 10% in the available volume for each main container size with no increase in width or length.

Another innovation is the ‘Bio-Yoke’ (for which they have a patent pending). This new concept incorporates a secondary shoulder yoke that holds the container higher on the wearer’s back and relieves the pressure of the regular shoulder yoke with its associated webbing and hardware. The Bio-Yoke spreads the load of the packed rig evenly across the back and shoulders, say RI.

They go on to say that “The fit of the Voodoo Curv is more akin to wearing a vest or backpack than putting on a conventional style rig.

With the distribution of the weight across the entire back, the perceived weight of the system is less than the actual weight”.

Other nice features include the incorporating of 'inside seams' on the yoke and leg strap comfort pads, resulting in greater comfort with no rough or sharp edge to chafe or dig in, and a BOC pocket which incorporates a small stowage flap that keeps the pilot chute from creeping out and positions the handle in the same place every time.

The pillow reserve ripcord and three-ring cutaway handle are constructed from a rubberised "Sure-Grip" fabric for maximum non-slip grip, and a loop is built into the top reserve flap as standard which allows attachment of a custom-designed magnetic slider stow without interfering with the operation of the reserve.

New innovation continues with the main container of the Curv, which features specially designed end tabs to the side flaps so that the side flaps sit lower and create less bulk when packed, resulting in a flatter, lower profile at the main container pin flap area.

Finally, the Voodoo Curv's reserve Free Bag features an interesting design whereby a divider wall is sewn in at the closed end. This separates the packed 'ears' of the reserve and holds the low profile shape of the packed bag. The divider wall has a channel in it through which the closing loop passes, helping to protect the loop from wear.

Vive la difference, Sandy!

rigginginnovations.com



GET A GRIP!

The Gripper II is a new glove from the popular Neumann stable.

Designed for American football, Neumann gloves have been popular amongst FS competitors for years because of the high gripping qualities of their tackified palms. Now, the new Gripper II features a synthetic 'tackified' palm area that repels moisture to ensure the best possible grip at all times.

The company's blurb tells us that, as a result of the palm design and materials, the gripping properties of this glove will not wear away with use.

The Gripper II comes with a 1 1/2" wrist strap.

Helmet Collaboration

Florida-based helmet manufacturer SkySystems have teamed up with Mark Wane of SkyShot Design Ltd, the UK-based designer of the Sky Shot modular open-faced helmet system. Together they will be launching a new 'Sky Shot EVO' helmet in 2013.

www.skysystemsusa.com

www.skyshotdesign.com



Sky High Art!

New Zealand's Icarus ran a competition last year on Facebook which invited people to submit the artwork of their choice to be reproduced on the bottom skin of an Icarus canopy, as part of their 'SkyArt' competition.

The guys at Icarus tell us that they expected to get 20 or 30 entries and a photoshopped image or two! In fact, they ended up with 742 entries, their Facebook page was swamped with designs and they were wondering what they'd gotten themselves into!

Duh! That's what happens when you offer skydivers a free canopy!

They say there was no limit to the concepts people sent through. From action heroes to animal faces to road cones and tattoos, the ideas were endless! Designs ranged from a malfunctioning canopy design to flames, turtles, dragons, tigers, eclipses, a game of Monopoly, a piano, Angry Birds, Spongebob Squarepants and even a pair of boobs made an appearance!

But, after much agonising and a factory wall plastered with pictures, they finally decided on a winner – 'Tribal Face', one of twenty images entered by Luca Sky.

Luca ordered his canopy earlier this year – a Crossfire2 119 – and those creative Kiwis got to work. The design was a challenge and took hours of setting up, converting to their cutting software and arranging all the different colours. The logo work was all done at night when the cutting table was free so they could lay the design out flat and watch it come together.

Cutting the colours out, tacking and sewing to the canopy and matching the whole lot up took weeks of work, but the final result was stunning.

Luca, to say the least, is over the moon with his new toy.

You can check out Icarus SkyArt album at:
www.nzaerosports.com/gallery/sky-art-canopies

Thanks to all our jumpers
for another great year

We're open daily all through winter
Come and jump with us
over the holiday season!

Here comes 2013!
Check out facebook.com/skydivelangar
to keep up with events

Langar
Boogie
2013

2-7 May
Beech 99
Two Grand Caravans
more details to come!

SKYDIVE
Langar.co.uk

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British Parachute Schools



WHAT IF...?

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... it's been snowing?

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

Got any good ones? Send them in!



A snowy Hibaldstow, by Mike McNulty

TOP TIPS: KIT TIP

Have you ever seen your reserve? Why not ask your rigger for a look at your next repack? You wouldn't be the first person to be surprised by it being a different colour to what you'd assumed, or not to know whether your slider has a large (intentional!) hole in it...



Keep an eye on the stretchy fabric that makes up your BOC pocket. It can deteriorate with age and become permanently stretched, making it less secure. A rigger can easily remove it and fit a new one if needed

Gear Checks – the sequel

by Sergio Miller

Your article 'Gear Checks' last issue reminded me of a similar incident that happened to me two years ago.

I was jumping on a load with tandems and cameramen. As the only solo skydiver, I jumped first and sat next to the door. On the ascent, I remember slipping a lot on the floor. This may have contributed to pulling the hacky out of the sleeve, but I cannot be certain. The looseness of the sleeve may also have been a contributing factor. On the run in, the spotter (one of the cameramen) opened the door. I stood up on the green light. I would normally dive exit, but the space around the door was somewhat congested so I decided to climb out. I had literally only just swung out the door – both my feet were still firmly in the aircraft – when I saw the cameraman lunge forward and push both my legs out of the door. Unbeknown to me, the propeller wash had caught the loose hacky and deployed the pilot chute. I fell backwards away from the aircraft. In what felt like an instant later, still falling backwards looking up at the aircraft, I felt the main deploy – very sharply, but perfectly. I recognised how lucky I had been and have always been grateful to the quick-thinking cameraman.

I subsequently replaced the sleeve for the hacky. The moral of the story for me was: you must do that last check of your hacky or toggle before climbing out.

Consider...

- 1) The DZ will look different from the air and features that you may subconsciously use to help plan your canopy control may not be as visible.
- 2) If it's cold enough to snow then it's cold enough for the visor on a full-face helmet to ice over in freefall. The temperature can drop around 2°C for every thousand feet of altitude gained. If it's freezing on the ground, it can easily be minus 25°C at altitude – and that's without considering the 120mph wind chill. Breathing warm air onto your visor while in the plane increases the chances of it condensing and freezing after exit, so keep the visor open for as long as possible or switch to an open face instead.
- 3) You may want to wear extra layers to protect against the chill, but be careful that they don't restrict your movement. In particular, watch out if wearing different gloves and check that you can still easily reach and pull all your handles.

Good luck to all Vigil Athletes who will reach for their highest performance at the World Championships in Dubai



Vigil wishes all competitors a safe competition

www.vigil.aero



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HAVE YOU JUMPED AT?



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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 Yo kshire 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-37
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@skydivencyprus.com.cy
skydivencyprus.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
nielshnsn@yahoo.co.uk

Old friends and new victims

1

*Konstantine Khomko,
by Sara Orton*



1 *Finchy and Sam,
by Ben Wood*

2 *Phil's 900th
jump, by Rossy*

3 *Ben's 5,000th,
by Phil Symons*



BRIDLINGTON

There have been turbulent times recently with the new changes of aviation legislation, but we are exceptionally pleased to welcome two new pilots to our dropzone! Paul and Marc are fitting in well and, under the guidance of the awesome Mike Samuel and Dave Pinkney, they are learning the ropes and enjoying our beautiful Airvan. We also welcome Martin Heywood-Wakeman as a Tandem Instructor, camera flyer, FS Coach and all-round good laugh.

Dave Saville has re-booted his career as a camera flyer. With over 1,200 jumps, he really knows what he's doing and will prove an asset to Skydive GB – particularly now that I have prised his old-school cine-camera from his helmet! Dave is also an accomplished FS Coach and is here to be utilised.

Steve Kilvington has smashed his Category 8 and is now receiving coaching towards his FS1. We recently ambushed his wife (Julia) into completing a tandem skydive – the aim was to educate her into our obsession. This backfired dramatically, as Julie was slightly unwell. This resulted in Steve's bank balance being somewhat

CORNISH

cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

2



Already another record season for us at CPC, with more AFF and Tandems done this season than any other. We couldn't do it without all the help and support from the team, which has been added to by young Jon, who did a Tandem with us and (for some reason) liked the look of our lifestyle. He has become an integral member of the staff, so work hard mate – it ain't a bad way to live! Thanks to you all!

Phil has done his 900th jump and, after quite a few years, I pushed through the 5,000 jump barrier. Still a few years to go to catch Dave, though!

New faces continue to appear at the club. What a pleasant change it was for me to film a 4-way made up of four visiting jumpers! Paul managed to finally get a few jumps in too – welcome to the Cornish skies, buddy. Along with new faces, old ones arise too – after a long and unpleasant fight against illness, it was fantastic to see

3



Andy Hart ('new victim') back in the air, albeit a slightly scrawnier version! Well done mate, and welcome to the "C"lub! Also good to see Tom back flying after misplacing one of his kidneys, only for it to turn up inside Little Nick. Pleased to see you both looking so healthy.

Congratulations go to Ross and Laura on the birth of little Eva, and to Jo and Clare on getting hitched (what a fantastic wedding venue!).

By the time we get to read this, the season will have ended and hopefully the hangovers will have cleared from what I'm sure was yet another epic end of season party. So, to all our friends, have a safe winter if you're going away jumping, have a great Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you when we open in the first weekend in February 2013.

Ben, Dave and Chrissy

SILVER STARS

Ending on a high

Our last day of jumping for 2012 was September 29, which was well attended by nearly all of our club jumpers. The fun-packed day ended with an impressive 16-way tracking dive.

Anna Nowakowska and Jon Scamp are both B Licence qualified and Gerwyn Legg is hot on their heels with his B Licence.

The dropzone is closed for the winter until approximately March, while the centre has some major and essential upgrades to return bigger and better for a busy 2013. Until then, keep an eye out on Facebook for trips to other DZs and see you all next year!

Hannah Davies



New pilots, new camera, new... shoes?

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 Steve Kilvington, Shaun Ruffel

skydivegb.com

reduced as she stated that the only thing that will make up for the experience is if he buys her expensive shoes!

The lovely Ian Baistow-Davies has been completing progression jumps with our very own George McGuinness. He has proved to be a lot better at warp in the sky than he is in the tunnel! Konstantine Khomko is keeping up the freefly contingency at the dropzone and is encouraging others into the discipline – we will hopefully have a freefly coach on site at the beginning of the New Year. Andy Harrison continues to fly his wingsuit in the skies of Bridlington. As he is only 8.5 stone, he is likely to beat any freefall record (with the exception of Felix).

We are moving into the quieter season now, which is a good opportunity for those who wish to progress to get on lifts and receive coaching. Overall, it has been an interesting few months. Every day has been a school day, with plenty of opportunity for learning new skills and enjoying our beautiful sport.

Sara Orton

silverstars.me.uk

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JMI Anna Nowakowska, Jon Scamp



Group photo after 16-way tracking dive/last lift of the season, by Nick Anthony

SIBSON

skydivesibson.co.uk

Lockers, legends, laburnums

All change again at the DZ. Grant has certainly been pushing the dropzone forward in recent times, as you have all seen, and he isn't letting up as the season draws to a close. We are currently installing some awesome new facilities – Grant is putting in a brand new club locker room and debriefing facility. This will include approximately 40 lockers available for hire – big enough to put your rigs and your belongings in, tucked away from members of the public. We are also installing rig racks, so you can hang up your rigs if they are not in the lockers between jumps. This room will also have two flat-screen debriefing screens so you can plug in your cameras and burn your DVDs etc. Speaking of cameras, there will also be several charging points for your cameras, laptops and phones. The locker room has just been delivered and is on site, but won't be prepped until the start of next season.

Speaking of change, we are welcoming none other than Sarah Cannon (World Champion FS) to our team. Sarah is starting up an FS school at the dropzone and we have bought her a new portacabin to operate from. Chris should hopefully have made her a purpose-built creeper pad and Andy is going to be neatly arranging the flower pots around the place. Sarah is going to come up with a name, which we will send out as the details come out. Sarah will be looking at all aspects of FS, from helping arrange your FS1 style training all the way through to coaching teams at world level. We are stoked to have her here

as part of the team – watch this space, as she is also about to do her AFF Instructor course.

So, all the freeflyers may be thinking, what about us? In a bid to have a harmonious centre of excellence, we have just struck a deal with Steve Howes from *Varial Freefly*. We will have him here coaching all aspects of free flying, from basic through to advanced VFS. Steve will also be load organising for us at the DZ most weekends.

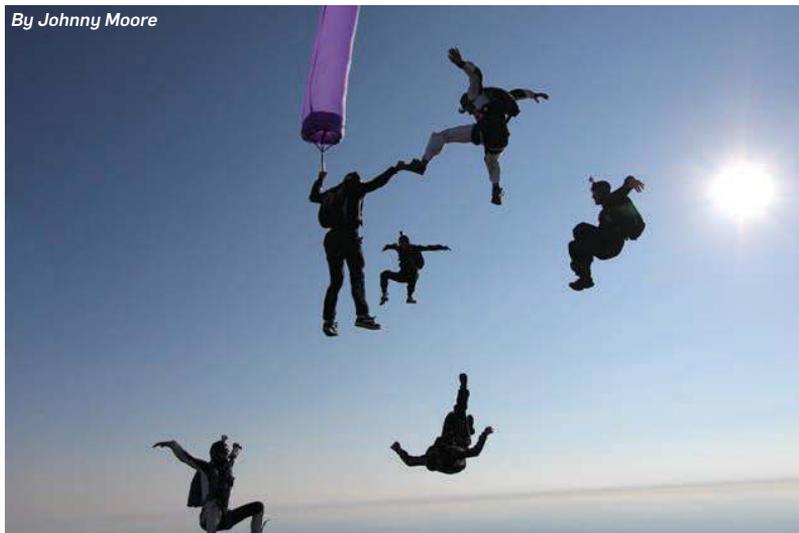
Changing up a gear again, there is now loads to look forward to for 2013. Should anyone have any ideas, let me know in the office – nothing is impossible! Stay in touch via our Facebook groups and Twitter feed. Why not follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook or check out our website www.skydivesibson.co.uk/events to keep up to speed with all the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson?

Many thanks to Johnny 'The Legend' Moore for supplying most of the Club News pictures this year. Without them, Club News wouldn't be half as colourful. With that in mind, should you have any pictures you want to see in print, send them to me in the office.

Has anyone heard the rumours about a new aircraft which will be around one weekend per month (sometimes two weekends!) in 2013? Watch this space for more details!

Paul Dorward

By Johnny Moore





PRESENTA



FEBRUARY 14-24, 2013

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Scrambling for glory!



CHATTERIS

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Chatteris held the first International 3-way Scrambles Meet on Saturday September 22, with five teams representing five countries: *White Collar Criminals* representing the United Kingdom, *Arctic Squirrels* representing Ireland, *Dunno* representing Italy, *Three Wise Monkeys* representing Ghana and *No Hope* representing Kazakhstan. With each of the teams battling it out over four intense rounds, *Three Wise Monkeys* and *White Collar Criminals* took joint Gold with a staggering 28 points! *Arctic Squirrels* won Silver with 26 points and *Dunno* Bronze with 24 points. We'd like to thank Daren for his

excellent organisation of the event and Ro, Si and Tony for their superb camera work!

If you haven't already heard, our Christmas party is on Saturday December 15. It is being held in our new club house, and we are having a hog roast, as much alcohol as you can drink and live music from 'Wild Honey'. For only £25 a ticket, it would be a shame to miss it. If you haven't already bought a ticket and would like to join us, please contact Lloyd or myself as soon as possible!

Lorraine Dixcey

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 Dave Baker, Marc Melo, Ali Atlasi, Brent Clarke
FS1 Sean Healy, Harry Brooks, Andrew Pointer **FF1** Tim Freegard,
 Rowena Owen **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Alison Peock, Harry Brooks
200 Michael Burns, Stephen Landau **4,000** Yo Lee
6,000 Bernie Parker

NLSC

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY 15TH DEC

THE NEW CLUBHOUSE, CHATTERIS AIRFIELD. PE15 OFB

£25 A TICKET. WHICH INCLUDES...

- YOUR DRINKS FOR THE EVENING
- A YUMMY HOG ROAST
- LIVE MUSIC FROM 'WILD HONEY'

PARTY STARTS WHEN JUMPING STOPS (APPROX. 6PM ONWARDS)

INVITED TO DRESS TO IMPRESS (ALA BOND-STYLE) OR COME AS YOU ARE OFF THE DZ.

TICKET MONEY REQUIRED BY 18TH NOV. PLEASE SEE LOLLY OR LLOYD IN THE OFFICE. ONLINE PAYMENT/BANK TRANSFER IS POSSIBLE IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE DZ BEFORE THEN. PLEASE CONTACT LLOYD QUENBY.

1 International 3-way Meet, by Adam Gooch

2 Christmas Party, by Robynne Haynes

SWANSEA

skydiveswansea.co.uk



We've had a busy time over the last few weeks, finally getting some great MET for the students and with Dave and Laura gaining their A Licences. That is a big achievement for Dave, who's got to be the most nervous person I've ever been in a plane with and someone who's still actually gotten out of it too! Laura is another new addition to our packing team, as is Jason – welcome guys!

Mariam has got onto consols – cue happy dance! Aled Mason has gotten to 100 jumps, while Lou had a tandem with Will and Teej for her 300th and managed to lose all

1 Kris Coaching JJ

2 Kolio, head-down

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI
 Dave, Laura CH2/JMI Nicola
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Aled
 Mason 300 Lou 400 Teej
 500 Ant, Kris Wojciechowski
 900 Ricky



ability in the air during the jump! Teej and Ant have passed through 400 and 500 respectively, with Ant also managing to single-handedly install footings for a new swoop pond – maybe we should just call you G?

Well done to our newest member of the Southern PLA Club – Nicola Lemon, who got her B Licence. Kris Wojciechowski has been busy coaching people towards their FS1 (he has also just hit 500 jumps) – if you want coaching, please contact him through our Facebook page. Ricky now has a shiny TI rating as well as 900 jumps.

Morgans Hotel has been booked again for our Christmas dinner, please contact Sara for details. Don't forget the birthday presents for Will too – it's the day afterwards, if he hasn't mentioned it to you already...

Tom Hare

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THE ARMY PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION IS TO APPOINT A NEW SECRETARY

The immediate challenge is to implement an ambitious change programme, meeting the expectations of military and associated civilian club members alike. The challenges include operational development and revised operating procedures while keeping pace with the demands of running the club and planning for its future success. Some military experience is essential.

Additional essential qualities inc:

- The ability to run a not-for-profit business with charitable objects
- Manage change in a competitive environment within MOD rules of propriety
- Capable of planning for the club's future sport parachuting viability and success
- A competent financial planner, capable of developing a sound business plan
- Competent to manage complex commercial negotiations, let contracts and keep accounts
- Strong analytical capability and proven competence to exploit financial and operational data to improve effectiveness and efficiency
- A skilful manager, versed in contemporary HR policy and able to get

a happy and motivated staff to work long hours and give just that little bit more to support the club's ethos

- Media savvy, internet literate and competent to market the DZ to a wide community of customers while contributing to positive PR for the Armed Forces
- Upholds the highest possible personal values consistent with both prevailing EO & Diversity policy and the military covenant.
- You will be passionate about the APA and be a self-starter who will go that extra mile

Desirable:

- An experienced skydiver with appropriate instructor qualifications: may include AI, BI, AFE, Tandem.

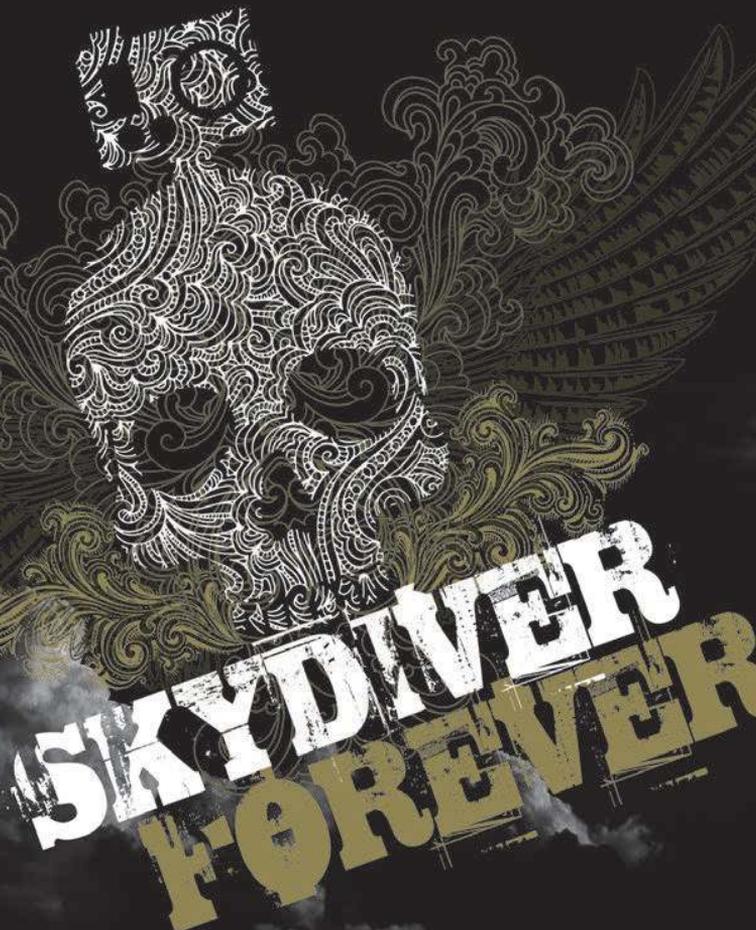
Applicants should send a covering letter with their full CV to Chairman APA at apasecretary@netheravon.com explaining their proposed approach to enhancing both the operation and reputation of the APA as a military sport parachuting centre of excellence. Closing date for applications 14 January 2013; short list interviews within a month thereafter. Start date for the preferred candidate negotiable.

cinh22

HEROZEN ORIGINAL SKYWEAR



NEW WINTER COLLECTION



AND MUCH MORE ON WWW.C10H22.COM

Liz, Paul and Ben, by Tony



BLACK KNIGHTS bkpc.co.uk

Still flying high

As we start to come towards winter, one would think that the centre would start to slow down with the amount of tandem students and courses for new students – not here at Black Knights. Our numbers are still high and we have a few new AFF students working their way through the levels. The list of achievements shows that our members are enjoying the centre and progressing well within the skydiving sport. Our events calendar is also buzzing with Safety Training days, Packing courses and, of course, the Rodeo Bull Halloween Party.

We have been to the local university and there is a lot of interest from the students for all types of skydiving, so we look forward to welcoming them in the near future. Thanks to John and Paul for giving a great skydiving pitch yet again.

Thanks to all the staff and regular skydivers for their support over the past few months. There have been a few changes and you have taken it all in your stride. There has also been a change in the office, and Black Knights would like to welcome Michelle as the new manifest person. Good luck in your new role – just remember the water pistol for those who continue to 'bug' the manifest! Liz has decided to hand the reins of front of house completely over to Jan, who continues to do a great job of keeping the office running smoothly.

We are looking forward to rounding off the year with the Christmas Party on December 16 – it is our only time when dresses and suits and not wingsuits are order of the day!

Blue Skies

Sharon Beeson

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Beth Richards, Nikki Merrifield **CAT 8** David Flood, Matthew Flood, John Hayhurst **FS1** Clare Simpson, Fraser Wiseman
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Andy Pritchard, Adam Smith **200** Anthony McGrath
300 Dave Bloomfield, Mike Pritchard **400** Dave Butterworth, David Lee
600 Rob Siree **1,000** Liz Fletcher **6,000** John Reid **1 HOUR FREEFALL** Adam Smith

CYPRUS

skydivecyprus.com.cy

Wish you were here

With summer now a distant memory, the autumn sun is still powering through and keeping the DZ as lively as ever.

Our ever-reliable Islander, Hotel Delta, has returned from the painters sporting a lovely new coat and a fancy new logo on its undercarriage. We are currently holding a competition to see who can get the best exit shot!

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to our Rigger/Instructor Iain Anderson, who left us in August after three years of excellent service. If his replacement Chas McNeil is only half of what Iain was, then we are onto a winner straight away! On that note, we'd like to say a big hello to Chas, who arrived on the island in September with his wife Nikki and four children Josh, Jade, Luke and Kaci.

We must also give a mention to our Cypriot 4-way team of Pelham Georgiades, Harry Katsafados, George Kakkis, Nicos Pavlides and Stavros Kypragoras, who took part in this summer's FAI European Championships in Formation Skydiving. Hopefully our new mock-up helped with the exits! Unfortunately, Harry had a slight accident during the competition and was unable to carry on. I wonder if you can guess which one Harry is?

CCSPC also continued with its demos for the year, jumping into a breast cancer charity event and a local military unit's Rugby 7's competition to name just two. Another busy period saw numerous achievements and qualifications gained. With a new influx of military personnel on the island, let's hope the list gets bigger and bigger.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from sunny Cyprus.

Dylan Bartle

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Nick Brook, Kyle Meredith, Mel Stewart, Scott Tate
CAT8 Nick Brook, Craig Hughes, Scott Tate **FS1** Michail Antonis, Dave Arkless



The Cypriot 4-way team

HIBALDSTOW

skydiving.co.uk

A stunning autumn so far has seen some huge events on the DZ and ridiculous progression in both AFF/RAPS students and FS coaching, with a large number of jumpers achieving A Licences and FS1. Simon Cathrine's ever-popular FS big-way events drew crowds from across the UK and our in-house events were constantly drawing

people back for fun jumping. With the nights closing in, evening entertainments are back with a blast – starting off with game shows and even our own Sarah Russon performing a Burlesque set for visitors. It's all going on in the Hibble bar, so miss anything at your peril – no weekend is quiet from here on in!

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Alec Bater, Alex Marshal, Nik Murphy **CH2/JMI** Dodge, Matt Lancaster, Nigel Thurston
FS1 Bayan Baroom **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Matt Lancaster **300** Ryan May **500** Blyth Davies **700** Laura Muller
1 HOUR FREEFALL Leena Wb

After a peaceful summer, we're covering in fear as the crazy students from York University return to the DZ – this time under the command of Krystian Groom for another season of RAPS. To the skies, sky babies! Congratulations to all those who have already done their first jump, and well done to Nik Murphy and Lloyd Wallis for completing their RAPS course all the way to A Licence. Be proud!

Winter is coming, but fear not – we've got a fast craft, a fast manifest and a fast bar to tide us over. See you on the DZ soon!

Stu Ferguson

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PAC chase, by Vikki Sutton



CARK > skydivenorthwest.co.uk

Following the new classroom delivery and with the Freshers' Fairs over, it was great to greet the universities again – double courses have kept Dan, Keith, Gary and Helen busy over the last couple of months. With the weather (as ever) being our stumbling block, we have maximised the good days and frustratingly sat out the windy ones. Great to see the committees in full swing, and many thanks for your continued support and organisational skills.

Jim Scott has been away and became a record breaker, flying in the biggest formation of 100 wingsuits. Bet break-off was fun to watch! Well done Jim. Ming Chu lost his cherry and became one of us after having his first reserve ride in after just over 100 jumps. Double beer fine, and welcome to the world of cutaways. The centre has been assisting Kieron Bridges spend his Royal Aero Club Bursary along with his coach Vikki. Making short calls to fill the spare slots on the tandem lifts has allowed Kieron to maximise the autumn sunshine.

With Christmas upon us, the centre has now closed and will reopen on the first weekend in February 2013. Alpha-Yankee will have her annual check and the kit store and equipment will get an overhaul while we have a little downtime.

A very big thank you to our Instructors, Packers and everyone working behind the scenes to make the centre run as efficiently as it does weekend after weekend. It's difficult to mention you all here in club news, but you know who you are.

Have a very Happy Christmas and wonderful New Year from the management and staff at Skydive North West, and we will see you all in 2013!

Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Chris France, Tracey Mifflin
CAT 8 Praveer Barik, Catherine Hainsworth, Peter Simpson
CH2/JMI Dez Blyth, Chris Johnston, Brett Miller **FSI** Andy Clegg, Brett Miller, Harry O'Brien **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Andy Clegg, John Edmondson
200 Ali Woodhouse **1,700** Jim Scott **2,000 TANDEM**s John Howard



Dan Curnow, by Duncan H

READING > londonparachuteschool.com



As we are approaching the end of this season, we have had some promising news for the start of our new season. Starting from 2013, we have gained full permission from NATS to start operating Saturdays and Sundays between May and September, and through the months of March, April and October we will be operating on Sundays with the occasional Saturday.

Building work for our new packing area is due to commence, with rubber matting that ought to make packing a little more comfortable to be put in place. A new catering facility will also be arranged.

So things are looking up for our DZ and we look forward to our New Year!

Aiden Chaffe

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Hamish C-Robertson **JUMP NUMBERS 1,900** Mark Stone
24 HOURS FREEFALL Mark Stone

PARAGON > paragonskydiving.co.uk

Jam wrestling for beginners

As winter draws closer, the troops at Paragon made the annual pilgrimage to Empuriabrava to escape the cold and have some fun in the sun. On the trip, Lukasz gained his FS1 and C Licence and his daughter Wiktoria completed her first Tandem skydive at the ripe old age of 12.



Derek Thorne shows his bus pass

Progression is the name of the game and regulars Jenna Moss and Allan Cowie have both gained their A Licences, so well done and keep up the good work! We were all treated to much missed hugs from Irene as we welcomed Walter and Irene back from Spain, although Walter was checking out flights after feeling the early morning chill in the air at the DZ.

The weather has been its usual Scottish standard of late and, as always, we look for alternative sports to pass the hours. Someone posted a suggestion via our Facebook page that we should introduce jam wrestling to our list – this caused our little page to go viral so, not wishing to let our supporters down, we duly purchased a job lot of jam and a paddling pool and staged our inaugural jam wrestling title match. Our club mascot Ian claimed victory by default as the girls all 'forgot' their wrestling outfits. The paddling pool turned out to be a smart purchase too, as it now doubles up as a swooping pond! CCI Jim won the swooping accuracy competition. Paragon would also like to welcome new jump pilot Cameron to the team. We would also like to congratulate regular jumper Krystyna Baxter, who successfully climbed no fewer than 19,341 feet to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and raised money for Diabetes UK – a great achievement for a good cause.

Soft openings!

Markie

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Allen Cowie, Jenna Moss **FSI** Lukasz Holownia-Czarny
JUMP NUMBERS 200 Lukasz Holownia-Czarny **1 HOUR FREEFALL** Pete Cuthbert
24 HOURS FREEFALL Steve Lambert

DUNKESWELL

skydive99.com



Winning Scrambles team
I'mt heK ingo ft heS wingers

Splash!

Dunkeswell has seen its busiest year ever for new students starting their AFF – we really don't know where they are all coming from! However, this is undoubtedly a great thing and it shows just how popular our great sport is really becoming. Many of our new AFF students have been as regular in coming to the drop zone as the old firm, and as such have raced through their levels and consols – some even gaining their FS1 in a matter of weeks. The Dunkeswell staff would like to congratulate them and all the Instructors/Coaches involved.

Yay! Someone has finally gone swimming in the pond and apparently it was spectacular. Big congratulations to Rich Lees, who is the first to be awarded the Seal Swimming Badge 1. Regular wingsuiter Mike Williams has also been awarded his Phoenix-Fly Coach rating and has already taken Gary Stephens (our CCI) up on his first few wingsuit jumps. Further congratulations go out to Felix Baumgartner on his record-breaking jump – this drew a great club atmosphere, with most people staying late on a Sunday to wish him luck and have a few drinks while cheering him on.

Dunkeswell also held its first Scrambles competition. With seven competing teams,

the aim of this competition was just to have fun. Bonus points could be gained for bribing the judges and, with some rounds insisting on funny exits, some interesting flying skills were displayed. The winning team was not necessarily the team that scored the most points, but was the most entertaining as well. Results are as follows:

- First – *I'm the King of the Swingers* (with some points)
- Second – *Can't cross it, you're on a five minute call* (some points minus a few)
- Third – *The team I slept with last night* (not as many points as the teams above)

I didn't really understand the scoring but everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to Jonathan Ashe for organising, and we hope to see you all next year.

Finally, Dunkeswell are having our Christmas party and last day of operation on December 15. We are also open for three days between Christmas and New Year (December 28-30) for those die-hard jumpers, and we will be re-opening fully on January 12 2013. Check Facebook and our website to keep up to date.

Blue Skies,

Miko

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Colin Bailey, Joe Graves, Rachelle Selby, Rick Taylor, Tom Watkins **CH2/JMI** Neil Kirby **FS1** Jon Bryan, Jessica Lee, Elliot Mitchell, Garrick Taylor **WS1** Gary Stephens **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Jon Bryan **500** David Monk **700** Gary Powell **1,000** Sam Cady **SEAL SWIMMING BADGE 1** Rich Lees

HINTON

Party backlog: volunteers wanted

There's been so much jumping in the last couple of months that the partying has been on the back burner – as the nights draw in, I'm sure we will make amends! This will certainly be the case when we hold the annual Hinton Christmas party on December 15 at The Fox in Farthinghoe from 7.30pm. I have also been asked to mention that anyone travelling abroad for some jumping over the Christmas period can contact Giulio, who is available to cat sit for any club members for beers/jump tickets.

The new AFF student classrooms and training area is now up and running, offering students a dedicated space to call their own and freeing up more space in the hangar for packing. We would like to say a big congratulations to Georgie Roles and Sandi Keith, who both passed their AFF Instructor ratings in September – they are already busy helping graduate a record number of students (25 in the last two months alone!). Cris Murphy has recently gained



Andy Hyman and John Lintern
exit the G92, by Lee Bennett



TeamE ntropy,
by Pete Hodges

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 Dan Wieringa, Stuart Clark, Wes Blampied, Heather Gibbons, Grant Revan, Rich Lock, Pippa Chalk, Gregory Chinembiri **CHI** Dan Wieringa, Stuart Clark **CH2** Jack James Marlow **JMI** Jack James Marlow **FS1** Jack James Marlow **FF1** Keira Sidford **WS1** D. Day, Iain Rutherford, Jonny Long **WS2** Stuart Stevens **CPI** Jack Bradford **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Elise Sharp **400** Keira Sidford, Martin Preston, Ian Rutherford **500** Paul Aubrey-Rees **600** Jack Bradford **1,000** Jason Legg **12 HOURS FREEFALL** Steve Dove, Jason Legg **72 HOURS FREEFALL** Geoff McVey

skydive.co.uk

SWINDON

skydivelondon.co.uk

Pete Wood, Lawrence Fansa and John Lintern, by Lee Bennett



his FS coaching rating and will be joining the *Beyond The Hedges* team for all those working towards their FS1 or who wish get some extra coaching in. It's been a busy year for the FS coaching team and, going on the number of AFF students getting their BPA A licences, it looks like it's going to get even more so.

Rumours abound of a new aircraft for the 2013 season – watch this space!

Sarah-Jane Meacock

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Kieran King, Paul Gardiner, Claire Davis, Paul Brewster, Viv Green, Tom Sain, Dan Marlos, Paul Davis, Steve Campbell, Ed Hewitt, Andy Thomas, Ole Fjelberg, Alistar McLeod, Adam Evans, Plotd Hababicki, Natalia Lewandowska, Keith Rivett, Florian Puget, Daniel Griffiths-Brown, Andrew Spillard, Simon Emmett, Paul Davis, Dan Parenti, George Greenstreet, Sean Field **CH2/JMI** John Hargreaves, Rachel Walker **FSI** Dusan Garaj, Dale Gallagher, John Hargreaves, Pav, Ryan Bunyan, Rodrigo Aubano, Gilmerize Muller **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 James Leslie 200 Gerrit Van Zyl 700 John Lintern 800 Lucy Maycock 6,000 Dave Luke

New recruits

2012 – it's been emotional. The British weather hasn't helped, but the Turbo Airvan HTFU has been perfect for our little DZ and, even with the crap weather, we are on target to beat last year's jump numbers. It has also helped with our AFF program, which mysteriously became busier once Brucie got his AFF rating, and we now have regulars who have both made the DZ an even better place and have embraced the Redlands ethos of 'it's all about looking good'. Dave Barge has finally realised that jumping out of a plane isn't difficult and is now on freefall with Dan Murphy. A Licences aplenty, the Red Angels have now been purchasing kit and I think Crazy deserves big thanks for helping here.

The baby boom has continued. Dunny (he used to help us out, was tall, bald and had big ears) has had his second, Rosie. Luke and Leonie have procreated again with Harris, and Pieter has brought Jedi skills with his son Liam. Mel and I have also just had a baby boy, Timo, who can only be described as 'special' and is definitely the cutest of the bunch. The theory is that the camera room is the route of fertility, so watch out Buncy!

Our annual Christmas do in February is also being organised by Em and Brucie. As usual, it will include a weekend away walking with a hangover, the Buca train, Jenga, an open fire, Dan Morgan being exceptional and Claire Briggs being drawn on while asleep. With the baby boom has come change – the man hug

over Redlands started the new wave, as Mike McNulty was selected as my replacement. A few people have since reported Mike smiling for no reason and we welcome his skills at Redlands. Well, all but Adam Duncan, whose spinning knows no bounds. Mark Benson has been working hard for his TBI, which he should have passed by now. Cookie, Ash, Booth and Fozzy never seem to get a mention so, gentlemen, here it is – we have no idea what you do, but thanks anyway.

With the year coming to an end, I would like to personally thank myself and Crazy who have kept Skydive London in tip top condition throughout the year while allowing Brucie to think it's all his work. For the eighth year running, I still won't get a trophy or a birthday card (but Ricky will, no doubt). Let's hope 2013 is equally as awesome.

Dylan Griffith-Jones

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Dave Barge, Dan Murphy **CAT8/CHI** Cassandra Carpani, Emma Tipton, Ross Walker, Tom Webster **FSI** Andrew Griggs **JUMP NUMBERS** 1,500 Luke Ingram 1,800 Chris Cox 2,300 Dylan Griffith-Jones 3,000 Mike McNulty



Timo Griffith-Jones looking cute, by Dylan Griffith-Jones

NETHERAVON

netheravon.com

A great excuse for a party...

After a great competition at Nationals, Netheravon-based Rookie 4-way FS team *Entropy* represented the UK at the European Skydiving League Finals in Belgium. This was the first time the team jumped together as the new *Entropy* line-up and the team placed sixth with a total of 77 points and a 7.7 average. Well done to Lauren McNerney, Madeleine Leong, Mark Andrews, Eoin Kerr and Peter Hodges (camera)! Bring on next season!

The main social event of autumn was by far and away the 50th Anniversary of the APA (a.k.a. the 'Golden' Ball). Over 200 guests attended and were treated to a champagne reception and a three-course dinner. The entertainment included a table magician, the golden stilt walker, the vodka luge, the photo booth, a cocktail waiter and a fantastic set from the skydiving world-renowned Grounded. Paul Blair's 'mini skirt' speech celebrated the achievements of the APA over the years – here's looking forward to the next 50! A massive thank you

goes to Ann Lewis, Elana Cain, Alana O'Sullivan, Liz Warner, Alex Wilson and Jo and Martha from Prestige Events for all the hard work they put in to making the evening such a huge success.

A big welcome to our new marketing manager, Ann Lewis! Ann will be putting her vast experience to good use, so stand by for lots of changes around the dropzone. Her initial focus will be on improving communications at levels within the club. Good luck Ann!

Planning for the 2013 season is in full swing. We will be continuing with the ambitious change programme, initially concentrating on dropzone efficiency with the aim of giving every type of jumper a better experience. We are also planning an exciting range of activities including night jumps, helicopters, balloons, load organising for all disciplines and levels and more fun competitions – keep an eye on



The APA's 50th anniversary ball



www.netheravon.com for details. We re-open following the Christmas break on January 12.

Finally, regulars may notice that the sky is a shade less colourful after Jack James Marlow got a new jump suit! The good news is that he didn't trade in the amazing technical dream coat and promises that it will still get the odd airing!

Madeleine Leong and Kath Salisbury



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Ian Flemming wingsuiting over Beccles, by Barrie Bremner

BECCELES ukparachuting.co.uk

Another year on the East Coast at UK Parachuting Beccles draws to a close and once again we have broken all our records; more club lifts, more tandems and more AFF!

The Beccles Scrambles Competition was held over the August bank holiday weekend as usual. There was a really good turnout, the weather was perfect and the standard was once again very high. Well done to winners Team N/A, who were Zuz Tillner, Sam Carter, Andy Parker and Terry Wilsoncroft. A big thank you to Steve Wickham, Tandem Master extraordinaire, for sponsoring the event and supplying the prizes which were awarded at the hangar party.

The Beccles Christmas Party and annual awards ceremony will be held on Saturday December 8 at the Wine Vaults, which is situated in the centre of Beccles. Dress code is smart but casual, but if you feel the need for fancy dress, that's fine! It's a 1930 start for drinks and complimentary food will be served from 2000 – tickets are not required. If you don't live locally, accommodation is available in the warm and cosy bunkhouse on the airfield for a very modest fee.

Thanks to all the club jumpers for turning up and supporting the club come rain or shine. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2013 for another action-packed year. Highlights for next year will include a BPA CF roadshow, at least one Billy Payn big-way weekend and a canopy handling course by one of the biggest names around. All dates have yet to be confirmed, but we will let you know as soon as they are.

Well, that only leaves me to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of Tomo and all the staff at UK Parachuting Beccles, and we hope to see you all again in 2013!

Michael Wemyss

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 Jason Ambrose, Kathy Ayling, Chris Hayes, Ollie Stilgoe, Will Strickland-Miller **CH2/JMI** Lewis Young **FSI** Sam Carter, James Page, Andy Parker, Josh Pickering **FF2** Michael Wemyss **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Jeremy Carter, Andrew McMillan, Lewis Young **200** Andy Parker, Terry Wilsoncroft **800** Vicky Scargill **1 HOUR FREEFALL** Lewis Young

TILSTOCK theparachutecentre.com

Fantastic student progression

The static line students have been doing really well recently, with Richard Scott qualifying Cat 8 and many successful first freefalls and first jumps taking place. We have also got quite a few students getting very close to their Cat 8 jumps, so hopefully by the time this goes to print they will have qualified – if the weather is kind!

Brothers Andy and Mike Pritchard jumped together to complete their 100th and 300th jumps respectively. Tom Rees completed his successful FS1 dive, which was a great achievement as Tom is a free flyer and he was wearing a FF suit. Well done guys.

Arthur O'Brien, who returned to jumping this year after a break of more than 30 years, completed a display from a Junkers 52 in July 1977 as a guest jumper with the Red Devils. The jump was logged but not signed and Arthur recently met up with Ian Marshall, who was also on the jump. Ian signed Arthur's logbook for him over 35 years after the jump – we think that may be a record!

We have been continuing with the Tilly tunnel trips, with both 4-way and one-on-one coaching. The trips have had a positive impact on all but especially on the students, who have been able to take what they have learned in the tunnel back to the sky.

Our CCI Buzz and wife Kat have a new addition to their family – Peter Ederrian Adventure Busby Hicks. Peter had us all very worried when he first arrived, as he spent the first 10 days of his life in the Neo-natal unit. When a nurse said to Buzz and Kat that 'he has had a bit of an adventure', Buzz replied 'Well, Adventure is his middle name, you know!' I'm very happy to report that Kat and Peter are both doing extremely well now.

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 Rob Arrowsmith, Mary Carbutt, Lauren Wood **CATB/CHI** Richard Scott **JMI/CH2** Lyndsey Berry **FSI** Lyndsey Berry, Steve Cooper (Big Scoop), Tom Rees **FF1** Tom Rees **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Richard Scott, Lyndsey Berry **100** Andy Pritchard **200** Caroline Vaughan **300** Mike Pritchard **5 HOURS FREEFALL** Tom Rees **37 YEARS SKYDIVING** Dave Major



1 Mary Carbutt after her first freefall with CCI Buzz. Photo by Simon Wilkinson

2 Lauren Wood with uncle Gareth Wood after her first freefall

3 Richard Scott celebrating after qualifying Cat 8 with Instructor Steve Cooper

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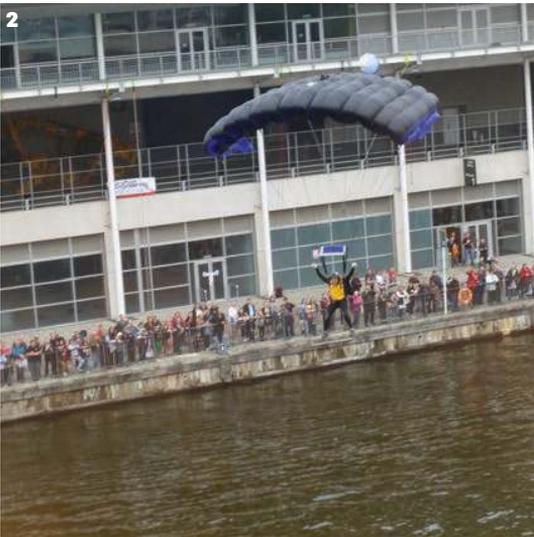
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ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Alek Onufrena, David Neale, Michael Russell **AFF GRADUATE** Colin Drewitt-Barlow, Ben Oliver, Michael Goldsmith, Danilo Marco **CAT B/CHI** Luke Warren, Isaac Gentle, Mark Price, Gordon McKenzie, James Vassallo, Dean Andrews, James Hawkes, Paul Huet, Chad Smith, Rob Franklin **JM1/CH2** Neil Cutt **FS1** Luke Warren **FF1** Michael Morton **WS1** Joe Laming **WS2** James Dodd **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Rob Mcilvenny **300** Si Beech **500** James Dodd, Joe Laming **1,000** Janos Leszko **3,000** Del Hopkins **8 HOURS FREEFALL** James Stancomb



- 1 Trigger and Si, by Jane Hopkins
- 2 Headcorn jumper landing in the Thames, by Del Hopkins
- 3 The Headcorn team at the World Rescue Challenge, by Jane Hopkins
- 4 The Headcorn contingent at the Sibson Nationals, by Simon Brentford

Flying, jumping, swimming, partying

There is no avoiding the fact that winter is creeping up on us – temperatures have taken a tumble recently. However, things are looking good at Headcorn, with no noticeable drop in the pace of jumping and partying, and the only shame is the shortage of daylight hours to fit the jumping part in!

Welcome back to Alex Fixsen, who has returned briefly to fly the shiny new Caravan after the recent pilot crisis. We now have our new Caravan in action with parachuting mods, including a camera step and a faster climb rate than the old one. G-GOHI is officially here to stay – awesome! Even Jane has been seen flying it recently (and very professionally too).

There has been lots of progression and many A licences awarded, with a good mix of AFF and Category System students. Luke Sole has left to complete a Diploma in Skydiving in New Zealand – good luck to him. Sam Laming has recently become a Wingsuit Coach and is hoping to encourage newcomers into the



growing flock. Janos and Adam have moved seamlessly into their new roles as Tandem Instructors, performing like veterans for the lucky students they have been taking on. Great job, guys! Del completed jump 3,000 and is going to get the prize for doing the most jumps at Headcorn this year. You really can't keep this man down (unless it's head down). Just a pity most of them are tandems...

Jo, our glamorous receptionist, has been back flying at MK and will be working on site in the near future. Could Jo be another addition to our free flying crew? Maybe not – by her own admission, Jo is going to be a tunnel girl. Some girl-on-girl freefly action has been going on with Nicole, Holly and Jane – no boys allowed, and thank God for Go Pros...

The demo team completed a successful water jump into London's Docks at the Excel Centre

in October, to loud applause from many thrilled spectators. This was part of the World Rescue Challenge, so they were swiftly dragged out by hunky members of London Fire Brigade!

Headcorn is proud to have Pete Sizer, Janos Leszko, and Richard Bissett attending the world meet in Dubai to compete in Accuracy. Two weeks in the sun while we brave the freezing UK skies? Hard life, guys!

The annual Christmas party is on the calendar for December 1 at Chart Hills Golf Club, so the usual carnage is expected. We Headcorn skydivers fit in so well there...

As always, we look forward to welcoming lots of new and old faces all through the winter. Come see us soon!

Si Beech

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Learning to fly (and swim)

Progression has got a new meaning here at Peterlee! First of all, we welcome back all the university students from Newcastle, Northumbria, Durham and Teesside, who have done extremely well in their Freshers' weeks. They have completed numerous ground trainings and are now seeing the majority of their students jumping. New Category System students will also be pleased with the news that the Grand Caravan went off for a service the other day and came back with a static line strong point attached, for those rare occasions when our 182 is away.

Congratulations to Simon Minto and Craig Hicks, who both completed their wingsuit first flight course and their first wingsuit jumps earlier this month.

We welcome 'The AFF School' onto our dropzone. This is a new AFF schooling set-up by Brian Dyas. Newly qualified AFFIs include Ewan Cowie and Darren Rose. Tom Fletcher, Lee Elliot and Nick Brown are also looking to get their AFFI ratings soon. Congratulations go to Tom Fletcher, who went off abroad and achieved his USPA Instructors rating.

Train exit, by Tom Derbyshire



PETERLEE

skydiveacademy.org.uk

Speaking of abroad, Tom Derbyshire, Emma Scrivener, Oli Clark, Martin Mansfield, Charles Adams and Lee and Jade Elliot took to warmer climates in Empuriabrava. Charles Adams managed his 100th jump, Jade Elliot her 500th and the rest just had some awesome fun. Oli and Martin ended up swimming naked in a pool at some obscene hour and Rob Frater, a friend of theirs from the university, came along and did his first tandem! Emma got treated to the hospitality of ex-Peterlee superstar Regan Tetlow with some fantastic FS jumps and, to top it all off, they hired a boat – which

subsequently broke down and had to be subjected to emergency DIY before returning to safety! Roll on the next trip...

The BPA FS Roadshow went ahead on October 20-21, attended by 20 jumpers and good weather! Lots of jumping and a good time was had by everyone. Many thanks to Paul and Audrey Rowe and Jeremy Price.

Oliver Hudson

JERSEY

skydivejersey.net



Life above the ocean wave

Locals made the most of the increased altitude when Jersey hosted our Turbine Boogie during August. Fine weather allowed jumping most days and a large charity event in aid of 'Hope for John' was a great success. Stuart fine-tuned his video skills to be included on the camera team and passed 600 descents. Wingsuits and tube jumps were dusted off for some prime Island skydiving. Our Friday night out-rocked 'Chambers' and finished off a great week.

Guernsey once again appreciated our annual visit – we made a weekend of it in September and took the operation over on the ferry. Charity tandems were plentiful, although we were once again hampered by inclement weather. We did collect some great photos from the event.

With the purchase of the club's own aircraft this year, Skydive Jersey has been able to operate into the winter when weather permits.



Congratulations to Dale Curtin, who qualified as a BPA pilot in August and is loving the challenges jump flying can bring. Other Aeroclub members are also in training for next year.

We have retired the old inflatable safety boat, which was replaced by a new hard boat on loan from Joe, who spent a morning power washing and polishing the ship back to an as-new condition.

A traditional Christmas dinner on Saturday December 15 will round off an eventful year for the smallest DZ in GB. Thanks to everyone who once again pulled together to make it all possible! See you next year.

View more pictures at facebook.com/skydivejersey and look out for next year's schedule for 2013, when we shall be celebrating 10 years of the most recent operation from 2003 to 2013.

Mally Richardson

Beni Mellal

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Under French Skydiving Federation
BPA and USPA members welcomed

© photos : Yohan Rousseau



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10000ft	18-20	28-31
12000ft	22-24	35-38
14000ft	27-29	43-47

WILD GEESE

skydivewildgeese.com

Going wild in style

The recent spells of reasonable weekend weather have allowed some excellent progress over the skies of Garvagh. Some of our recent FS1 qualifiers joined in with some group dives – the pack consisted of David Dornan, Michael Telford and Ciaran Walsh, with Mark 'Chainsaw' McGarvey and Aaron 'What credit crunch?' Cosby bringing up the rear in case any of the sheep strayed from the flock.

The tandems have been abundant and several RAPS courses have provided us with a plethora of eager students giving it their all from the Cessna 206. It's great to see them making steady progress, especially Anthony Newman and Ewan Brand, who completed their first freefalls – well done guys, keep it up!

Big thumbs up and a hearty slap on the back go to David Scott, who celebrated his 500th jump. Unselfish to a fault, David was on video duty for a tandem student for this jump – unfortunately no tea and medals on this occasion (we'll save those for his 1,000th).

The display team were also in fine fettle this summer, successfully completing their commitments in flamboyant style. As usual, the gathered hordes strained their view skywards to catch a glimpse of the little black dots leaving the aircraft and were rewarded with the most excellent display by our very competent team. Superb job by the whole team – well done!

By sheer coincidence, Wild Geese Instructors Sean and Rod both completed their 2,000th descents on the same day and at almost



Exit over Peterlee, by Simon Minto

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Ewan Brand, Anthony Newman **FS1** Aaron Cosby, David Dornan, Mark McGarvey, Michael Telford, Ciaran Walsh **JUMP NUMBERS 500** David Scott **2,000** Rod McCrory, Sean McKenna

exactly the same time. One was on duty at Wild Geese and the other was testing Dunkswell's new swoop pond.

Several dropzones further afield than Wild Geese got the pleasure of Wild Geese jumpers, with Phil and Sandra heading south and Aaron Cosby getting some swoop coaching at Skydive Spaceland in Texas while I got to test the swoop pond at skydive99 in Dunkswell and even popped into Peterlee for a quick guest appearance.

A couple of final notes – a MEGA 'bon voyage' to Ciaran Walsh, who has flown the nest by taking up a job at a well-known DZ in Espanã. Good luck young Ciaran – don't lock yer door and keep yer fridge fully equipped, you WILL be visited! Also, big thanks to Simon Finlay, who has stepped in and assisted with the Mag while I've been off swoopin'.

Blue Skies

Simon Finlay and Rod McCrory

By Tony Danbury



LANGAR

skydivelangar.co.uk

What a real Boogie looks like

This year's Boogie 2 was one of the best we've had in ages! Loads of jumpers, lots of organisers, all sorts of skydiving and plenty of aircraft – marvellous! With a Beech 99 and three Grand Caravans on hand (plus a helicopter midweek), we couldn't go far wrong.

Organisers Dave Lewis and Milko provided great dives from anything up to four aircraft flying in formation. The pilots did a fantastic job, keeping the formations so tight – we couldn't have been any closer if we used a single huge aircraft. Umpteen more flat-fly groups of all sizes were kept in the air by Will Cooke, Sarah Cannon, Billy Payn, Victoria Bradley and Siân Stokes, along with numerous other coaches and small-group organisers. Lots of jumpers self-organised too. Tanya Harrington took on some of the less experienced flat-flyers and, while they might not have managed big-ways, she made sure they got the full Boogie experience.

Rob Antalocy joined us from the States to provide freely coaching and organising, and wowed the freeflyers with his detailed pre-dive briefings and even more detailed video debriefs. James Davies, Chris Stewart and Martin Hopkins along with all the Bullet Freefly Coaches did a sterling job with all manner of freeflying. Weekday Boogie jumping was quieter, but Brian Vacher's Flight One Canopy Course filled plenty of loads and provided some great tuition as always – it's well worth getting yourself on one of Brian's courses. I'm bound to have missed people out, as there were just too many involved to list all those whose contribution turned it into a great Boogie.

We're a seven-day-a-week operation all through winter (except for Christmas Day itself – they force us to have one day off) so, if your local DZ has left you out in the cold, come and join us over the holiday period. You can even get your first jump of 2013 in on New Year's Day! Check out what we've got going on at facebook.com/skydivelangar

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Benjamin White, Jacon Cook **GRADUATED AFF** Luke Hudson **CAT 8/CH1** Alan Cowie **JMI** Dave Allen, Sion Roberts, Jonny Castell, Martin Hammond **CH2** Dave Allen, Sion Roberts, Jonny Castell, Martin Hammond **FS1** Daniel Gottlieb, Gabriella Gottlieb, Nev Fox, Rebecca Casheard, Rebecca Mansfield, Andreas Amann, Luke Warren, Sally Hearson, Jonathan Charles, Neil Denbow **FF1** Sion Roberts, Lucy Westgarth, Suzi Scott, Mike Martin, Craig Stock, Keira Sidford, John Foulkes-Williams **FF2** Darren Chaney, Mike Wemyss **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Daniel Gottlieb, Gabriella Gottlieb, Jonathan Charles, Ciara Norman, Graham Fraser, Lucy Carroll **100** Matthew Flint, Dave Allen, Lucy Westgarth, Bryan Buswell **200** Sion Roberts, Gerard Vejrych, Jonny Castell, Paul Willcock **400** Darren Chaney, Maddy Heath Kelly **500** Jon Rivers, Jonny Francis, Robbie Basak **600** Simon Donnelly, Emma Pilkington **700** James Pritchard, Nick Robinson **900** Wes Guest, Rich Minns, Terry Robertson **1,000** Charlie Smart **1,500** Siân Stokes **1 HOUR FREEFALL** Lucy Westgarth, Jonathan Charles, Luke Thatcher, Roy Wimmer, Ben Mitchell **24 HOURS FREEFALL** Dan Williams, Siân Stokes **96 HOURS FREEFALL** Al Hodgson

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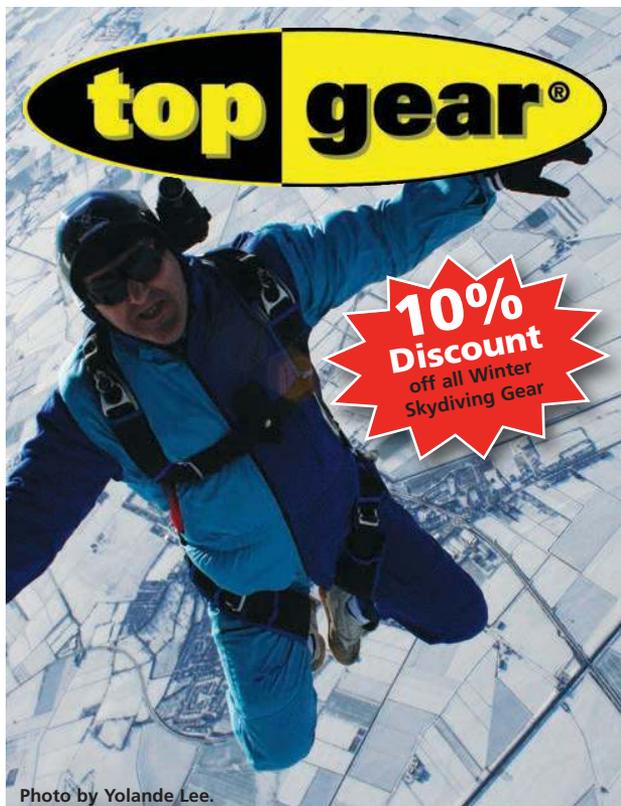


Photo by Yolande Lee.

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CYPRES 2 model change for free

November

November 28-December 9

U FAI World Parachuting Championships and 2012 Mondial

Location: **Dubai, UAE** · fai.org

December

December 1

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Headcorn** · headcorn.com

December 5-9

U POPS World Record Attempt

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

December 8

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Beccles** · ukparachuting.co.uk

December 8

B/F Xmas Party

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

December 8

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

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

December 15

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Chatteris** · ukskydiving.com

December 15

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

December 15

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Hinton** · skydive.co.uk

December 15

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Jersey** · skydivejersey.net

December 16

B/F Xmas Party

Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

CYPRES 2 Made in Germany

December 22-January 6

B/F Empuria Christmas Boogie

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

December 26-27

A WWRW 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 BPA AGM 2013

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

February

February 2-3

B/F Hot Air Balloon Jumps Weekend

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

February 16-17

B/F BCPA Indoors

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

March

March 8-10

B/F BCPA Hibaldstow

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

March 25-29

U PIA Symposium

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

April

April 6-7

B/F Helicopter jumps

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 6-12

FS 2-point 222-way with BJ Worth

Location: **Eloy, Arizona**

April 13-14

BPA BPA Safety and Canopy Skills Coaching Roadshow

Location: **Langar** · bpa.org.uk

April 20-21

B/F Load organising

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

CYPRES 2 highest reliability

May

May 2-7

B/F Langar Boogie

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

May 3-6

B/F BCPA Netheravon

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

May 11-12

FS FS UKSL

Location: **TBC**

May 24-27

B/F BCPA Cark

Location: **Cark** · bcpa.org.uk

June

June 8

B/F Fall for the Fallen – Next World Record Tandem Day

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 8-9

FS FS UKSL

Location: **TBC**

June 21-23

B/F BCPA Big-way

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

July

July 10-14

B/F BCPA Nationals

Location: **Sibson** · bcpa.org.uk

July 13-14

FS FS UKSL

Location: **TBC**

August

August 24-26

FS FS 4-way and **A** VFS Nationals

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

August 31 - September 2

FS FS 8-way and **A** Artistics Nationals **FS** FS 4-way and **A** VFS Nationals Reserve

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

September

September 7-9

FS FS 8-way and **A** Artistics Nationals Reserve

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

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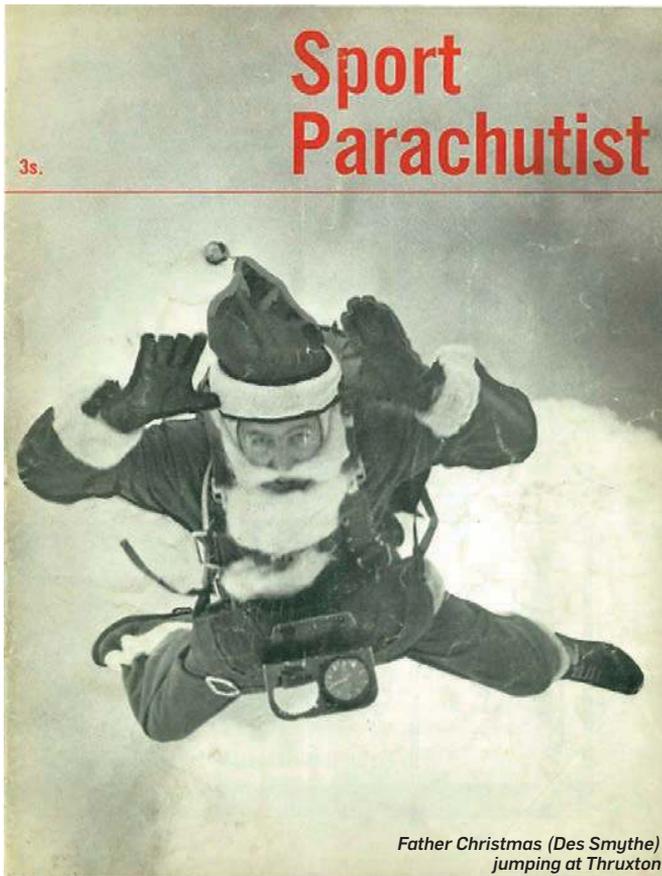
Skydiving Santa

As if jumping in the '60s wasn't crazy enough, try doing it in a Santa suit!



Getting ready in the aircraft on the run in

A very scary image of Des Smythe jumping at Thruxton from the Christmas 1965 issue. Not only would he scare the children, but it looks like his hat has been drawn on! Compare it with the second photo of him in the aircraft. Perhaps his hat blew off in freefall, resulting in some artistic licence... "Don't worry about doing it again if the Santa suit's a bit itchy Des, we can draw the hat back on..."



Father Christmas (Des Smythe) jumping at Thruxton

Time Travellers' Update

It's been a great year working on the BPA Archive, although not much has been visible above the waterline so far. This year has been all about making contacts, gathering and processing information and examining the options for delivery to you the members. A notable exception is the progress made with digitising the entire back collection of BPA magazines. The first challenge was to create a definitive list of all the editions. This sounds easy, but the annotation often went astray in the early days and the annual number and regularity of issues could be very inconsistent. At least two issues have no identifying information whatsoever – what we now know to be the last edition of 1970 has no date, numbering or acknowledged editor and is referenced as the edition with 'An 8-way on the front cover and the 1970 Nationals Report on page 9!' The next hurdle was to assemble a complete set of magazines – no easy task – but this was achieved with the help of a small band of generous individuals donating or loaning copies. It was then time to select a scanning supplier who could meet our quality and cost criteria. All of the privately owned editions on loan were delivered and returned by hand, checked in and out and carefully scanned 'on the glass' with no disassembly. The scanning is now complete and, by the time you read this, all quality control will have been carried out.

The Magazine Collection is viewed as one of the cornerstones of the BPA Archive and forms a substantial reference tool in its own right. Our key task in 2013 will be to make this available online. The collection will then form part of the wider online BPA Archive as this is developed. We have also started digitising historical video to save this from age-related deterioration, with some excellent results. In parallel, we will continue to capture and process as much information as possible and this will be an open-ended task. We'd like to thank all BPA members past and present who have generously contributed time and material so far. If you'd like to get involved, please contact the Archivists, Graham Spicer and Andrew Hilton, as we'd be delighted to hear from you.

archive@bpa.org.uk



The SportP arachutist magazine formerly known as 'An 8-way on the front cover and the 1970 Nationals Report on page 9'

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The Ghost of Christmas Shopping Past...

One of the many interesting aspects of the Magazine Collection is the opportunity it affords for comparisons between "then and now". This can apply to almost any aspect of the sport: DZs, aircraft, parachutes, clothing, training, licence requirements, jump prices and, of course, the BPA itself and the membership. In respect of the latter, two items spring to mind in the festive season: the BPA Shop for those last-minute gifts (possibly for oneself if desperate) and the Annual Raffle.

BPA Shop	
The following items are available to members of the Association only, and can be obtained from the British Parachute Association Office.	
	£ s. d.
Hand embroidered Blazer Badge in gold and silver wire	3 10 0
Overall Badge, silk B.P.A. Emblem	16 0
Overall Badge, woven B.P.A. Emblem	10 0
B.P.A. Emblem Tie	1 0 0
B.P.A. Lapel Badge	6 6
Car Badge, Enamel and Chromium plate	2 5 0
B.P.A. Car Transfers	1 6
University type B.P.A. Coloured Scarf	1 15 0
Tankard with B.P.A. Badge or alternative item	1 14 6
Ashtray with B.P.A. Badge or alternative item	1 2 6 (Large) 15 0 (Medium)
Your name engraved on the above — additional amount	7 6
Pendant on leather thong with free fall figure	8 6
Breakfast cup, saucer and plate	2 12 0
Parachutist engraved on each. Overseas postage of 5s.	
Parachutist Log Book	17 6
Parachute Log Cards (Orders of under 12 will be charged at 6d. each card plus 4d. post) per dozen	5 0
'Parachuting for Sport' by J. Greenwood	15 6
Silver Charm — Open parachute design — for bracelets	11 6
Silver Charm—Gift dipped	13 6
Parachutist Document Folder	10 0
<i>Note: Overseas members should add postage, sea or air mail, as required.</i>	

Compared with the sophisticated lines of skydiving merchandise currently available online from the BPA Shop, the early retail offerings reflect nostalgically on the social conventions of the period. A car badge from the 1960s in enamel and chromium plate, available for the princely sum of £2 5s 0d, conjures up evocative images of sports cars in British Racing Green. Also on offer from the same period, a 'University type B.P.A. Coloured Scarf' is a bargain at £1 15s 0d. This was just the job if one was a university type, but was probably viewed as a little outré by the average jumper back then. Another item with echoes of a bygone era, given the rise in popularity of the cereal bar and smoothie, is the 'Breakfast cup, saucer and plate', engraved with a parachutist, for only £2 12s 0d. Only available as a set of three, one always seemed to break the saucer first, thereby diminishing one's breakfast experience by having to balance the teacup on the plate. Possibly the item reflecting the greatest social change in the last 50 years is the BPA ashtray. This was available in two sizes, medium and large, priced at 15s 0d and £1 2s 6d respectively. For the additional sum of 7s 6d, one could also have one's name engraved on the ashtray.

Annual Raffle - 1970

List of prize winners drawn at the Annual General Meeting in the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, on 10 January, 1970.

Name	Ticket No.	Prize
Mr R. V. Woodroffe	28954	Holiday for two in Majorca
P. Plumb	19250	Parachuting helmet
R. Ring	11663	Brandy
C. Briggs	33611	Sherry
Pte McGrath	26398	Gin
L/Cpl Hughes	10063	Wine
Wendy Rose	23880	Martini
Miss A. Roberts	14199	Beer
M. G. Bushell	21474	Brief case
M. G. Bushell	21475	Scarf
J. Baker	38617	Two parachuting books
G. Gorton	16505	Travel case
G. J. Oldbury	13044	Shopper
D. McCue	23333	Kitchen clock
L/Cpl Peers	07932	Toaster
Miss M. Hanlon	38479	BPA Blazer badge
J. Blackmore	16597	BPA Overall badge
E. H. Houston	37569	Parachuting book
J. Fairweather	35624	BPA Car badge
Mr E. V. Harman	26187	BPA tie
Mrs P. Hassall	30736	Chocolates
S. Booth	00813	Chocolates
Miss B. Clegg	04729	Whisky
Mr P. Davies	25986	Travel clock
R. Grandine	01559	Jump suit

Moving on to the BPA Annual Raffle in 1970, the top prize was a holiday for two in Majorca. Of course, not all prize-winners were so fortunate. One can only imagine the feelings of L/Cpl Peers upon winning the toaster, particularly when Miss A. Roberts received 'Beer'.

It wasn't all beer and skittles in the 1960s either, as the prizes included a ladies' purse (history does not record whether L/Cpl Peers was also lucky on this occasion), ashtrays (of unknown dimensions) and even a 'Squirrel' filing cabinet – just the thing for keeping one's squirrels in. An unusual prize, but possibly the BPA Office had ordered one too many and somebody came up with a cunning plan. On the positive side, not only was an Irvin Para-Wing on offer, the lucky runner-up received a gallon of whisky – a prize to gladden the heart of the lucky recipient, but probably not for very long if consumed all at once.

BPA Annual Raffle

First Prize:

IRVIN PARA-WING

Second Prize:

1 Gallon Grants Standfast Whisky

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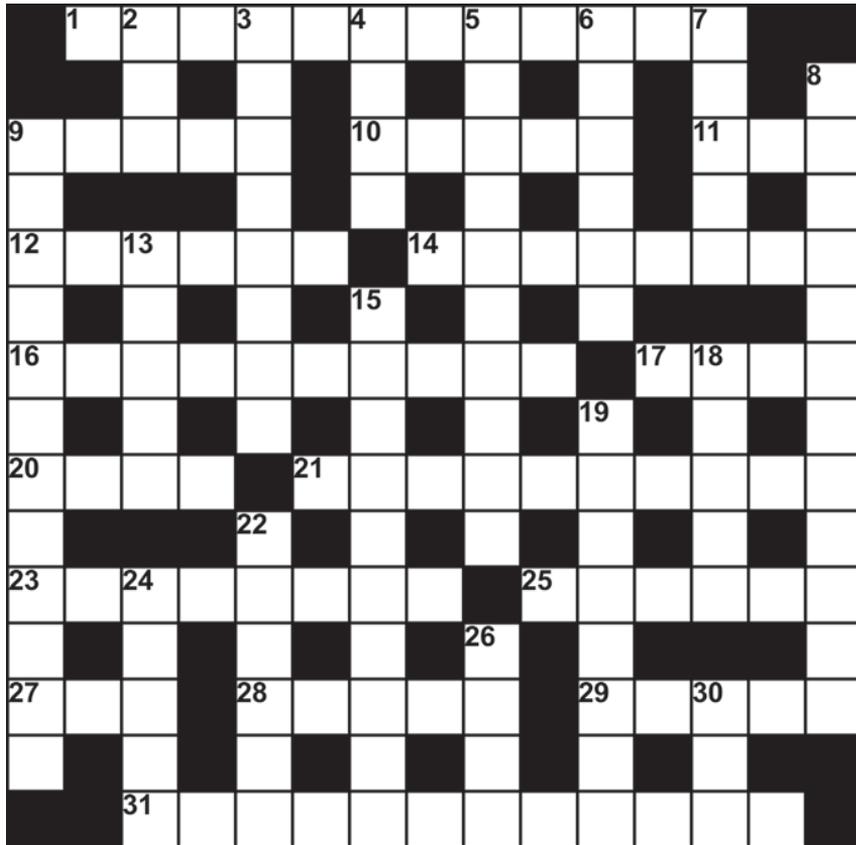
Other prizes include:

- Books
- Ties
- Safety Helmets
- Booze
- Tankard
- Ash Trays
- Ladies' purse
- Brief Case (leather)
- Roneo Squirrel Filing Cabinet

PUZZLE



Paul Boorer



Across

- 1. Spanish dropzone
- 9. Zero, nothing
- 10. Distinctive elegance or style
- 11. Vain man
- 12. Proportions
- 14. Conclusion or judgment
- 16. Beginner's jumping manoeuvre (6,4)
- 17. Indication
- 20. The possibility of suffering harm
- 21. Levels of progression
- 23. Very, very high flyer
- 25. PdeF reserve canopy
- 27. Parachute equipment certification (acronym)
- 28. Stupid person
- 29. Break-off manoeuvre
- 31. Type of canopy collision

Down

- 2. Canopy problem (abbrev.)
- 3. Released or unfastened
- 4. Doubtful
- 5. Parachute controls (5,5)
- 6. Scared
- 7. Instructor (initials)
- 8. Deployment force (7,5)
- 9. Airtightness, of a material (4,8)
- 13. Identical people
- 15. Division or parting
- 18. From Erin
- 19. Mass times velocity = ?
- 22. Discriminating by gender
- 24. On high, overhead
- 26. Aircraft for limited runways (abbrev.)
- 30. The bristles on an ear of wheat

CARTOON



Across
 1. Empurbrava 9. Zlich 10. Flair 11. Fop 12. Ratos 14. Decision 16. Poised exit 17. Sign
 20. Risk 21. Categories 23. Spaceman 25. Techno 27. TSO 28. Idiot 29. Track 31. Entanglement

Down
 2. Mal 3. Unhooked 4. Itfy 5. Brake lines 6. Aftaid 7. AFFBI 8. Opening shock 9. Zero porosity
 13. Twins 15. Separation 18. Irish 19. Momentum 22. Sexist 24. Above 26. STOL 30. Awn

KYDIVES SPEED ELEGANCE POWER BEAUTY BETTER



Photos by Rémy Grandcler, Aerodyne Deep Blue Defenders cameraman / photographer

Perrine

Laurence

Amelie

Stéphanie

AERODYNE
DEEP
BLUE
DEFENDERS

Pilot

ICON

Smart
Aerodyne Research RESERVE

BETTER GEAR BETTER VALUE BETTER SKYDIVES

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