



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com

October 2013

skyDIVE

the mag



INSIDE: 4-WAY, 8-WAY, FREEFLY, FREESTYLE AND SPEED NATIONALS NEW UK HEAD DOWN RECORD FS AND ARTISTICS WORLD CUP TRIBUTE TO MARK SUTTON HIGHLIGHTS FROM ESL WORLD GAMES IN CANOPY PILOTING PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

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You might have been wondering where your October Mag had gotten to, as each issue usually arrives at the start of the month. However, the timing of the World Cup in August led to our Nationals dates being a few weeks later than normal and other late-summer events like the UK head down record also took place a little later in the season. We decided it was better to bring you full reports of everything by delaying publication a couple of weeks rather than print on time and make you wait until December to hear about the later events. I hope it's been worth the wait.



That said, there was still far too much to fit in one Mag! This issue contains all the biggest events, but there is still plenty left to tell you about next time – Nationals in CP, Accuracy, CF and 8-way Speed, the new freefly Eurorecord 96-way and multiple world records in FS sequential, not to mention more great educational articles. Forget about October, December is nearly full already!

Thank you to the many people who filled in our online survey. We are just putting together a detailed analysis, but I was delighted to see the headline statistics telling me that you love the Mag. As a teacher in my 'day job', I really do value good constructive feedback and there are now dozens of pages of thoughtful comments for me to read. I'll take the time to go through every single one of them.

Liz Ashley



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RECOGNISED BY





Cover and Welcome: The Red Devils fly on 1,800 sq ft Union Flag under a 4-way CF diamond. Usually when they fly a flag, all four canopies are Lightning 176s, but usually the flag would only be 200 sq ft! On this jump, the bottom canopy was a Triathlon 260 to carry the extra weight. Cover photograph by L/Cpl Lee Crudgington, Welcome by Gary Wainwright.

Contents: Photographer Ewan Cowie docks on Ally Milne on their way to the new UK head down record 30-way

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 WHICH CASE THEY WERE TAKEN ABROAD. IN THE UK
 IT IS MANDATORY TO WEAR A HELMET AND ALTI FOR
 OBVIOUS SAFETY REASONS. STUDENTS WITHIN
 THE MAG ARE COMPLYING WITH BPA REGULATIONS.

SKYDIVING TRAINING AND SYSTEMS VARY IN DIFFERENT
 COUNTRIES. IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING TAKING A
 SKYDIVING COURSE OR QUALIFICATION ABROAD, WE
 RECOMMEND YOU FIRST ESTABLISH ITS RELEVANCE IN
 THE UK, THROUGH YOUR CCI.

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
December 2013	October 22	November 28
February 2014	January 02	February 18
April 2014	February 25	April 17
June 2014	April 22	June 04

Nationals around the world

The 4-way Nationals at Hibaldstow saw a turnout of 72 FS teams in 2013. This is the biggest turnout of any country worldwide this year – even the USPA Nationals were smaller with 70 teams. We, however, have all four categories, from Rookie to AAA, where they have just three: AA, AAA Amateur and AAA Pro. *Arizona Airspeed* are their Pro winners yet again with a whopping 25.5 average. But the similarities between our countries are greater than the differences, as you needed an 18 average to get into their Pro top seven and a 16 average to get into ours. A 14.5 got you in the USPA top 10, while 14.3 got you into ours – proving that it's not just a numbers game as we have the quality as well as the quantity.

Also, congratulations to Brit team *Cirrus*, who travelled to the Irish Nationals in July and won the Single A category. In a 'tit for tat' move, well done to Irish team *Fly Wild*, who came to our Nationals and did exactly the same in Rookie!

Satori try-outs

Julia Foxwell of National Champion 4-way team *Satori* will soon be holding tunnel try-outs for *Satori Academy* teams for 2014. If you are interested, then register via the team website – which also has more information about the project. Even if you can't make the dates but are still interested in trying out, contact Jules anyway.

Dates and locations are:

October 19 – Basingstoke
November 9 – ManKix
December 5 – Bedford
January 8 – Bedford

teamsatori.co.uk



By Willy Boeykens

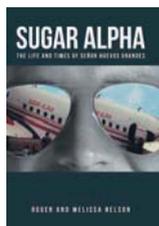
BUTTERFLY BIG-WAY

So close! Seventy *Brit Chicks* came within a flutter of building a complete butterfly big-way over Langar on September 14. Four days of warm-up jumps had been promising, with all parts of the complex formation practised – the body, wings and even the antennae! The aim was

for a safe event with the ultimate goal of beating the 68-way UK female record set in 2007. Sadly, a poor weather forecast meant that only four attempts at the full 70-way were possible. The picture may look beautiful but, if you look closely, there are four grips missing – so don't look closely!

SUGAR ALPHA BOOK REVIEW

Pete Stone D3697



"Hello, welcome to Skydive Chicago. I'm Roger, pleased to meet you, I am one of the instructors here". These were the words Roger Nelson would invariably use when greeting newcomers to his dropzone.

No mention of being the boss or dropzone owner, or any mention of his shady past which involved drug smuggling and four and a half years in prison for not paying income tax on his ill-gotten gains. Roger was a very charismatic character, loved by most and hated by a few, but always someone to leave a lasting impression on whoever he met.

Sugar Alpha subtitled 'The Life And Times Of Señor Huevos Grandes' is the story of some of the most exciting of his experiences in smuggling marijuana into the USA from the Caribbean and particularly from Belize. 'Sugar Alpha' is a Douglas DC3 Dakota registration N85SA. Roger sadly died in a skydiving landing collision in 2003, but Melissa Nelson, Roger's skydiver daughter, has written this book from extensive notes left by Roger and has just rounded the story out with dialogue, researching additional background information where necessary. *Sugar Alpha* is not the whole story

of Roger's smuggling adventures or time locked up, but in Melissa's foreword to the book she suggests that his other adventures, the later years after *Sugar Alpha*, will be told in a book to be called *Charlie Bravo*. We'll have to wait and see.

Roger decides that he will make one last smuggling run, bringing a full DC3 load of marijuana from Belize into the USA. This will be his retirement run, the last one – then he will concentrate on his passion for skydiving and running a dropzone. The plan is audacious: landing *Sugar Alpha* on a straight stretch of road in the Belizean jungle, loading it with cargo then getting away as quickly as possible. Drug smuggling is illegal and immoral, but there is much more to the problem and third world poverty is a factor. This book provides a fascinating if limited insight to some of these issues.

When did all this happen? There is no date or time given in the book, but the early 1980s would be most likely. The only faults with the book are that some of the spoken dialogue does not quite seem to fit with the 1980s and this excellent book suffers from having seemed to miss the eagle eyes of a good proofreader. Do not be put off – it's a good read.

Sugar Alpha is a fascinating insight into the adrenaline-charged adventures that appeal to the sort of people who ride fast motorcycles, hang off mountains, scuba dive flooded caves and skydive. If you are a skydiver, a pilot or a drug smuggler, you need to read this book. If you are none of these, you will still enjoy the adventures – some of which are stranger than fiction but all of which are true.



By Tom Naef

Euro head down record

Fresh from the UK head down record 30-way (see page 42), some of our Brit freeflyers travelled to Empuria in Spain where they joined an army of freefly ninjas all aiming to break the Euro record. Initial attempts at a 108-way were proving unsuccessful, so the decision was made to go smaller before building back up again. A beautiful new 96-way record was set, and a full report will follow in the next Mag.

By Bruno Brokken



World Record Sequential

“On and on, like a broken record” – so goes the saying. Well, in this case, Patrick Passe’s group including approximately 20 per cent Brits just went

By Barrie Bremner



Beccles record breakers

Last Mag, we reported on the Guinness record that the *Pilgrims* at Nethers had broken, by completing 177 tandems in one day in June. Well, Beccles set out to break that record, and did so when they completed 194 on September 28. The photo shows tandem instructor Steve Wilkins doing the 18th tandem of the day.

on and on, breaking more and more world records! Four consecutive jumps over Empuria heralded a two-point 106-way, followed by three, four and then five points of 106-way! Could this be a new record for the most skydiving records broken in one day? A two-point 108-way was planned for the next jump with a complete break between formations (yes, you read that right!), but unfortunately didn’t quite come off. Full report to follow next issue.



By Andrey Veselov

Russian records

Those Russian chicks just keep on breaking their own record! In 2012, they set a European female record 88-way, and in July 2013 they bettered this with an all-girl 101-way over Kolomna DZ near Moscow. The formation was a red, blue and white flower, nicknamed the ‘Pearls of Russia’. The record was dedicated to the memory of Irina Sinitsina, who had led all of the women’s record attempts from 2008 to 2012. Her dream was to set a 102-way record in 2013, so the girls built a 101-way in tribute to her memory. The record was achieved on the sixth attempt from 5,400m (17,700ft) and was held for seven seconds.

The big-way bug had well and truly bitten after this, and in the following weeks Russia achieved several sequential Open records – a two-point 60-way, then a two-point 82-way and finally a two-point 101-way!

MARS cash

No, not the AAD – the chocolate company! The MARS Milk Fund has been giving away five cash awards per week, as publicised in the Mag earlier in 2013. It was set up to help individuals, clubs and groups to try something new or simply to spend more time playing their favourite sport or hobby. Congratulations to 4-way team *Entropy*, who have been awarded £300 to spend on training.

marsmilk.com

Women’s World Record (and men too!)

The current female world record 181-way has stood since 2005, so it’s definitely time to set a new one. Plans are in place to break the 200 barrier on October 12-18 2014 at Perris, California. There will also be an unofficial men’s world record taking place over the same dates. Registration will open soon at p3.com

Famous Jackie!

Congratulations to Jackie Smith, who has now been inducted into the American Skydiving Hall of Fame. Jackie attended a formal ceremony in Chicago in September where she was presented with her certificate. See June News Zone p8 for the lowdown on Jackie’s many achievements. There are far too many of them to list here but, if you needed one skydiving term to sum up her whole jumping career, it would surely be ‘VGATW’!

New UK Head UP record!

Congratulations to the eight freeflyers who set a new UK record at Hibaldstow on September 28 by linking up in sit. A 12-way was attempted and built to 11 for an unofficial record, but to count officially the jump has to be completed as planned. The 8-way was a 4-way round with two pairs of stingers.

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**WIN
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By Cliffy

CAPTION COMPETITION – WIN A SOLO AUDIBLE ALTI!

Win a SOLO audible altimeter, courtesy of The Jump Shop! To enter the competition, just send your caption to compzone@skydivethemag.com and include your name and phone number so we can let you know if you've won! The closing date for entries will be **November 06 2013**

AUGUST'S WINNER



"I've never seen it before, but apparently that yellow circle on the Met Office website means we can go jumping!"

Jon Payne



INSIDE: 4-WAY, 8-WAY, FREELY, FREESTYLE AND SPEED NATIONALS NEW UK HEAD DOWN RECORD FS AND ARTISTIC WORLD CUP TRIBUTE TO MARK SUTTON HIGHLIGHTS FROM ESL WORLD GAMES IN CANOPY PILOTING PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

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BPA MEMBERS' FREE APP ACCESS

To access either version of the App free of charge, simply give the BPA members-only login details when prompted. They can be found in the BPA e-Newsletter or on the carrier sheet that came in the post with this mag!

ARCHIVE

BPA members can also access the Archive of *Skydive The Mag* back issues via the *Skydive The Mag* website at skydivethemag.com. The

Starter Mag is absolutely free to access in the dedicated Starter section, and regular issues can be accessed free of charge using the same BPA members' login details as the App.

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BPA members get *Skydive The Mag* free as part of their membership. Also, if you take out a magazine subscription and subsequently join the BPA as a full member, your magazine cost is deducted from your BPA membership fee so you don't pay any extra.

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

of the Association will be held at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF on **Tuesday 3 December 2013 at 1800**

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Thursday 13 December 2012
- 3 To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and the Report of the Auditors for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013
- 4 To confirm the re-appointment of the Auditors, and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing financial year
- 5 To set the Provisional Membership Subscription for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2014

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

Notice to Members regarding e-comms

In response to requests from members and to help to reduce costs, embrace today's technology and be kinder to the environment, from 1 December 2013, we will default to electronic communication of BPA Ltd company documents (notices to members, annual accounts, annual report, etc). This means that instead of a paper copy inserted into this Mag or sent by post, we plan to email members a link to the document online. We shall only be able to do this, of course, if the BPA membership database holds your current email address. Should you wish to opt out of electronic communication of BPA Ltd company documents and continue to receive them in hard copy, please contact Karey Goodwin or Sue Allen in membership services at the BPA Office, email karey@bpa.org.uk, sue@bpa.org.uk or telephone 0116 278 5271 (office hours M-F, 9-5). You may change your preference at any time. Members who do not supply us with their email address automatically opt out of electronic communication.

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

of the Association will be held at The East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RJ on **Saturday 25 January 2014 at 1030**

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Bolton on Saturday 26 January 2013
- 4 To receive and adopt, if approved, the report of the Chairman of Council
- 5 To consider any resolutions (see information below on submitting member resolutions)
- 6 To set subscriptions payable by non-provisional Members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2014
- 7 To close the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting

Other items of business

- a To confirm the result of the election for the 2014 Council of the BPA
- b To present various annual awards

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

Submission of member resolutions to the AGM

Member resolutions, which must be from full (voting) members, need to be submitted in writing to reach the BPA Secretary-General by 1 November 2013. Receipt will be acknowledged, in the absence of which it is the responsibility of the member submitting the resolution to check to confirm that it has been received. The resolution may include up to 500 words of explanatory text for inclusion in the notice with the resolution.

Council will negotiate with the member submitting the resolution on its purpose and clarity of wording, and that of any explanatory text. Council may decline to publish a resolution that deals with the same issues as another resolution which is to be considered at the same AGM and may also decline to publish a resolution (or explanatory text) if they believe it may be defamatory, or that it might be otherwise unlawful, or that to publish the material might bring the sport or the Association into disrepute.

It may or may not be that Council can negotiate an agreement with the member/s proposing the resolution/s such that the proposer/s decides there is no longer a need to progress their resolution/s to the AGM. If the resolution goes forward to the AGM, Council may issue its own commentary not exceeding 500 words.

Members putting duly notified resolutions to the AGM will be invited to propose them orally at the AGM, and will normally be advised by Council of a set time allowance to do this because of the need for timely despatch of business at the meeting. Council may make an oral response. In the event of a ballot on a member resolution, the proposing member or his/her nominee will be invited to observe the count.

Any two members can request a ballot before or on the declaration of the result of a show of hands (Article 35).



Bursaries for young skydivers

In 2002, the Royal Aero Club Trust as part of its Flying for Youth Program (FfY) launched a Bursary Scheme for young people between 16 and 21 to provide financial assistance for those wishing to upgrade their existing qualification in a wide range of air sports and aviation-related activities. The BPA has promoted the scheme through the Mag, and BPA members have been extremely successful in securing funding over the years. 2013 was our best year yet, with 21 of the 37 bursary awards going to young skydivers.

Applications, which must arrive at the Trust by 31 March 2014, are to be submitted through a Sponsoring Organisation, Club or Association, and up to £1,000 per award is available.

Full details, rules and an application form are available on the Royal Aero Club Trust website: royalaeroclubtrust.org

BPA Calendar 2014

Attention all cameraflyers! The next, December, issue of *Skydive The Mag* will include the free 2014 calendar and we are looking for stunning skydiving shots from BPA members. For a chance to see your photography in print, send your best pics to editor@skydivethemag.com before 29 October. The calendar will be printed in landscape, as opposed to portrait.

Arbitration decision

Earlier this year, a dispute with some affected pilots about the BPA rule on pilot upper age introduced on 1 April was referred for arbitration by Sport Resolutions UK. The hearing took place on 29 July. The Arbitrator has found in favour of the applicant pilots. The full decision is on the BPA website at: bpa.org.uk/news/arbitration-decision-pilot-upper-age

BPA Chair Martin Soulsby said: "We note the Arbitrator's decision and will give effect to it by immediately striking out the new rule on pilot upper age and reverting to the former rule that applied until 31 March 2013. We shall carefully consider the Arbitrator's observations on arrangements going forward. I am naturally disappointed that the arbitration did not find for the BPA – our motivation was a genuine desire to improve safety. We will now carefully study the reasons underlying this decision and the lessons we can learn from them in our approach to the management of risk in our sport."



STAND FOR COUNCIL

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

Details of the nomination procedure for BPA Council Members 2014, together with a role profile, are available on the BPA website – bpa.org.uk – from Clubs and Centres and on request from the BPA Office. Completed nominations, each supported by a proposer and seconder, must reach the BPA Office by noon on Wednesday 30 October 2013. Don't delay, act today!

Interim report to Members on the resolution carried at the AGM in January 2013

The member resolution from Ian Rosenvinge, BPA member 82116, carried at the BPA AGM on Saturday 26 January 2013, was as follows:

Right to Address Council/Committee/Sub-Committee – Amendment/Clarification Chairman's Discretion

It is my understanding that our right as members to speak at a BPA-convened meeting is at the Chairman's Discretion. I put it to the BPA Membership that such Discretion is not for the Chairman to deny any the right to speak, but rather as a matter of procedure to choose the moment and order in which those who wish to speak may speak, only curtailing contribution(s) when it becomes apparent that the same point or argument is being repeated by different speakers.

Further, that where individuals are, or have been, denied the right to speak and Council, Committee or Sub-Committee have subsequently then taken action, be it due to discipline, a breach or change of regulation(s), and which has then resulted in the curtailment of an individual's activities, such as through the loss or non-renewal of a rating, that such individuals then have the right of Appeal to a Tribunal."

Action taken: Immediately after the AGM, the terms of reference of the Safety and Training

Committee (STC) were updated to strike out the provision that members present as observers could speak only with the permission of the Chair (such a provision did not appear in other terms of reference, apart from STC's Riggers' Subcommittee, which has been brought into line with STC), and replaced it with 'BPA members may observe at STC meetings and they also have the right to speak, but the Chairman may choose the moment and order in which those who wish to speak may speak, only curtailing contribution(s) when it becomes apparent that the same point or argument is being repeated by different speakers.'

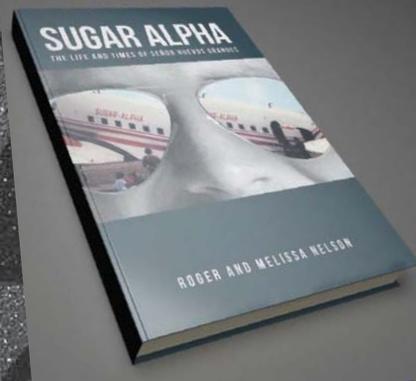
On the right of appeal, it has now become clear, particularly with the experience of going to Sport Resolutions to arbitrate on the new BPA rule on pilot upper age, that it is unlikely that we shall be able to identify the most appropriate mechanism from an internal BPA working group, as had originally been envisaged at the February Council meeting. Council is therefore researching the grievance procedures and processes in place at other Sports National Governing Bodies, with a view to identifying and importing best practice. This supports the Council's strategy of adopting the principles of the Code of Good Governance in Sport and Recreation. It is planned to have the new procedure in place before the next AGM.



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AGM DAY

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2014

BPA AGM Day on Saturday 25 January 2014 will be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RJ.

AGM AND SEMINARS

The AGM will start at 1030 – tea, coffee and bacon rolls will be on sale from before the opening of the exhibition at 0930.

AWARDS CEREMONY AND SEMINARS

The AGM will be followed by an awards and presentations ceremony. A range of seminars and meetings will take place in the afternoon – you'll be spoiled for choice!

EXHIBITION

There will be a daytime exhibition of kit and services for the safe and sustained enjoyment of skydiving in the UK – exhibition space will be available for hire by advance booking only. See the BPA website for more.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

The De Vere Orchard Hotel is situated adjacent to EMCC. Visit the BPA website for a link to the hotel's dedicated BPA hotel bookings webpage. The hotel's BPA bed and breakfast rate per night (Friday and/or Saturday) is £54 single, £66 double.

BPA ANNUAL DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT AND DISCO

The BPA Annual Dinner, price £25 per head, will take place at 2000. It will have an optional fancy dress theme of Robin Hood and his Merry Band. Dinner tickets are on sale from the BPA Office, telephone 0116 278 5271. After dinner, free of charge to BPA members and their guests, a live band and disco will party the night away! We've arranged some cracking deals on a selected range of drinks from the bar (please drink responsibly).

ATTENDANCE IS FREE!

Attendance at everything on AGM Day, except the optional Annual Dinner for which tickets are now on sale, is free of charge to members and their guests. You pay only for food and drink as taken, and overnight accommodation if required.

SPONSORSHIP

AGM Day offers lots of sponsorship opportunities. Ask the BPA Office for details.

GOODY BAG

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

Experienced Skydiver of the Year 2013

Nominations from the membership are invited for the BPA Taz Caser Experienced Skydiver of the Year Award. This is for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nominations giving the name of your nominee with reasons (no more than 250 words, please) to skydive@bpa.org.uk by Wednesday 20 November 2013. Council will consider the nominations at its meeting in December. The trophy will be presented on AGM Day.

John Hitchen

By the time you read this, John Hitchen will have retired as BPA National Coach and Safety Officer after more than 30 years of sterling service. During this time, he has become one of the best known faces in the sport, both nationally and internationally, through our UK Delegation to IPC. His contribution to skydiving has been enormous – so we're not letting the occasion go without a bit of a do on 7 October. That's too late for a report in this issue, but watch out for news in the next one.



BPA Star awards

Hurry! The closing date for this year's BPA Star nominations for customer service beyond the call of duty by A licence holders and above is Monday 4 November 2013. More at bpa.org.uk/star

TRIAL OF NEW BPA ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SERVICE

We're delighted to announce that a new BPA online membership service has launched for trial. It will be available for:

- Full members in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address may update their contact details (postal address, telephone/mobile, e-mail)
- Full members in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address who do not hold ratings* and who have not yet renewed for the current membership year (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014) may do so online

* 'ratings' include instructors, riggers, packers, pilots and any other rating that has to be 'signed off'

Full members will need the following to activate their online BPA membership account:

- Name
 - BPA membership number (not licence number!)
 - Personal email address as already recorded on the BPA database
 - Post code or BFPO number as already recorded on the BPA database
- For instructions on 'how to activate your online BPA membership account', please see bpa.org.uk/instructions

Members who use this new trial service – your feedback is important to us. Please email us with feedback in order that we may hone the new online service in preparation for the next membership year (please note: we have no current plans to extend the online renewal service to members who hold ratings, because ratings need to be signed off, but we shall look at possible online solutions to this in the longer term).

The new BPA online membership service will NOT be available for:

- Full member renewal where ratings are held, although full members with ratings in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address may update their personal contact details online
- Full member renewal for overseas members (other than those with a BFPO postal address)
- Change of name or ratings
- Conversions
- Taking out Student Provisional or Temporary Memberships
- Updating personal contact details of Student Provisional or Temporary Members
- Pilot applications
- Making discretionary donations to the British Team Fund or the Drop Zone Defence Fund. Such donations continue to be extremely welcome, and may be made by card payment over the phone during BPA office hours (M-F, 9-5) or by cheque or bank transfer.

New ratings

CSBI

Stefanie Goller
Steve Murfin
Tim Pringeur
Alastair Donald
Simon Minto
Chris Leach
Liam Barrett
David McMinn
Mark Clayton

TBI

Mark Collins

CSI

David Mellish
Robert Brown
Wolfgang
Matussek

Chris Sparks

Niel Flanagan
Nicholas Hynes

AFFI

Dan Morgan
Rob Spour
Sharky Ward
Rich Parker
Robert Dawson
Steve Howes

TI

Philip Thomas
Michael French
Wayne
Shorthouse
John Woods
James McGroarty

Kris Cavill

Rob Bellman
Jason Pocock
Steve Murfin
Stu Storey
Gavin Horrell
Gary Stevens
Andy Guest

Advanced Packer

Rob Bellman (S)

WINGSUIT

NOAH BAHNSON
MIKE SWANSON
JULIAN BOULLE
GREG SHELTON

FREEFLY

MAKTOUM
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BRITISH NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

THE BIGGEST 4-WAY NATIONALS IN THE WORLD. FOUR TWIN-TURBINE DORNIERS DROPPING 15 JUMPERS EVERY THREE MINUTES. 8-WAY AND ARTISTICS COMPLETED IN A DAY. WELCOME TO THE LEGENDARY BRITISH NATIONALS →



4-WAY

66 Single A was the biggest category with 24 teams. Seriously, 24 teams! Other countries the same size as us would be happy to have 24 teams in the whole of their Nationals **99**

3,160 JUMPS WERE MADE AT THIS FABULOUS FESTIVAL OF 4-WAY, AND IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE DRAW...

WORDS LIZ ASHLEY

Seventy-five 4-way teams packed themselves onto and around the huge scaffolding in front of the main stage.

The atmosphere was one of eager anticipation, punctuated with constant exclamations of greeting between old friends. Everybody was waiting for the same thing – the arrival of CCI Noel Purcell to the stage to open the competition and do the draw. This would be followed by a rush to the creeper pad, where nearly 300 competitors would puzzle the weekend's dives and rehearse their moves with precision.

Noel took to the stage and welcomed his excited audience to Skydive Hibaldstow, home of the Nationals. The draw was a Lottery-style affair, with orange ping-pong balls each representing the blocks and randoms, and a huge screen to display the rounds for each category. Every ball drawn generated oohs and aahs from the crowd. "19", said Noel. "Ooh", said the crowd, "nice first exit, good steady block to start on". "1", said

Noel next. "It's a one!" shouted a few dozen 4-way competitors who were sure they knew better. Turns out it really was an 1 – it's a VFS point, who knew?

Twenty teams competed in Rookie, and eight-round points totals ranged from 15 to 99. This meant that there was competition all the way down the table, and that you had your own mini-competition with the teams close to you even if you weren't in with a chance at the medals. Irish team *Fly Wild* had travelled over the month before to win the Hib Cup and were on top form again, winning with a clear 13-point lead over the next team. *SeaFury* in second had already got two UKSL gold medals in their back pocket, and went on to win ESL gold as well. Bronze was tight, with a handful of teams all in with a realistic chance. *Meteor's* triumphant 16 on Round 7 set them up to take the final podium place though.

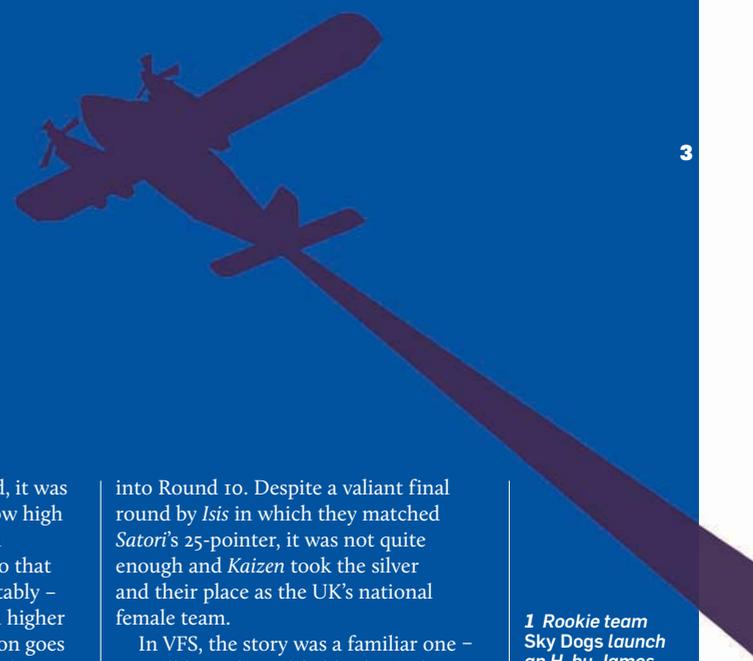
Single A was the biggest category with 24 teams. Seriously, 24 teams! Other countries the same size as us would be happy to have 24 teams in the whole of

their Nationals, let alone in one category. It's not a case of quantity over quality either, as the 'average average' was a respectable 8.1. Again, it was tight at the top, with the top two teams level going into the final round. *Tr4ck* then pulled off a 15-pointer when it mattered, the only Single A team to score so highly in the whole meet (and they'd done it before on Round 3 as well). Last year's Rookie winners, *Equal Pay 4 Women*, took the silver, with *Skyvandals* in third. A special mention goes to unofficial winners of the 'best team name' competition – well done *BingBongDingDong!*

Double A was the smallest category with only six teams, but the standard was still high. All teams had an eight-point average or better and winners *Anti Gravity Ninja Swans* posted an impressive 19 and 20 on their two best rounds. Second and third swapped places on the final round, as *4mula* gained five points on *4Nations* to leapfrog over them into silver.

In AAA, there was only ever one team who were going to take home the →





“We realised that pretty much everybody in AAA had been coached by our National Champions at some point. It’s great to see top talent filtering down, and it shows in the quality of the Senior pool”

trophy – reigning champions *Satori*. Despite a line-up change, new slots and no training until just a couple of weeks before the comp, when you’re this good at 4-way, it shows. Steve Hamilton hadn’t even jumped for 18 months, but was glad to find he could still roughly remember what he was supposed to be doing. A weather hold on day two led to a chance for a group photo with all the teams who had been coached by Pete Allum, Steve Hamilton and John McIver through UKTunnelCamp. Suddenly, nearly half the AAA field were all stood together, realising just how many of us had had the same coaches. Combined with Julia Foxwell’s *Satori Academy* projects and Milko’s coaching too, we realised that pretty much everybody in AAA had been coached by our National Champions at some point. It’s great to see top talent filtering down, and it shows in the quality of the Senior pool. Twenty-two teams entered and nearly all posted double-digit averages. You needed a 14 average to make the top 10, and seven teams averaged 16 or more.

Having established a clear lead, it was now a case of finding out just how high an average *Satori* could score. An impressive 20.5 was the answer to that question, and they did it comfortably – showing the potential to go even higher next time. An honourable mention goes to South African team *Voodoo* with an 18.9 average overall. As a foreign team they were not eligible for British medals, so the only way for them to take home any bling would be for them to win overall. They came second, winning a place in our hearts if not on our podium.

The silver and bronze podiums would have female footsteps upon them, but the order was all to fight for. *Bodyflight Isis* and *Kaizen* were fresh from the World Cup in Bosnia, where *Isis* had finished ahead of *Kaizen*, but could they repeat this? *Kaizen* had trained to peak at Nationals in the knowledge that the top female team would win a place at the 2014 World Championships. *Isis* improved their average to 17.4, but *Kaizen* improved even more and had established an eight-point lead going

into Round 10. Despite a valiant final round by *Isis* in which they matched *Satori*’s 25-pointer, it was not quite enough and *Kaizen* took the silver and their place as the UK’s national female team.

In VFS, the story was a familiar one – a small but talented field. The *Bad Lieutenants* took the gold again, but the lay of the land has changed. Silver medallists *QFX* may have taken home the same colour medal as last year, but they closed the gap to gold significantly and almost doubled their average. New team cameraman Ewan Cowie can be proud of his perfect record, having completed his first competition with no busts – particularly impressive for VFS, where the points are dynamic and three-dimensional and the cameraflyer has to work to film every single one. Taking bronze were scratch team *Mind Your Manners*, continuing the theme of rising standards by posting a total of 15 points over eight rounds. Last year, just four points would have got you the same medal. →

1 Rookie team Sky Dogs launch an H, by James Stevenson

2 VFS silver medallists QFX, by Ewan Cowie

3 All-female Rookie team ChatterChicks, by Rowena Owen





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- 4 AAA winners**
Satori, by Jordan Wilcox
- 5 AA winners**
Anti Gravity Ninja Swans, by Craig Poxon
- 6 A winners** Tr4ck, by Craig Poxon
- 7 Rookie winners** Fly Wild, by Jordan Wilcox
- 8 VFS winners** Bad Lieutenants, by Jordan Wilcox



Medal placings

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>▶ AAA</p> <p>Satori – 20.5
Kaizen – 17.9
Bodyflight Isis – 17.4</p> | <p>▶ AA</p> <p>Anti Gravity Ninja Swans – 13.25
Aerodyne 4mula – 11.25
4Nations – 11.0</p> | <p>▶ A</p> <p>Tr4ck – 12.1
Equal Pay 4 Women – 11.9
Sky Vandals – 11.6</p> | <p>▶ Rookie</p> <p>Fly Wild – 12.4
Royal Navy SeaFury – 10.8
Team Meteor – 9.3</p> | <p>▶ VFS (points in eight rounds)</p> <p>Bad Lieutenants – 91
QFX – 71
Mind Your Manners – 15</p> |
|---|---|---|---|--|





Scoreboards

► Senior

MicroClim8 – 12.9
Brit Chicks – 12.0
Thunderbirds – 8.1
Brit Chicks Evolution – 6.6
Reprob8s – 5.0

► Intermediate

Georgie and Jonny's Awkward Turtles – 7.5
Satori Academy – 7.3
Unleash the Kraken – 6.1

► Rookie

Remote Control Squirrels – 2.9
OctoChatterChickerati – 1.5
BCP8 – 1.3

SO HOW DO YOU TAKE A POPULAR YET CHALLENGING DISCIPLINE AND MAKE IT EVEN BETTER? BRING IN A NEW ROOKIE CATEGORY, OF COURSE!

WORDS LIZ ASHLEY

1 Rookie team Remote Control Squirrels took up the challenge of learning to launch 8-way, and came home with the winners' trophy! By Cliffy

2 Rookie champions with their prize, by Liz Ashley

The big news in 8-way this year was the introduction of the new Rookie category. This was a BPA initiative aimed at making the discipline more accessible at entry level, and it proved to be a great success. Overall, the number of 8-way teams was boosted to 11 and Rookie was populated by jumpers who commented that they would not have taken part otherwise. The dive pool was a trimmed-down version that included the less complex randoms and single points from some of the blocks. The launch was the greatest challenge, but also provided most of the entertainment and fun!

Consistency was the secret to winning, with champions *Remote Control Squirrels* posting the same score in five of their eight rounds, and managing a highest score of six points in time despite a funnelled launch. Competition for silver was tight, and the scores were tied going into the final round. *OctoChatterChickerati*, a combination of 4-way teams *ChatterChicks*, *Chatterati* and friends, just edged ahead of current and former uni students *BCP8* who still looked pretty pleased with bronze. Student loans obviously don't stretch to team T-shirts these days as they stripped off on the podium to reveal their team name painted across their stomachs – novel idea, guys!

Moving up the categories, competition was close in Intermediates as well. The standard was impressive, with eights and nines peppering the scoreboard and even a 10 to be seen from the eventual winners.



Small amounts of training had paid off, and teams were consistently flying their launch – often on every single jump. The top two teams were tied for gold going into the final round, but *Georgie and Jonny's Awkward Turtles* gained a couple of points over Julia Foxwell's *Satori Academy* team, with *Unleash The Kraken* following not too far behind.

On to Senior, and the annual question of whether the boys would finally be knocked off their pedestal. 'The boys' in this case are a team who started off as *Junction 9* a very long time ago (last century, in fact), morphed through combinations of similar team members and names such as *VNE* and *Connexion*, and are now reigning champions *MicroClim8*. The team aren't even all boys any more, with a couple of girls having managed to sneak their way on in recent years, but certain core team members have stayed throughout. Outside Centre Pooky has now won 15 Senior gold medals at British Nationals since 1999.

Top contenders to knock 'the boys' off the top spot were 'the girls' – *Brit Chicks 8*, who represented GB at last year's World Championships in Dubai. The boys have always said that they will be happy for the team that comes along and takes their crown, but that they are not going to just roll over and let it happen. They want to pass the title on to a team that will be ambassadors for British 8-way and who beat them fair and square. *Brit Chicks* are certainly ambassadors, but would this be their year as champions?

The girls had reversed their 2012 approach, going from 'training hard' to 'hardly training' – a much-needed light year after a couple of heavy ones. They had still been busy jumping 4-way and big-way, but 8-way had been less of a priority in 2013 and, in the few weekends that they managed together, they had never even got the full team together. They put in an admirable performance, matching their 2012 average and closing the gap to gold to the closest it's ever been but, yet again, this was to be *MicroClim8's* victory. A convincing bronze medal went to *Thunderbirds* with an impressive average of 8.1. ●

“The launch was a challenge, but the biggest grins could be seen after our one (and, yes, only) successful launch”

Lou Joyce, *Remote Control Squirrels*

8-WAY

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

At

SKYDIVE LANGAR

5-6 OCTOBER

DAVE LEWIS' PINCH JUMPS

12-13 OCTOBER

**4-WAY WEEKEND WITH COACHING
AND LOAD ORGANISING**

19-20 OCTOBER

**BULLET FREEFLY
TRACKING WEEKEND**

2-3 NOVEMBER

**6-WAY COMPETITION
BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY
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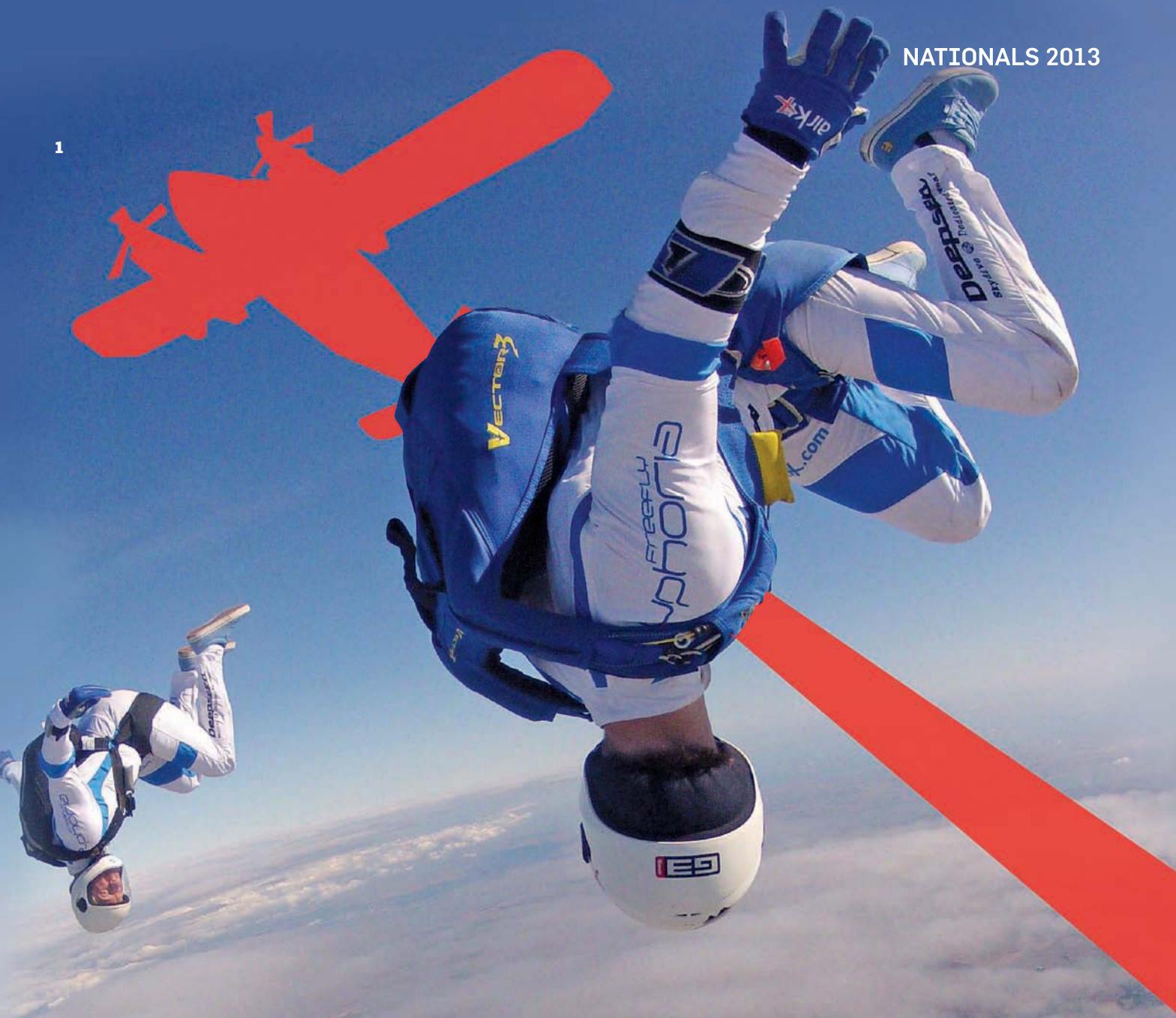
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1



FREELY, FREESTYLE AND SPEED – ALL COMPLETED IN A SINGLE DAY

FREEFLY

In Freely, the competition was small but intense. Winners *Volare* didn't train until the week before Nationals, then changed their routine and did just 40 jumps together. However, they had done approximately 550 jumps together in 2012 when training for the World Championships, which probably helped! Their win gave Mikey Carpenter his eighth consecutive year as British Freely Champion, an unrivalled record.

Adam Dare of team *Euphoria* takes up the story...

"Freely Euphoria have been around for a number of years. First started in 1995, the team has had a number of awesome team members and lots of success. I was asked to join the team in mid-June; I had to have a bit of a think about it, as this was going to be a big commitment, but it was an awesome opportunity, so I said "HELL YEAH!"

"In all, we had approximately 80 jumps before we set off to Hibaldstow, where we started a 4-day training camp before the Nationals started. We knew we had to

brush up on the free routine and compulsories, but we felt confident this wouldn't be a problem as we had been training strategically.

"On the first day of the competition, we could feel the nerves. This was Sean's and my first competition and, being up against some big experienced teams, we knew this was going to be hard. Our first round was not so good – there were a couple of mistakes on the free routine and the performers were out on some shots. The second round was our first compulsory round. This was our weakest of the two compulsories, but we really focused resulting in equalling *Volare's* score (8.2). This left us comfortably in second place, above *Varial*. The next two free rounds weren't our best, they felt a bit scrappy and the camera was still out on some shots. We scored the same on both rounds (7.4). Then it came to Round 5, which was our strongest of the compulsories. We were 0.9 ahead of *Varial* and in a confident mood. As we left the plane to start our compulsory round, it felt good. →



Everything was going smoothly, resulting in us finishing seven seconds early – for which the judges penalised us with a low score of 7.4. *Varial* scored an 8.3 so that put us level with two rounds to go. This was when the nerves really started to settle in and we had a team meeting to discuss what we were going to do. We were mainly getting marked down on the camera being out on the eagle manoeuvre in the free routine, so we decided to zoom the camera out slightly which meant the cameraflyer would have to fly closer to get a good picture but which would enable us to get the full eagle in shot. Thankfully this worked, and we started hitting bigger scores. Round Six went really well and we scored a 7.8. *Varial* had a good round and scored a 7.7. There was 0.1 of a point between us, with one round to go. *Volare* had already run away with the gold and we were left to battle it out for silver. We could feel the tension as we left the plane for our last round, but something clicked as a team and everything fell into place – we had a great round. *Varial* were always on a lift cycle behind us, so we could see them boarding the bus as we were walking in from our last jump. As *Varial*

boarded the bus for their last round, you could see the nerves. We were left waiting on the ground biting our nails. As they came down from their last jump, they had beaming smiles on their faces – which didn't help with our nerves. It took 30 minutes for the judges to decide the final scores, then it happened: *Varial's* score came in at 7.7. Two minutes later, we were still waiting for our score – you could feel the tension in the building. This was the closest battle of scores of all the teams in the Nationals. Our score came through; we got a 7.9 and beat *Varial*, who had just returned fourth from the World Cup, by 0.2. I have to say the entire experience was an emotional roller coaster, but it left the whole team wanting more.

“With the success at the Nationals and being a new team line-up, we want to move forward and do more. We feel the team is really starting to gel and, with only 100 training jumps under our belt, we feel that we can achieve so much more with the right help. We are looking at being the UK's number one and qualifying for the World Championships. Next year is a great opportunity to show people what we are made of.”



3



4



5

1 Freely Euphoria performing their free routine

2 Precision flying by Freely Euphoria

3 Euphoria on exit, by Jordan Wilcox

4 Revolution Freestyle's performer Emma Pilkington, by Ben White

5 Euphoria Freestyle's National Champion performer Alex Dand, by Andy Godwin

FREESTYLE

Although the UK has only ever had a small number of Freestyle competitors, the quality has always been high. For years, our National team has been Al and Pixie of *Airkix Freestyle*, who have won medals on the world stage. However, years of training are hard to maintain indefinitely and so 2013 was a year off for them – leaving room for our up-and-coming teams to shine.

In Freestyle A, new team *Revolution Freestyle* had been inspired to take up a new discipline. They had attended a BPA Roadshow and performer Emma Pilkington said she could not praise the event enough – they had learnt so much about performing a freestyle routine. She recommends that budding freestylers, or in fact jumpers in any discipline, go along to a roadshow for free coaching as it really helped her team. Emma and Ben scored a respectable 5.7 average for the silver medal. In gold, *Euphoria Freestyle* won their first National Championships; the proud result of years of training, a couple of World Cups and many silver medals!

In Freestyle B, it was great to see Senior-level competitors bringing up the newer talent. Top of the podium was *RESPA Freestyle*, filmed and coached by Andy Godwin of *Euphoria Freestyle*. This meant double freestyle gold for him, and a leapfrog from zero to hero for new National Champion Jase Hughes who was competing at his first Nationals. Silver went to another branch of the *Euphoria* family, with freestyler Dave Pacey filming his girlfriend Harriet Watson to make up team *Anarchy*.

SPEED

Having taken part in a Speed Roadshow hosted by Mike Lovemore, I decided to take part in the Nationals at Hibaldstow.

There was an international feel to the event, with eight other competitors taking part: Speed Demon Markus Fuchs from Switzerland, Jay Southall, Paul Cooper (Coops), Simon Brentford, Mike Lovemore, Mathew Holford, Max Hurd and Lewis Young. With such a list of highly talented skydivers and with only having 410 jumps to my name, I didn't think I stood a chance. But, as I'm always up for a challenge, I thought I'd give it my best shot – after all, what did I have to lose?

The competition was six rounds with each competitor's best three speeds added together to get an average speed. At the start, I was less than one mph behind Markus Fuchs – I suddenly thought I could do this. Simon Brentford was unlucky to have three jumps on the trot, all three out of bounds (known as 'OB', when the two hip-mounted Pro Tracks read a speed differential of 30kph or more). Then Mike Lovemore put in an absolute screamer of 270mph, only to be ruled OB. This was a very closely fought competition – it could have gone to anyone. Jay Southall then jumped, recording 260.44mph. This was getting good. Then Simon recorded an awesome 275.01mph – the fastest of the day.

It was then down to the judges to tally the scores and crunch the numbers. The open competition was won by Markus Fuchs, a well-deserved win. The British gold went to Simon Brentford. I took silver in my first-ever competition, beating Jay Southall into third position



by a mere 0.46mph. Fourth place was won by Mike Lovemore.

This was a fantastic competition, run excellently by Skydive Hibaldstow and the BPA. A big thank you to Mike Lovemore for his excellent work in bringing this sport to the skydive community and thanks also to Larsen & Brusgaard for supplying the equipment.

Finally, I can't finish my report without thanking the Hibaldstow bar for a crazy night and for supplying me (and, I'm sure,

a few others) with a sore head in the morning. All in all, a great weekend – when do we do it again?

From my AFF with Skydive London with Bruce and Dylan in May 2010 at Redlands Airfield to having now qualified for the FAI Fourth Dubai International Parachuting Championships in November jumping over the Palm. This is one crazy dream, long may it continue – choo choo...

Jason Bird

6 Max Hurd exits for a Speed jump at his first Nationals, by Chris Griffin

7 Freestyle A winners Volare, by Jordan Wilcox

8 Freestyle B winners Cushty, by Jordan Wilcox

9 Freestyle A winners Euphoria Freestyle, by Jordan Wilcox

10 Freestyle B winners RESPA Freestyle, by Jordan Wilcox

11 Open Speed Champion Markus Fuchs, by Mike Lovemore

12 Speed British Champion Simon Brentford



Scoreboards

► **Freestyle A (seven rounds)**

- Volare – 59.1
- Euphoria Freestyle – 53.3
- Varial – 53.0
- Fingers and co – 38.0

► **Freestyle B (five rounds)**

- Cushty – 29.2
- Airheads – 17.3

► **Freestyle A (seven rounds)**

- Euphoria Freestyle – 51.2
- Revolution Freestyle – 39.9

► **Freestyle B**

- RESPA Freestyle
- Anarchy

► **Speed (average speed over a vertical kilometre, best three jumps of six)**

- Open Champion Markus Fuchs – 266.50mph
- British Champion Simon Brentford – 258.87
- Jason Bird – 250.59
- Jay Southall – 250.13



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Hibbleween 8-Way Speed Meet

26-27th October

November

Load Organising With Stubert

2-3rd November

Foundry Coaching Weekend

9-10th November

Load Organising With Stubert

23-24th November

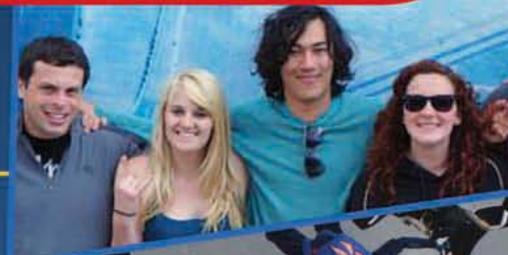
December

Christmas Party Weekend

7-8th December

Last Weekend of 2013 Jumping

14-15th December



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SKYDIVING WORLD CUP 2013

BANJA LUKA, REPUBLIKA SRPSKA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Artistics

WORDS JOEL STRICKLAND – VARIALFREEFLY.COM

When I searched inside my brain for anything I may have ever known about Bosnia, I found only scary words.

Words left over from television news when I was a teenager with no real grasp of how the world is and can be. Words like *genocide*.

That was ages ago, though. The war here ended in 1995 and, since then, an entire generation have had the time to be born and grow into adulthood. The guidebook I skimmed before leaving claimed that while older folk like to discuss it, young people here would rather talk about anything else.

Banja Luka is a shabby but safe-feeling town where it is said the female population outnumbers the male by seven to one. It is midsummer, hot enough to liquefy the guano on top of the bronze statues of local heroes and historical figures that you have never heard of and have it

trickle like sweat down their temples.

You only have to peel back a layer or two of paint to find an agreeable amount of Eastern Bloc around the place, be it in the decor of an hotel room or the exterior of an old apartment complex. Locals doze in the shade next to their watermelon stalls, one piece always left out as a sacrificial cow to the hungry angry wasps. Bored teenage girls read schoolbooks or text in the quiet gaps between selling too-sweet looking ice cream.

I have been lucky enough to see some of the world, and this place looks to me like a country roughly equidistant from Hungary, Romania and Greece should look and feel. I have always enjoyed noticing the ways countries ooze into one another contrary to the lines on a map. This seems especially true of the little, tightly packed nations of central and Eastern Europe, where people of different roots and ancestry all live up close with one another. I suppose that can be how the trouble starts.

The skydiving club is just a few kilometres from the city centre. There has been no jumping here since their Cessna went in last year, killing all five on board – which represented a full quarter of the active skydivers in the country. The organisers and locals are clearly excited to kick off an event they have obviously been working towards for a long time.

START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON

The only safety briefing we receive consists wholly of the words “It is big” and “It is safe”, accompanied by some gesticulation in the general direction of the open space out beyond the tents. However, after the first practice morning of career skydivers landing their tiny zoomy canopies in not-entirely-the-same-direction, this is expanded magnificently to include: “Can the big parachutes please not land next to the little parachutes”. In a brazen display of Britishness, there is sudden bunting. The strings of tiny little

Union Jacks appear like the tendrils of an evil sentient plant and soon cover not only the half dozen or so tents our contingent has nabbed, but our neighbours to either side as well as half of the packing area. I am sure this is more or less the same way they did it back in the day.

We only get a couple of rounds each day so we snooze and watch the swoops, perking up every now and then when the small military helicopter goes to collect the off landings, tempting every one of us into a mini adventure. Activity stops at lunchtime as they serve boring but nutritious food in an old military canteen that is outwardly sinister enough to deserve being dubbed 'The Asylum'. I have had to say nice things about much worse in the past, so I do my level best not to complain about it and hope the resulting good karma is enough to appease the gods and be spared the jiffy tummy plauging some of the others.

It would be nice to go faster and get it finished, but we end up busying ourselves

with the VFS competition. It turns out that they need one more team to validate the competition and we are the only real option. As the collected force of one freely team and one freestyle team with the combined total of no previous experience and, despite some last minute coaching from the rock stars of this category, we manage to score fewer points than the actual number of rounds. It was free, though – we learned some stuff and the others got to have their competition.

For the artistic disciplines, we had the use of two Porters on loan from the Slovakian Army. Neither of these had anything as convenient as a camera step and for most of us the door was on the wrong side of the plane altogether, making our exits that much more difficult. So we grumble and make the best of it and I spend the time attempting to contort my two metre body into the same shape as the teeny gap between the door, the strut, the wheel and the other two, trying as much as possible to get

myself in the same place I would be when exiting from a sensible aircraft like we have been doing *all bloody summer*.

It ended with us in fourth place, one low scoring jump having kept us off the podium. The frustrating part is that the compulsory round we fluffed was the one we had nailed consistently all throughout our training. Such is the way of things, but we had a good battle involving some fine gentlemanly conduct with the Norwegians. Fourth is perfectly respectable result for an international competition, and we come away from it a little stronger and a little wiser. The French took gold over the Russians, although from our perspective it should have been the other way around.

The freestyle podium was all France. It is an impressive sight to see – such dominance and so many beautiful matching tracksuits – but it is most likely some kind of crime against our national traditions to allow for so much Frenchness at the top of this game. The long and short of it is they get government money and we don't, which makes it seem unfair, but we can be proud that despite the scarcity of support we as a nation turn out the most teams by a significant margin – teams willing to put in the time and the money and the effort just because it is a good thing to do.

The Russians took fourth and fifth, and the GB team took sixth. With only one team per country eligible for European medals, this makes *Euphoria Freestyle* the European bronze medallists.

We may not win the most medals, but we have the best time. →

1 *The happy Brit delegation and their flag fetish! By Nigel Holland*

2 and 3 *Varial competing over Bosnia*



WORDS LIZ MOOR

The opening ceremony was a simple event held early in the evening on Wednesday (after the first day of competition jumping). It was clearly a huge occasion for the locals, who turned up in large numbers and were very excited as they had never seen anything like this before. Each team was paraded in turn up onto a makeshift stage and presented to the cheering crowd.

The competition started on the Wednesday morning. Many locals had volunteered to help out with the organisation and they were all extremely helpful, friendly and enthusiastic. The competition events were broken up into groups of round and staggered, starting off on the first morning with the 4-way open. We were represented by three teams: *Raykipo*, *Hyrrokkin* and *Eclipse* (who were the proud bearers of the Fun Flag). Unsurprisingly, the Belgian team *Hayabusa* took an early lead. The Russians and French quickly asserted themselves in second and third place, at first within striking distance of the Belgians, but in Round 5 the Belgians stepped up a gear and from then on were never going to be caught. The first three places didn't change throughout the rest of the competition, with *Hayabusa* finishing with 267 points, the Russians with 237 and the French with 221. Not satisfied with their impressive points score, *Hayabusa* also managed to have the fewest busts in the whole competition.

It was a tight competition between the three British teams. *Raykipo* and *Hyrrokkin*

both ended Round 1 on 14 points with *Eclipse* on 13. It looked like the old *Raykipo-Hyrrokkin* rivalry was about to play out as it had so often before, but *Raykipo* pulled three points ahead in Round 2 and from there steadily increased their lead over the other two British teams to end Round 8 in 10th place overall – making them the only British team to qualify for Round 9. In the end, *Raykipo* finished 10th in the World rankings and seventh in the Europeans with a very respectable 14.11 average for a team in only their first year in AAA.

HIGH DRAMA

The 4-way female event provided the biggest drama of the entire competition, with the Americans and the French swapping the lead on virtually each round until they were tied after Round 8. They matched each other point for point on Round 9 and the stage was set for a nail-biting last round. Amazingly, Round 10 also produced identical scores for both teams and it was all down to the much dreaded jump-off. Incredibly, they both scored an identical 17 in the jump-off too! In the end, the French were awarded the gold on the basis of the highest scoring round (27 in Round 2).

We were well represented by four teams in this category: *Bodyflight Isis*, *Kaizen*, *Seraphim* and *Team XX*. *Isis* and *Kaizen* fought valiantly for third place behind the French and the Americans. They matched each other virtually point for point in the first few rounds before *Isis* started edging ahead to end up taking third place with 170 points (33 behind the

French and Americans). This gave them the World bronze and European silver. *Kaizen* were close on their heels in fourth place overall with 163 points.

In the 8-way competition, the French completely swept the board and took gold with 213 points, a full 40 points ahead of the Russians in silver! The line-up for our 8-way team, which was an all-girl affair, wasn't finalised until the day before the competition and they only had a single training jump under their belt. Nevertheless, they took fifth place along with the team from the UAE and still managed to get the bronze medal in the European category.

We all managed to get through the week with no significant injuries, either from jumping or other activities – at least, none that we didn't arrive with! The only exception was a major outbreak of Banja Luka belly, which hit many of the competitors at the start of the competition and had them running for the Portaloos (which had probably caused the problem to begin with!).

The locals turned out again in force for the closing ceremony and prizegiving. They treated us all like celebrities, with the kids asking for everyone's autographs and proudly waving loads of British bunting we had given them. The prizegiving was followed by a stunning surprise gymnastic performance by Daphne from the Israeli Freestyle team before the whole thing was rounded off with a dinner and partying late into the night. The next day, everyone piled onto the buses nursing sore heads to make the long cross-country journey back to the airport. ●

4



“They treated us all like celebrities, with the kids asking for everyone's autographs and proudly waving loads of British bunting we had given them”

4 Dave Curtin films Brit Chicks, by Nigel Rowlan

5 Bodyflight Isis closing block 9, by Nigel Holland

6 Females outnumbered males in the Brit delegation: teams Kaizen, Seraphim, XX, Isis and Brit Chicks



6



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ESL 2013



ON SEPTEMBER 5 2013, SEVEN BRITISH 4-WAY TEAMS MADE THE TRIP TO MOORSELE IN BELGIUM WITH ONE CLEAR GOAL: TO WIN BACK THE ESL SWORD THAT WAS LAST IN UK POSSESSION IN 2008

WORDS JENNY BUCKLE

Unfortunately, we returned empty-handed three days later after probably the closest battle there has ever been for the title of overall ESL champions. Despite not quite getting our hands on the sword, we saw a fantastic performance by all of the British teams and a grand total of five podium places across the four competition categories.

For those who have never heard of the European Skydiving League (ESL) meet, here is a quick explanation. The competition is open to any European 4-way team and offers all four competition classes from AAA to Rookie. The twist is that, in addition to the competition in each category, the 'ESL Spirit Sword' is also awarded to the country with the best overall performance in the competition as calculated by the placings of each country's top four teams

in any of the categories. Winning the sword gives that country the right to host the ESL competition the following year.

For 2013, Belgium were defending champions - having won the sword during 2012's competition. However, we didn't want to make it easy for them, so the UK rustled up a very strong delegation of teams across all four categories and took the competition right to the wire.

GAME ON

Friday had a slow start due to rather a lot of rain - maybe a blessing in disguise for some of the British teams, who hadn't arrived on site until the early hours of the morning thanks to closed motorways and missed ferries. Three rounds were completed on Friday, and some interesting battles had already started to appear across all of the categories. After jumping

1 Team Tetley,
by Sam Lee

had finished, a local Chinese restaurant thought Christmas had come early when a table of 30+ hungry skydivers turned up. This was a good opportunity for the GB delegation to get off the DZ and discuss tactics for the following day.

Saturday dawned with clear skies and low winds - it was time for the competition to really get underway. In the Rookie class, *SeaFury* showed what they were capable of and turned around a slightly rocky start to really dominate the remaining five rounds - in particular scoring an impressive 16 in Round 6, outscoring all but two of the Single A teams who had the same jump. *SeaFury* finished up with a convincing win 15 points ahead of the Belgian team *Newton's Maniacs* in second and *JetMax* in third. The *Anti-Gravity Ninja Cygnets* were battling just as hard at the bottom end of the table and posted some great scores →



for a scratch team that had only decided to come to ESL the previous week.

In AA and AAA, it wasn't quite as easy for the UK teams and both *4Mula* (AA) and *Eclipse* (AAA) ended up with a one-point deficit separating them from gold and silver respectively. *4Mula* were locked into a tight battle with Belgian team *Les Stunts* throughout the competition and, despite a really strong finish including taking two points back on Round 8, they just missed out on the top spot. It was a similar story for *Eclipse*, who battled with *Creeps* from the Netherlands for the silver medal; *Thunder* from Belgium having predictably stormed away in first and finishing with a 21.6 average.

The Single A category was the one where the strength and depth of British skydiving was really showcased, with all three of the British teams in reach of the podium. *Fathers4Justice* eventually triumphed among the British teams but couldn't quite do enough to beat Czech team *Zoonte*, instead taking the silver medal in the category with the biggest number of teams - 14 in total.

The battle for the third spot in Single A had been tight all day and, as everyone gathered to watch the live scoring of Round 8, *Team Tetley* were trailing *Cosmic Noise* from Belgium by one point. Both teams had a good round but *Tetley* scored an 11 to *Cosmic Noise's* 10, which meant it was time for a jump-off. With the sun beginning to set and the band warming up, the two teams had to prepare quickly and were soon back in the plane for the

decider. As they landed, *Tetley* were greeted with beers on the landing area from the GB delegation before heading back inside to see the results.

ONE FOR THE JUDGES

After an initial panic when both teams thought they might have done the wrong jump-off round (they hadn't), the judging started. *Cosmic Noise* didn't have a great round and scored a four. Then *Tetley's* round came on for judging and there was a nervous hush. They showed exactly how to handle a jump-off and scored a 10, really earning that bronze medal. *Entropy* were the other UK team in Single A and had a great meet as well, coming fifth by only two points! Expect big things from all of these teams in the AA category next year...

And so concluded a fantastic two days of competition. Medals were handed out with the Brit delegation being particularly noisy, including an *a cappella* version of 'God Save the Queen' as *SeaFury* collected their gold medals. As the announcement was made declaring the winners of the sword, there was the slightest hope that we *might* have done enough - but, unfortunately, it wasn't to be. We had one first place, two second places and one third place in comparison to Belgium's two first places, one second place and one first place which, considering how close it had been in AA and AAA, meant we had missed it by a whisker!

Moorsele laid on a great party on the Saturday night with an awesome local band who were very open to having guest lead singers. With four Brit birthdays to celebrate, we partied hard into the night with our fellow competitors from across the continent and soaked up the amazing atmosphere that ESL manages to create. It truly is the way to round off the 4-way season in style.

As we travelled back to the UK on Sunday, thoughts began to turn to next year and how we can make sure we win that sword back. Of course, the host nation has a natural advantage, particularly as the Belgian Nationals and ESL were combined this year, meaning Belgium had a total of 12 teams competing against our seven. However, the scoring system means quality is more important than quantity and we certainly had that this year - it just still wasn't quite enough.

Moorsele has now hosted ESL two years in a row, so it may be time for the competition to move to a new location next year. Regardless of where it is, the Brits will always travel and the story of this year's competition will hopefully inspire teams to attend next year. As well as the competition, ESL is also a fantastic experience and learning opportunity. It gives more junior teams the chance to experience international competition and the whole delegation really does pull together to cheer each other on, offer coaching and advice and make sure that all the teams come away with a performance they are proud of.

So, ESL 2014 - will you be there? ●



2 Rookie champions *SeaFury*, by David Rodgers

3 Single A bronze for *Team Tetley*, by David Rodgers

4 Single A silver for *Fathers4Justice*, by David Rodgers

5 AAA silver for *Eclipse*, by David Rodgers

6 The British delegation, by David Rodgers

7 AA silver for *4mula*, by David Rodgers



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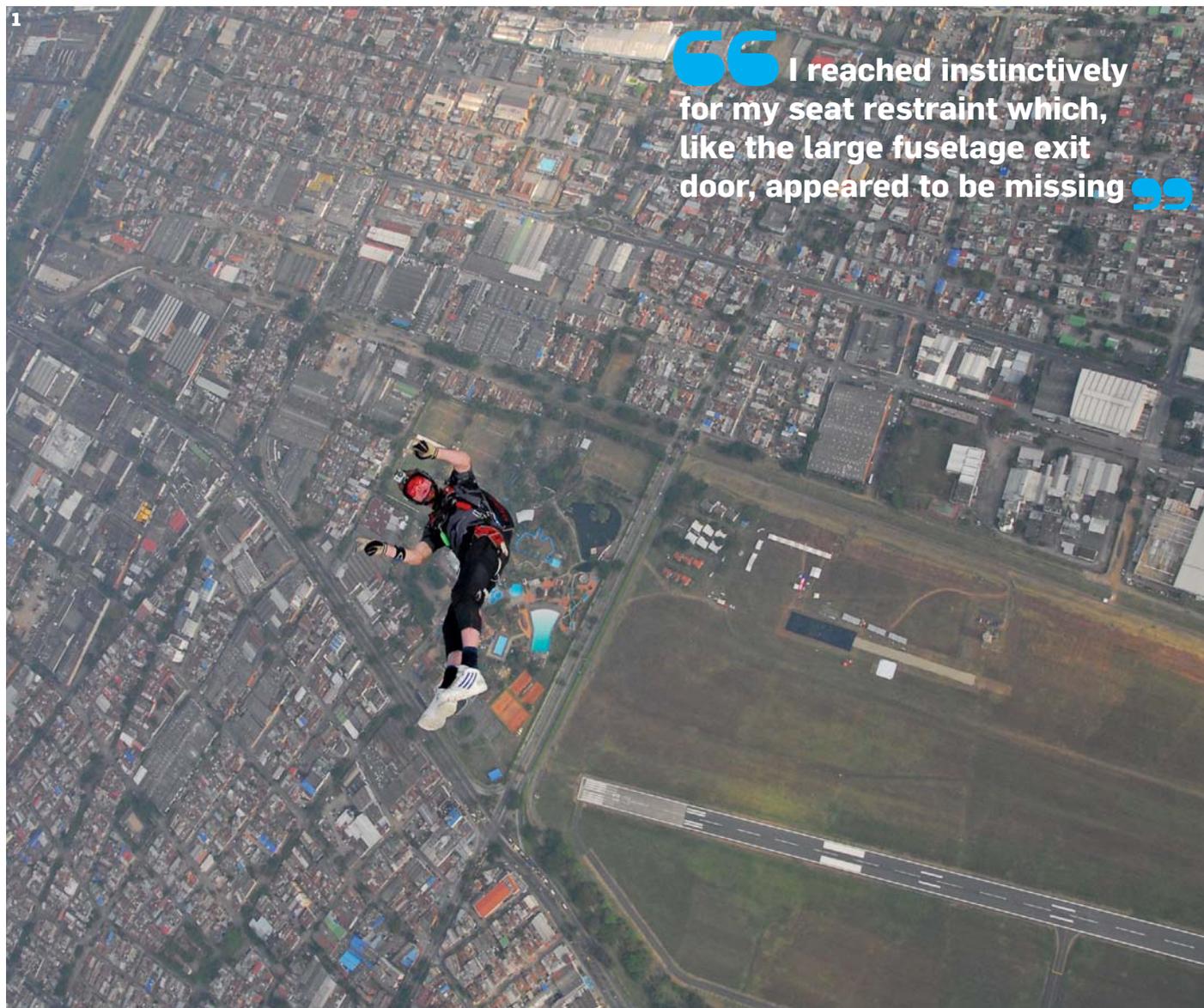
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“ I reached instinctively for my seat restraint which, like the large fuselage exit door, appeared to be missing ”

World Games Cali, Colombia

THE WORLD'S 30 BEST SWOOPERS DESCENDED ON SOUTH AMERICA FOR THIS MASSIVE MULTI-SPORT EVENT

WORDS MARTIN REYNOLDS, AKA DANGERPANTS

Last year, at the World Championships of Canopy Piloting in Dubai, it was announced that the qualifying criteria for this year's World Games in Colombia was to be the top 30 placing competitors out of the 130 competitors in the World Championships representing their countries. Some places were also reserved for pilots who could not make this event.

The World Games happen every four years and are the second-biggest multiple sport event in the world (the Olympics being the largest). This year, the many disciplines ranged from mainstream events such as rugby sevens, gymnastics, karate, squash etc, to events which are a little more obscure (no offence) such as tug of war, fin swimming, fistball and wushu. I am guessing most people would consider Canopy Piloting to be firmly in the "more obscure" camp. I felt it would be an honour and a large achievement to qualify for this, but I placed 31st in the championships – only 0.2 points behind 30th place. However, that was back in November 2012 and the event was in July 2013, so I felt fairly confident that I might

get an invite and, skydiving being what it is, within a week of the invitations going out there was a broken leg and my invite was in the post.

The Canopy Piloting event in the World Games was scheduled to commence on August 1 2013, so I had approximately four months to prepare after receiving the invite. I managed to get a few weekends down at Dunkeswell and at Langar, and a couple of five-day dedicated swoop camps also on the pond at Dunkeswell.

Dunkeswell have put a lot of effort into developing this training facility, and every credit should go to Jason (the owner) for investing in our discipline and constructing such a well-made and thought-out swoop pond. I think this will go a long way to developing canopy pilots, and canopy safety and training in general. A swoop pond is, in my opinion, quite a brave thing to incorporate into a skydiving operation where there is a nice safe tandem, AFF and fun jumping business, and I know the canopy pilots in the UK are pleased with and respect this move.

The camps were constructive and my brand new Petra arrived just in time for

the second camp in mid-July. The weather was glorious and I managed to put approximately 40 training jumps on this new canopy. The Petra is an amazing development in our sport and there are not many things that revitalise your enthusiasm after 4,000 jumps, but this canopy certainly does. I am planning to write an article for the Mag on this canopy once I have more jumps on it but, so far, I can say it is fast! It opens the best of any canopy I have ever jumped, is a real pleasure in terms of excitement and is a new challenge to fly.

The training went fairly well and I flew out to Colombia on July 28. Cali airport was very much as expected and I was pleasantly surprised to see both my gear bags emerge from the rubber curtain to make an appearance on the baggage collection catwalk – a few competitors were less fortunate. I then met up with Paul Moore, who had also just arrived and was there having been chosen as one of the officials for the event, and managed to sneak onto the ‘judges and officials’ bus from the airport with him.

The organisation was generally very good. The coaches for the competitors all had a small team of police, who had been seconded in from all over the country, looking after each one. Also, every coach had a couple of armed motorbike escorts stopping traffic and allowing passage through red lights wherever we went. The hotels organised and paid for by the event were very high quality, and the people and police of Cali, Colombia were very friendly and hospitable and seemed happy and excited to be hosting the World Games. The event was held on Cali’s military airport, where they had a purpose-built pond and had staged a test event the year before.

DANGERPANTS NO LONGER

We had a couple of practice days and managed to get three jumps in each day. They used a Cessna Caravan as the jump plane and here is an extract from my log book: “We climbed into the Cessna Caravan and sat down on what appeared to resemble the pristine polished surface of a 1950s ballroom floor. I reached instinctively for my seat restraint which, like the large fuselage exit door, appeared to be missing”.

There was a competitors’ meeting where I mentioned that it would be nice if we could have some seat belts. This was met with the suggestion that I should change my nickname from ‘Dangerpants’ to ‘Safetypants’. However, I don’t think Tommy Dellibac was laughing when he nearly fell out of the plane on a slightly overeager take-off later in the week...

The competition ran pretty smoothly over three days. There were stands erected by the side of the pond and the most spectators I had ever seen at one of these events. They had also flown Regan Tetlow in to commentate and host the event – he did a very good job of informing the crowd while also attempting to dance the Salsa and did a great job of

keeping them interested between jumps. The first two rounds (Accuracy and Distance) went well, and then the wind really picked up pretty suddenly on the Speed round – which made for an interesting third round. Approximately half of the competitors were given re-jumps, as the wind speed exceeded the competition-allowed seven metres per second. This meant that, as the wind was downwind on the course, those who did get a score just before the wind went over the limit got a very good score and those who had to re-jump the next day faced much less favourable wind conditions and hence lower scores.

There was also nearly an extremely bad accident on the fast downwind round. One of the really experienced competitors on a very highly loaded ‘new breed’ canopy took it a bit low and just caught the water in the recovery arc. He bounced off the water and went 30m or more at approximately 70-80 miles per hour through the air and fortunately landed back in the water. I think this was a reminder to most of the competitors that you need to be 100 per cent focused on safety while pushing the limits as far as you dare...

The next day saw another steady three rounds and I scored my first-ever 100 points in a round of Accuracy in a major competition. The final day saw half of the

1 Martin Reynolds exiting on a CP jump. The crowded backdrop of Cali, Columbia, is in contrast with the expanse of airfield and swoop pond below

2 Dangerpants on an Accuracy run

field cut after Round 7, and a further half cut after Round 8 with a final round of Distance. Nick Batsch put in a score of 144m (best score in all rounds) in this final run.

The final standings were Curt Bartholomew in first, Thomas Dellibac in second and Pablo Hernandez in third. I made a mistake in the third round as I had not realised the wind had increased so much, and so missed the gate on a round where if I had just got the gate I would have gone up the rankings about 15 places. I was also a bit unlucky on the last round of Accuracy where I skipped over the first gate, which could have put me up to fourth in that event, but it’s a bit like golf: “If I had not missed that putt on the fourth...” I came 25th out of 36 in the overall standings and 11th out of 36 in the Accuracy.

The closing ceremony in the main stadium was rammed full with, I would guess, 40,000 spectators and the firework display and concert was amazing. The Colombian ‘after competition’ party also went very much as expected!

I really enjoyed my time in Cali, and the competition. Big thanks to the organisation and people of Colombia, especially the good Lieutenant Carolina who was head of our police escort, and thanks to the BPA for all their support with this and all the other competitions they organise, support and administer. ●



The ‘trend sport’ of Canopy Piloting as described on the World Games website!

“Spirits are flying high as the canopy pilots leap out of the aircraft and swoop down from the wild blue yonder. Their ability to control the deployed parachute forms the essence of the sporting performance. But, on the truly three-dimensional field of play, just as much control over body and mind, and agility as well as supreme concentration, is prerequisite for manoeuvring the square ram-air wings at horrendous speeds and close to the ground.”

1



2

UK Head Down Record

WHO WOULD EVEN BELIEVE A YEAR HAD
ALREADY PASSED SINCE THE LAST UK
VERTICAL RECORD ATTEMPTS?

WORDS LIZ BONIFACE



3



4



5

“Every year that the *BLTs* and *Volare* run this event, it gets better and better as lessons are learned from previous years”



6



7



“I had a strong feeling that the next jump would be the record and the fact it was my 999th jump made it even more awesome**”**

It feels to me like it was just a few months ago, especially when I had complete déjà vu watching Weed, Wendy and Paul renewing the annual gaffer tape to secure Weed's audibles! Every year that the *BLTs* and *Volare* run this event, it gets better and better as lessons are learned from previous years. To me, that feels very comfortable as I come knowing what to expect and what I need to do. The big thing that was different about this year, though, was that we had the weather on our side for the entire weekend. In total, we had a team of approximately 45 skydivers from across the UK available to make it happen and we also had the highly respected Kristian Moxnes (*Skywalker* from Norway) looking after the bench. I certainly came to this event feeling much more prepared than I have ever felt in the past. I think Mikey's big-way camp earlier this year helped a lot as three-plane formations have almost become a normal everyday skydive! Who would have thought I could ever say that?

When everyone was gathered for the introductory briefing, I immediately noticed the diagram illustrating a 36-way on the whiteboard. There were no names attached to it yet, but it was an interesting choice of formation. The plan was to build three pods on a 6-way base with a line of five flyers between each pod. This proved

to be quite a challenging formation and a wake-up call to the group that setting a record is by no means an easy task. No matter how good the flyers are, we are under pressure and anything can happen. I guess what I've come to accept is that you just have to deal with what is thrown at you as it comes.

I was in the left trail plane which Matt was leading for all of the jumps. Matt was so laid back and fun to be around, and it seemed to rub off on everyone else. I know it helped put me at ease on all the jumps. I also love the Euro style of break-off, as you get to fly together for longer. It was first used two years ago at the last Euro record, but this is the first time it has been used in UK. Matt certainly did take advantage of this break-off to bring some light humour to the briefings and jumps, which even made break-off fun!

On the first two attempts, there were major issues with the base turning and even exploding. This was a strong reminder of how many people there are in the sky as it definitely feels busier without a solid centre to build from. The 2013 comedy statement from Mikey to the group was: "if the base turns, don't go chasing cars like dogs". Hmmm, ok Mikey! But he had a good point.

The base issues were quickly sorted when a few changes were made, so there

1 Exit from three Dorniers over Hibaldstow, by Gary Wainwright

2 Follow the leader, by Ewan Cowie

3 The new UK head down record 30-way, by Gary Wainwright

4 A streamer in the base makes it easier for jumpers to find their slot when upside down and falling at nearly 200mph! By Ewan Cowie

5 On the right, the base chunk has exited the lead aircraft. On the left, jumpers from the trail aircraft dive towards the base. By Gary Wainwright

6 Low light on the last jump of Saturday, by Ewan Cowie

were fewer 'dogs chasing cars' on one level but on another level there was less temptation to chase. This meant the formations then started to build stronger and faster. The remaining attempts on the Saturday were teasingly close to completing, as most, if not all, flyers docked at some point. However, the tight first stinger slot docking on the second stinger in the pod was causing problems. On almost every jump, it caught someone out whereby someone in the pod or a first stinger pinged off as a result of leg and burble issues. This happened at some point on each pod, so it was a consistent issue. However, it was so close on each jump and we knew we could do it! The group remained ultra-positive and raring to try again for the Sunday, knowing the forecast was still good.

RECORD TIME

We had clear blue skies on the Sunday as we briefed the first attempt that day. The first stingers had been moved back a slot to dock on pod closers instead of second stingers to reduce the leg burbling issues. Again, most of the formation built really fast but there were still a few people off – it was so so close. I had a strong feeling that the next jump would be the record and the fact it was my 999th jump made it even more awesome.

I had been surprising myself with how quickly I docked when the opportunity came but, on the actual record jump, I had a strange moment of doubt when I saw the pod close. I think deep down I knew this was it. It was just a few seconds on the video but it felt like a lifetime, so I had to have a little word with myself to refocus and what I said was: "Liz, you will not be the only person who is not docked on this". It seemed to work as then I was straight on it, which just highlights how important what we tell ourselves at these crucial times is – it can be the difference between success and failure. I wonder what other people were thinking.

Once I was docked, I admit I did look around as much as I would dare (even though I know you are not meant to...). I could see Laura, one of the last stingers, docked on my left but then it was a blur of people as my senses took over from the relief of just being there. Everything then seemed still and quiet and I could sense that we had got it. When we landed, everyone was a bit quieter than after the other jumps. Now it all depended on the photo and we just had to wait! Eventually, we were all called together and, after watching the video in extreme slow motion for extra effect (thanks for that Mikey...), it was confirmed that we got a

7 *The official 30-way record shot, by Andy Ford*

8 *Closing in on the formation, by Ewan Cowie*

new record 30-way. Phew. Relieved and happy are the best words I can come up with, as I don't think words can describe that feeling very well at all.

But you immediately move onto: "what's next? What do we do now?" There's only one way to go and that's bigger, stronger, faster. Who knows what next year will bring now that we've finally broken into the 30+ bracket?

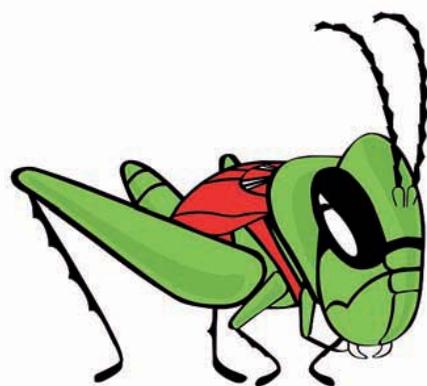
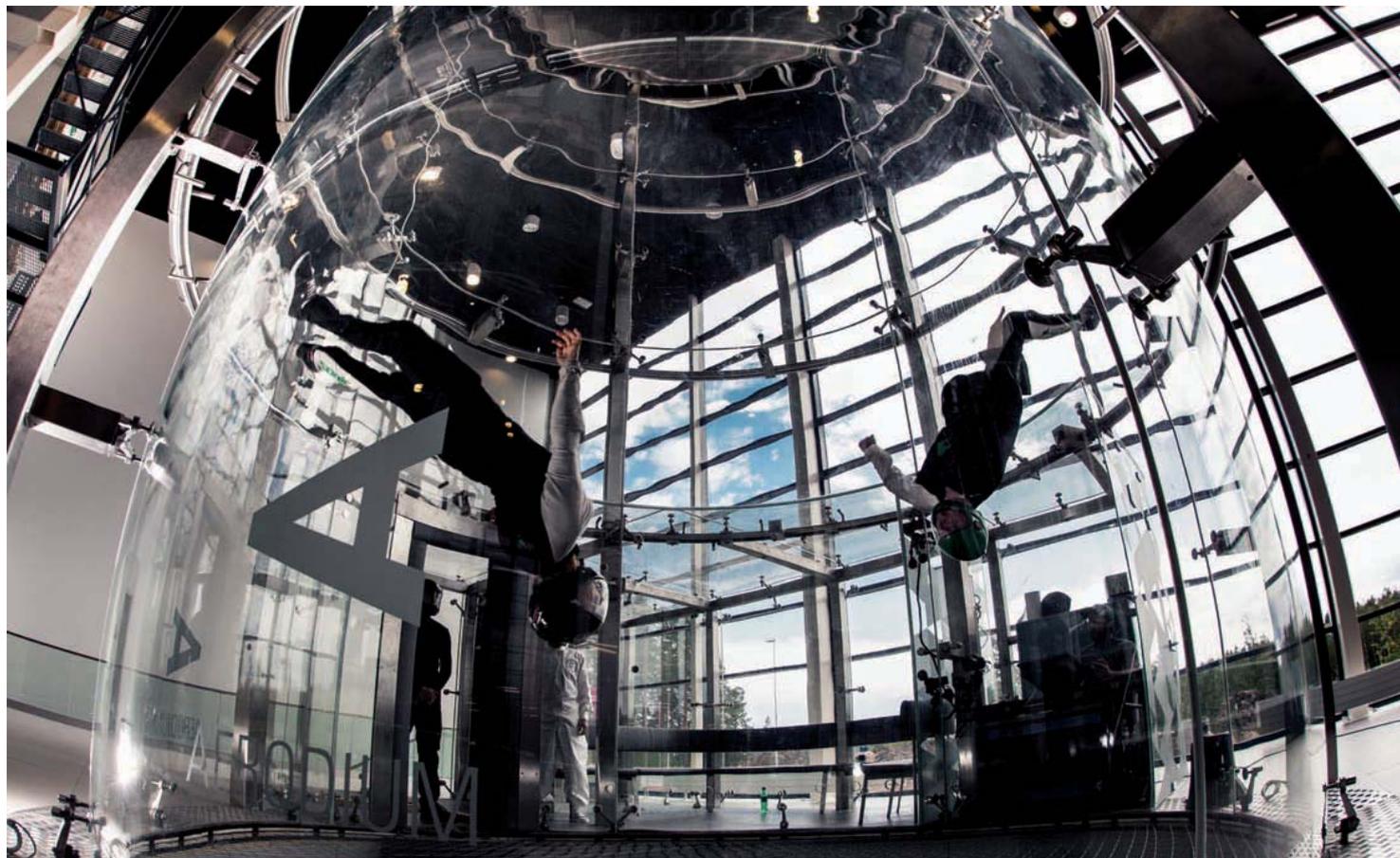
A big thank you to all the people who make this event happen; especially Skydive Hibaldstow, the *BLTs* and *Volare* organisers and those very special cameraflyers Andrew Ford and Gary Wainwright. It's the only event I know of that doesn't have a registration fee or charge for joining, despite the huge amount of experience we have from the people running it. However, to go the extra mile and get in the 40-way numbers, something needs to change. What I have observed is that a lot of people still come expecting to just be able to get a record without enough experience and training of big-way. The reality is that there is a small window to perform in and we don't get that many shots at it. To make the UK team stronger, if more people get out there on the big-way stuff and do this throughout the year, maybe next year will be a 40-way record or better. ●

Participants:

Mike Carpenter, James Davies, Matt O'Riordan, Dan Parker, Martin Reynolds, Frazer Smith (organisers), Duncan Aspinall, Liz Boniface, John Carter, Nev Cartledge, Paul Cooper, Ben Cornick, Ewan Cowie, Gary Crisp, Adam Dare, Pete Dennett, Jake Diliberto, Sean Freeman, Dan Guest, Steve Howes, Laura Kenyon, Ally Milne, Adam Morns, Anna Moxnes, Charlotte Newell, Tim Parsons-Smith, Glenn Phillips, David Reader, Jason Southall, Weed Stoodley

Camera: Andy Ford, Gary Wainwright





halihop.com

Since the first vertical wind tunnel to simulate freefall was established in 1998 in Orlando, Florida, the number of sites has only grown – and is now also growing in Europe.

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We are now working on a training network with dropzones all over Europe where skydivers can buy their training hours directly from our partners. This helps us match people's skill levels for group flying – and they can take their skills to the sky. You will soon be able to buy great packages exclusively from our partners.

Our aim is to provide the best prices and best training through our wind tunnel partners. Please ask your home dropzone for Halihop times. We will do our best to offer our service in your area.

For more information and to sign up for our newsletter, please contact us on bookings@halihop.com or visit our website at halihop.com



Pictures: Lauri Aapro

MARK SUTTON WAS AN AMAZING CHARACTER WHO WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY FOR INFORMATION. HIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND RESEARCH ON PROJECTS WERE SECOND TO NONE



Memories of
Mark Sutton
 by Gary Connery

Mark died flying his wingsuit in the Swiss Alps on a heli-BASE jump in August

I met Mark in May 2011 at Monte Brento in Italy and had several trips with him that summer. It was hard not to gel with him and, by September 2011, he had become project manager, techie, chef, driver, cameraman and all-round dogsbody, but most of all, a great friend.

Over the next eight months on my wingsuit landing project, we lived in each other's pockets and I grew to love Mark for his total commitment, strength and pragmatic way of dealing with any situation - nothing was ever a problem. He would need to pull me up on stuff every so often and tell me I was being a muppet! But he was so clear as to why and I could never argue back - he was always right! I had to love him for that (even though I hated him for it).

During the preparations for the Olympic Ceremony, the plan changed from only the Queen jumping to the Queen and Bond and it was down to me to find a second jumper. The timing was impeccable and there was no one I would rather have to cover my back on this project than Mark Sutton. He took to the part with ease, and combined a sense of true professionalism, humour and panache with style.

In the previous 10 months, we had jumped close to 250 times together from planes, cliffs and helicopters. He was always busy fiddling, taking things apart and putting them back together, and was the inventor of many 'Heath Robinson' gizmos that always worked. He had a great knowledge of all things gadgetry which, for me, was a huge asset. Many a time,



I would be calling on him to sort my numerous techie issues - he would do it in a flash! He had a huge zest for life and was always willing to make the time to share his vast knowledge (of all sorts of things) with everyone and anyone, with limitless ease.

It's hard not to miss such a great guy but, rather than cry at his death, I smile at the times I had with him. He is a huge loss to all who knew him and will be missed by many, but what he has done and achieved will live on for a very long time. ●

Mark Sutton – Skydiver, BASE jumper, wingsuit pilot, much-loved son, brother and partner, retired Army Officer and, without doubt, a gentleman.

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Photo courtesy of KOE



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DEALER FOR ALL MANUFACTURERS





Chris Cook and Willy Boeykens both allowing their risers to spread out, by Chris Cook

CHEST STRAP CHOICES

Should you loosen your chest strap once under canopy? If you watch people walking off the landing area, at least half of the very experienced jumpers seem to have landed with a loose chest strap. When and why do they do it, and who told them to? Certainly, you are taught as a new skydiver to adjust it so it is tight enough to do its job in freefall and loose enough to still be able to arch, then to leave it like that until you take the rig off in the packing hangar.

The benefit of loosening it by a few inches under canopy is that it allows the harness, and therefore risers, to spread further apart. This wider profile minimises any distortion in the shape of the wing, leading to a small improvement in performance. However, a more noticeable benefit is on landing – a looser chest strap allows you the mobility to lean forward in the harness during the flare, keeping you more upright to the ground and making it easier to put your feet underneath

you for a stand-up landing instead of out in front. Does it make that much difference? Well, someone heavy on a sub-100 square foot cross-braced canopy will notice a bigger difference in the performance of their canopy than someone on a 190. But everyone will notice the difference in being able to lean forward a little on landing in order to keep their body vertically orientated to the ground.

If you keep your slider at the top of the risers, this restricts how much they can spread apart anyway. Canopy manufacturers have to assume that you won't adjust your harness once under canopy, so they are designed to fly perfectly well with tight chest straps.

Can you still find your handles? There have been several incidents abroad where a cutaway has been necessary after the chest strap has been loosened (for reasons such as a stuck brake toggle, canopy collapse or collision) and the jumper has fumbled to find the handles in their new position – resulting in a Cypres fire in at least one case.

Does the time you spend loosening your chest strap, adjusting your slider, opening your visor, taking off your booties, turning off your camera and so on eat into time when you should be looking around for other canopies and checking your canopy is controllable? Are your toggles still released in plenty of time to cutaway if needed? So, if you don't already loosen your chest strap, should you start now? I'd suggest not yet but that, if you've gotten this far in your jumping career and have not considered it, then why not go on a canopy course where you can learn about this and much more?

WHAT IF...?

A slightly different What If this issue... what if you injured yourself jumping?

What would other people say about you? Sometimes when people get hurt, the reaction can be "well, that was just a matter of time" or "it's not surprising. That canopy was too small for them and they were always on the low side turning in – they just wouldn't listen".

Have a think about what the reaction would be to you getting hurt. If it would be less sympathy and more "I told you so", then do something about it now and perhaps you could avoid an accident. Prevention is better than cure, after all.

It's not over until...

Following a surge in canopy accidents a few years ago, people started to get the message that the end of the freefall is not the end of the skydive. The phrase "it's not over until your feet touch the ground" became popular. However, reading through the incident reports, it might be time to change this to "it's not over until you're back in the packing hangar" as there have been a few occasions of skydivers coming in to land and colliding with someone already on the ground – in one case knocking them

silly and resulting in an air ambulance ride.



Jumpers on the landing area looking out for more canopies landing, by Sam Lee

If you are landing on a busy landing area, then your accuracy should be good enough to line yourself up with a clear spot and even a small turn of just a couple of degrees on final should be enough to avoid a hazard as small as a

person. However, canopies still in the air should have priority over those already landed, so you should always turn and face downwind after you land so you can see the rest of the pattern. Keep aware of them as you stow your brakes and collect your canopy, and keep looking skywards as you walk off the landing area. If you walk into the flight path of an inexperienced jumper, you could scare them into a panic-turn into another canopy or the ground. Or, if they do the right thing and avoid yanking on a toggle near the deck, you could be headed for some bruises yourself!

OPS MANUAL QUIZ

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

Q1 What are the minimum canopy opening heights at different experience levels?

Q2 Who may jump 'pin pull' kit?

TOP TIPS: FS TIP

The priorities of FS: be on level, be in your slot, get a grip, continue to fly.

From the new FS manuals, available at bpa.org.uk/training-and-progression/training-manuals

TOP TIPS: KIT TIP

Do you know what colour your reserve is? What about your reserve toggles?

Emma Pilkington on the float rail at Brit Chicks, waiting for the floaters in the other aircraft to finish climbing out. By Willy Boeykens



SKYDIVER

New to Progression Zone – can you talk the talk?

LEAD AIRCRAFT

The one in front (for two aircraft) or front middle (for three or more). This contains the skydivers who will form the base of the formation.

TRAIL AIRCRAFT

Behind the lead, containing skydivers who will dock on the base and outer waves of the formation – generally, the further away your aircraft is from the lead, the further away your slot is from the base in freefall. In a three-plane formation, there is normally 'lead' (in the middle), 'left trail' and 'right trail'. In a five-plane formation, the extra aircraft on the outsides are called 'left left trail' and 'right right trail'.

FLOATER

Any exit position where the jumper climbs onto the outside of the aircraft.

SUPERFLOATER

In big-way, a floater from the lead aircraft who leaves slightly earlier than the rest of the base as a signal to the jumpers in the other aircraft that the formation is exiting imminently.

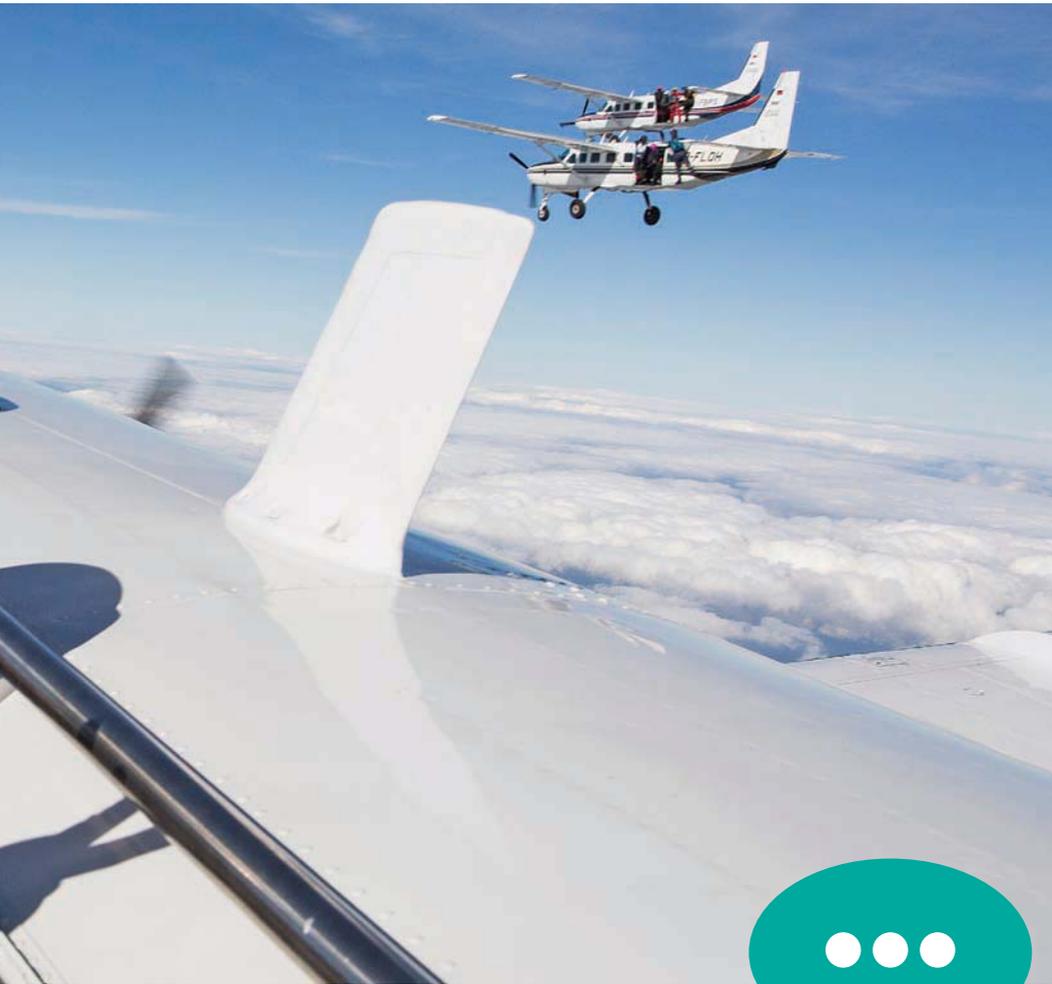
RADIALS

Invisible lines radiating out from the centre of a formation. Jumpers approach their slot along these lines to lessen the chances of a freefall collision with a jumper in a nearby slot, and to decrease traffic in bigger formations.

STADIUM APPROACH

The link between horizontal and vertical distance from a large formation as you move to your slot, e.g. if you are 10ft out, you might also be 10ft up or approaching at a 45-degree angle as opposed to being too steep or too flat.

A1 Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations), paragraph 4 Opening Heights Minimum canopy opening heights for main parachutes: 4.1. BPA B Licence parachutists and below – 3,000ft AGL 4.2. BPA C Licence parachutists and above – 2,000ft AGL 4.3. Student Tandem Parachutists – 5,000ft AGL 4.4. BPA C Licence holders, on displays – 1,500ft AGL **A2** Section 2 (Designation and Classification of Parachutists), paragraph 4, NB (5) BPA C Licence parachutists and above may use 'pullout' pilot chutes



NEW COACHES

The great summer has seen new coaches qualifying in almost every discipline and Netheravon seems to be a particularly good place to meet new coaches at the moment, with a third of this issue's coaching qualifications being awarded there! The DZs given are the ones where the coaches have achieved their rating, but they may be available to coach at other DZs. Congratulations to all.

FS COACH

Shaun Borley, Weston
Ann Lewis, Netheravon
Jenny Latham, Dunkeswell
Alastair Donald, Weston
Ian Ridpath, Netheravon
Christopher Williams, Netheravon
George Perkins, Netheravon
David Gill, RAPA
Dimitri Kavour, Netheravon
Caroline Kirkland, Sibson
Andrew Reid, Netheravon
Michael Pritchard, Tilstock
Samuel May, Netheravon
Peter Spedding, Cark
Charlie Hart, Netheravon
Rebecca Austin, Netheravon
Nigel Peacock, Peterlee
Alison Woodhouse, Peterlee
Jessica Armishaw, Dunkeswell
Keiran Bridges, Cark
Helen Shaw, Cark
Kris Cavill, Hibaldstow
Scott Allender, Cark
Jade Elliott, Peterlee
Steve Thain, Netheravon
Liam Barrett, RAPA
Jonathan Baines, Peterlee
Stephen Burdon, Peterlee

FF COACH

Yo Lee, Chatteris
Lucy Smith-Wildley, Netheravon
Ewan Cowie, Peterlee

CF COACH

Jim Scott, Cark

CP COACH

Gary Wainwright, Langar
Darren Glover, Bridlington

SPEAK



Floaters in the right right trail plane drop off at the sight of the superfloater leaving the lead aircraft. By Gary Wainwright



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"You just made the first Saudi female Skydiver a very happy person....." - Samar

"I received my LOPO suit recently and it is brilliant, very pleased with the service and workmanship." - John B

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THE LOWDOWN ON...

COLLAPSIBLE PILOT CHUTES

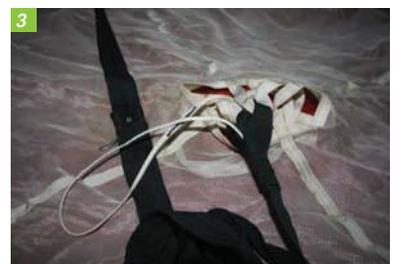
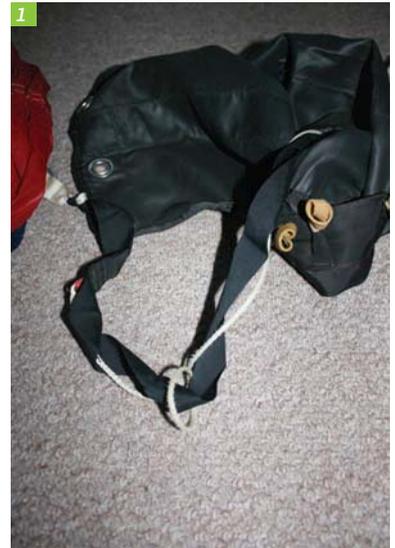
By Willy Boeykens

Most of us jump collapsible pilot chutes, but many of us would not be able to explain exactly how they work. Try it, before reading on. You probably know that your pilot chute collapses after deployment to reduce drag, and that after landing you must re-set it during packing so that it will work again next time. You may even know of someone who has forgotten to cock their pilot chute and has had a malfunction or very slow opening as a result. And you probably know it's something to do with the kill line. But what is going on here, specifically?

The kill line is a precise length – not too long and not too short. If it were too long, the pilot chute would stay inflated throughout the whole canopy

ride. This is not the end of the world, as non-collapsible pilot chutes are designed to do this anyway and all it means is a little extra drag. However, if it were too short, then it would not allow the pilot chute to inflate enough to do its job. This IS a problem, so it is critical that the kill line is the right length.

'The right length' is the length of the bridle, plus enough excess for the pilot chute to be allowed to fully inflate. Once the canopy is out of the bag, the part of the bridle that is inside the bag can extend to its full extension. This pulls the kill line back through the bridle, removing it from the pilot chute which then collapses.



1 This twisted bridle needs untwisting before continuing

2 'Uncocked' pilot chute with excess kill line showing in the deployment bag, and white in the window

3 'Cocked' pilot chute with excess kill line showing in the pilot chute and green in the window

Three things to watch out for

- 1) Always cock your pilot chute before you pack the canopy into the bag. Otherwise, you could pull the loop of kill line tight around the canopy fabric and cause holes in your top skin.
- 2) Always untwist the kill line from the bag's inner bridle. It sometimes spins around behind the canopy in flight, causing these twists, but if you do not remove them then you will artificially shorten the useful length of your kill line and cause wear and tear.
- 3) Keep an eye on your kill line as it is prone to wear and tear. Kill lines tend to shrink over time due to heat generated by the friction as the kill line moves through the bridle. If it's too short, it won't work properly!

SKYDIVER SPEAK

PILOT CHUTE

Small round mini-parachute, launched into the airflow to initiate main deployment. Can be collapsible or non-collapsible, and throwaway or pin-pull (pullout). Reserve pilot chutes, and some student main pilot chutes, are spring-loaded and deployed by releasing a ripcord.

BRIDLE

Piece of webbing joining the pilot chute and deployment bag. The main pin is attached to the bridle near the bag end. If the pilot chute is collapsible, then the bridle will be a 'kill line' variety and be made of two pieces of webbing sandwiched together. Otherwise, it could be just a single strip of webbing.

KILL LINE

Piece of Spectra microline (as used for suspension lines on main canopies) which runs from the apex of the pilot chute, down through the bridle and into the inside of the deployment bag. It is a precise length: the length of the bridle plus the inflated height of the pilot chute (plus a small leeway). It is too short for the pilot chute to remain inflated after the canopy is open.

WINDOW

The part of a bridle where you can see the kill line and can check by the colour whether it's cocked or not. As in 'green in the window'.

COCKED

After you land, your collapsible pilot chute will be collapsed. When you re-set it during packing, it is now 'cocked'.





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4 Chatteris

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5 Cornish

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6 Dunkeswell

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7 Headcorn

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14 Peterlee

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CARK

skydivenorthwest.co.uk

16 teams and Cark Week II

There was a big welcome to all of the teams for the third of the UKSL 4-way FS competitions at Skydive North West. With 16 teams (four Rookie, eight Single A, two Double A and two Triple A) and some decent sunshine, the meet kicked off with wheels up at 9am. Two local teams entered and the scores soon started to get uploaded onto the overall leader board. Alpha Yankee with Mike and Duncan at the helm continued as they plundered the 11,000ft competition altitude lift after lift. *SeaFury* led the Rookies, *Sky Tramps* headed up Single A, *Ninja Swans* were a neck ahead in Double A and *Nuevo* were holding first place in Triple A.

At close of play on Saturday and 33 lifts later, most if not all of the teams had completed Round 5. Phew – at least we had a meet. Overall, the team placings remained unchanged but *Ninja Swans* and *Taranis* were only separated by one point going into Round 6.

On Sunday, dawn was broken by Stuart bellowing out the gear-on calls for the first nine teams as the sixth and final rounds took off. By 11.30am, the meet was complete with no rejumps or team protests. Results saw *SeaFury* as outright winners of the Rookies, with our local team *Final Boarding* (Helen, Kate, Ming and Brett) earning a brilliant second place and silver medal. Single A was dominated by *Sky Tramps* with 76 points, with *Team Tetley* fermenting on 57 and *Rich and the Chicks* with 52. Double A saw the Irish contingent *Taranis* gracious in defeat as *Ninja Swans* pipped them to first place by only one point with a score of 67. Triple A saw *Nuevo* extend their lead over local team *NO-GOing Back* by some 16 points to take gold. Prizegiving was completed by 1pm – as usual, our CCI Dennis and his unequivocal one-liners kept the competitors giggling.

Our meet's success was down to many, but huge thanks go to the judges for their consistent judging, decision-making and fairness throughout the competition, Mike and Duncan for the precision flying, John for refuelling and all of the competitors for an incident-free comp. Manifest wasn't too bad either! Skydive North West would like to thank everyone who attended the comp and we look forward to seeing you all again in the not-too-distant future.

Cark Week II averaged 12 lifts per day midweek and 20-plus over the weekends. An abundance of qualifications were achieved and a few mini-competitions sprang up, especially in the IS1 category. It's great to see some old faces back – Steve Crabtree, John Boardman, Robin Lloyd and Albert Cooper to name but a few.

A 'get well soon' goes to Gaz Kirby following his mishap – had to laugh Gary, see you next year. Congratulations to Dave McMinn, who achieved his CSBI last month – keep up the hard work. Huge thanks to Robin Lloyd for some absolutely awesome photographs for our website and office. They depict our sport perfectly and the scenery shot is something else. A warm welcome to Tracey, who is our new Café Cark chef – all of our regulars are looking forward to the new menu.

Christmas will soon be upon us by the time you read this, so don't forget to contact Kay to reserve your place at our Annual Crimbo Bash. This will also include the club's AGM for 2013. As ever, you could be up for an award – so MIMO!

Stu Morris



1 Chris and Pete,
by Kev Coffey

2 UKSL 4-way meet,
by Robin Lloyd

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST
FREEFALL Alan Broadhurst,
 Sophie Flynn, Callum Garvey
AFF GRADUATE David Hunter
CAT8/CHI Ashley Capper,
 David Hunter, Florine Patty
CHI Stefan Klikovits **CH2/JMI**
 Thomas Bird, Blake Johnson
FFI Alec Hennis **WS1** Ali
 Woodhouse **WS2** Andy Telfer
CFI Nik Barnett, Ming Chu,
 John Howard **ISI** Fraser
 Dootson, Oli Gettings, Tom
 Reid, Ali Woodhouse **JUMP**
NUMBERS 50 Thomas Bird,
 Blake Johnson **100** Dez Blyth,
 Chris France, Harry O'Brien
500 Karen Pickering **600** Kev
 Coffey **3,900** Peter Connor

HIBALDSTOW

skydiving.co.uk

No cats were harmed in the writing of this...

Summer is so busy! Lots of FF1s and FS1s this time around, with the coaching team working hard to keep newcomers progressing and having fun. A special mention goes to Shona Peacock, who cruised through both her AFF and consols and then walked her FS1 (with 12 points, no less) in less than a month. Good work from Dan Deverell, who pulled off an FS1 after a single weekend of non-stop coaching – extreme FS1!

Sadly, the hoop jump fever is still running strong and Stubert finally gave in to the ravenous crowds and organised a hoop skydive. Somewhat ambitiously, the group decided to track the cat through it but failed miserably. Next time, maybe?

Our resident life student Andy Pointer managed to achieve his 200th jump, and did a static line jump in good humour from 3,500ft. Rumours are that he enjoyed the ride on a 280. We're not sure though – he hasn't landed yet!

Midweek jumping is back on the agenda over the summer with regular 'Thursganising' sessions with Stubert and fun coaching and organising with Jake. The biggest of all weeks, though, is when the Redlands massive take their annual trip to the dropzone for some fun jumping from 15,000ft. It's great to see you all and we hope to see you again next year, especially as you never finished the sambuca this time – must try harder!

The 4-way season is now in full swing and the biggest pre-Nationals test a 4-way team can get – The Hibaldstow Cup – was a great warm-up for more than 20 teams. With cash prizes for the winners, it was all to play for. Top slots took home up to 50 per cent off the cost of the Nationals, which is quite a saving.



Satori winning AAA, by Darren Graham

Pretty much the whole country knows that we host the British Open Nationals in August, but it's never any easier to plan – months of preparation in place for a rollercoaster weekend! The weather was a little picky, but we still managed to complete the biggest 4-way competition in the world in three days and the whole 8-way, Artistic and Speed meet in a day! It's great to see so many Hibaldstow teams on the podiums flying the flag for their home DZ.

With the fleet of Dorniers at home turf just after the Nationals, the *Bad Lieutenants* worked hard with UK talent to build a brand new record for our head down flyers. Well done to the guys and gals who produced a stunning 30-way over the skies of Hibaldstow – we're still the most progressive DZ for sure.

The season is nowhere near over, though, with so many good events coming up. Don't miss out on our famous Hibbleween on October 26 and the huge number of great weekends on the cards as we move into student season – check out skydiving.co.uk for full details.

Stubert Ferglstein

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Alex Simpson **CATB/CHI** Martin Bell, Leon Cross, Stu Dearnaley, Lucy Ford, Megan Hollis, Doug Houston, Rob Kena, Ed Matthews, Ben Mattison, Joe Mortimer, Shona Peacock, Pete Richardson, Dave Sercombe, Jim Stamp, Kiearan Tuffinn, Ed Watts **CH2/JM1** Dan Gittins, Nik Murphy, Owen Tomkins **FS1** James Brown, Dan Deverell, Hazel Gibson, Alyssa Griffiths, Laura Kaddour, Mike McAndrew, Nik Murphy, Shona Peacock **FF1** Tanya Burton, Fuzzy, Rachael Hughes, Matt Lancaster, Alex Marshall, Paul Myers, John Norrington, Rich Parker, Andy Pointer, Tom Stephenson, James Thompson **WS1** Pench **WS2** Ant Hill **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Dan Deverell, Dan Gittins, Nik Murphy **100** Leander Hambley, Ben Marshall, Nik Murphy **200** Paul Allum, Andy Pointer, Elise Sharp, Tom Webster **300** Claire Atley, Krystian Groom, Anthony Kinsey, Ryan May, Carol Murray, Charlie Pearce, Aimee Southwell **400** Rich Cotton, Lizzie Hossack-Lodge **500** Ann Fleming, Will Wester **700** Daz Graham **800** Daz Graham, Pench **900** Jack Bradford **1,000** Kris Cavill, Ant Hill **1,100** Kris Cavill **1,600** Crazy Legs **2,000** Rai Ahmed **3,000** Richard Parker **4,000** Dave Head **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Nik Murphy **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Jack Bradford

BECCLES

ukparachuting.co.uk

The sun's been shining, the weather's been sweet

Here at Beccles, we sure know how to rock the awesome summer sun that we've been seeing on the east coast. In August, there were more than 1,000 club jumps – which smashed our previous monthly record and, for a little ol' club like ours, that many jumps is pretty darn good.

We've have also had a record number of AFF students progressing through their levels over

the last couple of months, which has kept Stu, Gav, Aff and even Tomo really busy. Fortunately, though, Tomo has still had time to teach us all a valuable lesson about personal kit checks before emplaning! To help these new clubbies progress, there have been regular JM briefs, packing courses and BBQs – so cheers to Aff, Sy and Bryan for giving up their time to organise these. A massive congratulations and grand job has to go out to all you clubbies

who've taken part in this year's Army Nationals and Nationals events. A special mention has to go to Lewis Young, who competed in four different events in only a couple of weeks.

Another 'well done' goes out to Rob Bellman for passing his TI course in July and to James Tuck who tied the knot recently – let's just hope he is still allowed to come and play with us in the skies now he's all committed. Finally, a big welcome back goes out to Chris Higgins, who's had a five-year break from the sport. Brilliant having you back, Chris, and glad you've rediscovered the love.

James Page

ACHIEVEMENTS CATB/CHI James Boxall, Benny Butterworth, Vincent Crockford, Andrew Evans-Hedricks, Luke Flanagan, Andy Hayton, Ben Hearn, Nicola Kilty, Jordan Lee, Matt Minzghor, Fred Moliforth, Neil Oliver, Will Penny, Dominice Porter, Dean Rumsby, Stuart Salmon, Matt Spring, Anthony Toma, Sam Whitlam, Lukasz Zalewski **CH2/JM1** Sam Carter, John Dippnall, Bryan Kent, Leanna Lewis, Fredrick Moliforth, Barry Robinson, Duncan Watson, Lukasz Zalewski **FS1** Bryan Kent **FF1** Gerrit Van Zyl **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Bryan Kent, Leanna Lewis, Duncan Watson, Lukasz Zalewski **100** Sam Carter, Mark King **200** Andy McMillan **300** James Page, Andy Parker **1,000** Ian Flemming **1,300** Barrie Bremner **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Fredrick Moliforth



Tel Wilsoncroft, James Page and Sam Carter celebrating Sam's 100th jump with a mankini hybrid jump

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RAPA skydive-badlipperspringe.com

Regan Tetlow in a 12-way at the Chilly Weekender, by Michael Gerold



Still going strong!

It's been a while since we had a club update in here and to include everything that's happened since then would take up quite a bit of space. Bearing that in mind, I'll just brush over the main happenings of the past few months.

Despite the government cuts and the resulting reduction (and eventual complete withdrawal) of troops from Germany, RAPA still continues to provide an excellent service and facility for all skydivers and those who want to be. After a major shake-up and change around at the beginning of last season, things have now started to settle down into a regular routine for us here. With Category System courses running regularly throughout the season, we've been keeping ourselves busy and doing our bit for the BPA membership stats.

Alongside the courses, we have our regular bunch of adrenaline junkies based at our DZ including two German skydiving clubs. FSC Paderborn celebrated its 40th anniversary last year and FSC Lipperland celebrated its 30th this year. This enables us to get in a few additional and interesting extras through local contacts such as CYPRES's Rob Kendall and the President of FSC Lipperland. The

latter brought in Tobi Scherrinsky for a weekend during July to run a canopy control course tailored for all participants from newly-qualified A licence holders to skydivers with many hundreds of jumps under their belts.

Following up on that success, the guys from PD (Performance Designs) set up a tent over August 23-25 and brought a range of canopies including Sabre 2, Storm, Katana, Spectre and Velocity for all to test jump. The August 30-31 weekend saw Regan Tetlow take time out from Skydive Empuriabrava and his hot weekenders for the second year running to repeat RAPA's Chilly Weekender and smash out some fun 12- and 13-ways – with slots being in high demand. After the weather gods put a bit of a damper on Saturday's jump numbers, the forecast bad weather failed to show on the Sunday – with the group jumping themselves out.

So, if you're ever in the area or fancy an easy trip abroad, come and visit us at THE best BPA DZ in Germany! Check us out at skydive-badlipperspringe.com too!

Rich Oakley

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Bradley Armstrong, Chris Davies, Ryan Evans, Brian Gault, Ben Hamill, Sam Hopton, Shane Murphy, Mark Thompson **CAT8/CHI** Bradley Armstrong, Chris Davies, Ryan Evans, Brian Gault, Ben Hamill, Sam Hopton, Heiko Lehmann, Carsten Meyer, Shane Murphy, Moritz Ortjohann, Mark Thompson, Tom Wilson **CH2/JMI** Michael Devine, Paul Etchell, Esme Gartside, Andrew Johnston, Charlotte Lassu, Rebecca Lee, Heiko Lehmann, Kris Palmer **FS1** Paul Etchell, Andrew Johnston, Charlotte Lassu, Rebecca Lee, Kris Palmer **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Rich Oakley **200** Mark Gyatt, Josh Jamieson **400** Wolfgang Matussek **500** Rab Brown, Chris Flowdy **600** Christian Breuer, Seiriol Hughes **800** Charlie Brown **900** Meike Kendall **2,000** Andy Clark

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Daz Priest **CAT8/CHI** David Paul Biggadyke, Daz Priest **CH2/JMI** Lewis Lockwood, Chris Sphicas, Scott Tate **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Lewis Lockwood, Chris Sphicas **100** Scott Tate **200** Kiriakos Hadjipleri, Oleksii Samodid **500** Tasos Polycarpou **1,000** Elias Georgiou

CYPRUS skydivecyprus.com.cy

Festival in the sun!

Well into summer and the DZ is a hive of activity! Instructors Chas McNeil and Dylan Bartle are being kept busy with an increasing demand for tandems and AFF jumps while Pelham Georghiades' RAPS students are filling out the packing hall and putting our new CSBI George Kakkis through his paces. We say goodbye to Rob Campbell, who has provided some great camera work, and we wish him all the best for the future.

The annual Cyprus Parachute Festival took place at the end of June, with the DZ packed out with plenty of new students, visiting jumpers and club members along with a big crowd of spectators who witnessed a new record being set for Cyprus. Tasos Polycarpou set a record for the longest horizontal flight in a wingsuit made in Cyprus at 2,017.51m, with all funds raised going to help volunteer doctors on the island. Along with two days of fun jumping, the DZ held a party with performances from Zumba and Body Combat dancers as well as a few of the skydivers (ahem, Marios Christodoulou)! A demo jump from some of the club's more experienced jumpers took place, followed by a 3-way wingsuit flight by Chas McNeil, Steve Thomas and Tasos Polycarpou.

The Accuracy pad has been dragged out and several jumpers have been testing their Accuracy skills with their Parafoils. It has made for fun viewing as well as good training for those club members who are heading off to compete in an Accuracy competition abroad.

Steve Thomas is now offering coaching to all those who wish to move on to wingsuiting and we can expect to see some more flocking over the clear blue skies of Cyprus soon.

August has been the summer break for the DZ, allowing staff and jumpers alike some rest and recuperation in the sun. We're looking forward to the re-opening in September – with a camera workshop, 8-way competition and FF progression weekend taking place, it is sure to be busy!

Scott Tate



1 The Zumba dance team at the Cyprus Parachute Festival being shown a thing or two by Stavros Kyragoras, Scott Tate, Seb Bull and Marios Christodoulou. By Yiannis Panayiotou

2 Wingsuit display and new record being set. Chas McNeil followed by Tasos Polycarpou, with Steve Thomas trailing smoke at the rear. By Yiannis Panayiotou

PARAGON

paragonskydiving.co.uk

Break out the beer fines!

It has been a little while since our news and gossip has graced the pages of the Mag and we have been busy bees lately, with lots of tandem and static line students joining in on the fun. The Scottish weather has been part friend and part foe, with beautiful blue skies and nil winds one day to high winds, rain and lightning storms the next.

We would like to welcome Abe Hills back to the world of skydiving. Good to see him back in the air after taking some time out to set up his own business, 'Gay Toyz Ltd.' That reminds me – thanks for the refund Abe, much appreciated!

Thankfully, we have managed to complete all of our display obligations so far this year. The first was into Errol village for their Gala day, an event sponsored by the local winery – which provided us with some much-needed refreshments upon arrival. The second display was into the picturesque and beautiful Blair Atholl, a display which we have been unable to complete for the last two years due to the weather. This year, however, provided us with stunning views from the air and nil winds for landing. Well done to everyone on the Paragon Freefall Display team, including those in the ground party, and not forgetting the pilots for making the displays such a success. Dave 2, remember that you have a beer fine for flying your first display drop!

ACHIEVEMENTS FSI Pete Cuthbert JUMP NUMBERS 200 Pete Cuthbert 600 Eoin 'The Vowel' Muir

On the subject of beer fines, we would like to congratulate Peetay on completion of his FSI. We also have to award Peetay the title of 'Most Travelled Club Member' after notching up five DZs visited this year so far.

Thanks to the property market in the Borders being somewhat slow and thus preventing The Vowel moving to the ends of the earth, we still have the pleasure of his company in the skies over Paragon. Congratulations to him for his 600th jump – which turned out to be very messy! More congratulations to Steve for notching up 1,700 tandem jumps and for taking the title of 'Most spewed-on Tandem Instructor' – time for a change of aftershave, Steve!

Last (but not least) of the congratulatory mentions goes to our most progressed student Jenna Moss, who has announced her engagement to Steve Becala. We all wish you both all the best for your big day when it arrives.

As our very short summer comes to an end, a few of us will be making the annual pilgrimage to Skydive Empuriabrava for some fun in the sun. I will be sure to update you on those stories in the next issue.

Finally, for all friends of Paragon past and present who may wish to join us for the Christmas party on December 14, please get in touch with our manifest for details.

Blue skies,

Markie McConnell



Steve on tandem with Chick filming, by Lukasz

BLACK KNIGHTS

bkpc.co.uk

Alex in the sky with wine gums

Despite a turbulent summer, the team at BKPC have remained loyal. We would like to thank all of our regular and visiting skydivers for their support and continued dedication to the sport. We now have a Grand Caravan – whoopee! – and a big thank you goes to Jan in

Texel, who allowed us the use of their plane and pilot Alex. He will be missed by all, or was it just the wine gums on the way to altitude? Big thanks also to all of the other DZOs throughout the country who came to our rescue with planes throughout the summer.

Two teams from Black Knights entered the Nationals this year and managed to not come last! Well done to *Team Why So Serious* for coming fifth and *Team Funnel Cake* for coming 19th. Both had a really good time at Hibaldstow and will be returning for some more next time. We also had the CF Grand Prix here at the centre over the same weekend. Well done to the *Cockerham Cockups* who took gold and big thanks to the Scottish guys, Scott and Sandy, who joined the *Cockups* to make up the 4-way team.

Congratulations to Roger Hughes on achieving his wingsuit coach rating. He now joins the other

coaches who are available at the centre, so why not pop over and get some wingsuit instruction?

The Christmas party this year will be at the Garstang Golf and Country Club on December 14 and we will be having an end of year DVD along with presentations for Skydiver of the Year etc. It should be a good evening so, if you wish to come, please put your name down and pay your deposit as soon as you can.

A big sad goodbye to our friend Adam Smith, who has now left the UK to live and work in Hong Kong. We will miss him and hope he returns to the centre as often as he can when back in the UK.

Sharon Beeson

Phil, by Dave Simpson



ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8 Alfie Wardle FSI Karl Goodwin FFI Barry Maguire WSI Ruth Morrison JUMP NUMBERS 100 Aliaa Khaja 200 Adam Smith 300 Simon Eagles 600 Roger Hughes, Dave Simpson 1,000 Pat Priestly FIVE HOURS IN FREEFALL Dave Bloomfield

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**ACHIEVEMENTS WS1 and WS2 Kye Bromley JUMP NUMBERS 100 Eoin o'Mahony, Katie Wilkinson
200 Becky Stevens 300 Conrad Allen 500 Elliot Yarrow 600 Charlotte Pope**

SIBSON

skydivesibson.co.uk

Herculean shenanigans

What can we say, other than "well done" to all of our Sibson FS teams who put in an amazing turnout at the recent World Cup and UK Nationals. *Raykipo*, our homegrown team, are no strangers to overcoming hurdles this season, following an injury and a line-up change. They put in a very respectable effort at the World Cup, then brought it home at the UK Nationals with a 16.3 average. Stunning work, you guys.

Our other teams are also worth a mention for dedicating themselves to training and the competing. *Team Tetley* finished with a respectable 10.1 average, *Fiasco* took 9.5, *Team FreeF4ll* came sixth in Rookies and *Team Meteor* took a bronze in Rookies with a 9.3 average – a massive well done to you all and thanks for choosing to be part of the UK Parachuting Sibson fabric. We love you guys and are offering competitive team rates for next season, so come and speak with Paul in the office to discuss your future plans.

Well done to our newest Tandem Instructor Pokie, who recently joined the permanent staff. Although Pokie only got his Tandem rating in mid-July, he now has more than 100 tandem jumps under his belt. Go Pokie!

We recently had the joy of the BCPA Boogie, organised by Jack Bradford – which, yes, had the usual shenanigans. However, I have to give all credit to the organisers as the BCPA were pretty well behaved. As for the foam party and naked Pokie, let's not go there – there were enough photos. Oh, and the now-infamous helicopter video!

Following the BCPA Boogie, we then achieved what most thought was impossible. With the help of Pete Marsden from the Boogie Club, we did the first civilian drops from a Hercules C130 over Sibson with 80 skydivers. What initially seemed impossible, with the mountains of paperwork and organising that were

involved, was concluded with a safe and successful jump with no off landings – much to the annoyance of the sceptics.

We then held a BPA Instructors' course followed by our own Sibson Summer Boogie, finishing the festivities with our homegrown band Grounded. The event was awesome as usual and rumour has it I did several Jäger bombs – I blame Richards!

We jumped every day in July and have not stopped since. Other than the odd thunderstorm, we have all been out jumping like never before – a noticeable difference this year due to the amazing weather we have had. I also went on one of Alex Meacock's organised tracking dives and had an amazing time blasting through the air after a thorough briefing. Thanks, Alex.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Ged from Bodyflight, who is a regular fun jumper and a badass freeflyer who can usually be heard before you see him as he is just so happy.

Finally, a worthy mention to former Most Persistent Student and Club Member of the Year Eoin o'Mahony. Eoin's rise to qualified has been a little less than straightforward – some, maybe, thought it impossible. Well, not only did Eoin finally qualify a couple of years ago, he has now just completed 100 jumps. Well done Eoin from all the club members and staff. FS next, no doubt about that.

We are now working on next year's calendar and are filling it full of events and competitions for the whole of next season. If there is something you want, make a suggestion to Paul in the office – remember, nothing is impossible (except balloon jumps).

Paul Dorward



Pete Dolbel and George Judge, by Nigel O'Brien

JERSEY

skydivejersey.net

Flying circus

Summer has landed! With the thermometer in the 30s and the sky a bright blue, we've been jumping our socks off. With regular action, our club has seen plenty of altitude-related milestones smashed this month. For relatively humble club membership numbers, there have been a raft of achievements to celebrate. In addition to the numbers quoted in the achievements section, we'd like to congratulate 'Johnny 200' on his marriage to Caroline – enjoy a life full of love and blue skies! Brian Heath, one of our faithful jump pilots, should be getting the beers in after breaking through the 1,000 hour mark during a weekend of active service for the club – thanks for the service with a smile, Brian!

The club has been on a mission to raise funds for the club coffers and a very successful raffle was drawn on August 20. Three skydiving-related prizes were won and a few quid will be going towards the next boogie fund! Top work by the team on getting the tickets sold.

The Skydive Jersey travelling circus packed their rigs and headed over to our sister island Guernsey for the bank holiday weekend in August. Guernsey is probably one of the most exclusive dropzones in the world as it is only open once a year and this year we had the weather for a couple of days' jumping into the landing zone at L'Erée Nature Reserve. The locals relished the chance of an aerial view of their island as tandem students and many took the chance to raise some mighty amounts for local charities. A few fun jumpers also got the chance to experience the view of Guernsey and its smaller surrounding islands of Sark, Herm and Jethou with a coveted Skydive Guernsey entry for their log book.

Looking forward to the last quarter of the year, we'll have the option of flying Saturdays again – so regular weekend openings will be giving us our adrenaline fix! Long live the summer!

Nigel O'Brien



Mal Richardson with Claire Smith and Michelle Traynor scrubbing his undercarriage, by Nigel O'Brien

**ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Claire Smith CH2/JMI Richard Hamilton FSI Liam Hardman JUMP NUMBERS 50 Richard Hamilton
200 Johnny Kelly 500 Jacek Giza 1,000 Pete Dolbel**

Killa's group



WILD GEESE

skydivewildgeese.co.uk

Just getting started

Well, what a summer we've had. Between RAPS students, tandems and club jumpers, Wild Geese has been bustling. 2013 has been especially significant for us as it is our 30th anniversary. The club was founded in May 1983 by Dave and Maggie Penny and is now the only skydiving centre in Northern Ireland, so it was with great enthusiasm that we celebrated this historical landmark with a great big Anniversary Bash – and what a weekend we had. An evening of good food and drink, along with excellent company, was a welcome interlude to some fabulous jump activity. Obligatory speeches were the order of the day as Dave and Maggie gave thanks and recognition to all the club members, staff and instructors both past and present. A great night was had by all – some more than others!

Central to the weekend's jumping was big-way training. Gordon Hodgkinson and Shane Collier graced us with their experience to organise the big-way lifts and formations, and we are indebted to them for all their efforts – thanks guys. A balloon jump was also organised to help mark the occasion. Some lucky jumpers got up early on a cool summer morning for the experience of a lifetime. We even managed to get the event covered by local TV news (famous at last – eh, Wendy?).

A number of freefly schools have been very popular with some of our own club jumpers. FF coach Tim Porter has spent so much at Wild Geese this year that we're thinking of giving him his very own locker! Seriously, though, his experience, positive energy and coaching have been absolutely invaluable to all those who attended his schools. Working on one-on-one

Fly Wild exit, by Sam Bement



ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Linley Ewing, Gareth Hunter, Niall McPolin **FSI** Ciaran McAlister, Joanne Wilson
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Stephen Campbell, Simon Finlay, Julie Scrimgeour

coaching through to bigger groups tracking, those FF students are now working hard to consolidate their training.

Our own homegrown Rookie 4-way team – *Fly Wild* – had a constructive period of training under the tutelage of Gordon Hodgkinson. Between his coaching and the team's dedication, *Fly Wild* progressed and developed to a superb standard. As a result, they convincingly won the Hibaldstow Cup with a total score of 72. Needless to say, everyone at Wild Geese are extremely proud of *Fly Wild*. Well done to you guys, good job! This win had set the team up with confidence a few weeks later when entering the world's largest national 4-way competition. There were a total of 75 teams competing, 20 of which were in the Rookie category. *Fly Wild* paid no attention to the so-called competition and, after eight rounds over three days with a 12.4 average, Wild Geese's very own homegrown national champions stood on top of the podium

with gold medals to show for their hard work. They even got a double page, full colour spread in Northern Ireland's Sunday Life newspaper, which is great publicity for the sport.

While on the topic of 4-way training, it was great to see the *Wind Shear* team from IPC, who came up and stayed with us for a while to hone their skills in preparation for the Irish Nationals. They must have taken inspiration from *Fly Wild* (or vice versa), as they too received gold medals as Irish National Rookie 4-way Champions. I'm thinking a 'jump off' – *Fly Wild* vs *Wind Shear*, winner to be crowned Island of Ireland Champions. Who else would like to see it happen?

As competitions seem to be the main talking point this summer, Wild Geese Canopy Pilot Rod McCrory of the 'World Famous' *Irish Swoop Team* took himself/myself off to the Czech Republic to compete in the Pink Canopy Piloting Open. Unfortunately, there are no separate classes like the 4-way and I was up against the world's very best including *Team Alter Ego* (current World Champions and World Record holders) and the Boys (and Girl) in Blue, the *PD Factory Team*. After nine rounds of competition, I had achieved my goals, didn't come last, didn't get nine zeros and walked away in one piece.

We've sadly had to say cheerio to two of our club jumpers. Dave Dornan and Julie Scrimgeour have been lured away by dream jobs to foreign shores. While we are all really sorry to see them go, we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours and hope to see them back someday over the skies of Garvagh.

To finish on a cheerful note, the progression of club jumpers has been very rewarding – please see the Achievements section for the names. A big well done to all!

So, until the next time – swoop hard and fast, full commitment!

Rod and Simon

Anniversary balloon jump, by Bill MacKinnon



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Chocolate, beer, oil, victory!

Redlands is happy to announce a new dictator has been born as Em and Brucie have given birth to the lovely Seth – who will no doubt be saying it's his train set soon. H managed to keep his 3,000th jump quiet, until he let it slip. Jonny Moulder has taken over as the DZ's Man of Mystery from Dan Morgan, who is just interested in intelligent conversation now he is an AFF Instructor, and will be unstoppable once he has his Tandem rating. Jenny is now a qualified masseuse and we will now have to pay, rather than be willing guinea pigs, to undress in the classroom and be rubbed with oil when the weather is bad. Mark Benson has chubbed up a lot – the high life of being overseas has changed him. Rumour has it that he actually packed his rig rather than shouting and not kitting up any students (he still hasn't paid his beer fines either). Adam Duncan is still trying to get his FS1, and is still being beaten up by all of the ladies on the DZ and loving it.

Others, however, have succeeded. Cath Thorne, Jasper Smith and Hazel Ttyyreeeelll are all now FS1 and are technically awesome – as is Chrissy, who coached her first FS1 student as she actually did some jumping. Lucy Smith-Wildey continues to be amazing and is now our resident Freely coach/camerawoman. She is helping those who attend Brucie's Tunnel camps and has also assisted in a resurgence of a lesser-known jump: 'the fun jump'. Mike McNulty has had his toggles touched on landing a tandem; we are looking at CCTV to see who did it as no-one is owning up. Once the culprit is found, they will be duly beer fined. Mike and Brucie have built a swoop lane and have been playing with each other at high speed. Leonie Ingram is now back in the sky. I for one have missed her and, after producing two future *Team Sexual Chocolate* team members, she didn't sell her rig and was the most awesomest of everyone after getting back in the air...

As always, Cookie, Ash and Fozzy raise the standards of what an Instructor should be each and every time they visit. Without them, we would just be a 'normal' DZ and the country wouldn't be as safe. But a big, big well done has to go to Shaun Barrett and Sue Read who, after both being told knitting or golf would be a better lifestyle, stuck two fingers up to society and realised they are true skydivers – both now have A licences. I would like to say well done to them both – you made us all very proud.

We also went on tour to Hib as normal and, despite what Crazy says, we won everything. It's in the Mag, so it must be true!

Dylan Griffith-Jones

Lucy Smith-Wildey upside down, by Alexis



ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Matt Alder, Shaun Barrett, Sarah Cox, Darrell Gibson, Sue Read **FS1** Andrew Griggs, Jasper Smith, Catherine Thorne, Hazel Tyrrell **JUMP NUMBERS 700** Jenney Bouquet **900** Pieter Potgieter **1,000** Jonny Moulder **2,500** Dylan Griffith-Jones **3,000** Michael 'H' Harrison

Our girl Jeralee, by Paul Bateman



CHATTERIS ukskydiving.com

The latest Chatter

Our club jumpers have been very busy over the past couple of months! Over the first weekend of July, we hosted two days of CRW coaching for our jumpers who were looking for a bit of a change and wanted to try something new. We had a handful of coaches including Gavin McLeod and Mark Skarratts providing tips, demonstrations and all of the skills required for our skydivers to then get fitted with radios and go up and give it a go for themselves. We had a great turnout and have had some of the visiting skydivers return to the dropzone since.

Not long after the CRW weekend, we were lucky enough to host the last BPA FS Coaching Roadshow before the UK Nationals. BPA Chairman Martin Soulsby, and Brian Cumming and Jon Dundee from UK representative team *Escondido* kindly spent the weekend providing free coaching to anyone and everyone, whether it was one-on-one pre-FS1 skills, people just off FS1 wanting to improve their flying or teams getting ready for the Nationals. It was a great weekend and the guys provided some great seminars and managed to equally share their knowledge (and 'gymnastic' skills) with everyone. We're hoping they'll be back again soon.

With the British National Skydiving Championships being the largest 4-way competition in the world, no matter what dropzone you were on, everyone was talking about it. Chatteris was very well represented at the competition this year, with many 4-way teams and a scratch 8-way team entering – all made up of our regulars. All-girl 4-way team *ChatterChicks*, who formed this season and started off in Rookie, entered in the Single A category and newly-formed *Chatterati*, who had a last-minute addition in the form of Marc Melo, entered in Rookie too. We also had one of our jumpers, Dave Wickes, enter with a newly-formed 4 *Our Souls*. They did really well and fought off some great competition. Even though there were good rounds and some iffy ones (like most), there were still plenty of smiles. *ChatterChicks* ended up placing 15th out of 24 and *Chatterati* were seventh out of 20.

But it didn't end there. Ben Smith, one of our freeflyers, entered as one half of a team in Freely B category and amazed us all by winning the gold medal! Also, the *ChatterChicks* and the *Chatterati* joined forces that weekend with half of AAA team *Gert Lush* (Rich Rust and Craig Poxon) to form... *OctoChatterChickerati!* The team had half an hour in the tunnel the week before Nationals and, although some have gallons of experience, some had never attempted 8-way before. Amazingly, they ended up taking silver at the UK 8-way Nationals – you cannot get more awesome than that! A massive well done to all the teams and Chatteris jumpers who represented us at this year's meet.

Robynne Haynes

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Deimantas Cape, Ed Howden, Conrad Lumley, Tom McNicholas, Salim Satar **JM1/CH2** Ali Atlasi, Jeralee Cullen, Alexander Ilevlev **FS1** Alexander Ilevlev, Jon Williams **FF1** Tanya Burton, Jeralee Cullen, Stephen Landau, Dragos Lupu **FF2** Rod Bradley **CPI** Greg McEntee **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Ali Atlasi **100** Tanya Burton, Robynne Haynes **200** Sarah Ashworth, Alison Peock, Ben Smith **300** Nick Griffin, Dragos Lupu, Vikki Poulton **1,000** Graham Ablett **1,100** Greg McEntee **4,000** Craig Poxon **5,000** Yolande Lee **12,000** Gary Small **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Greg McEntee

DUNKESWELL

skydive99.com

Home of the SWOOP

We were super excited to host the British Nationals in Canopy Piloting from September 20-22 2013. We have seen the best swoopers from the UK and Europe here at Dunkeswell and the dropzone was open the whole week before the Nationals (10 days in a row from September 13-22) – giving everyone plenty of time to practise. Full report next issue.

We are still a bit hungover from the epic Twin Beech Boogie. For those of you who were with us, thanks for filling up the two Beech99s. This Boogie had promised to have the best load organizers: wind tunnel world champion Adam (*Killa*) Mattacola and national champion Chris Lynch for Freefly, the legendary Dave Morris for FS, Fraser Corsan and Neil Empringham for Wingsuit Flocking (which is becoming more and more popular here at Dunkeswell) and the one and only Wiggy for tracking. We are afraid we are treating you guys too well – everyone who signed in before 9am on Wednesday and Thursday got a free pint after the jumping. We did our best and we should do it all again soon.

We also had charity jumps during the Boogie where the girls jumped in lingerie to support cancer research and the boys jumped in boxer shorts to support testicular cancer research. Huge thanks to all of you who supported our brave women and men! Dunkeswell has also gotten to be one of the most popular dropzones in the UK among girls. To celebrate a lot of girlie jumpers around here, we have set a Dunkeswell Girlie Big-way Record during the Boogie. Hopefully we will need two planes for this beautiful record next year.

We have also been really happy to sponsor our AAA 4-way team *Vision99* with Mike Hayes, Debbie Lamsley, Ady King, Simon Guest and Richard Orford – well done for representing us at the Nationals. This is our first year and is only the beginning. We really hope to see more 4-way teams with us next year.

To kick it off, we're holding Scrambles once again this year at the end of September. This event has been super popular at Dunkeswell and it really

is all about fun over here. If you check the list below, you will see that we have had loads of new FS1 beer fines in the last couple of months.

It's great to see SO MANY new students and new skydivers joining the DZ! If you have not been here yet, try us – the first weekend is free membership.

Miko

Dates for your diary:

- FS1 Progression Weekend: October 25-27 2013
- End of Season Party: December 14 2013
- Open for Festive Jumps: December 27-29 2013
- 2013 Reopening: January 10 2014



ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Lisa Gibson, Codie Housam, Phillip Williams, Roofy **CH2/JMI** Linda Hedges, James Sutton **FS1** Colin Bailey, Lucy Clarke, Elliott Fry, Joe Graves, Gary Rooke, James Sutton, Rachelle Selby, Tatiana Yusupova **FF1** Lucy Mancey, Jimmy Meen, Stuart Smith, Justin Underwood **FF2** Tim Gaines **WS1** Jimmy Meen **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Linda Hedges, Ralph Taverner 200 Sandie Morgan 300 Matt Mitchell, Richie Taylor 400 Neil Empringham, Mark Kurylo, Jimmy Meen 600 Dave Monk 800 Simon Cresdee, Joe Matthews 1,200 John Price 1,800 Debbie Lamsley

TILSTOCK

theparachutecentre.com

FS1, anyone?

We have had so much progression with FS students in the past few months, our coaches have been handing out FS1 like it's going out of fashion. If they are not gaining their FS1, then they are flying through the levels with ease. Congratulations to Jules Bergel for awarding her first FS1 qualification as a coach and then awarding her second two lifts later – déjà vu! A massive thank you goes out to all of the



coaches at Tilstock, who are all very keen to encourage progression in the sky, on the ground and in the tunnel, including the newly-qualified Michael Pritchard and Ellie Southworth.

We have also had fantastic results from some of our club jumpers at this year's Nationals. In Single A, Caroline Vaughan and her team *TR4CK* won the gold medal, Mike Allsopp came fifth with *FR4GMENT* and Ann Fleming came ninth as a member of *Kesshin*. Ellie Southworth jumped into the team *Equal Pay 4 Women* at the last minute and came second. Inspiring and awesome work, ladies and gents.

A very successful canopy course was run this summer. It was the first canopy course in a while where the weather was kind and allowed jumping on both days. Thank you to Smudge from *Team HEAT* for coming along to teach. I'm sure more will be planned in the future, so keep a look out.

There has been great weather and a great atmosphere at the DZ recently with students and club jumpers; the sunshine has really allowed everyone to get stuck in with their jumping. Tom Rees took a break from working at The Palm in Dubai to do a few jumps with us here back in the UK. We have had continued success with our static line students, which is great to see. We even managed to turn some of them into packers on our latest packing course, thanks to Paul Stockwell. You can never have enough packers...

Overall, summer has been very satisfying this year and we look forward to more clear but cold skies for this winter. Don't forget to pick up your Christmas party tickets from the DZ or by calling 01948 841111 – this year, it is at Hawkstone Park on December 14.

Mary Carbutt

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Gary Windon **CAT8/CHI** Kyle Sinclair, Neil Williams **JMI/CH2** Dan Cope, David Greenwood, JJ, Tom McDonald, Adam Roberts, Rich Scott **FS1** Dan Cope, Lauren Mann, Tom McDonald, Adam Roberts **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Dan Cope, David Greenwood, Tom McDonald, Adam Roberts 100 Dale Hamilton, JJ 300 Eddie Milnes 500 Ann Fleming 2,000 Lee Rhodes **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Jules Bergel



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Drew Moon flying a Caravan flyby, by Sam Laming

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Emil Bachvarov, Jamie Metcalf, Emma Moody, Nitin Valeth, Grahame Willcox **AFF GRADUATE** Sally Anderson, Ben Boucher Giles, Rob Charlton, Lisa Charlton, Chris Granger, Henry Houghton, Chris Parker, Lewis Sanderson, Caiti Stewart, Martin Sudlow, Ashley Williams **CAT 8** Vincent Pietersz, William Solomon, Aaron Wilkinson

PETERLEE skydiveacademy.org.uk

HEADCORN headcorn.com

Perfection, pilots and partying

Hurrah! Summer finally arrived at the beginning of July and it has been non-stop jumping, partying and fun ever since. The pool was resurrected and filled with water during the heatwave and many a pool party took place after jumping – with lots of barbecuing and alcohol involved. Drew Moon, Holly Goodfield and Joe Laming became masters of the slack line and Marcus Muir Smith sported some pretty impressive cuts and bruises when the fun went a bit wrong!

On the jumping front, there has been a good mix of everything including FS, FF, CF, wingsuiting, swooping and tracking. Simon Soper and Marcus Muir Smith decided to take the round parachute for a Mr Bill and were successful on the second attempt. Chris Lynch has run more Wing Tips seminars, improving the level of canopy handling both at the basic and advanced level. We saw the return of Walk-up Wednesdays this year, led by Andy Dann, and the first one kicked off with an 8-way group getting in a couple of great dives.

Headcorn was well represented at this year's 4-way FS Nationals as members were involved in at least six teams. Special mention to *Endwarfin*, a newly-formed Rookie team with Liz Hurry,

Johnathan Ashton, Laura Freeman and Charlie Wakeham, who (despite having never jumped together before as a four) managed a creditable 11th out of 22 teams. A special mention also to *Sky Vandals* Anthony Green, Jo Whiting, Mike Dawson, Ben Samuel and Nigel Rowlan, who won bronze in the Single A category. This is also not forgetting *Bazinga* with Fleur Jones and *Fr4gment* with James Freeman, who fought it out for fourth and fifth places in single A. Well done to everyone who competed on all your achievements!

In August, we sadly developed a problem with the engine on the Caravan and it had to come out and be sent away for repair. Luckily, Texel were able to help us out for a week with one of their Caravans and good old Alex (would you like a sweetie?) Fixsen wasted no time in getting it over to us. After that, the jolly old Islander was seen chugging away, providing some retro fun and keeping things flying. This meant a reduction in club jumping and we thank our club members who bore with us during the difficult times. Hopefully, our Caravan will be back up and running by the time this is in print.

Jane Hopkins

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Katy Baker, Sam Parsons, Chris Robinson, Mike Sosinski, Sam Ward, Stuart Yearsley **AFF GRADUATE** Lio Arias, Oscar Boyd, Amy Buckle, Alex Leslie, Adam Swierzynski **CATB/CHI** Richard Allingham, Ram Ayair, Eddie Dacosta, Ben Jakobus, Adam Mclean, Sam Parsons, Karleigh Ransom, Georgie Rhodes, Oliver Richards, Sam Ward **JMI/CH2** David Griffiths-Jones, Chad Smith, James Wigzell **FS1** Dan Honey, Chad Smith **FF2** Luke Warren **CPI** Simon Beech, Andy Dann **CP2** Joe Laming **WSI** Frank Millerick, Marcus Muir Smith, Chris Smith **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Alex Johnson, Rob McCormack 200 Lee Blackledge 300 Holly Goodfield, Charlie Wakeham 400 Marcus Muir Smith 600 Mary Barratt, Sam Laming 1,000 Joe Laming **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Alex Johnson

Home and dry

The last two months have seen some great strides being made at the centre, with a dozen students graduating from the AFF course – a few through the Category System – and some second-generation skydivers in the making with sons and daughters Grahame (son of Mark and Janet) Willcox, Chloe (daughter of Si) Flisher and Lauren (daughter of Anthony) Fernyhough all now at various stages of the Category System and Aaron (son of Will and Lisa) Wilkinson now embarked on FS.

The AFF School run by Brian Dyas is really coming on, with Instructors Nick Brown, Dick Kalinski, Daz Rose, Ewan Cowie, Sandy McRobbie, John Horne, Mike Smith and occasionally myself taking to the skies with the endless stream of students Brian is bringing in – more than 100 AFF descents since the last Mag! We have had some great weather and lots of jumps are being made. It is great too to have our 65-year-old-plus pilots Tony Cowan, Ken Glendinning, Stuart Palmer and Dick Kalinski back with us to cope with the demand.

Improvements continue to be made around the centre, with David Houghton making a great job of painting the reception and the ablutions/bunkhouse block (which now blends in well with the hangar). Our neighbouring farmer George Jackson is raising the level of the caravan site with the spoil from the tunnel he is digging to his house under Bill Ramsey's farm fields, thus keeping the caravanners and campers above the water table during those thunderous downpours that we have

occasionally had in between the excellent sunshine. Indeed, many thanks must go to Tony Fernyhough, Paul Moore and Roy Howarth for unblocking a drain and stemming an incoming flow of water into the hangar just this past weekend.

We now look forward to our College Club members returning after their summer recess and hopefully a busy autumn as they book on their freshers' courses. The Northumbria girls are already ahead of the game, having updated their centre noticeboard with a collage of photos to put the other Uni clubs to shame. Good luck too to Sue Bober of Northumbria who, after an injury, has now taken back to the skies on an AFF course and is fitting a 60-mile charity bike ride in between levels. We say au revoir but hopefully not goodbye to Ewan and Evelina, who are off to France – a career move of Evelina's, but we were able to celebrate Ewan's birthday with him before he went. Many thanks to the guys and girls behind the scenes manifesting, packing parachutes, collapsing tandem canopies and, in Roy's case, fixing everything electrical and mechanical that gets broken.

We wish Kevin Johnstone, pictured on his last Tandem jump, a swift and full recovery from his injuries; sustained, indeed, on that jump – the first injury of note, and hopefully the last, to a Tandem Instructor at Peterlee in 26 years and several thousand tandem descents. Kev, we miss the crack (the humour, that is) – come back soon.

Ian Rosenvinge



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NETHERAVON

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Winning lots and tying knots

It's been a fantastic summer for Nethers, with surprisingly good weather and the huge success of Nethers-based teams in all levels of competition. It started with *Bodyflight Isis* taking bronze in Bosnia, being third in the world and second in Europe with a 17-point average. *Euphoria Freestyle* upped their game massively to come sixth and fifth in the world and Europe respectively. *Isis* repeated this success at the Nationals, with *Euphoria* taking gold in the freestyle (well done Alex and Grandad Godders!) and silver in the freefly events. Well done to everyone who took part, whether you came away with medals (and a lot of you did!) or not – we're very proud of you all. We're particularly proud of *BLESMA Trans4mers*, who entered the FS competition having only completed their AFF in April this year. Respect, guys!

Stacey Canning (occasionally appearing to look a lot like Rick Boardman!) has been running B licence courses, the aim being to complete all the briefs and activities needed to sign off on B licence. The first two of these were a huge success and filled up in record time. Contact the APA office if you're interested and we'll start planning the next one – see the website for full details.

Congratulations to club regulars Steve and Emma Dove who tied the knot in July, and to Jay Brittain and Louise Buxton on their engagement following Jay's mega romantic proposal! Congratulations also to Trev Evans, who received his Army Colours for Skydiving. Well done also to Nick Brownhill, who chose to mark his 5,000th jump by taking his partner, Dawn Brooks, on a tandem. This was all the more remarkable because Dawn had open heart surgery just last year – that's some recovery!

It's a season of success for *Tutti Frutti!* Nicki Young, Melissa Dando and cameraflyers Kev Tucker and Elana Cain have picked up several gongs this summer with their awesome wingsuit skills. Gold at the UK Wingsuit Championships at Nethers, silver at the Armed Forces Parachute Championships and silver at the Hungry Wingsuit Artistic Competition. Well done!

The 51st Armed Forces Parachute Championships went off without a hitch and produced some amazing stats: a total of 1,699 jumps, 764 jumps done in one day, first-ever wingsuit category in the AFPC event and a most amazing finishing ceremony with swooping, wingsuiting, Red Devils, tandem and three-plane low-level flypast to bring the competition to a close.

Keep an eye on netheravon.com for details of the APA Christmas Ball on November 30 and more.

Kath Salisbury and Elana Cain



Emma and Steve Dove's wedding along with Netheravon guests, by James Lee

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Gary Chambers, Brynn Gareth Muirhead, Daniel Hannigan **CAT B** Neil Gru, David Harrison, Sheena Moran, Luke Rudd, Jason Sturbacher, Dan Williams **CATB/CHI** Jen Bryant, Alan Godfrey, Chris Hill, Megan Jones, Tom Keyte, Niki Marshall, Oli Melzack **CH2/JMI** Duncan Ayers, Charles Goodhew, Neil Gru, Jorge Gutic, Scott Kimber, Bhavin Lamba, Kwunita Man, Stuart Reid, Grant Revan, Ade Rudd, Nicholas Yu **FSI** Jay Brittain, Jorge Gutic, Kwunita Man, Sophie Rolleston-Smith, Nicholas Yu, Dave Wyse **FFI** Neil Anderson, Charles Goodhew, David Harrison, Siobhan Parrott **WSI** Spencer Bailey, Andy Myers **WS2** Si Goodman, Paul Shortman **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Neil Gru, Scott Kimber, Bhavin Lamba, Nicholas Yu **100** John Munday, Peter Toth **200** Charlie Hart, George Perkins, Sean Sapsford **300** Mark McKay **400** Robin Fisher **500** Keira

BCPA

bcpa.org.uk

Heatwaves, Nationals and... jelly wrestling?

It's been a busy summer for the BCPA! July brought our biggest annual event – BCPA Nationals. Sibson did a great job again and, aided by a heatwave, we had seven days' straight of jumping! There was something for everyone, with Flight-1 101/2 and 201/2 courses provided by Brian Vacher through the week, helicopter jumps on Friday, non-stop FS and FF – and more. The evenings didn't disappoint either; we had outside gigs, foam parties, jelly wrestling and glow stick parties – a truly memorable week and a great way to see out the BCPA year.

With Nationals comes the BCPA AGM and prizegiving. We said goodbye to the 2012/13 Committee of Jack Bradford (Chair), Tim Gaines (Tour Organiser) and Matt Gottwald

(Competitions) – they did a truly excellent job, so a huge thank you for their year of hard work. The 2013/14 Committee has been voted in and we welcome a returning Jack for his second year as Chair (glutton for punishment), James Colley as Tour Organiser and Ali Woodhouse in the new position of Events and Promotions Secretary.

BCPA Nationals being over was not going to slow our jumpers. At BPA Nationals, the BCPA could be seen in force. Countless current members and alumni partook in the 4-way Nationals and, the following weekend, nine members banded together to form the *BCP8* in the Rookie category at 8-way Nationals. After close competition, the *BCP8* went into the final tied for second place but lost out by

a mere two points. Congratulations to Jason Kelleher, Lizzie Attwood, Heather Gibbons, Stuart Reid, Tom Fletcher, Jack Bradford, Ali Woodhouse and cameraman Craig Hicks on your bronze medal.

Looking forward to the new academic year, the first BCPA event will be Freshers which will be held at Cark this year on November 9-10. A big event, it's a chance to give new recruits a taste of the BCPA with a CF focus. Coaching will be available for B Licences and above.

Over December 13-15, we will be holding a Christmas Boogie at Langar. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details.

Ali Woodhouse

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ACHIEVEMENTS CAT B Mikey Mucullogh-Holmes, Chris Milnes, Racheal Poole, Liam Watt
JUMP NUMBERS 1,500 Martin Heywood-Wakeman

BRIDLINGTON

skydivegb.com

Come to the dark side!

The glorious weather over the skies of Bridlington has meant that the busy season has been a successful one. We have experienced a dramatic uptake in static line students, which is positive for the future of our sport and ensures that the club is a fun place to be.

The Skydive GB Canopy Piloting Course is now up and running and we aim to hold these on a regular basis. Darren Glover is teaching the course and he is a wealth of experience (and an awesome swooper).

We are looking forward to the return of the Hull University Skydiving Club after their summer break and aim to get many more of them qualified. Our pilot Liam Watt has finally crossed over to the dark side and has qualified as a skydiver and our bookings manager Racheal Poole has also qualified, which has resulted in terrible administration as she is always in the air! Also,

massive congratulations to Chris Milnes and Mikey Mucullogh-Holmes for completing their RAPS courses and qualifying. Brendan Ireland has finally put a camera on his head and Jo 'Utah' Marshall must get a mention for the most tandems undertaken in the shortest duration and she has made it her mission to complete a tandem with each of our instructors – twice!

The Ravens display team have been busy recently, including jumping into the Armed Forces Day at Scarborough and a display at Manchester Airport. The displays have been a hit with the public and have publicised both the centre and skydiving.

Finally, massive thanks to our regular jumpers that help out with the running of the centre – we couldn't do it without you and we appreciate everything that you do.

Sara Orton

CORNISH

cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

Surf's up, skydiving's up higher!

At last, the Cornish summer we've been waiting for! The club has been busier than ever, with plenty of people jumping. When they are done with chilling ("just the way it is down here"), the club has a much more vibrant feel about it with regular club members and visitors having fun over the Cornish coast.

Not sure if it's vibrancy he brings to the team, but we welcome Andy Montriu – who has settled in well and can drink a cider or 10! Chris Fowler is the newest member to the flying crew and we look

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Ed, Kenny, Lee, Phil, Sam, Sam E, Toni
JUMP NUMBERS 200 James, Stu

forward to spending many hours flying up to altitude with you (but not down again).

Massive congratulations go out to our students, who are steaming through the AFF course – keep going Ed, Phil, Toni, Sam, Kenny, Sam E and Lee. Some have now finished and are building numbers so they can jump at Perranporth – well done to Jon, Pete, Rich and Will. Well done also to James and Stu on their 200 skydives, now working towards camera and tandem. Who will get there first? I'm sure the beer will have been bought by now!

The annual Perranporth Golf Club Display was the most spectacular to date, with the sun low over the sea, nil winds and a large crowd willing to buy us beer!

Thanks to everyone in and around the club for your continued help and support – whether it's serving coffee, fixing planes, unblocking toilets or doing tandems, it's all appreciated.

The end of season party this year will be on Saturday November 30. Follow us on Facebook for details nearer the time.

Ben Wood



Pete Sutton,
by Ben Wood

LANGAR

skydivelangar.co.uk

Andy Gaskell's
100th jump,
by Chris Cook



Why run when you can jump?

Our guys and gals did us proud again at the British Nationals this year. At a quick adding-up, 47 Langar jumpers competed and won a total of 34 medals – 13 each of gold and silver plus eight in bronze. With competitors in every discipline and medals won in VFS, both 4- and 8-way FS and Freestyle, we reckon that's a pretty good showing! Nice one, people.

Stefan Pacel completed a 'vertical marathon' for charity – 11 jumps from max altitude to make up the 26 miles. Good job, and lots of cash raised for his cause.

Bullet's Tracking weekend was a storming success. More than 50 people joined us and completed 46 tracking dives over the two days. Participants included lots of tracking newbies, moving from introductory coaching dives through to 5- and 6-ways by end of play. The dive leaders did a truly excellent job – not one off-landing! Team Hyrrokkin's 4-way Coaching and Organising weekend catered for all levels from those who had just gained FS1 through to experienced jumpers with thousands of skydives. Good fun was had by all, with some great dives and lots of learning all round. We've got more Tracking and 4-way events to come – see our advert or check out our Facebook pages.

Come and join us for our end-of season 6-way competition – it's on November 2-3 and that's the same weekend we're having our combined Halloween and Bonfire Night party. We jump all winter too, so come and jump: keeping current makes you safe! Details for all upcoming events are at facebook.com/skydivelangar and you can check out loads of photos of what we've already done!

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Emma Bradley, Barnaby Gilford, Rosie Johnson
AFF GRADUATE Tom Bartlett, Richard Beriott, James Brown, Gaz Dawe, Chris France, David Gagno, James Hogan, Hassan Hussaini, Teifryn Jones, Tyler Mason, Tim Mayor, Ian Nolan, Florine Patty, Neil Roberts
CATB/CHI James Brown, Mario Cahongo, Colin Carruthers, Chris France, Barnaby Gilford, James Hogan, Hassan Hussaini, Teifryn Jones, Martin Lowe, Elliot MacGuinness, Tyler Mason, Sam Moule, Steve Murphy, Ian Nolan, Jack Parton, Neil Roberts, Emily Sugars, Nick Tudor
CH2 Matt Bryant, Paul Coleman, Neil Denbow, Chris France, Jill Judd, Andy Schofield, Guy Stanley
JMI Paul Coleman, Neil Denbow, Chris France, Jill Judd, Andy Schofield, Guy Stanley
FS1 Cynthia Bowring, Paul Coleman, Emma Dayman, Chris France, Martin Lowe, Stefan Pacel, Guy Stanley
FF1 Dave Allen, Chris France, Andy Schofield
FF2 Emma Pilkington
WS1 Paul Fletcher
CPI Dan Maden
JUMP NUMBERS 50 Paul Dougall, Richard Drabble, Chris France, Martin Lowe, Stefan Pacel, Steve Padmore, Chris Prior, Guy Stanley 200 Jill Judd, Alex Whitehead 300 Matt Willson 400 Raph Barbier 500 Paul Monaghan, Ben White 600 Laura Hampton, Karen Neilsen 700 Karen Neilsen, Emma Pilkington 1,000 Weed Stoodley 1,100 Nick Robinson, Charlie Smart 2,000 Sián Stokes 4,000 Luci Boella 6,000 Ally Milne 8,000 Dean Fisher
ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL Paul Coleman, Chris France, Tamsin Gulliver, Andy Schofield
12 HOURS IN FREEFALL Paul Fletcher, Ruth Jordinson
24 HOURS IN FREEFALL Tim Aucott



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October

October 5-6

CF CF Grand Prix

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 10-11

U B Licence and Packing Progression

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

October 14-18

U Progression Week

Location: **Peterlee** · skydiveacademy.org.uk

October 19-20

A Euphoria Freely Coaching and Organising

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 19-20

A Tracking Weekend

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

October 19-20

FS Multi-plane Skydiving with Dave West

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

October 19-20

A Bullet Freely Tracking Weekend

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

October 24-26

A Halloween Boogie (WVWR qualifier)

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

October 25-27

FS FS1 Progression Weekend

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

October 26-27

U Packing Course

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 26-27

B/F Hibbleween

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

October 30

BPA Noon deadline for Council nominations

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

CYPRES 2 24 hours waterproof

November

November 2

U B Licence Progression Day

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

November 2-3

FS 6-way competition

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

November 2-3

B/F Bonfire and fireworks, Halloween beer festival

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

November 4-8

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)

Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

November 9

U Night Jumps

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

November 9-10

B/F BCPA Freshers

Location: **Langar** · bcpa.org.uk

November 9-10

A Tracking Weekend

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

November 11-15

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

November 14-15

U B Licence and Packing Progression

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

November 21

BPA Riggers' and STC Meetings

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

November 26-December 1

A WVWR – Women's Vertical World Record attempt

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

November 30

B/F APA Christmas Ball

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

November 30-December 1

U Packing Course

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

November 30-December 6

FS Square One 333-way Sequential Record

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

CYPRES 2 very easy to use

December

December 3

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

December 8

B/F Hib Xmas Do

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

December 13-14

A **B/F** Xmas Tracking and Party

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

December 14

B/F Christmas Party

Location: **Tilstock** · theparachutecentre.com

January 2014

January 10

U Mega Refreshers

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

January 25

BPA BPA AGM

Location: **East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham** · bpa.org.uk

January 28-February 2

U IPC Plenary meeting

Location: **Vienna, Austria** · bpa.org.uk

February

February 27- March 2

FS P3 Sequential Event, 16 to 60-ways

Location: **Perris, California** · p3.com

May

May 14-18

FS P3 Spring Fling event

Location: **Perris, California** · p3.com

October

October 4-12

B/F Equinox Boogie

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

October 12-18

FS Women's World Record and Men's World Record

Location: **Perris, California** · p3.com

KEY

BPA BPA EVENTS

CP CANOPY PILOTING

FS FORMATION SKYDIVING

CF CANOPY FORMATION

S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY

B/F BOOGIES/FUN

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Living dangerously

The overriding core value of the BPA is safety. Today, this is achieved by the rigorous application of comprehensive training, well-maintained equipment and carefully developed procedures coupled with personal awareness when we jump



Thruxton – Bernard Green (on plane) and Martin Griffiths (second from right)

Fifty years ago, things were a lot different. The early pioneers of sport parachuting in the UK managed to get into a number of scrapes. Fortunately, most of these episodes had a happy outcome resulting in stories that have passed into legend. Bernard Green, joint founder of the BPA and its first Secretary, remembers one such occasion.

“It was in the Autumn of 1959 that Mike Reilly, Martin Griffiths and myself travelled to Sywell Aerodrome in Northamptonshire in order to skydive. On arrival at Sywell, we hired a Cessna 170. This aircraft had a single engine and a metal fuselage with high fabric wings that were supported by a ‘V’ strut that attached forward and level with the door. It was a four-seater, but we removed the two rear seats and the door on the port side. We asked the pilot to fly as high as he could in one hour. This aircraft was produced between 1948 and 1956, and the climb rate was supposed to be 690ft per minute with a cruising speed of 121mph and a ceiling of 15,500ft. The sky was clear, but there was a chill in the air and we had thin RAF flying suits on over our normal clothes.

We sat on the aluminium floor behind the pilot. Mike got in first – I think he knew it was going to be draughty – I sat in the middle and Martin sat at the door to do the spotting and direct the pilot to the required exit point over the airfield. I felt quite cosy sitting in between them. We sat in silence because of the engine noise and wind howling round the cabin. It was getting really cold and the plane was not climbing very

well with the pilot and three kitted skydivers on board. It was taking a long time to get to height. Martin kept poking his head out of the door to check on the wind direction by looking at clues like the airfield windsock and smoke from chimneys. I expect he was also looking at the views.

Suddenly, without a word or gesture, he rolled out the door. I’d had this done to me before as a strange joke – the joker leaving the others in the plane, causing them to miss the DZ. I was not going to fall for that and I quickly rolled out the door after him. This caused me to tumble and I found myself on my back looking up at the plane. At that moment, Mike’s hands, then his head and shoulders too, came diving out the doorway. To my amazement, his right hand then shot out and grabbed the wing strut and he hung on like a trapeze artist. I was not surprised at his speed of movement or agility because he was a superb athlete. I saw the plane veer violently to the left in a semi-circle before the pilot recovered and flew off with Mike still hanging on below the wing. What puzzled me was why he did it.

I had to turn my attention to watch what I was doing, so I rolled over. Below me, Martin was freefalling still and below him was, to my horror, a bloody great town, almost a city – it was Northampton. There were no open spaces to head for and it was pointless to open high and hope to drift away from the housing estates and huge factories that appeared to be everywhere below us. I opened my chute

as I saw Martin going for his ripcord. Thankfully, the wind was light and we both had steerable 7TU chutes – we had cut out five narrow panels at the back of the chutes and at each end a large cut which enabled us to turn the parachute around in order to see where we were going.

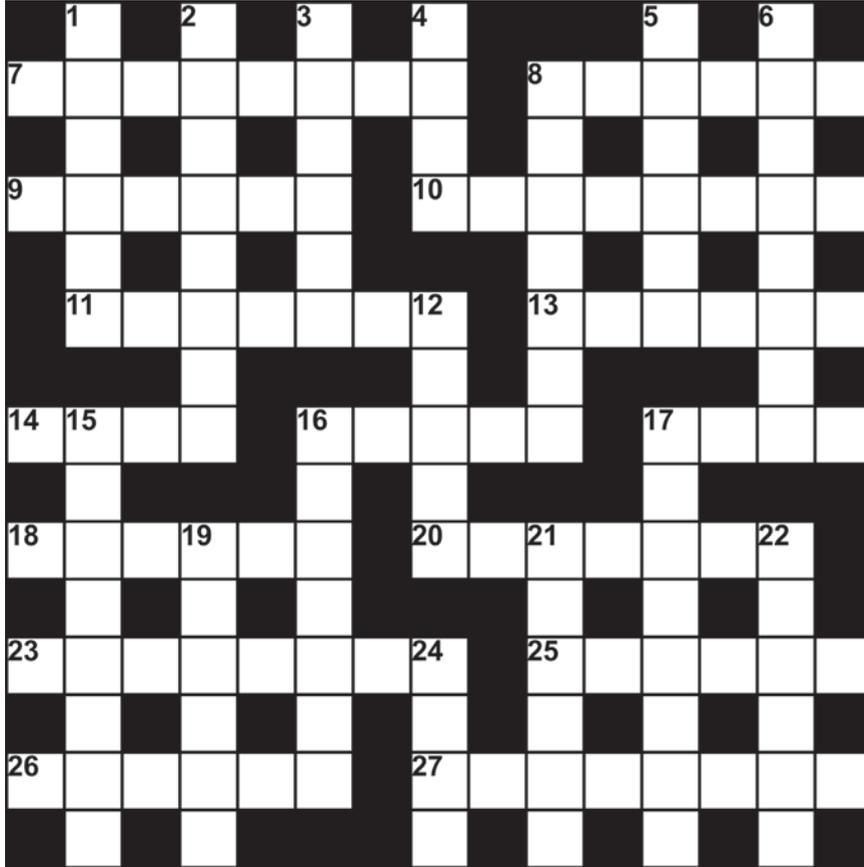
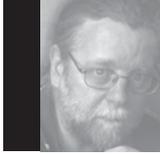
I saw Martin land successfully on a road in a housing estate as I was over an enormous factory with a glass roof. I had heard that shoe factories in Northampton had glass roofs, but it has a different effect on the mind when you think you might be visiting them through the roof. I managed to land in the front executive car park, but left part of my parachute, the sleeve that encased the canopy to reduce the opening shock, on the roof. I did not bother to retrieve it, because I could not imagine anyone climbing 40ft up over glass to get it for me.

I walked over the road to Martin, who explained that he got so cold and stiff he fell out the door of the plane. I replied that we were both lucky that we did not go through one of those glass factory roofs and end up as stiffs. We got a taxi back to the airfield where Mike was waiting for us and, over a cup of coffee, he explained that as his head cleared the door he saw the town and grabbed the strut. Then he held on for more than two minutes while the pilot flew back to Sywell. That was nearly five miles at 120 mph, then he dropped off. I believe that the area that Martin and I landed in was Moulton Park.”

Bernard has written an autobiographical collection of poems and stories, which includes a number about early sport parachuting. dunceordyslexic.co.uk ●



Bernard and Mike Reilly, the first BPA Chairman, on the set of the Steve McQueen film The War Lover in 1962



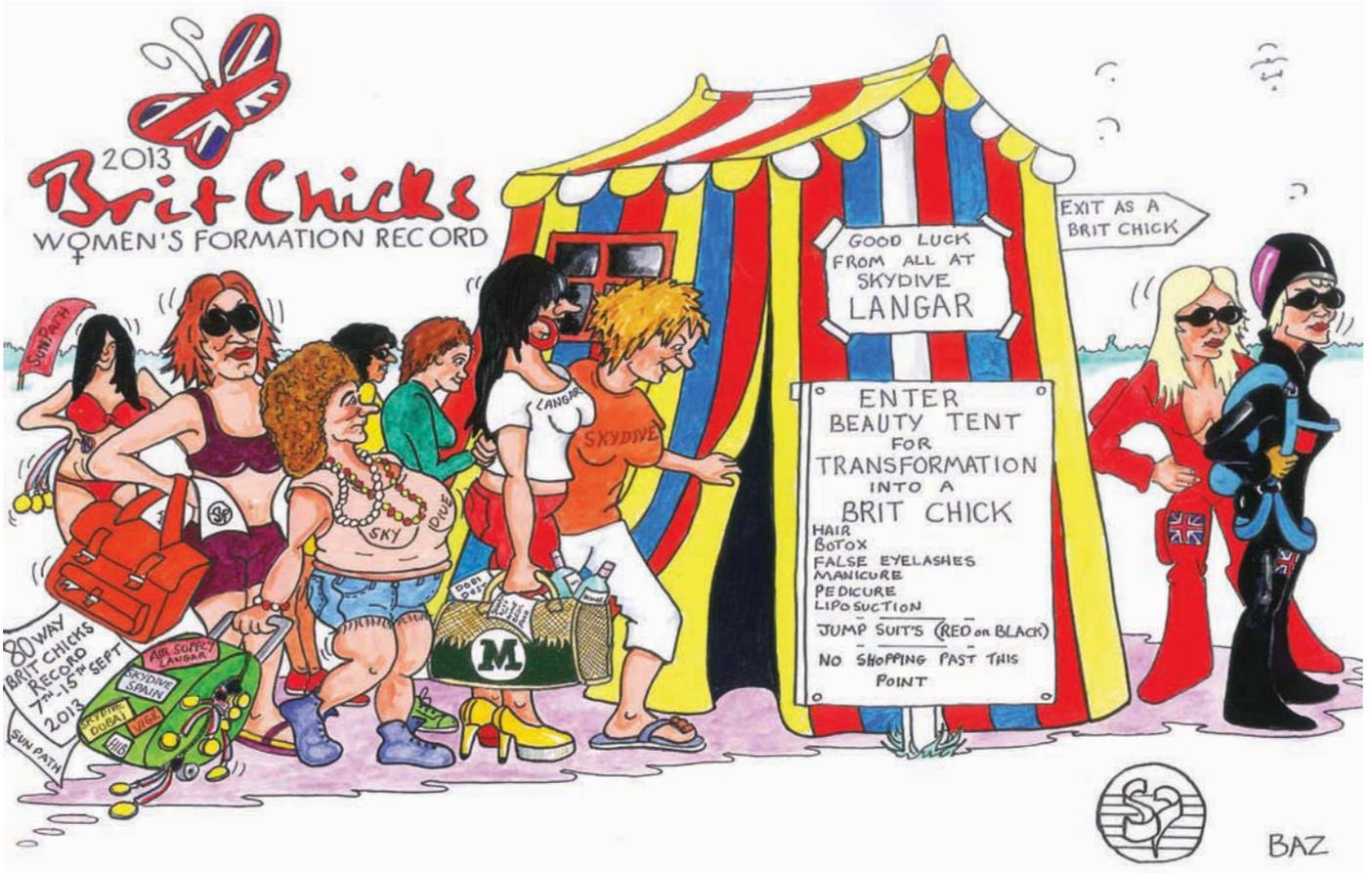
Across

- 7. Home of the Skydive Academy
- 8. Deployment retarding device
- 9. Gets in a flap
- 10. Some length of 14 Across
- 11. A landing on one's feet, comedian
- 13. Ship's brake
- 14. Nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once
- 16. Takes a place in formation
- 17. Activate parachute deployment
- 18. At an angle to the main alignment
- 20. Critically lost airspeed
- 23. Occurrence
- 25. Qualification
- 26. Non-moving photographs
- 27. Above the basic level

Down

- 1. Goes over something again
- 2. Pause for a short while
- 3. Not opened
- 4. Gripped
- 5. Manufacturer of Cypres
- 6. Curved wing shape
- 8. Fails to fully deploy
- 12. Stows a parachute
- 15. Velocity Sports Equipment container
- 16. Audible altimeters
- 17. Controlling a flying device
- 19. Abilities
- 21. Come to a destination
- 22. Peril
- 24. Group

CARTOON



Across 7. Petlee 8. Slider 9. Panics 10. Duration 11. Stand-up 13. Anchor 14. Time 16. Docks 17. Pull 18. Offset 20. Stalled 23. Incident 25. Rating 26. Stills 27. Advanced
 Down 1. Recaps 2. Hesitate 3. Closed 4. Held 5. Airtec 6. Aerofit 8. Streams 12. Packs 15. Infinity 16. Dyters 17. Piloting 19. Skills 21. Arrive 22. Danger 24. Team



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