



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com December 2014

skyDIVE

SINCE 1964

the mag



INSIDE: NATIONALS 2014 NEW HEAD UP RECORD TEAM GB WINS THE ESL ECLIPSE ON THE SECRETS OF GREAT TEAMS NEW WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD BODYFLIGHT REVENGE MEET TRIBUTES TO DARE WILSON AND TIM MACE PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, IDEAS AND EVENTS

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Sample Package available.

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

What a Mag! It's absolutely bursting at the seams with competitions, records and a bumper Club Zone. It's also bursting due to remembering two very special people – Dare Wilson and Tim Mace. I really could fill the entire Mag with memories of just these two individuals. Dare Wilson was the second Chairman of the BPA and he started this very magazine back in 1964. Although we have focused on his life within parachuting, he also had significant military achievements. Tim Mace was a test pilot and cosmonaut who competed in every single skydiving discipline at World level – what a legend.



I'm really looking forward to Skydive the Expo in Nottingham on January 24 2015. It's for absolutely everyone, whether you've been jumping for decades or have only just started (or haven't yet started!). I still remember my first AGM, as it was then called – Rick 'Oracle' Boardman made me go, and I'm very glad he did! It was great to meet so many like-minded people and to find out so much about this new sport that I already loved. That was fourteen years ago and it's still one of the highlights of my year. See you there!

Liz Ashley

British Parachute Association Ltd

The National Governing Body for Sport Parachuting. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in London No. 875429.

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SOME OF THE PHOTOS IN THIS MAGAZINE MAY SHOW SKYDIVERS WITHOUT HELMETS OR ALTIMETERS, OR OTHERWISE NOT OBEYING THE BPA OPERATIONS MANUAL, IN WHICH CASE THEY WERE TAKEN ABROAD. IN THE UK IT IS MANDATORY TO WEAR A HELMET AND ALTI FOR OBVIOUS SAFETY REASONS. STUDENTS WITHIN THE MAG ARE COMPLYING WITH BPA REGULATIONS.

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



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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
February 2015	January 02	February 17
April 2015	February 24	April 16
June 2015	April 21	June 03
August 2015	June 16	July 28
October 2015	August 25	October 06

*Building a record,
by Norman Kent*



Freely sequential 57-way

As big-way records get bigger, it gets exponentially harder to break them due to the logistics involved. You don't just need more skilled people, but more aircraft, more pilots, more complex break-off plans and more caution under canopy. In FS, the current World Record 400-way has stood since 2006 and new records have moved towards sequential (multi-point) in recent years. It is a category that was not previously pursued as much as the 'one point, as big as we can' type records and so currently provides more scope for records to be broken.

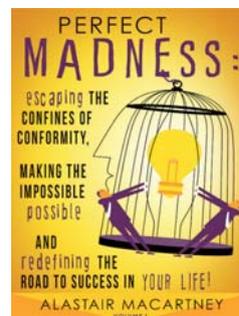
Freely flying has recently moved in the same direction at the Live Bigz event in Spaceland, Texas. A new World Record 2-point 57-way head down formation was achieved, as well as a 4-point 33-way. In fact, these jumps set a total of 10 records as every World Record jump was also a State and a National Record and the 4-point 33-way also counted as a 3-point 33-way too.

Expo Showguide

There are a couple of freebies with this Mag – a 2015 Calendar and the Expo Showguide. Skydive the Expo is the new name for the associated events at the BPA AGM on January 24 and you'll see that we've got a whole host of great seminars, speakers, exhibitors and entertainment. If you're reading this online, the Showguide can also be downloaded from the BPA website. See you there!

DIPC

This Mag will be hitting doormats, tablets and smartphones at the same time as a large GB delegation will be taking part in the Dubai International Parachuting Competition from Nov 26-Dec 7. Good luck to all our competitors: *Raykipo* in Open 4-way, *Team XX* in Female 4-way, *CRWsaders* in CF 4-way Rotations, six swoopers and six Accuracy jumpers.



Perfect Madness

Skydiving and BASE jumping personality Alastair Macartney has just released his first book entitled *Perfect Madness: Escaping The Confines Of Conformity, Making The Impossible Possible And Redefining The Road To Success In Your Life!* It's a fun and easy read designed for everyone that wants to live their dreams and create new possibilities. There are chapters on 'Redefining Possible' and 'Developing Your Future' as well as lessons such as *The Dragon Won't Eat You*, *Danger Perception*, *Be Mad and Reach For The Stars*.

Skydivers in particular will be interested in the chapter entitled 'Fear' and those interested in competitions will like the 'Mindful' and 'Stamina' chapters. The price keeps going up but, if you buy it as an ebook from Amazon, it's particularly cheap: www.perfectmadness.com/ebookUK

Alastair will also be at Skydive the Expo talking on *Making The Impossible Possible* and might even have a few spare copies with him there...



Big Brain Maths

Skydiver and maths teacher Rob Bradley has set up a new website, BigBrainMaths.com. It's aimed at using adventure to inspire kids to love maths and is full of videos and worksheets. Puzzles include using trigonometry to calculate stats about Rob's wingsuit flights, calculating temperature conversions on Mount Everest and measuring the size of a shark's fin.

If you have children in secondary school, Rob says: "The aim is to raise achievement, inspire young people and make maths more relevant to real life. I am on a mission to inspire young people to do well in maths, to achieve their full potential and to go out there and live life to the full. I hope these stories and pictures will captivate people and make them realise that maths is far from boring."

Optimum 30 for robot

The Freefall Camera's canopy has now been delivered: a custom-made Optimum 30 by Performance Designs. Once we have it flying, the aim is to explore the deployment characteristics. I want to look at the 'g-force' that our robot feels during the opening

sequence, especially during the early inflation stage, and for that I'll be using an IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit) which calculates the robot's accelerations, its attitude and magnetic bearing in all three axes.

I recently finished the design for our test rig, which will be used on our first live drop tests from an aeroplane. This is basically so that, if it goes rogue, our only prototype won't go in! Once we are happy with the GPS navigation, which I'll be designing and David will be coding (rather you than me, buddy!), we will transfer the canopy over to The Freefall Camera and let the real testing begin.

Our canopy has already made its first test flight. We snuck into our university during the early hours and threw it off the top floor with a dead weight attached to it. This was all done in the name of science and the results looked promising.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Skydive the Expo, where we'll be presenting a seminar. We really do enjoy hearing the thoughts of the community and appreciate any feedback, so keep it coming.

Tom Shorten





Designer Rich Berry in action!



Alex's AFF, by Tim Sandall

Mag team do first flights

Although Editor Liz has been skydiving since the year 2000, the Mag is produced in partnership with the BPA's media partners Archant Dialogue in Norwich. There, the Mag team is a bunch of magazine specialists, not skydivers – designers, editors, advertising and print whizzes. Liz is the only one who jumps regularly, and she sends them all the articles so they can work their magic and turn it into the professional item in your hands right now. This is mostly done remotely, since Liz is also a full-time maths teacher, so she spends her spare time putting the Mag together via email.

We all meet up about once a year and this year we did so at Bodyflight Bedford – where everyone did first flights! Mike, Rich, Matt, Andy, Estelle and Alex all flew five minutes each and loved it, and Alex has since done AFF ground school and is part-way through his levels at Sibson.



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/M7W2FA2

Watch the Mag team in action at Bodyflight Bedford by clicking the link above or by clicking on this in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!



World Series top two Spike and Jackie Harper

Wingsuit winners

Huge congratulations to Jackie and Spike Harper, who have placed first and second overall in the Wingsuit Performance World Series. Netheravon regulars Jackie and Spike were bitten by the wingsuiting bug in 2007 and spend most weekends coaching and organising or attending competitions abroad. The final event of the Wingsuit Performance World Series was held in Elsinore, California where Spike took the gold medal with great scores in Distance and Speed and an outstanding performance in time. However, it was not quite enough to beat Jackie in the overall World Series rankings and Mrs Harper took top slot with a 1.4% lead. Tony Uragallo who, despite living in Z-Hills, Florida, calls Netheravon his UK dropzone, took third place and André Taylor took 10th – giving Netheravon four jumpers in the top 10 in the world! Jackie's prize is an all-expenses-paid trip to one of the World Series events for 2015 in Hungary.

CP World Meet

Congratulations to the British CP team, who have recently returned from the World Championships in Z-Hills, Florida. Brian Vacher was the highest-placed Brit, coming 14th in Speed and 25th in Distance. Unfortunately, a zero in the first Accuracy round hurt his overall ranking but he still managed 23rd place in Overall. Martin Reynolds was the next Brit in 27th place with no zeroes – the only member of the team to score every round. Maxine Tate and Wez Westley were the next Brits in the rankings, just two places apart, and with Maxine's Accuracy scores putting her just in front of Wez. Maxine also set new UK and European records for Women's Speed and Distance. Joe Laming, competing in his first World Meet, finished 73rd.

Zero scores had a significant impact on several athletes, with the scoreboard having the potential to have been quite different. Notably, Nick Batsch set a new Distance World Record in Round 3 (his 10th consecutively, having briefly had his record held by Pablo Hernandez who broke it in Round 1 an hour or two earlier). However, two zero scores pushed the would-be medallist down to 34th place. Batsch's teammate Curt Bartholomew won overall, with Julien Guiho taking silver and bronze going to Cornelia Mihai – the first time a female has medalled in CP Overall at the World Championships.

Full report to follow in the next Mag.

Google jump from space

Almost exactly two years after Felix Baumgartner made history jumping from 128,000ft, a Google executive has gone one step further with no fanfare. Felix's jump set four world records – the highest manned balloon flight, the first human to travel faster than the speed of sound without being inside a craft (his top speed was 834mph), the highest exit altitude and the longest fall at 119,846ft. Google Senior Vice President Alan Eustace jumped from 135,890ft in a secret three-year project by Paragon Space Development Corporation and its Stratospheric Explorer team.

Unlike Baumgartner, Eustace was suspended directly from his balloon for the ascent – not in a capsule. He said he did not feel the moment when he broke the sound barrier, despite reaching a top speed of 822mph and observers on the ground hearing his sonic boom. He was in droguefall for four and a half minutes and said: "It was amazing. You could see the darkness of space and you could see the layers of atmosphere, which I had never seen before."

The landing was something of an 'arrival', with the heavy spacesuit and front-mounted scientific equipment causing Eustace to faceplant, but he immediately got up and waved "I'm OK!" Eustace is an experienced skydiver and, like all good skydivers, was wearing two GoPros to record the event for posterity...

ESL in UK

As Team GB won the competition (see p36), ESL will be welcomed to the shores of Britain in 2015. This time, we want to retain our title! Keep an eye out for details on the cost, location and dates early next year.

OCTOBER'S WINNER



By Les Cooper

Winner: "The BPA: keeping a stiff upper lip this Movember!"

Edd Charlton-Weedy

Runner-up: "Quick, somebody look up the relevant section of the Operations Manual for 'Actions in the Event of a Birdstrike!'"

Wayne Borley

Runner-up: "Freefall furball!"

Phil Cane

Runner-up: "These new-fangled face warmers haven't quite caught on yet, for some reason!"

John Welsh



By Rob Lloyd

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Read Skydive your way

APP

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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. The updated details can be found in the BPA e-Newsletter or on the address label 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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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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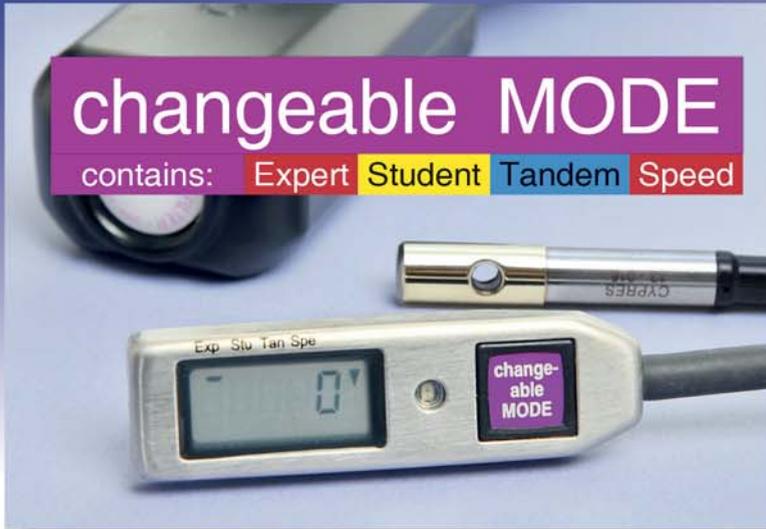
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FROM THE CHAIR

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ADRIAN BOND, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

I'm the second 'volunteer' to follow our Chair of Council, and here I provide a snapshot of the work of the Communications Committee.

This year's committee – Brian Cumming, Craig Poxon, Paul Applegate, Ian Rosenvinge and Alex Busby-Hicks for part of the year; together with Liz Ashley (Editor) and Martin Shuttleworth (Secretary-General) – has been spearheading initiatives to promote our sport to a wider audience. As part of this, we've developed a communications strategy that will enable us to maximise our exposure to reach not only those in our sport but to extend our message to the wider public – potential new members – by exploiting new and innovative channels of communication.

Our strategy is to inspire and grow the skydiving community. To achieve this, we draw on the skills of our media partners Archant Dialogue. Bringing together our expertise in all things skydiving and Archant's talent for media is a powerful combination – one which is taking BPA communications to the next level.

Our Communications Strategy document, which outlines how we're going about it, will soon be available online and printed as a quality, richly illustrated print publication to showcase our strategy to other stakeholders, sporting bodies and potential sponsors.

At the forefront of digital communications, we've launched an innovative, dynamic and interactive BPA *Starter Mag* app for tablets, with the future intention of following on with a smartphone option early in 2015.

This year, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the BPA Mag, with a special bumper issue in June. My thanks to Liz Ashley for her sterling work as Editor, producing a publication that attracts tremendous reader appreciation and loyalty. It was with great pride that we saw Liz receive the Nexus Aviation Journalist



Adrian Bond
Communications Chair

of the Year Award 2013 at the Royal Aero Club Awards Ceremony in May this year too. The Mag and *Starter Mag* are both available online and, between Mag publication months, we keep in touch with members through the BPA e-Newsletter.

An exciting innovation is the launch of BPA Skydive the Expo, the new name for the associated activities on AGM Day. This is a makeover that will improve still further what we know to be one of your favourite events. Working with our media partners Archant Dialogue and event contractors EventPro, the AGM working party I chair, also including BPA staff Martin Shuttleworth and Helen Lucas (Administration Secretary), are developing this annual celebration of our sport.

The Expo aims to bring you more exhibitors, more speakers, more prizes and a great time to rock out with skydiving friends old and new. The AGM and Expo will take place Saturday 24 January 2015 at EMCC Nottingham. There's more information at skydivetheexpo.co.uk and on Facebook and Twitter.

We're looking at how to improve the appearance, feel, ease of use and content of the BPA family of websites. This project is being moved on by Brian Vacher, who is not only a canopy whizz but who also has a great background in web design and development. The aim is to launch the first phase in 2015.

We've run a regular public relations campaign to get the message about our fantastic sport out to a much wider audience. Last year, we were able to spread the word about the sport to the public through feature articles in some of Archant's lifestyle magazines such as *Cheshire Life* and *Photography Monthly*.

This year, we've launched a promotional campaign to approximately 100 organisations including DZs, manufacturers, and other sports associations – nationally and internationally.

It's been an innovative and exciting year for BPA communications as our partnership with Archant Dialogue has matured and extended across more communications channels. I'm looking forward to the Expo – see you there! – and helping to inspire and grow our skydiving community even more next year.

Council 2015

Electoral Reform Services (ERS) has advised that, at the close of nominations at noon on Tuesday 4 November, sixteen (16) candidates had been nominated for the fifteen (15) elected seats on BPA Council 2015. There will, therefore, be an election. The candidates are, in alphabetical order: Paul Applegate, Gordon Blamire, Adrian Bond, Jack Bradford, Kieran Brady, Brian Cumming, Jason Kelleher, Mike Lewis, Ian Marshall, Adam Mattacola, Gavin McLeod, Yassi Molazadeh, Craig Poxon, Ian Rosenvinge, Martin Soulsby, Brian Vacher.

Voting opens: Thursday 11 December 2014

Voting closes: noon on Monday 19 January 2015

Results: late afternoon Monday 19 January 2015

(on receipt from ERS, the results will be published on the BPA website)

BPA AGM: Saturday 24 January 2015 at 1030 at EMCC Nottingham. Council 2015 takes office after the AGM/Presentation Ceremony.

ERS will send an email to voting members containing security details to log onto their online voting website, which will provide information on candidates including candidate statements (which will also be published on the BPA website). Members who have opted out of electronic communication of BPA company documents, and those with an invalid email address or no email address, will receive a voting pack by post. In the event of non-receipt by the due dates published on the BPA website, please contact customerservices@electoralreform.co.uk

Happy Holidays

The BPA Office will close for the Christmas and New Year Holiday on Tuesday 23 December and re-open on Monday 5 January. The Council, Committees and staff send members compliments of the season.



Council 2014

Alex Busby-Hicks stood down from Council on 22 September because of other pressures on his time.

BPA Member (Retired)

Retired members no longer active in any aspect of operation or activity within the sport, including jumping, will be able to take advantage of the new sub-category of Member, BPA Member (Retired), when it becomes generally available at the start of the new membership year on 1 April 2015. BPA Member (Retired) carries the right to vote and will receive BPA *Skydive the Mag*. What it doesn't include is BPA third party public liability insurance and a BPA Member (Retired) is not eligible to continue to hold as current any BPA or FAI sport parachuting qualifications, ratings or certificates they may have held as a Member. Application for BPA Member (Retired) is open to those no longer active in the sport who have been a Member for at least a year. Full eligibility requirements are set out on the application form, which will be available online in spring 2015.

Pilot magazine deal for BPA members

Are you as interested in flying planes as you are in jumping out of them? BPA members can now enjoy a special deal for print or digital subscriptions to *Pilot* magazine and can keep up to date with the latest coverage of what's new in aviation, flight tests, travel articles, equipment reviews and much more. Instead of the full £3.99 per issue, BPA members can get five issues for just £5 and free delivery to any UK address. To subscribe, call 0844 848 8049 and quote WPISKY4A or go online to www.subscriptionsave.co.uk/WPISKY4A.

2015 Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries

The **Royal Aero Club Trust** has announced its bursary scheme for young people for the 2015 season. The bursaries are worth up to £1,000 each to anyone between 14 and 21 years of age (24 years for a Follow-on Bursary) wishing to develop their interest in either air sports or aviation. The Royal Aero Club Trust has been offering bursaries for 14 years and a wide range of grants have been awarded. Twenty-eight bursaries were awarded in 2014, of which 18 went to young skydivers.

A new category of bursary has been introduced for well-qualified air sports participants aged up to 24 years. Styled the 'Follow-on Bursary', the intention is to encourage committed applicants to reach even higher levels of achievement through, for example, participation in national and international competitions. These new opportunities should encourage a wider range of young persons to access and benefit from participation in air sports.

The closing date for applications is 31 March 2015.

www.royaleroclubtrust.org

Comps dates

At the time of going to press, the 2015 competitions calendar was partially complete. It is likely that more dates will be confirmed at the next round of BPA meetings on 6 December. After this will be the IPC Plenary Meeting on 27 Jan-1 Feb 2015. Unfortunately, it was not possible to set dates for the 4-way FS Nationals at the October meetings due to not yet knowing the proposed dates for the 2015 FS World Cup. We would seek to avoid clashing with those dates so that our top teams do not have a conflict.

Wingsuit Performance Nationals:
Netheravon – 29-31 May

CP Nationals: Dunkeswell – 24-26 July

4-way, 8-way, Artistics and Speed Nationals:
Hibaldstow – Date TBC

VFS 4-way Nationals: Dunkeswell – Date TBC

Speed 8 Nationals: Sibson – Date TBC

Accuracy Nationals: Swansea – Date TBC

Wingsuit Artistics Nationals and CF Nationals: Both TBC

4-way UKSL: Dunkeswell – 18-19 July
Netheravon – 20-21 June
(One further UKSL – May TBC)

CF Grand Prix: Netheravon – 19-20 September

VFS 2-way Grand Prix: Dunkeswell – 27-28 June

Accuracy Grand Prix: Headcorn – Date TBC

NEW RATINGS

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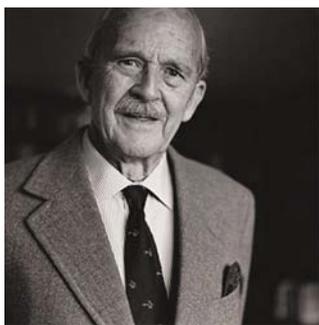
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MAJOR-GENERAL DARE WILSON

CBE MC DL FRGS



Ronald Dare Wilson, second Chairman of the BPA, passed away on August 15 2014, aged 95. He combined an outstanding military career, which started in World War II and included winning a Military Cross, with a love of sport and adventure. He commanded 22 SAS Regiment from 1960 until 1962 and was BPA Chairman between 1962 and 1966. Both of these roles involved him with parachuting at the highest level. He was also skilled on ice, having been a member of the successful Army Winter Sports Team which competed at St Moritz, and was 80 years old when he completed the Cresta Run for the last time. A keen fisherman and shooter, he retired from the Army in 1971 and returned to Cambridge to complete a degree which had been interrupted by the War. Here he met Sarah Stallard, whom he married in 1973, before moving to Dulverton where he wrote several books about his life and became Exmoor's National Park Officer before going on to provide consultancy to the European Federation of National Parks.

Major-General Wilson's parachuting career started in 1946 with a basic military static line course at Ringway, now Manchester Airport. It was to be more than 10 years before he was introduced to freefall parachuting, however. A team from the US 10th Special Forces Group stationed in Germany arrived in Hereford in May 1960 to compete in a friendly freefall parachute competition against the SAS at Hereford Racecourse. The Americans provided a silver trophy which, not unsurprisingly, they won. However, the occasion was more memorable for

his first free-fall descent. As Commanding Officer of 22 SAS, Dare Wilson had been asked to present the cup to the winners who, in turn, produced a spare parachute and asked if he would like to jump with them. Although he had no experience of freefall, he coolly accepted the invitation and carried out his first freefall descent from 2,800ft.

This only served to whet his appetite and he undertook additional training in France and the USA, both of which were leading the way in freefall, as he felt the maximum jump altitude of 6,000ft (favoured by the RAF for freefall courses at the time) was too restrictive. The SAS Skydivers were now firmly established at Hereford and sponsorship for an aircraft had been obtained from Rothmans, the tobacco company, who placed a de Havilland Rapide at the club's disposal. This was a far cry from the days when the SAS club had written to the RAeC to enquire whether it would be possible to hire an aircraft to allow them to jump regularly.

The BPA, meanwhile, had suffered a tragic loss after Chairman Mike Reilly drowned in the English Channel on January 10 1962 while undertaking a descent for the Steve McQueen film *The War Lover*. This left a considerable vacuum – Mike Reilly was a hard act to follow. Dare Wilson was regarded as the strongest candidate, despite some opposition arising as a result of the high-altitude jump (see Time Zone, p81), and he was duly voted in as the BPA's second chairman. As well as being a very

experienced parachutist, he was a forward thinker, well-connected in official circles, 'good in committee' and a strong leader – all of which would prove vital in keeping the BPA afloat in the turbulent times ahead. He organised the 1962 Nationals and led a six-man team, all of whom were members of the SAS, to the World Championships in the USA at Orange, Massachusetts later that year. The team (pictured), although unplaced, acquitted themselves well and raised the profile of British sport parachuting considerably. He was also team leader for the 1964 World Championships and the Adriatic Cup in 1963 and 1965. He also organised the Nationals in 1964-66, despite being posted abroad from 1963, and he tried to attend every BPA Committee meeting before standing down as Chairman at the end of 1966, following a posting to Aden, when he was succeeded by Wing Commander Gerry Turnbull.

He had a number of admirable qualities; he was courageous, far-sighted, extremely hard working and enthusiastic. He also cared passionately about sport parachuting and the BPA and, in the early 1960s, assisted with the creation of Hereford Parachute Club at Shobdon Airfield. He was a very strong character who disliked interference and fools, and yet he was unfailingly patient and polite – nothing was too much trouble. He valued professionalism in all things and sometimes set impossibly high standards for himself and others. He was considered a complex character by his contemporaries and some found him difficult to work with.

Dare Wilson was, though, a man for the times who was responsible for introducing many things that form part of the BPA today. He instigated the creation of the first BPA magazine in 1964. He took his proposal to the 1963 BPA AGM, the resolution was carried unanimously, and *Sport Parachutist*, as it was subsequently named, was born. He was also a strong advocate for affiliation of clubs and centres to the BPA, was instrumental in the creation of the Army Parachute Association and championed the incorporation of the BPA as a limited company in 1966. He also campaigned successfully, with Sir Godfrey Nicholson MP and Group Captain W Caster, for recognition of the sport in the form of an annual government grant.

There is little doubt that certain elements of Dare Wilson's chairmanship of the BPA ruffled a few feathers at the time, although much of this was attributable to the status quo being no respecter of the need to evolve. Reprising the events of 50 years ago, illuminated by the clear light of retrospection, it is indisputable that he achieved many great things, was responsible for the significant development of British sport parachuting and laid the foundations for the modern BPA. We shall never see his like again.

Dare Wilson is survived by his wife Sarah and their two sons, Alex and Peter. ●

By Graham Spicer, BPA Archivist





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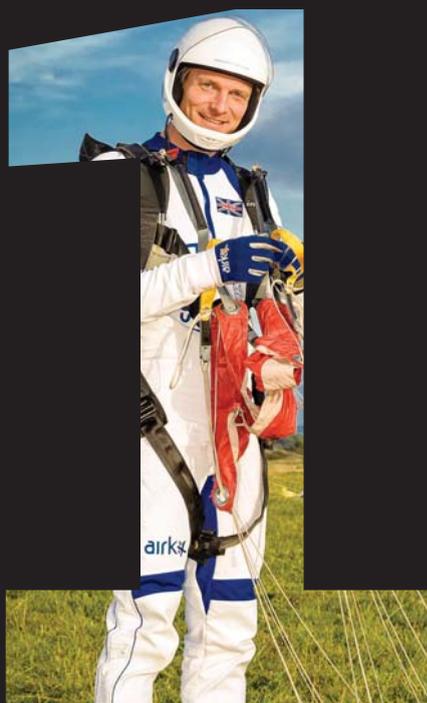
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NATIONALS



TWO DROPZONES, NINE DISCIPLINES AND SOME DODGY WEATHER, BUT THE GREAT BRITISH SPIRIT SHONE THROUGH FOR ANOTHER FANTASTIC YEAR

FREEFLY

1



BY PAUL CAPSEY, FREEFLY EUPHORIA

With the World Championships out of the way, it was time to concentrate on the second part of *Euphoria's* game plan for 2014: win the British Nationals in the Freefly A category.

Three teams entered: ourselves, *Varial* and *Sky Candy*. Regardless of positions, everyone was going to get a medal this year – which was all fluffy and nice, but all eyes were still focussed on the gold!

The first round revealed that both *Varial* and *Euphoria* had added some new elements into their free rounds since the Worlds. *Varial* added the head up 'Russian leg lock', while *Euphoria* added a crossover switch at the start and some extra camera trickery. I guess that both teams thought it was a good idea to show the judges something a little different after just showing our hands at the Worlds. However, with these things included, the teams had put themselves under greater time pressure in order to get things done in the allocated 45 seconds. Cramming in greater technical complexity in what was already a pretty full free round is no easy task; every time we jumped the free round, the *Euphoria* boys would land exhilarated but out of breath due to the added speed and effort required to get things done.

After the first round, it seemed that *Varial* had taken the lead by 0.1 ahead of *Euphoria* with 8.8 to our 8.7 and *Sky Candy* getting a very nice 4.5 – a great score for a team's first year at Nationals. We naturally thought that if everyone stayed consistent with the quality of their jumps, then *Varial* would be on track for the top slot. However, *Euphoria's* compulsories have always been strong and reliable and, by Round 2, *Euphoria* and *Varial* were neck and neck. Round 3 saw *Varial* take the lead once more with a fantastic

8.9 against *Euphoria's* 8.6 – this was all very close. At this point, I had convinced myself that gold was going to *Varial*; they just needed to stay consistent and not let competition nerves get the better of them in order to win it.

Annoyingly, the sky gods then decided to throw a hissy fit at this point and weathered out the competition for all of Sunday. Lots of brew drinking and whining about gaps in the cloud ensued. Thankfully, someone somewhere had a beer on Sunday night, thus paying the ultimate sacrifice, and the competition started again on the following Monday. Unfortunately, *Sky Candy* couldn't stay for Monday, which was a shame as they had been showing some real promise and some interesting moves.

IN THE EYE OF THE SCORECARD-HOLDER?

The competition restarted but with one major difference – we were one judge down. Unfortunately, Elizabeth couldn't stay until the Monday and had to fly back home. Now, it goes without saying that, despite effort to make competitive freeflying as objective as possible, Artistic judges are humans just like the rest of us. They have their prejudices and preferences like everyone else and, with that, are also going to have their own take on what they like and what they think looks fluid and clean. This human element, unlike in other disciplines such as 4-way, is expressed in the scoring and this is something you have to accept if you want to compete in the Artistics.

So what does it mean when a judge can't continue? In theory, if that judge is giving a score comparable to the other judges, then the outcome won't be much different. However, the 2014 Nationals had seen preferential scoring towards the *Varial* guys.

1 Red Devils Nick, Alexis and Lee – leaders of Freefly B until they had to leave early.
By Rob Lloyd

Not by much, but it was enough to give them a slight points advantage. This is something that the *Euphoria* guys simply accepted as being part and parcel of Artistics competition and vowed to carry on and to try and continue improving throughout. We did just that, getting progressively smoother and faster as the competition progressed.

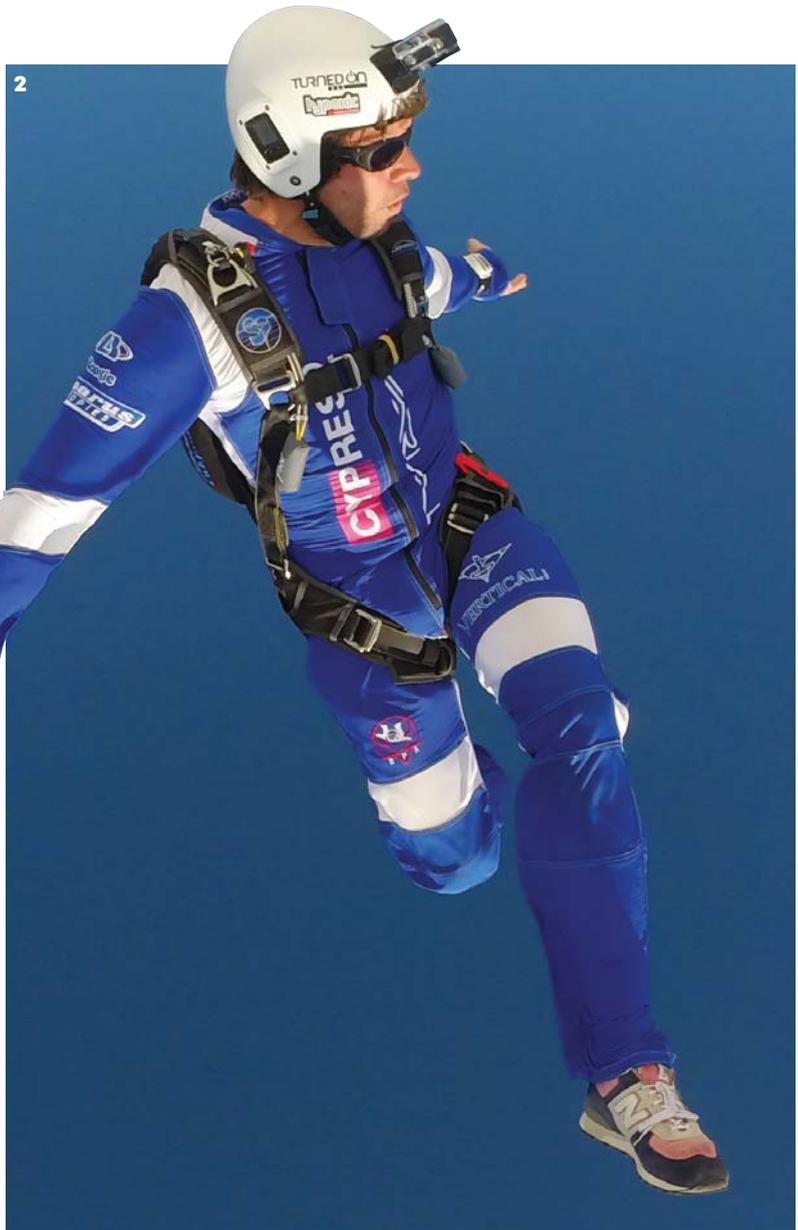
Due to the loss of a judge, there was a sudden and significant difference in the scoring. Round 4 saw *Euphoria* with an 8.8 and *Varial* an 8.7. The gap was getting smaller and both teams knew that the whole competition would be won and lost on Round 5 – the final compulsory round. *Euphoria* had this one nailed, having practised this altitude-hungry round quite a bit in training. There is a saying: “You can’t win on compulsories, but you can lose it.” *Euphoria* were given an 8.9, the effects of which are still visible on Dave Pacey’s face after smiling too much, and *Varial* were given 8.0.

I’m not sure what happened next. *Varial*, frustrated (rightfully so) about the loss of a judge had made a protest before Round 5. So, when both teams landed from Round 6, the decision was made that Rounds 4, 5 and 6 would be judged again, with Chief Judge Kate Charters stepping in to cover Elizabeth’s slot. There were, of course, a number of options in dealing with the loss of a judge. Maybe taking out all of Elizabeth’s scores from Rounds 1, 2 and 3? Or re-judging all of the rounds with the new line-up? All of these would have worked. The last thing the judges want is to have teams feel hard done by and upset. As usual, they just got on with it and did their best for all the competitors.

THE BEST A SKYDIVER CAN GET

Euphoria scored 8.7 on Round 6 and *Varial* scored a very nice 8.9. The best jump of my life was to follow. Our Round 7 was the cleanest we had ever jumped the free round; it felt like it had the right blend of speed and flow. It was a good one right from the exit, where I could feel the graze of Dave’s rig on the back of mine as we carried out the back-to-back out face carve from the door, then straight into a series of perfect set-ups all the way through. It finished bang on two seconds after my dytters went off, meaning the round had finished exactly on 45 seconds! The judges seemed to love it as much as we did, awarding our best score ever: 8.9. There is nothing else on this planet that compares to nailing the last jump of a competition. It’s like a blend of being electrocuted after a bungee jump, or something like that.

While you’re waiting for the opposing team’s score to come through, it is hard to resist calculating what they would need to get to win. In the end, *Varial*’s score popped up – a very nice 8.6.



2 Joel Strickland of *Varial*

3 *Euphoria*’s Paul Capsey, by Rob Lloyd



They would have needed a 9.5 to have beaten us. We had nailed it. *Euphoria*, probably the world’s oldest ongoing competitive Freefly team (established in 2001) had finally won the Nationals. It’s been great to be a part of that story.

This Nationals was a fantastically close and enjoyable competition (despite the weather), and I urge other freeflyers to get involved next year. It was great to see the biggest Freefly B category in recent memory, with seven teams putting in some solid scores. The *Red Devils* deserve a mention for leading the competition throughout, but unfortunately they had to leave early and so give up their gold. Hib’s packers put a team together and came out with silver, a couple of points behind overall winners *French Connection*. *Geronimo* took the bronze, proving that FS jumpers can freefly too.

If you want to get good and enjoy the benefits of being a decent freeflyer, then being part of a competitive team is most definitely the way ahead. I’ve loved training and competing this year – we’ve had a great laugh. I’m still on cloud nine over winning gold at the Nationals and coming fourth in the World Championships. A huge thank you goes out to all our sponsors: Plexus PLC, Skydive Hibaldstow, Airkix, Skylark, the BPA and, of course, Dave for never giving up and Andy for the Spiderman (you know what I’m on about).

Euphoria has had its ups and downs this year. Unfortunately, Sean Freeman has had to miss a year due to injury and Adam Dare decided to switch teams to *Varial*. This left Dave Pacey getting old team members Andy Newell and Paul Capsey out of retirement. Time constraints meant that the team only managed 120 jumps to put it all together, but it seems that Paul and Andy still float as good as they used to.

FREESTYLE

There was a new bit of bling to aim for this year. The Freestyle A trophy was an old cup which had seen better days, so Artistics Rep and Judge Weed Stoodley was given a budget of £250 and tasked with sourcing a new one. Feeling uninspired by internet searches which kept turning up the same old results, she asked BPA member Paul Fletcher for advice. Fletch designs and creates large bespoke pieces, but was up for the challenge of creating a new trophy. It would need to be durable, have space to record team names and depict the concept of Freestyle – representing harmony, dynamism and teamwork. The result was a bespoke work of art made by a BPA member and one that would have cost a significant amount if sourced commercially. As it was, Fletch asked that the £250 be donated to the Air Ambulance instead. Within the base is a prism effect depicting the camera, along with the idea of a ring sight, two performers and a canopy.

The first team to have their name engraved on the new trophy will be *Euphoria Freestyle's* Alex Dand and Andy Godwin. Fresh from the World Meet where they placed seventh, they scored consistently at Nationals to achieve between 7.4 and 8.0 on every jump. *Shredder Freestyle* are ones to watch out for next year, as they were sat in a comfortable second place before having to withdraw from the competition when it continued to the Monday. *Revolution*, still competing with a new line-up following cameraman Ben's accident in July, took the silver and scratch team *Last Minute* went home with bronze. In the B category, only two teams entered – *Hypnosis* won with consistent six-plus scores, and *Bendy Laura and Matt* withdrew after three rounds but still took silver with some promising scores.



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/Q3AMONE
 EUPHORIA FREESTYLE'S NATIONALS VIDEO, BY ANDY GODWIN
 Watch the action at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/QE029J8
 A VIEW FROM THE TUFFET, BY DAVE CROWHURST Watch the action at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!

ACCURACY

The UK has a small but talented pool of Accuracy specialists – the same crowd who have been competing for many years can consistently score DCs (dead centres) and one- and two-centimetre scores. Several of them make a trip abroad each year to train – Lodi one year with its \$5 hop 'n' pops, Italy the next. Six are representing Team GB at the Dubai Cup as this Mag hits doormats and tablets.

So how do you get into Accuracy? Is it a closed shop, do you have to be one of the old crowd? Not at all. In fact, they are keen to help jumpers who are new to the discipline. There are obvious hurdles to overcome, with the main one being the kit needed. Very few DZs have their own tuffet and most skydivers haven't jumped a canopy bigger than 200 sqft since their student days. A couple of decades ago, when people generally jumped bigger canopies than today, you could shoot Accuracy on your large freefall canopy after doing an FS jump. Nowadays, people are reluctant to wear bulky Accuracy rigs on FS and Freefly jumps so it has become an almost entirely segregated discipline. Nevertheless, the guys and girls who do it are a friendly and welcoming bunch with a lot of knowledge and experience to pass on. Check out their video from this year's Nationals to get a birds' eye view of the skill involved.

As for this year's competition, Janos Leszko proved himself as the worthy winner with a total score of just 41cm over 10 rounds. Pete Sizer took silver with 53cm and Jeff Chandler took bronze on 65cm.



4

1 Euphoria Freestyle's Alex Dand, by Andy Godwin

2 The new bespoke Freestyle trophy as designed by Paul Fletcher. By Mikey Lovemore

3 Accuracy podium: (L-R) Jeff Chandler, Janos Leszko, Pete Sizer

4 Max Hurd ready for Speed, with an LED in his visor to flash his altitude and a red gimp suit to shave off that extra mile per hour. By Rob Lloyd

5 The Speed 8 podium

SPEED

Speed skydiving – easy, right? Just go as fast as you can and remember to slow down and pull at the end. Well, if only things were that simple. Yes, the aim of the game is to go as fast as possible over a vertical kilometre, but this is harder than it sounds. You jump with two ProTracks mounted on the laterals of your rig. This isn't because Speed Skydivers have ears on their hips; the ProTracks aren't used as an audible warning, but they are special red units which provide the data to determine who has gone the fastest. Mounted on the sides like this, they are supposed to be in clean air and so will read more accurately than if they were tucked away inside a helmet.

Speed rules state that the readouts from the two units must be within 30km/hr of each other, otherwise the jump will be judged 'out of bounds' or OB. It is normal to have a slight discrepancy between the two units because, unless the skydiver is falling perfectly vertically, then one unit may be in a slight burble and the other in clean air – which can cause slight misreading. The two readings are averaged to give the score for that round. However, an OB scores zero. This rule had a significant effect on the scoreboard this year, with only two of the 11 competitors managing to score all six rounds. An occasional OB should not be a problem because the overall winner is the person whose best three jumps have the highest combined average speed, so poor jumps are discounted. However, two competitors scored four OBs each, effectively putting them out of the competition as they only had two scoring jumps to count towards their overall total and not three. A rule change has been suggested so that, in future, the LOWER of the two readouts could be used in an OB situation.

Jason Bird was the deserving champion, with both the fastest average speed overall (445.33 km/hr) and the top speed on any one round. Guest Daniel Hagstrom took silver in the Open Category while Mikey Lovemore took bronze in Open and silver in British. Junior World Record holder Mike Longford went home with bronze.

SPEED 8

Speed 8 is a bit different to most other Nationals disciplines – nobody ever really trains for it and teams have often never jumped together before. It's all about finding seven like-minded friends who are happy to spend a weekend competing for fun. Required qualities in a teammate include the ability to build the fastest first point, the creativity to invent cool second points to amuse the judges and, preferably, the ability to spout *Cutaway* quotes all weekend ("I'll see you on the flightline").

Team names are generally in keeping with the fun theme and this year included *The Beast with 8 Backs* and *Don't Hesit8*. This year's medallists at Sibson were ahead by a good margin, with *Raykip8* taking a solid gold and *Fine Nine* snatching silver from *Expopi8* in the last round.



5

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CF

2



The outcome of the Rookie 2-way Rotations competition was also reasonably certain from the outset. As expected, the considerably more experienced *CRWsaders Red* put in a very solid performance, achieved a respectable overall score of 16 points and walked away with gold. As newcomers to CF and something of a scratch team, *Snow White and the Dwarf of Doom* had us all rooting for them as they struggled to get points. They put in a heroic effort and made significant progress round-by-round to end up with a total of four points, huge smiles and silver medals.

In contrast, the Intermediate 2-way Sequential category was a tightly fought battle from start to finish. The teams put in some outstanding performances and, by the end of Round 3, there were only two points between them all. The judges didn't post any scores after the third round, so there was no indication who would be where on the podium until the team names were called out in the medal ceremony. The judges announced that two teams had tied for silver and bronze, so it came down to which team had the highest scoring round. The crowd went silent; you could have heard a curved pin drop. With 22 points overall and a very impressive nine points in Round 1, the *Wise Prankers* took silver. Finishing on the same score but with a highest round of seven points, *Cockerham Cockups* took bronze. The *CRW Fairies* had some difficult early rounds so we surprised everyone, including ourselves, by finishing with a total score of 26 points, which gave us gold and the Pat Hammond Trophy.

All this drama took place against a backdrop of calm and the competition moved quite slowly. It took three days to complete all rounds, so there was much sitting around drinking tea and watching clouds drift by. This sense of calmness also extended to the skies; despite some very questionable exits (Trevor and Gareth!), there were no significant canopy-related issues. There was just one reserve ride among the CF competitors and this was the result of a malfunction on opening rather than any type of wrappy-tangly canopy collision. No knives were used. No helmets were lost. There were even lots of tippy-toe landings! In fact, we all lived happily ever after – well, at least cheerfully looking forward to coming back and upping the ante again next year...

Mary Barratt (CRW Fairies) and Gavin McLeod (CFUK)

**1 CFUK by
Craig Poxon**

**2 Looking up
the stack, by
Craig Poxon**

1



"Snow White and the Dwarf of Doom... CRW Fairies... Wise Prankers..." – manifest calls at this year's Canopy Formation Championships sounded more like cast calls for a rather dubious pantomime. So, it seemed quite fitting when, like any decent panto, the competition delivered a good measure of predictability and some heroes, along with heaps of suspense and drama. Of course, being CF, there was also a great deal of "he's behind you!"

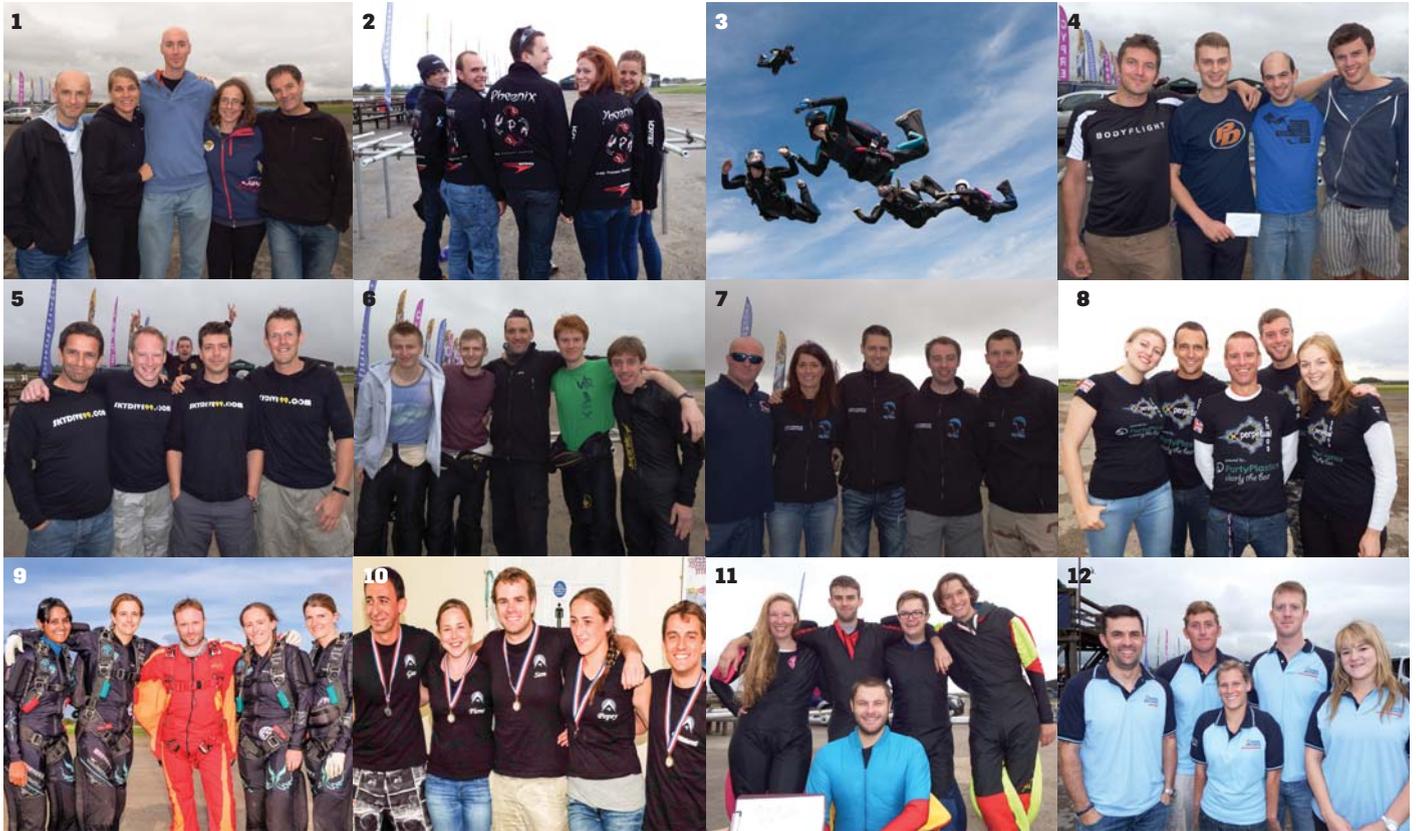
There was a tinge of sadness this year as some familiar characters were missing; *PH36* have been part of the competition for the last five years, so their absence left quite a gap on the CF stage. With *PH36* taking a break and *CFUK* focusing on a new 4-way line-up, there were no entries in the Senior 2-way category this time. However, there was an excellent turnout for the Senior 4-way. All three teams that took part in last year's competition returned to battle it out once again – *CFUK*, *The Mysterons* and *Team CRWsaders*. We had a good number of entrants for the Intermediate category too. Last year, only one team entered this category, but this year there were three – the *Cockerham Cockups*, *CRW Fairies* and *Wise Prankers*. It was great to see the recent growth of the Rookie 2-way category continuing; this year we had two new teams to cheer for – *Snow White and the Dwarf of Doom* and *CRWsaders Red*.

From the beginning, it was clear which positions the Senior 4-way teams would be taking on the podium. With their usual standard of consistently high scores round-by-round and a final score of 341.09 secs/65 points, there was never any doubt that *CFUK* would take gold in Senior 4-way Speed and Rotations. With their characteristic solid performance and laid-back attitude, *The Mysterons* sat comfortably in silver throughout and achieved a final score of 444.25/40. *Team CRWsaders* worked hard and accumulated a final score of 688.39/24, which gave them a well-deserved bronze.



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/PJR5EWX

WATCH KAIZEN'S ROUND 3, 23 POINTS IN TIME, BY ANDY FORD Watch the action at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/OF68ATU

CHECK OUT ALL OF VISION99'S NATIONALS ROUNDS, BY RICH ORFORD Watch the action at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com!

4-WAY

Seventy-five 4-way teams competed in the 2014 National Championships – a phenomenal number. The split was very even between the categories, with 21 Rookies, 18 in A, 17 in AA and 19 in AAA. We had the teams, we had the aircraft and we had Hib's amazing new clubhouse so all we needed was the weather – and we didn't get it. Saturday was a washout and Sunday didn't start out great either. However, as the sun came out mid-morning, the Hib machine sprung into action and we rattled through the rounds. By sunset, the competition was more than half complete.

MONDAY MORNING BLUES

Blue skies greeted everyone on Monday morning... well, not quite everyone. Unfortunately, 15 teams were unable to continue the competition due to having team members who had to leave, mostly to go back to work after having been unable to take the day off. The competition rules state that Nationals are a six-day event (Saturday to Monday, for two weekends) and that teams must register alternates to avoid the predicament that so many found themselves in. With the rules also stating that there would be no refunds, this was a tricky situation with the potential for 20% of competitors feeling hard-done-by. Personally, I can see both sides. Nationals is already a beast of an event to organise and Hib is famous for churning through the competition with maximum efficiency. Perhaps this is now seen as the norm and the teams expect too much? But I can also see the team perspective too. I am a teacher, so I couldn't jump on the Monday

and neither could another team member. AAA only allows for one alternate, so our options were to either compete with fingers crossed for completion by Sunday or not take part, so we took part and got unlucky with the weather – no hard feelings.

Meanwhile, things were getting interesting. *Voodoo* were competing as a AAA British team for the first time, having started out as the South African national team. Liz Matthews (*MicroClim8*, *Satori*, *VMax*) had joined the team and they were sat at the top of the leaderboard despite limited training. A speedy fifth round gave them the top spot and they just kept pulling ahead after that, finishing ten points clear and with a personal-best 19.5 average to take the gold. *Kaizen* sat in silver throughout, but *Vision99* overtook them by a single point in the final round. Fourth place was a battle of player-coach teams, with *4mula* (Joey Jones and Siân Stokes) ending up one point ahead of *Isis* (Sparky). You needed a 13 average to make the top ten, and 17 wouldn't even get you in the top five this year – wow.

The placings in AA were the same after Round 10 as they were after Round 1. Round 1 was a burner, B-O-7, so perhaps it would have been nice to stop the competition there with the medallists able to claim one-round 'averages' of 23 (*Phoenix*), 21 (*Equal Pay 4 Women*) and 20 (*Bodyflight Aero*). Round 3 was even faster, J-9-M, and each team picked up an extra two points on Round 1. *Equal Pay* then managed 28 on Round 5!

Single A was dominated by local Hib team *Kintama*, who won every round to take gold overall. Irish team *Fly Wild* took a solid silver and bronze was snatched from *SkyDogs* by *Nobody Expects The Worst*, who leapfrogged the local team by a point in the last round.

Finally, Rookie gold went to the Freefall Camera team and friends who formed *Naughty Slots* and won with a 10.6 average. *Perpetual Chaos* took silver, the only other Rookie team to average into double digits, and *RAFSPA Firefly* won bronze convincingly and were seven points ahead of the next team.

1 AAA gold, Voodoo, by Rich Cotton

2 AA gold, Phoenix, by Rich Cotton

3 A gold, Kintama, by James Stevenson

4 Rookie gold, Naughty Slots, by Rich Cotton

5 AAA silver, Vision99, by Rich Cotton

6 AA silver, Equal Pay 4 Women, by Rich Cotton

7 A silver, Fly Wild, by Rich Cotton

8 Rookie silver, Perpetual Chaos, by Rich Cotton

9 AAA bronze, Kaizen, by Rob Lloyd

10 AA bronze, Bodyflight Aero, by Rob Lloyd

11 A bronze, Nobody Expects the Worst, by Rich Cotton

12 Rookie bronze, RAFSPA Firefly, by Rich Cotton

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8-WAY

8-way remains popular, with five Senior teams, six Intermediate and one entering the Rookie class (which was a new addition in 2013). It was nice to see some teams who had clearly met at 4-way competitions. *Phoenix* and *Equal Pay 4 Women* had won gold and silver respectively in AA, and had joined to form 8-way team *o.09*. The nine was not just a reference to the number of people on an 8-way team; it was also the number of hundredths of a second which separated the two teams at the Hib Cup earlier in the year! It was also nice to see teams dirtdiving with their copy of the August Mag to hand, using Exit Zone to help them figure out their slot. *MicroClim8* team members, among many, also put in some long hours on the creeper pad helping other teams. This is the true spirit of skydiving – in which other sports do the National Champions hang out with the beginners and offer free help and advice?

Unfortunately, the weather was not in our favour again. Most teams managed three rounds on Saturday, while Sunday was

basically a washout. This then led to the same situation as the previous week, with several teams unable to field their full lineup on the Monday. After dropouts, three teams were left in Senior and four in Intermediate. The *BCP8lings* in Rookie also had to withdraw but, as the only team, had still scored enough points to take gold!

Intermediate was won by *Emanon* (“no name” backwards). *Unleash the Kraken* took silver and *Satori Academy* bronze, pipping *Remote Control Squirrels* by a point. In Senior, *Brit Chicks* would have been on the podium if they had been able to stay for the Monday. *Awkward Turtles* won bronze and *Thunderbirds* silver. The unsurprising winners in Senior were *MicroClim8*, some of whom have been winning gold in consecutive years for longer than most of us have been jumping. *MicroClim8* member Liz Matthews is also in 4-way team *Voodoo*, so she ‘did the double’ – winning gold in both 4-way and 8-way in the same year. The list of people in this particular club is very short, and Liz is only the fourth female ever to manage it. Nice one, Nutty!

1 *MicroClim8* training block 2, *Swiss Bears*. By James Stevenson

2 *Satori Academy* dirtdiving, by Rob Lloyd

2





VFS

4-way VFS was only introduced as a Nationals event in 2009. Since then, the discipline has boomed and its influence on head down fun-jumping on DZs is obvious. Ten years ago, people were quite happy to just wobble around upside down geeking at each other, but now there is more of a drive for precision and docks. Freely organisers are planning complicated dives and people are spending hours in the tunnel “doing expensive headstands” in a quest to learn how to fly head down.

Nevertheless, VFS itself remains the most difficult of all the disciplines. It is hard to learn the skills involved and hard to get a similarly skilled group of five together to compete. *The Bad Lieutenants*, or *BLTs*, blazed a trail in the early years and helped others to get into VFS too. They are now focussing on organising the next UK head down record, which is to be held at Hibaldstow on September 5-6 2015. Brit team *QFX* are the current top dogs in VFS, chasing the elusive double-digit average and encouraging new teams. 2014 saw them give up their time at BPA Coaching Roadshows as well helping to organise a trial VFS 2-way competition in July. It is hoped that the 2-way event will act as a feeder event into 4-way and it will run again in 2015 – get yourself to Dunkswell on June 27-28.

Unsurprisingly, *QFX* won gold with almost twice as many points as the other two teams put together. Despite not having another team come close to their scores, their competition was with themselves as they tried to break the ten-point average. In the end, they scored 75 points in eight rounds – so close. Behind them, *Fist 4 Glory* had established an early lead, thrown it away on Round 5 and gone into the last two rounds level with *Tequila*. *Tequila* were on an upward trend and took three points off their closest rivals in the closing rounds to take the silver medal.



1 Team *Fist 4 Glory*, by Rich Cotton

2 and 3 *QFX*, by Ewan Cowie



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ECLIPSE ON HOW TO GO THE DISTANCE

TEAMS, TIME AND TRAINING

During our first season together, we regularly joked about the '10-year plan'. Now that we are five years down the road and heading into our sixth season together, we are suddenly realising this could become reality! How, you may ask, have we managed to stay together through the highs and the lows? Hopefully, through this article, we may be able to pass on some of our experiences.

Forming a team

In *Eclipse*, we were fortunate when it came to team selection. Ben, Jenny and Martin met on a scratch team in 2009 and Jonny and Simon came on board in 2010. While we didn't all know each other, some team members had competed together on previous teams while others were friends as a result of the infamous BCPA social scene. We had the benefit that we were all a similar age with similar interests, which

has undoubtedly made it easier to stick together as the years have gone on.

From our experience, team members with similar interests and personalities work well and 'organically' formed teams are potentially easier to manage because everyone knows what they are getting into. However, we recognise that it's not always that easy and so that is where programmes like the *Satori Academy* come in to help match you up with potential teammates.

Team dynamics

Regardless of how your team has come together, the most important thing to remember is that everyone needs to recognise and have respect for other team members' unique personalities, strengths and weaknesses. As you become more aware of what these are, you can develop specific methods of communication and ways of working which ultimately get the best results for everyone.

The success of the team is dependent upon everyone's performance, so it is important that you discuss ways in which you can all improve as a team and never dwell or give someone a hard time if they have failed to deliver. It is equally important to be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses and to make a commitment to the team to improve your individual performance. Self-awareness is critical, and understanding aspects of your own personality which may irritate others or cause conflict means that you can take positive action to prevent arguments from flaring up in the first place.

In our time together, the journey has not always been smooth and we have had to overcome some disagreements within the team. We have achieved this by being honest with each other, trying to remain objective, offering, recognising and acting on constructive feedback, and accepting teammates' personalities while trying to →

1 Training over Skydive Chicago, 2013, by Alex Bittner

2



3



make positive changes to personal behaviours. Above all, try to remember that your friendship with your teammates is the most important thing and to support them through any rough times.

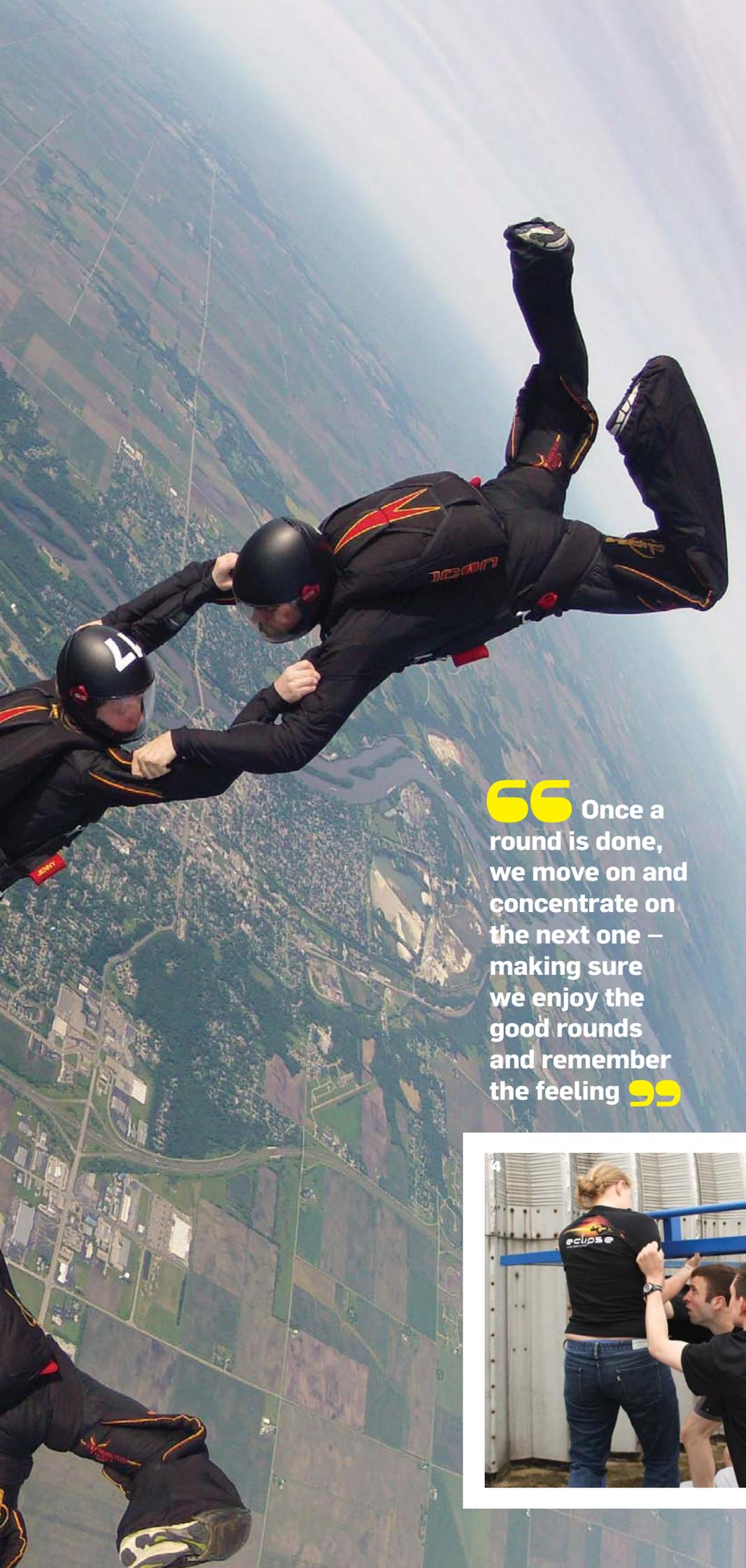
Our final advice on the team dynamic is to accept that, if you are a long-term team, it will change over time. In *Eclipse*, the energy and excitement in our first season was full-on and we spent every second of every day on training camps winding each other up. Nowadays, we all give each other space when needed – although we do still find ourselves sharing one room in the Hibaldstow bunkhouse together!

Setting goals (and a budget!)

After finding team members who all want to compete and train together, the most important discussion is setting goals that are achievable given the ability of the team and what individuals are willing to commit in terms of time and money. Unfortunately, it does often come down to money and our advice is to always work to the lowest figure – it needs to be sustainable. If anyone is not happy with this, you need to have a discussion as to whether this will still allow everybody to achieve their personal goals during the season.

In *Eclipse*, the most we have ever committed to is two years at a time. While other teams often ask for a longer-term commitment, we think this isn't particularly realistic given how much someone's personal circumstances can change in one year. Our advice would be to keep it flexible and take each year as it comes – some years you may want to spend big, other years you might need to take it easy.

At the end of each season, we sit down and discuss our goals and intended commitment for the following year. It's not uncommon to find a split within the team, particularly if people are unhappy with the progression made during the previous



“ Once a round is done, we move on and concentrate on the next one – making sure we enjoy the good rounds and remember the feeling ”

season. If you find yourself in this position, it does not necessarily mean that it is the end for your team; to work through this, you need to have an honest and frank discussion and see if you can get to a place where everyone is happy.

It is possible to address differences of opinion within the team, and a compromise on budget will often give you the option to return for another season. As an example, 2014 was the lowest commitment year in terms of budget for *Eclipse*, but we came out of it with the strongest team dynamic we have ever had and the consistency of line-up still allowed us to improve and increase our average from 14.5 to 15.7.

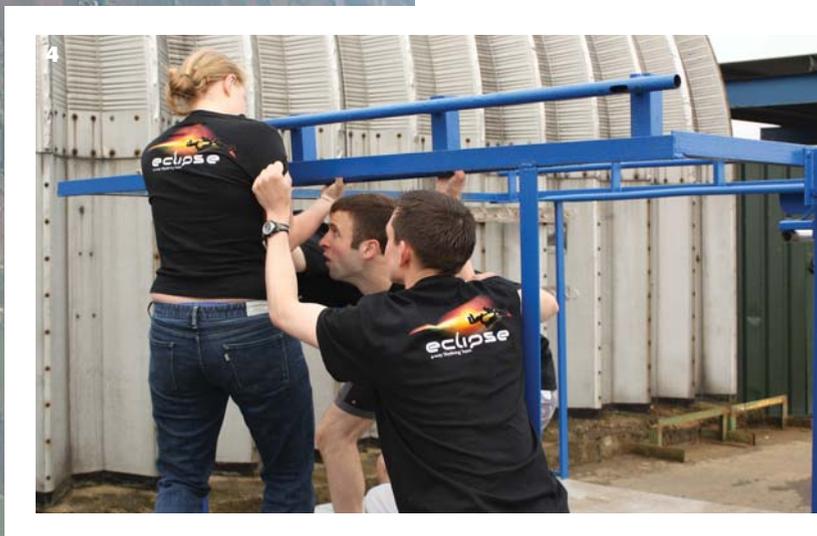
Training options

There are numerous options for training, whether in the UK or abroad. *Eclipse* have done both depending on our changing goals each season. Whenever we have trained abroad, we have always tagged a holiday onto the end of a training camp. From the bright lights of Vegas and the water parks of Disney to the jazz music and deep dish pizzas of Chicago, we have some great memories together and many stories to keep us going for the years to come.

Of course, training abroad is not the only option and the UK often offers a much more affordable option (both in terms of money and time off work). It may not be as glamorous but, if you get lucky with the weather, you can get just as much training in. In fact, the most jumps we’ve done in a day is 16 and that was at Hibaldstow this summer. Wherever you decide for your training, it must be convenient for all team members. We are spread from London to Dundee, so it is important to consider everyone’s location (not just the majority) when looking at where to train or which competitions to attend.

How else to spend your money

Once you have set goals, a budget and have an idea of where you want to train, there are many other variables to decide – balance of tunnel versus jumping, competition experience versus training etc. Again, our advice here would be to be flexible and make your decisions based on your goals for that year. Some years, we →





have invested in a lot of tunnel and relatively few jumps. Other years, we attended a lot of meets but did fairly limited training.

One of the key decisions you will need to make is who to get coaching from. As any competitor will tell you, coaching is probably the most valuable investment you can make. A good coach will help everyone to see things from the team perspective and will be able to identify the small improvements that will most benefit your overall performance. Try to find a coach who fits your team dynamic, as this really will make a difference. However, don't be afraid to mix things up and use different coaches – a different perspective can really help, particularly if you are stuck on something specific.

In our experience, coaching is really important in the beginning as the coach will help the team to get off on the right foot. We have found that, as we build our experience together, we can now have productive weekends without a coach as long as we agree how to approach the training. If you are considering doing some jumping without a coach, think about what you are expecting to gain from the weekend as you will obviously not have someone there telling you what to do!

Finally, remember that there are a lot of ways to improve your performance without spending money. Visualisation, physical fitness, decent nutrition and arriving at a training camp or competition well-rested all make a big difference!

Approaching a competition

We all train to compete, but we also need to train for the competitions. Under pressure in a competitive situation, people react differently and deal with the pressure in different ways. The best way to train for this is to do more. We have had many competitions which have gone very well over the years, and a few that haven't. When we looked back over the 'not so great' meets, we could often identify where

we failed to prepare for or manage the competition correctly.

Common themes identified included not discussing goals and intentions pre-competition, focusing on busts or fumbled rounds and focussing on the performance of other teams rather than our own. Learning from this, we now discuss how we will approach the competition and what we want to achieve before each meet. Once a round is done, we move on and concentrate on the next one – making sure we enjoy the good rounds and remember the feeling after the bad ones.

At the 2014 AGM, *Kaizen* presented 'Our Journey', which is available at the link at the bottom of the page and has good advice on approaching a competition. We found this useful for people wanting more detailed advice.

How to make it past the first year, or even through the first year!

Different teams have different goals. Some are more serious than others and our approach may not be one which fits with everyone, but probably the only reason *Eclipse* have lasted five years is that we have fun! Getting the balance right is key – at the end of the day, you are committing a lot to your team and, if you are not enjoying yourself, you will begin to question why. Fun is important, but it should also always be remembered that we train to compete so we also have to be able to get down to business when it matters.

There will always be issues within a team that need to be resolved and, for this reason, we have found that a 'close out' conversation is important at the end of each day, training camp, competition or season. This enables individuals to resolve issues and remind team members of positive aspects of the day. Occasionally, it may be necessary to actually raise some issues during the day to enable the team to get back on the right page and train effectively.



Finally, we have learnt over the years to be respectful of each other, ensure all feedback is constructive, suggest ways things could be done better instead of pointing out mistakes and, most of all, to enjoy the journey.

What next?

Eclipse are lucky enough to be moving into our sixth season together and we can all say that we are excited and interested to see where we can take our performance. Keeping the same line-up has allowed us to see incremental progression, building from previous years and identifying areas for improvement. We have also had some amazing experiences along the way that have brought us closer and have helped us to bond as a team.

People often ask us how we have managed to keep the team together and our honest answer is that we are not exactly sure. For us, it has always felt like the right thing to do to carry on for another season. Maybe we just got lucky, but we have also all worked extremely hard to be the best team members we can be. Ultimately, we feel like we are doing something right and, as long as that feeling continues, so will we! ●

2 Taking the Fun Flag to Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013, by Simon Chittick

3 Exit over Skydive Chicago in 2013, by Simon Chittick

4 Where it all began, learning exits at Hib in Eclipse's very first season in 2010, by Simon Chittick

5 Concentrating hard over Skydive Chicago in 2010, by Alex Bittner

6 Launching an 'O' over Deland during the first AAA year in 2012, by Simon Chittick



VIDEO: VIMEO.COM/88600406

BY THE BPA Watch *Kaizen's* 'Our Journey' at the link above or click on this in the *Skydive App* or at skydivethemag.com!



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WORDS JASON KELLEHER

TEAM GB: ESL CHAMPIONS

DESPITE THE SMALLEST DELEGATION IN YEARS,
THE ESL SPIRIT SWORD IS OURS!

Just four British 4-way teams managed to make the trip to Teuge (pronounced “Toga”) in the Netherlands to try to win back the European Skydiving League (ESL) Spirit that was last in UK possession in 2008. Being fully aware that seven British 4-way teams had failed to achieve this goal in the previous year, expectations were understandably tempered!

The weather on arrival was remarkably British – lots of fairly thick clouds with vague gaps occasionally poking their way through. That said, the three Caravans and an exceptional manifest made light work of the 23 teams when things were clear enough to jump. Before we knew it, six rounds had been completed on Friday.

Sitting in the bar on Friday night, it appeared *Perpetual Chaos* featuring regulars Chris Dodds, Dawn Adams and Richard Moulton with alternate Laura James (from *Bodyflight Isis*) had taken an early lead in the Rookie Class against the two local Dutch teams and, while they had dropped a point in their Round 6, they still maintained a comfortable 13-point lead heading into Saturday.

In AA, the Nationals line-ups from both *Bodyflight Aero* and *Entropy* had built

themselves into strong positions, with *Aero* leading the class by 15 points. *Entropy* were sat in third, largely thanks to their excellent score in Round 3 – just one point behind the Czech Republic’s *Zoonte!*

In AAA, *Vultures 4 Mayhem* were picking at the bones somewhere near the bottom of the class, having combined the British Nationals teams of *Equal Pay 4 Women*, *Phoenix* and *Antigravity Ninja Swans* to make a patchwork 4-way team after *Phoenix*’s ‘Chubbasaurus Rex’ (Jack Bradford) pulled out at the last minute to go to a swooping competition. Of course, Tom Berryman was a phenomenal replacement who helped drive the *Vultures* to fifth of six in the class, five points ahead of Dutch team *Murphy Mania*.

The bar conversation quickly turned to the realisation that it was not unforeseeable for the four teams, with their low expectations, to win back the ESL Spirit (and then have the drama of getting a four-foot sword back through Customs). Some quick calculations ensued. As things currently stood, Team GB were in the lead (30 points), trailed closely by both the Netherlands (24 points) and Belgium (22 points). However, this came with a significant

1 *The sword is ours!*
By Tom Berryman

2 *Dawn Adams from Perpetual Chaos enjoys a mouthful of champagne, by Tom Berryman*

3 *Entropy, AA bronze*

4 *Perpetual Chaos, Rookie winners*

5 *Bodyflight Aero, AA winners*

6 *Vultures 4 Mayhem, AAA fifth*

7 *Celebrations continued into the night, by Tom Berryman*

8 *Team GB flying the flag, by Tom Berryman*

warning from *Aero*’s Fiona Millar that any small change could tip the favour of the leaderboard into Dutch hands.

NO PRESSURE, THEN...

We dared to dream of a mighty victory. Excited mutterings could be heard, including *Aero*’s Charlotte Pope saying: “Can you imagine if just four teams brought the sword home? We would be f***ing legends!”. Although the excitement, adrenaline and trepidation had started to build in the Team GB camp, it was noticeable that teams from





3



4



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7



8

all countries had an early night ready for a hard day of competition the next day.

The weather continued to play havoc on Saturday morning, but cleared in the afternoon. The last two rounds were completed and all of the British teams knew they had done well, but was it well enough? More quick calculations on phones as scores appeared... it seemed we had done it!

Those who wanted to chose to celebrate with a cheeky pre-ceremony jump from the pink Skyvan which was visiting to help the Netherlands beat their National big-way record over the coming days, while others celebrated by hitting the bar!

At the award ceremony, our dream was

confirmed. *Perpetual Chaos* had won Rookie, *Bodyflight Aero* and *Entropy* had finished first and third respectively in AA and *Vultures 4 Mayhem* had beaten *Murphy Mania* for fifth in AAA. Team GB had won the sword!

The celebrations started, dances were danced and drinks were drunk – including a spectacularly large (15 litre!) bottle of champagne which we assumed was for us, but it later transpired had been intended for when the Dutch record was broken... oops!

A remarkable evening, a remarkable victory and, most importantly, we finally returned the ESL Spirit to its true home – England's green and pleasant land. ●

66 It was not unforeseeable for the four teams, with their low expectations, to win back the ESL Spirit **99**



UK HEAD UP RECORD

A 50 PER CENT INCREASE ON THE OLD RECORD, AND THAT WAS JUST THE FIRST JUMP...

WORDS GARY CRISP PHOTOS JAKE DILIBERTO

More than 30 of the UK's freeflyers met at UK Parachuting Sibson on October 11-12 with the sole target of breaking the UK head up record. The previous record was an 8-way set back in 2013.

Adam 'Killa' Mattacola was again organising the record attempts, all done in his usual style of larging it up and advising that there was no burble...

The plan was to start straight off with an initial 12-way, get that in the bag and then move onto a full planeload from the Caravan (15 plus camera). After that, it would be onto multi-aircraft loads with a view to going as big as the skill level would allow. Killa had already held two head up big-way training weekends at Sibson prior to the record, with some great progress made towards the skills required to build this kind of challenging freefly formation

1 *The new UK record*

2 *Attempting to go bigger*

along with getting a solid 4-way sitfly base launched consistently.

On lift one, we went for the 12-way with the most experienced flyers at the event and we nailed this on the first jump. We had a solid build and held the formation for well over 10 seconds until break-off. We had raised the bar from eight to 12, and had a new record in the bag!

START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON

Now the fun started! We had a new record set and now it was time to go even bigger. The pressure was off, but the excitement of moving onto bigger and more challenging



RECORD HOLDERS

- Adam 'Killa' Mattacola
- Gary Crisp
- Ally Milne
- Paul Cooper
- Adam Dare
- Martin Roberson
- Nick Davison
- Laura Kenyon
- Ben John Broad
- Karen Wilson-Roberts
- Jamie Arnold
- Glenn Wainwright
- Jake Diliberto (Camera)

head up formations was really what we had all signed up for.

Killa was working hard, jumping back-to-back with the main record attempts and the large bench group to keep everyone current and ready to go bigger, something important but often overlooked on big-way attempts.

Three more jumpers were selected off the bench and we set out our plan – moving from a 4-way base to a 6-way base, leaving nearly all the stinger lines of the same size as the 12-way. It was hoped this would be an easier formation to build, but the 6-way base has its own challenges in practice and still leaves the outside divers covering a longer distance to the formation

with minimal build time after transition to head up.

A solid attempt at the 15-way was made with just a few people off, but then the weather fell over and stopped us jumping as we were treated to thunder, lightning and huge hailstones. We managed to squeeze one more lift in at the very end of the day with another attempt at the 15, but were just a few grips off again.

Sunday started with some poor weather but cleared, allowing us to jump around lunchtime. We made some changes to the formation and moved some flyers around, moving back to the original 4-way base with lines of three stingers. This attempt was

3 Killa organising a dirt dive

4 Approaching the base

pretty close but still not quite all there, with the main issues being the length of time it was taking to get everyone out the Caravan and the longer dives for the last flyers.

The SMG arrived at the DZ and we went straight for a 15-way attempt, using the two aircraft in formation and hoping that the exit and dive issues we had with the one aircraft would be fixed. Although this worked out to be a fantastic jump, the unfortunate long floating approach we needed to make due to aircraft proximity left us without success on the 15-way. The 2014 record stands at a 12-way.

Head up big-way formations really do have their own set of challenges (even for those of us who are used to completing large head down records), are great fun and really push everyone's head up skills. The plans are in place to go bigger for next year, so get training now and get involved.

Big thanks to Killa for organising, UK Parachuting Sibson for getting us in the air when the weather allowed and everyone for being up for a great few days' jumping. ●

RECORD TIME!

1



WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD

TWO WORLD RECORDS IN SEQUENTIAL FORMATION SKYDIVING

WORDS FREDDIE HUNTLEY PHOTOS LUCIANO BACQUE AND CRAIG O'BRIEN

2



“ I only started attending big-way camps in April this year and, five months later, found myself helping to set a World Record; one of the women in my sector only started skydiving last year ”

On October 17 at Perris Valley Skydiving, California, 117 women from 29 countries set two official FAI records for sequential Formation Skydiving in both the Women's and Open categories. Their 2-point 117-way, made from two Skyvans and four Twin Otters, overtook the previous Open record of a 2-point 110-way.

Organised by P3 Skydiving and led by big-way veteran Kate Cooper-Jensen, the record attempt took place from October 11-17 and the record itself was set on jump 20 of the event. The team were optimistic about their chances of setting a 3-point record, but sadly one of the Skyvans broke down and the event was called off after 21 jumps. But then the party started...

Ten British women attended the event. Sarah Smith (now a California girl) captained one of the sectors and she was joined in the formation by Kathryn Campbell, Lesley Gale, Ruth Green, Freddie Huntley, Pamela Jones, Maddy Heath Kelly, Heather Little, Maria Russell and Helen Williams.

BEHIND THE SCENES

When Lesley Gale first set up the *Brit Chicks* big-way events in the UK in 2002, female membership of the BPA sat at approximately 12 per cent. At the last *Brit Chicks* event in 2013, female membership had risen to around 17 per cent. A straw poll of the women at the World Record suggested average female participation in the sport around the globe averages at roughly 15 per cent. While this makes it all the more remarkable that the Open record has been set by an all-female big-way, it doesn't explain why we lose so many women from the point of entry into the sport where numbers are roughly equal. One of the great recommendations

of skydiving as a sport is that women and men can compete on equal terms in nearly all disciplines, so one of the secondary aspirations of this event was to inspire more women to remain in the sport by showing them what they can achieve. I only started attending big-way camps in April this year and, five months later, found myself helping to set a World Record; one of the women in my sector

(40+) enabled them to make more ambitious formations and many sequentials, which was a bonus as most of them were quite clearly only there for the post-record pool party! Once the record event had formally closed in style (with a distinctly informal band, if memory serves...), those women left awake were able to join the men on the final day.

ALL IN A GOOD CAUSE

As some of you will know, the last women's record was in support of cancer research and all of the women involved had to raise money to participate.

This time, in order to help people attend what was necessarily a pricey event (every jump was made with oxygen from at least 16,000ft), Angie Aragon kindly set up a raffle. The event sponsors provided some phenomenal prizes, enabling the participants to offset their event costs by selling raffle tickets. It was great to see one of the top prizes (skydiving gear worth almost \$5,000) go to a new A Licence jumper – what a fantastic introduction to the sport for that lucky man.

There were many women who simply couldn't have afforded to attend the event without the raffle and thanks are owed to all those who supported us. Your support meant that women from all countries and backgrounds were able to come together to make this record happen.

Thanks must go to the team at Perris. The event ran on rails with an efficiency which belied all the hard work which must have gone into organising it – they are an incredible team. Finally, if this event inspires just one woman in each represented country to stay in the sport, then it's been worthwhile. If you're one of those women, see you at the next record! ●

1 Completion!
The first point of the 117-way, by Luciano Bacque

2 Two points for the price of one,
by Luciano Bacque

3 Brits on the record: (L-R) Freddie, Helen, Lesley, Kathryn, Pamela, Ruth, Maria, Maddy, Heather and Sarah,
by Craig O'Brien



only started skydiving last year. So, if you are an A Licence jumper and you're reading this, get your FS1 and start getting involved!

Big-way is a fantastic option for those who want to make quality, organised skydives but cannot afford either the time commitment or expense of a team. It is a great way to feel involved in the sport and to progress. Running alongside the women's effort in Perris was a men's supporting event. Their smaller numbers



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Standard options vary by rig.

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Standard options vary by rig.

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*Sterling exchange rate @ July 2014 = \$1.71

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GETTING REVENGE

NATIONALS IS OVER BUT YOU'VE TRAINED ALL YEAR AND ARE AT YOUR PEAK. THIS NEW COMPETITION GIVES YOU ANOTHER CHANCE TO SHINE **WORDS ANNA HICKS**

So the BPA National Championships are over, you've maybe caught up on sleep, you've had a few weekends of normality and you're missing 4-way in your life – what are you gonna do? Head to Bodyflight Bedford for the Revenge Competition, that's what.

The Revenge was the brainchild of Bodyflight owner Paul Mayer as a competition primarily aimed at the UK 4-way scene, the little sister of the huge Bodyflight World Challenge held every April. Simply billed as '10 rounds, one day, all FS levels', it appealed to a huge number of teams – it would guarantee to be completed in one day without the risk of weather problems that often test UK outdoor competitions and with plenty of Saturday night party potential after!

A whopping 41 teams competed – 18 in AAA, four in AA, 11 in A and eight in Rookie category. Slickly run by the Bodyflight staff, teams were swiftly rolling through the draw and flew a competition round approximately every 45 minutes. The two judging panels, headed up by Chief Judge Ruth Cooper, thrashed themselves to keep up nicely with the judging. Never short of fun ideas at Bedford, Disco Ged was all over the comping and there were several rogue appearances of fancy dress throughout the day from other staff members and competitors.

CHANGING FACES

The transfer season for teams starts pretty much as soon as the Nationals are over and, at less than a month post-Nationals, there were all sorts of exciting line-up changes at the Revenge

– some temporary and some permanent. In AAA, the British National Champions *Voodoo* had Gary Smith replacing Liz Matthews and *Vision99* were joined by Pete 'Taf' Mather who replaced Steve Hamilton (who was filling in for Debbie Lamsley). *Kaizen* had Alex Del Cucino being Laura McLelland for the weekend and *Bodyflight Isis* had Tarn Hollis replacing Sparky (who was filling in for Sarah Smith). There were some great →

1 AA silver medallists Bodyflight Aero

2 Ged being Ged



BACK FOR MORE



scratch teams as well, most notably *Full Stop XL*, with the highly experienced line-up of Steve Hamilton, John McIver, Milko and Siân Stokes wiping the floor with the opposition in AAA.

Many teams also used the competition as a springboard to going up a category or two. Langar-based teams *Phoenix* and *Equal Pay 4 Women*, who had gained Nationals AA gold and silver respectively the month before, moved up to AAA and Netheravon-based team *Vortex* decided it was either go hard or go home so they went up two categories from A to have a great time in AAA. There were also some exceptionally strong fun team names, especially in Rookie. I couldn't decide whether my favourite name was Netheravon-based *Jay Webster's Nutless Monkeys* or Sibson-based *Tumbling Tarts*...

BEST SERVED COOL

There were some hugely exciting scores on the boards. Eventually, *BlackHawk* put their Nationals heartbreak behind them, winning Rookie gold with 164 points, comfortably ahead of *RAFSPA Firefly* in silver with 129 points, and *Newton's Nightmare* took bronze with 98 points.

In A, the Northern Ireland-based team *Fly Wild* stormed into gold with 144 points, but silver and bronze went nail-bitingly to the wire with only three points between second and fourth place after Round 9. The exciting showdown finally finished with *Nobody expects the Worst* in silver with 139 points, bronze went to *Funzies* with 137 points and *Lucky Diesel Powered Moo* (another strong team name) were oh-so-unlucky missing out on the podium by one point, finishing in fourth with 136.

AA has been an unusually small category this season and there were only four teams in AA at the Revenge. However, it was still hugely exciting, with *Fiaskipdemayo* and *Bodyflight Aero* tying after the final round with 174 points. Neither team could be fully available for a jump-off for various reasons, so gold eventually went to *Fiaskipdemayo* who had the highest scoring round with 34 points in Round 5. *ChatterChicks* finished closely behind in bronze with 169.

The big guns in AAA had their own dramas. *Full Stop XL* had a shaky start when they entered the tunnel too early on Round 1, but they soon made up for it and whisked themselves deservedly into gold with 252 points. The next four places were the same order as at the BPA Nationals, with National Champions *Voodoo* finishing in silver this time with 236, *Vision99* in bronze with 218 points and friendly rivals *Kaizen* and *Bodyflight Isis* battling it out to the final round. *Kaizen* just retained their UK women's



category hold by finishing fourth with 213 points and *Bodyflight Isis* (who are considering a team name change given recent world events!) just behind with 212.

Knowing that UK jumpers like to party hard after competitions, *Bodyflight* swiftly and smoothly moved into prizegiving and a particularly raucous party in the Flowhouse.

This was a great fun, slickly run, fast and furious competition. It was a great way to introduce some of the more junior teams into competition and, most importantly, filled the void at the end of the outdoor competition season. With the *Bodyflight* 10th anniversary World Challenge rapidly approaching on April 3-4 2015, the *Bodyflight Revenge* competition smoothly moves us into the winter tunnel training and tunnel competition season – post-Nationals blues are now happily a thing of the past! ●

3 AAA bronze medallists Vision99

4 AAA (L-R) Vision99, Full Stop XL, Voodoo

5 AA (L-R) ChatterChicks, Fiaskipdemayo, Aero

6 A (L-R) Funzies, Fly Wild, Nobody Expects the Worst

7 Rookie (L-R) Newton's Nightmare, BlackHawk, RAFSPA Firefly

TEAMS FOR WHOM REVENGE WAS SWEETEST

- Steve Hamilton helped *SAVoA* turn a 12-point Nationals average into an 18 at Revenge.
- *Pink Stingers* in AAA went from a 9.9 average at Nationals to a 16.2 at Revenge. In AA, *ChatterChicks* went from 9 to 16.9. Injured Sarah Ashworth was the common factor

here – she'd been unable to jump at Nationals but rejoined both teams for the Revenge Meet where their scores rocketed.

- *Anti Gravity Ninja Swans* jumped from 8.4 to 13.9 in AAA.
- *Equal Pay 4 Women* were six points behind rivals *Phoenix* at AA Nationals, but got their revenge by finishing 17 points ahead in AAA.

- *Mental Blox* improved from 11.5 to 16 in AA.
- *BlackHawk* went from zero to hero in Rookie, scoring 6.3 at Nationals and 18.2 at Revenge!
- *Newton's Nightmare* more than doubled their average from 4.1 to 9.8.
- *SA4* withdrew after two rounds at Nationals with only five points on the board in total. Revenge was sweet when they averaged 7.4.



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TIM MACE

SKYDIVER, TEST PILOT, SPACEMAN, LEGEND

Tim Mace, a long-time skydiver in both the UK and South Africa, died from cancer on September 14.

Tim's achievements both in and out of the sport were legendary among those who knew him. At work, he was an Army Air Corps Major and helicopter pilot, cosmonaut (Soyuz TM-12 backup crew), test pilot and helicopter pilot for Nelson Mandela – among other things.

In 37 years of skydiving, he competed in all disciplines at world level, representing both the UK and South Africa (a feat for which he was awarded the FAI Gold Parachuting Medal in 2012), and he held a number of world records for both 16-way FS and large formation.

Tim had an enviable passion for the sport; back in the late nineties, while training 16-way with *Another Planet*, Tim would fly overnight on Friday from South Africa to the UK, drive up to Sibson, train 16-way for the weekend and then fly overnight again on Sunday to be back at work testing helicopters in SA!

A favourite personal memory is from a great trip to Voss in Norway in 2005. Under the false pretence of doing a 16-way competition, the team were instead treated to daily 'inhoppes' into some beautiful (and some scary) locations, white-water rafting

and many (too many?) Long Island Iced Teas. This was followed by a terrain-hugging flight south to Lysebotn and yet another 'inhoppe' into the campground next to the BASE school for a first-cliff-jump course. Tim already had approximately 70 BASE jumps at this point and so did not need to do the first-jump course, but he paid to do it anyway because, in his words: "These guys have a lot of information they can teach me". After a long hike and a slight touch of the 'go gos' at the top, Tim's exit and track were perfect. After we all landed safely, he commented that we were "the coolest bunch of people I've ever shared an exit point with".

The last time we got to meet him was a few short weeks before he died, at the FS, Artistic and Speed World Championships in Prostějov, Czech Republic in August. Obviously a very ill man by this time, he was determined to register on the UK delegation for the new Speed Skydiving event but was unfortunately too ill to jump. It was, however, nice to see him again and meet his (soon-to-be) wife Gerda, and to hear the kind words spoken by John Smyth and by the meet organisers at the opening ceremony to celebrate Tim's achievements and presence in Prostějov.

Tim finally succumbed to his illness on September 14, surrounded by Gerda and

the rest of his family. He was an amazing guy and leaves many friends behind.

Ian Matthews

I have so many great memories of times spent with Tim over the past 30 years that it's very difficult to single any one out, but I suppose Tim's attempt to go to space has got to be up there with the best! It started when we were training with the 8-way team leading up to the World Meet in '89 and Tim saw an ad in the papers that bluntly stated: "Cosmonaut needed, no experience necessary". Tim had the required qualifications so he applied (as you do), but with no real expectations. A week later, we met for training and Tim said: "Bloody hell, I've been shortlisted in the top 5,000!" A week later: "Sh*t, I've been shortlisted to the last 500!" A few weeks after that, we were training in Spain when Tim received a message and screamed: "I don't believe it, I've only gone and been selected for the final four!"

After a televised ceremony at the Science Museum in London, Tim was selected, with Helen Sharman, as the final two to go off to Moscow and start training as a Russian cosmonaut. Can you imagine how hard that was? Before they could start the

1 Tim chilling with Pete Allum at the World Meet in Prostějov, August 2014

2 As always, with a smile on his face and a glint in his eyes

3 Tim's first World Meet in Yugoslavia, 1985, with Blipverts

4 BASE jumping in Norway, by Douggs

5 With 8-way team Mo in 1989

6 Tim in Russia with the Soyuz TM-12 reserve crew, 1991



Tim was interviewed about his FAI Gold Parachuting medal, which you can read at: tinyurl.com/nbgqvuh

“The exciting thing in skydiving is there is always something new to learn, skills to develop and I intend to continue, only limited by time, money and talent” Tim Mace

to the end and I was honoured to spend a couple of hours chatting with him at the World Meet in Prostějov when it was obvious that it was the last time that I would ever see him. We giggled at some of the more outrageous adventures that he had embarked on.

Fly on in our memories, Tim!

Pete Allum

I have been amazed to see Tim's life story unfold in photos and comments over the past month or so. All I can add is that Tim was a model team member both in terms of *Another Planet* and *World Team*. As you all know, when organising bigger number teams, you need all your team members to do their jobs well, follow the plan as set out and not be noticed as making errors, interrupting the dirt dive, having issues or other shenanigans. Tim definitely fell into the first category and was also a perfect gentleman. I felt honoured to have known him and to have had him in my teams. They definitely broke the mould with our Tim!

Darryl Moran

Finally, Tim's nomination for the FAI Gold Parachuting Medal makes for interesting reading and is reproduced below:

“Tim Mace started skydiving in 1977, and has 8,100 jumps. In that time, he has competed as a performer in every IPC discipline at World Championship level. He is probably the first person to do this in modern times when so many disciplines are active. He has competed in more than

150 competitions, including 23 First Category Events in which he has obtained six medals and placed in the top ten 16 times. He competed in FAI World Championships in Formation Skydiving in Yugoslavia 1985 and Spain 1989, Freefly and Freestyle in France 2003, Freefall Style and Accuracy Landing in Croatia 2004, Skysurfing in Germany 2006, Paraski in Montenegro 2005, Italy 2007, Austria 2009 and 2011 and Canopy Piloting in Russia 2010. Tim is joint holder of the current 400-person FAI Formation Skydiving Large Formation World Record and has been on two previous FAI Large Formation records (282 Thailand 1999, 357 Thailand 2004). Tim was also on the team that set the 16-way Formation Skydiving Sequential 12 point World Record in France in 1998.

He has been an AFF Instructor since 1984 and a wingsuit instructor since 1999. He received the Royal Aero Club Prince of Wales Cup in 1990 for performance in 8-way at the 1989 FS World Championship. By profession, he is an experimental test pilot. He is also a former astronaut and received the Royal Aero Club silver medal in 1991 for his work as an astronaut on the UK-Soviet space programme, which included high altitude parachuting.” ●

Tim Mace - 20/11/1955-14/9/2014



actual training, they had to learn Russian as all the training was in that language! Fast-forward a year and we were at a competition in Moscow - Tim turns up in the bus that took Yuri Gagarin to the launch pad back in the day to take us for a tour of Star City and to meet Helen Sharman. What a privilege that was! Anyway, luck was not on Tim's side as, of the two trained teams of cosmonauts, Helen's team was chosen to make the flight

to the Space Station *Mir* and Tim's team was to be the reserve. How close can you come?

But this major disappointment after all his work did not faze Tim. He just picked up his skydiving rig again and set out to become the only skydiver ever to have competed at every discipline at World Meet level for the UK and SA. To paraphrase Teddy Roosevelt: “Tim will never be among those tired and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat” - and he was my mate!

Rob Colpus

I'd like to share a few stories. Tim and I first got to know each other when I was 20, in Heathrow Airport on our way to Raeford in '84 to both do our AFF Instructors course. He insisted that I spend my first evening in the USA at a Hooters, then chuckled throughout the day at my epic hangover while we sat through the classroom sessions.

Another classic Tim memory is at the Soest boogie that he organised. Who else could get *three* Lynx helicopters cleared for us to fun jump from all week and then do a demo into an air show at the end?

Then, staying with him at his place in SA, seeing him get his guitar out late at night and rip through some classics at full volume.

His youthful enthusiasm stayed with him

7 Russia, 1991

8 Tim receiving the FAI Gold Parachuting Medal, 2012

9 16-way European Champions Another Planet in 1997

10 Tim with his wife Gerda in August 2014, by Mikey Lovemore

11 During cosmonaut training in 1991



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Canopy Corner

This new section is all about canopy progression. We learn from the example (and mistakes!) of others, so it is useful to read about what other people have done. You can then compare it to canopy choices you may be considering yourself. For example, someone might rationalise that they'll be fine on a Katana at 300 jumps because their mate's on a Velocity at 500, but not realise that that's not normal and that the person on the Velo may have dedicated those 500 jumps to canopy coaching (and may still not be making the right decision!).

I'm hoping to help people build up an idea of what 'normal' is. Each issue, I'll print case studies of people's canopy choices during their first thousand jumps and beyond along with any lessons they learned along the way. Please do get involved – email your answers to the standard questions below if you've been around long enough to have lessons worth sharing. I'll go first...

Name: Liz Ashley

First jump: December 2000

Total jumps: 2,400

Canopy history: Thirty-five jumps on 'student' canopies – Skymaster 290/230/200, Electra

210, PD 210. A hundred jumps on a Merit 190, then 60 on a Sabre 170. Bought a Sabre 150 at 200 jumps and jumped it to 300 before trying lots of different canopies but nothing smaller than 135. Hornet 135 for jumps 350-750, then 1,000 jumps on Pilot 124s. Broke my leg and upsized to a Pilot 150 for 500 jumps before settling on a pair of Spectre 135s which I still jump today. I did do one jump on a Velocity 79 set up as a third canopy once, but I chopped it and landed my own main. It was fun to fly, but no thank you to landing it!

Lessons learned: Get canopy coaching as early and as regularly as possible, including CF as well as CH/CP. Don't listen to anyone who says: "You're a girl, you need a smaller canopy so you don't go backwards in high winds" – just don't jump in those winds for now. Finish the flare. Practise accuracy as often as possible – every jump, if canopy traffic allows. If you slide it in, people may laugh, but they will laugh harder if you run/trip/faceplant. Cameras are everywhere, get your landings filmed and be a good friend by filming other people's – you might be surprised by your bad habits. Enjoy flying your canopy – if you're scared of it, then it's unlikely to be the right one for you.



Liz landing gracefully, by Yuri

OPS MANUAL QUIZ

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

Q1 Whose responsibility is it to ensure that parachutists do not exit the aircraft if conditions are not suitable?

Q2 What are the wind, cloud and visibility limits for parachuting?

A2 Section 8 (Parachuting Limitations)
Paragraph 2.1: Ground wind speed limits for Parachutists: A-F & Category System Student Parachutists – 15 Knots. BPA 'A' Licence Parachutists and above and Student Tandem Parachutists – 20 Knots.
Paragraph 3.1: Cloud: Parachutists may not leave the aircraft if, at the point of exit, the ground area is not visible.
Paragraph 3.2: Visibility: The minimum flight visibility must be at least 5km.

A1 Section 3 (Jumpmasters), paragraph 1.8: Jumpmasters must ensure that parachutists do not exit the aircraft if conditions are not suitable.



Finish the flare! By Yuri



Ant Hill unstable exit, by Dave Butterell

TOP TIP:

If you have your WS2, then you'll have demonstrated the ability to recover from an unstable exit and reorientate yourself to continue on the correct flight path. However, you may have done your WS2 in a relatively docile suit and progressed since onto some kind of flying carpet-style ballgown of a wingsuit. Can you still guarantee getting stable quickly if you become unstable (e.g. another jumper collides with you)? Have you tried? Better to do it at max altitude with plenty of options if there's a problem than to collide on breakoff and find you're in trouble...



New Cat 8 Dan Taylor over Cark, by Kev Coffey

NEW COACHES

The DZs given are the ones where the coach achieved their rating, but they may be available to coach at other DZs. Congratulations to all.

BASIC FF COACH

Andy Clark, RAPA
James Meen, Dunkeswell

Keira Sidford, Dunkeswell
Paul Pinkard, Netheravon
Charles McNeil, Cyprus

CP COACH

Steve Hogan

FS COACH

Stewart Ewing, Netheravon
Stephen Stewart, Netheravon
Amanda Taylor, Black Knights
Clair Armstrong, Cark
Andrew Parker, Beccles
Samuel Cavendish, Hibaldstow

Metaxas Nicolaidis, Hibaldstow
Andrew Henderson, Weston
Alan O'Neill, Peterlee
Kevin Knapp, Peterlee
Braden Dimmock, Sibson
Steven Luke, Netheravon
Francesca Lock, Netheravon
Spencer Bailey, Netheravon
Iain Rutherford, Netheravon
Donna-Marie Jenkins, Netheravon
Matthew Peerless, Netheravon
David Knox, Peterlee
Olga Hatcher, Netheravon
Oliver Evans, RAPA

Alexis McNaughton, Netheravon
Elliott Brown, Hibaldstow
James McGroarty, St Andrews
Alexandra Dand, Sibson

FF COACH

Christopher Arrowsmith,
Black Knights
Christopher France, Langar
David Du Plessis, Hinton

WS COACH

David Du Plessis, Hinton
Charles McNeil, Cyprus



MAL OF THE MONTH



Belt and braces: Richie Taylor pulls his reserve as his Skyhook operates following a spinning malfunction on his Velocity 120. Yes, he did have twists on his reserve!



Chris Cox's reserve ride

Malfunctions. You're not allowed to jump solo until you've proved you can deal with them in the classroom, but then you may not need to use your reserve drills for a long time. In fact, I've still never had one – that'll jinx me. So what's it like, and what part might your RSL or Skyhook play in the process? Chris Cox takes us through his second chop.

"I was an Instructor on an AFF Level 1. The skydive itself was uneventful and my colleague and I tracked off and pulled after the student deployed. I looked up to check canopy and saw my Crossfire 2 109 was in twists and turning rapidly. I attempted to kick out of them for a couple of seconds but realised the canopy was putting them in faster than I could kick.

I looked and located my pads (twin pad setup) and, as I went through my drill, shouted "Yeehaa!" – this was my second malfunction. I then looked up to check and get control of my reserve to see it was twisted and turning. My next words were along the lines of "Oh no".

The reserve canopy, however, settled down as I said those words and I was able to kick out of the twists and get control. Upon doing so, I found myself without enough altitude to safely make it to the PLA. My choices were allotments, a field with low-level power lines or a field full of cattle. I checked the power line field again, worked out that I would safely clear the lines and landed without further drama.

There is some discussion as to whether the presence of my RSL communicated the twists to the reserve or not and the pros and cons of having one. My opinion is that I would much rather be under a reserve dealing with twists as high up as possible than potentially not getting a reserve above my head at all. I did not get a chance to check my altitude before carrying out my drills. I was, however, happy that I hadn't pulled low and hadn't taken ages trying to fix the twists on the main.

Would I do anything different if this situation arose again? Not a whole lot. I am keeping my RSL and I will have a Skyhook on my next rig. Some people like to joke that it wasn't a malfunction if you didn't get the brakes off, but I think I may be forgiven in this situation. I may not shout "Yeehaa!" again – it was probably tempting fate! My choice of landing area was the lesser evil available to me – I eat cow, they may know this and hold a grudge, and allotments are no place to land. I did get a round of applause from some kids in their house nearby, which made everything alright again."

TOP TIP: PACKING TIP

Not great at packing? Wish you could do it quicker? Don't just plonk yourself anywhere in the hangar and struggle; pick a spot next to someone good and learn a few tricks from them.

Paul Dewey lands his reserve safely back on Langar's PLA, despite running out of hands!
By Nick Robinson



SAFETY STATS

As you might expect, the BPA keeps detailed records of injuries and incidents that occur at BPA dropzones. These are reported by each Club and sent to the BPA for analysis. Injuries could be anything from a scratch or bruise to serious injury; they are not always bad injuries. An incident is any time a skydive does not go according to plan, most commonly the main canopy malfunctioning. Every two months, the CCIs of all the DZs meet for their Safety and Training Committee Meeting (STC) where they discuss any trends. You can read STC minutes on the BPA website, including summary statistics about the previous two months. Here are the highlights from August and September, which are usually our busiest months:

"There had been 11 Student Injury Reports received since the last STC meeting. 9 male and 2 female. 2 Students sustained minor injuries during training, carrying out exits and landings. One Student dislocated his shoulder on exit and another damaged his hamstring on a hard opening, initially catching his leg in the rigging lines. Another student received torn tendons

after catching his legs in the rigging lines on deployment. The remaining injuries were on landing.

"Since the last meeting there had been 11 Injury Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 3 female and 8 male. These included one jumper who dislocated his shoulder on a 3-way exit. All other injuries were on landing.

"There had been 16 Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received since the last meeting. 13 male and 3 female, which included 4 who couldn't locate their main canopy deployment toggles and 2 who pulled the cutaway pads instead of the main deployment toggles.

"There had also been 41 Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for 'A' Licence parachutists or above. 37 male and 4 female. One jumper left the aircraft with his restraint still attached and was suspended beneath the aircraft. He pulled the quick release after about 5 seconds without further incident.

"One report had been received of an AAD firing. An 'A' licence parachutist who had not jumped for five months had been refreshed and was told to carry out some practice pulls and turns. The jumper who followed him out, who was neither a coach nor instructor, had 527 jumps. At about pull height the 'A' licence jumper started to turn. The jumper observing, became distracted and deployed his main low. After the canopy deployed the AAD (a Vigil) fired, however the reserve did not deploy, only the bag came out.

"Five reports had been received of items coming off on exit, in freefall, or on deployment: 2 trainers, 3 helmets, a camera, a student radio and one Tandem Student lost both shoes on deployment.

"Two reports had been received of canopy entanglements, one a display and another at a Club.

"One report had been received of a jumper with 142 jumps who landed on the PLA but hit the DZ vehicle pushing his feet through the window."

WINTER IS COMING

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CLOSE

OUR TWO HEATED GRAND CARAVANS ALLOW US
TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE COLD SEASON

WE ONLY CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

JOIN US FOR SHAGGY'S LAST HURRAH ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

SKYDIVE
Langar

 /skydivelangar

Check out our facebook page for more info
and a full list of events!

CLUBZONE

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

A comprehensive list can
be found on the BPA website



BPA Affiliated DZs in the UK

1 Black Knights

Black Knights Parachute Centre
Hillam Lane, Cockerham,
Lancashire LA2 0DY
DZ: 01524 791820
Mob: 07970 764850
bkpcinfo@googlegmail.com
bkpc.co.uk
Blackhawk Caravan

2 Bridlington

Skydive GB
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road,
Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB
T: 01262 228033
Mob: 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
GA8 Airvan

3 Cark

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

4 Chatteris

North London Skydiving Centre
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea,
March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ: 01354 740810
T: 0871 664 0113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish

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

6 Dunkeswell

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

7 Headcorn

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

8 Hibaldstow

Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648837
T: 01132 505600
info@skydiving.co.uk
skydiving.co.uk
*Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92
single turbine, Cessna Caravan*

9 Jersey

Skydive Jersey Ltd
C/O Jersey Aero Club, L'Avenue
de la Reine Elizabeth II, St Peter,
Jersey, Channel Islands JE3 7BP
T: 01534 747410
info@skydivejersey.net
skydivejersey.net
Cessna 206, guest turbines

10 Langar

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

11 Netheravon

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

12 Paragon

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

13 Peterlee

Peterlee Parachute Club
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery,
Co Durham DH6 2NH
T: 01915 171234
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182, Cessna Grand Caravan

14 Reading

London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield
Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS
T: 0845 1307 194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

15 Salisbury

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

16 The Silver Stars

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

17 St Andrews

Skydive St Andrews
Osprey Road, Fife Airport,
Glenrothes KY6 2SL
T: 01592 882400
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206

18 St George

Skydive St George
Durham Tees Valley Airport,
Darlington DL2 1LU
T: 01325 337929
info@skydivestgeorge.co.uk
skydivestgeorge.co.uk
Airvan

19 Strathallan

Skydive Strathallan
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder,
Perthshire PH3 1LA
DZ: 01764 662572
T: 07836 201953
kbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestrathallan.co.uk
Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine

20 Swansea

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

21 Swindon

Blue Skies Freefall Club
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm,
Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA
T: 01793 791222
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

22 Tilstock

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

23 UK Para Beccles

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

24 UK Para Sibson

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

25 Weston

RAF 22 Training Group
Currently military only

26 Wild Geese

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

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

Cyprus

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

RAPA

Skydive Bad Lippspringe
Flugplatz 1, 33175 Bad Lippspringe,
Germany
T: 0049 5254 982 2378
info@skydive-badlippspringe.com
skydive-badlippspringe.com
Cessna Caravan 208

Parachuting Societies

BCPA

**British Collegiate
Parachute Association**
Hannah Parker, BCPA Chair
mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
*A community for
university skydivers*

POPS

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

SOS

Skydivers Over Sixty
John Houghland
13 Bowers Craft,
Cambridge, CB1 8RP
johnhskydive@hotmail.co.uk

BCPA

bcpa.org.uk

Mastered by students

The new academic year has well and truly begun! While the weather turns cold and damp, the new RAPS and AFF students are starting to appear at the dropzone and are waiting for the weather to improve. Despite this, our members have been jumping like mad and Nottingham University are already taking a firm lead in both the achievements and the competitions league. They will definitely be the ones to watch – especially Tom Shorten, who has an early lead in the individual league.

We are very proud to say that BCPA members

excelled at BPA National Championships this year in a variety of different disciplines. Massive congratulations to *Naughty Slots* (gold, 4-way Rookie), *Nobody Expects the Worst* (bronze, 4-way A), *Phoenix* (gold, 4-way AA), *Tequila* (silver, 4-way VFS), *BCP8lings* (gold, 8-way Rookie), *Geronimo* (bronze, Freestyle B), *Hypnosis Freestyle* (gold, Freestyle B) and *Snow White and the Dwarf of Doom* (CF, 2-way Novice).

By the time you read this, we will have had our first event of the year – BCPA Freshers, which was hosted at Skydive Langar this year. With

Shaggy's Bar on Friday night and a Hangar Party on Saturday, I'm sure there will be a lot of antics to talk about in the next edition!

Our next event will be BCPA Indoors at Bodyflight Bedford in February. This year, we are putting more of a competition focus to the Indoors event and this will be followed by a massive party at Bodyflight on the Saturday night. We will also be running several Airkix Tunnel Camps throughout the year, so keep your eyes peeled and money saved ready!

We hope to see you all soon.

Sam Doughty

Peterlee

skydiveacademy.org.uk

Keeping busy

As autumn arrived, the weather remained kind and our ever-increasing regular jumpers have kept our Cessna Grand Caravan in the air more and more – with multi-lift cycles becoming the norm. It's great to see so many new faces around, with jumpers attracted by our free coaching – resulting in great progression in FS and FF.

It's Freshers' season again, with a great showing so far from Durham, Newcastle and Northumbria Unis. On one weekend, we managed to complete 39 Static Line jumps as well as Category System freefall jumps, a busy AFF programme, numerous tandems and experienced loads.

Disappointing weather kept us on the ground for much of our October Progression Week, but Cez Krzyczkowski was back again at the beginning of the week to provide some top class FF Coaching. Those who were patient took advantage of Jakub Langowski's Tracking Coaching when the clouds cleared too.

Mark Baker and Simon Minto have both successfully passed the BPA Tandem Instructor course, adding to our growing tandem team.

Don't forget your tickets for the Christmas function on November 29 at The Masonic Hall, Durham. As usual, we will not open the following day. We will continue to open Wednesday and Friday afternoons until the end of November should the weather be suitable for jumping.

Thanks to everyone at Peterlee for making this such a great little club.

Lisa and Simon



Simon Minto enjoying the view over Peterlee, by Alan Thompson

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8 Andrew Newton, Terri Owen **CH2/JM1** Peter Hutchinson **FS1** Matt Cumming, Shaun Hovvels, Sam Percival, Emma Reynolds, Mitchell Wallace, John Welsh **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Rob Charlton **100** Paul Bantock, David Houghton, Shaun Hovvels **200** Lisa Stephenson, David Wallace **500** Adam Potter **800** Nigel Peacock **1,000** Simon Minto **1,100** Trevor Garret **3,900** Alan Thompson

Sibson

skydivesibson.co.uk

It's back!

The plane is back. Yep, you heard it – the Caravan is back after its service and it's working hard for you guys. Come and jump it!

It was great to see Killa's group set a new 12-way head up record with us. The group set the UK record on the first attempt, which was amazing. Then they tried a couple of bigger ones and a multi-plane formation, but didn't quite get it. See p40 for more.

Massive congratulations to Jude and Macca, who have just announced they are expecting. Well done, you guys – how awesome will it be to have a mini Macca kicking about, and probably in a wingsuit too?

We recently hosted the Speed 8 Nationals, the CF Nationals and the Classics. Again, this was a great event and a great time was had by all. The Classics and the CF started on the Friday again, with the Speed 8 starting on the Saturday.

The Tunnel Scrambles was on October 31 – more next time. Speaking of the tunnel, our club tunnel nights have been a roaring success. This year, we have held 10 tunnel nights (which, incidentally, are open to all) at £12 per minute. That includes coaching from AFF students to advanced freely, is a cracking deal and has certainly helped my non-existent freely skills come on heaps.

Well done to *Newton's Nightmare*, who got the bronze at the Bodyflight Revenge 4-way Comp.

There is also a special mention to the *Tumbling Tarts* for not coming last!

We are now planning next year's diary so keep an eye on our Facebook pages.

I NEED PHOTOS AND ACHIEVEMENTS! As usual, I am still looking for good photos and achievements to go in to club news.

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

Paul Dorward

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Shaun Wallington **FS1** Manny Williamson, Karla Wright **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Deano Smith, Cecilia Valette **500** Justinas

Jersey

skydivejersey.net

Ecstatic jumpers

One of the highlights from September was the start of static line parachuting over Jersey. There are unconfirmed rumours of some static line jumps about five decades ago, but this is the first official course of recent times. So, who better to test the water (not literally!) than our faithful, hard-working jump pilot Brian Heath? Brian used to jump back in the day when men were men (so he tells us), parachutes were round and reserve chutes were worn across the front of your body. The design and reliability of the kit has improved since then, there are now a few right angles in the canopy and

the reserve is contained in the same rig as the main canopy on your back. What hasn't changed is gravity and the excitement jumping from a plane gives you.

Proving that the aviation genes are strong in the Heath family is Jean-Luc. Fresh from completing his first solo flight at the enviable age of 16, he was the second jumper from Lima Tango on the inaugural static line flight. Jason Ruellan and Laurant Castagne completed the quartet of intrepid static line students who successfully landed their jumps on September 27. Massive

congratulations to all of them and we hope to see them again soon to further their progress towards becoming fully qualified skydivers. That said, we hope Brian still wants to fly the plane as much as jump out of it! This is also a massive leap forward for the skydive operation in Jersey and it proves that there is scope for offering progression courses to help people get into skydiving locally, so thanks to Mal for his continued efforts expanding into new areas and to everyone else who helped get the course off the ground.

Continuing the theme of young guns was an enthusiastic club member –

Ewan Traynor, son of Michelle Traynor. Ewan was one of the youngest tandem jumpers locally, successfully completing his jump only a few days after his 16th birthday. We'd all like to offer our congratulations and hope this is an enticing taster of a potential future pastime.

We've still got plenty more opening dates planned for the rest of the year, so let's hope the conditions all line up to allow good times in the air.

Blue skies to all!

Nigel O'Brien

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JMI Peter Priaulx JUMP NUMBERS 50 Peter Priaulx

St George

skydivestgeorge.co.uk

Going past, onwards and abroad

A very successful day was had by all here at Durham Tees Valley Airport when we welcomed the Andrew Mynarski VC Memorial Lancaster back on August 28. The sound of those engines during the flypast was like no other! Plenty of people of all ages came to have a look at the wonder of this plane, as well as other war memorabilia and exhibitions, and to look to the skies as three brave veterans chose to tandem skydive. I'm also happy to report that plenty of money was raised for the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum and Age UK Darlington.

Now, new recruits! I am very happy to join such an enthusiastic team as the new DZ Manager – I did my first tandem in July and just couldn't

keep away. Congratulations to Andy Findlay, who has gained his C Licence. Well done, and plenty more jumps where that came from! Andy is fantastic with packing, DZ control and manifest. Lucy Westgarth works really hard on manifest and never fails to impress. This was apparent in the epic time with great results she had at Nationals. Finally, keeping everyone fed and watered to a deliciously high standard are Bryony, Nicole, Brendan and Jenna.

Autumn has arrived and there is a chill in the air so, to keep us all warm with that fuzzy feeling, let me tell you about a romantic surprise at the DZ. Clair Lumsley, a tandem student who was jumping for charity, had her head in the clouds after a

10,000ft tumble ended in a marriage proposal. And, I am excited to report, the answer was yes!

Staying with warm and fuzzy, congratulations to CCI Billy and Jo on their upcoming wedding. No place like New York for a bit of romance.

Finally, we also say a fond farewell to Jim Scott, who is emigrating to New Zealand. We wish Jim and his lovely wife Karen lots of luck with their new adventures.

Heather McMullan

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 200 Andy Findlay

RAPA

skydive-badlipperspringe.com

Putting the *diving* in skydiving

With the euphoria of the 50th Anniversary Boogie ebbing away, what to do to keep morale and interest on a high? Carry on as normal, of course! Many of the weekends filled up with new blood flowing into the weekend one-jump courses, many as a result of a spontaneous tandem jump done just days before the course started.

Add to that the continual flow of adventurous training courses spanning a number of weeks from various visiting groups from the UK, and this has kept the DZ ticking over nicely.

For a bit of a change, something out of the ordinary was organised by one of our regular local jumpers –

Dirk Mehrmann. On a nearby yachting lake, the Lippesee, a number of the regulars and staff dropped in to test the waters with the assistance of volunteer members of the DLRG (German version of the RNLI) who were manning the lifeboats. This was an occasion of many 'firsts' and that kept the amber nectar flowing into the night...

Rumour has it that there's a possibility of a Boogie again next year. This depends on a number of things falling into place and, of course, the feedback from the skydiving community. If you have any ideas how this year's Boogie could be improved on or just want to show support, contact Rob at office@skydive-badlipperspringe.com

Rich Oakley

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT9/CHI Andy Bailey, Chris Baird, Chiara Borowski, Thomas Clark, Matthew Devine, Iris Godderz, Alex Hoar, Steven Lee, Ross McDowell, Mark Nattriss, Philip Nixdorf, Karl Pitt, Benjamin Riddell, Carl Roberts, Sean Robertson, Alex Reynolds, Harry Thomas, Simon Ward, James Walker, Danil Woodhouse CH2/JMI Carsten Meyer, Karen Oakley FSI Jan Hüsener JUMP NUMBERS 100 Isa Navara, Jan Hüsener 200 Ian Wicks 300 Annette Chmielnik, Heiko Lehmann 700 Chris Flowdy 800 Seiriol Hughes

Goodbye, farewell and blue skies

Ten years is a long time. It's about the same time as a manslaughter charge, when you realise your car is too old, that moment you realise your kids will be in big boy schools soon, or about the time you start thinking about why you are with the wife/husband/partner.

It's also about this time that I built Redlands – with the help of John Friel and his crew of ground workers, of course. But, without someone to make the tea, it would never have finished two days late. Poolie's spade is still unused and, I dare say, Stu Livett is still having a safety meeting at the end of the runway.

But, for that period of time (well, nine years and six months – I have been known to exaggerate), I have been gracing this fabulous magazine with near libellous slander of so-called 'friends'. Most have taken it on the chin (or chins, in Mark Benson's case). Dan Morgan changed his Facebook settings and asked four or five times not to be mentioned, but luckily he manned up and accepted it was publicity. Brucie has been awesome for about eight years – which, of course, is made up. But I must admit that my triumph and *pièce de résistance* was the fact that Andrew Griggs has had his FS1 mentioned in the Mag for about six years and only those at Redlands have noticed – it's kind of a tradition and the first words on any Redlands update.

Team Sexual Chocolate, the UK's best-looking tandem/AFF and camera skydiving team, were formed – with Luke Ingram and myself, of course. No idea how or why this happened, but this is what happens at Redlands when you drink from the beer fridge. Speaking of which, my record (which will never be beaten) of £480 worth of beer fines in one year has meant that the best person on that day has had the honour of turning the beer light on. I, on the other hand, have drunk about five beers since the opening night when I basically insulted everyone and made my girlfriend drive 60 miles to see me as she didn't love me.

In this time, we have had a lot of people come and go. We have had lots of new students and, although we have a small plane, only go to 10k and you only get manifested when Brucie is in a good mood, they still keep coming back. Some have made it to the heady heights of Tandem Instructor, some have turned to the dark side and some can actually open the door and remain stable. We've done the obligatory naked tandems, the video of which was banned from Facebook for having 'Adult Content' after hitting 13,000 views in 48 hours.

I have also been diagnosed with Von Munchhausen Syndrome by proxy, mainly due to making so many students unstable and then, at approximately 6,500ft, saving them. I also trained the soon-to-be-fastest man in the world, Jason Bird. God knows how he made it through, but I for

Dylan geeking, by Lucy Wildey-Smith



one look forward to him thanking me in his World Championship winning speech.

In those 10 years, we have also made the UK's undisputed best-looking packing team. Chrissy and Jenny work tirelessly for lots of money to keep us lazy and too-cool-for-school Tandem Instructors/cameraflyers in the air. Bobby O and Steve have also flown us, others tried to but didn't quite succeed, and some have hit traffic cones.

Christmas parties have, of course, been the stuff of legends, as has Redlands on Tour. This was mainly to Hibaldstow, where Dan Morgan achieved legendary status in one night and even made Jason Southall squirm. I will never look at black bins in the same way again. Crazy then left us and moved to Hib – we like the peace and quiet, so thanks Noel.

We also went on a trip, normally in February to normally Wales, where Brucie would have his GPS and then send Mark, Crazy and myself in another group. We would (of course) get lost, Crazy would scream like a girl on the side of a cliff and we would end up getting to the hostel in time for dinner. Ed Robson read lots of articles and then stalled his canopy just before the hedge. When everyone arrived to see him, thankfully smiling, someone realised they didn't have a camera so someone ran back to get it. The photos were on Facebook before the ambulance arrived – job well done, chaps.

This was all overseen by Geordie in the early days, who I'd like to thank for teaching me how to arch and fall fast while filming his tandem students. Brucie then took over and the power hunger knew no bounds. It still doesn't...

I could go on and there is way too much to mention, but I will finish on a little known fact that, one weekend while Geordie and I waited for Brucie to turn up with the plane after a night out in Hinton, the sky was blue and the winds low. However, dear Brucie had lost the pilot and forgotten to wake up. When he did finally arrive in the afternoon, the clouds had come and so had the rain – how things have changed.

But why am I telling you all this? Well, two reasons. One, nobody tells me what has happened at the DZ. Two, I am hardly ever at the DZ any more and even my skills for making up news have been stretched so far that this will be the last ever article I write for *Skydive the Mag* unless Liz realises that 90% of those reading it do so because of Redlands. I don't know who will take over, and soon they will realise it's like herding cats and some people are very, very special indeed!

Oh, and Elia? I cannot express my emotions enough after misspelling your name in October's article. Please forgive me, and don't barricade the DZ like the French do with Calais when they are upset. Also, if you didn't get a mention, sorry but I am sure the next person will be only too happy to help – especially by stating that GK1 is the best looking blonde on the DZ... just.

Ladies and gentleman, it has always been emotional. If it wasn't, I would make it so.

Dylan Griffith-Thomas

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Andrew Griggs

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Photos courtesy of KOB



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Headcorn

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When in doubt, be relentless

Let's kick-start this with lots of momentum – this is the way we intend to carry on through the winter! It takes more than a bit of cold, wet, dark and freezing weather to hold us back. Actually, that's quite a lot when you think about it...

We have definitely been contributing our fair share of achievements this quarter. Congratulations to the following:

- Chris Lynch and Henry Van Halewyn competed at Dunkeswell in Canopy Piloting. Chris just missed winning the Speed event by 0.121 seconds but got third overall. Henry came second overall, second in Zone Accuracy and third in Speed and Distance.
- Ben Broad got silver in 4-way VFS at the Nationals.
- Janos Leszko won gold and CCI Pete Sizer won silver in Senior Accuracy.
- In CF, Mark Smith and Mark Bayley won gold in 2-way Rookie after both recovered from serious injuries.
- Simon Soper and Mary Lou Barratt won gold in 2-way Intermediate with *The Crew Fairies* against some tough competition.

- Charlie Wakeham won silver in 2-way Rookie with *Snow White and the Dwarf of Doom*.
- Marcus Muir won gold with *CFUK* in the 4-way Rotations Senior.
- Mike Cambridge won bronze with *Crwsaders*.

So, all in all, a massive performance from the Skydive Headcorn contingent in Canopy Piloting, Accuracy and CF – putting us clearly on the map in these areas!

Janos, Steve Hastings and Dave Crowhurst will be heading off to Dubai to compete in the Dubai International in Accuracy and Henry Van Halewyn will be competing in Canopy Piloting. Watch this space...

In September, our annual Bewl Water Jump took place with nine people getting wet. Our inflatable target 'Willy' once again had a whale of a time, but everyone managed to miss him so obviously the draw of a Willy was not enough to encourage Jane and Georgie to land on target. Simon Soper took our trusty old Skytrainer (that is, a round parachute) for a soaking and managed to land quite

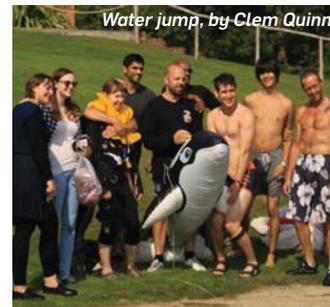
accurately too. Obviously, this was down to Jane's spotting and not Simon's canopy skills! Well done to all the water jump first-timers: Jason Langridge, Kamal Akbar, Chris Olatunji, Jonathan Hobbs and Georgie Rhodes.

The Indian summer has been great and there has been shorts-and-T-shirt jumping well into October. Lots of progression has taken place too. Jane has been a good mother and sent her daughter Amy off to university not only with her A Licence but also with her FS1.

We welcomed Simon 'Tizz' Tizzard back into the pilot rota now he is based at Southend. Also, welcome to Alex Leslie, who has joined the camera team after grafting away all summer to get the jumps and skills needed.

Our newly revamped accommodation is still booked up most weekends, keeping the beer light on much further into the night inline with our DZ bar.

Simon Hughes' annual Florida trip in March 2015 is gathering momentum



nice now, so get in touch to be part of it. It's one not to be missed each year – relentless jumping, relentless partying and relentless fun for a full fortnight. We have already given Deland in Florida a five-month warning we are coming.

Everyone will be pleased to know as winter approaches that our BBQ is waterproof, so it will be getting fired up occasionally. However, you may need to keep the thermals on.

So let's change our summer gloves for winter ones and crack on at every opportunity we can. As always, we hope to see new and regular faces as we submerge ourselves into the winter temperatures.

Blue (cold) skies

Si Beech

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Jonny Jackson, Mike Sosinski, Danny Taylor, George Voke, Stu Yeardsley **CH2/JMI** Lindsey Eldridge, Dave Hillwood, Kelley Peto **FS1** Amy Buckle, Dominic Smith **FFI** Dean Warsap **WSI** Charlie Puttick, Jose Videra **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Lindsey Eldridge, Wayne Kennedy, Georgie Rhodes **300** Ian Hammock, Mike Hitchcock, Alex Leslie **500** Chad Smith, Charlie Wakeham **800** Simon Beech **1,000** Holly Goodfield

Cornish

cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

Save the best for last

It's party time at CPC! Well, that's how it seems to be at the end of each weekend. The beer supplies have never been so continuous and that's just after a normal day's jumping – we need to buy a separate fridge just for the Price boys (the 'Gremlins').

The Bodmin crew are quickly becoming the coastal crew, with AFF Graduates Aaron, Nico, Chris, James and Simon all regulars up the DZ now. Both Nico and Chris took a trip across to Spain to see how it's done out there (same as here, really – jump over the

stunning coast all day, then hit the bars). Good to have you both back! Liam and Cameron have both now finished their AFF courses, flying through with no problems – except, perhaps, for a few fall rate issues!

In recent years, I have joined both Dave and Monty on their 8,000th jumps – so they both joined me on a sunset load to do my 6,000th! Cheers, guys – it was fun as always. Congratulations also to Justin (AV) on his 500th. He has had an amazing season at the club, and he is producing

some awesome footage in the air and in his edits – the time you spend is truly appreciated. Not bad considering you weren't a cameraman!

Dave has celebrated a BIG birthday in style, with so many friends (new and old) making the journey west to come celebrate at the beach bar. A great night was had by all and, with all the promises of returning to come jump here at some point, it's a good job we are looking into getting a bigger plane for a while. Though our little 206 will not be redundant, I'm sure it can be used in a formation load if we send it up 15 minutes earlier.

We now also have the BEACH cleared as an alternative DZ and, with a bigger, faster plane, we will be looking to use it as much as we can through next season. If you fancy a tracking dive along the coast, a high hop and pop or a low hop and pop at sunset to land outside the UK's only beach bar, give us a shout and come join the fun!

Thanks to all for such an amazing season full of highs and enjoyment – and, more importantly, a safe one! Have a great Christmas and New Year, and see you all again when the hangar doors open the first weekend in February!

The Woods

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Nico Jones, Aaron Polhill, Simon Price, Chris Todd **CH2/JMI** Jinny McCollum, Joe Robinson **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Jinny McCollum, Joe Robinson **500** Justin **6,000** Ben Wood

Bridlington

skydivegb.com

In the pink (literally)

Winter is clearly on its way, as is depicted by the clocks going back, high winds, dark evenings and generally sitting around waiting for the weather.

We warmly welcome back Mick Cosgrove – the noisiest man on earth. Mick has been invaluable over the past few months, from doing tandems to working in the canteen. Thank you Mick – you are truly appreciated. It is also great to see the return of Simon Rehill's smiling face after some time away. Simon has showed us all his feminine side with his beautiful pink tandem canopy. He will deny it is pink and say it is watermelon, but it's pink. In comparison to the colour of his sports canopy, this is tame.

A huge thank you must be said to Mel and Anita Orton for taking over the canteen between September and October. They came from Spain just to help us out and did an amazing job. Now they have gone, we will all lose a bit of weight.

By the time this is printed, we will have blown up a small part of East Yorkshire for our bonfire party. This is becoming a well-known event in the local area and satisfies Alec Flint's arsonist tendencies. The bar is open and it is always a good night.

The local police recently organised a World War II event at the dropzone which was a great success, including vehicles, weapons and clothing from this era. One particular highlight for me was landing while the Dambusters March was playing over the loud speakers. Even the local town crier turned out for this event and a lot of money was raised for the homeless.

DST Leconfield are continuing to throw their soldiers at the planet on static line courses. Their leader, Paul 'Gibbo' Gibbs, has now turned his hand to cameraflying and he's doing a sterling job.

Dave Saville, cameraflyer extraordinaire and my partner in crime, has recently had an operation on his back and is now in recovery. Dave is hugely missed at the centre and everyone wishes him a speedy recovery.

Dennis Ivanov has been burning a hole in the sky over Bridlington recently, clocking freefall speeds of an average of 167mph while flatflying. This proves useful for other jumpers hoping to improve their sitfly or head down skills.

We welcome Nick Maitland, who is a new commercial pilot to the centre. He is becoming accustomed to the madness and fitting in well.

The legacy of the T-shirt Awards continues. Alec Flint was the last to receive the dreaded T-shirt for recently using his sunglasses as a WDI. Unfortunately, I think this will be coming my way after a little rigging incident that

involved my fingers and a twin needle sewing machine! My rigging guru, Ray Armstrong, will be shaking his head at me again.

The Battle of the Static Liners rages between Jess Saunders and Sophie O'Connor, who have been neck-and-neck with their progression. These ladies have been turning up to the dropzone despite the weather conditions and are doing an outstanding job.

This will be the last club news for the year and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for all of their help over the past year. Our regular jumpers are awesome and never fail to amaze us with their enthusiasm and motivation towards making Skydive GB what it is. A special thank you must be said to our Chief Instructor – I may be a bit biased but, according to Carlsberg, Ray Armstrong is the best CCI in the world... well, probably!

Sara Orton



Shaun Ruffell, by Sav

Paragon

paragonskydiving.co.uk

Still game

As the year starts to wind down here at Paragon, we look back over what has been a busy summer. Despite our battles with the elements and Mother Nature's tantrums, it ain't been too bad at all!

Since the last club news, the troops have safely returned from their annual pilgrimage to Empuriabrava in sunny Spain and everyone had a ball. DZ boss Andrew became a tunnel mini-ninja and showed the guys and girls how it's done. As he's only five, he celebrated with a mocktail in the bar afterwards. Alice, Billy, Roy and Walter kept up the Paragon on tour tradition by doing 4-way FS with three cameras for maximum 'ex-posure' – boom boom! Everyone is already looking forward to next year's trip for more fun in the sun.

Becki, a regular spectator at the club from the age of two, completed a tandem for her 16th birthday with her dad. By doing so, she instantly became a third generation skydiver – a definite first at Paragon. In true tradition, Becki got the beer in to celebrate the occasion. While we are on

the subject of family, Becki's big sister Danii gave birth to a beautiful baby boy – Tayler. We hope he will one day become the fourth generation of the family to skydive at Errol. Congratulations to Danii and Paul on their new arrival.

Meanwhile, Lukasz reached the 400 jump milestone, Steve has notched up an impressive 1,900 tandems and Ryan bagged his B Licence – well done to you all. Keep up the good work and get the beer fines settled. Walter and Irene have again migrated back to the north east of Scotland like a pair of robins in time for the winter and it's good to have them back – we have been missing Irene's hugs and Walter's banter.

A monumental achievement we must mention in this instalment of club news goes to none other than Paragon stalwart, karaoke king and all-round gentleman, Derek Thorne. At 74 years young, Derek has been awarded the official title of 'The Oldest Skydiver in Scotland'. Derek began his skydiving career in the Parachute Regiment, making his first jump from a balloon in 1960 before going on to freefall skydiving in Bad Lippspringe, after which he carried on and became an Instructor and Chief Instructor at various dropzones.

After his time in the Parachute Regiment and APTC, Derek settled in Scotland and made Errol Airfield his home DZ. Now with 4,500+ jumps and counting, Derek is a keen and active regular at the club. On cold weather days, you may see him proudly don his maroon beret (his secret barrier to the cold) and he will occasionally treat us to a flawless recital of 'The Parachute Regiment Charter'.

Congratulations on your official title from everyone at the club, Derek. To quote the man himself: "You don't give up skydiving when you get old; you get old when you give up skydiving!"

Finally, the party season will be in full swing as you are reading this so I will end by wishing all Paragon skydivers – past, present and future – a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2015. Lang may yer lum reek!

Markie D10168

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JMI Ryan Thomson JUMP NUMBERS 50 Ryan Thomson 400 Lukasz Holownia-Czarny

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One step further.

Hibaldstow

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Still hotting up

It's the end of the season and the 'transfer window' for teams is officially open. After some fevered emails, bargaining and a few bidding wars, it looks like the team scene has calmed down a little. If you missed your chance, however, *Satori Academy* is still recruiting for 2015 and has never been a better place to get into a 4-way or 8-way team. Get in contact with Julia now on satori4wayteam@gmail.com

We've run the first of two BPA Instructor courses at this end of the season and several of our own instructors were put to the test. Congratulations to Darren Graham, who passed his TI rating, Shell Meakins, who achieved her AFFI rating and Rob Spour, who passed pre-advanced. At the time of writing, Samuel Cavendish,

Danny Coultrap, Richard Cotton and Rob Spour are preparing for their next courses – best of luck!

Congratulations also to Metaxas Navarro, Samuel Cavendish and Elliott Brown, who each received their well-earned FS coaching ratings, expanding our ever-growing pool of coaches on DZ.

The new clubhouse heating was turned on for the first time this season and it's safe to say we could have called the bar 'Sauna'. The temperatures might be dropping outside, but we're weatherproofed in here. The bar's constantly expanding repertoire of new and interesting drinks continues with the launch of the mojito this month – a firm favourite for many. Want to see something else added to the menu? Let us know!

One of the biggest events after the Nationals is Hibbleween at the end of October. This year saw a new 12-way meet with a new dive pool. Some brutal dives came out and some very fun jumps too, but the weather hampered the meet. Paul Cooper's group stole plenty of airtime by doing super fun head up and head down jumping – great to see the Freely fun jump season isn't over!

Though the time of year might suggest that events downsize a little, we counted more than 100 people at the party. The DZ worked hard to theme the place up and even tried a little amateur dramatics – with mixed success – but you can tell there was heart in it. The showpiece, however, was at 11pm when the lights went off and the UV party started to the surprise of pretty much everyone there. With the clocks going back, some managed an extra hour of

partying, but it's not always enough. Luckily, the official afterparty, now known as the Chowfter party, can keep the vibe that bit longer.

The students have returned to university and, with them, the intake of RAPlings learning to skydive is back on the up. The weather hasn't been so kind so far, but it's great to see so many new, keen faces on the DZ. The characters are already starting to appear, like Psycho Dan and 'Porn Producer' Alex – let's hope the intake continues to be as intriguing...

Last but not least, congratulations to James Swallow and Julia Foxwell who tied the knot at the end of October. From the whole DZ, all the best!

Stubert Ferglstein

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Michelle Davey, Rory Macleod **FSI** Ant Hill **WSI** Steve Brown, Burin Shala, Nigel Thurston **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Sally Hearson, Pete Richardson **300** Magnum Tsang, Lucy Westgarth **500** Elliott Brown, Karl Peart, Andy D. Pointer **600** Richard Cotton, Lizzie Hossack **60 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Chris Southworth

Langar

skydivelangar.co.uk

Records, more records, even more records...

The nicest news is that our very own Dilys Price has added yet another award to her growing list of accolades (including an OBE!) with the Lifetime Achiever Award at the UK's National Diversity Awards ceremony in London on September 26. She is the founder of the pioneering charity Touch Trust and, at 82, she is not only Langar's oldest regular skydiver but is also in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the Oldest Female Skydiver. We reckon Dilys is well deserving of the recognition! Have a look at nationaldiversityawards.co.uk and touchtrust.co.uk – and try searching YouTube for Daredevil Dilys!

Talking of the older jumpers among us, the Skydivers Over Sixty record attempt was held on the first weekend of Langar Boogie 2 and their new 13-way achieved their goal while leaving plenty of room for further attempts. Let's see you guys again for better and bigger next time!

Along with all the usual stuff, we also squeezed in a BPA Tandem and AFF evaluation course during the Boogie, which kept things nicely busy for our growing band of dedicated midweek jumpers. Congratulations to all the newly qualified instructors, of course.

The younger set – Nottingham University's skydivers, in this case – also set a new largest formation record with a 12-way, organised by Raph Barbier St. Hilaire and photographed by Sam Bemment. It won't be long before they can beat that record either, as the Nottingham University Club is attracting large numbers of new skydivers this year. In fact, the Uni club scene at Langar is pretty good these days, with Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds, Loughborough, Warwick, De Monfort, Stafford Coventry and Kingston all very active with us.

As usual, we're open every day all winter (with

the single exception of Christmas Day itself), so why not come and try us out when your local DZ is closed? Warm aircraft, bar, canteen and plenty of jumpers! Keep an eye on facebook.com/skydivelangar to stay up to date...

Tony Danbury



Dilys Price OBE
sitting over Langar,
by Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Adam Lambert, Katy Leather **CAT8/CHI** Josh Bryon, Ryan Garner, Cheryl Hudson, Carl Sandford **CH2/JMI** Denise Borgstrom, Elle Flynn, Max Holmes, Eve Mason, Collette Williams, Paul Wood **FSI** Nigel Hawkins, Lucas Mazur, Jack Parton, Ned Roberts **FFI** Aiden Chaffe, Steve Seymour, Kelly Spittle **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Max Holmes, Eve Mason **200** Josh Carratt, Ed Cawte, Neil Denbow, Rhys Easton, Linley Ewing, Martin Lowe, Stefan Pacel, Steve Padmore, Florine Patty, Tom Shorten, Guy Stanley, James Thompson **300** Martin Cole, Dan Vandenhende **400** Chris France **500** Matt Law, Paul Willcock **700** Charlie Walker **800** Paul Fletcher **1,900** Nick Robinson **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Linley Ewing, Eve Mason

Wild Geese

skydivewildgeese.com

Luck o' the Irish

Well, Mother Nature hasn't been able to lend too much help for Northern Ireland's skydivers. As autumn settles in, we (like most of the country) have been subjected to some very unpleasant weather. Thankfully, we have had an abundant supply of tandem jumpers, who are now trained and awaiting the chance to experience their dreams. Some of our students have made steady progress and, along with our club jumpers, they felt obliged to invade Skydive Spain and Skydive Algarve. Much jumping was had and many new friendships were forged!

Notable achievements include Anthony Megahey clocking up his 700th jump and celebrating with a wee skysurf. Linzi Johnston achieved her FF1. Magda Moody achieved FS1 – it was a hard slog, but she persevered! Joanne Wilson and Linley Ewing reached the dizzy heights of C Licence.

The display team were busy this year. The 2014 season culminated with the International Air Show in Portrush, which was made even more significant as we were graced with the last two remaining airworthy Lancaster bombers – escorted by two Spitfires. A phenomenal sight to behold, but one which was sadly missed by the display team because they were the next item on the programme and didn't get to see it (the ground crew did – hoorah!).

Wild Geese Canopy Pilots Rod and Aaron, who are members of the 'World Famous' Irish Swoop Team, will be representing Ireland in Florida's Skydive City at the World Canopy Piloting Championships. Hopefully some personal bests will be achieved and if, by the powers of the gods all of the

full-time pro swoopers get struck down by sudden illness, maybe our weekend warriors will have a shot at a medal. Wishful thinking, but who knows with the 'luck 'o' the Irish'? Good luck!

We now look ahead to the end of the year and the impending carnage of the Christmas Party, and we can reflect back on a very successful year at Wild Geese. Our regular jumpers being a hardy (a.k.a. 'crazy') bunch, we will endeavour to continue to jump over winter, provided the weather is kind. Looking forward to all of the challenges and opportunities that 2015 will bring, we eagerly anticipate what we hope will be another phenomenal year of skydiving.

Finally, a big thanks from all of the club jumpers must go to Dave and Maggie Penny (DZO and CCI), Judith Lees (DZ Manager) and all the coaches, pilots and

staff – we are truly indebted to you. Thank you!

So, until the next time – have a great Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Blue skies and, if you're gonna swoop, make it hard and fast!

Rod and Simon



Anthony working DZ Control at a display

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Magda Moody **FF1** Linzi Johnston **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Linley Ewing, Joanne Wilson **700** Anthony Megahey

Netheravon

netheravon.com

12 incredible months

2014 has been a packed year: 14 Freely and 10 FS Coaching/ Organising Weekends, four Canopy Formation and Canopy Skills camps, regular weekend wingsuit coaching and flocking and six successful competitions. More than 63 jumpers have gone through our monthly B Licence Progression Days while First Jump Courses and AFF training have been run almost every weekend throughout the year.

Freely and Freestyle have seen a huge increase in participation thanks to the amazing coaching from British gold medal winners Paul Capsey, Andy Godwin and Alex Dand, as well as visiting guest coaches. One of the major successes to come from these events is the number of new coaches – ensuring the continuing growth of FF at Netheravon.

The FS community has also been busy. Top 4-way team *Isis* have been training new FS jumpers and teams while also producing a new generation of coaches through their intensive certification events. Mike Lewis' Load Organising Weekends have been a great success thanks to his 'everyone is welcome' ethos where, regardless of experience, there is always a place for you on the skydive. *Team Entrophy* continue to run free FS Coaching events too, encouraging and including jumpers of all levels.

Canopy skills have been a particular focus of 2014, with Canopy Handling and Piloting camps being held by our Chief Rigger and British CP medallist Wez Westley, while *Team Crwsaders* have run several Canopy Formation weekends for

canopy pilots to learn the precise skills required for CF.

The wingsuit community continues to grow, with first flights almost every weekend – we now have 12 WS Coaches based at Netheravon. Flocking, performance flying and XRW has been at the leading edge of British wingsuiting, with world records being broken at the WS Nationals in May and successful XRW flights with Wez Westley, Max McLeod, Spike and Jackie Harper pioneering this skill in the UK.

This year, we have had six competitions at Netheravon in four different disciplines: Wingsuit World and Nationals, UKSL 4-way FS, Canopy Formation Grand Prix and a multi-standard VFS competition. Our podiums are beginning to wear out!

We've got that loving feeling! 2014 has been a great 'family' year and we've had three weddings: Jay

and Louise, Alex and Deborah and Becky and Ade. And, as often happens, after the weddings came the babies: congratulations to Jason and Liz Snailham, Mikee and Suzanne Outen, Steve and Olessia Murfin, Alastair and Elyse Macartney and Stewart and Emma Ewing on the birth of their children – the next generation of Nethers jumps!

The Netheravon team has already started to fill up the 2015 calendar with more of the great stuff you saw this year – coaching, load organising, progression and competitions – as well as making sure our bar gets good use with a full and entertaining social programme. So, here's wishing everyone at the Army Parachute Association a very Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year – it's going to be awesome!

Elana Cain

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Robin Dolton, Suzanne Ducatt, Scott Perry, Karim Shakankiri, Lee Wilson **CAT8** Will Lancashire, Andrew Newby **CH2/JM1** Martin Brown, Robert Franklin, Claire Humphries, Dan Laughlin, Andy Reilly, Sammy Skydiver, Alesha Whitford **FS1** Martin Brown, Max Fenston, Megan Jones, Brian Popkin, Shona Purves, James Ranken, Darren Steet **FF1** Max Fenston, Lucy Thomas **WS1** Andrew Roberts **CPI** Peter Hodges **CF1** Daz 'Woody' Greenway **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Martin Brown, Max Fenston, Robert Franklin, Claire Humphries, Dan Laughlin, Andy Reilly, Sammy Skydiver, Alesha Whitford **100** Daz 'Woody' Greenway, Ron Harding, Claire Humphries, Johnny Murse, Sammy Skydiver **200** Colin Jenkins, Lucy Thomas **700** Kira Morgan **900** Andrew Roberts **1,000** Peter Hodges, Jase Hughes **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Johnny Murse



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New faces, new CSI and New Zealand

Neil McLaren lit the final BBQ of the year as the evenings began to close in and the countdown to Christmas began. The remnants of the spiced chicken and pork sausages were the last taste on Earl's lips the day after.

We all send our best wishes and farewells to Jim Scott, who will be leaving the UK for NZ and he will be missed by all of his wingsuit and CRW disciples. Good luck Down Under, Jim.

Over the previous few weeks, our university committee members (Adam, Holly, Kyle, Laura, Joe, Isobel, Scott and Amy to name but a few) have been recruiting students after their successful Freshers' Fairs. With introductory talks complete, our Saturday courses are full with eager first timers. Not only fuelled by excitement of their first descent, they also enjoy the après-skydiving entertainment and drinking competitions late into the

evenings. Laura often displays her pole dancing charm while trying to consume a shot upside down and Adam just resembles *An American Werewolf in London*.

Where there are students, there are rigs to pack, so a big thanks to all our packers who work relentlessly behind the scenes in the hangar to keep our RAPS students in the air. Claire Armstrong has recently joined our CSI team and was thrown in at the deep end with her first course and dispatch of 12 first timers last month. "Twelve can be a bit of a handful when you're used to a smaller aircraft," said Claire. All in a day's work for a CSI!

From one lady to another, and we all welcome Vicky Auld onto the pilot rota for 2015. With a number of hours under her belt on Alpha-Yankee, Vicky has returned to her Twin Otter flying

in the Antarctic but will be back with us in April to resume her para-dropping credentials.

Big congratulations to our FS Coaches Dave and Helen, who have got spliced to become Mr and Mrs Honeybone.

It was a sad goodbye to Karan Singh as, after taking more than two years to qualify, Karan has now returned back to his homeland in Kenya after the completion of his course of study. No doubt you will be back to see us. If you do, bring Dennis some more Kenyan coffee!

Many congratulations to our first freefallers James Cooper, Isobel Holley and Carl Vanderveldon. You are unique people who have worked hard to be progressed and we applaud your determination. Let's hope the weather remains favourable for you all!

Our Christmas Party is at the White Water Hotel and Kay has again taken on the role of event organiser. Big thanks from all the club members for the hard work it requires.

From Stuart, Martine, Mike and Kay, we thank all of our staff and club members for a great year's skydiving and we wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year. To all those heading abroad, stay safe. The DZ will be closed over Christmas and will re-open on the first weekend in February 2015.

Stuart Morris



ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALLS James Cooper, Isobel Holley, Carl Vanderveldon **AFF GRADUATE** Charlie Rowlands **CAT8/CHI** Charlie Rowlands **FF1** Ana Budjelan **FS1** Callum Garvey, Mike Walmsley **ISI** Adam McQuire **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Karan Singh **200** Alec Hennis, Dave Roe

Black Knights

bkpc.co.uk

Black Knights victorious!

Our CRew dogs have once again cleaned up at the recent meets and Nationals, winning medals galore. I wrote about our success in this discipline earlier in the season and the lads have gone and cleaned up again.

I spent some time talking to one of our resident champions here at the DZ – Carl Marsh. Carl is a member of two successful teams, the *Cockerham Cockups* and *Team Crwsaders*. He and fellow *Cockups* team member Ben entered the 2-way Sequential Intermediate and the competition was so close over six rounds that only four points separated the gold and bronze winners. In the end, silver and bronze both tied with 22 points and the event was decided on the highest scoring round, with the *Cockups* winning the bronze. Carl and *Team Crwsaders* entered the 4-way Rotations at Senior level too, winning bronze in Rotations and 4-way Speed.

Team Crwsaders are sponsored by Parachute Systems, Aerodyne and Sena Technologies at present and Carl wishes to express his thanks to all of them for supporting the *Crwsaders*. Speaking to Carl, his enthusiasm for his discipline comes across as he speaks of his plans for the future and his ambition to complete his rating as a CF Coach in order to encourage more club members to get into CRew and build on the already successfully established base of CRew dogs here.

Next for *Team Crwsaders* is the Dubai International Parachute Championships where they will be representing the UK – we wish them the best of luck.

FS teams *Why So Serious* and *Blackhawk* had a ball at the 4-way Nationals in September and both are continuing with designs on progressing up the categories next year – plenty of training and load organising events are planned. Come and

join Ash, AJ and the teams for 4-way fun and get building those skills.

Our beloved team *Blackhawk* also took to the top of the podium in the Rookie category at the Bodyflight Revenge event recently and are justly proud of themselves – as are we. Well done, gang.

Brian Vacher has been here again and has now developed a following of BKPC club members. Our canopy-ninjas-in-training are keen as mustard and I'm sure we will be seeing Brian again very shortly with some basic and more advanced training taking place. Watch this space.

Black Knights will open again on January 24 and our first event will be a safety weekend run by Ash and Paul. Everyone is welcome to attend on weekend beginning February 1 for briefings on canopy collisions, airfield and aircraft safety and discipline.

See you there!

AJ Taylor

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Dan Mercer, Carl Nicholson **CAT8/CHI** Dan Mercer, Carl Nicholson **CH2/JMI** Steve Collins **FS1** Connor Lynch, Brad Needham, Katarina Stewart **WS1** Oliver Ellis **FF2** Adam Potter **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Steve Collins **100** Laura Jones **200** Andy Laws **400** AJ Taylor **500** Dave Bloomfield **1,100** Liz Fletcher **1,200** Ruth Morrison **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Karl Goodwin, Laura Jones **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Michael Doherty, Catherine Leather, Helen Mercer, Pud Waterhouse **SIX HOURS IN FREEFALL** AJ Taylor

Swansea

skydiveswansea.co.uk

Our skydivers are feeling charitable!

We've been having an awesome time here at Skydive Swansea, enjoying blue skies, new play pals, new disciplines, charitable giving and world records! At 82 years young, club jumper Dilys Price OBE has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Diversity Ceremony for her inspirational work and attitude. Dilys is the founder of the pioneering charity Touch Trust and, as the Guinness World Record Holder for the oldest female skydiver, she recently raised a whopping £3,000 jumping with the youngest tandem student in our Swansea skies! It's been fab to see her at our DZ – such an amazing lady!

But that's not the only charitable giving happening in Swansea. Massive congratulations to Ryan Mancey for completing the Iron Man Wales triathlon (a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run) and raising more than £1,000 for BIBIC – changing children's lives. Since completing the triathlon, Ryan can mostly be seen eating any food he can get his hands on in a bid to regain the weight he lost training. Well done Ryan, you're awesome!

There has been lots of progression going on, as many of our club jumpers attended a canopy handling course held by Matt Fogarty. Lots of hop 'n' pops and fun was had and another course is planned to take place next year. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for details. Thanks for sharing those mad skills, Matt!

While we are on the subject of mad canopy skills... after 16 years of not competing, our CCI Carl Williams has been asked to join the British Accuracy team at the World Meet in Dubai later this year. Judging by the amount of beer he won from hitting his mark over the last month, we are guessing he's going to kick some serious arse! This has peaked interest among our jumpers wanting to get involved and I am pleased to announce that the British National Open Parachute Championships for Accuracy will be hosted by Skydive Swansea next year! There will be Senior, Intermediate and Junior categories, so everyone of all levels can participate in the fun.

With all this going on, we still have a few

achievements to announce! Well done to Lee Matthews, Craig Williamson and George Wike on getting their A Licences and to Lee McKerrow and Aled Bonsall for getting their B Licences. Will Tenison earned his ninja stripes and got his FF1 and Alicja Paliczka celebrated her 100th jump with the usual carnage, but wearing suits this time – *Men in Black* style! Ricky Davies has now spent a whole day of his life playing in the sky as he recently recorded 24 hours in freefall in his logbook... I can't think of a better way to spend a day! We also welcome a new packer to our team – nice to have you onboard, Jean-Baptiste Le Dreff (the 'P' is silent, people!).

As the winter weather creeps in, rest assured there will be plenty still going on here because we are open all year round. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for any packing courses and briefings that may be happening during our wet weather days too.

Blue skies!

Laura Turner

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Lee Matthews, George Wike, Craig Williamson **CH2/JMI** Aled Bonsall, Lee McKerrow **FF1** Will Tenison **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Aled Bonsall, Lee McKerrow **100** Alicja Paliczka **700** Mikey Phillips **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Ricky Davies

Chatteris

ukskydiving.com

Chatter from Chatteris

If you've been to the dropzone over the past couple of months, you will be aware that we had some on-and-off, planned and unplanned issues with aircraft. This saw us borrow two Caravans from Denmark and Texel while the Nomad and Otter were in maintenance, and thankfully we were able to carry on with smooth operation – only one jumpable day was hindered. You'll be able to tell by looking at the achievements list that, despite the weather turning a bit crap and not having our usual aircraft, jumping was not affected.

As well as lots of celebrations on the dropzone (and, hopefully, many beer fines paid – Graham will find you!), there was also some cause for celebration within Chatteris' home 4-way team – the *ChatterChicks*. For the first time this year, Bodyflight decided to run an end of season tunnel meet called Revenge. We entered in AA and, though there were only four teams in our category (ourselves, two other AA teams and a 'scratch' team made up of AAA and AA flyers), it was a very close call throughout the day of 10 rounds. We fluctuated between last and joint first, but ended up in a well-earned third place with an average of 16.9.

The *Chicks* weren't the only Chatteris team celebrating. Graham Ablett, Graham Rymer and (new to Chatteris this year) Peter and Mel Knudsen

all formed a scratch Single A team – *Funzies UK*. Without much training together at all, they stormed their meet and performed consistently throughout to end up with an average of 13.7 and the Bronze trophy. Finally, Sarah Ashworth of the *ChatterChicks* and club jumpers Rich Rust and Craig Poxon also competed in their AAA team, *Pink Stingers*. With a last-minute line-up change and an alternate added in the form of Liz Ashley, they had their best meet yet. Finishing ninth out of 18th and respectably beating many more-trained teams, their average was 16.2 after nine scored rounds. This is a massive increase from their 9.9 average at UK Nationals in September, and certainly is an achievement worth celebrating.

Massive congratulations to Greg McEntee for getting his TI rating after putting in much time and effort.

On the subject of celebrating (or, at least, partying), I must give you all a last-minute reminder that Skydive Chatteris' Christmas Party is on December 13. The theme this year is 'Rock and Pop around the Christmas Tree', inviting you all to come dressed as a singer or band of your choice. Tickets are £25 and,

if you are still wishing to come and haven't paid yet, get in touch with the DZ Office as soon as possible. Music will be provided by local band and Chatteris favourites Wild Honey and ticket money includes a hog roast and all the alcohol you can drink (that is not a challenge)! We will be jumping the next day (for those who did not get drunk at the party) and then the dropzone will be shut until February 7 2015.

We hope to see you at the party but, if we don't, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and have a fun (but safe) winter wherever you head off to!

Robynne Haynes

P.S. Lloyd Quenby did a fun jump. He also owes beer for his 9,000 jump achievement.



Gregg Munday and Ben Smith, by Graham Ablett

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Dex (Marius), Vivian Merz, James Moran **CH2/JMI** Salim Satar **FS1** Jack Hook, Marius Ktowo (Dex) **FF1** Alex Kean, Romain Neyses **JUMP NUMBERS 200** James Rosling **400** Sean Healy **1,000** Dragos Lupu **9,000** Lloyd Quenby

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Turn on, tune in, jump out

Well done to Sib Zaidi, Dominik Nawrocki, Seb Tailleu, Sophie Dearman, Yusef Mehmet and Ross Briggs, who are rattling through their AFF courses. Such a shame our season stops at the end of October with only consols remaining for most of you! We hope to kick off our 2015 season some time around the end of March and we will confirm this in the next edition. Good luck from all the LPS team (and your new skydiving friends) if you decide to complete your courses elsewhere! Remember, there will be off-season tunnel training every month. There is a new LPSClubJumpers Group on Facebook – find it/join it.

Tim Lawson was chuffed to bits to introduce his son Charley Lawson into the world of skydiving with a tandem for his 16th birthday. Dean Aven (TI) was the 'chosen one' for this jump, with plenty of camera guys capturing every moment – Charley's smile said it all when he landed. Tim is now saving frantically for an AFF course, and it's a shame he's doing so while fighting off his small bout of Ebola. I managed to be more ill than Tim by losing my voice, much to the delight of everyone. Um... guys?

Bodyflight Revenge was an awesome competition that was well run by the Bodyflight team, and *Team Fustercluck* came sixth in Rookie Class (not last!). Katrina Kaluria managed to compete with a fractured elbow gained during team training which she only found out about after the competition weekend. Thanks to Martin Harris for sponsoring the tunnel time. Well done to Katrina Kaluria, Rachel Hinde-Harris, Kerstin Griep and me! Good effort for a team that had only flown together once before as a full team.

Michael Lovemore made us all super proud as he was part of the first Speed Skydiving World Cup at the World Championships in Prostějov as a competitor and as part of the IPC Speed Committee. He achieved a fantastic 11th place. He also got silver at the Nationals. We were all amazed when we turned on our radios and heard Mikey on Simon Mayo's show (Sept 5) talking to Matt Williams on the Friday Fixture about Speed skydiving! He explained the sport really well and

Charley Lawson in freefall with his DAD! By Mikey Lovemore



did Speed Skydiving proud all over again – but to the whole nation in one go! Well done, Mikey Lovemore! This autumn season, he can mostly be found demolishing his house... before the mega rebuild, of course!

Well done to Tom Blakey, who has been busy with the *Jump4Heroes* Display Team as well as doing tandems and notching up a fantabulous 3,500th jump very quietly without telling anyone! Chris Stone squeezed into a sky blue bodysuit and reached 100 jumps – well done! There is a picture of Chris, but it's too awful for public viewing...

Ann Lewis

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 100 Chris Stone 3,500 Tom Blakey

Beccles

ukparachuting.co.uk

Turn it up to 11,000

Wow! How much fun have we been having here in the last couple of months at Beccles?

We kicked off September by rocking and rolling at the BPA National Championships 4-way FS event at Hibaldstow. This year saw a record five teams, with jumpers from Beccles competing over three of the categories. There were three teams jumping in the Rookie category, with all teams working really hard and performing most epically. *RAFSPA Firefly* came away with the bronze medal, making everyone at Beccles proud. *Fool Run-Ins*, who were made up of all home-grown team members, competed in their first competition and they finished up in fifth place. However, probably the most outstanding performance was the *Funky Town Monkey Pimps*, who finished up in 16th place out of 21 teams. They had only jumped together for 10 jumps previously and two of their team were suffering from jetlag after

making the trip back from Singapore just to represent Beccles. In Single A, *RAFSPA Phoenix* worked hard against stiff competition and dirty hangovers to finish up in 14th place – well done chaps. As usual, *Team Fiasco* put in some super solid graft to gain fourth place in AA.

I really can't believe how much fun the event was and can't recommend it enough to all of you guys and gals out there – get yourselves a team together and give it a go next year. By the way, due to my team's placing and my big mouth, I'm now the owner of a new tattoo as a constant reminder of how well we did for our first comp and to always "Move, Stop, Pick up Grips". Cheers to Matt at Black Sheep Tattooing for sorting me out.

We also had a strong showing at the BPA Speed 8 Championships, with Beccles club jumpers in two teams. Danny French managed silver in *Fine Nine* – fortunately he was first out, or they'd still be

trying to build their first 8-way now. Sean Sapsford and Mark King pulled out all the stops to gain fourth place with their team *The Beast With Eight Backs*. Also, I must mention Barrie Bremner, who came ninth in the Speed Championships – the only other time I've heard of him moving so fast was when it was someone else's round at the bar.

In local club news, congratulations needs to go out to Andy Parker for gaining his radio licence to help out more around Beccles as DZ Controller. He also received his FS Coaching Rating so, if you need help with your FS skills, make sure to find him and ask for his awesome assistance. Also on the coaching front, Danny French earned his CH Coaching Rating. Brilliant job, dude – as they say, those who can't, teach! We're also grateful to welcome a new AFF Instructor to Beccles to help out with the boatload of new AFF students who are coming through the hangar doors, and it means poor ol' Tomo doesn't have to get his thermals on over the winter – we all know how delicate he can be.

I also have the special privilege to write about Andy Page completing his 11,000th jump with us at Beccles. What more can be said about the bloke other than 'LEGEND'? Cheers for all the rigging, jumping and general advice you give out to all of us from students to the more experienced jumpers. If I ever have half the knowledge you have, I'll be proud to call myself a skydiver.

Looking to the future, the Christmas party will be over and done with by the time you read this. Look forward to the next issue to read all about it and who won the 'How Many Expletives Tomo Put In His Speech Award' (I'm going for a solid 67 this year). Also, look forward to reading about all the exciting events coming up in the next year.

All that's left to say is much love to you all from UK Parachuting Beccles and have a mega Christmas. Catch you all in the skies next year.

James Page

ACHIEVEMENTS CATB/CHI Alex Boulter, Ross Fisher, Grace Garston, Lemar 'Crazy' George, Alexy Sharp, Dom Stretcher, Paul Strudwick, Jason Webb, Patrick Wythe CH2/JMI Burim Shala, James Tuck FSI James Brooke, Stewart Salmon JUMP NUMBERS 100 Stewart Salmon 300 Sam Carter 600 David Narey 1,100 Michael Wemyss 11,000 Andy Page

A year of firsts and we love it! (Beer!)

This year – especially the last few months – has been so exciting here in Dunkeswell!

It's still sinking in, but our skydiving school is now in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Not only have we brought out the name of our club to the world, but we also have taken the World Record back from ze Germans! We have set the record for 'The most tandem jumps in 24 hours' with 281 tandems from 15,000ft. That was a loooooong day, with the first plane going up at 6am and the last one at 10pm, but it was all worth it! We had amazing help from our club jumpers, who took care of the masses of tandem students, their friends, families, dogs...

Those of you who jump here know that we are not a tandem factory and that the sport jumping here is, and will be, just as important. This is why we are even happier to achieve this and (according to Guinness World Records) we are now officially amazing! Even if someone beats us, we are aiming to go for it again next year.

Another first was that our AAA team *Vision99* was the official BPA 4-way FS team in the Open category representing the UK at the World Meet this year. They came back with an amazing seventh place in the world – not bad for our local boys.

Also, for the first time, Dunkeswell was represented by three teams in different categories at the FS Nationals. *Vision99* came back with a silver medal, and they are probably the only team who can party like rockstars and still smash it when it comes to pro jumping. Our A team *Three Men and a Dog* entered Nationals for the first time and came back with an amazing result of 11th place. Rookies *Vision69* went there to show off their sensual T-shirts and more, but part of the team couldn't stay for the back-up on Monday so they came 16th.

In September, we held the first Dunkeswell Swoop Cup – which was great fun and a brilliant competition – with help from the BPA Judges. Eight competitors were missing, hitting, swimming and swooping the pond for three days. Overall Swoop Cup Champion was Dangerpants (Martin Reynolds), overall silver was new talent Henry Van Halewyn and overall bronze went to the one and only Chris Lynch. We are super happy for these guys and the brilliant atmosphere during the Cup. We will be holding many more Swoop training weeks and Competitions in 2015 and we are looking to have two Dunks Swoop Cups, the CP Nationals and the CP European Cup – dates in Events Zone.

World Champion Nick Batsch has been at Dunkeswell twice this year and will come back next year. To become the best, you need to learn from the best and we will do everything to help develop Canopy Piloting in the UK.

We are happy to welcome back the students from Bristol, South West England, Southampton and Bath Universities. This winter will be busy and we are looking forward to training lots of students on Category System and AFF – offering you flight level 150 as always.

For the latest updates, find us on our Facebook page @Skydive UK Dunkeswell.

Miko



Multiple World Swooping Champion Nick Batsch with his best student from the September course, Henry Van Halewyn

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CHI Daniel Bradford-Jones, Jack Carter, Deborah Douglas, Robert Fitzsimmons, Joseph Lockyear, Chris O'Mahony, Sel Pasos, Marco Ross, Sylvain Rubio, Ashley Russell **FS1** Daniel Bradford-Jones, Stephanie Driver, Jon Guy, Simon Hawkins, Alex McGreal, Victoria Pitt, Sarah Price, Susan Reed, Danny Sharp, Ryan Sharp **FFI** Jon Bryan, Ricky Bryan **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Florin Cotofana, Alison List, Ben Simpson, Aija Stikane, Georgina Woof **300** Jon Bryan, Adam Thomas **400** Piers Kittel **700** Jimmy Meen, Keira Sidford **800** Neil Empringham, Dan Whitby **900** Richie Taylor **2,000** John Price

Hello and goodbye

Another month goes by in the land of Tilstock and the achievements don't seem to be slowing down. Phil Cook and Paul Butcher both succeeded in their first freefalls, Lauren Mann reached her 100th with a Speed star and Chris Gilmore hit a whopping 9,000 jumps (jump hog)! To top it off, Barry Jones earned his wings and joins the ever-growing Tilflock with his WS1.

As the season begins to change, so does Tilstock. Steve 'Scoop' Cooper handed in his instructing 'gun and badge'. As a CSI and FS Coach, Scoop has progressed many skydivers over the last 12 years (myself included). Though he has enjoyed teaching immensely, he is looking forward to non-stop fun jumps once again and I know that all of his students, past and present, will wish to thank him for his commitment, efforts and thousands of "Look, Locate, Peel, Punch, Pull, Arch"!

Lee Rhodes will be moving on to pastures new after jumping tandems for the past three years at Tilly – with him gone, jokes won't ever be as dirty again. Don't forget to visit us! Steve Smith earned his TI rating and is already putting it to good use.

The year is not yet up and we hope to see as many students get their Cat 8s as we can, with Victoria Taylor showing us all how it's done in a smooth 17 jumps. Rich Scott and Gary Windon both have FS1 within their grasp and, as you read this, I hope they will already be jumping with us!

We remember Arthur O'Brien

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Arthur O'Brien in September. Arthur first learned to skydive back in the sixties and got his Blue D Licence before other things got

in the way and skydiving took a back seat. He turned up at Tilstock three years ago and told me that he wanted to get back into jumping after a short lay-off and wanted to know how to progress – a short lay-off meaning 35 years!

Arthur retrained on the SL system, sailed through without a hitch, and quickly became a popular club member. He was a practical joker with a wealth of stories and terrible jokes, and was always happy to make you listen to the same one again and again.

Arthur will be missed by all who knew him at the DZ but, in his own inimitable style, made sure that arrangements were made for the sale of his kit before he passed and the proceeds will be split between two worthy causes: Macmillan Cancer Support and a round of drinks at the Tilstock Christmas party.

Blue skies, Arthur.

Alex Busby-Hicks and Dan D Cope

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Paul Butcher, Phil Cook **CAT8/CHI** Victoria Taylor **WS1** Barry Jones **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Lauren Mann **200** Dan Cope **300** Helen Holiday **1,200** Richard Barron **9,000** Chris Gilmore **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Lauren Mann **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Dan Cope **THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Lyndsey Morris **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Johnny Galbraith

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nzskydivingschool.com

EVENTS ZONE



December

December 6

BPA Saturday BPA Council Meeting

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

December 6

B/F Christmas Party

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

December 13

B/F Christmas Party

Location: **Paragon** • paragonskydiving.co.uk

December 13

B/F Christmas Party

Location: **Chatteris** • ukskydiving.com

December 13

B/F Christmas Party

Location: **Tilstock** • theparachutecentre.com

2015 and 2016

January 24 2015

BPA Skydive the Expo and BPA AGM

Location: **EMCC, Nottingham**
skydivetheexpo.co.uk

January 23-24 2015

U Wind Games Tunnel Comp

Location: **Windoor Empuriabrava**
windoor-realfly.com

February 9-13 2015

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Peterlee** • bpa.org.uk

February 16-20 2015

BPA CSI Course

Location: **Peterlee** • bpa.org.uk

March 23-27 2015

BPA Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

March 30-April 3 2015

U PIA Symposium

Location: **Daytona Beach FL** • piasymposium.com

April 3-4 2015

FS **A** Bodyflight World Challenge 10-year Anniversary Meet

Location: **Bodyflight Bedford** • worldchallenge.info



Joint services demo into Stonehenge to launch the Poppy Appeal



April 20-24 2015

BPA Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

April 24-26 2015

CP Swoop99 CUP 1

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

May 4-8 2015

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 11-15 2015

BPA CSI Course

Location: **Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 22-24 2015

B/F Twin Beech Boogie 1

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

May 29-31 2015

WS Wingsuit Performance Nationals

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June 6-7 2015

CP CP Coaching with Brian Vacher

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 6-11 2015

CP European Swoop Training Week

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 12-14 2015

CP European Swoop99 CUP

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 22-26 2015

BPA Tandem and AFF Instructor Course

Location: **Sibson** • bpa.org.uk

June 27-28 2015

A 2-way VFS Grand Prix

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 8-12 2015

FS Diamonds and Jewels Team Elite big-ways

Location: **Hibaldstow** • strollerweb.co.uk



July 18-19 2015

FS 4-way UKSL

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 24-26 2015

CP CP Nationals

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 10-14 2015

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 17-21 2015

BPA CSI/Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 19-28 2015

S&A European Championships in Style and Accuracy 2015

Location: **Bulgaria**

August 23-30 2015

CP CP World Cup 2015

Location: **Montreal, Canada**

August 27-30 2015

B/F Twin Beech Boogie 2

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 18-20 2015

CP Swoop99 CUP 3

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 19-20 2015

CF CF Grand Prix

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

November 2-6 2015

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 9-13 2015

BPA CSI/Tandem/AFF Instructor Course

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

September 9-23 2016

CP **FS** **CF** **S&A** **A** **U**

Mondial 2016

Location: **Skydive Chicago**

Dates correct at time of printing

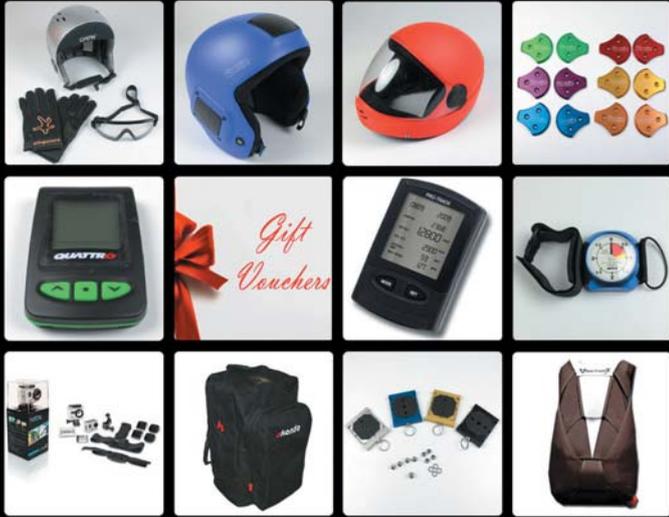
KEY

BPA BPA EVENTS
CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING

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

A ARTISTICS
WS WINGSUIT
U UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

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Team briefing
before the jump

THE HIGH ONE

During 1961, then Lieutenant-Colonel Dare Wilson (see p14) had become increasingly interested in high-altitude freefall as a means of clandestine insertion for Special Forces like the SAS and decided to undertake experimental trials to assess the challenges and benefits. While visiting the 1961 Farnborough Air Show where the SAS Skydivers were jumping, he was impressed by the new Handley Page Dart-Herald – a twin-engine aircraft that could operate at high altitude, which appeared to be ideally suited for the project he wanted to undertake. Following an initial conversation at Farnborough which was to establish a friendly long-term relationship, Dare Wilson and Handley Page agreed to conduct joint high-altitude trials. The objective was to take a team of at least eight parachutists to 30,000ft or more and then land together as a group. Expertise on the anticipated Outside Air Temperature, which could be as low as -50°C, as well as the effects of hypoxia was required and he sought the help of the Institute of Aviation Medicine at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Each parachutist was equipped with an RAF crash helmet, a flying helmet with 'H' Type oxygen mask and a 55 litre oxygen bailout bottle.

Due to military commitments, the only window for the jump was during January 1962 and the first day with suitable weather conditions was January 30. Two descents, the first from 25,000ft, had been planned but the weather prevented this – necessitating the aircraft landing with the eight jumpers still on board after the first attempt. The aircraft took off again from Boscombe Down at 1350hrs and this time reached a jump altitude of 34,350ft with Squadron Leader H G Hazelden

(Chief Test Pilot for Handley Page) at the controls. The DZ, which was marked by a flare, was located in an area between Tilshead, Chitterne and Shrewton, west of Netheravon.

WHO DARES, WINS

By this time, not all was going to plan. The weather was worsening and the aircraft was flying into strong headwinds, increasing the run-in time. When Dare Wilson gave the signal to switch from the aircraft's oxygen console to the jumpers' own personal supply, Lance Corporal Pete Beaumont passed out almost immediately due to a fault with his equipment. The Time of Useful Consciousness at 35,000ft is less than 60 seconds and, as Beaumont collapsed, the green jump light came on. Stopping to reconnect Beaumont to the main aircraft oxygen console first, an act that undoubtedly saved his life, Dare Wilson then led the remaining six jumpers out of the door – completely unaware, as he was now disconnected from the aircraft's internal radio transmissions, that, having given a green light, the pilot had ordered 'Negative Drop' shortly afterwards. The cold was almost overpowering and icing of the jumpers' goggles caused significant problems with visibility but, pulling at 2,000ft after more than two minutes' freefall, the team all appeared to have landed successfully.

Initial jubilation faded quickly when they realised that one member of the team, 23-year-old Corporal Keith Norry, was unaccounted for. Shortly afterwards, a farm worker brought the tragic news that Norry, a veteran of more than 160 freefall descents and one of the youngest men to pass SAS Selection, had landed in a nearby field without

deploying either of his parachutes. The reason for this was never clearly established.

Pete Beaumont, who had been left unconscious on the aircraft, then arrived in a baker's van. Having been reconnected to the oxygen console in the aircraft, he recovered sufficiently to drag himself out of the door, severing his oxygen supply in the process. However, because his personal oxygen bottle was still inoperable, he passed out again. He regained consciousness at 3,000ft and immediately deployed his main parachute, landing some distance from the rest of the group before flagging down the van and hitching a lift to the DZ.

The jump, which passed into regimental folklore as 'The High One', established a new world record as well as providing successful proof of concept for high-altitude military freefall descents – but it was achieved at a high price. A Board of Enquiry found no evidence that any form of negligence played a part in Keith Norry's death, but Dare Wilson still faced criticism from some quarters. Questions were being asked in the House of Commons as late as May 1963 and John Profumo, the Secretary of State for War who resigned shortly afterwards over the Christine Keeler affair, was interrogated by John Farr, MP for Harborough, concerning the jump.

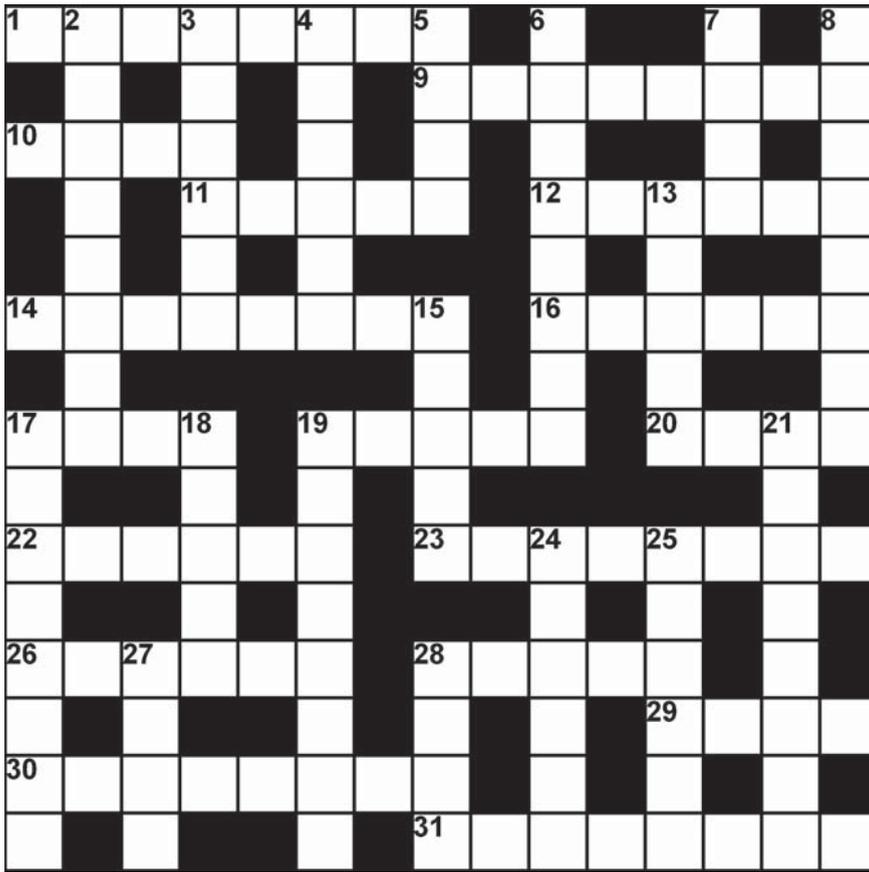


PUZZLE



Paul Boorer

Many thanks to Paul Boorer, who has been compiling the Mag crossword for many years but has decided to take a break due to other constraints on his time



Across

- 1. Anxious
- 9. Flying in general
- 10. Typewriter parts
- 11. Instructor
- 12. Middle
- 14. Upside down
- 16. Season
- 17. Foreign skydiving NGB (inits)
- 19. Flyer
- 20. Sulk
- 22. Brake handle
- 23. Set in motion
- 26. American units of length!
- 28. Get on an aircraft
- 29. Slippery fish
- 30. Thomas Sports container
- 31. Judged

Down

- 2. Successful deployments
- 3. Save
- 4. Collision
- 5. Helmet manufacturer
- 6. Flying machines
- 7. Elevator
- 8. Aerials
- 13. 9 across warning (inits)
- 15. Greek letter
- 17. Final
- 18. Aspect
- 19. Meteorological measurement
- 21. Home of Skydive Academy
- 24. Railway lines
- 25. Recordings of the moving image
- 27. Side
- 28. Academic skydiving club (inits)

CARTOON

Best wishes to Baz, who will be taking a break from drawing cartoons while he recovers from illness.



Down
 1. Worrying 9. Aviation 10. Keys 11. Coach 12. Centre 14. Inverted 16. Autumn 17. USPA 19. Pilot
 20. Mope 22. Toggle 23. Activate 26. Meters 28. Board 29. Fels 30. Teardrop 31. Assessed

Across
 1. Ultimate 18. Angle 19. Pressure 21. Peterlee 24. Tracks 25. Videos 27. Team 28. BCPA
 2. Openings 3. Rescue 4. Impact 5. Gath 6. Aircraft 7. Lift 8. Antennae 13. NOTAM 15. Delta



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