



British Parachute Association

skydivethemag.com

June 2015

# skyDIVE

SINCE 1964

the mag



**INSIDE:** 10TH BODYFLIGHT WORLD CHALLENGE HEAD DOWN WORLD RECORD – HOW TO BE COOL  
CAMERA FLYING MASTERCLASS DIY CANOPY – INSANE OR AWESOME? BPA GOOD GOVERNANCE  
REVIEW WE CHECK OUT THE VALKYRIE PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

# Come skydive in Central Spain -

## Beginner and intermediate courses available

**The Freefall University** is an independent skydiving school based in Ocaña 20 minutes south of Madrid. We are located minutes away from the modern city of Aranjuez which has all the nightlife you can handle. We have our own equipment, qualified rigger, British Instructors, facilities and professional ethic.

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# FREEFALL UNIVERSITY

\* 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.



It's funny how my jumping goes through phases. I've skydived full-time in the past, working in the sport as an Instructor and as a Rigger, not being able to imagine ever doing anything else. In recent years, I've found that life sometimes gets in the way and that a few months can go by over winter without me managing to get in the air. Recently, the bug has totally bitten me again and I've managed more

than a hundred jumps at four different BPA dropzones since the last Mag, including my 2,500th (yes, I did buy the beer). It's fantastic to feel like a new jumper again – only this time, rather than working towards my FS1 and B Licence, I'm chasing an ever-improving 4-way average instead. Well, that and attempting to wobble around upside down like the cool kids! What a great sport we do when there's always new stuff to learn and fun to be had...

Liz Ashley

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

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

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## CONTRIBUTE

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
August 2015	June 16	July 28
October 2015	August 25	October 06
December 2015	October 20	December 01

By Rob Lloyd



## Langar UKSL

The first UKSL of the year saw a great turnout of 23 teams despite a dodgy forecast. However, all categories managed to complete

all six rounds except Rookie, who managed five. AAA was won by *Phoenix*, who have now moved up from the AA Nationals podium and who averaged 12.8 in their first AAA competition. AA winners

were *Nobody Expects the Worst* who averaged 9.3, while Single A was the most competitive category with both *SeaFury* and *Dino4* scoring 59 points over the six rounds. *SeaFury*'s blistering

17 on the final round beat *Dino4*'s 15, so it was *SeaFury* who took the gold. In Rookie, the *AAC Blue Eagles* were head and shoulders above the rest, taking gold with a 9.6 average.

## Mars Milk Fund

The 2015 Mars Milk Play Fund has now been launched. The Fund will be donating 49 cash awards over a five-month period to sports individuals, projects and clubs. Every week, two deserving applicants will be selected to receive a donation of £300. There will also be a monthly £1,000 award, where the public can vote for their favourite sports entry. Mars are also giving away some amazing gadgets as part of the total fund. Several skydivers have already applied and are canvassing for votes on social media networks, so support them or start your own bid for funding!

For more information, check out [marsmilk.com](http://marsmilk.com)

## Accuracy Nationals

The Accuracy Nationals took place at Swansea on May 22-24. Carl Williams has returned to Accuracy in the last couple of years, and has done a lot for the discipline. This now includes running a very successful Nationals at his dropzone in Swansea, which he won overall – well done, Carl! His score over ten rounds was just 23cm, and he managed three dead centres in the second half of the competition. Pete Sizer took silver with a total of 40cm (although he was playing catch-up all competition after a score of 15cm on Round 1!) and Esther Reynolds won bronze with 42cm. The attendance was the best in years and eleven Accuracy jumpers entered the Senior category. The Intermediate category had five entrants and was won by Grayson Summer, and Jon Davies was the best of the three Novice competitors.



Pete, Carl and Esther

## VICTORIA CROSS FOR BPA MEMBER

Her Majesty The Queen has presented the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest order of gallantry, to Lance Corporal Joshua Leakey of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment for heroic action in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Only three Victoria Crosses have been awarded for the Afghan campaign and Lance Corporal Joshua Leakey, 27, from Hampshire, is the only living recipient, the others having been awarded posthumously. 'Leakey' also started skydiving in 2014 as an AFF student on a BPA trip to Bahrain.



Lance Corporal Josh Leakey said: "It's such a great honour and massively humbling to be put among all those people who have received the VC in the past. My family are very proud and happy, but the lads in the battalion know this isn't something you seek out. You just do what you deem necessary on the day and any one of them could be standing where I am today."

Between May and December 2013, Lance Corporal Leakey was deployed in Afghanistan as a member of a Task Force conducting risky daylight operations to disrupt insurgent safe-havens and protect the main operating base in Helmand Province. During what should have been a routine patrol on August 22 2013 with joint UK/US forces, he single-handedly turned the tide of a vicious Taliban insurgent attack and prevented considerable loss of life by taking the initiative and repeatedly running through heavy fire to man machine guns.

BPA Council voted unanimously to elect him as a Life Member of the BPA in recognition of his achievement.

### VC OFFICIAL CITATION

"After dismounting from their Chinook helicopters, the force had come under accurate machine gun and rocket propelled grenades' fire, resulting in the Command Group being pinned down on the exposed forward slope of a hill. The team attempted to extract from the killing zone for an hour, their efforts resulting in their officer, a US Marine Corps Captain, being shot and wounded, and their communications being put out of action. Lance Corporal Leakey, positioned on the lee of the hill, realised the seriousness of the situation and with complete disregard for his own safety, dashed across a large area of barren hillside which was now being raked with machine gun fire. As he crested the hill, the full severity of the situation became apparent: approximately twenty enemy had surrounded two friendly machine gun teams and a mortar section, rendering their critical fire support ineffective.

Undeterred by the very clear and present danger, Lance Corporal Leakey

moved down the forward slope of the hill and gave first aid to the wounded officer. Despite being the most junior commander in the area, Lance Corporal Leakey took control of the situation and initiated the casualty evacuation. Realising that the initiative was still in the hands of the enemy, he set off back up the hill, still under enemy fire, to get one of the suppressed machine guns into action. On reaching it, and with rounds impacting on the frame of the gun itself, he moved it to another position and began engaging the enemy.

This courageous action spurred those around him back into the fight; nonetheless, the weight of enemy fire continued. For the third time and with full knowledge of the extant dangers, Lance Corporal Leakey exposed himself to enemy fire once more. Weighed down by more than 60lbs of equipment, he ran to the bottom of the hill, picked up the second machine gun and climbed back up the hill again: a round trip of more than 200 metres on steep terrain. Drawing the majority of the enemy fire, with rounds splashing around him, Lance Corporal Leakey overcame his fatigue to re-site the gun and return fire. This proved to be the turning point. Inspired by Lance Corporal Leakey's actions and with a heavy weight of fire now at their disposal, the force began to fight back with renewed ferocity.

Having regained the initiative, Lance Corporal Leakey handed over the machine gun and led the extraction of the wounded officer to a point from which he could be safely evacuated. During the assault, 11 insurgents were killed and four wounded, but the weight of enemy fire had effectively pinned down the Command team.

Displaying gritty leadership well above that expected of his rank, Lance Corporal Leakey's actions single-handedly regained the initiative and prevented considerable loss of life, allowing a wounded US Marine Corps officer to be evacuated. For this act of valour, Lance Corporal Leakey is highly deserving of significant national recognition."

## Wingsuit World Cup

By Lee Crudgington

**Look out in** the next issue for a full write-up of the first ever Wingsuit World Cup, held right here in the UK at Netheravon. The opening ceremony had just taken place as this Mag went to press, and featured demo jumps including this amazing 5,000 sq ft flag jump! The first day of the competition saw more than a dozen records broken, including both National and World Records. They are not yet official at the time of writing but, by the time you read this, there will probably be a host of new ones that have been set!



## Royal Aero Club Awards

**This year's Royal Aero Club Awards** took place in May at the RAF Club in London's Piccadilly. Four BPA members received this high accolade. Congratulations to all.

**RAeC Bronze Medal** to Dave Pacey, who has made a major contribution to opening up the world of skydiving to disabled people including injured servicemen and women. He and they have raised significant funds for the BLESMA charity for limbless veterans, and have also raised awareness that skydiving is accessible to all, including amputees. Dave was not able to attend the awards ceremony because he was doing AFF on

a trip comprising this year's new BLESMA student skydivers!

**RAeC Certificate of Merit** to Kate Charters, BPA Competitions Judges' Co-ordinator. At one time or another, Kate has held national or international ratings in all IPC parachuting disciplines. With her husband – and fellow BPA Judge – Bob's support, she has trained all of the current UK judges along with a number of national judges overseas, some of whom have themselves gone on to become FAI-rated.

**RAeC Certificate of Merit** to Wing Commander Mike Westwood OBE RAF (Rtd). Mike is one of the most experienced parachute sortie pilots in the UK. For more than 30 years, he has made an outstanding

contribution to sports and military parachuting and in particular to Adventurous Training activity at RAF Weston on the Green and the RAF Sports Parachute Association.

**RAeC Old and Bold Trophy** to Dilys Price OBE. At 82 years young, Dilys Price is founder and director of The Touch Trust, a Cardiff-based

charity that offers creative movement education and touch therapy. Since making her first sport parachute jump at the age of 54, Dilys has made more than 1,128 jumps and, in so doing, has raised significant funds for the charity. "I'm ready to do a lot more jumps now, I've got renewed vigour", she said. And yes, Dilys is still skydiving!



By Martin Gammon

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*"I feel this canopy is a great step up for Comp Velocity pilots that want the next level high performance wing but don't want or need the sheer mental focus the Peregrine requires."*

-Stu Schoenfeld (6,000 total, 4,000 cross braced jumps)



*"The Valkyrie is amazing! The openings are great, it flies very well in brakes, and the swoops are much longer than the Velo. It's the perfect canopy!"*

-Max Haim (10,000 total, 6,000 cross braced jumps)



# FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**Tony Butler**  
BPA Chief Operating Officer



## MY NEW PASSION

The great thing about our sport is the passion we all share for it. Most of us have made lifelong friends; some have found partners for life.

I made my first jump at Hereford Parachute Club in Shobdon, aged 25. The thrill of the sport and the camaraderie soon had me hooked. I started by doing general DZ duties and worked my way up as the sport got into my soul.

I put the effort in, had a great time in teams at regional and national competitions, bagged a few medals and the odd British, European and World Record, and was rewarded with a true sense of satisfaction.

My passion led me to take a job with the BPA as joint National Coach and Safety Officer working with John Hitchen (now a BPA Vice President), who also joined the staff at about the same time.

Today, with 6,200 jumps, I remain as passionate as ever about our sport. It's great to be able to pass on skills to our next generation of skydivers and I particularly enjoy teaching AFF.

When I became Technical Officer, it was effectively Chief Operating Officer although the job title didn't become that until a few years ago. I didn't ask for the new title and I wasn't sure it mattered at the time, but

I now see that it's important for clarity of the role – because something has changed. Not within our sport, but in society as a whole. Passion for our sport is no longer enough.

## THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

The social, political, legal and technological landscape has changed enormously in recent decades. These days, an organisation such as the BPA needs to comply with regulations and codes of practice covering everything from accounting and administration to equality and ethics. If our sport is to thrive in the next half century, we need to look outward at other sports and adopt best practice.

I am talking about governance. Please don't stifle a yawn – the BPA needs to take this seriously if our future is to do justice to our past. Good governance promises a stronger future.

Our amateur sport of skydiving must be run professionally. The expertise on our Safety and Training Committee is world class but, although others seek out our expertise in skydiving, the BPA has rarely looked to sources of expertise outside our sport for the range of other skills we need on the board in the 21st century.

Election of BPA's Directors, the 15-strong voting members of our Council, arguably boils down to a popularity contest. In some years, it's simply taking an uncontested seat. I believe these long-established governance arrangements no longer cut the mustard in terms of skills sets and competences in directing the vision, mission, strategy and finances of a National Governing Body to succeed in the challenging world of the 21st century.

## THE BPA NEEDS TO CHANGE TOO

The Voluntary Code of Good Governance in the Sport and Recreation Sector sets out proven principles of best practice in running any sport. For example, smaller boards to be more focused, efficient and effective, election of independent non-executive directors with specific expertise, matching the skills on the board to the vision and mission of the organisation.

My opposite number in another sport was surprised to hear that all seats on BPA Council come up for election each and every year (a business risk) and that, based on our candidate election statements, there can be so many different individual priorities (requiring much negotiation to settle on action). "How do you manage?", he asked.

In the words of Chair of Council Martin Soulsby, we want, as a sports governing body, to become 'best in breed'. Doesn't our sport deserve the best? Don't you, our members, deserve the best as well?

Last year, Council commissioned Amanda Bennett, an expert in sports governance, to produce a BPA Governance Consultation Report. From that has arisen the conversation Council is starting with you, our membership, about BPA's governance arrangements for the 21st century. And that's something I'm passionate about!

*The BPA Governance Consultation Report is available at [bpa.org.uk/news/bpa-governance-consultation-report/](http://bpa.org.uk/news/bpa-governance-consultation-report/) and you can read more about it on page 47 of this Mag.*

Tony back in the good old days



Best sport in the world!





## RAeCT Bursaries

In 2002, the Royal Aero Club Trust launched a Bursary Scheme as part of its Flying for Youth Program (FfY) for young people between 16 and 21 to provide financial assistance for those wishing to upgrade their existing qualification in a wide range of air sports and aviation-related activities. In 2015, the Bursary Scheme was enhanced to open the programme to young people from the age of 14 years and to introduce a new category of bursary – The Follow-On Bursary – for exceptionally talented young sportspersons (previous bursary winners) up to the age of 24 years.

BPA applicants have a history of strong and successful applications to this scheme and this year was no exception. Out of 44 bursaries awarded in 2015, 19 were to skydivers. Congratulations to BPA members Robyn Dean, Scott McKinnon, Max Holmes, Charlotte Harris, Edward Cracknell, John Welsh, Eleanor Flynn, Huw Radcliffe, Eve Mason, David Hedley, Levi Hamill, Jack Dowse, Martin Swindle, Joshua Carratt, Philip Keeble, Nick Utton, Marcus Muir-Smith, Linley Ewing and Lucy Westgarth.

The 2016 Bursary scheme will open in September 2015. For more, please visit [royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries](http://royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries)



Bursary recipient Lucy Westgarth tracking over Skydive St George, by Danny Rowlands

British Parachute Association

## BPA Stars



**Nominations are open** for BPA Star Awards 2015. This year, we're again inviting A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service, over-and-above the norm, that they have received from other BPA Members – Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition? For details of how to make a nomination, see [bpa.org.uk/star](http://bpa.org.uk/star).

## Online renewals

**More than 1,660** members have already renewed online this year. Members who can renew online are those aged over 18, without current or lapsed ratings and living at UK or BFPO addresses. If you know anyone who has yet to renew, please remind them to log on to [bpa.org.uk/member](http://bpa.org.uk/member)



## BPA membership soars to all-time record

**BPA Membership grew** by 5% year-on-year to a record of 6,259 full members at the end of March 2015.

In the same period, student provisional membership increased by a massive 14% to 59,863.

BPA Chair Martin Soulsby said, "I'm delighted that BPA full membership has soared above 6,000 for the first time and that our student numbers show such a healthy increase. Not only are more students converting to full membership, but renewals by existing members increased by 7%."

"In partnership with our Affiliated Parachute Training Organisations across the country, we are successfully attracting and retaining more members."

"Whether it's jumping purely for fun or the added thrill of competition, this is great news. We continue to have the largest 4-way Formation Skydiving Nationals in the world. In 2014, we had 75 teams – dwarfing other nations, including the USA. Attendance at BPA Skydive the Expo at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham earlier this year was an all-time record too."

"Skydiving is a sport for people from all walks of life. It is wonderful that more and more are discovering the exhilaration and camaraderie that freedom of the skies has to offer."

# NEW RATINGS

**CSBI**

Colin Jenkins  
David Simpson  
Jakub Langowski  
Richard Drabble  
Rab Peterson  
Simon Finlay

Richard Cotton  
Aimee Southwell  
John (Bunny)  
McGeechan  
Samuel Cavendish  
Chris Jones  
Alastair Donald  
Christopher Williams

**AFFBI**

Adam Dare

**AFFI**

Mike Hayes  
Rudy McClenaghan  
Adam Threlfall  
Richard Gecse

**TBI**

Holly Goodfield  
Scott Calcraft  
Andrei Baranya  
Jordan Price

**TI**

Karl Chapman  
George Kakkis  
Dragos Lupu  
Danny Coultrup

**CSI**

Martin Bradshaw  
Chris Nelson

*Live AFF, by Gary Wainwright*



*Hibaldstow Instructor course*



*Strathallan Instructor course*





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TEN YEARS OF TOP-LEVEL COMPETITION RIGHT HERE IN THE UK

**WORDS:** LIZ ASHLEY (INTRO/FS) AND JOEL STRICKLAND OF VARIALFREEFLY.COM (FREEFLY) **PHOTOS:** BODYFLIGHT



**T**he tenth anniversary World Challenge was bigger and better in every way. It kept the high standard and international superstars that it has had throughout, but changed format for the better. The meet was still a two-day event, but the turnaround was faster and each team only competed for half of each day. This meant more time to enjoy the event and the many distractions. Also new this year were £1,000 cash prizes for those lower down the table, meaning you didn't have to have

already made it to be in with a chance of taking home some dosh.

UK teams put on a strong performance across the FS categories, with AA being our most successful as the *ChatterChicks* won gold. British National Champions *Voodoo* were the top UK senior team, with their whopping 23.7 average only getting them joint ninth place – a reflection on the high standard of this international competition. Second UK team was *Co-Motion*, consisting of two experienced 4-way jumpers (Tarn Hollis and Alessandro del Cucina) and two freeflyers/tunnel flyers

**1** Post-competition freefly multi-way

**2** Ten years of the World Challenge

**3** Bar time

**4** Hayabusa showing their fun side

**5** After-party

(Adam Mattacola and Jamie Arnold). These two had barely been near a sausage suit this time last year, but they valiantly fended off the teasing by posting a 21.9 average which shut up all the 'proper' 4-way jumpers.

Also breaking the 20 average were last year's Nationals silver medallists *Vision99* with 21.2 in 13th and new UK team *ACM*, who have shot up to 21.1 and 14th.

In the Female category, medallists *NFTO* and *Fly Like A Girl* (both UK) were a close match, scoring exactly the same on half of their rounds. A five-point win by *FLAG* on

Round 5 made for an unassailable lead overall, though with just two points in it in the end. The *Golden Knights* girls flew in from the States with their coach Solly Williams and finished 50 points clear, taking gold with a 26.2 average.

## WE'RE GETTING GOOD AT THIS

The real impact that the tunnel has had in the ten years since this competition started is obvious in the scoreboard.

There are higher scores, yes, but it is no longer enough to be a good skydiver and to expect to be anywhere near the top. It is the teams who have incorporated tens, hundreds and in some cases thousands of tunnel hours into their training that are now the top dogs. Sometimes these are the same teams who have always been there – *Hayabusa* surprised no-one by winning yet again – but there is an increasing trend of good

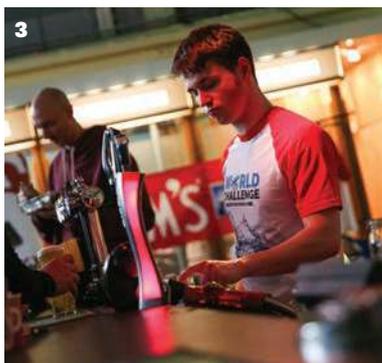


tunnel flyers picking up 4-way in a very short time period and doing very well at it. All it takes is one or two experienced 4-way flyers on a team as long as the rest can all fly well, and the Freely podium was the sole domain of tunnel rats. This is one of many reasons that tunnel competitions continue to be relevant to skydiving magazines, despite not actually 'being' skydiving – the two activities are now inextricably linked.

Freely has changed a lot in the ten years since the World Challenge began. Tunnels are all over the place now and new facilities spring up out of the ground with some regularity to operate as cash printing factories in the next most lucrative corner of society. The international competition scene has grown too, with an increasing number of locations willing to host an event at some point during the year meaning there are now indoor medals to be won every few months. The first generation of child flyers, whose future potential was discussed at length by the curious and interested, now take home some of those medals from a level playing field against career skydivers and full-time coaches.

## FOUR OFF THE FLOOR

Dynamic Four-Way, D4W, Dynamic or whatever you want to call it grew out of the creative potential offered by adding more people to a team. This was as much down to the evolution in how tunnel space is used now as it was to a growing sense that 2-way Freely had been growing a little stale – that individual skill might have reached its zenith and there were only so many ways to present that as a pair. →





However, people got better and the way we train in the tunnel has continued to grow in complexity. Flying styles have been adapted and refined as far as legitimate sub-categories based on method and even geography.

After holding a 4-way Freestyle competition in 2013, the organisers of the World Challenge were forced to split the teams registered for the same category the following year into 2-way pairs due to not quite having enough to validate the bigger format. D4W has been and is the logical progression of competitive Freestyle, but the complicated logistics, constantly changing rule set and the sheer amount of training required means that the combination of necessary elements overpowers many potential teams. For things to continue in the right direction, it is important to have a supportive, interesting and involving 2-way scene to feed it. Lines, points and moves practised and polished as a pair can be combined with those of similar motivation and expanded into the larger competitions, hopefully leading to an increase in the overall number of teams.

But it takes a lot of time and effort to train for a competition. A crucial part of the process is realistically evaluating exactly what you can consistently achieve and then deciding how far past that line you are prepared to push into what you might achieve. How much better is your

routine if you include that move you can do eight times out of ten? How much worse is it if you miss?

What separates the very best teams from the rest of the pack is the ability through the combination of talent, effort and fortune to zero in on the exact spot where their ability and ambition intersect. The gradual refinement of the competition structure means things are only getting more interesting and, if the level of engagement and standard of flying at this year's World Challenge can be used as a measure, then things are looking pretty good for the future.

### HAVE YOU GOT THE MOVES?

For 2015, Bodyflight added dynamic speed rounds to their traditional format and tweaked the structure slightly – the fourteen teams would each complete nine rounds, three each of VFS, dynamic speed and a free routine.

Bronze went to the young girls from *Firefly Singapore*, with fast and clean speed rounds (and a possible slight advantage from having trained the lines in one of the world's few 16ft tunnels) and a free routine including several tricky linked sequences (and shown no quarter for being kids). Silver overall (and a gold for the Dynamic Speed category) belonged to *Windoor Smooth Criminals*, who are maybe

**6 Single A winners**  
*Flyspot Chicks*  
from Poland

**7 NFTO (UK),**  
*GK Girls (USA)*  
and *Fly Like A Girl (UK)*  
on the AAA  
Female podium

**8 Bling!**

**9 Bodyflight Black**  
*Magic entered Single*  
A on their backs

**10 Bucking bronco**

**11 Happy**  
anniversary Paul

**12 This is why we**  
wear one-piece  
jumpsuits!

**13 Ged and his**  
adoring posse

**14 The ChatterChaps**  
and their £1,000

only a competition or two away from the very top with just a little tidying up needed in a free round that included a couple of popular creative flourishes. The top spot went to *RealFly Sion*, demonstrating smooth speed rounds with no fuss and a thoughtful routine that covered a lot of high-difficulty ground with tight form.

Special mention for should be made for *Floh-Well* (Ben Broad and Luke Warren) who, in their first competition, lost out on a medal for their free round to the girls from *Dynamight* by one-tenth of a point, and also to Alex Dand and Laura Kenyon of *Kunoichi*. A little further down the field, the goalposts are moved slightly – if you do not have a professional tunnel background and/or the kind of time in the tube to you need to aim for some shiny, it can be victory enough – and should be

**66** It can be victory enough – and should be regarded as such – to have learned the D4W dive pool in the preceding months to the point where you consider yourselves qualified to enter for the first time **99**



regarded as such – to have learned the dive pool in the preceding months to the point where you consider yourselves qualified to enter for the first time.

**YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET**

The World Challenge is the biggest and longest running indoor skydiving competition in the world and it is not going to stop any time soon. There have been requests that the Freefly teams should be allowed to enter one category instead of having to compete in all three next time around. On the one hand, that would add another layer of organisation for the team at Bodyflight to deal with, but on the other hand it might well lead to more teams able and willing to get involved – then perhaps commit to deeper involvement in future events. With the growth of the tunnel industry busying up

everyone's calendar, influential types are currently hashing out the details to make the whole scene a little more organised when it comes down to deciding who is the fanciest and the fastest, the most creative and the best all round. The first step towards greater coherence was that this year's World Challenge was the first in which all the judges have a high-end tunnel background – the official criteria for qualification onto the panel being that everyone can fly the dive pool and have also previously competed themselves. The goal is to set this as a standard and carry it forward into the future. Tunnel flying has advanced so much in a short space of time that it seems more and more vital for the important members of our community to lead things in the right direction.

Are we close to having seen everything? No. Things are just warming up... ●



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Left turn



Riser attachment



Slider controlling the opening

# HOW TO DESIGN A PARACHUTE

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE... AGAIN

WORDS AND PICTURES: PHILIP WAYPER VIDEO AND STILL: ZACHARY PIVARNIK, MAURICIO LETONA TORTORICI AND MICHAEL KEARNS



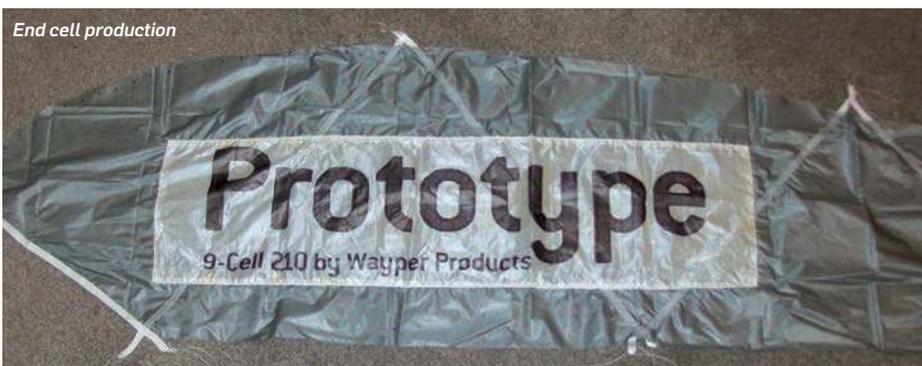
Packing



Phil on exit



Diving the canopy



End cell production

## YOU WILL NEED:

- **Time** I took three months to build a prototype and took four and a half years from the initial idea to the first jump
- **Materials** A 210 sq ft canopy took 50 metres of low porosity fabric, 130 metres of polyester line, more than 100 metres of various tapes and webbing and many spools of thread
- **Money** My last canopy alone cost more than £400
- **Somewhere** to work on your project and/or people who will put up with you

# MAKE YOUR OWN CANOPY

Landing



Kiting



Full drive with bowed brakelines



Phil puts his life in his own hands



Cutting



Stabilisers



Suspension lines





**S**o you've seen a previous article by Andy Hughes (see Mag June 2012) about building your own container, but you want to know about building a canopy or even designing your own gear. I don't claim to be an expert, but I can share my story and perhaps offer some starting points.

A long time ago, while waiting for the weather to clear at Tilstock so I could do a static line jump, I asked a Rigger a fairly simple question: "How do you build a canopy?" This was a little bit of a trick question, since I had already built what was essentially a big kite and towed myself behind a Land Rover – it was simultaneously fun, scary and quite perilous. The answer to my question was an equally simple: "I don't know, sorry." I asked a lot of other Riggers (some very experienced) and other people I thought might know how to build a canopy, but it turns out that virtually no-one does it these days. Sure, there are people with fantastic knowledge about canopy design and construction, but they have no idea where to start.

If you want to make your own canopy to jump, here are three methods I can think of. Whichever method you choose, you will need to learn how to sew. You don't need to be a Rigger to make canopies (more on this later), but the skills will no doubt come in handy. You'll need to buy a sewing machine or be able to use one on a regular basis so that you can set it up for your work.



Slider grommet



Raw materials



Seam



Seam



Line attachments



Packing

**1** One common answer I got to my original question was that it would be a good idea to copy an existing canopy. This is a very sensible option for somebody who wants to build something with their own two hands and still have a bit of confidence that they're not reinventing the wheel. If you want to go down this route, you'll need materials to make the duplicate canopy (ideally with some extra to practise on), a donor canopy such as a Fury, Manta or original PD, and plenty of time to pick apart the old canopy, make patterns, cut out the parts and sew them together. You'll also probably want at least some kind of mentoring from a Rigger, especially if you've never touched a sewing machine before. The end product of your labour will be a functionally identical copy of a canopy of your choice, and you'll also get a great idea of how much work goes into the construction process.

**2** Then again, say you are like me and have such a desire to learn about the dark art of canopy design that you want to take the most challenging route and design one yourself. Firstly, you'll want to learn as much as possible about how parachutes open and fly, how they are constructed and what the design parameters are. This is a *huge* job. Dan Poynter's *Parachute Manual* is a good introduction, but it is pretty feeble in giving you a comprehensive design process. I was stuck at this point, so I went online and found out there are a few individuals who really do know how to design canopies. A few Skype conversations later, several specifics were cleared up and I decided to have a go at making a canopy – this time with the intention that someone would jump it. I ground-launched this canopy all over the country and took it to a few dropzones for people to look at. I had learned loads about general design and the performance of that prototype, but I still thought I could do better. I had doubts about my prior seam choices and whether someone would want to land a small 7-cell, so I went back to the drawing board and →

## MAKE YOUR OWN CANOPY



Warning label



Leap of faith



Flying high

## CAN YOU REALLY JUST MAKE YOUR OWN CANOPY?

**Phil says:** I mentioned earlier that you don't have to be a Rigger to sew your own canopy. This is true so long as you aren't making reserves or equipment for students. A quick look in the Ops Manual says that you have to be a "recognised manufacturer". This is an ambiguous little bit of text. What constitutes a manufacturer and who recognises them? Many have quipped that they have heard about my project and therefore recognised me as a manufacturer!

**The BPA says:** "It is within the remit of any experienced parachutist to jump a ram-air type main canopy" (Riggers' Meeting, February 2015).

**Chair of Riggers Paul 'Apples' Applegate says:** "The rules say that a canopy should be constructed by a recognised manufacturer or suitably qualified Rigger – I would add 'or checked out by a suitably qualified Rigger'. It's great to see that there are still some enthusiastic jumpers out there who are interested in the techniques of construction and who will give it a go. Personally, I would do the initial jumps on anything like this in a cutaway rig, so that there is the added safety of having three canopies. The old and bold among us will remember the Wally Gubbins canopies and I will admit to having jumped single skin things myself (in a cutaway rig!). As long as safety is part of the thinking, we should not be trying to stifle enthusiasm mixed with a touch of madness!"

designed another canopy – a 210, this time – using everything I had learned so far. I fixed every little thing that bugged me about the last canopy and was pretty proud of the finished product. However, going down this route will take a lot of time and resources; it took me more than four years and several prototypes to get to something airworthy.

**3** If this sounds too much like hard work, how about a kit parachute? Back in 1985, a company called Lone Star (now no longer in business) would sell you just that. You received a bunch of pre-cut fabric pieces, lines and materials and, most importantly, a manual to take you from having never touched a sewing machine before to a perfect assembly of the canopy. Kit canopies sadly seem to have died out but, with the price of mains rising, they may make a return...

Testing a homemade canopy is always fun and I tested my early creations by towing them behind cars with me in the harness or by ground-launching from hills. Nothing really beats the feeling of taking to the air in something you built, but you can't really say you've built your own canopy until it's been out of an aeroplane for the first time.

Actually jumping my canopy was a bit of an ordeal. My local Chief Instructor had been with me from the beginning, but started

thinking that it might be a good idea to make sure that it would all be alright with the BPA. One Riggers' meeting later, the green light was given with the advice that I should keep my CI involved and consider a cutaway rig. However, I wasn't able to get to the DZ at weekends and I became increasingly frustrated, failing to find a suitable third container while trying to wrap my head around the technicalities of jumping such a setup.

I ended up taking the canopy with me to California, where I was going to do some jumping, get current and gain my FS1 sticker. The Riggers at Lake Elsinore, with special mentions going to Tanya Hannington and Robbie Spencer, were happy to help me out and even made a modification to help with the openings. I would have loved to do the first jump myself, but I was so uncurrent and unconfident with my own canopy handling that I asked Zak Pivarnik to put in a few jumps just to make sure everything worked fine. This also meant I could get precious video footage of the openings. After a trip to the gear store to hire a rig that would fit a 210, we assembled and packed the canopy like any other. It was really weird to see the rig packed up and to think, "I designed and built the canopy in that".

The first jump was a hop'n'pop from 12,500ft, which allowed us to get an idea of what the

openings were like as well as giving plenty of altitude to see if the canopy was landable. Over the next few jumps, Zak slowly increased the delay to 10 seconds. We could see from the video that the openings looked brisk, but nothing out of the ordinary. Zak also reported that it was a fun canopy to fly for its size, was super stable and that it landed well. Towards the end of my trip, I started to want to jump the canopy. I'd been wearing a 240 with weights and thought I was ready. I rented out the same rig again, had the rigger attach an RSL ring to the riser and packed it up – this time for me.

The jump was simultaneously routine and scary. I was the last out on a pass at 5,500ft. I took a three-second delay and laughed as the opening shock and the reality of my achievement hit me. I had purposely set the brakes lines quite long, so I had to grab the top of the toggles for a good control range. I did some flares and toggle stalls before flying my pattern and landing. As far as I was concerned at that point, it was the best canopy I had ever jumped. I had a very smug look on my face for a while afterwards.

So what is there left to do? I've barely scratched the surface as far as learning about canopy design. I still want to take my canopy to terminal and find out all of its quirks. And then there's always the *next* prototype... ●

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# NEED FOR SPEED

**WORDS:** MIKEY LOVEMORE

## JUNE COACHING ROADSHOW

Join Mikey Lovemore and Jason Bird (Silver and Gold respectively at Nationals 2014) for an introduction to Speed Skydiving at their BPA Coaching Roadshow at Netheravon June 27-28. This will be an informal coaching weekend where you can drop in for a quick intro to Speed or you can train hard all weekend with each jump being analysed by the current top UK speeders. We will be using the BPA Speed judging equipment and the brand new Speed software. Mikey Lovemore is BPA Speed Rep, is part of the ISSA (International Speed Skydiving Association) board and is also on the IPC Speed skydiving subcommittee so, if you're interested in the judging side of Speed, you can come and get yourself the basic skills to set you up for the BPA or IPC Speed Judge rating. Bring a Freefly-friendly rig and at least one audible alti. More than 200 jumps and some FF experience is recommended, but there are always some basic skills to work on for lower experience levels.

## APRIL COACHING ROADSHOW AND JUDGES' SEMINAR

The last Speed Roadshow at Sibson run by Mikey Lovemore and Jason Bird in April was a great success, with new speeders and experienced alike sharing ideas and techniques. It was run concurrently with the BPA Judges' training seminar, so it was also a great opportunity for Judges to learn Speed judging and a great opportunity for our current Speed Judges to get some

practice. It's great to see the enthusiasm building from all directions in this exciting, new(ish) discipline. The UK is one of the leading countries involved in the development of Speed Skydiving, with UK speeders having always been at the forefront of the discipline. We now have two people on the IPC Speed subcommittee (Mikey and Kate Charters), three BPA Speed Judges (Kate again, Davey McMinn and Frank Mallabone) and one IPC Speed Judge (Kate yet again). The early success of our judging team is mostly down to Kate (the BPA Judges' coordinator) seeing the potential in Speed Skydiving long before it was accepted into the IPC family and always supporting its progression in the UK.

## ISSA WORLD SERIES EVENTS

There are four events – with equipment and prizes sponsored by Larsen and Brusgaard – and entering any two will get you an ISSA ranking for 2015. The April comp in Fano, Italy and the May comp in Leutkirch, Germany have already taken place, but there are still two events to come as well as the British Nationals.

The first ISSA event saw competitors fly as fast as possible towards Fano DZ, situated along the beautiful Italian Adriatic coastline. Despite bad weather, an agreed early start to the competition meant that the minimum two rounds completed. The event was won by newcomer Thomas Christof from Austria, who managed 499kph on round two. Moritz Friess from Germany came second and Luc Maisin from Belgium came third. Tim Porter,

representing GBR, came fourth and pushed his personal best up to 440kph.

Jason Bird, Paul Bantock and Mikey Lovemore were in southern Germany for the Tim Mace Memorial Cup, which was also the second of the four 2015 ISSA World Series. It was one of the biggest Speed competitions to be held and pretty much all of the top speeders in the world were there. With such a high calibre of competitors, there was a lot to play for and a great opportunity for learning set the scene for a great competition. The superhuman Marco Wiederkehr set a new ISSA World Speed Record at 557.57kph (346mph). His meet result was an astonishing 546.88kph, which is the average of his four best jumps. When we think he can't go faster, he pulls it out of the bag again and from 531kph too – that's still a considerable improvement.

There were many people setting new personal best speeds and national records. Daniel Hagstrom, who entered the Open competition at the British Nationals in 2014, deserves a mention for setting three new Swedish Speed records on three successive jumps, topping it off with a 490kph. Mike set a new personal best speed at 436kph and was really pleased to make the semi-final, finishing in 14th. See [speed-skydiving.com](http://speed-skydiving.com) for full results of all ISSA events.

Mikey and Jason have both been invited to compete at the World Air Games in Dubai at the end of the year and, being the first two Speeders ever to receive support from the BPA towards coaching, they will be knuckling down to some training and hoping to make it to the Mondial in 2016. ●



**Don't forget Speed events in the UK this year:**

- ISSA World Series competition at Hibaldstow – August 7-9
- British Speed Nationals at Hibaldstow – August 29-31

**1 Tim Mace Memorial Cup speeders in Leutkirch, Germany.**  
By Skydive Nuggets

**2 Paul Bantock after setting a new personal best speed of 237mph.**  
By Mikey Lovemore

#IcarusStudent

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# ICARUS *Student*

**PART**  
1 of 2

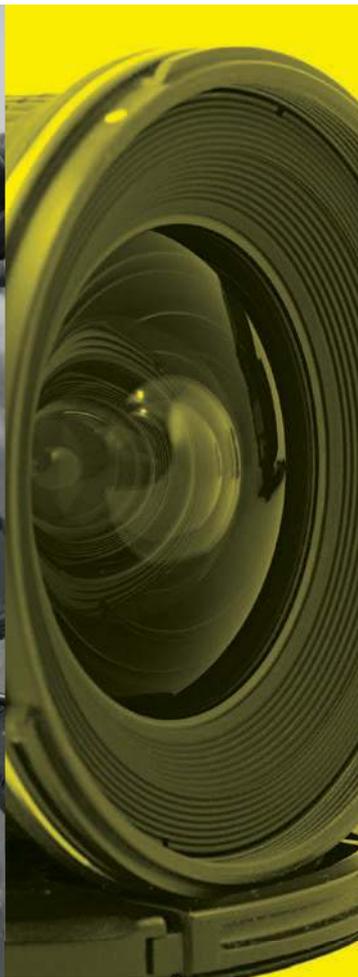
BY DAVE HEAD,  
4-WAY NATIONAL CHAMPION  
CAMERAMAN 2011-2014

**T**he UK enjoys one of the biggest and most active FS competition scenes in the world and, as the number of teams grows and team performance improves, there is a need for new cameraflyers and their performance becomes ever more critical in competition. Unfortunately, there is no culture of coaching within the cameraflying discipline (see Mag June 2013 for more) and cameraflyers usually end up trying to teach themselves or pick up advice on an ad-hoc basis.

This is the first of a pair of articles aimed at novice and experienced cameraflyers and their fellow team members to pass on some best practice. Part one covers what good footage should look like and why, and therefore how and where you should fly relative to the team. Part two will focus on exits.

### What should footage look like?

The footage you produce is used by the team, their coach and the Judges, but these three users have different needs and what they want to see is not always the same. Teams and cameraflyers often don't understand this subtlety. A coach wants maximum information to debrief from, so they will typically want to see leading exits and may like you to remain stationary during blocks to gauge how well individual piece moves are being performed. A Judge wants to see the team action clearly presented, so they will be happy with any exit type as long as they can judge it and they may prefer you to be slightly further away. As long as basic requirements of minimal camera busts and being able to



# CAMERA

debrief are met, then the team will be happy if they look good on the bar tape. They are often pleased by footage filling the screen, even if the viewing angle is shallow. As a result, what seems good to the team may not always be the best thing for judging. Footage that is good for Judges is generally good for the other two, but it doesn't always work the other way around.

The ultimate aim of a team cameraflyer is to deliver good footage in competition. With the exception of leading exits you might not otherwise do when needed for problem-solving with a coach, I would encourage teams and their cameraflyer to train for competition footage on every jump. I often hear cameraflyers being asked to "back it off a bit" or change their exits for competition. The rest of the team would not fly one way all season in training and then do something different in competition and expect their best ever performance, but cameraflyers are often asked to do just that. So what makes for good video in competition?

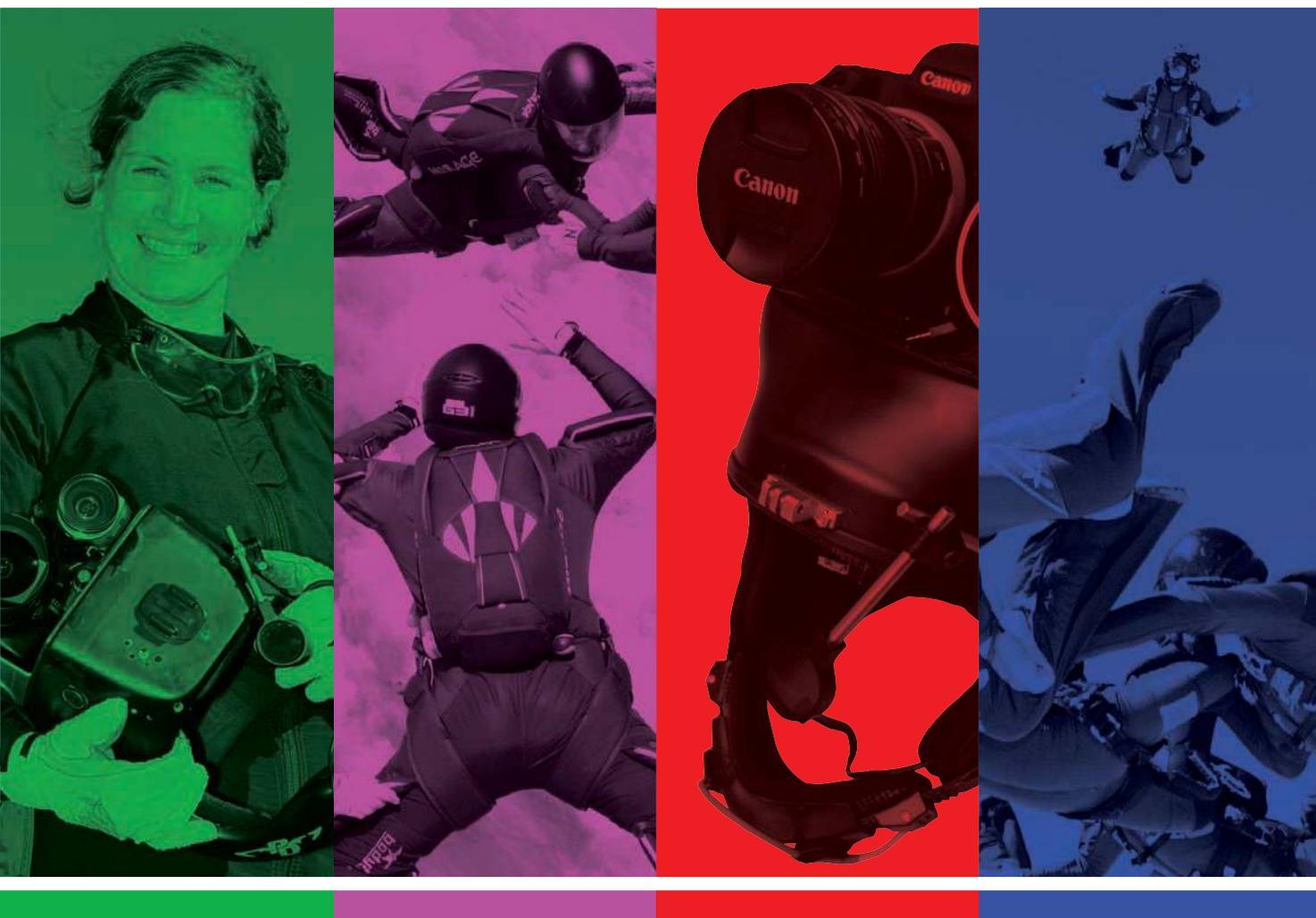
### Competition Camera – The Aim

To score cleanly in competition, we need to understand how FS is judged. In simple terms:

- The team scores one point for each correct formation shown in the correct order
- The team need to show complete separation between random formations and block sequences
- Points are taken away (busts) or not counted (Non-Visible) for errors or if not clearly presented
- If the Judges cannot clearly see when to start the clock, then the jump will be timed from when the cameraflyer lets go and a 20% points penalty applies

This places a number of requirements on the cameraflyer:

- The Judges need to see clearly when to start the clock
- The footage needs to be near enough for



# FLYING

the Judges to see enough detail but not too near

- Keeping everything in frame
- Showing all the grips by being steep enough and near enough
- Helping show separation by being steep enough and near enough
- Avoiding centre-point busts on some blocks – being steep helps
- *Don't hit the team!*

Do all that and, if the team do their bit, then there should be no camera-busts. Delivering this has a direct impact on exit technique and where you fly relative to the team.

## Know when to start the clock

This is really down to where you look in the door, the aircraft type and how wide your lens is. Generally, it is better to look down slightly to give margin if you are late or in case your camera is out of alignment. You may need to point the sight in a slightly different place to

where you look with your eyes to read the exit timing.

## Keep all grips in frame

This is particularly important during block moves and the team can get penalised if block grips or a whole solo flyer go out of frame for a fraction of a second – even if this is too short to have dropped and re-gripped or turned the wrong way. Judges are encouraged to apply common sense, but it is an individual call. Flying too close to the team (or too shallow) can reduce your margin for error if something unexpected happens.

## Distance

Ideally, the team should fill 60% of the screen after exit and no more. Filling the screen actually makes the footage harder to judge when the team has a fast tempo because the Judge needs to move their eyes around the corners of the screen to see all the grips rather than just stare at the centre. Being too near can also show

busts which the team would otherwise get away with, particularly with the advent of ever-sharper HD footage.

Do not use camera zoom to achieve this distance – it will amplify any camera shake and make the footage unpleasant to watch.

## Steepness

The steeper, the better. If you film at a shallow angle, then grips and separation can be masked by rigs, booties and level differences within the formation. At the very least, you should be filming from above a 45° angle. Steepness is key to good footage and this is discussed further later.

## Hold a heading (and keep your head still)

This makes judging and debriefing a lot easier. Small or occasional movements are OK, but do not orbit the team continuously. Teams do not stay in place and you should side-slide or use translation moves to follow them to minimise your heading changes. →

## Other

Do not wipe your lens in freefall; this can obscure critical action and may smear the lens. If weather conditions make the footage unjudgeable, a re-jump will be awarded. Do not shake your head if you make a mistake or you notice the team make one. This can trigger closer scrutiny from the Judges, who may not have noticed, or it could make them doubt something which is actually clean.

Of all these six things, the two greatest recurring issues for Judges are footage not being steep enough and not near enough – in that order.

## Where should you fly?

Steep footage is key to ensuring that all grips and all separation can be clearly seen. A steep flying angle requires the cameraflyer to be on the edge of and sometimes in the burble. This is somewhere we have been told to avoid throughout our FSI coaching and beyond, so it is little understood and something skydivers are often afraid of.

## Where is the burble?

- The burble is above people's bodies and will move around as the team moves around.
- The burble is not uniform. It is weaker in the gaps between bodies. Bigger people and baggier jumpsuits have a bigger burble above them.
- You can feel wafts of burble further out as people deflect air from their booties during big moves. This can create the illusion of being on the edge of the burble when you can actually fly safely much nearer to the formation.



**2** Good video footage should fill 60% of the screen and be steep. By Dave Head

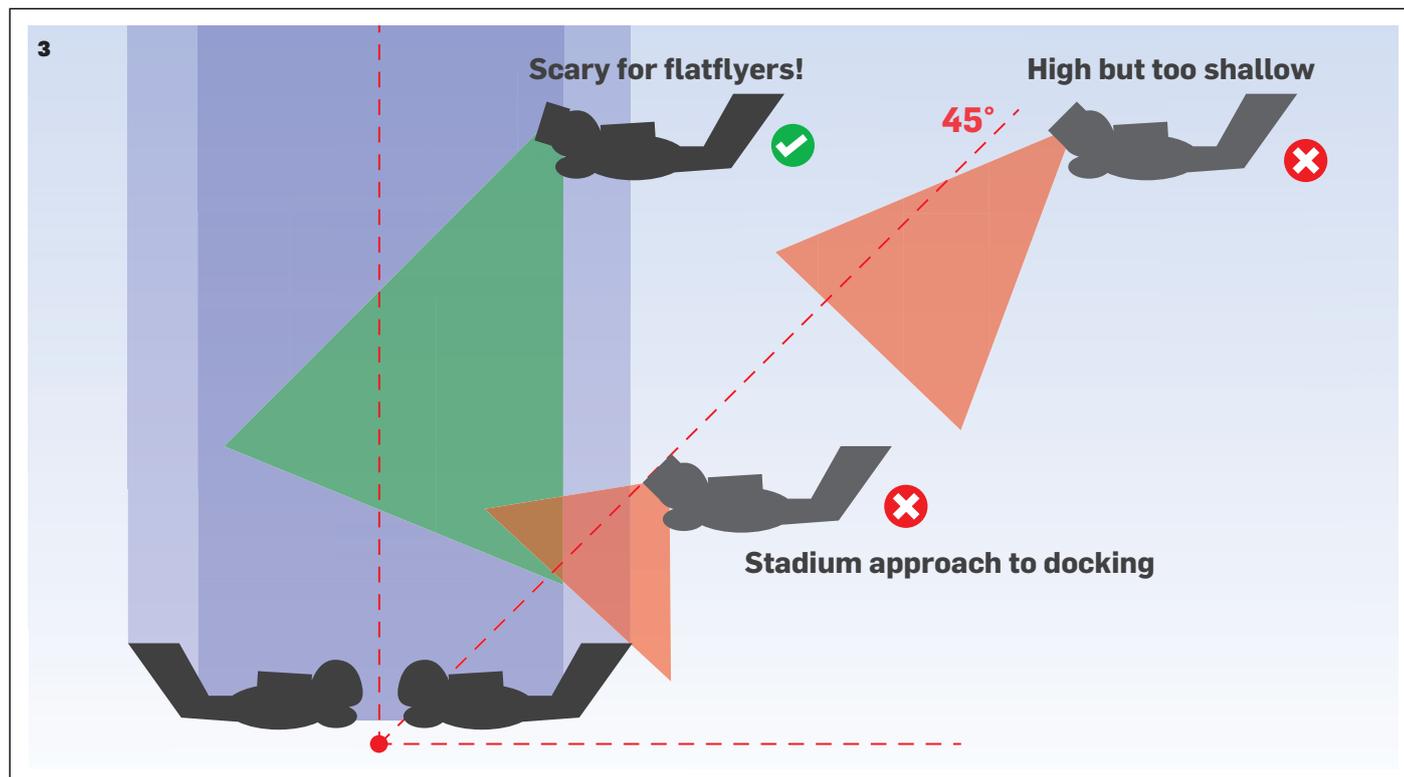
**3** Fly steep... steeper than you think! Diagram by Dave Head

**TIP 1:** Inside Centre and Outside Centre move around less. If the long axis of the formation is not changing a lot, then either may be a safer person to fly behind while you gain confidence as long as you are not orbiting. This is also better for framing the formation with the letterbox view of the widescreen.

## Where should you be?

Aim to fly with your head and shoulders in the edge of the burble. You should be able to hear the turbulent air and feel this on your face. We are not trying to sustain our whole body in it continuously, but should be confident riding out transient sweep-unders from block moves – after all, the team do vertical block moves over each other's backs without issue and don't have the added benefit of camerawings. The team will move around and you will need to actively fly to stay in this position relative to the team.

A common mistake for cameraflyers is looking at an angle and not directly downwards vertically. They may feel steep, but external footage will often show the cameraflyer is two body lengths or more from the nearest person – nowhere near the burble and nowhere near as steep as they could safely be. Flying steep is something that takes confidence to develop and Judges recognise that novice cameraflyers will find this difficult at first. The wind tunnel is a great place to help build this (see Mag August 2013 for more). →





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4



### What if I get burbled?

Flying in the burble can be unpleasant. Until you gain confidence through experience, it is common to overreact if you do get burbled. This is covered in greater detail in the burble drills in the August 13 Mag, but the key points are:

- You can handle more than you think. The team may move out from under you if you keep your nerve.
- Fly your whole body, not just your wings. Have some of both in reserve.
- You only need move enough to get cleaner air – often only a very small side-slip will do. Other options are backwards, a slide and turn or turning around your head. Avoid tracking over the top of the formation.
- Fly out of collisions/contact. Do not reach down with your arms as it will break your body position. Big impacts often come from breaking position, not flying your body and not having enough fall-rate range in reserve.

### What kind of lens and jumpsuit do I need?

Lens choice is a trade-off between being wide enough to get all the essential hands and grips in frame simultaneously on exit

**Tip 2:** You can often use gaps between bodies to your advantage, provided this doesn't involve too much change of heading. Block 15 is a classic example where flying 'in the house' will have less burble during the builds. You are less likely to have someone slide under you during their turn and it is the best viewing angle to capture the often cheated grip build.



## 8-WAY DIFFERENCES

On 8-way, you need to sit further away but not necessarily double the distance of 4-way. The tempo of 8-way is usually slower than 4-way so Judges can afford to look around the corners of their screen more. Here, a larger screen size of the team makes seeing grips and separation easier. 8-way can change between smaller/rounder and bigger, longer/thinner formations rapidly and you may need to use framing or back off to keep everything on screen. Watching the team prep the dive will help you anticipate this.



**4** Dave Head filming 8-way British National Champions MicroClim8, by James Stevenson

**5** Flying 'in the house' on block 15, by Dave Head

**6** Block 8 is a long formation; others are more round. You need to know the dive so that you can plan to be in the best place to capture it. By Dave Head

**7** Know how your team does the block moves. Even though you are not the one doing them, you need to know where to fly. By Dave Head

**8** You can ride out burbles where a team member sweeps underneath you; just be prepared! By Dave Head

**9** This 'curly Q' needs teamwork to avoid a bust. Outside Centre (middle of formation) holds her hands in close to show that she definitely does not have grips, while Camera's steep angle shows the separation. By Dave Head



before the first point is keyed but not so wide that the team then looks too small or you need to fly extremely close for the rest of the jump. When you are just starting out, a 0.5 or 0.42 lens is perfect and you can always grow into a wider lens if you are consistently losing grips off the edge of the screen. This should be as a result of flying too close for that first lens through having developed good flying skills rather than as a means of compensating for poor ones. I often meet novice cameraflyers who have been encouraged to start with a 0.3 wide-angle lens, which forces them to fly much closer than they are comfortable with to get the team at a good size. Becoming comfortable flying steep on the edge of the burble takes time, practice and confidence. As a result, they often end up filming at a shallow viewing angle which is poor for judging because they can't yet deliver steep footage at such a short distance from the team.

Comparing lens size alone is often meaningless because different lens and camera body combinations can have quite different fields of view in practice. You should choose what works best for you to deliver good footage. Fish-eye footage with heavy vignetting (a circular image with big black corners) should be →

8

**66** Aim to fly with your head and shoulders in the edge of the burble. You should be able to hear the turbulent air and feel this on your face **99**



**Tip 3:** Blocks can often seem like an explosion of bodies when you first start filming them and novice cameraflyers can back away out of fear of being burbled. Learning the blocks and how your team does them will help you anticipate where people will move and finish at the close of the block and so to avoid the worst of any burble with greater confidence. On this block 4, the solo flyer is actually BEHIND the camera flyer.

avoided because it looks unnatural. The distorted image is of less use for debriefing and doesn't do the Judges any favours either.

For competition, you really need a camerasuit with wings and booties. Make sure the wings are cut so they have an effect. Wings should be sized so that you don't need the full extent of the wings just to stay in place – this will give you no extra range to ride out exposure to the burble. Also, wings should not be used as a substitute for actively flying your body. Body position can make a significant contribution to your ability to slow-fall and the pair should be used in combination. Booties are particularly important during exits where you may need to track up, down or across the hill. They will also help side-slide moves and make a valuable contribution to slow-fall.

### Seek feedback

I strongly recommend talking to the Judges to ask what they want to see and to seek feedback on how you can improve. They are only too willing to do this. Teams don't always debrief from a Judge's perspective – some busts are obvious, but other issues such as lack of separation are less so. Teams can then feel that competition judging is harsh when the truth is that they've always glossed over the things the Judges are picking up on. Sending a Judge a sample of footage for comment or approaching them after a UKSL is something you could include in your team plan too. Ideally, this would be close enough to Nationals to show good trained performance but before final training so you have time to work on feedback given. ●



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# CHALK ONE UP FOR THE FONZ

THE HEAD DOWN WORLD RECORD ATTEMPTS ARE MERE WEEKS AWAY. IF YOU'VE GOT THE SKILL TO SECURE AN INVITE, WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO DO?

**WORDS:** MIKE CARPENTER, MIKE@VOLARE-FREEFLY.COM **PHOTOS:** NORMAN KENT

**W**ith the Vertical World Record later this summer and multiple World Record tryout camps spread throughout the last year to decide who receives an invite, the average Freeflyer might be feeling an additional amount of pressure this year. Pressure to perform during the tryouts, pressure to get an invite and then pressure to live up to the level they have shown through the whole process and perform when more

than 175 people are depending on you. So what's the tip of the day? Be like Fonzie – stay cool!

Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld (AKA Dan BC, former multiple World Champion FS competitor with *Arizona Airspeed* and all-round legend) has been dropping by some of our briefs and debriefs during the SoCal Converge Vertical World Record tryout camps at Skydive Perris. If you didn't already know, pure gold comes out every time Dan BC opens his mouth to speak. He has a boatload of experience

in all forms of skydiving, particularly in competitions and big-ways, but he differs from other 'old guys in the sport' because he doesn't just have a ton of experience; he has processed all that experience and turned it into pure, usable information and knowledge. To use a wise old saying, if he had a thousand skydives (obviously he has way more), he has done a thousand skydives – not done the same skydive a thousand times.

On one particular debrief, we were explaining the importance of staying calm.

**1 Stay cool**

**2 Channel your inner Fonz**

**3 Breaking off from tryouts in Eloy**

**4 Practice at approaching a big base**

**66 Jules:**  
 We're gonna be like three little Fonzie's here. And what's Fonzie like? Come on Yolanda, what's Fonzie like?  
**Yolanda:** Cool?!  
**Jules:** What?  
**Yolanda:** He's cool.  
**Jules:** Correctamundo. And that's what we're gonna be. We're gonna be *cool* **99**

*Excerpted from Pulp Fiction (1994, Miramax Films)*



In comes Dan BC and, when he starts talking, everyone else shuts up and starts listening. He told us about his 'Four Cs': Calm, Communicate, Confidence and Control. In a nutshell, if you stay calm, you can see and understand what needs to be done and you can do your job with confidence and always be in control (I hope I didn't butcher that too much, Dan).

He then went on to explain how we should "expect the unexpected. If you find yourself close to someone at pull altitude, you already know your canopy is going to open and turn right into them – just expect it!" Then he asked the group to raise their hand if they had not yet had a malfunction. Devin Roane raised his hand. Dan BC pointed straight at him and said, "You are going to have a malfunction on the next jump. Just expect it!" And, of course, in true Dan BC "Expect the unexpected" fashion, Devin had a malfunction on that very next jump!

Obviously that could be a whole book by itself, which probably explains why Dan BC did in fact write a book – *Above All Else* (available on Amazon – an awesome



read and highly recommended). Dan BC's 'Four Cs' could be applied not only to skydiving as a whole, but to life in general. However, for this article, I want to apply the most important 'C' of all – Calm – to Freefly big-ways.

The best example of this is a situation that has happened before and I am positive will happen again; miscommunication between aircraft on a multiple plane formation jump run. It's not always the pilot's fault, but we can saddle them with the majority of the blame since fewer pilots read this magazine than big-way organisers. In this particular situation, one of the aircraft's entire load exits early. All those people who got out early encountered a sight picture they were not expecting, which can lead to 'chicken brain'. They see they have exited too early and go straight to panic mode, going full power back 'up' towards the aircraft, and desperately →

# WHAT WOULD THE FONZ DO?

5



6



7



trying to make it back to the base, only to zoom right past it at deadly speeds.

So how would Dan BC handle this? Or even the Fonz, for that matter? Firstly, with the entire plane out early, there is no rush – everyone is in the same situation. Even if Scotty could beam you to your slot, you would still have to wait anyway. Secondly, you need to figure out the safest way to proceed. You could ask yourself, “Can I make it back to the formation?” or “What is the safest way to get there?” Remember, that base is coming down to you at head down speeds! If you are on your back past one-third of the way there, the speed difference will be too much to be able to control your approach – shooting you past the formation and earning you that most undesirable of seats on ‘the bench’. Even if you fall off the plane by yourself, ‘Dan Parker’ style, you will probably be able to

make it back in time just like Parker himself did during one particularly ‘long’ run in at the Euro Record!

But, if you can remain calm, it opens all those other ‘Cs’ up to deal with the situation and you come off looking like a rock star. Calmness allows communication. You can understand what needs to be done, you can be confident, you can remain in control and you can make your job look easy, confirming that all-important rock star status – the fifth ‘C’!

Another great example: you exit the plane and the base is spinning or has exploded. What would your inner Fonzie do here? Probably calmly wait for the base to regroup. If the base is spinning, that’s a telltale sign that the base is not ready to be docked on. Wait for the base to be ready, film the chaos to laugh at later and wait until you have a job.

**5** *Dirtdiving*

**6** *Author Mikey Carpenter*

**7** *When faced with a sea of people, stay calm and find your slot*

**8** *Calm, confident and in control*

Then, once there is a job for you, do your job. ‘Chicken brain’ would have you carving and chasing the base, potentially creating collisions. Once the base is ready, the most you would ever have to go around is halfway. If you chase the base while it spins, you could end up doing three or four laps!

So, the tip of the day, as well as the secret to being a skydiving rock star? Remain calm. Be like Fonzie: take in whatever weird and messed up sight picture you end up with, stay calm, remember the funny stuff you see to use against your friends later in the bar (or in some future Mag article you write) and move forwards to your job! If you can expect and be ready for the unexpected, it will be even easier when you exit and find the base exactly where it should be!

Good luck out there! ●



**66** Calmness allows communication. You can understand what needs to be done, you can be confident, you can remain in control and you can make your job look easy **99**

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# GLIDE OF THE VALKYRIES

FOUR WORD CANOPY REVIEW:  
EFFORTLESS SPEED AND POWER

WORDS: ALLY MILNE

**T**he Valkyrie is a high performance canopy at the extreme end of canopy progression and the name is taken from Norse mythology, where the female Valkyries chose who would join Odin in Valhalla after battles. It offers the highest level of performance available from Performance Designs that can still be used as a freefall-deployed canopy, and its performance in the PD range is only bettered by the CP competition-specific Peregrine. Due to the high-level performance of the Valkyrie, it will only be suitable for a small number of canopy pilots who have first spent a great deal of time and coaching on cross-braced canopies.

On first inspection of the canopy, it looks to be an odd shape and the stabilisers are inflatable. The canopy uses theories

based on the Schuemann planform, which is designed to reduce induced drag at higher speeds and give greater slow flight characteristics. The canopy's inflatable stabilisers improve aerodynamics and it has cell ribs on the trailing edge to give it more lift in low-speed flight modes. It is a 7-cell ZP design as opposed to the Peregrine's 9-cell sail material, although both canopies are designed with a similar planform; the Peregrine with competing and the Valkyrie with freefall openings in mind. The Valkyrie is available in a variety of sizes from 67 to 103.

The openings are mid-time, neither too long nor too short, and the deployment doesn't hold or pause at any step as it progresses smoothly throughout. While every manufacturer is keen to point out

the good opening characteristics on their respective canopies, you can make simple changes to your equipment that can also help and especially so with high performance canopies. Using semi-stowless bags and magnetic risers allows a more consistent, cleaner opening and using these on the Valkyrie ensured smooth trouble-free openings – cleaner and smoother than the same kit using a Velocity. Also, the press studs help hold the slider in place during the initial line stretch period, further reducing the likelihood of hard openings. The canopy is easier to fly on heading during the opening and quickly locks on to a heading during inflation. →

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“ While every manufacturer is keen to point out the good opening characteristics on their respective canopies, you can make simple changes to your equipment that can also help and especially so with high performance canopies ”

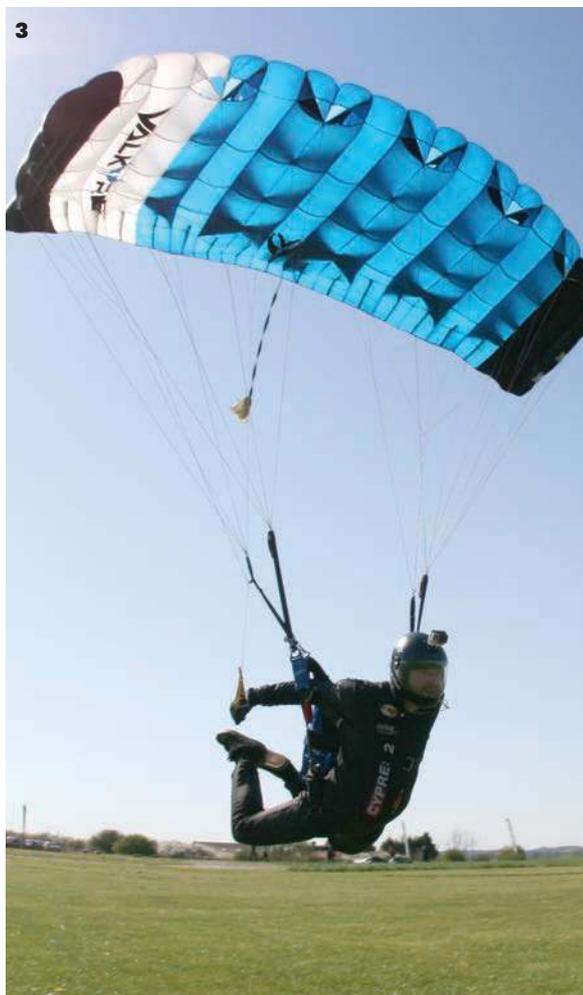
Front riser pressure is lighter than the Velocity, so this allows you to hold any front riser input for longer with less effort and the riser pressure also builds more slowly during the turn. Rear riser input is very responsive and, when levelling out the canopy, it is very quick to get the canopy above your head. On long spots, it feels a lot flatter when coming back from a deep spot. Turning with the harness is so responsive that you could control the entire canopy ride with that input alone and it is easy to turn and roll the canopy with minimal input. In general, the Valkyrie has increased the speed range by being able to fly at faster and slower speeds than the Velocity.

This would be an excellent canopy for those who are able to keep current and have already spent time and coaching getting excellent canopy skills, so the Valkyrie is ideal for full-time skydivers and current weekend jumpers who have already flown canopies to a high level and who want something with more power. My previous 2,000 jumps were on a Velocity 90 and I chose a Valkyrie 84. I offered to lend it to my mate with 8,500 jumps on more than 100 different canopies, but he turned it down because he didn't feel current enough! ●

1 Harness turn, by Ally Milne

2 Diving the canopy, by Ally Milne

3, 4, 5 The Valkyrie is a canopy that likes to go a long distance on landing, by Gary Wainwright



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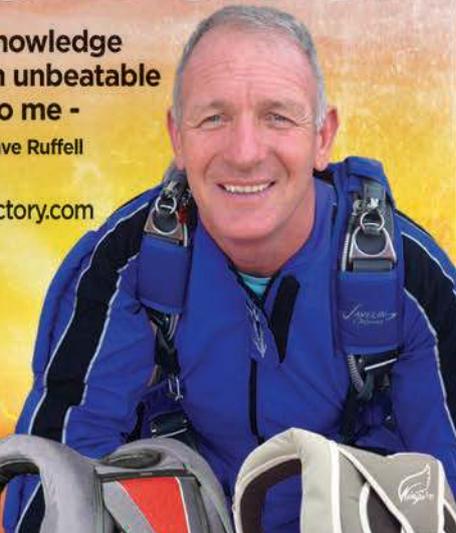


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# GOOD GOVERNANCE: IT'S IN THE WIND

BPA COUNCIL IS CONSULTING ON CHANGES TO ITS FUTURE COMPOSITION

**O**ur governance needs to be fit for purpose in the 21st century. As a result of commissioning the independently produced *BPA Governance Consultation Report* in 2014, Council established the BPA Stronger Future (Governance) Working Group to consider the options in the *Report* and make recommendations. BPA signed up to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance in January 2015 and Council is now starting a conversation with the membership about key changes to BPA's governance to ensure that we as an organisation are as strong as we can be for the future. The recommendations are to:

- Reduce the size of Council from 15 to 10-12 to make it more efficient and focus on vision, mission and strategic outcomes;
- Increase the term of office on Council from one year to three or four years, with a limit of eight or nine years of continuous service;
- Ensure that only approximately one third of the seats on Council come up for election each year, so improving continuity and reducing business risk;
- Consider electing to Council, to complement the skills profile of Council as a whole, two volunteer independent

non-Executive Directors from outside our sport with specific skills and experience to help progress BPA's mission and vision. This will ensure that Council has individuals who are truly independent and focused on what is best for all of the membership;

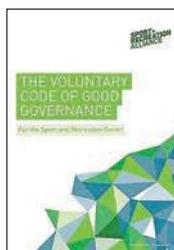
- Consider electing an Executive Director (the Chief Operating Officer) to Council.

Any changes of this kind will need BPA's governing instrument, our Articles of Association, to be updated. For this, a Special Resolution needs to be put to a general meeting of members and will require a 75% vote to carry.

## Membership consultation

Council is now consulting with you, the membership, to find out your thoughts. Please ask questions and give your feedback so that an informed vote can be taken on any changes that Council, after taking the results of this consultation into account, may formally put a special resolution to the membership – which could be as soon as the AGM on Saturday 30 January 2016.

Consultation starts now and will initially be for a period of two months so that Council can review the feedback at the end of the summer and schedule a forward plan. The intention is to post



a selection of your questions, with answers, on the governance page of the BPA website with links on Facebook and UKS. We also hope to offer webchats using Google Hangouts or similar.

Implementation of any new arrangements would likely be by phasing in over a period of two years. All Directors would continue to be elected by the membership, with independent non-executive directors likely to come forward through recommendation of a nominations committee of Council.

## What we ask you to do now

- Google the Voluntary Code for Good Governance in Sport and Recreation and see how other National Governing Bodies in Sport have benefited from it.
- Visit the BPA Governance webpage at [bpa.org.uk/member/governance/](http://bpa.org.uk/member/governance/)
- Ask questions via Facebook or email us with 'Governance' as the subject (we'll post a selection of questions and answers on the Governance webpage).
- Look out on BPA digital media for arrangements for webchats.
- Talk to other BPA members.
- Let us know what you think. ●

SIGNED UP TO  
**Good Governance**

# CANOPY CORNER



**We learn from** the example (and mistakes!) of others, so it is useful to read about what other people have done. Each issue, we'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 canopy progression if you've been around long enough to have lessons worth sharing.

**Name:** Mike McNulty  
**First jump:** August 2007  
**Total jumps:** 4,000+

**CANOPY PROGRESSION:**

**Skymaster 290** As a RAPS student, this canopy allowed me to learn the basics of flight drills and canopy handling slowly and safely. They turn surprisingly fast when using the rear risers to practise avoidance manoeuvres while the brakes are still stowed.

**Coe-D 190** This canopy was in the first set of kit that was lent to me for jumps 23 to 50. It enabled me to get my first jumps while starting work at Hibaldstow without having to pay for kit hire, back in early 2008. This old F-111 canopy was considered old technology and, like the Fury canopy (of a similar age and design) was a slow opening canopy. Without a pre-jump brief, it would have made me think I was experiencing a streamer malfunction but would eventually open softly. The flares weren't brilliant, but I learned to appreciate slow openings and what was happening to a canopy as the air was rammed into it.

**Sabre 1 170/150** (50-400 jumps) The Sabre's reputation for more positive openings was a surprise considering my previous canopy, but it was part of my first owned bit of kit – it was cheap and, again, kept me jumping. The difference in performance was quite a lot, so I made sure to do my drills, find my flare/stall point and best understand this ZP canopy. During this period, I did my first canopy course

out in Seville with Jim Harris. Jim was running a course that had been produced by Brian Vacher before he joined the PD Factory team and was very similar to the Flight-1 canopy courses that are available now. I was impressed how much more responsive the canopy was than the Coe-D, but the openings left much to be desired.

**Spectre 170** (backup rig and wingsuiting) I obtained this for doing camera at Hib and because of its reputation for slower openings. This really was a different and faster recovering canopy. It had nicer openings, but every now and again it would feel like the Sabre 1. It wasn't as fast, but it did make me appreciate how 7-cell canopies differ to 9-cell in their performance and landings. As one of my backup rigs at the time, it found its way onto a wingsuit and lived there until I sold it.

**Sabre 2 150/135** (400-1,000+ jumps) This canopy was another step up for me, with nicer openings but with a tendency for end cell closure which induced a turn in most openings. However, it was a nice all-round canopy. Once I reached 135, I felt current and started developing my canopy piloting skills under the guidance of the Chief Instructor and staff at Hibaldstow. I started with 90s and the use of front risers and extended brake lines for swooping. I didn't spend a huge amount of time doing 180s. They aren't a turn I like due to the lack of visuals and the inherent danger that can come from not being able to see as much as you'd like. The most popular turn I stayed with for a long time was the right-hand 270s because this complimented a left-handed landing pattern and allowed me the best visuals on setup and the best outs during the majority of my approaches at Hib.

**Katana 120/107** (1,000+ jumps) Again, another big step onto this faster, more ground hungry canopy. Learning the canopy's capabilities was a slow process but, putting my experience and currency to good use, I was doing my usual



setup and turn soon enough. I had a lot of fun and plenty of work jumps on these canopies, but I was finding that I was reaching the limit of safely loading the smaller of the two canopies and the 107 was getting quite unpredictable on opening. This is when I could afford to go cross braced, and Icarus's reputation for canopies and their openings had sold me. I now help promote Icarus canopies in the UK.

**Icarus JVX 99** (3,000+) This is my first cross-braced, sub-100, high performance canopy, so I didn't want to go too small too quickly considering that it was to become my main canopy for fun and working jumps. The JVX is an amazing experience – the feeling of this canopy as a real solid wing above my head following a lovely soft on-heading opening is exact and effortless. Having done my flight drills and learned the canopy's stall, riser pressure and flare points, I pushed my swooping further than I had before and am now developing my 450 turns with RDS, having been doing 360s for some time now.

Although it is the thing to load high performance canopies so that they perform to their best, my canopy progression has always been considerate to my understanding and ability with canopy piloting. I have always stayed very current and took my time to move to cross-braced from a Katana after more than 3,000 jumps. I feel that my natural ability to make decisions and quickly analyse visuals during my setup and turns has developed alongside the rest of my skydiving abilities. My next canopy will arrive soon and is a JVX 84, and I already have a Leia 79 on order for the 2016 season.

**TOP TIP:**

Slow down. You don't drive your car with your foot to the floor the whole time; you drive fast or slow according to the conditions. Your canopy is the same and you can probably do better than flying on full drive all the way from opening until flaring. Slow flight is useful to create vertical separation between canopies, especially if your canopy is bigger than others around you. It is also good to be familiar with the slow flight characteristics of your canopy because you might end up needing to use them near the ground to avoid danger, such as by doing a flat turn to avoid something or someone. If you never practise slow flight, it could be less instinctive to use it and so more likely that you'll bang a toggle down and get hurt.

**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.

**FS COACH**

Mark Collins, St Andrews  
 Nicholas Murphy, Peterlee  
 Philip Webley, Sibson  
 Ross Walker, Redlands  
 Dan Morgan, Redlands  
 Andrew Pointer, Hibaldstow  
 George Marsden, Netheravon  
 Jordan Simcoe, Peterlee  
 Colin Jenkins, Netheravon  
 Sam Carter, Beccles  
 Mike Bates, Netheravon

David Biggadyke, Netheravon  
 Giuseppe Damiano, Netheravon  
 Peter Knudsen, Chatteris  
 Ryan Beattie, Netheravon  
 Joanne Wilson, Wild Geese  
 Paul Hudson, Netheravon  
 Trevor Ahearn, Peterlee  
 Martin Bradshaw, Netheravon  
 Pete Mather, Dunkeswell  
 Catherine Anderson, Langar  
 Robert Gunson, Paragon

**BASIC FF COACH**

Roy Wimmer-Jaglom, Langar  
 Nicholas Hynes, Weston

**WS COACH**

David Keevers, Sibson

**CF COACH**

Alexis McNaughton, Netheravon



Lorene Latour on deep brakes, by David Haygarth



Liz Ashley

**MAL OF THE MONTH**



*Keep your bridle and lines well clear of each other!*

**Last issue's Mal** of the Month was a packing error which resulted in tangled lines that could not be cleared. This month, it's the same malfunction again! We explained last time that twists and tangles can be put into the canopy either when collapsing it after landing or when taking it off on the packing mat, and that they can be avoided by doing a simple 4-line check. However, it is possible to still put a tangle into untangled kit at a later stage – it just requires some pretty dodgy packing!

This Mal of the Month happened when the jumper didn't keep the pilot chute and bridle clear of the pack job when putting the bag into the container – we've mocked up what it

would have looked like. If the routing of the pilot chute and bridle is clear, then all is good. However, if the bridle falls into the lines at this stage, then it is vital that it is brought back out the same way that it went in. If it is pulled all the way through and out the other side of the line groups, then you can expect at least a pack rotation and probably something much more twisted!

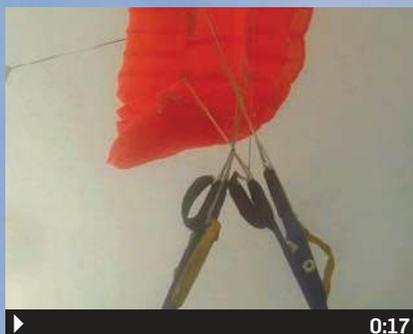
The way to avoid this happening is to keep the pilot chute and bridle well clear of the pack job while you arrange the bag into the container – you don't need them until you are closing the container anyway. As it turns out, last issue's Mal of the Month was caused in exactly the same way.

Malfunctions are often a chain of events and this one was no exception. The jumper was borrowing the kit from a friend and there were distractions during the pack job. Ironically, she has done almost all her jumps with a Skyhook connected as a backup, but on this rare jump on a rig with no Skyhook she ended up using her reserve.

**VIDEO:** [TINYURL.COM/P6FMV47](https://tinyurl.com/p6fmv47)  
 Watch the action at the link above or click on the link in the Skydive App or at [skydivethemag.com](http://skydivethemag.com)

*The moment of reserve deployment, captured from the ground*





0:17



0:19



0:21



0:25



0:40



## THE BPA ROMERO SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD FOR SPORT PARACHUTING

**Entries are invited** for safety initiatives that may be physical or psychological, managerial or mechanical, ergonomic or educational – any kind of initiative that improves safety in sport parachuting. The challenge is to impress the judging panel, which will comprise experts in sport parachuting safety, occupational safety and risk management.

Entry to this annual competition is open to BPA members as individuals or groups, BPA Affiliated Parachute Training Organisations and BPA Registered Display Teams.

The winner will be the proud custodian of the BPA Romero Safety Innovation Trophy for a year, and will also receive a cash prize of £5,000 kindly donated by Romero Sport & Leisure, BPA's insurance broker, as part of their risk management activities in our sport.

### HOW TO ENTER

Entries for 2015 must be submitted electronically and reach [skydive@bpa.org.uk](mailto:skydive@bpa.org.uk) with the subject line 'Entry for BPA Romero Safety Innovation Award 2015' by no later than **November 2 2015**. Entries must comprise:

- 1 The name and contact details of BPA member/s or BPA Affiliated PTO or BPA Registered Display Team entering;
- 2 An executive summary of the innovation in no more than 250 words;
- 3 A description of the innovation in no more than 2,500 words, including evidence of the effectiveness of the innovation in improving safety in sport parachuting;

4 Up to six photographs as .jpg images, not exceeding 1MB each;

5 **OPTIONAL** A video up to five minutes' duration.

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 1 The judges reserve the right to call for more information and/or a virtual or physical meeting and/or demonstration before reaching their decision. Compliance with any such request of the judges shall form a condition of entry, without which an entry may be declared incomplete and therefore void.
- 2 Safety innovations that have already been adopted within sport parachuting on a commercial basis, or already accepted for future commercial production/sales, shall not be eligible for entry.
- 3 The intellectual rights to any safety innovation submitted must belong to BPA member/s or BPA Affiliated/Registered body that submitted the entry except where the innovation is the application of an established safety measure from outside the sport parachuting sector to sport parachuting for the first time.
- 4 BPA and Romero shall have the right to publicise the winning entry and it is a condition of entry that the winner will support any such publicity.
- 5 In the event that, in the view of the judging panel, no entries reach an adequate standard to justify the award, no award may be made in a particular year.
- 6 The judges' decision shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

# FOR ALL YOUR SKYDIVING GEAR

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DEALER FOR ALL MANUFACTURERS





## Cookie cutaway

**Cookie, the manufacturer** of the fantastic Fuel and G3 helmets, has released a service bulletin relating to the optional cutaway chin strap for the Fuel helmet.

It has been noticed in use that a very small number of straps have suffered excessive wear on the webbing near the mounting screws and cutaway cable that could cause the strap to disconnect from the helmet.

If you notice that this area has become worn on your helmet, contact



Marty@flycookie.com who will, rather awesomely, replace your strap with one of their rather smashing new cutaway chin cups absolutely free.

This only affects the cutaway chinstrap, not the normal strap or the newly released chin cup. For more details, see [www.flycookie.com](http://www.flycookie.com).



## ZEAL Optics HD2 Camera Goggle

**As skydivers, we're** a vain bunch. We love to strap any number of cameras to our body to capture every moment of our jumps. Problem is, as the cameras have become smaller, so has our concern about the potential implications of adding things to our helmets.

A GoPro or similar seems pretty small but, even with specialised mounts that most don't bother with anyway, it's a pretty snaggy little thing right there on your forehead.

Although not initially designed for skydivers, I've discovered that ZEAL Optics HD2 camera goggles offer a number of features that could be really beneficial to us jumpers.

In a nutshell, they're a pair of snowboarding goggles with an HD camera built into the frame. Not only that, but there's a colour viewfinder on the inside of the goggles at the bottom right to help frame the shot as well as review the footage afterwards.

Large, gloveproof buttons on the front of the frame make operation really easy. Push and hold to turn them on, press again to start recording. No asking: "Is the light flashing?" – the screen in the goggles tells you.

The camera barely adds any bulk to the goggles, which are really comfortable to wear and offer a very effective anti-fog coating. I didn't need to lift them once in the plane to clear them.

Quality-wise, the frame looks really well-built and seems like it could take the kind of abuse we give to our gear. The strap has two adjustment points to make it nice and snug and the camera offers 1080p recording with 12 megapixel stills.

The footage captured is on par with a GoPro3, so more than good enough for posting online and, with a 170° wide-angle lens, great for fitting everything in. In line with other sports cameras, the goggles can wirelessly connect to your phone to transfer the footage for easy sharing.

In use, it's arguably the most snagproof camera setup you could jump. There's no camera or ringsight to catch and, if you did somehow get something wrapped around them (despite probably having bigger things to worry about), they'll come off easily.

The goggles are available in a range of colours and lenses from £419. For more details, check out [www.ZealHD.com](http://www.ZealHD.com).



# SKYDIVE LANGAR 2015 SUMMER

**SKYDIVERS OVER SIXTY WARM-UPS** 06-07 JUNE

**BPA CANOPY FORMATION ROADSHOW** 13-14 JUNE  
CANOPY FORMATION COACHING FROM CFUK - REGISTRATION VIA FACEBOOK ESSENTIAL.

**UNIVERSITY PROGRESSION WEEK** 15-21 JUNE  
WITH PLENTY OF INSTRUCTORS AND COACHES ON HAND, IT'S TIME TO GET AWESOME. OPEN TO ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, SEE FACEBOOK FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS. NOT ONE TO MISS!

**MULTIPLANE FS WITH WILL COOKE** 20-21 JUNE  
DOUBLE THE SIZE, DOUBLE THE FUN! 2 AIRCRAFT AND UP TO 26-WAY SKYDIVES WITH WILL COOKE. TO TAKE PART IN THIS EVENT WE ASK THAT YOU ARE COMFORTABLY ABLE TO DOCK LAST ON A 10-WAY. REGISTER ONLINE VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

**SKYDIVERS OVER SIXTY RECORD** 20-21 JUNE

**COACHING WEEKEND** 27-28 JUNE

**WALK UP FS WITH WILL COOKE** 04-05 JULY  
CHALLENGING AND FUN WALK-UP FS. GROUP SIZES WILL RANGE FROM 8-WAY TO 14-WAY.

**BPA WINGSUIT ROADSHOW** 11 - 12 JULY  
THE BPA WINGSUIT ROADSHOW COMES TO LANGAR! FREE COACHING AND ORGANISING FROM SOME OF THE BEST WINGSUIT COACHES IN THE COUNTRY.

**BIGWAY HEAD DOWN WITH ALLY MILNE** 18-19 JULY  
ALLY MILNE. KEEPING YOU ENTERTAINED, ONE BIGWAY HEAD DOWN JUMP AFTER ANOTHER! THIS IS AN ADVANCED LEVEL HEAD DOWN EVENT, FF2 IS REQUIRED.

**BULLET TRACKING WEEKEND** 25-26 JULY  
ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR EVENTS IS BACK. GET YOUR TRACK ON, AND HELP FIND THAT EVER ELUSIVE ANGLE. YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.



 /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?

## BPA Affiliated DZs in the UK

### PAGE 58 1 Black Knights

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

### PAGE 60 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

### PAGE 60 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

### PAGE 60 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

### PAGE 63 5 Cornish

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

### PAGE 64 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

### PAGE 64 7 Headcorn

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

### PAGE 67 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 Hinton

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

### PAGE 67 10 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

### PAGE 68 11 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

### PAGE 68 12 Netheravon

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

### 13 Paragon

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

### PAGE 71 14 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

### PAGE 71 15 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

### 16 Salisbury

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

### 17 The Silver Stars

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

### 18 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

### PAGE 72 19 St George

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

### 20 Strathallan

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

### PAGE 72 21 Swansea

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

### PAGE 75 22 Swindon

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

### 23 Tilstock

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

### PAGE 58 24 UK Para Beccles

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

### PAGE 71 25 UK Para Sibson

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

### 26 Weston

RAF 22 Training Group  
Currently military only

### PAGE 75 27 Wild Geese

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

## BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

### PAGE 63 28 Cyprus

Cyprus Parachute Centre  
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhakelia 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 Croft, Cambridge, CB1 8RP  
johnhskydive@hotmail.co.uk



1

**BRIDLINGTON**



2

**PETERLEE**



3

**CHATTERIS**



5

**LANGAR**



4

**CARK**



6

**SIBSON**





**1** *Simon Rehill taking his son Sam for his first tandem*

**2** *Adam Potter and Dave Bloomfield, by Ewan Cowie*

**3** *ChatterChicks collecting their AA gold medal at the Bodyflight World Challenge*

**4** *Steve Nolan's 4,000th, by Neil McLaren*

**5** *Otter exit at Langar Boogie, by Tony Danbury*

**6** *Ged Parker on final, by Paul Dorward*

**7** *Nethers Freefly Group, by Harry Shanker*

**8** *Steph over Cyprus*

**9** *Freeflyers on exit over Dunkeswell, by Joel Strickland*



**BECCLES**

# FS1? WHY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**There are times** when I'm truly proud to say I'm a Beccles Clubbie Funkstar and this is one of them. Over the last couple of months, we've had a record number of FS1s achieved and that's absolutely superb. Congratulations to all you newly qualified FS1ers – we're glad to have you able to rock it with the rest of us and we can't wait to spin some points with you all. Thank you to all of the coaches as well; you all provide first-rate coaching and are always ready to give up your time to pass on the valuable skills needed to stay safe and have fun with the other crazy skyfliers of Beccles.

There's more exciting FS news to bring you all, because we're going to be hosting another FS Roadshow over the September 12-13 weekend. We'll be having the top FS team *NFTO* come and help bring on our FS skills, which is pretty darn exciting. Make sure to keep the dates free to come and gain some free top-level coaching.

A vast big up yourselves goes to David Tee, Cammy Gunn, Richard Spurr and Richard Welchman for passing your full AFF course in a week without any repeats. I put that down to the outstanding Instructors and staff here at UK Para, so here's looking forward to more students progressing through your capable hands.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Tim Porter back to the skies over Suffolk. He's always available to offer Freefly, Tracking or FS coaching to the beginner skydiver right the way up to the more experienced jumper. It's awesome to have you about again Tim, and let me tell you all his coaching is well worthwhile if you want to see your skills rocket. If you want to use Tim's wealth of knowledge to improve your skills, have a word with the manifest – they can put you in touch with Tim.

Finally, the bimonthly spannerishness shout out! This edition's shout for beer goes to Dan Semper. He managed to land himself on the concrete strip next to the fuel bowser and then, lo and behold, he did it again on the very next load. Seriously, dude – get yourself down to Specsavers so you can land on the *massive landing area* we have. Your name has been added to the new beer fine board, which has been provided by Freddie and hung up in the clubroom. Look out for next time's shout out. You never know, it could be you!

**James Page**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Matt 'The Cannon' Bannon, Sebastian Dumez, Cammy Gunn, Bob Kirk, Ben Phelps, Billy Schultz, Richard Spurr, Dave Tee, Danny Turton, Richard Welchman **CH2/JM1** Tom Davis, Gary Murray **FS1** Matt Bannon, Sam Blackman, Johnathan "Freddy" Freeman, Freddie Mowforth, Lewis Nixon, Brenn Proctor, Dan Smith **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Peter Sawyer 200 Freddie Mowforth 500 Andy Parker

“Lo and behold, he did it again on the very next load. Seriously, dude – get yourself down to Specsavers so you can land on the massive landing area we have”

**BLACK KNIGHTS**

# RECORD SETTING AND LOTS OF NEW TOYS

**We've been busy** bees at BKPC recently as the weather warmed up and the wind calmed down, starting with our dedicated contingent of formation flyers who were very proud to set our 15-way record. As you can tell from our photograph, it was a beautiful build. Well done to everyone involved, and to Lee for the amazing pictures and footage.

In other FS related news, our very own *Team Blackhawk* won bronze in the Rookie category at the Bodyflight World Challenge. Awesome job, guys.

Our CREW dogs have been to sunnier climes for team training and have brought back some impressive new ideas, which can be seen in the skies over BKPC on any given weekend. We have very experienced CREW coaches here, with more in training, and we now also have a variety of kit for hire to get you on the road to your CF1. If you want to learn, this is the place!

Christmas came early (or late) for our aspiring wingsuiters when three beautiful Phoenix Fly Shadows arrived, decked out in BKPC colours. They are now available to be hired out by anyone who wishes to learn to wingsuit with us or who has achieved their sticker but doesn't have one of their own. We have a team of coaches available every weekend who will be more than happy to teach you to fly one of these stunning suits, so come and join us.

The tandem scene is getting busy and we've had a few big charity events recently, including Christies and the North West Air Ambulance, which have raised thousands of pounds for some amazing causes. Congratulations to all involved.

Our dedicated charity day takes place on June 27 in aid of Cash4Kids. Grab your animal onesie and come and join us in our aim to raise £2,000. For one day only, BKPC will become a zoo with organised formation loads, a BBQ and party.

We also held our annual club members' meeting recently and some amazing suggestions came out of this for resources and improvements to the club. Watch this space for more awesomeness coming your way soon...

Our summer calendar is filling up with dedicated events for FS, FF, CREW and wingsuit enthusiasts alike. Please check out our website and Facebook pages for details. We'll see you soon.

Blue skies,

**AJ**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Stephen Billington **CH2/JM1** Joe Fogerty **FS1** Joseph Coyne, Joe Fogerty **CF1** Connor Lynch **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Joe Fogerty 100 Ian Longbottom 200 Laura Jones, Pud Waterhouse 500 Rui Cardadeiro 600 Dave Butterworth, Carl Marsh **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Ian Longbottom **THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Laura Jones, Pud Waterhouse **NINE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Dave Butterworth →



Above: **BECCLES** Brenn Proctor's FS1

Right: **BLACK KNIGHTS** The BKPC 15-way record, by Lee Rhodes



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**BRIDLINGTON**

# MAY AS WELL MAKE AN ENTRANCE

Though the weather has been somewhat indecisive, we have been fortunate in the Bridlington 'bubble' and had some busy, yet fun weekends.

The first student to qualify this year is Jess Saunders. Jess has spent many weekends around the dropzone, asking random questions and helping out in the canteen. It's great to see that her persistence and tenacity has now paid off. David Ruston is one to watch and is presently smashing his way through the RAPS progression system, achieving freefall already. Louise Aveyard is also doing well and overcoming her demons. It is great to see the return of Mick Cosgrove from his winter in France; the place was far too quiet without his noisy Leeds accent and larger-than-life persona. Dennislav Ivanov has also returned from his travels and can now be seen sporting his shiny new jumpsuit, looking like a close resemblance to the Terminator or possibly a Borg. Darren Glover continues to amaze us with his swooping prowess, which is quite a spectator sport for the general public. Well, when he lands in sight, anyway...

A huge welcome back to Mel and Anita in the canteen – thus dramatically reducing our risk of food poisoning. It is great to have you (and your chicken tikka) back.

The lovely Alan Darby has hung up his altimeter and retired from the sport. Alan has an interesting skydiving history, starting in November 1963 at Weston-on-the-Green with the Parachute Regiment, and he went on to complete 63 military jumps. He has jumped all over the world, but his favourite view was always Flamborough Head. Alan decided to retire after an incident at an American dropzone whereby he received an injury due to poor weather conditions. Roughly translated, he fell over in the car park after being told he couldn't jump because it was too windy! Alan has finally decided that his long-suffering wife is now to be his priority, although this has taken 46 years to realise. His favourite memory was jumping in South Africa when he landed in a reservoir and, fortunately, his French para boots served as a great buoyancy aid. We wish Alan well and he has assured us that he will be back to do a tandem for his birthday.

And finally, congratulations to our very own Chief Instructor Ray Armstrong on marrying the beautiful Sarah Fletcher in February. In true skydiving fashion, he did a cheeky demo into his own wedding!

Sara Orton

**CARK**

# BACK, AND IN STYLE...

Steve Nolan celebrated his 4,000th jump in style with a very nice 13-way dive. Thanks to Speds for the organising the dive and to Sprucey for not funnelling it! Roll on your next 4,000, Steve.

Continuing the FS theme, Ron Wands held a successful SOS training weekend in prep for their record attempt later this year. Nice to see so many old faces – pardon the pun.

The building refurb at Cark continues and, as the weather improves, so does our paintwork. Thanks to the talents of George Neate and Son.

**BRIDLINGTON**  
Saima and Sara Orton,  
by Alec Flint

“Darren Glover continues to amaze us with his swooping prowess, which is quite a spectator sport for the general public. Well, when he lands in sight, anyway...”

**CHATTERIS**  
New TI Dragos taking Manifest Steph on a sunset tandem,  
by Augustin Mera

It's a warm welcome back to George and Geraldine who, following their continuing tour of duty, have nested back at Skydive NW. George (old git) hasn't changed one bit and, according to Alex and Georgina, Geraldine has shrunk. Keep bringing the sweets, the kids say...

On the flying side, all the flight tests with Roger and Mike went well and all of our pilots passed with flying colours. We can now start to prep for the two aircraft formations for our August Cark Week. Planning is at the early stages, but we have secured a Cessna 208 for the NW record attempt.

Gary Yerrill has been strapping lumps of plastic to his helmet and chasing tandems around the sky. He says it would be a piece of cake if the tandems didn't move. Stay calm and keep on recording, Gary.

Nick and Claire have been busy – Claire in chasing new BPA ratings and Nicky by buying a bus for all the rigs he has got. I believe you are upgrading to a truck next year. Good luck on your finals, Claire.

Kay and Jan have been settling in well running the canteen with new recipes and menu surprises. Jan would like to meet a tall, dark and handsome millionaire so, if one is out there, please call in and sample her lovely bacon baps.

Congratulations to our achievers, who will all be listed in the next issue.

Stu Morris

**CHATTERIS**

# CHICKS VS CHAPS

The past couple of months at Chatteris have been full of great news, new ratings, firsts and personal achievements for our jumpers.

A first for many was back on March 20, when many of our regulars took time off work to make a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse jump. Unfortunately, the weather was not the best for seeing the full effects of a solar eclipse, but it was good enough to jump. With the help of Chatteris cameraflyer Ro, teacher-cum-skydiver Rob Bradley was able to film a new segment for his online tutorial website Big Brain Maths. You can check this video out on his Youtube channel at tinyurl.com/YTbigbrainmaths.

The Easter weekend saw many Chatteris jumpers head to Bodyflight Bedford wind tunnel for the 10th Anniversary World Challenge competition. Two 4-way teams were made up of entirely Chatteris regulars; the all-female team *ChatterChicks* and the newly formed all-male team *ChatterChaps*.

The *ChatterChicks* were competing in AA (their last competition in this class) and, much to their surprise, they had taken the lead from round one. It was very close at times between them and teams from Greece and Dubai and they weren't counting their chickens until the whole of Round 10 had been scored. They took the gold medal in AA with a 10-point difference between them and second place and an average of 17.2.

Rookie team *ChatterChaps* also had a very successful first meet. Members Ali Atlasi, Avi Gidar and Keith Khunpa, with the help of →



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player-coach Peter Knudsen, placed fifth out of 10 teams with a very respectable average of 12.4. They were also awarded a prize of £1,000 from the judges for showing such potential. Peter, along with wife Mel, also flew in A Class Danish team *Funzies*, who had some brilliantly high-scoring rounds and placed just short of third place.

Two other newly qualified Chatteris skydivers, Vivian Merz and Theodora Dyakova, competed for their first meet in single A team *Satori Aqua*.

As well as these 4-way teams, Chatteris staff member Craig Poxon was competing in two teams: 4-way AAA belly team *Left Shark Squad* and A backflying team *Bodyflight Black Magic*. His training primarily went into the backflying team who, with a slightly new lineup, had inspired several other backflying teams this year. They technically took the 'backflying gold' when tunnel owner and *Black Magic* member Paul Mayer set the top five AAA teams a fun backflying round. Even world champions *NMP PCH Hayabusa* were no match for *Black Magic*, who beat the Belgian champions by three points.

Finally, it wasn't all 4-way teams that Chatteris were involved with at World Challenge when Glenn Wainwright and a fellow Airkix coach competed in Artistic 2-way. With nine rounds overall, they placed 11th in the Speed rounds, 12th in the free rounds and joint 10th in the VFS rounds, taking joint 11th place overall out of 14.

A massive well done to all the Chatteris competitors, and maybe we'll see even more at next year's World Challenge.

As I have mentioned the *ChatterChicks* already, I would just like to congratulate the team's Inside Centre, Sarah Ashworth, who has just achieved her FS Coach rating. Don't forget, Sarah and the rest of the *ChatterChicks* will be available for coaching one weekend a month and the dates will be announced on the Chatteris Skydivers Facebook group.

While I am on the subject, congratulations to longstanding Chatteris jumper Paul Bateman, who has received his Freely Coach rating and will no doubt be around some weekends to provide our regulars help with their FF1/2 stickers.

Also, a large mention and congratulations to Dragos Lupu, who has just got his Tandem Instructor rating. Dragos started at Chatteris a couple of years ago as a full-time packer and then progressed onto cameraflyer. In celebration of his new achievement, he took Steph Hanlon, who has been working in Manifest, on a sunset tandem jump.

And, just because we want to offer all of our members every opportunity to receive coaching in any area of skydiving, I can confirm that we will be welcoming some Freely coaches from Netheravon on June 6-7. Also wingsuiter extraordinaire Sam Laming will be back at Chatteris from September 18-20 for anyone with 200 jumps or over who is interesting in wingsuiting or looking to progress their skills.

**Robynne Haynes**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Sophie Barnwell, Matt Summers  
**JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Alex Kean, Vlad Vatavu  
 500 Augustin Mera **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Robin Auld

**CORNWALL**

# CLIMB. JUMP. REPEAT.

**Apologies if we** were missed in the last mag – there was some kind of problem with the Cornish interweb/net/thingy.

We are still here, although not where we were before. We have said a sad farewell to operating out of Cligga Head and we are now in our new home – back where it all started on the airfield by the tower. We have a posh new reception thanks to the airfield, and a sectioned off area in the hangar now just for packing. We also have a landing area outside the hangar, which Dave has spent many hours preparing to his normal high standard.

By the time the summer comes, we will be all prepared for the 10th Anniversary Boogie (Aug 10-14) with larger aircraft and coaches/load organising for various disciplines to be confirmed.

Don't forget that the beach is cleared as a DZ now, so frequent jumps will be made in the evenings outside the watering hole – the tide permitting, of course.

**CORNWALL Simon**  
*Price going head down with Monty over the beach!*

It's been great to see the Bodmin crew (new and old/young and old) jumping lots in recent weeks. There has been plenty of progression for all of the AFF students and a special big up to Duncan for returning after a four-year lay-off to breeze through his course by doing Level 3 to completion in one day!

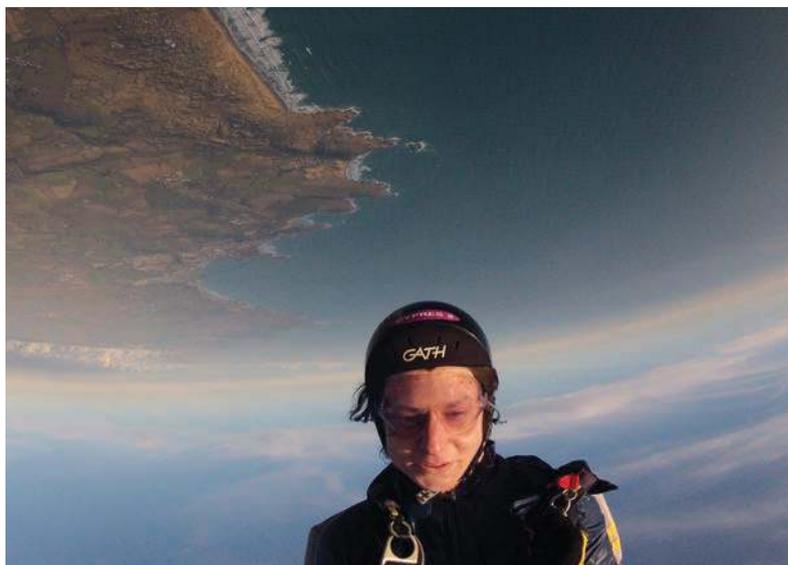
Many club jumpers have visited since the move and have been making the most of having the plane to themselves throughout the day. I'm sure they sneak that thing up higher when we're not on board!

Dave and Monty will be hitting the TV screens again as a German film company required our services (and our views). Thanks to all involved on the day, and stunt doubles Jan and Aaron both owes crates for their part – Jan's first tandem with Dave and Aaron's 50th jump.

The UBI boys were all reunited for a few birthday drinks. Well, when I say "a few", you know what I mean. Until the next time, guys.

**UBI**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** GRADUATED AFF Duncan **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Aaron



**CYPRUS**

# ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

**March and April** were months of growth and progress, with plenty of new students and courses for existing jumpers. The weather was mostly good. Well, at least March was. April gave us all a swift kick in the a\*se, with high winds, clouds and rain each making an appearance on various weekends to quite literally dampen the mood. Undeterred, a lot of people would still turn up at the DZ and put together impromptu packing courses and 18-way dirt dives, despite our Islander only being able to carry nine. Reach for the stars, right?

The annual 3-way Scrambles event was held in March. Seven teams (21 participants) managed to complete the whole event in just one day, with 14 loads going up – almost a club record. We will break that 15 soon! That said, we may need to buy the pilots a couple of extra beers next time. They put in a stellar effort to keep the loads turning non-stop throughout the day.

It was amazing to see so many up-jumpers get into the flow of a competition weekend but still maintain the concept of learning while having fun. Experienced flyers all stepped up to help the newbies and, as one skydiver mentioned, the best part was seeing the smiles on all the new jumpers' faces. It was a great opportunity for them to skydive with people they wouldn't usually get a chance to and everyone had an amazing time.

A set of Flight-1 courses were organised in April, which were thankfully held on a weekend dominated by clouds and not wind. The cloud base was high enough to only allow Hop'n'Pops from 5k, ➔

which was perfect. Courses ranged from the basic introduction 101 through to advanced techniques in the form of 202. Close to a third of our active jumpers took to the classroom with Tank and then proceeded to improve their Canopy Piloting skills through a series of structured exercises in the sky. Congratulations to all participants on their continuing progress.

Another Static Line course was held towards the end of April, with almost every student managing a stand-up landing – very impressive. I'm pretty sure several of them have caught the bug now and we look forward to putting their names up in the achievements section over the next few months. We have also had some of our newer members taking trips abroad to visit wind tunnels in order to accelerate their progress. If only we had one on the island (\*sigh\*)...

As a final word, I'd like to wish a speedy recovery to Petros, who's currently hobbling around the DZ on crutches with his leg in a cast due to an unfortunate landing incident. He is one of our longest serving club members and has helped many a new jumper progress, myself included. We hope to see you back up in the air soon, buddy.

**Chris Spicas**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Marinos Nicolaou **CAT8/CH1** Angela Harcy **CH2/JM1** Charles Foster-Miles, Jade Haron, Anthony Hyland, Ryan Ridgewell **FS1** Marios Frangous **WS1** James Thompson **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Charles Foster-Miles, Jade Haron, Anthony Hyland, Ryan Ridgewell **100** Chris Hayes, Stephanie Stylianou, Liza Yianni, Maria Yianni **300** Ryan McAleese, Glen Welch **400** Chris Spicas, James Thompson **700** Marcus Fountain

**DUNKESWELL**  
Swoop course student Daniel Guest over the pond, by Andy Guest



CYPRUS April 2015



**DUNKESWELL**

# SWOOP IN FOR SOME ACTION!

**SWOOP**

This has been a brilliant year of swooping/canopy piloting and we can't wait for more. European swoopers are training over our pond from June 5 and we are open for 10 days in a row until June 14 for extra jumping this summer. The BPA Canopy Piloting Grand Prix 2 (Euro Cup) will be held here from June 12-14 and competitors (as well as spectators) are welcome. This is the most watchable skydiving discipline since all of the action is near the ground in front of you. As an added extra, you would get the chance to do some jumping from the fastest planes in Europe – our Beech99s. Oh, and we now have three of them!

We are pleased to say that ten-times World Record holder and World Champion long distance Canopy Pilot Nick Batsch was here in April. Nick represents the super cool swoop team *Alter Ego* (check them out online) and he brings so much more to coaching when he shares his experience with all his students. He will be coming back for more coaching later this year, hopefully in September – watch this space. His April course was very popular and all our new swoopers were super chuffed. Brian Vacher from PD is holding Flight 201 and 202 courses in June before the Swoop Cup and Maxine Tate from PD will be coaching the basic Canopy Handling course here in July (the latter is fully booked).

**EVENTS**

This year, we have more BPA competitions here in Dunkeswell. Apart from three Canopy Piloting Grands Prix and Nationals, we are also

“The Twin Beech Boogie 2 is on its way in August and, if you haven't booked on it, then you should do so early. It has been fully booked for the last couple of years and people are travelling to this event from abroad.”

holding the VFS 2-way Grand Prix in June, the FS UKSL in July and the VFS 4-way Nationals in August. The Twin Beech Boogie 2 is on the way in August and, if you haven't booked on it, then you should do so early. It has been fully booked for the last couple of years and people are travelling to this event from abroad.

There is always loads going on every weekend for FS beginners, big-way jumpers, freeflyers, trackers and wingsuiters too. Our resident Freefly load organiser is Joel Strickland from Varial and he is loving it here. The super awesome Pete Brookes is organising tracking coaching. These weekends are booked out months in advance and have proven to be a safe and fun way to progress.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all here. We have three super fast planes and happy smiley staff who will get you in the air as much as you want. Check out our events calendar at [skydive99.com/events](http://skydive99.com/events) and our very lively Facebook page at [SkydiveUKDunkeswell](https://www.facebook.com/SkydiveUKDunkeswell).

**Miko**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Graham Atkinson, Richard Onions, Calum Stoodley, Emily Thornton **CAT8/CH1** Abdullah Al-Maskari, Oliver Dixon, Becky Parsons, Adam Richards **CH2/JM1** Robyn Dean, Phil Ebner, John Guy, Jason Payne **FS1** Gemma Alcock, Jack Carter, Robin Dean, Oliver Dixon, Andrew Douglas, Matthew Lowe, Chris O'Mahony, Mark Walker **FF1** Elliott Fry **FF2** Ian Hutchinson **WS1** Phil Cane, Chris Griffin **CP1** Dan Whitby **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Robyn Dean **100** Dominic Bentley, Neil Hooper, Codie Housam, Sel Pasos, Andy Tallant **200** Elliott Fry, Gary Townsend **300** Michael Briggs **400** Elise Sharp **500** William Booth, Mark Kurylo **600** Ian Hutchinson **700** Rob Franklin **1,000** Dan Whitby **1,300** Gary Powell **3,000** George Clack

**HEADCORN**

# BRING THE WEATHER WITH YOU

Well, as is usual at this time of year, we are looking forward to summer and the never-ending days of warmth and sun...

Pete Sizer, Janos Leszko and Steve Hastings have all returned safely from their so-called 'working' trip to Dubai, with plenty of successful Accuracy training jumps. The annual Deland trip also returned incident-free. Well done to Karen Firmin and Ben Rosenquist on gaining their FS1s and also to Kim Buddle, Joe Horton and Reese Horton on getting their A Licences. All we can say to the Dubai and Florida trips is: "Why didn't you bring the sun back with you?!" →



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One step further.



**HEADCORN**  
Si Beech, Del Hopkins  
and Simon Hughes,  
by Chad Smith

The first CF Weekend took place with Mary Barratt and Marcus Muir-Smith leading proceedings. Unfortunately, the weather didn't want to play ball for the weekend, but the stage is set for future weekends to lift off soon. Watch this space! Well done to Ian Hammock on your CF intro. Beer!

We welcomed back Si Beech from Langar with a shiny new Tandem rater and soon put him to work!

June 5-7 will see the first of our Freefly and Tracking Weekends with Ben Broad and Luke Warren of *Floh Well*, who will be here coaching for the three days. After an impressive performance at the World Challenge at Bodyflight Bedford, this looks to be a regular event throughout the summer.

Walk Up Wednesdays have now officially started, with a walk up format (as the name suggests) for jumpers to get FS and now FF1 coaching every Wednesday all day. JM1 and CH2 briefings will also be available on these days.

More building work has taken place and we now have a new area incorporating a gym for jumpers to use during bad weather. This way, they can tone up their figures during down times while waiting for the bar to open. Pete Sizer and Del Hopkins have put a lot of hard work into this over the past few months and it certainly shows.

We welcomed back our trusty Islander, which is looking pretty damn good thanks to a new paint job matching our Caravan and a comfy new interior. We have plenty of demo bookings for her, so the *Red Devils* and *Tigers* are in for a treat!

So all we just need now is for the WEATHER to come to the party! Then we can get the DZ BBQ warmed up for a summer of fun and partying the evening away. As always, we hope to see all our club jumpers more regularly now for the rest of the season. We also hope to see lots of new faces visiting, to have fun and to make the most of the stunning views here at Skydive Headcorn.

Blue skies,

Si Beech

**ACHIEVEMENTS** GRADUATED AFF Mike Leslie CAT8/CH1 Kim Buddle, Sophie Dearman, Joe Horton, Reese Horton, Will Howes, Piotr Warso CH2/JM1 Paul Barr, James Parker, Nick Price WS1 Kamal Akbar WS2 Kamal Akbar, Jose Videira CP1 James Cook, Drew Moon JUMP NUMBERS 200 Kamal Akbar, Dean Andrews 400 James Cook, Alex Leslie 900 Si Beech, Tim Humphries

**HIBALDSTOW**

# PROGRESS AND PROGRESSION

**It's shaping up** to be a big season! The teams have started to arrive from both near and far – sorry, too many to name already – to cruise the Dornier to altitude and there's a real excitement for the Nationals already! Good luck to our teams this year with their training, and we hope to see you on the podium this summer.

Dave West has continued to push the FS skill level with his Introduction to Big-way and then First-time Formation Loads, allowing jumpers to go from 8-way groups to 28-way groups in the space of a few months. Keep progressing, guys! Elsewhere, Stubert's UDCC opened a few eyes into how much fun you can have on your belly. Keep an eye out for loads more FS and in particular for some more formation loads over the summer. We're going large when the sun comes!

The Hardcore FS gang returned from Skydive Algarve after an amazing week of skydiving and sun for Anthony Mill's stag do. Ant might not have his FS1 but he will be married by the time you read this, so congratulations to Ant and Rachel!

It's great to see so much interest in progression on the DZ with jumpers coming down regularly to try to improve their skills, whether in the tunnel or the sky. A shout out goes to Ash Mohanty, who has managed to impress us with his determination to fly and has made some huge progress in group flying – nice work! We're having so much fun even the staff are flying more, and long may it continue.

Speaking of staff, the guys have been working hard in between jumps to spruce up the DZ with new equipment arriving, cleaning, painting and building. It's like a new dropzone every time you arrive. If you haven't been in a while, come down – it keeps getting better.

Paul Cooper's Freefly group continues to grow in size – certainly a testament to the time you've put in. The latest Head Down Meet drew enough people to fly formation loads, so quite an exciting day for most with many doing their first formation load on their head – mad skillz. There'll be other opportunities for big-way Freefly this year, so get down early and develop those skills for the Head Down Record.

There's loads of Freefly appearing on DZ now, with coaching/organising most weekends of the season as our coaching team continues to grow.

Don't be shy, come say hi. If in doubt, check us out at [skydiving.co.uk](http://skydiving.co.uk) or find us on Facebook.

See you all soon.

**Stubert Ferglstein**

**HIBALDSTOW**  
Stu's group, by  
Craig Hicks



**JERSEY**

# ONWARDS, UPWARDS, UPWARDS AGAIN...

**The local jumpers** have been smashing through the milestones and achievements this month thanks to a few trips abroad. Congratulations to all – great to see so much progress, keep it up! Worthy of special note is Liam Hardman for gaining his coach qualification in FS, giving us a local with skills to pass on to those who want to dial in their flatflying and a fabulous addition to the club's offerings.

The weather is giving us some openings and thanks go to Claire for running the Manifest so efficiently that we've been maximising the time we have available while the tide is out. New jumpers have taken →



up the gauntlet and bombed the beach from a few thousand feet off the static line, so well done to those brave souls. Among them, Helier Heath has gained his static line wings – completing the full trio of Heath men to have started the course. There's talk of a family 3-way once they've advance to full freefall, so we look forward to seeing it!

Liam has confirmed the plane is booked for the Boogie in August with a slight tweaking to the dates, but we're sure they're locked in now – August 20-25. Lots of fun is being planned, so look out for more details soon.

One of our walking wounded has been under the knife recently to get them back on the road to recovery, so we can't wait to see her smiling face in the sky when back to full strength.

Keep progressing!

**Nigel O'Brien**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CH2/JM1 Michael Stocks FS1 Johnny Kelly, Michael Stocks FF1 Johnny Kelly **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Michael Stocks 200 Richard Hamilton

**LANGAR**

# NO BOOGIE LIKE A LANGAR BOOGIE

We jumped every day at Boogie One! The sun shone (mostly), the winds were OK (mostly) and it didn't rain (much). The Swedish Twin Otter and both our Grand Caravans were busy servicing a good turnout of jumpers for our start-of-season bash, totalling well over 2,500 jumps. Phil Curtis, Will Cooke and Milko kept the flatflyers happy, while the Freefly crowd had Dave Pacey, Joel Strickland, Ally Milne and Martin Hopkins to keep them in the air – including the BPA Artistic and VFS Coaching Roadshow for the second weekend. Chris Judd was declared outright champion of the end of day swoop-and-chug competition for his Accuracy and the ability to not choke on a good, fast chug. Wingsuiters, swoopers and CF jumpers all made plenty of jumps too, making it a great all-round event with live entertainment and parties to top it off.

For June, July and August, we've got plenty of stuff going on. There are weekends for head up coaching, multi-aircraft big-ways, FS coaching, big-way head down, tracking and 3D Wingsuiting, plus BPA Roadshows for Canopy Formations and Wingsuiting. The Skydivers Over Sixty are going for a new record formation this summer too, and dates and details are at facebook/skydivelangar along with up-to-the-minute news.

Come along and help keep us busy, especially if you can skive off work during the week – we're open and jumping every day...

**Tony Danbury**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** GRADUATED AFF Nick Broughton, Declan O'Neill CAT8/CH1 Will Dop, Mark Hay, Jamie Keen CH2/JM1 Stephen Farrell, Stuart Hall, Brian Jackson, Karim Shakankiri FS1 Zoe Atkinson, Jamie Blythe, Chris Bolger, Stephen Farrell, Stuart Hall, Mark Hay, Brian Jackson, Ellie Marshall, Karim Shakankiri, Miles Venni, Jamie Webster, Samantha White FF1 Nathan Evans, James Lowrey, Peter Storey FF2 Peter Hutchinson, Hannah Parker, Roy Wimmer WS1 Dylan Morris-Roberts **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Stephen Farrell, Stuart Hall, Karim Shakankiri 100 Josh Bryon, Charlotte Harris, Neil Roberts, Phil Rolfe, Andy Thomas 200 Paul Colman, James Lowrey, Luke Thatcher 300 Ben Mitchell 700 Cath Anderson 1,000 Karen Nielsen **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Charlotte Harris, Andy Martin, Tyler Priestley **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Chris Judd



Above left: **JERSEY** Simon Griffiths, Pete Dolbel, Richard Hamilton and James Evens at the controls

Above: **NETHERAVON** Welcome to our world! Gertrude, by Harry Shanker

**NETHERAVON**

# WHEN IN DOUBT, PARTY

**TRAINING FOR EXCELLENCE**

April saw skydivers of all experience levels participate in coaching and organising events in almost every discipline. Over Easter, there was Freefly coaching and organising with our resident team of FF gurus, led by Paul Capsey. Trevor Hooking looked after our newer FS jumpers during his novice Load Organising Weekend, making sure that absolutely every experience level was catered for. And, if that wasn't enough, our favourite tandem skydiver Veronica Hawthorne planted lots of chocolate goodies around the DZ for us all to find! What a girl! Later in the month, NFTO had the first of their Nethers weekends, qualifying five new FS Coaches and giving team training to Nethers' teams *Entropy*, *AGC Rookie* and *AGC A team*.

**PROGRESSION – ALWAYS GOING FORWARD!**

B Licence Progression Days have now been replaced with two separate sessions: JM1 Training Day with an introduction to packing on the Saturdays and a CH2 Training Day on Sundays. These sessions will be held every month. This should help out those who only require one of these qualifications to obtain their B Licence.

**VFS COMPETITION**

What a perfect end to April! We had a great VFS event and a cracking party afterwards. Paul Capsey devised a format enabling Freeflyers of all experiences to compete in this multi-level event. All participants performed at the top of their game and, after a gallant battle, the results were Kim Squires in first, Stacey Canning and James Round taking joint second and Rick Kimber in third.

In the bar that evening, we all raised a glass to wish happy birthday to the competition organiser, Paul Capsey. Sharing the birthday celebrations were Jeannine Cook, Mark Bayada, Harry Shanker and Max McLeod. It was a great party to end a great weekend.

**Elana Cain**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 William Lancashire, Bob Murdoch CH2/JM1 Thomas Bennett, Claire Cheshire, Becky Dickens, Tom Simpson, Louis Smit, Andy Swaffield FS1 Gina Marshall, Nigel Musk, Andy Swaffield, Garrick Taylor FF1 Soupy Cambell, Donna-Marie Jenkins, Gina Marshall FF2 Gina Marshall **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Thomas Bennett, Claire Cheshire, Becky Dickens, Tom Simpson, Louis Smit, Andy Swaffield 100 Dan Anders-Brown, Martin Brown, Max Fenston 200 George Andrews, Soupy Cambell, Kim Philtjens, Jon Scamp 300 Colin Jenkins 600 Harry Shanker →

“ And, if that wasn't enough, our favourite tandem skydiver Veronica Hawthorne planted lots of chocolate goodies around the DZ for us to all find! What a girl! ”

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**PETERLEE**

# YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD C182 DOWN!

The season is well underway again and, despite patchy weather, we have managed plenty of good jumping days, seen a variety of notable events and had loads of progression.

March 20 drew a small crowd of keen jumpers to skydive during the solar eclipse and, while the majority of the country considered the actual event to be a bit of an anticlimax, the jumpers that day will certainly remember where they were for the 2015 eclipse. We filled both aircraft for a simultaneous two-aircraft drop.

On the subject of aircraft, the last month has proven the benefit of being a multi-aircraft dropzone when a pesky sensor failed on our Cessna Caravan at the beginning of a busy Sunday tandem programme. We were able to rely on our faithful old Cessna 182 to save the day and, with the help of our regulars who sacrificed their jumps due to reduced capacity, all 21 of our tandem students went home having completed their skydives. As a thank you to those disappointed regulars, Ian generously offered them a free jump in return.

Keeping it in the family, the C182 carried Enya Roseninge, daughter of our DZO and CI Ian Roseninge, to altitude to do her first tandem skydive. Ian later explained that it was the very same aircraft he took Enya's grandfather up in for a tandem jump shortly after buying the DZ 18 years ago.

A group of regular jumpers have been contributing towards bringing a helicopter to Peterlee on June 13, and I'm happy to report that the required up-front fees have now been raised so the helicopter is now booked. Jump pricing is yet to be announced but it is hoped to be in the region of £40-£50. Helicopter jumps are open to all skydivers at A Licence and above and I'm reliably informed that strut hanging will be allowed as long as you can do two pull ups.

Having found his natural discipline in the sport, Paul Bantock has begun training not only for the Nationals but to represent Team GB at the World Championships in Speed. Paul has asked us to pass his thanks to Ian for his help with the provision of training jumps.

We have welcomed a new parachute pilot this month. Phil Nichol, who gained BPA Approved Pilot rating at the beginning of April, is now regularly flying the C182.

Congratulations and best wishes go to Jade and Lee Elliot, who have announced they are expecting a little Elliot in September.

Congratulations also to Jordan Simcoe, Nik Murphy, David Knox and Trev Ahern of *Team Hyperion*, who have all achieved FS Coach ratings.

Finally, a special mention goes to Lee Sample, who is leaving us for pastures new. Lee is moving to Birmingham very soon to begin a new career as a paramedic in the Ambulance Service. Having only been involved in the sport for 12 months, Lee's passion for skydiving has seen him complete 300 jumps and become a very proficient wingsuit pilot. All the very best from your friends at Peterlee.

**Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Mahmoud Arab, Henry Simmons **CAT8/CH1** Kieran Hogan **CH2/JM1** Rob Charlton, John Welsh **FF2** Peter Hutchinson **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Emma Reynolds, John Welsh **100** Peter Hutchinson **200** Nik Murphy **300** Jamie Lawrence, Lee Sample **1,000** Andy Brumby **1,100** Steve Burdon **16 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Steve Burdon



**READING**  
Oliver Stone

“ Even the coaches have been given the run around with the demand for FS and FF coaching. Chris might need to stock up on more stickers at this rate ”



**READING**

## BEER FINES, BEER FINES, MORE BEER FINES...

**London Parachute School** were delighted with the arrival of newest team member and firstborn son to Mark and Tracy Stone, little baby Oliver! Plenty of beer fines all round, first baby etc. Congratulations to Mark and Tracy!

Mike Lovemore managed to do a camera jump by stealth and completed his 2,000th jump. He didn't realise until he had completed his logbook later that day – d'oh! Congratulations to Mikey!

Terence Hughes smashed out his FS1 jump in style with the help of the 4-way team *3 Men and a Dog*. Georgina Woof stood down and the three men made Terence work hard to earn his FS1 sticker.

The most patient man on the DZ, Tom Dulley, has managed his 50th jump and Sophie Dearman finally got her A Licence. She is now the new 'bad weather witch', even going to the lengths of ruining the weather in Spain by flying there and not getting one single jump in, waiting at LPS all day and finally leaving only for the clouds to clear! Tamsyn Stanton is her understudy.

As with all DZs, the weather hasn't been too kind of late but this time has been used for B Licence briefs and packing lessons from Gary and Marie-Ann, for which we are grateful.

LPS club jumpers and staff wish Olivia Aiston a fast recovery after her recent attempt to re-landscape the landing area. After her landing incident and subsequent pause in the day to ensure her swift and safe journey to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Matt Cunningham (her partner and our pilot) showed his professionalism and completed the last two lifts before getting himself to the JR to provide pedicures and a new jumpsuit. Cheers Matt, and we will see you soon Olivia!

**Annie Lewis**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Sophie Dearman **FS1** Terence Hughes **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Tom Dulley **2,000** Mike Lovemore

**SIBSON**

## GET TO THE CHOPPER!

We've had a brilliant couple of months here at Sibson. The weather has been quite hit and miss, but it hasn't stopped us – things are really starting to pick up! The jumps have been smashed out and the overall progression of the club has been fantastic. We are open from Wednesdays through to Sunday and it has been a big hit so far. Why work when you can go jumping instead? Even an eclipse seems to bring a lot of people out to play as well. It must be getting better, since a majority our freefliers have come out of hibernation!

We've got a high number of AFF students working towards their licences and keeping the Instructors very busy. It has been a long time coming, but Karl Walsh has finally passed AFF and got his A Licence – at last! Even the coaches have been given the run around with the demand for FS and FF coaching. Chris might need to stock up on more stickers at this rate. When the weather has been unfavourable, the packing mats have been populated by members going for their B Licence. The CI has never smiled or laughed so much while inflicting a horrendous tangle test on someone that wanted to →

**PETERLEE**  
Eclipse jump crowd,  
by Ian Roseninge



'do it next weekend'. Well done to Clive for sticking with it and getting that hideous mess undone!

It is also nice to see some progression with wingsuiting. We've had a couple of first flight courses, some WS1s issued and a WS2 awarded – not bad going at all for us. It is a quiet discipline, but it is the aim of some of our wingsuiters to try and rebuild what was quite a respectable flock in the past. Throughout the year, we will have visits from Dave Butterell and Rob Gray as well as coaching and load organising from our very own Macca. We hope to improve the number of coaches we have here, with a couple of members being very keen to gain their coach ratings and pass on their knowledge and passion.

The competitive side of the club hasn't been idle for long either and a big portion of our jumpers took part in the World Challenge event at Bodyflight. A lot of them had competed before and enjoyed being back in the thick of it, while some had never competed and stepped up to the challenge with little or no training. Good effort! We're also chuffed to know that our tunnel diva, Ged, is worthy enough to step in should *Hayabusa* need help. You rocked it and the shades, Ged!

We have also had the helicopter in as well, generating much interest. It stayed for a third day and was busy right up until it had to leave, such was the demand. Not satisfied with one go, a fair number of people jumped it several times. It will be back with us again for our July boogie.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Gary Chapman not long after he joined us. Other commitments require his attention, so we wish him well and good luck. However, as we wave Gary off, we welcome Dave Keevers to the club. Dave has travelled the world for jumping and holds numerous Australian, Canadian and American Instructor and coach ratings. He is now converting them over to the BPA and we look forward to his experience playing its part in the club.

A bit different to the usual bad weather day progression briefs, Sibson played host to a 'coach the coaches' session. Led by the Bradley twins and Chris Shaw, the two-hour meeting was attended by all of our coaches. All of them agree that they gained a wider understanding of how to teach and apply their knowledge and methods with greater flexibility. It was not just limited to FS coaching, since FF and WS coaches attended too. If you are reading this and want some coaching, come over to us and see them in action.

It hasn't been made that public or obvious up until now (social media didn't do its job too well), but we have WiFi set up and it is free too. So, when you're between lifts, go grab a coffee, connect to it and surf away to your heart's content while having a packet of cookies. It is a simple service in our modern age, but one that has generated excitement – so much so it has been described as 'the cat's meow' by one of our members. They must be a cat lover...

In July, we will have our Boogie on. It starts on July 27 and runs through to August 2. We are also open from July 22. Why not join us for a pre-Boogie warm-up? We have the Dornier in all week during the Boogie, the helicopter is booked and there is a possibility of a balloon as well – we'll confirm this closer to the time. We have Killa and Macca in all week coaching and organising for the freefliers and wingsuiters too, so come along and get involved!

We will also have a second aircraft in on the July 4-5 and July 18-19 weekends. This also ties in with the Ladies Head Down Record attempt on July 18-19.

We also have a Freefly school based at the DZ. It will be run by Killa and Ged Parker, and will cater for all goals, ability and interests. Check out their website at elite-freefly.co.uk.

If you have any news or achievements that you would like to be written about, you can find the list pinned up in the office.

Why not follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook (UK

**SIBSON**  
Jess Withers, by  
David Haygarth

Parachuting Sibson Airfield or Sibson Skydivers) or check out our website at [www.skydivesibson.co.uk/category/club-events](http://www.skydivesibson.co.uk/category/club-events) to keep up to speed with all of the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson.

**Kye Bromley**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Alexander Crawley, Karl Walsh CH2/JM1 Dean Thomas Smith FS1 Matt Brown, Alexander Crawley, Darren Drew, Paul Garward, Lukasz Lancucki, Luciano Scarferia, Jake Weir FF1 Kathryn Jane Roe, Tom Worboys FF2 Tom Worboys WS1 Danny French WS2 Richard Moulton **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Dean Thomas Smith **100** Lucy Ryan **200** Wes Lawes **200** Jess Withers **200** Alex Kean **300** Brad Dimmock **400** Brad Dimmock **500** Blanaid O' Sullivan **800** Peter Coville **800** Kye Bromley **1,000** Wifi **8,000** Grant Richards

**SKYDIVE ST GEORGE**

**START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON**



It's been an incredible few months here at Skydive St George – you'd barely recognise the place. Thanks to a regional grant, we've completely renovated our packing hall and kit store. Bill Tiplady's masterful woodwork skills have come in handy with the design and creation of our shiny red aircraft mock-up, manifest bench and wind arrow. He's even

made new rig hangers in preparation for the 12 brand new sets of student rigs we've bought, which are due to arrive next month.

This means that we can start running student courses and we are also opening every Friday as of May 21. We will look to open on other days of the week as well if we get enough in, particularly for after school/evening jumps as the weather is usually stunning from 6pm onwards at our DZ – it's a phenomenon that I don't think we will ever understand. However, opening mid-week has meant that Billy, who is still serving with the Guards, has had to pass the baton onto Bryn Chaffe, who has come onboard as our new CI. That said, we're delighted that Billy will continue to jump with us as one of our regular TIs at weekends.

We've got some exciting events lined up this year. Top of the list is the Battle of Britain Boogie, which is really taking shape. The Boogie will run from August 24-31, with the Durham Tees Valley Airshow taking place on August 29. We're hoping to see the Vulcan, Spitfires, Hurricanes and Typhoons grace our skies. We've been told that the Airshow will end in a concert with some rather well-known stars lined up to sing, so we're waiting with bated breath to hear who they are. We're also planning a Battle of Britain Ball, reserved for those of you wishing to jump with us throughout the week. The Ball will take place on August 28 in the Old Officers Mess at the St George Hotel, so don your glad rags and party frocks for dodgers and booze.

There will be loads going on, with load organising, FF coaching and even the potential night jump, although we are still in the planning stages for the latter. Advanced tickets will be on sale in the next couple of weeks, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for all of the updates – including which guest aircraft will be on-site to jump from!

**Sara Heath**

**SWANSEA**

**IN THE WORDS OF G... 'AVIN LOADSA FUN!**

**Loads fun indeed** here at Skydive Swansea! While our AFF students have been stuck on the ground due to those cruel weather gods dictating our PLA (sorry guys!), the rest of us have been having a great time. That reminds me; I'd like to thank our AFF student Ben Fennel for all the awesome cakes he's brought our team since starting the course. They are amazing, dude. We can so be BFFs for life if you keep it up!

Congratulations to our newest member to the dark side, Lewis Butcher, getting on his FF1. I promise we will fun jump soon. Well, as long as you →

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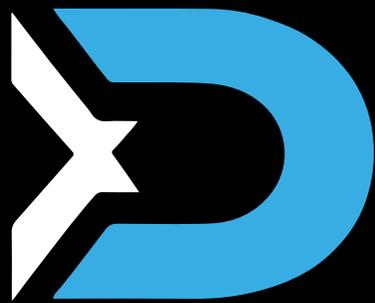
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pack my rig! Matt Oakley celebrated his 300th jump with a high hop'n'pop. Matt, let us know when you get your helicopter license – it could come in handy for something. Ryan Mancey is well on his way to becoming an Advanced Instructor. Well done Ryan, but can you hurry up and get it done? Lucy doesn't like you when you're being serious and boring!

In case no one has heard about it yet, our lovable DZ controller Shamus had his first chop. If you haven't heard his "no s\*\*t, there I was" story yet, I'm sure he will be more than happy to regale you with his tale. Not that it was a big deal or anything!

Matt Fogarty paid us a visit to teach us how to fly, or so he said. Personally, I still believe that man is out to kill me. Stalling your canopy is not fun, people! Shamus will attest to that as well! All the same, thanks for the beer contribution, dude.

Speaking of beer fines, all of our club jumpers can look out – we have a new beer board courtesy of Ricky Davies, along with a list of potential beer fines. A word to the wise – thou shalt not question thy beer fine or thou shalt incur yet another beer fine. Summer is coming and our CI is thirsty...

Our newest Instructor, Reg Green, seems to be settling in nicely – such a gent, daisy chaining those tandems for us lowly packers. Reg is also preparing to give G a beating on his upcoming T1 course. In preparation for the course, G had "loads fun" cosy up to our CI for the obligatory tandem. In fact, I think he enjoyed it a little too much. Good luck, G!

Steve Hastings recently came to get some practice Accuracy jumps in, which of course turned into a tense competition between him and Carl 'cameraman wannabe' Williams (sorry boss, had to get my own back after last issue!). As I write this article, all of us at Skydive Swansea are excitedly preparing for the Accuracy Nationals to be held at the end of May. I will update you with the results next issue. We're looking forward to the main event now. After all, there's a lot of beer riding on it...

In other news, Sara has begun planning our Christmas do. I know it's a little early, but we like to be organised. It will be held on November 28 at the Marriot Hotel in Swansea. There will be a three-course meal followed by coffee and chocs, please see Sara for more details. And yes, despite the change of venue, we still all have to behave. Anyone else reckon Morgans wouldn't let us back?

Blue skies!

**Laura Turner**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** FF1 Lewis Butcher **JUMP NUMBERS 300** Matt Oakley

**SWINDON**

# WHERE MEN ARE MEN AND WOMEN ARE ROLLING THEIR EYES

The Redlands season has started with a bit of a whimper. The weather gods have not been kind to us, and so much so that Brucie took a mid-week trip to the Algarve to get some jumps in. He was joined by Redlands' very own boyband 'The Wannabes', who are Chris, Craig, Shaun and Aron, and Darko also joined them on the trip. It sounds like they had a great time with lots of jumping and lots of achievements – especially by Chris, who got his FS1 and his FF1 and had only just got his A Licence before going out there.

Now, I'm pretty sure that most dropzones are dominated by alpha males all wanting to be top dog. Here at Redlands, our men are a little bit different and definitely like to get in touch with their feminine sides. Howard went on a day trip to the set of *Coronation Street* rather than going skydiving(!). Chris Wall has a massive man crush on Paul Capsey, so much so that he is intending to make a video just of Paul's exits from the wind tunnel because "he is just so awesome". Brucie is also getting in on the act – he has been running and eating healthily so he can be the lightest Instructor on the DZ. He is very proud of the fact that he is lighter than Dylan '10 Chins' Jones, Mark 'Fat Boy' Benson and John Friel. Next thing you know, we'll be painting the plane and hangar pink...

In other news, Arek (always eager to please) was all kitted up and ready in the pen two lifts early. Shaun Z did one jump after downsizing



**SWANSEA** Lucy Mancey finally getting some freefall with Aled Mason and Will Tenison. By Teej Quigley

and then called it a day because the rig was uncomfortable. Jon Eeles has been spotted doing a full flare! Jasper and Doog have both broken themselves. Dylan is apparently going on a lads' tunnel trip to Switzerland (not convinced that will happen). Sarah Cox has been seen jumping from planes. Darrell has managed to concentrate long enough to get his C Licence and is very excited about using his camera, but the only problem is that all his videos are just of the sun... ohhh shiny! The Tyrrells continue to be awesome and Chrissy and Jenny are still the best packers ever!

**Cath Thorne**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Craig Anderson, Daniel Brewster, Alistair Richardson, Chris Wall **CH2** Shaun Z, That John Guy **FS1** Chris Wall, Shaun Z **FF1** Chris Wall, Darko Salaj **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Shaun Z, That John Guy **200** Darrell Ohh Shiny **1,000** Jenny Bouquet

**WILD GEESE**

# BUSY, BUSIER, BEER FINES!

A steady supply of tandem students has kept all of our TIs busy for the past month or two. Not only has this fulfilled their own dreams, but it has also gone a long way to providing much-needed funds to some of our local and national charities. Long may it continue!

We've also had an impressive turnout from our Queen's University Belfast (QUB) Skydiving Club. These folks get all of their training supplied by us, so it has been very rewarding to see an increase in activity and progression in this area. Alongside this has been the one and only Linley Ewing, our latest CSBI. Also a member of the QUB Club, he has been working tirelessly to ensure courses are fully subscribed. We wish him luck with his own progression to becoming fully qualified; he will hopefully be joined by more CSBIs in the future.

At our own club level, progression has been excellent. Some personal milestones have been met and qualifications achieved. Stephen Campbell, Magda Moody and Linzi Johnston and Simon Finlay all reached C Licence after considerable hard work and steady progression. Vilius Ramoska and Darren McGarry both completed their first freefall descents, accompanied by the appropriate beer fines of course – well done guys. With the Easter weekend weather being especially favourable for jumping, Levi Hamill, Matt Alderdice and Patrick Hunter all achieved their FS1 ratings. A big thanks goes to 4-way team *Fly Wild* for lending their instructional skills to the guys – much appreciated. Easter was definitely our best weekend so far this year, but hopefully not our last!

With the summer looming and the DZ bursting with enthusiasm, we look forward to another productive season over the green fields of Garvagh. We're always glad to see visiting skydivers and you're guaranteed a welcome if you come for a wee visit – we'd love to see you.

So, until next time, blue skies and soft landings. And, if you have to swoop, stay safe.

**Rod and Simon**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Darren McGarry, Vilius Ramoska **FS1** Matt Alderdice, Levi Hamill, Patrick Hunter **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Stephen Campbell, Simon Finlay, Linzi Johnston, Magda Moody

**WILD GEESE** Static line



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## June

June 12-14

**CP** CP Grand Prix

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 13-14

**A** BPA Artistic and VFS Coaching Roadshow with QFX and Freestyle Euphoria

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

June 13-14

**CF** BPA CF Roadshow

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

June 15-21

**U** University Progression Week

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

June 16

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

June 20-21

**FS** Multiplane FS Formations

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

June 20-21

**FS** Multiplane FS with Will Cooke

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

June 20-21

**FS** UKSL Meet 2

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June 20-21

**FS** SOS Record Attempts

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

June 22-26

**BPA** Tandem and AFF Instructor Course

Location: **Sibson** • bpa.org.uk

June 27-28

**A** 2-way VFS Grand Prix

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 27-28

**FS** Multiplane FS Formations

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

## July

July 4

**FS** International 28-way Competition

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

Perris Spring Fling, by Luciano Bacque



July 4-5

**FS** Walk-up FS with Will Cooke

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

July 8-12

**FS** Diamonds and Jewels Team Elite big-ways

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

July 10-12

**CF** CF Nationals

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

July 11

**CP** WGD Blue Canopy Course

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

July 11-12

**FS** Coaching Roadshow with Vision99

Location: **Chatteris** • skydivechatteris.co.uk

July 11-12

**WS** Wingsuit Coaching Roadshow

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

July 18-19

**A** Big-way Head Down with Ally Milne

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

July 18-19

**A** Ladies' Head Down Record Attempts

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.com

July 18-19

**FS** UKSL Meet 3

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 24-26

**CP** CP Nationals

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 25

**FS** Hib Cup 4-way Comp

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

July 25-26

**A** Bullet Tracking Weekend

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

July 27-Aug 2

**B/F** Sibson Boogie – G92 and Helicopter jumps

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

July 30

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

## EVENTS ZONE



### August

August 8-9

**CF** Coaching Roadshow

Location: **Chatteris** • skydivechatteris.co.uk

August 8-9

**FS** Multiplane FS Formations

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

August 8-9

**WS** UK Wingsuit 25-way Record Attempt

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

August 10-14

**B/F** 10th Anniversary Boogie

Location: **Cornish Parachute Club**

August 10-14

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

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 10-14

**U** 'The Armies' Armed Forces Parachute Championships

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

August 11

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

August 15

**FS** Multiplane FS with Will Cooke

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

August 15-16

**FS** Armies Speed 8 Competition

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

August 15-16

**CP** Flight-1 Canopy Course 101/102

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

August 15-16

**A** VFS 4-way Nationals

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 17-21

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

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 20-25

**B/F** Jersey Boogie

Location: **Jersey** • skydivejersey.net

August 22

**A** Bullet Tracking Weekend

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

August 22-24

**FS** 4-way FS Nationals

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

August 22-29

**S&A** European Style and Accuracy Championships

Location: **Erden, Montana, Bulgaria**

August 23-30

**CP** CP World Cup 2015

Location: **Montreal, Canada**

August 27-30

**B/F** Twin Beech Boogie 2

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 29-31

**FS** **A** 8-way FS, Artistic and Speed Nationals

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

### September

September 5-6

**A** UK Head Down Record

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

September 7-11

**BPA** Tandem, AFF and Pre-Advanced Instructor Course

Location: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

September 7-12

**FS** **A** World Cup and European Championships in FS and Artistic Events and World Cup in Speed Skydiving

Location: **Teuge, Netherlands** • paracentrumteuge.nl

September 12-13

**WS** BPA Wingsuit Performance Nationals

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

September 12-13

**FS** Coaching Roadshow with NFTO

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

September 17-20

**FS** ESL Finals

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

September 18-20

**CP** Swoop99 Cup 3

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 19-20

**S&A** Accuracy Grand Prix

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

September 19 - October 18

**B/F** Autumn Boogie

Location: **Skydive Algarve, Portugal** • skydivealgarve.com

September 19-20

**CF** CF Grand Prix

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

September 24

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

September 26

**U** Bodyflight Revenge Meet

Location: **Bedford** • bodyflight.co.uk

September 26-27 (TBC)

**FS** **A** Speed 8 Nationals

Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

### October

October 6

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

October 13-18

**WS** Wingsuit World Record

Location: **Perris, California USA** • skydiveperris.com

### November

November 2-6

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

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 9-13

**BPA** CSI/Tandem/AFF Instructor Course

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 19

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

November 25 - December 1

**U** Clash of Champions Tunnel Competition

Location: **Inflight Dubai Wind Tunnel** • inflightdubai.com

### December

December 1-12

**U** FAI World Air Games

Location: **Dubai**

Saturday December 5

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

December 19 - January 10

**B/F** Christmas Boogie

Location: **Skydive Algarve, Portugal** • skydivealgarve.com

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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By Rob Lloyd



By Kev Coffey



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**Matt Oakley**

Runner-up: "The first aerial dance-off was secured with a near perfect Macarena."  
**Mark 'Diesel' Turner**

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