



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com October 2015

skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964



INSIDE: 2015 NATIONALS BLOCKBUSTER SPECIAL NEW 164-WAY HEAD DOWN WORLD RECORD
UK WINGSUIT RECORD 2015 CP WORLD CUP SURVIVING A CLOSE CALL UNDER CANOPY
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* The FFU does not book your flights, when you book with us, we will advise of the flight cost and our ATOL protected travel agent will call you to make the flight reservation.



This issue has been such a busy one with so much going on that it's really inspired me to get more involved with some of it over the next year. I've always been an FS flyer who only dabbles in other disciplines, having started with 8-way and wingsuit before getting into 4-way,

but I'm guilty of not dedicating enough time and effort towards disciplines that I'd like to get better at.

I've piloted a few CF stacks, but it would probably take me hundreds of feet to dock on someone now. I can fly head up, but my skills are old school and I keep seeing people flying head down who have been jumping for less time than I've been trying to get head down myself! Tim Gaines' quote in the VFS Nationals article gave me hope: he said that head up is easy to learn but hard to master, while head down is hard to learn but then easy to master. It's time for me to try and master them both at last – bring it on!

Liz Ashley



British Parachute Association Ltd

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

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VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/NS5847U
With thanks to Sequential Games



Skydive the Mag is published by:
Archant Dialogue Ltd, Prospect House,
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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
December 2015	October 20	December 01

Top tip: Want to see your photos in print but don't own a 'proper' stills camera? Video screenshots are almost unusable, but why not set your GoPro to a stills setting for one jump per day then send us the best shots?



The GB delegation

World Cup and European Championships

A 32-strong GB delegation headed to Teuge in the Netherlands for the World Cup and European Championships in September. We fielded three 4-way Open teams (*4mula*, *Eclipse* and *Phoenix*), one 8-way (*Awkward Turtles*), one Freely (*Euphoria*) and four Speed competitors.

Huge congratulations to Mikey Lovemore, who won double silver in Speed Skydiving. His average speed of 498.23kph over four jumps is faster than the previous UK Record for a single jump! He broke 500kph for the first time, one of only five people ever to do so in competition, and is now the fourth fastest speeder ever. Awesome.

Congratulations also to team *Euphoria*, who won double bronze in Freely. Their 7.9 average put them well ahead of the Norwegian team who came fourth and was only 0.1 behind the French in second.

Head of Delegation and BPA Vice President John Smyth said: "The guys just went for it and threw everything into each round. Their determination and skill paid off against a class field. With a bit of help and support, Mikey Lovemore and *Euphoria* displayed real potential World Champion qualities."

In the 4-way, *4mula* were fresh from their silver medal-winning performance at the UK Nationals, and had a good meet to finish fifth overall and fourth in Europe with a 17.5 average. *Eclipse* didn't have their best meet but still managed 14th with 14.8, and *Phoenix* were just behind in 15th with 12.4.

John Smyth continues: "In 8-way, the *Awkward Turtles* had very little experience together but our Chairman, Martin Soulsby, contacted the Dutch team and in particular Gary Smith to 'look after them'. Well, Gary – one of the best FS jumpers and coaches in the world – gave them more than an hour of coaching with the rest of the Dutch team, followed by many more coaching sessions as the competition progressed and all for no charge. Why? Because they won the hearts of everybody at the comp, along with all the rest of the

UK delegation. In the end, the Dutch team were queuing up to help them. The *Turtles* were worried that their scores would reflect badly on Team GB, but the opposite happened. As I said to them, "Even the Queen was new once". They showed such an enthusiasm and determination to succeed that yet again demonstrated the UK's strength and depth in FS which makes us the envy of the world. I was very proud of all our delegation, and they represented their country and the BPA with distinction."



Medal winners Mikey Lovemore, Dave Pacey, Paul Capsey and Sean Freeman



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/OLOWEBB

Check out *Euphoria's* World Cup footage at the link above!

GOOD NEWS FROM PETERLEE

George Marshman of

Carville, Durham has made a tandem skydive at the age of 96. Former soldier George made the jump at Skydive Academy, Peterlee last month.

This photo of George was taken by the Instructor who was wearing a handycam. Handycam was trialed and then introduced to the UK via STC in 2014.

Separately, Skydive Academy was the first of 100 small businesses to be featured nationally as part of Small Business Saturday – well done to them for two pieces of positive publicity for our sport.

#SmallBizzSatUK

96 and flying!



Onward and upward with New-Age POPS

Gone are the days of dodgy dockings and terrible tracking as we saw the arrival of experienced multi-plane big-way jumpers for our POPS Big-way Record attempt.

Langar Boogie 2 in September proved to be the ideal venue for our four-plane event and it turned out to be an exceptional event. Almost all of the team of 50+ participants made it onto the record attempt group and those that didn't continued jumping together in anticipation of rejoining the group at some point.

This was a group on a mission and the mission was to beat the 36-way record which had stood since 2006.

The weather played ball, on the whole, and we managed four jumps on Thursday and then four more on Friday. The Saturday proved to be a little frustrating as the cloud cover limited us to only one jump.

All the jumps went well and, with Dave Morris and Phil Curtis joining the organising team, it looked like success was on the cards. The discipline in the formation, coupled with good tracking and safe canopy handling, made this the best POPS big-way group that I have ever assembled. We all made a bunch of new friends while meeting up with existing ones too and this proved to be the most feel-good group it's been my pleasure to have been with.

The number 36 was exceeded on three occasions with linked-up formations in



Almost a record,
by Nigel Rowlan



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/Q4KHAZ](https://tinyurl.com/Q4KHAZ)

Check out the record attempts at the link above, with thanks to Gary Powell

excess of 40 people, but we unfortunately saw one or two grips not quite being made – so no record.

Constant mutterings about making this an annual event were heard and I have been told in no uncertain terms that I will be pulling this together again next year as people have gone away with a goal in mind and with stars in their eyes.

If you want to be included in our big-way formation next year and have been dithering on the sidelines, then grab loads of multi-plane experience and get in touch with me. You'll love the atmosphere and the future success.

Jack Felstead
jackfelstead@uwclub.net

Stratosphere jump on TED

Google executive Alan Eustace jumped from more than 135,000ft in October 2014, notably with very little fanfare. Despite breaking Felix Baumgartner's 2012 altitude record, Eustace has maintained an extremely humble attitude towards his inspirational project – so much so that, until recently, there was very little information in the mainstream media about his jump.

That has now changed by way of a TED talk

entitled 'I leapt from the stratosphere. Here's how I did it'. TED is an organisation which shares "ideas worth spreading" via short videoed presentations, mostly under 18 minutes. Eustace's talk is just 15 minutes long and is already heading rapidly towards a million views.

The talk itself is well worth your time, but the comments section below is also priceless as Eustace answers questions about science, planning, logistics and skydiving. He also says: "The project was self-funded. Only my wife knows the cost, and she keeps reminding me of it!"

ted.com

Survey 2015

Congratulations to Elise Sharp, who was the lucky name out of the hat of 519 people who completed the Mag Survey 2015. Elise has won a HEDCAM Ten80 camera, and we are currently analysing all the feedback in order to make your magazine even better. The headline news is very good, with scores of people saying the Mag had inspired them to try something, some interesting suggestions on how we could improve the Mag and a lot of happy skydivers whose kind words mean a lot to us. As ever, thanks to everyone who got in touch.

Revenge results

Twenty-six teams competed in the Bodyflight Revenge 4-way meet on September 26. Congratulations to *Voodoo* in AAA, *Why So Serious* in AA, Swiss-team *Air-W* in A and *ChatterChaps* in Rookie. *Voodoo* can be proud of a clean 23.4 average, despite five months of no training.

We need your photos!

We always need your photos to show off in print, but more so than ever at this time of year. The December issue will include the free 2016 BPA Calendar, so we are looking for high-quality shots of BPA members and BPA dropzones. The deadline is November 1 and the Calendar is printed in landscape format, not portrait.

Speed 8 results

The Speed 8 Nationals took place in glorious blue skies at Sibson on September 26-27. Congratulations to *Raykip8* who took gold yet again, *Oh, w8* who won silver and team *Mayhem* in bronze.

New Euro Head Up Record

Well done to Brits Adam Mattacola, Weed Stoodley, Paul Cooper, Gary Crisp, Alex Dand and Emma Scrivener, who were all part of the new European 21-way Head Up Record on September 26 at Empuriabrava. The formation was a 6-way round with three 3-way and three 2-way whackers attached.

Chris Jones

Tragically, there has been a fatality since the last issue of this magazine – the first UK skydiving fatality for more than two and a half years. Chris Jones, the Chairman of the Dropzone Defence Fund, was killed after an extremely hard parachute opening which incapacitated him. He did not make any inputs to his spiralling canopy and landed very hard. Chris was 61, with more than 1,000 jumps and had been dispatching static line students. The BPA Board of Inquiry recommended "that parachutists should be reminded of the importance of packing their parachutes in a manner to minimise the likelihood of openings that could cause injury to the parachutist or damage to the equipment".

CP GP

The series of three Canopy Piloting Grand Prix competitions on Dunkeswell's swoop pond is now complete. This was a new event for 2015, and competitors could enter either the Advanced or Pro categories. There is no lower category than Advanced as swooping is not an appropriate discipline unless you are at least 'advanced'!

Congratulations to Scott Mackenzie, who won the Grand Prix series in the Advanced category, and to Dan Guest, who won the Pro category. This makes Dan the first-ever overall CP Grand Prix Champion. He has just taken delivery of his new Petra 57, which doesn't look much bigger than my slider...



*Dan Guest,
by Rob Lloyd*

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BPA Skydive the Expo 2016

Saturday 30 January 2016 at EMCC,
University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RJ
skydivetheexpo.co.uk

Once again, we've negotiated some great prices for members and their guests to visit BPA Skydive the Expo, including the BPA AGM, in Nottingham on Saturday 30 January 2016. Members, their guests and the public are cordially invited to the Expo. You're welcome as day visitors, for which there's no charge. Alternatively why not come to the Gala Dinner and stop over?

BPA AGM 2016

The AGM is at 10:30 in the Theatre at EMCC and it is open to BPA Members and their guests. Only full Members may vote, but voting by proxy is available for Members unable to attend (BPA Form 270).

Following a period of consultation with members over the summer, BPA Council (the Board of Directors) is now formulating a plan to change its composition from 15 elected seats, each with a one year tenure – implying a latent business risk that all the seats could change at the same time (although that has never happened) – to a new arrangement, following best practice, with a reduction in the size of Council to 12 elected seats comprising ten elected BPA members and two independent non-executive directors from outside the sport with specific skills and experience to help progress BPA's mission and vision. This will ensure that Council includes individuals who are truly independent and focused on what is best for all the membership.

The plan is for the period of tenure to increase from one to three years, phased so that one third of the seats come up for election each year. It is also planned that these changes, together with transitional arrangements, will be phased in over a period of a few years, to be recommended by Council to the AGM, and that they will require a three-quarters majority to carry. The special resolutions are currently being drafted with legal advice and the plan is for

them to be included in the AGM agenda which is to be published in the December Mag. More is available at bpa.org.uk/member/governance/

Brian Cumming stood down as a Council Member on 5 September. By custom and practice, casual vacancies are not filled.

BPA Skydiving Awards Presentation Ceremony

This will follow the AGM in the Theatre in the morning and nominations are invited for:

BPA Taz Causer Experienced Skydiver of the Year Award

This is for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nomination giving the name of your nominee with reasons – no more than 250 words, please – to the BPA Office by Wednesday 25 November 2015. Council will consider nominations received at its meeting in December.

BPA Star Awards 2015

We're asking A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service. Have you received a shining example of customer service at a BPA Affiliated Parachute Training Organisation from another BPA member – service above and beyond the norm that goes the extra mile? Service that's made a real difference by helping you to stay in the sport, to achieve your next goal or by giving you that all-important extra support just when you needed it most?

Have you received Customer Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition? For full eligibility criteria and details of how to make a nomination, visit bpa.org.uk/star/. Closing date: Wednesday 4 November 2015.

BPA Safety Innovation Award for Sport Parachuting

Sponsored by BPA insurance partners Romero Sports & Leisure and Liberty Mutual Insurance – with a £5,000 cash prize – see bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-innovation-award/. Closing date: Monday 2 November 2015.

Afternoon meetings and seminars

As always, there will be a full programme of meetings and seminars during the afternoon – keep an eye on the Expo website for more. The programme will include US-based international skydiving marketing and promotional expert James La Barrie, who will be speaking on The Way Ahead. It's not too late to offer a non-commercial seminar for the programme which aims to educate, entertain and enthral about all aspects of our fantastic sport.

BPA Annual Gala Dinner

Tickets for the Saturday night Gala Dinner at the EMCC will be on sale, priced £26 each, from November. Please telephone the BPA Office on 0116 278 5271 (M-F, 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00). For the menu, please see the Expo website. If required, the vegetarian option must be ordered, and any special dietary requirements notified, at the time of booking.



To find out more about tradestands, advertising opportunities and commercial details for BPA Skydive the Expo 2016, please contact Estelle Scott at estelle.scott@archantdialogue.co.uk

NEW RATINGS

CSBI

David Eatock
Becky Hill
Jack Bradford
Freya Lees

AFFBI

Edward Moss
Paul Capsey

TBI

KJ Bull
Henry Van Halewyn
James Page
Sam Carter

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Colin Stevenson
Marcus Muir-Smith
Simon Soper
Charlie Wakeham
Don Tomkinson
Linley Ewing

AFFI

Charlotte Pope
Brian Cumming
Tanya Quigley
David (Bobby)
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Tom Grady
Danny French
Richard Thompson
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Ian Cain
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Drew Moon
Jakub Langowski
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James France
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Andrei Baranya
Adam Dare
Sam Carter
James Page

Advanced Instructor

Stacey Canning
Steve Saunders

Instructor Examiner

Matty Holford

Advanced Packer

Roman Cnotalski (S)



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Notice is hereby given that a **General Meeting** of Members of the Association will be held at the BPA Office, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF on **Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 18:00**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday 6 December 2014.
3. To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and the Report of the Auditors for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.
4. To confirm the re-appointment of the Auditors, and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing financial year.
5. To set the Provisional Membership Subscription for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2016.

A Member entitled to attend and vote at the AGM is entitled to appoint a proxy (who does not need to be a Member) to attend and vote in their place. A form of proxy is available from the BPA website (enter 270 in the forms search box) or on request from the BPA Office.

ISSUED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL OF BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION LTD
2 SEPTEMBER 2015



Stand for BPA Council 2016

Nominations for BPA Council 2016 are invited. This year, independent administration services are being provided by the company Mi-Voice. Nominations are invited at the dedicated Mi-Voice nominations site www.mi-nomination.com/bpa, which sets out the eligibility criteria and gives a role profile of a Council Member (a Director of BPA Ltd). The close of nominations is in late November 2015. If there are more valid nominations than the 15 available elected seats, an election will be held. Council 2016 will take office after the AGM.

'BPA Stay safe' teardrop flags

Look out for the 'BPA Stay safe' teardrop flag at dropzones. They're a reminder of the over-arching purpose of the BPA: to help to keep skydiving, and skydivers, as safe as possible. Green is the colour for safe condition and we hope the green flags will encourage us all to watch out for ourselves and each other so that we can all continue to stay safe.



New lease of life for BPA headquarters

Tired out, life-expired, shabby, down-at-heel and not fit for purpose. But it's home: our home.

We refer, if you haven't guessed, to the BPA Office in Wharf Way, Glen Parva, about four miles south of Leicester. Council has decided that the Office building that has served the BPA and its members for more than two decades is, at long last, to get a makeover to be fit-for-purpose for the 21st century. In the words of one member who visited the Office for the first time last year, "I've read in the minutes about the need for refurbishment of the building and, having seen it, I can understand why!" Others have likened it to a warren.

The best description of the Board Room we've heard is to compare it to a bowling alley. Its long, narrow shape is far from helpful for meetings – making the Chair's job more difficult as it's human nature for informal conversations to strike up at the far end of the table. The Chair's request of "Can we have one meeting, please!" has become a catchphrase. The room lacks the flexibility to be ideal for other uses outside of meeting days, such as receiving visitors and hosting seminars, panels and on-site discussion groups and even use as a quiet area for research and study or inspection of equipment. To have such a facility on tap, customised precisely to our needs including built-in audio visual facilities linked to the office intranet rather than to have to hire an external venue, is more efficient and convenient with meetings – which are the lifeblood of a membership association such as ours – as a home, rather than an away, fixture. Indeed, there could be the possibility of

BPA hiring out self-contained meeting facilities to other organisations from time to time.

There is more than sufficient floor area in the detached building – a converted builder's merchants which had a trade sales counter on the ground floor and living accommodation above. The bathroom is still in place! We're only using the total floor area to about 75% efficiency because of a minimalist approach to conversion to office and meeting facilities back in the day. Council and staff have been looking for a better solution since 2011 and have considered a variety of options, including moving to freehold or leasehold accommodation. In new build offices on the business parks near the M1, the provision of car parking has been less than we have at present. Plans for refurbishment were drafted, but never seemed to hit the spot. Until now.

At last, we've got a refurbishment plan that devotes a quarter of the building's floor area to a new square meeting room on the ground floor which will be more than big enough for Council and the Safety and Training Committee (the BPA's biggest committee). It will be able to be divided by an acoustic partition into two to run two smaller concurrent Committee meetings – so the Competitions Committee will no longer have to meet up the road at another venue on meeting days when other committees are using the Board Room. The new room will be multifunctional with easily moveable furniture to provide for a range of other uses apart from Council and Committee meetings, and will offer us scope to do potentially all sorts of things that we simply haven't had the flexibility of space to do before.

Offices for BPA staff, currently divided between the ground and first floors, will all be located on the first floor to improve the efficiency and

effectiveness of the working environment, and provide modern facilities including a kitchenette and communal area. Improved ground floor toilet facilities will serve the meeting room and upstairs office suite. Reception, post and storage will also be based on the ground floor.

Having spent next to nothing on the building since purchase apart from the odd lick of paint, the BPA has accumulated sufficient reserves to be able to invest £0.25m to secure a bespoke headquarters building that will be fit-for-purpose in serving our members' needs for the next 25 years and beyond. Its style and finish are heavily influenced by those of nearby modern offices of public and membership associations such as the Blaby Civic Centre of Blaby Parish Council and Leicestershire Scouts' new headquarters. We're using the same architects as used by Leicestershire Scouts, Corporate Architecture Ltd of Market Harborough. The refurbishment will be modern and functional, but not over-the-top. The BPA does not need a glamorous building but a functional one.

Plans are currently being finalised for planning approval and then a timetable for the project will be drawn up. We don't yet know whether or not the office will be able to continue functioning on one floor at a time while the other floor is refurbished or whether we shall need to move to temporary accommodation for the duration of the works. Martin Soulsby, Chair of Council, says: "To continue to serve our members and our sport well, we need a headquarters building that adequately provides for the BPA's present and foreseeable future needs as flexibly as possible. After years of weighing up options, we have found the ideal solution at last. This is good news for our members, our sport and our staff."

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NATIONALS 2015



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FREEFLY AND
FREESTYLE



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WINGSUIT

THE BEST JUST GOT BETTER AS THE UK'S SKYDIVERS SHOW WHAT THEY CAN DO IN THIS BLOCKBUSTER NATIONALS 2015 SPECIAL!

4-WAY

THE ENVY OF THE WORLD AND GREAT FUN FOR THE REST OF US AT THE FS 4-WAY NATIONALS

Seventy teams were spread fairly evenly across the categories this year, with 24 AAA, 11 AA, 16 A and 19 Rookie teams, and Hibaldstow proved yet again that its well-oiled machine can simply eat through a competition like this. Three teams per Dornier, four Dorniers, less than ten minutes to competition altitude – it's a sight to behold. There were 157 lifts on Saturday alone (a UK record?) and this doesn't happen without a lot of hard work and a dedicated team of staff.

The standard of 4-way was, yet again, extremely high. Half of the AAA field of 24 teams reached a 13 average or better, and a 17 wouldn't even get you on the podium. One team delighted with their 13-point average was Estonian team *Lupus*, who have been a regular at Steve Hamilton's UK Tunnel Camps. They were visiting because they dreamed of setting a new Estonian National Record average and needed an official National competition at which to do it. They are now the new Estonian Record holders – well done, *Lupus*.

BEER O'CLOCK

Vision99 and *4mula* had been neck-and-neck in AAA after four rounds, then *4mula* had pulled ahead and *Vision99* had been playing catch-up ever since. Sunday had finished with the presentations for A and AA, but AAA had two rounds still to jump on Monday and Rookie weren't yet complete either. *4mula* were only two points ahead of *Vision99* with two rounds to go – it was all to play for. They drew again on Round 9. Then *4mula* landed triumphantly from Round 10 and player-coach Joey Jones immediately ordered a roam beer – a brave move given that there could be a jump-off and he wouldn't get past flightline if *Vision99* had pulled back the single point! His confidence was based on sound knowledge, though, as *4mula* pulled off an absolutely storming jump to edge an extra four points ahead. They even beat *SatoriXL* on that one round.

LIVE FROM HIBALDSTOW

SatoriXL did, however, win all nine of the previous rounds, finishing 24 points clear at the top, although they still provided suspense to the end. The last round was judged live in the clubhouse, going in reverse order through the top six teams who had made the final. Although *Satori*

1 Single A bronze (nearly gold!) to Future Cynics, by James Stevenson

2 AA champions Kintama, by James Stevenson

3 Local Hib team Aurora Blue, by James Stevenson

4 Overall champions Satori XL, by Rob Lloyd



had won before they even got on the aircraft for Round 10, they were chasing a new British Record average and it was within reach. They had scored 20.7 twice in previous years, and now needed to score 21 on the last round to average 20.8 overall and break this long-standing record. They turned 21 points... but bust one to finish on 20.7 yet again, third time unlucky! But watch this space – I expect this to be the last time I write about this hurdle. I think they will fly past it in 2016 as they complete 600 jumps training for the World Championships in Chicago...

GUESS WHO'S BACK?

In AA, the clear leaders were last year's single A winners, *Kintama*; great to see them stepping up a category and maintaining their speed. Their 11.5 average was well clear of silver medallists *Nobody Expects the Worst*, who finished just one point short of a 10-point average. *Wurst* have also won the overall UKSL gold.



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Fragment took the bronze with a 9-point average, and a special mention goes to joint-fourth *Chicken Mafia* for the highest score in any one round in AA, 17 on Round 3 – nice one!

UP TO ELEVEN

Single A saw an epic battle at the top of the leaderboard. There was never much doubt which three teams would be on the podium, but it was always a question of



3

where they would be stood. *Future Cynics* seemed to have it nailed, but then a dodgy final round sent them plummeting from first to third. *Blackhawk* leapfrogged past into silver, and *Tyranno4us Rex* took gold with an 11 average.

MAKING IT LOOK EASY

The Rookie winners could, if they'd wanted to, have started kneeflying halfway through Round 7, missed the plane for Round 8 and still won! *Blue Steel's* last three rounds alone would have given them eighth place, and their highest scoring round was better than the total score of each of the bottom four teams. Some might say that this must mean they competed in the wrong category – surely if you win by that much then you should be competing in A or AA? But I disagree – if the purpose of coming up through the categories is to reach AAA with the skills to succeed, then you need to build a solid random base before moving on to blocks. *Blue Steel's* 13.5 Rookie average does exactly that. AAC *Blue Eagles* and *Fantastic 4* took silver and bronze respectively.

AND A DISHONOURABLE MENTION GOES TO...

This year's Best Team Name, aka the 'Get Yourself in the Mag for your Humour if not your Skydiving Skills' Award, can only go to one team. Nice one, *Ice Bank Mice Elf* – you gave the person on the tannoy a tough job!



NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS

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1 *The Ex-Presidents on the hill, by Gary Wainwright*

2 *Intermediate silver medallists Remote Control Squirrels, by Rob Lloyd*

3 *Definitely not geeking on block 19, by Gary Wainwright*

4 *Thunderbirds in training, by James Stevenson*

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8-WAY

WHEN A SCRATCH TEAM BEATS THE REIGNING CHAMPIONS, YOU KNOW IT'S A SPECIAL COMP...

For about the last 15 years, you could almost write this article before the event had even happened. The same core members have been on teams from *VNE* to *Connexions* and now *MicroClim8*, all the while enjoying their time at the top while simultaneously willing others to rise up and knock them off the podium. They share a common love of 8-way, but have always said that they didn't want to just step aside. Instead, they'd rather be beaten fairly by the next generation of 8-way jumpers who would carry on in their footsteps and beyond.

Well, this was the year that it sort-of happened. The big news was that *MicroClim8* didn't win the gold, losing out to 'scratch' team *The Ex-Presidents* by just five points. By scratch team, though, I actually mean an assortment of international-level FS jumpers with dozens of National and World Records, 4-way and 8-way medals and World Meet experience. They had managed 17 training jumps in the days before Nationals while *MicroClim8* had changed their line-up significantly, with some going across to the rival team. It made for an excellent close competition and delight for several first-time 8-way National Champions. It was also great to see Milko and Jules from *Satori* 'do the double' by winning

both the 4-way and 8-way Nationals. This is especially impressive given the effect of maternity on Jules' season – she had her lovely baby Chloe in March and couldn't jump until June!

But has the mantle truly been passed on to the next generation, or was it more of a shuffle among the existing generation? Perhaps we should also look lower down the table, and across to the Intermediate category, to see what the future could hold. Senior bronze went to *Thunderbirds*, who narrowly missed out on their dream 10-point average and scored 99 points over ten rounds. Perhaps this is a good thing, as now they have the drive to train harder and bridge the gap into double digits and beyond. Or could the Intermediate winners, *Brownian Motion*, be part of the future? They certainly finished the weekend keen to move up to Senior and put in some training. Then there's *Awkward Turtles*, who competed in Senior. They may be relatively new to the discipline, but they have plenty of good habits, tunnel experience and enthusiasm. Finally, *Remote Control Squirrels* were the Intermediate silver medallists and are starting to reap the benefits of sticking together. This is their third year together and their exits are now awesome – one of the biggest 8-way hurdles.



4



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CF

SHAKING THINGS UP AT THE CANOPY FORMATION NATIONALS

WORDS PETE 'BIFF' THORNTON
(TEAM CRWSADERS)

We had been looking forward to the Nationals to try out our new technique and team line-up, and to see if we could benefit from the earlier date this year and enjoy the summer weather. Friday morning was met with glorious weather and a chance to get the jumping started, with the CF hardcore in the UK turning up to take to the skies once more. CFUK took a switch in events from the previous couple of years and won the 4-way Sequential event, also fielding a further two 2-way teams and showing very much where their focus was to be. A further three teams joined them in the 2-way Sequential event, with two newly formed Rookie 2-way teams also joining in. As in previous years, the *Mysterons* and Team CRWSADERS then started to battle it out for dominance in the Rotations event and CRWSADERS came out victorious.

It was great to see the progression made by all involved and some good scores coming through in each event to take into the future. There was a great friendly vibe throughout and the Sunday afternoon awards ceremony was met with cheers and thanks from all involved. For the winners, a massive well done. For all



1 CFUK, 4-way CF sequential champions. By Ming Chu

2 CRWSADERS, 4-way CF Rotations champions

taking part, let's keep it going. The accommodating Black Knights Parachute Centre made all feel welcome and kept all informed on what was going on.

CRWSADERS can't wait for the World Air Games in Dubai in December 2015, which will be amazing. We have dropped canopy size now and got a great new team dynamic going, so we are looking to use Dubai as a gauge ahead of Chicago next year. With teams training hard, new CF projects being planned and momentum gathering within the CF community, there are plenty of coaching events to get people involved. Come over and see what all this canopy bashing is all about – it is more fun than you could possibly imagine, honest.

SPEED

THERE'S GOING FAST, AND THEN THERE'S GOING SO FAST YOU WIN A MEDAL YOU DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED...

Speed has had a fantastic year and it was proven by a great turnout of 11 competitors. Mikey Lovemore, as the BPA's long-serving Speed Rep, has yet again put time and effort into coaching newcomers and running roadshows, as well as getting people involved in the ISSA competitions throughout the year. It was, therefore, brilliant to see him being rewarded with not only the gold medal as British Speed Champion 2015 but also a new British Record of 490.12kph in his penultimate round. He actually went even faster on his practice round, but it doesn't count. Never mind – turn to page 6 for news on his later performance at the World Cup, and there is still the World Air Games in Dubai to come. What a year!

Silver went to Jason Bird and bronze to James Parker, who only did his AFF in 2014 and took up Speed at a BPA Roadshow this year. Gold in the Junior category was won by Sebastiaan Mulder.

4-way competitor-turned-recent-new-freeflyer Rai Ahmed also entered the Speed competition as a learning curve and for fun. Unable to fly head down,



she experimented finding her fastest head-up position and, when the top ten went through to the semi-final and then final, she was not surprised to be sat in 11th place. However, she WAS then surprised to be awarded a gold medal

at the end of the event in the Female category that she hadn't even known existed. This is hilarious, not least because 2015 is an on-year for selection to the World Championships next year – Chicago 2016, Rai?!

1 (Clockwise from standing) Mikey Lovemore, Max Hurd, James Parker, Jason Bird and Simon Brentford. By Rob Lloyd

2 The top ten UK Speeders, by Rob Lloyd

2





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CP

ACROSS THE POND AND IN THE POND AS WELL? IT CAN ONLY BE THE CANOPY PILOTING NATIONALS...

WORDS MAX BRUFFELL

The UK Canopy Piloting Nationals were to be a little different this year, with the introduction of the Advanced category to attract more swoopers in addition to the previously used Open category.

The Advanced competition consists of all the same rounds but slightly more lenient rules and no 'Ultra class' canopies competing, allowing for a more level playing field for people who may be newer to the competition scene.

We had 22 competitors this year across the two categories, including some regular faces and some new. People travelled from all over the UK, with some even crossing the pond to get there, including Aaron Cosbey coming all the way from Northern Ireland (not quite a pond, but a puddle), Maxine Tate coming from Florida and Max Bruffell coming from Dubai.

The competition was subject to our usual summer weather constraints, with

no jumping on the first day due to wind and rain. Luckily, the weather gods smiled on us and allowed the whole nine rounds and re-jumps to be completed on the Saturday. This can only be a testament to all the guys and girls at Dunkeswell DZ and how smoothly they work together as well as the quality of their lift power!

SPEED

Saturday started with lovely clear skies and calm winds, which were to pick up by the time the first round was ready to go. The conditions were perfect for breaking records and this was proven in the first event, Speed, when the previous record was broken five times! It was first broken by Gary Davidson, followed by Brian Vacher and Wez Westley in the next round to reclaim his title. Wez then solidified his holding of the record in the third round by breaking it *again* with a time of 2.21s! The event wasn't all positive, though, with an unfortunate low turn

2





record with a run of 153.91m and secure the 100 points for this round. The following two rounds were not to be as exciting as the winds decided to drop off for them when they were held at the end of the day. The biggest difference in this event was the fact that the water drag rule, where competitors have to touch the water before flying through the gate, had been removed in Advanced to allow more of a safety margin and making it slightly easier to score.

DISTANCE RESULTS:

Open:
 Gold: Wez Westley
 Silver: Max Bruffell
 Bronze: Brian Vacher

Advanced:
 Gold: Scott Mackenzie
 Silver: Jack Bradford
 Bronze: Richie Taylor

ZONE ACCURACY

Zone Accuracy was going to prove to be a tough event with the fact that the winds were still downwind after the first Distance round, meaning we that we were to see lots of crashes and sliding through zones as competitors tried to stop before shooting out the back of the course and getting a zero. This event wasn't going to yield any big results, with the highest over all three rounds being a 74. Again, the Advanced rules were different in this event with the need to drag a water gate being removed so competitors could still get a score from a land zone.

ZONE ACCURACY RESULTS:

Open:
 Gold: Martin 'Dangerpants' Reynolds
 Silver: Dan Guest
 Bronze: Maxine Tate

Advanced:
 Gold: Jack Bradford, with a clean sweep and 300 points.

Silver: Richie Taylor
 Bronze: Peter 'Swoop' Hodges

OVERALL

The competition ran very smoothly thanks to all the Judges, volunteers and staff of the DZ and, after a gruelling nine jumps (ten for many competitors), everyone headed to the bar for the closing ceremony and prizegiving.

OVERALL RESULTS:

Open:
 Gold: Wez Westley
 Silver: Martin 'Dangerpants' Reynolds
 Bronze: Dan Guest

Advanced:
 Gold: Jack Bradford
 Silver: Richie Taylor (who only received his CP2 so he could compete the day registration closed!)
 Bronze: Scott Mackenzie

There was one more prize, the 'Rubber Duck', which was awarded to the best swimmer of the competition and this prize went to birthday boy Ian Chick. Congratulations, mate!



from one of the competitors, Joe Laming, ending in a helicopter ride and a good few weeks' recovery. Get well soon, Joe! This serves as a sobering reminder that swooping can be dangerous and anyone taking part really needs to be current and know when to abort the turn and save yourself rather than the score. N.B. I am in no way saying Joe didn't do all he could to save himself, which has been proven by the fact that he will be back to jump another day.

SPEED RESULTS:

Open:
 Gold: Wez Westley
 Silver: Brian Vacher
 Bronze: Gary Davidson

Advanced:
 Gold (joint): Richie Taylor and Jack Bradford
 Silver: Scott Mackenzie
 Bronze: Ian Chick

DISTANCE

Distance was to be yet another record-breaking event, with the first round seeing a perfect downwind push through the gates that allowed Max Bruffell to break the old

- 1 Steve Doran in training, by Kev Coffey
- 2 Max Bruffell on the pond
- 3 Overall National Champion Wez Westley
- 4 The UK's top swoopers
- 5 Chicky's ducky!

1

“It’s often said that head up is easy to learn but hard to master and head down is hard to learn but easy to master. This couldn’t be truer”



VFS

A NEWCOMER'S EYE VIEW OF THE VFS NATIONALS

WORDS TIM GAINES AND GREG LUCAS

“How the heck do you get into VFS?!” Those were my thoughts a few years ago at my first FS Nationals while watching a few VFS teams complete some crazy-looking mixed head up/head down formations. I passed it off as one of those things that you probably would have to own a dropzone to be able to compete in. Besides, I really enjoyed the competitive side of 4-way and wanted to carry on with that... until I started freeflying.

Fast forward a few years and flat flying quickly got put to the side in favour of zooming around the sky. But that itch for the competitive side still remained... I had to get into VFS!

The biggest hurdle to overcome is being able to fly static head down. A huge number of articles could be written on learning head down alone, so my single biggest piece of advice would be to save up and try to do as much as possible as fast as you can. Waiting months or even weeks between jumps/tunnel just results in forgetting what you learned last time.

It’s often said that head up is easy to

learn but hard to master and head down is hard to learn but easy to master. This couldn’t be truer. Once you are flying head down, moving around and taking grips is as natural as it is on your belly. The VFS dive pool is made up of a lot of all head down points, mixed head up/down and a single all head up point – the ones with head up in are far harder.

TEAM

The idea of starting a VFS team came about in mid-2014. A few of us who all started at university and routinely jumped and flew in the tunnel together thought to give it a go at the 2014 Nationals as a scratch team, just about managing a one point average. Having had a great time

1 *Training in Dubai, by Jim Harris*

2 *Inside the formation over Dunkeswell*

at Nationals, it was clear that this was a discipline we wanted to continue with. A minor line-up change, hours of deliberation on the name and many spreadsheets later, *Omni* was formed. We wanted to give this a serious go for the 2015 season and see how much we could improve, both individually and as a team, in our first year. There were certain challenges, one member living abroad being principal among them, but we were confident we could learn a lot and have fun doing it.

TUNNEL

Our first step was learning the dive pool. In normal FS, there are four categories and teams generally progress and learn a bit of new stuff each year. VFS in the UK only has one category and there are



31 blocks and randoms to learn. This is quite a daunting task as the dive pool appears to be written in hieroglyphics. With some help from the *Bad Lieutenants* during one of their excellent tunnel camps and after around an hour of flying, we had seen everything a few times. Over the winter, we flew several more hours of tunnel to fully grasp the dive pool before we started jumping. Throughout the year, we aimed for between one and two hours of tunnel a month – with around half of it coached by Adam Mattacola.

SKY

We planned for one major training camp early in the year and a smaller one later for a total of approximately 130 jumps, and then we packed our bags and headed out to sunny Dubai in late February to meet our coach Jim Harris. One of our biggest shocks during the first few days was how much harder it is in the sky! There are no walls to help with referencing and the rig throws off your transitions.

For the exits, we started with launching everyone head down – a very solid launch. We then tried launching with one person head up and then two head up, both opposite and side-by-side. While single head up launches went well, two head up proved to have mixed results ranging from great to catastrophic. As we would not be confident trying this at Nationals and with limited jumps in which to practice everything, we played it safe by launching everything head down and transitioning on the hill if needed.

This year was to be the first time VFS Nationals took place at Dunkeswell from

their Beech99. We knew that training the exits and the hill from the Beech would be invaluable. To try and guarantee the weather and as we were running out of holiday allowance, we decided to go to sunny Empuriabrava in July – during a heat wave! Nonetheless, we managed another 50 jumps and were starting to see everything we'd learned in the tunnel being translated to the sky.

NATIONALS

Nationals weekend rolled around and we were all back in the UK and ready to go. A final 20 minutes of tunnel on Thursday evening prior to the competition to get back into it and a full day of training was planned for the Friday. Sadly, the weather gods gifted us with a day of low cloud, drizzle and high winds. Having not jumped together for more than a month, we were not feeling particularly prepared!

We knew our biggest rivals at Nationals would be *QFX*. They had changed their line-up a lot this year, so maybe we were in with a chance. We hoped we could at least give them a run for their money and possibly clinch a couple of rounds. The competition began largely as we were expecting and we were trailing *QFX* by a couple of points from the first round. Heading through the middle, we managed to pull back to only one point behind but it was clear this was not going to be easy.

Round 7 was a toughie and we knew it was going to be challenging for all of the teams. We just about managed to pull off the tricky exit block and held it together to gain a three-point lead going in to the final. The pressure was



3 Block inter at Bedford

4 Training the camera angle, by Jim Harris

5 Exit and hill transition, by Jim Harris

6 Turning blocks, by Jim Harris

on and we scrapped any thought of launching anything but the very easiest head down exit. We managed to retain the three-point lead to win the gold by 57 points to 54 over eight rounds!

All that remained was the medals, the party and a big thank you to the judges, the dropzone and the other teams for making it such a fantastic competition.

NEXT YEAR?

We have already started planning our training for next year and look forward to a few more competitions than this year. There's also the first FAI Indoor World Championships coming up in October too. It would be great to see more teams turning up for Nationals; it's a brilliant environment to learn the static skills we often forget when there's so much good angle flying to be had. If you fancy trying your hand at VFS, then get in touch on our Facebook page at facebook.com/OmniVFS. Finally, a big thanks to Cookie, Boogieman and UPT for helping us get kitted out in some matching gear!



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FREEFLY AND FREESTYLE

WHEN IN DOUBT, DUEL IN THE SKY AND LOOK AWESOME DOING IT!

Both Freefly and Freestyle are divided into A and B categories. B is for head up flyers who are new to Artistics competition, while A is open to all and hotly contested by a small number of teams.

Freefly A saw yet another re-match of *Varial* and *Euphoria*. *Euphoria* would be representing Team GB at the World Cup just a few weeks later; *Varial* were arriving straight from a training camp in Empuria. *Euphoria* beat *Varial* by 0.8 points in 2014 and *Varial*'s Joel Strickland had completed a Judges' rating this year in order to better understand the discipline and how to hit the high scores. Both teams attended last year's World Championships with *Euphoria* placing fourth and *Varial* sixth. This was going to be another epic battle, and flatflyers and freeflyers alike stood in awe as each round was displayed on the screens around Hibaldstow.

In the end, the meet was *Varial*'s and they matched or beat *Euphoria* on every round to finish a point and a half clear. A special mention goes to *Volosity*, who took bronze and won Round 2 with an

1



“ This was going to be another epic battle and freeflyers and flatflyers alike stood in awe ”

2



1 *Maddy and Kim of Terminal Atrocity Freefly B*, by Ming Chu

2 *Double National Champions Varial*, by Rob Lloyd

excellent compulsory routine. It is noteworthy that all three of the teams on the podium could be considered to live in the tunnel, with most of them being employed as full-time Tunnel Instructors or Coaches. The standard of not only Artistics but also of FS has rocketed since the first UK tunnels were opened in 2005 – our sport is richer as a result.

Varial also won the Freestyle A gold with an impressive routine which included a cool 'spacewalk' move by Joel. He would walk a slow backflip, ➔

NATIONALS HIGHLIGHTS

placing his feet along the inside of an imaginary wheel around himself – like a street mime with special superpowers. He and cameraflyer Adam Dare became the first people in more than a decade to do the double by winning both Freestyle and Freestyle *and* they managed it all in one day, including 14 jumps and packing for themselves – a pretty successful day.

Freestyle A silver went to *Revolution Freestyle*: a deserved success for performer Emma Pilkington who has trained hard and even gone part-time at her teaching job in order to take on a part-time job in a tunnel and train more. Bronze was won by *Freestyle Euphoria*, who are more used

3 Freestyle B champions Tom and Eve, by Rob Lloyd

to being on the top of the podium but who had an alternate performer for the meet. Regular cameraflyer Andy Godwin filmed fellow Tunnel Instructor Ryan Arkle, who did his 60th jump during the competition but whose videos show he can clearly out-ninja most of us with 20 times as many jumps!

In the B categories, the lesson was that training pays off – who knew, hey? Freestyle B was won by Tom Shorten and Eve Mason, performing as *Clumsy Ninjas* on about 25 training jumps. Meanwhile, Freestyle B was always going to go to *Osiris Freestyle* – Hannah Parker, Elise Sharp and Roy Wimmer-Jaglom.



WINGSUIT

The Wingsuit Nationals completed successfully on September 13-14. There were 31 Performance competitors (including seven internationals from five different countries) and nine Acrobatics competitors.

Performance measures the fastest horizontal speed, furthest distance and longest time to travel a vertical kilometre. These three events are completed on separate jumps, with each competitor completing two rounds of each, and there are Rookie, Intermediate and Senior categories. Rookie Open was won by Stuart Perry of Australia and Rookie National by David Francis. Paul Shortman won both the Open and National Intermediate categories. Senior saw a clean sweep by GB competitors, with gold for Spike Harper, silver for Joseph Likierman and bronze for Paul Cain. Spike's total score was 294.5, out of a possible maximum 300.

RECORDS

Spike Harper set a new National Distance Record of 4.398km, beating

Tony Uragallo's previous record of 4.221km. Jackie Harper set a new Female World, European and National Time Record, improved from 78.4 to 80 seconds. Finally, Udit Thapar from India set new Asian and Indian records for Time, Distance and Speed.

ACROBATICS

Nine competitors means three teams – two performers and a cameraflyer per team. *Per Aeris* (GBR) won the Advanced Acrobatics category with *Aer Lingus* coming second. *Tutti Frutti* took gold in the Intermediate category with some lovely smooth and precise flying.

TROPHIES

Paul Fletcher has made the most beautiful trophies that the organisers have ever seen. One of the competitors remarked that a FI winner would be delighted to be presented with one of these and the organisers agree – they are pure genius.

Full Performance results are available at: tinyurl.com/WingsuitNationals2015



1 One of the amazing trophies, complete with moving parts!

2 (L-R) Medallists Joseph Likierman, Spike Harper and Paul Cain



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/QEF2DR8

Check out the exits from the Wingsuit Nationals!



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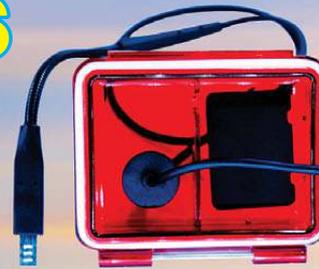


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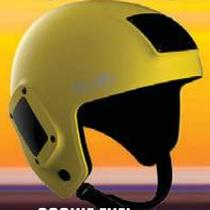


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1

FLOCKING TO GLORY

WORDS DAVE BUTTERELL
PHOTOS MARK HARRIS, DAVID HAYGARTH



This year has seen a surge of interest in wingsuit flying of all disciplines and much of this is due to the formal ratification of those disciplines by the FAI, thus allowing National and International competitions and record attempts to be held. This year saw the FAI ratify official criteria for judging wingsuit performance flying and 'large formation records' for wingsuits and we have already seen the first official FAI World Cup in Wingsuit Performance Flying at Netheravon and the first FAI Wingsuit World Record for large formations at Flanders in Belgium. An additional large formation World Record attempt is due to take place in October at Skydive Perris.

Big-way wingsuit flying has progressed over recent years from large, unstructured groups to tightly flown, slot-specific formations. The FAI decided upon a simple grid, overlaid on a photograph of a formation, to judge if it meets the desired standard and the grid can be scaled and rotated but the size ratio must be kept in place. This means wingsuiters must fly a formation of a pre-declared shape and size and fly relative to each other in order to be placed within the grid to set a record.

BEST OF BRITISH

Having participated in large wingsuit formations including the official USPA

IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR WINGSUITING ALREADY AND NOW THERE'S A UK RECORD TOO. HERE'S THE INSIDE STORY

Record 68-way and the 100-way in 2012, Mark Harris, Rob Gray and I decided to become organisers and run a number of skills camps throughout 2015 – culminating in an attempt to set the first British Wingsuit Formation Record. We were fortunate to arrange for the British Record attempt to also be an official qualifying event for the forthcoming World Record.

Our aims for the year were to host fun, safe events that provided an opportunity for participants to learn the skills required to take part in large wingsuit formations. Three weekends were held at UK Parachuting Sibson, Black Knights Parachute Centre and Skydive Hibaldstow.

The first weekend saw a large turnout of more than 20 wingsuiters looking for large formation coaching as well as dynamic and vertical flying and one-on-one skills. Whichever group people were in, the required skills for big-way flying were taught: safe stable exits, controlled approaches to a slot, flying relative to others in a formation, on-level break-offs and safe deployment and canopy control. The weekend culminated in a single plane 14-way attempt which highlighted the difficulty of accurate, relative slot flying and gave a great learning opportunity on which to build upon during the year.

1 *Inside the flock,*
by David Haygarth

2 *Exit, by Mark Harris*

The following two weekends were weather-affected, but they saw a good turnout from a core group of flyers looking to attend the British and potentially World Records. Roger Hughes welcomed us to Black Knights and ably led a number of formations that continued to build on the skills learnt previously. The third and final warm-up weekend was at the location of the record attempt – Skydive Hibaldstow. Though we only managed two jumps all weekend due to the weather, they were of a high quality and showed a number of people how far they had come over the events and the year so far. →



UK WINGSUIT RECORD

THAT TRICKY FIRST STEP

The record weekend itself had been long in the planning. In addition to the formation planning, a great deal of work had been done by Noel and the staff at Skydive Hibaldstow which included gaining the permissions required to enable the pilots to fly an extended range for our record attempts. This allowed the record formations to fly in a single straight line back to the dropzone from 2.5 miles out. We had the people and the planes for multi-plane formations and, for once, the weather appeared to be on our side.

A great deal of groundwork was done prior to jumping and this allowed everyone taking part to know their role in the formation from exit through to approach and break-off - visualising positions in the formation and having the opportunity to view sightlines and the spacing is critical for large wingsuit formations. This was mostly done through numerous walkouts and standing and lying on pre-prepared spots on the ground, all being necessary to achieve a good level of understanding and allow people to feel at ease.

The first attempt was a 19-way from two aircraft, which for many attending was the largest formation of any kind they had participated in and their first multi-plane lift. Though it did not meet the required standard, it was a safe, fun and very successful jump. The pilots flew well, distance and navigation was spot on and 14 people were within the required spacing. A second attempt soon followed and, though we were no closer to meeting the grid requirements, everyone had relaxed and the formation was looking better.

Then followed a weather hold, a bit of down time and time to plan. Taking some advice from the on-site judges and those with experience of record attempts, the difficult decision was taken to split into two smaller groups. This was to try and ensure we achieved a record on which we could build. The final jumps of the day saw a 6-way and then a 13-way record attempt. Needless to say, the 13-way didn't meet the criteria and we ended the day having had fun and achieving many firsts - but with no record.

3



WHILE THE GOING'S GOOD

Day two was expected to be cloudy, but we were greeted with fine sunny weather.

The decision was taken to stick to the plan from the previous day and attempt another 13-way with the same group from the previous evening. After further groundwork to walk through the dive and refresh memories, the jump was on. Though it felt a little scrappy in the air, there was a general feeling that it had gone better than the night before. After choosing a single photograph of the formation, we were able to overlay the FAI grid and scale it to fit. The entire wingsuit group turned up for the debrief, only to find the Judges sitting in the room already. We'd done it! The first British Record for large wingsuit formations had been set!

The decision had already been taken to increase the 6-way from the previous day to a 12-way, using key flyers and positions from the larger formation to build it up. Now we'd set a record, we decided to try and go one better and increased the size to 14. This group, some of whom had been struggling the previous day, took off for their attempt. On return, there were smiles all round - it had gone very well.

3 The new UK record 14-way, by Mark Harris

4 A flock of flockers, by Mark Harris

The video looked good and there was a sense that a second record had been set.

Our priorities for the weekend were threefold: a safe event, a fun event and to set a record. It turns out we actually set two records and the 14-way group had achieved an almost picture perfect formation. In doing so, it meant that everyone who attended the weekend had been able to take part on a record jump.

We now had time for a final go at another multi-plane formation. A 20-way was organised and, with the pressure off, we all got to have fun and enjoy it knowing a record was already set. The 20-way proved elusive but, given more time and jumps, we may have had it.

JUST GETTING STARTED

The build up to and the record weekend itself were a great learning opportunity for all involved. There was clearly a huge improvement in individual skills and knowledge of large wingsuit formation flying over the course of the events and, as organisers, we learned a huge amount ourselves and now appreciate the challenges faced when arranging such an event. However, the outcome made it so worthwhile. We're pleased to say that a number of British Record participants have received and accepted invites to the Perris World Record, where they'll learn even more and maybe even bag another record...

We truly appreciate the help and advice received from Noel and Skydive Hibaldstow, the BPA, and Kate Charters and David McMinn (the on-site Judges). We'd also like to thank Mark Harris and Andy Ford for the video and stills and all those who supported and attended these events.

British wingsuiting is gaining momentum and recognition and we hope to have played a small part in that. Records are meant to be broken, but first you've got to set one. If setting these two means it encourages others to further improve, then this year has really has been a success. ●

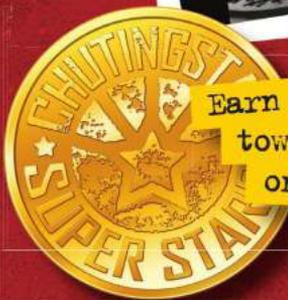
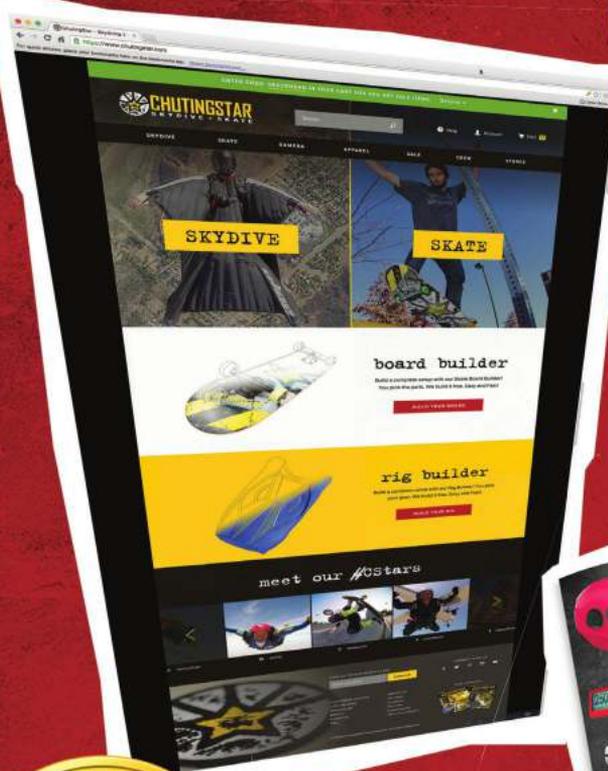
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LUCKY 13

WHO SAYS 13 IS UNLUCKY? JAMMED DOORS, SMOKE-FILLED PLANES AND BUSTED OXYGEN COULDN'T STOP THE 164-WAY HEAD DOWN WORLD RECORD IN CHICAGO!

WORDS WEED STOODLEY
PHOTOS BRIAN BUCKLAND, GUSTAVO CABANA AND NORMAN KENT

How time flies. How quickly three years pass. It's been three years since the 138-way Head Down World Record was set and Chicago played host to previous events, so where better for it to return to? Under the experienced eye of Rook Nelson, his staff and an assortment of legendary organisers, Skydive Chicago prepared once again to take on the challenge.

This time, the magic number was to be 170 – all of whom could fit into seven planes. On paper, it was doable. I repeat: *on paper.*

Running alongside the epic Summer Fest event, the dropzone was busy and exciting. The massive auditorium was made ready for those tentative and nervous debriefs.

Leading up to the event, trials and training camps had taken place and invites were hard to come by. The theme of the organisers' brief at them all was 'SAFETY' and it didn't matter how badass you were; your ability to fly



1

1 The new 164-way Head Down World Record, by Brian Buckland

2 Brits Gary Crisp, Paul Cooper and Weed Stoodley on oxygen on their way to altitude for another record attempt. By Norman Kent

3 Dirtdiving, by Brian Buckland

safely, during and, most importantly, on break-off was imperative.

VORSPRUNG DURCH TECHNIK

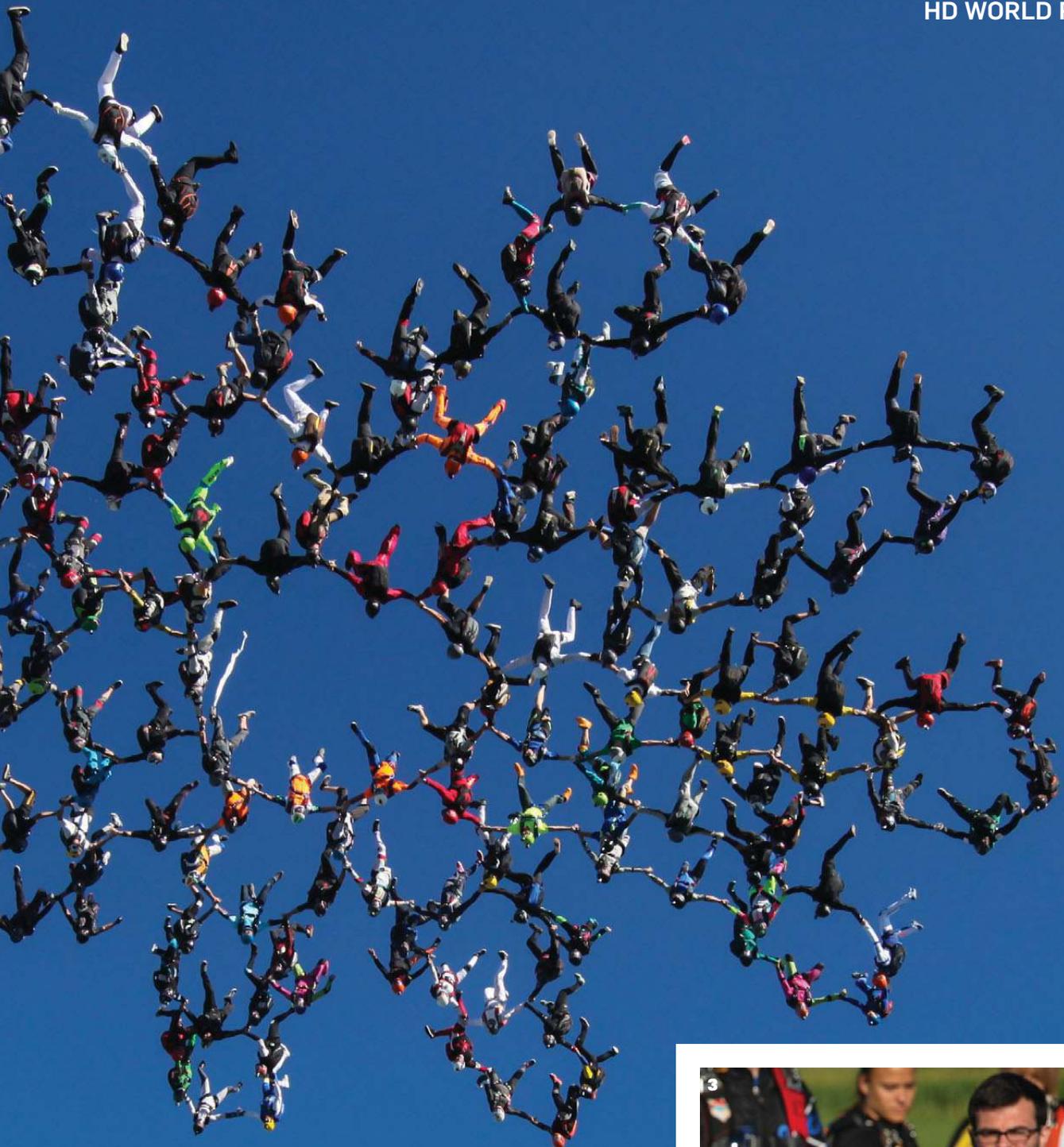
The formation was already decided and would comprise a 10-way base and five first pods linked by bridges on which pods were also building. Just for fun, there would be some whackers within the formation along the pod lines and the exit order had been engineered too.

How hard could it be? Rook gave the welcoming speech and, with the niceties out of the way, we got down to business.

Head down formations are fast, and so the majority of the formation floats. The plan would be: two minute run call, "Be ready!", red light, "Door open, oxygen stowed!", green light, climb out (well, in Otters), wait for relevant key... then "GO!"

2





And so it began. Each attempt was a feat in itself, but everyone was reminded that all they had to do was “their job” and – most importantly – to do it safely. Keeping the formation symmetrical was another must, otherwise slots would be closed out. “Level, slot, dock” was a given, along with “Calm and orderly fashion” being uppermost in our visualisation.

With a bench that read like the *Who’s Who* of awesomeness, the 170 people who were invited knew that what they had was just a starting slot – keeping it was not a given. At this level, there was little room for mistakes or complacency and neither was there any hiding when the organiser’s axe was upon you.

A day of warm-ups with 40- and 50-ways allowed the base and those breaking in to practise timing and getting closed quickly

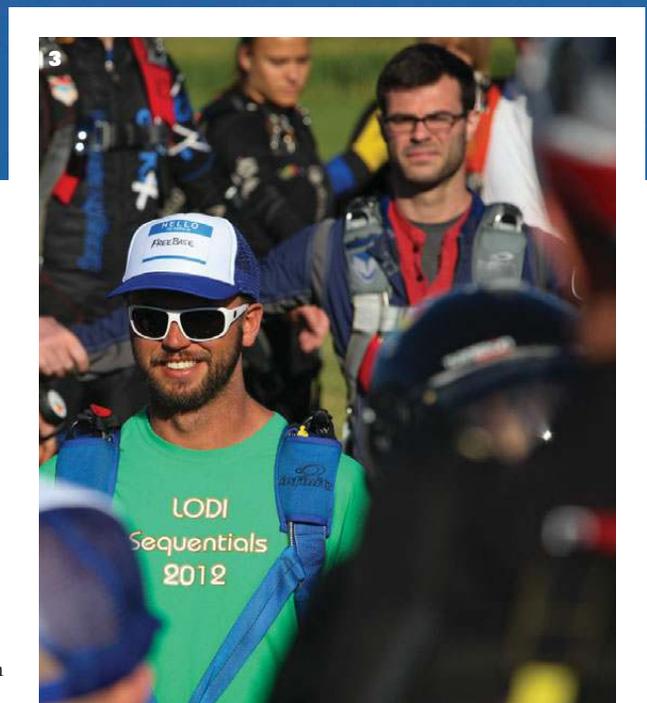
ready for pods and bridges to build. Then it was time for the real thing.

The sheer logistics of loading and flying more than 170 skydivers past 19,500ft in close formation and ensuring good communication was never going to be easy. The pilots flew a tight V-shaped formation, with a Sherpa in the lead, two and three Otters echeloned to the sides and a Skyvan in the rear.

Super floater Mike Swanson left the lead plane, smoke canister alight. Then came a second streamer, indicating right and left trails to exit. Seconds later, out came the base and, at last, the divers.

CORKED!

The usual timing glitches were ironed out, communications improved and, even from the outset, whole sections were →





built well and were building further. But, jump by jump, a more basic problem became evident – corking. Three years previously, the last big-way experience manifested with overflowing and its dangers. This time, there was an ever-increasing talent base but tunnel hours were causing the majority of problems. The dirty word for the event became “Shelf.” It may look cool, but it was now a big NO NO in Rook’s debriefs.

Inherent with flying the shelf position of both legs back and arms forward, the static nature of big-way and requiring the arms to take docks means any knock from behind has no arms or forward leg to balance the movement. However, the shuttlecock nature of the daffy allows the legs to act as dual directional balance and the arms are available so, even if someone burbles a leg, the other one can assist.

AND BREATHE...

Another problem was hypoxia. There was

oxygen from 11,000ft but, with lifts taking up to an hour with a go-around, there were tales from each plane of erratic behaviour, blue lips and comic moments. Using the ‘hypoxic buddy’ system and briefings from Melissa Pemberton (of world aerobic fame) on fighting hypoxia somewhat improved matters, but it was always a worry. Of course, hypoxia does not make for good formation building and a few of those cut blamed their uncharacteristic lapses in performance on it.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION... OR NOT

With so many planes, so many people and so many variables, getting it spot on was not easy. Even so, the formation was still only a couple out. So close, yet again.

As the days passed, the bench swapped and changed, the good and the great lost and gained slots – but the Brits hung in there. The formation was tweaked and insider tight whacker slots causing

4 The complete World Record, by Norman Kent

5 Having to memorise where to go, how to get there, and what it will look like once upside down! By Gustavo Cabana

notorious problems began to be pared down. The formation was now down to a 165-way. Jump by jump, it was getting closer – a 160-way, then a 162-way, then a 161-way – but a miss by one is as good as a miss by a mile and that record seemed tantalising elusive.

And so it was on the third day, after a true American-style motivational video that morning, that everything seemed to come together on the twelfth attempt. It felt good and it looked good. Had we got the record? Hadn’t we?

The video played in the auditorium and it looked perfect but, just as the last person was about to dock, a small figure jettisoning out was visible above the formation. The 165-way was a 164-way, and it was not to be.

MORNING HAS BROKEN

The final day had the same sweltering heat, wall-to-wall sunshine and hope of a record. Everyone was becoming tired →





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HD WORLD RECORD

from dealing with the altitude, the cold, the heat and using oxygen, and the sheer mental stress of being part of such attempts was visibly taking its toll. A party was planned, and today had to be the day.

And so the comedy began. At 19,500ft, with red lights on, a super floater ready to go and smoke canister activated, an Otter radioed that they couldn't open their door so Rook duly called a go-around. The rear Skyvan were not allowed to close once they were opened, so the jumpers stood shivering for another 20 minutes – huddling together to keep some warmth and begging for a quick run-in. Meanwhile, the Sherpa filled with smoke...

Couldn't get worse? Oh yes it could! Right right trail, who had previously left late when the green light failed, were on red to go and flashing red to exit. When the go-around was called, their red light went off. Confusion ensued and, not wanting to be that plane arriving late again and spurred on by shouts of "Go!", everyone rushed to climb out and Norman Kent (with more than 20lbs of camera kit on his head) was almost manhandled to the camera step. The spotter, with eyes intent on the lead plane, was wondering if he had missed the super floater. Those inside, now aware of the error, stopped pushing and began trying to pull people back inside; if one fell off, that would be that and another attempt would be over.

With much scrambling, being hauled back in and reconnecting oxygen, it became apparent that Norman was stuck out on the camera step *without oxygen*. It took a momentous effort to finally bundle him back in and get his oxygen supply resumed!

UNLUCKY FOR SOME – JUST NOT FOR US

And so it was the seven planes took the



6 Multi-plane exit, by Gustavo Cabana

7 The formation must build in a disciplined manner, from the centre outwards. By Brian Buckland

long go-around and ran in, again in close formation. With our nerves slightly frayed, this time the door opened, the lead plane cleared their plane of smoke, the Skyvan survived the cold, right right trail got red and then flashing red – just as planned.

With no smoke, the spotters strained hard to see the super floater key. Then, in the early morning light, 164 people and assorted cameraflyers exited. This time, there was a feeling that the individuals became one, calm and solid. The visuals were incredible. Suddenly, it was clear, with minds empty except for sharing this one moment of quiet and calm. You could feel it – this was it and it felt amazing.

On the thirteenth attempt, we had done it – a 164-way World Head Down Record.

NO ONE A HERO, EVERYONE A STAR

To make something like this happen is due to far more than the individuals alone. It's the way they fly together as a team, respecting each other's space, flying the basics. From the engineering to the logistics, from the pilots to the ground teams and from the organisers to the plane captains and even to the bench, everyone made it happen. ●

THE NINE BRITS AND/OR BPA MEMBERS ON THE RECORD WERE:

Mikey Carpenter, Paul Cooper, Gary Crisp, Jake Diliberto, Dan Guest, Ally Milne, Martin Roberson, Weed Stoodley and Simon Whittle.

"It was an amazing feat of dive engineering, planning and management for this record to come together.

"A lot of credit has to go to the organisers, ground staff, pilots, jumpers and photographers for making sure everyone ended up in the right piece of sky at the right time and landed safely afterwards.

"It was an incredible journey and an awesome achievement for everyone involved. Bring on the 200!"

Paul Cooper

"This was an amazingly well-organised event and I was very happy to be a part of it. Incredible feeling once we did it, totally worth all the travel!"

Simon Whittle

"If you have ever been a part of any kind of record jumps, attempt one on day one resembles more of a hipster house party than a completed formation. When the oxygen system inevitably fails, which again seems to happen to one lucky plane every record, it can take a pretty uncomfortable situation into a downright "I'd rather be eating my own face!" kind of deal, which is exactly what happened on our very first attempt on the first day!

"But it gets a lot better very quickly and there was no doubt on the record jump. By most people's guesstimates, we held it for four-five seconds – a very impressive demonstration of epicness!"

Mikey Carpenter

"One moment, I was waiting in my slot. The next, I was high above the formation. All I could see was a bench awaiting! My single ounce of ninja skill that hides doggedly pounced into action, not letting me down, and I dived, hawk-like, into my slot. I'm not sure I can ever do that again or know how I managed it, but that bench had someone else's name on it!"

Weed Stoodley, on getting full-on taken out!

7





AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

FRESH FROM SOME 164-WAY 'WARM-UP JUMPS', THE OVER-40S ON THE HEAD DOWN WORLD RECORD DECIDED TO SET A NEW POPS RECORD TOO!

WORDS WEED STOODLEY
(‘TOKEN OLD PERSON’)
PHOTOS NORMAN KENT AND
GUSTAVO CABANA

It all started with a Facebook message from Jason Peters, the world-renowned cameraflyer and famous sky- and tunnelflyer, suggesting we do a POPS Record during the World Head Down event. In true Facebook fashion, names suggested names and the list grew and grew. Some were miffed at the suggestion that they were over 40, but most were delighted and so a tentative plan was hatched: after a record was set, the oldies would show the youngsters how it was done!

With a 164-way Head Down World Record done, dusted and duly celebrated, the next day dawned. Firstly, if it was to be official, we all had to be members of POPS so the paperwork had to be in order. But where was everyone?

Like all good plans, the intent is great but people will be people and, if you have just spent the evening before celebrating, some may just have had a little too much of a good thing. So much so, indeed, that *the instigator himself* was absent! The evening before had left Jason sporting rather too many bruises to take part after what seemed to be a little diversion down some stairs and a few others on the role call didn't materialise either. Yes, the party had been that good!

Thankfully, Donagene Jones – organising diva extraordinaire – took the reins, got the

ball rolling with a roll call and a 26-way – less than expected – was mustered. Well then, surely it should be easy? Yes, in theory – we had set a 164-way record the day before, after all. But, with no 19,000ft of altitude to find our slots and with only a quick dirt dive, it was straight to the two planes. Norman Kent, unperturbed from being left on the camera step the day before, and Gustavo Cabana couldn't bear to miss the spectacle, so even the evidence would be from the best older cameraflyers in the world.

1 *The POPS World Record-breaking team, by Norman Kent*

2 *The new record 26-way, by Gustavo Cabana*

The jump wasn't quite as smooth as we could have wished. Exiting from two planes, a slight loss of focus was evident in a turn on the base, rushed docking and, for me, almost panicking at finding my slot and losing my grip momentarily. But, yes, the old people proved they still had it – just. We beat the existing record of a 13-way, which was set when pizza delivery in baggy tie-dye was all the rage, and went all the way to a 26-way in one attempt. Not too shabby...

In theory, had all the geriatrics done as they should and gone home early, drank tea and gone to bed early the night before, then the formation size could have been much higher. Those who didn't arrive are definitely growing old disgracefully, but those who made it didn't disappoint and we all proved there is life after 40... ●



ONLY A NUMBER?

And now a few stats to make your eyes go big!

The participants and the cameraflyers, mostly Yanks but with a smattering of Brits, some Europeans and even one jumper from the Reunion Islands, sported

ages between 40 and 59 and had more than 210,000 jumps between us – impressive numbers indeed. Stars of the show included Norman Kent (25,000+), Mike Swanson (22,000+), Steve Curtis (20,000+), Gustavo (19,000+) and Sara Curtis (11,000+).

Those numbers are mind-boggling and we three Brits,

normally relatively experienced at home, were mere babies in the skydiving jump numbers world – Paul Cooper (49 and a quarter) has 3,500+, Gary Crisp (41 and a half-ish) has 2,500+ and I (56 and a quarter) have 1,500+.

So it's official – old is the new cool. But then, I would say that...

SKYDIVE

Hibaldstow

The season is slowing but it never stops...

Party Weekends

31st October

Hibbleween Fancy Dress Boogie

- 8-way FS Competition - All welcome.
- Luscious themed evening party.

5th December

Hibaldstow Christmas Party

- Fabulous sit down three course meal.
- Skydivers award ceremony.

Other Essential Dates:

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Every Weekend!

Hibaldstow Tunnel Camps:

26th Oct - 16th Nov - 7th Dec

Last Weekend Of The Year:

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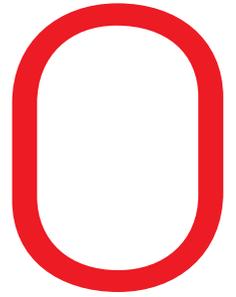


Dornier 19 December - 03 January Christmas Boogie!

Load Organisers so far: Marco Arrigo (FS), Adam Dare (FF), Simon Wanderler (WS) more confirmed soon!

-  Full DZ facilities
-  No registration fee
-  Free load organisers
-  Southern European sunshine

1



ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A CANADIAN SKYDIVER WHO WANTED TO PUT ON A WORLD-LEVEL EVENT AT HIS HOME DROPZONE – “BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME...”

WORDS MAXINE TATE PHOTOS PERFORMANCE DESIGNS

2

That inspired Canadian was Martin Lemay of Canada’s FS/VFS team *Evolution*, and his family-run dropzone – Parachutisme Nouvel Air in Quebec – built a swoop pond and won the bid for the eighth Canopy Piloting World Cup combined with the fourth European Championships. There aren’t many dropzones that embrace Canopy Piloting as a competitive discipline, so we as a community are thankful for those DZs that welcome us with a swoop pond and open arms.

At the end of August, 76 competitors from 22 countries descended on Farnham just outside Montreal to throw down in the two competitions. Their objective: to find out who is the best in the world and the best in Europe. Many of the competitors arrived early to train and acclimatise to the site, since orientation to both the location and conditions is

important in Canopy Piloting and very few swoopers had visited the DZ before. It was clear from the start that Canada’s air is a little like its delicious maple syrup – slow and sticky – and it certainly took a good few jumps for everyone to figure out how to deal with these atmospheric conditions, adjust set ups and recalculate altitudes to bring as much power as possible with the slower rollouts.

This year, Team GB sent six athletes and Wez Westley, Brian Vacher and Maxine Tate were joined by newcomers Max Bruffell, Henry Van Halewyn and Alexis McNaughton. We were also accompanied by Kate Charters as Head of Delegation. As we had all just completed in the UK Nationals the month before, we were looking forward to getting back into competition.

NEED FOR SPEED

Day one saw Speed and low winds to start

1 Brian Vacher,
by Robert Justin Carmody

2 Wez Westley

off with. Wez landed a cracking first round that made everyone stop and take note so he led the board for most of the round, but then the top ten athletes came through and put down some fast runs – albeit a good 0.5 seconds slower than normal comp conditions in low winds. Then we got to see the predominant wind strengths for the dropzone and, by the third round, we were up close to maximum headwind speeds. Still, the event was completed and the USA’s Nick Batsch dominated the race by cutting through the sharp conditions to a convincing win. Team USA took the podium with Justin Price in second and Greg Windmiller in third, while the *PD Factory Team*’s Pablo Hernandez took the European Speed gold for Spain.

We squeezed in one more round that day, kicking off Distance. In high winds and slow conditions, very few competitors were even landing their Distance runs

CANADA

beyond the Accuracy pit that sits some 80 metres beyond the gates – less than half the World Record distance. This is rarely seen in a world-class field and the round was won with a distance of 109.70m. The message was clear – bring the heat, no matter what...

IN THE ZONE

The second day was unjumpable due to over limit headwinds again, but we got back on it on day three with two rounds of Zone Accuracy. Just as happened on day one, we managed to sneak in the first round before the winds picked up but, by the second round, it was game on again and competitors were pulling out their fastest canopies to try to make it to the higher scoring zones. There were very few points separating the top ten as the leaderboard made use of the stronger winds to maximise their scores, being able to stop easily and stand up during the landings.

Wez had another stellar run and stood up just on the tape surrounding the centre zone – narrowly missing out on a perfect score – to earn the highest score of the round. We stood down for several hours, hoping that the winds would drop, and managed to squeeze in a round of Distance and the last round of Zone Accuracy later that afternoon. There was a full-on head-to-head for the podium in Zone Accuracy with three top scores of 100 from all three on the podium –

Pablo Hernandez for Spain in third, Mario Fattoruso for Italy in second and Curt Bartholomew taking the gold for the USA.

GOING THE DISTANCE

So with just one round of Distance left, we went into day four. An early start saw the first load up get some decent ground winds but, by the later two loads, the winds started to crank and all the competitors were being aggressive on the gates in order to get that final score. We saw a flurry of harder contacts on the water drag, Max and Henry included, but they both did a great job of still flying it through the course to pick up their scores.

A CP comp is never dull and it always comes down to the last round. As the conditions became more and more tricky, we were seeing a battle for the top ten slots unfold with the places moving around dramatically run by run. However, the real battle seemed to be between Pablo Hernandez and Curt Bartholomew for second and third place overall. Curt was just leading going into the round, but Pablo landed a good score and Curt followed with an uncharacteristically short run that sealed the silver for Pablo and left the bronze for Curt.

We thought the overall gold was a sure thing for Nick Batsch after a really solid competition throughout but, as Nick came through the entry gate, he caught a little too much knee on the drag and lost a lot of power coming



3 Team GB

4 Alexis McNaughton

down at the 77m mark in the sand pit. We all gathered round the scoreboards waiting for the results...

That run cost Nick the gold in Distance, but luckily he still came out on top overall as the very deserving winner of the World Cup. Cornelia Mihai took the gold in Distance with an extraordinary run of 121.95m on the last round, sealing a very special moment in history as she became the first woman to ever stand on the top of a podium at Category 1 event for Canopy Piloting – a joy to watch for everyone.

That wasn't the only first. Wez also earned himself a silver medal in the Speed event of the European Championships, which is the first time a Brit has stood on the podium at a Category 1 event in Canopy Piloting – well done Wez! I don't think any of Team GB had a particularly consistent overall performance (very few athletes did) but each member certainly showed what they were capable of in at least one discipline.

YOU DIDN'T THINK IT'D END THERE, DID YOU?

What we do know is that the 2016 World Championships are back here at Nouvel Air and it will be a big advantage to have been here already in competition. We are already talking about the plans for next year – five out of the six athletes here this year have qualified for the team next year and we are hoping to be joined by Dangerpants, Dan Guest and Keiron Hayes to send an eight swooper strong team to represent.

We'd like to thank our very knowledgeable Head of Delegation Kate Charters, who was a huge benefit to us, and Rock Unique for providing us with our stylish team jerseys. We really appreciate the support from everyone. Bring on 2016 – Team GB is here and ready. ●



EIGHT ATTEMPTS, THREE PLANES, ONE RECORD

IF IT'S WORTH DOING,
IT'S WORTH DOING
HEADFIRST! STYLE AND
SKILL AT THE NEW UK
HEAD DOWN RECORD
AT HIBALDSTOW

WORDS GLENN WAINWRIGHT
PHOTOS EWAN COWIE AND
JAKOB AUNGIERIS

I arrived early on the Saturday at Hibaldstow feeling like it was the first day of 'big school'. As someone who had only completed their first multi-plane head down jump a few weeks earlier, I was a little apprehensive. I'd also heard all the stories about the often blunt nature of events like this. One mistake could cost you your place in the formation – there would no doubt be plenty of others waiting to pinch it away from you.

Dirt diving began and, even on the ground, the formation looked both massive and complex. It was also obvious

1 *The new UK record 37-way. This beats the 30-way set in 2013. By Ewan Cowie*

2 *Inside the record, by Jakob Aungiers*

3 *The bench group, by Ewan Cowie*

straight away that the UK has some genuinely talented and hugely experienced freeflyers and load organisers. Everything was planned out precisely and the plan was, in essence, to drop 37 skydivers from three Dorniers in unison. A solo jumper from the lead plane would be the signal for the others to start jumping and the majority of these would need to 'float' up to the formation – something that requires a huge amount of skill to judge the speed of numerous bodies racing towards you at 170mph. The base would consist of eight jumpers and the rest would

1



2



dive after them to chase the formation down. We had predetermined break-off heights to ensure that everyone had a clear amount of air to deploy but, even so, the skies would be very busy with canopies. The first attempt looked promising. The next seemed to be a little less so.

During both of these jumps, I was on 'the bench' and the bench is a place where you have to remain positive. Annoyingly, it's also a place where it's sometimes quite difficult to remain positive. We would do smaller big-way jumps with load organisers in the hope that a place might open up on the main group. "Always be enthusiastic," Ally Milne explained to us. He went on to explain that it was unusual at record events for the bench to be jumping, which we all appreciated massively, and a big effort was made to ensure that all who attended were given the opportunity to jump. Even so, we all couldn't help but hope that a slot or two in the main group might appear on the next go.

It happened. Attempt three came and somehow I had managed to worm my way into the record attempt with a slot right on the edge of the formation. I'd be the last diver from the lead plane and the thought was intimidating. The first obstacle for me was references – what was I going to aim at to make sure I ended up in the right place when diving down? A formation this big going this fast won't afford you enough time to find the right position if you arrive at it in completely the wrong place, and I found this out the hard way when I did exactly that.

Convinced I had used up my opportunity, I was unbelievably thankful to be given one last chance at the next jump. "Just get on it!" I was told endlessly by everyone on the way to my plane. I was enormously grateful for all the advice from the more experienced jumpers, though. I was being pushed, but I was being pushed constructively and I learned a great deal.

By attempt number six, it looked like we might be able to do it all of a sudden. Everyone seemed way more focused at the flight line and we all knew that it was either going to happen in the next couple of jumps or not at all. A small amount of switches and changes in the group were made and, by attempt number seven, we had closed the formation with 35 people – with just two very close but not quite there. One last talk from Killa: "Levels, levels, levels", "Concentrate" and the increasingly familiar "Just get on it".

I've read a lot about big-way formations and have had the opportunity to speak to a number of people who have been a part of some incredibly impressive records, and the consensus is almost unanimous about the feeling when a record attempt actually works. People talk about a sense of *calm* and how it just seems to fly on its own for those brief moments before your audible squeals in your ear to tell you it's time to find some space again. I'm glad that I have finally been able to feel the same thing. We landed after attempt number eight and everyone seemed pretty convinced that was the one. We almost didn't need to check. We had done it – a new UK head down record.

“**People talk about a sense of calm and how it seems to fly on its own for those brief moments**”

”

At Airkix MK, there is a small framed picture on the wall downstairs that has caught my eye a number of times since I began life as a Tunnel Instructor almost two years ago. "28-way UK Head Down Record 2011" it reads, listing a good number of the Instructors who participated at the time. The problem with the picture, though, is that it only catches a moment – the moment in which it all came together. What it doesn't show is the reality of what is often required to create such a moment, the hard work and the countless hours in the tunnel and sky to gain enough experience and skill to even participate at all. The numerous fruitless attempts to close the formation, the constant stress and self-induced pressure, the brutal cuts from the main group for making mistakes and the seemingly endless waiting on the bench for just one opportunity to prove yourself – these are irrelevant. As anyone who has had the chance to close such a record big-way will testify, the moment in the picture is all that you take away with you and that moment is worth it.

I'd like to say thank you to all those involved – jumpers, organisers, dropzone staff and anyone else – who helped make the event happen. You're all awesome, so see you again when we go even bigger! ●

3



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/NM9XUGD](https://tinyurl.com/nm9xugd)

Watch the record come together in Glenn Wainwright's edit

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sky DIVAS



By Rob Lloyd

In the April edition of *Skydive the Mag*, there was an interesting and inspiring article on women in skydiving. It was exciting to read about all the accomplishments that many of these women had made and also to feel a part of this. Along with this publication and a media campaign called 'This Girl Can' supporting Sport England, it got a few people thinking...

One of the jumpers at Skydive Northwest, Lisa Crewe, took a particular interest in this. Lisa says: "The aim of the 'This Girl Can' campaign is to empower women and reduce the significant gender gap in sport. Research suggests that women are being put off sport by fear of being judged about their appearance and ability. I wanted to celebrate the amazing women who skydive, in particular at my home DZ Cark, and organised a few 'girls only' weekends over the summer. The aim of the weekends was to encourage and grow the group's confidence and show the general public that skydiving is a sport for women as well as men. →



By Rob Lloyd



Oh, and to celebrate with a glass or two of fizz (after jumping, of course)."

And so it was arranged. The aim was originally to try and work towards certain formations, but also build the largest all-female formation above the DZ. The women involved managed to secure support from Sunshine Factory who donated goodie bags, we had T-shirts made up for the events and it was duly noted that yes, we are happy to Skydive Like a Girl – we are all *SkyDivas!*

While the event was wholly sexist and excluded our lovely male chums, it was important to gather the variety of experience within the group and share this. Some of the group had been jumping for decades and had even been to World Meets, but others were in their first years of jumping and are still enjoying simply being weekend warriors. We had ladies from age 25 to nearly 60; some started at 18, while others didn't start until they were 50.

Some women managed to jump while looking after toddlers, but others were showing their grown-up kids how it's done! This is a fantastic example of how far-reaching the sport can be.

To have only 18% of the BPA membership being female is a statistic that really needs to change. It's strange because I don't feel women are outnumbered at dropzones. Maybe it's because we are in all places at all times, chatting away!

The message really is that it doesn't matter what level you are at. I believe it's the duty of the current female membership to spread the word, share stories and anecdotes to encourage women to start jumping and then keep them jumping.

This was a success at Skydive Northwest. I think we achieved the aim of inspiring and motivating, and we broke the Cark Female Record with a

12-way and had lots of fun doing it. This is something that we could roll out across the dropzones and perhaps take it on tour. The next get-together was in September and there are already plans to get events in the diary for 2016.

Helen Honeybone



Alvaro Martin's first jump after CAT8, by Kev Coffey



NEW COACHES

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

FS COACH

- Tomasz Lipiec, Peterlee
- Simon Flisher, Peterlee
- Linley Ewing, Wild Geese
- James Garnett, RAPA
- Mark Hutchinson, Netheravon
- Vincent Adams, Netheravon
- Susan Nuttall, Netheravon
- David Reed, Netheravon
- Lisa Stephenson, Peterlee
- Becky Hill, Weston
- Christopher Holloway, Netheravon

- Angus Scott, Strathallan
- Jon Moulder, Redlands

BASIC FF COACH

- Andrew Beney, Sibson
- Scott Beach, Weston
- Florine Patty, Skydive Portugal

FF COACH

- Jacques Hugo, Hinton
- Tim Gaines, Dunkeswell
- Jakob Aungiers, Sibson

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-Sandy Grillet

**PERFORMANCE
DESIGNS**





Liz Ashley

THE DOWNPLANE

It began with a Canopy Formation jump like any other: a 4-way with camera, having fun in the summer sun. At the bottom of the jump, we broke down into a 2-way plane (that's two people stacked one on top of the other) and the two lower experienced jumpers headed back to the PLA as solos. Traffic dependent, our plan was to then do a downplane, going into it at 1,500ft and coming out between 500-750ft. It was all going to plan in its usual way; a slick transition and holding it down to 800ft. However, as I started to release my grip on the other person's legs, their foot caught my cutaway handle and extracted it far enough to release my right riser. As soon as I realised what had happened, I dropped the other person's legs to break the downplane.

As we separated, their foot completed the cutaway and I found myself back in freefall at approximately 700ft.

ALL TOGETHER NOW: "%\$&@!"

For those who don't know, we don't use RSLs when doing CF. The reason being that if you were to cut away from a wrap, you would want to fall clear before deploying your reserve so as to prevent it too becoming entangled. I had no AAD either, so what saved my life wasn't a backup system; it was good old-fashioned skills and drills.

As soon as I had fallen clear of my main and the other person, I deployed my reserve, prepared to PLF and expected the next part to hurt. To my utter relief,

I had control of a fully deployed reserve by around 300-400ft, giving me enough time to turn into wind and land softly. After another jump (in the interest of getting straight back on the Horny Gorilla), we went to the pub for much storytelling and thirst quenching. The next afternoon, I was able to go through the videos and personal recollections of the event and analyse what happened.

IN COLD BLOOD

Three factors combined to make this such a close call. The first was my cutaway handle, the second was the altitude (or lack thereof) and the third was the technique. It has been pointed out to me that, had I had a cutaway pad as opposed to a handle, this whole

A CF downplane involves the two jumpers linking together, usually by their legs or using a 'probe', then steering in opposite directions on toggles. This demo jump by the Red Devils is an example of a downplane and not the one in the incident. By L/Cpl Lee Crudgington



OF DOOM

incident might have been avoided. I accept this may be the case, but I'm not sure the foot was in the handle; I believe the foot could have extracted the handle just by catching the top of it. Also, while I do accept that a handle is more of a snag hazard than a pad, it is no more so than my reserve handle. In a situation where your main is spinning and there are twists down your risers, the load required to extract the cutaway cables can easily be in excess of the load required to extract the reserve pin but a high pull force is often cited as the main reason to have a reserve handle over a reserve pad. Taking this into account, I won't be changing my handle to a pad as a preventative to future incidents; I believe changes to the other two areas would be more significant.

1 *The downplane in the incident*

2 *Screenshot of the moment things got messy*

3 *Reserve opening*

4 *Safe landing, 30 seconds later!*



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/OV7M5YN](https://tinyurl.com/OV7M5YN)

Watch 'Downplane of Destruction – When Shoes Attack!' at the link above!

The altitude at which my 2-way teammate and I broke our downplanes had been reduced as our confidence and skill had increased. If we had been overconfident and taking them lower, I might not have had the time and altitude to save myself. Breaking them higher would give a greater margin for error which, in turn, would give more time and altitude for others who might not be as quick as me to react and save themselves. I have about 100 CRW jumps, more than half of which have ended with a downplane.

THE BEST EQUIPMENT IS BETWEEN YOUR EARS

As we all know, prevention is better than cure so the most significant change, I believe, would be to the technique. The technique I have been using starts with a pilot (the top person) and a second person (I shall call #2) in a plane, as mentioned in the beginning. The pilot then compresses straight down in front of #2, who kicks their legs up between the pilot's. The pilot catches them and holds on tight as #2 toggles out into the downplane. Much fun ensues until, at a pre-planned altitude, the pilot drops #2's legs to break the downplane and they both swing back under their own parachutes. Perhaps, on this occasion, I made a mistake and held my teammate's legs too high. Possibly a one-off, or maybe a bad habit had developed whereby I hadn't been keeping my teammate's feet low in my crotch. Perhaps it's simply inevitable if one is going to cuddle another's feet in so dynamic a situation. Whichever of these was part of the cause, there is no way to eliminate or even mitigate them. So, to do downplanes in the future, I will be looking

at different techniques which keep feet further away from handles.

I'm able to make and share this analysis with you because I came through the experience safely. To my mind, I was saved by two things. The first was that I completed my drills instinctively. As a CSI, I take every opportunity to go over Emergency Drills with students. Therefore, when I needed to use mine, they were so ingrained that I didn't have to waste time thinking about them. The second factor was my choice of reserve, a Techno 240C made by Parachutes de France. I'm a Rigger and am always proud to tell people how big my reserve is; smaller may seem cooler but *size saves lives*. A small reserve might simply not have had the sheer size to decelerate me to a safe speed in time for landing. But, a word of caution – before you rush out to buy a bigger reserve and ask your packer to cram it into your container (which they probably won't do), putting a canopy into a container that is too small may not only damage the container but also hinder the deployment. So, when buying a container, always check the sizing charts to make sure it will accommodate a reserve that you have confidence in to save you if you find yourself in a similar situation or, worse, to land you safely after an AAD fire should you be unconscious.

To conclude, irrespective of jump numbers or discipline, the lessons that I would like to pass on from this experience are: know your equipment, know your drills and consider your handles when planning your dive. Stay safe and have fun!

Simon Soper

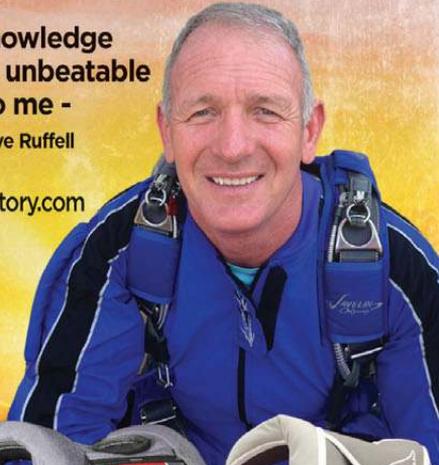


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* Sterling exchange rate @ April 2015 = \$1.46

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CLUBZONE

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

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bkpc.co.uk
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T: 01262 228033
Mob: 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
GA8 Airvan

PAGE 60 **3 Cark**
Skydive North West Club
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DZ: 01539 558672
T: 01229 889516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

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ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

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cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

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PAGE 67 **8 Hibaldstow**
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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 68 **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
Erral Airfield, Grange, Erral, 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
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T: 07716 792942
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T: 01592 882400
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206

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
kkbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestrathallan.co.uk
Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine

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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
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T: 01793 791222
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skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

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The Parachute Centre
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T: 01948 841111
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
theparachutecentre.com
Airvan

PAGE 59 **24 UK Para Beccles**
UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
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ukparachuting.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

PAGE 72 **25 UK Para Sibson**
UK Parachuting
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Cessna Caravan

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Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

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PBN Piston Islander

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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

PAGE 59 **BCPA**
British Collegiate Parachute Association
Sam Doughty, 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

PAGE 75 **SOS**
Skydivers Over Sixty
John Houghland
13 Bowers Croft, Cambridge, CB1 8RP
johnhskydive@hotmail.co.uk



1

BECCLES



2



3

WILD GESE



1 Mel Allan on her AFF course

2 CF invitational event, by Ming Chu

3 Team 4nicate

4 Pete Brookes' Coaching Weekend, by Joel Strickland

5 David Owen's 100th jump

6 John Poole's 500th jump

7 Bella Ward (shrinking violet), by Alun Griffiths

8 Rob, by Ben Wood

9 Ella and Debbie Thomas, by Dave Ruston





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BCPA

WHAT A YEAR!

The weather wasn't on our side for the main part, but that didn't stop our members from partying hard and keeping the soul of the BCPA alive and wild into the small hours of the next morning. A big thank you to all of the dropzones, tunnels, sponsors, coaches and Instructors for all you've done, and I'm sure we'll see you again soon for more BCPA fun times.

A special thank you to Stubert at Hibaldstow for all he did to make Nationals legendary in June. We started with a wet Flight-1 course with Wez Westley, with the weather improving through the week for Accuracy competitions, Load Organising and coaching. The classic bouncy castles, inflatable obstacle course and TWO hot tubs (with questionable contents) were present again this year and loved by all at 2am. The parties were messy, in every sense of the word. AYE, MATEY! Thank you to all those who provided some fantastic prizes for our raffle on Saturday night. We were all very impressed with your generosity and the winners were thrilled!

Congratulations to our winners:

- Competitions League:** Warwick Skydiving Club
- Achievements League:** University of Nottingham Skydiving
- Individual League:** Sebastiaan Mulder

Who will it be this year? It's a hot competition...

The AGM at the close of our beloved Nationals welcomed in the new committee for the coming year, so here's a big hello (and good luck!) to Sam Doughty as Chair, Sam Haste as Vice Chair (that won't get confusing, I'm sure), Cara Pritchard as Events Coordinator, Luke Curnow as Tour Organiser and Merlin Webster as Club Support Rep. Thank you to our last committee for everything they've done and ensuring we have to work hard to continue making the BCPA as triumphant as ever.

We have so much planned for this year and we are more than excited to reveal the details to you all. We have a couple of Airkix taster sessions in Manchester and Basingstoke at the start of the academic year, which is well underway as you read this, our consistently awesome Freshers event and a Christmas tour to the Algarve – all aimed at our new members for a sneak peek into the life of a skydiver and helping with their progression for when they're hooked. We are hoping for three tours and the one around Easter is the one to keep an eye on. Our Indoor event at BodyFlight Bedford is promising to be as big as ever!

If you'd like to know more about the BCPA, visit us on our shiny new website at bcpa.org.uk and keep up to date on our Facebook page at facebook.com/BCPASKYDIVING. Please don't hesitate to get in touch on mail@bcpa.org.uk too.

That's enough from me. I hope to see you all soon!

Cara Pritchard

(P.S. Sam is fine.)

BECCLES

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH A DRUNKEN SAILOR?

As I sit here writing the club news after getting back from the National 4-way Championships, I can't believe it's been a year since the last one and just how much fun we had again this year. Our team *Multiple Scoregasms* hadn't done much in the way of training due to differing team member commitments, but we still had a positive mid-table finish in the Rookie class. Thank you to Barrie Bremner for being our cameraman and for developing a new 4-way filming position known as the "under formation shot". He managed to gain us some points by using his mad backflly skillz after he somehow found himself a bit low of the formation. I need to put in a shout out to our Royal Air Force brethren who competed and performed really well too.

BECCLES
Team Multiple Scoregasms, training at Hib, by Barrie Bremner



“The classic bouncy castles, inflatable obstacle course and TWO hot tubs (with questionable contents) were present again this year and loved by all at 2am”

Well done to Team *Green in the Window*, who competed in AAA and had a respectable finish even though they'd only had one training jump together as a team. It's always great to see Beccles faces enjoying themselves and repping the DZ. I really can't stress to you all how good the Nationals are – they are not only brilliant fun, but you learn some good canopy skills too. It would be ace to see more Beccles teams next year, so start getting those teams together now so we can show off our skills next year.

I want to welcome Javi Gomez to both Beccles and the packing mat. It's great having some fresh blood on the mat as well as having him join us in the skies too. Talking of welcoming new staff to UK Para, I'm pleased to say that we have three new TBIs – myself, Sam Carter and KJ Bull. We all passed the course at Headcorn in early August and we're really happy to be have joined the team. By the time you read this, hopefully some of us will have qualified as Tandem Instructors (for the official notices, check out BPA Zone on P11) and we may have some new AFF Instructors too. Here's looking forward to the next season where we will be able to show and teach new students the joys of skydiving.

Dan Semper has some achievements and they must be brought to all of your attentions. Not only has he finally made 200 jumps after only five years of jumping, but he's also wobbled his way into getting his FF1. If I could dedicate this whole edition to Dan and his marvellous accomplishments, I would. Unfortunately, I have sadly had to talk about other news from around the dropzone. However, I will say that his landings are like a drunken sailor – staggering and usually ending up with a face plant!

James Brooke celebrated his 100th jump and I need to congratulate Luke Malachowski for his gaining his FS1. He's worked really hard and deserves the shout out, although I will remind him that a bottle of something fizzy is owed to Rich Parker for the worry and extra grey hairs he put him through...

I'm glad to bring to all of you the news that the Christmas party date has already been confirmed and the venue has been booked. It's going to be on December 12 at the Carlton Manor in Carlton Colville and will cost £35 per person. Tickets are available from the manifest and it's best to book early to avoid disappointment – the Crimbo parties are always absolutely mega.

James Page

- ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Patrick Adams, Mel Allan, Jordan Bate, Dennis Bridges, Jack Davison, Jason Elkin, Chris Fitzgerald, Andi Flack, Hani Gue, Wanderson Lemos, Grant Lines, Lee Jenkins, Joseph Stacey, Dennison Terhaar **CH2/JM1** Sam Blackman, David Tee, Jason Webb **FS1** Ashley Bunn, Samuel Dean, Lemar 'Crazylegz' George, Keith Greatbanks, Luke Malachowski, Ben Phelps, Richard Welchman **FF1** Matt Bannon, Olly Dean, John Dippnall, Gary Murray, Dan Semper **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Sam Blackman, David Tee, Jason Webb 100 Matt Bannon, James Brooke 200 Blane 'Don't worry, I've found my main' Kinge, Stewart Salmon, Dan Semper 800 Sam Carter 1,000 KJ Bull

BLACK KNIGHTS

BLACK KNIGHTS STORM THE NATIONALS!

What a month we've had! There was success at the Nationals in a variety of disciplines. Firstly, Team *AC:DC* attended the VFS Nationals following training at BKPC and came away with the bronze! I spent →

some time talking to team member Dave Bloomfield about his experience in training and competing in this relatively new event, and he told me:

"VFS isn't easy so, if you're putting together a VFS team, it's going to be a lot of hard work. It's also a lot of fun once you get flying head up and head down. This was our team's first shot at competing.

"AC:DC – Adam Potter, Chris Mayhew, Dave Bloomfield, Chris Foster and newly recruited cameraman Mick Hampton – were heading to Dunkswell for the VFS Nationals. We knew we were up against some very talented and experienced teams who were in a different league, and reigning UK VFS champions QFX and new hotshots OMNI were the teams to beat this year. AC:DC were the underdogs by some margin.

"We arrived at the Nationals on the Friday evening and it was decided that the draw would take place on Saturday morning after a practice jump from the Beech99 aircraft and its superfast run-in speed.

"Saturday rolled in, the weather was perfect and we all got stuck in. The competition was buzzing as it became apparent how incredibly close the battle between QFX and OMNI was – right the way to the end. After eight rounds of mixed results, we finished on a high by saving our best round 'til last. OMNI took gold by a narrow margin over QFX and, back in third place, AC:DC collected their first bronze medals.

"Big thanks to everyone involved in the competition, and roll on Nationals 2016..."

Team *Blackhawk*, who have trained tirelessly at BKPC over the season, also pulled out a blinding performance at the 4-way Nationals, coming second in the single A category and taking the silver medal. Massive congratulations to both teams, we're very proud of you!

In other news, our CRew weekends have been very successful. Lots of local jumpers bit the bullet and tried their hands at this tricky discipline with the help of the mighty Team *Crwsaders*. Our big-way weekends with Trevor Hookings have also been a roaring success, with the FS gang building their skill and discipline to make some great formations. We do have more of these weekends planned along with a variety of other events as we progress into the autumn, so keep your eye on the calendar and come and get involved.

AJ Taylor

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Saleh Harakat, Dean Pitchford CH2/JM1 James Allen, Richard Coggin, Dan Mercer, Katarina Stewart FS1 James Allen, Richard Coggin, Graham Low, Alan Sharp CF1 Dan Mercer, Carl Nicholson, Sue Nuttall WS1 Pud Waterhouse **JUMP NUMBERS 50** James Allen, Carl Bell, Richard Coggin, Graham Low, Dan Mercer, Katarina Stewart **100** Karl Goodwin, Brad Needham **200** Tom Bartlett, Mick Doherty, Connor Lynch **300** Mark Lord, Pud Waterhouse **500** AJ Taylor **700** Dave Bloomfield **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Richard Coggin, Graham Low, Brad Needham



“The Landing Where You Shouldn't Award must go to Colin Stevenson and myself. Despite all this, our CI still has all his hair and a smile on his face, so it can't be that bad...”

BLACK KNIGHTS
AC:DC at the VFS Nationals, by Mick Hampton

granddad Lofty keeping her in check and debriefing her on how it should be done. Lorah Battams is also holding her own and has now progressed to freefall. Colin Stevenson has passed his Category System Instructors course, so a huge well done to him. Paul Gibbs has started his camera flying career and is doing a good job when he's not skiving off doing demos. We welcome Martin to the pilot posse, and he is in the process of getting his head around both the mighty Airvan and the skydiving sense of humour. Denislav Ivanov has completed his JM1 and likes nothing better than telling us what is what in the plane these days.

Mel and Anita have changed all our eating habits in the canteen. We are enjoying their home-cooked food and have developed a newfound love of treacle tart (with custard and ice cream, in Ray Armstrong's case). Unfortunately, they will be returning to sunnier climates in October and we may all starve. We are, therefore, eating as much as possible in the interim period.

We have experienced some fantastic tandem students over the past few months, and brownie points go to the Nestlé group who provided us with a huge cardboard box of chocolate goodies. It's fair to say they went pretty quickly, but it was fun while it lasted.

The Skydive GB demo team jumped onto Bridlington beach for Armed Forces Day, which went down well with the locals and it was a pleasure for such a worthy cause.

Alec Flint has qualified for the DZ's dreaded T-shirt with his dodgy packing skills, Simon Rehill qualified for the Worst Accuracy Award when his trusty Velo didn't play nicely and the Landing Where You Shouldn't Award must go to Colin Stevenson and myself. Despite all this, our CI still has all his hair and a smile on his face, so it can't be that bad...

Sara Orton

CARK
ANYTHING YOU CAN DO...

Skydive North West's second Open Week set off with a flying 26- and 24-lift weekend. The weather was great and Alpha Yankee shifted load after load with Mike and Vicky at the helm. Speds and Anna continued with the load organising in preparation for the big-ways throughout the week.

Dismay fell upon us as Monday's weather took a turn and decided to try and spoil our big-way plans. Wind, rain and low cloud kicked in and Oscar Hotel – Langan's and Angela's beloved Grand Caravan – stayed firmly put as the weather frustrated us all. Mike checked every forecast, Dave Hunter put his wellies on, Geraldine packed all the leftover weekend rigs and George briefed the students while many stayed in their pits following Sunday night's drinking games. Kev, we hope the hangover has receded. DEZZY, glad you're back from your camping holiday!

Tuesday and Wednesday dawned and still no improvement in the weather. Martine and Kay relentlessly rearranged bookings in vain to catch any weather window that would come available. On Thursday, it did. Oscar Hotel was airborne and en route, and the dropzone was vibrant again with excitement, nerves and anxiety as we all awaited selection for the Cark Record attempt. Safely down, Oscar Hotel was soon active with the first formation load of the day, with Mike was at the helm of OH and James in AY. It was like aerial ballet as synchronised lights and flaps were applied, unbeknown to all of us in the back. Lenny, Stevey and Stuart were still excited that they needed to use a ladder to get in OH!

Building to 21 out of 24 was a great attempt, but no cigar – the existing record was 22. The second attempt saw a more impressive and steady 23 and, in the words of the famous Dambusters, "IT'S GONE!" was screamed by Dennis, who was glued to the telemeters.

Formation load after load were built, with a 25-way being the ultimate dive. I think everyone enjoyed the experience of formation flying, learning about radials, stadiums and Ron Wand's suit changes to match his chapstick... oh, and breaking a longstanding record to boot.

Safety is my middle name these days and the formation loads were impeccable. From break off, tracking and canopy handling, we didn't have one incident. Top show gang, long may this reign continue!

A big thanks go to all involved – you know who you are – but →

BRIDLINGTON

SPOT THE NINJA

The past few months have been busy, with students doing an awesome job through the progression system, loads of tandems and fun times.

Shaun Ruffle has reached the big 200 jumps in the skies over Bridlington. Ninja Perkins has taken up a career in flag jumping and has been seen flying the Parachute Regiment and Leeds Rhinos flags recently, much to the delight of the general public. Sophie O'Connor has qualified via the Category System and David Ruston is also close to cracking it. Ella Thomas (of the legendary Thomas skydiving family) has started her RAPS course, proving that skydiving is in her blood, and is doing a great job. She is in the fortunate position of having her



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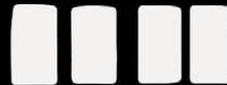


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and a full list of events!

specifically to Angela for the loan of the aircraft, Mike and James for their impeccable formation flying, John for keeping both aircraft refuelled, Anna and Specs for their hard work in organising all the skydives and all those who participated in the big-ways. Even with a small weather window, we achieved a great amount in a short time. I am sure we can better this, so let's wait and see what unfolds for next year!

On the student front, George and Geraldine kept the entire student progression moving while the rest of us enjoyed the big-ways – it was brilliant. Making the most of the low winds and blue skies, the student progression was in full flow. James, Emma and Martin all qualified CAT8 with even a tear shed by Emma (our latest *Skydiva*). We had five first freefalls and got to a stage where we had more freefall students than equipment – a first. Sandra Shaw achieved Level 7 AFF status (thanks Kie) with just her hop'n'pop to complete. Carl Vanderveldon progressed to tracks from his ten-second delays, and he had to take his children home kicking and screaming after a fun-filled few days at the DZ. Well done to all of our progression students and a big thank you for all your support.

The second Saturday of Cark Week saw the *Skydivas* (Skydive Like a Girl!) congregate, all in matching underwear, muffs and sponsored shirts! The smell of perfume drifted across the DZ along with Tony Spruce's bottom (weird combination). The girls got off to a great start with a new Cark Record and subsequently broke it again on their second skydive, ultimately achieving a two-point 12-way. Brilliant skydiving all round, so well done and thanks to you all. For more, check out Progression Zone on P49.

The finale to our long week was a fantastic BBQ organised and cooked by our galloping gourmets, Gunner and Stacky. With a brand new oil drum, the essence of cooked meat was caught by those on the sunset load. Cheers for your culinary skills and for taking the time to cook all the food, guys. It was very much appreciated by all who attended.

Cark's Canopy Piloting team (Kie, Dave, Stevey and Chicky) had a rough time at the CP Nationals. Weather conditions weren't brilliant and, with a lot of jumps in one day (all downwind), it took its toll. Dave H suffered an injury, withdrawing after Round 3, and Chicky is sporting some awesome bruising. No silverware this year but hey, you're back safe and jumping again. Well done, guys – you always do us proud.

Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Mr Blaik, Sam Blyth, Joe Brennan, Emma Dennis, Collette O'Neil **CAT8** James Clarkson, Emma Dennis, Martin Hernandez **CH2/JM1** Adam McQuire, Jon Yeates **FS1** Pete Donald **FF2** Ming Chu **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Adam McQuire, Jon Yeates **100** Gaz Kirby **200** Dez Blyth, Pete Donald **300** Dave Hunter **400** Tracey Miffilin **500** Ian Benzie, Steve Steward **800** Kev Coffey **1,800** Helen Shaw **2,400** Duncan Haynes

CHATTERIS

WHERE WILL WE PUT ALL THE BEER?

We've had a busy few months at the DZ, with plenty of roadshows, competitions and achievements to shout about. The weather has unfortunately taken a turn for the worse recently and we haven't managed to get in as many jumps as we'd like to, but luckily there have been enough beer fines to keep us going.

We kicked off with the Canopy Formation Roadshow on August 8-9. Run by the CRW guys, it was a busy weekend and we were lucky to have fantastic weather for it. We've seen a surge of interest in FS coaching lately and students have been fighting tooth and claw for a coach so they can pass FS1, but luckily our very own *ChatterChick* Tanya Burton has achieved her FS Coach Rating so hopefully things will calm down and we'll see a lot of FS achievements in the next magazine! Some students had the pleasure of being coached by *Vision99's* Peter Mather and *Phoenix's* Jason Kelleher at the BPA FS Roadshow in July and two of them achieved their FS1s – safe to say, beer was provided. The *ChatterChaps* also took advantage of the roadshow for their team training.

August 22 brought the 4-way FS National Skydiving Championships and a quiet weekend at the DZ as a lot of our guys were competing. The *ChatterChaps* enjoyed their first time at Nationals (we'll be



CHATTERIS ChatterChaps at the Nationals, by Rob Lloyd

expecting beer on your next visit, guys) and they landed a respectable fifth place in the Rookie class. After moving their way through the ranks over the years, the *ChatterChicks* have moved up to AAA this year (more beer!) and were very happy with their result after a change in the line-up when Rowena Owen joined them as Outside Centre this season for the meet. Theodora Dyakova and Vivian Merz also did well at Nationals with *Satori Aqua*, coming fifth in A Class. Big congratulations to all our guys who took part this year.

The BPA Wingsuit Roadshow came to Chatteris on September 19-20, so watch this space for news on that. We also had *Alter Ego* with us from September 25-27, and we were pleased to welcome back Curt and Jeannie Bartholomew (all the way from Florida!) to help develop and improve basic Canopy Flying skills. They catered for all abilities from beginners to experienced jumpers and were highly recommended by people who attended their course last year too.

Please note that the last day of jumping at Chatteris will be on December 19 before the centre closes over Christmas.

Sophie Barnwell

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Matt Hampshire, Aaron Houghton, Simon Tyrrell **CH2/JM1** Bobby Islam, Keith Khunpha **FS1** Sophie Barnwell, George Relatado **FF1** Marius Ktwo, Vlad Vatavu **WS1** Alex Kean **WS2** Burim Shala **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Mel Knudsen, Andrew Mines **200** Robin Auld

CORNWALL

COME FOR THE VIEW, STAY FOR THE PEOPLE

Where did the last ten years go? In August, we had our own little mini-boogie for all our club jumpers and friends to celebrate a decade in the skies over Cornwall. The plan to open for four days turned into being open for 12 days and jumping on 11 of them. There were a few tandems in the mornings, then the fun began with loads going up mostly late into the evenings (the sunset loads were spectacular) and sometimes all day. Thanks to everyone for your support, and let's hope to make it bigger and better next year.

The moorland crew have benefitted from just a few good weather days, but they've certainly made the most of it. Darren B, Alex and 'one of the other' Darrens (G) all managed to complete the AFF course in just two days. Paul is edging towards his Level 8, while Cameron and Ben are getting ever closer to the magic number 35.

Dodge, Duncan and Ray have all made the move over to the coastal DZ. Ray enjoyed his first freefall over Perran so much he did it twice in one jump! Duncan managed to find time to get in the air too when he is not keeping Dave on his toes in the packing hall. It's great to have →

“The plan to open for four days turned into being open for 12 days and jumping on 11 of them”

Andy and mum Debbie up at the club jumping together. Luckily, you have Geoff on the ground to tell you what to do!

The amount of visiting jumpers has been fantastic just recently and all have been amazed by the views – the pictures can't do it justice, apparently. However, as people come, it's inevitable that people will leave. Firstly, our own 'Mrs Doubtfire' Skybus pilot Callum is heading north to Glasgow to start his new career with Flybe. We wish him all the best and thank him for many safe flights. Also, it's been nearly four years since a quiet and shy kid called Jon did his first tandem with me and it's now time for him to move on to Uni. He has become an integral part of the team at CPC, the place will not be the same without him and his promotion through the ranks has seen him progress from shovelling fox s**t off the DZ to working with the BBC and other film companies on skydiving scenes. We are pleased to say we have created a monster and wish him well at Uni. Ozzy will be lost without him, so we hope to see him regularly. As a parting gift, we managed to finally get his FS1 done. Massive congrats!

We're all hoping for an Indian summer that's meant to be coming so we can get the jump numbers up and finish the season on a high. Talking of finishing the season, preparations are underway for the end of season party and this promises (as always) to be a great night with a few beers and a little sing along. Let's make it the biggest one yet!

Thanks to all our pilots for your hard work this summer. Perhaps we will hear the patter of future pilots' feet soon?

UBI

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Ben, Cameron, Dodge, Duncan, Ray CH2/JM1 Aaron, Debbie FS1 Jonny
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Chris

DUNKESWELL

SATURDAY MAGIC!

We had to move good and fast when we had the weather this summer. It was an incredible year, though, and we've proven the capacity of three of the world's fastest planes can work miracles.

This was the first time we held the UKSL competition in Dunkeswell and it was a big one in July with 25 4-way teams. Most people arrived on the morning of the competition, which delayed the start a little bit, but there was no stopping once the admin was done. Beech99s were rolling all day and 25 teams completed six jumps in a single day. Huge thanks to all of the jumpers who were not used to Dunks speeds but did well to keep up with our planes without complaining. We broke our record for having the most planeloads in a day with 65 too. Congratulations to all winners and competitors.

The top teams were:

AAA: *Vision99, Phoenix, Bodyflight Aero*
 AA: *Almost Petite, Nobody Expects the Worst, RAFSPA Venom*
 A: *Awesome 4some, Tyranno4us Rex, AGC Blue*
 Rookie: *Blue Steel, AAC Blue Eagles, Fantastic 4*

Next weekend, we had the BPA Canopy Piloting Nationals where six (!) UK Swoop Records were broken. We had similar issues with the weather being bad on Friday and Sunday, but amazingly we finished the whole competition on Saturday and the swoopers did nine jumps each. The Speed Record (2.347, set in South Africa by Wez Westley in 2009) was beaten four times at the Nationals and the new record holder is Wez again with 2.221. The Women's Speed Record of 2.784 set by Maxine Tate last year in the USA was beaten by her again and is now 2.460. The Distance Record of 129.40 set by Brian Vacher at RAPA in 2011 has been beaten by Max Bruffell and is now 153.91.

The overall winner in the Pro Class was Alan 'Wez' Westley, second place went to Martin Reynolds (a.k.a 'Dangerpants') and, to his own surprise, Daniel Guest was third. Daniel is a home-grown FF Coach and cameraman at Dunkeswell, so everyone at the DZ is especially proud of his success.

The overall winner in the Advanced Class was Jack Bradford, who is running our FS school. Second place went to Richie Taylor, who is a Tandem Instructor in Dunkeswell after he did his AFF only three years ago. Third place went to Scott MacKenzie, who is a CH Coach at Dunkeswell too.

The 4-way VFS competition was like a déjà vu, and we completed the



DUNKESWELL
 Pete Brookes' tracking coaching weekends, by Joel Strickland

whole competition on a Saturday due to bad weather on other days. Teams did nine jumps each, attended the awards ceremony and then partied all night. Well done to our Dan Guest's team OMNI on finishing first. Competition was very tight, though, with teams QFX and AC:DC close.

We were also hosting Twin Beech Boogie 2. Dave Morris and Gary Powell were FS load organisers, while trackers and freeflyers were organised by Chris Lynch and Mike McNulty.

The whole *Alter Ego* team from the US were swooping our pond during the BPA CP Grand Prix in September, and Nick Batsch was back for more swoop and basic Canopy Handling coaching with the BLESMA guys. More about this in the next issue.

This is another shout out for Daniel Guest, who was a part of the 164-strong Vertical World Record. Finally, we are super excited for our AAA team *Vision99*, who will represent the UK in the FAI World Air Games in December 2015 in Dubai.

Miko

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Amro Amer, Patrick Hagan, Jack Phillips, Jiri Pluhar, Ondrej Tekal, Jenna Tuvana
 CAT8/CH1 Harriet Coppock, Leighton Cross, Garren Ducker, Chris Hartill, Ben Huggett, John Mollison, Alex Potter, Vicki Smith, Chris Watts CH2/JM1 Andrew Beavis, Shelby Kate Collins, Deborah Douglas FS1 Simon Dove, Phil Husbands, Rob McGreal, Daniel Preston, Alex Sutton FF1 Arthur Amarra, Justin Davis, Rob Houlston, Lewis Olliver, Dinesh Pall FF2 Andy Lock CF1 Richie Taylor WS1 Fiona Franklin, Rob Franklin, Ray Norton, Ben Simpson JUMP NUMBERS 100 Connor Figg 200 Peter Barnes, Tom Morgan, Sel Pasos, Andy Torbet 300 Joe Graves 400 Ben Simpson 700 Bill Booth 800 Ian Hutchinson, Andy Lock 1,300 Dan Whitby 1,500 Jack Bradford 2,000 Chris Griffin, Joe Matthews 3,000 Dan Guest

HEADCORN

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE?

It has been a mixed summer, with some great weather, some not-so-good weather and some completely rubbish weather. →



HEADCORN
 Headcorn regulars after Kim Buddle's 100th jump, by Eric Shapland

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The Wednesday club days are proving a great success, with lots of FS and FF progression, lots of lifts and general activity, and there has also been a steady stream of AFF and Category System students chugging their way through the various levels. FS coaching has been provided by Ken Gregory, John Ashton, Charlie Wakeham, Si Beech and Lee Andrews, with Chris Lynch, Simon Hughes and Si Beech looking after FF students. Marcus and Mary are also on hand for CF coaching and Sam Laming for wingsuit coaching.

Henry Van Halewyn and Chris Lynch took time out to attend the CP Nationals at Dunkeswell and Henry was in Canada at the World Cup at the time this was written.

Jane, Fleur Jones, Liz Hurry and Laura Freeman went to the FS Nationals and competed in Single A despite not managing to find any time for tunnel training. It was good to see James Freeman pick up a bronze in AA with his team *Fr4gment*, and Tony and Gill Kirk Burgess were in joint fourth place in the same category with *Pointless*.

We have new instructors galore, with Simon Soper, Marcus Muir-Smith and Charlie Wakeham passing their CSI ratings and Drew Moon earning his Tandem rating. This virtually guarantees that, when Drew is not flying, he will be in the back doing tandems or fun jumping.

The annual Bawl Water jump took place on September 8 and the weather was kind to us. We signed up six water virgins and gave them a good soaking!

We did not mind having to stand down during the Annual IMPS Air Show in August to watch a magnificent display by the last flying Vulcan bomber. The following day, we were treated to a 25-minute routine from the Red Arrows. All this for free!

Jane Hopkins

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Isaac Brown, Erico Dantos, Andy Evans, Lindsay Holloway **AFF GRADUATE** Stephen Adam, Jason Burgoyne, Jay Grimes, Aaron Moran, Jamie Tolan, Joe Pike, Nick Weller, Brent Willis **CAT8/CH1** Isaac Brown, Luke Clayden, Louis Cuddy, Sam Eydmann, Ed King, Manou Monteux, Ben Shropshire **CH2/JM1** Alex Barata, Paul Barr, Kim Buddle, Mike Leslie, Mike Southgate, Julian Udrea **FS1** Joe Ball, Alex Barata, Kim Buddle, Lindsay Eldridge, David Griffiths-Jones, Reece Horton, Jason Langridge, Mike Leslie, Eddie Wearing, Colin Wright **FF1** Jon Hobbs, Nick Woods **CF1** Mervyn O'Connell **WS1** Trevor Cowell **JUMP NUMBERS** **100** Jason Langridge **200** Wayne Kennedy, Nick Woods **600** Alex Leslie **800** Craig Crosbie **900** Chad Smith



HIBALDSTOW

AT MY SIGNAL, UNLEASH BEER

We opened the peak season with a major FF event with Paul Cooper – Multiplane Head Down Load Organising – and huge numbers flocked to the DZ. Some came to hone skills for the Head Down Record and others to try it for the first time, but a fantastic group of flyers ate the shapes alive and set some clear personal best flying. It's safe to say that everyone who came to fly with Paul had a great time and came away with something new or ready for the record. Thanks to our FF coaches for pushing the levels of Freefly on the DZ to these highs!

“The tandems were all jumped long before the ‘day’ was over, but 403 tandems were jumped before late evening without a sweat breaking out”

Stubert's group has just hit it big again with some super sweet summertime skydives. Intermediates, which has really grown up and become all experienced, produced some wild jumps in July while the gang who insist on getting over at any opportunity took advantage of some late finishes to throw out Blinky Dan's 200th – a stunning random build 12-way Hope Diamond at sunset.

This year, we said goodbye to the International 28-way meet after more than 10 years and the final meet was won by Dave Lewis – the original pioneer of the 28-way back in the day. It feels appropriate somehow to set it down after Dave's win. "What happens next year?" you say. We don't know yet, but the consensus is slightly smaller and much faster!

Guy Wright returned to pull in the top classes of jumpers for his Team *Elite* event. The group started with smaller single aircraft groups midweek to hone skills, then moved into 40-ways for the weekend. The signature dive this year was a brutal outface heavy shape with a bendy twisty centre. Though attempts were strong, the *Elite* boys never managed to finish it off – one for next time!

Somehow, while doing a formation load a cycle for Team *Elite*, the DZ quietly chuntered on slowly into what would become a brand new World Record for the largest number of tandem skydives in a day. The tandems were all jumped long before the 'day' was over, but 403 tandems were jumped before late evening without a sweat breaking out. Huge congratulations to all involved. Then again, you don't need it – you're all record holders now!

The Hibaldstow Cup raged on as the last-chance training weekend for teams to practice in a competition from the competition dropzone and, with the meet winners taking home substantial discounts, the pressure was on. AAA was smashed by *NFTO* with a fine 17.5 average, AA was taken by home team *Kintama* with an 11.7 average, Single A was won by *Tyranno4rus Rex* with a 9.8 average and Rookie was topped by the *Fantastic 4*.

The BCPA returned for a second year to run their Nationals event and with them came hot tubs, bouncy castles, 100 students and lots of sambuca. The parties ranged high while the clothing levels ran low for another week of free drinking. We are a dropzone, however – a very good one at that, meaning the jumping was great as well – so it's always great to see how far the students had come between the two events. The weekend closed out with a fantastic formation load to seal the deal.

The end of the month rolled up with a couple of crazy events. Sharing the same weekend, we saw a brand new wingsuit flocking record and some of the fastest people in the world!

Dave Butterell and Rob Gray have slowly tended their flock to the point where it was time to unleash them and send them to the skies for a UK Record. The day was challenging, meaning the group had to work even harder to set a standard, but the first record was set at 13-way and then quickly broken with a 14-way. Congratulations to everyone involved in the new record.

On the same day and at the same time, the dropzone held the ISSA International Speed Meet Finals for their 2015 tour. There were lots of unfamiliar faces, but they all had smiles on them as the competition completed in good time and the winners rightly took to the stage to receive their awards. Congratulations to Marco Wiederkehr for his meet victory and his league victory – both awarded on the same day – by receiving the sword from the hit movie *Gladiator*! Local flyer Lucy Westgarth took to Speed the first time this weekend and set a personal best of 315.47kph – not the top slot, but to be commended all the same!

Late season is here, but we're not stopping now. The weather is better than summer, the planes are here and the community is excellent. See you all soon.

Stubert Ferglstein

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Corrie Edgar, Kat Haspel, Ed Kim, Dean Masters, Chris Scott, Jordan Sowersbury **CH2/JM1** Chris Black, Kamil Kamolski **FS1** Chris Black, Aiden Carvell, Lou Donut, Corrie Edgar, Andrew Griggs, Kamil Kamolski, Ed Kim, Mike Leigh, Rich Mell, Ant Mill, Madalane Milone **FF1** Chris Black, Nez Higgins, Kamil Kamolski, Mads Milone **FF2** Chris Forster **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Chris Black, Kamil Kamolski **100** Tom Chan **200** Aiden Carvell, Jack Davies, Dan Gittens, Nez Higgins **300** Jordan Simcoe **600** Debbie Dobson **700** Elliot Brown, Aimee Southwell, Roy Wimmer-Jaglrom **800** Sam Davies, Aimee Southwell **900** Rich Cotton, Andy Pointless **1,000** Andrei Baranya, Blyth Davies, Andy Pointless **1,100** Pench **1,700** Jakub Langowski **2,000** Darren Graham **2,500** Gary Crisp **2,700** Jordan Wilcox →

HIBALDSTOW
Maddy in the clouds



JERSEY

FLYING COLOURS

Congratulations to Andy Vidamour, who graduated as our latest skydiver driver on June 19 at Perranporth Airfield when we flew two aircraft from blue skies in Jersey to an overcast Devon with an 800ft cloud base. Those weren't the best conditions for a Para-dropping test flight with the BPA's Authorised Pilot Examiner, so we did what was expected and had a breakfast sandwich and more tea. Looking hopefully at some blueish perforations of the sky above the dropzone, we took off with our first load of skydivers only to realise, at 1,500ft, that we had been a little too eager to fly. There was no sight of the ground, so we landed again – fully loaded, with a rather military-style low approach-and-land too. So, with the mandatory heavy landing ticked off, more tea!

Thirty minutes later, we took to the sky once more and with a brighter outlook this time. Andy's had his first experience of an offset run-in, which is not something we use in Jersey but it is required in Perranporth to keep the skydivers away from the sheer cliffs and deep water. Slight adjustments from the jumpmaster during the run-in saw them reach the perfect spot for the first skydivers, so the exercise was repeated, followed by a full stop landing and takeoff with more jumpers, and it was finally topped off with some upper air work. Andy was already ahead of the paperwork, flying time on type, previous live drops under tuition in Jersey and the written exam, so the examiner's signature was the final ink to paper. With his eyes already on the prize 'Le Prix d'Aviation', watch out Brian – there's a new boy in town!

Welcome to Bella Ward, another experienced jumper who has moved to the Island from Oz, and she is already making an impression on the club atmosphere! Welcome also to Kathryn Roe, another experienced skydiver who has taken up residency after having moved to our dropzone from Sibson.

Massive congratulations to Brian Heath, Skydive Jersey's first-ever graduate from static line to freefall student. I've mentioned Brian's name a few times in these articles as both a jump pilot and enthusiastic student, and it's a great credit to his determination that he's got to the level of freefall skydiver. It's taken him a few years to get there, having done his first RAPS course about 20 years ago, but Mally's dreams came true on August 6 when he dispatched Brian on his first solo freefall over Jersey. Big respect to Mal too for pushing the club forward and getting the courses running regularly, offering a local option to get more people into the sport.

The bar has been benefitting from all the firsts occurring recently and there are plenty of stories to tell too. We hope to have more good news from the Jump Jersey 2015 Boogie, so look out for pics next issue.

Mal Richardson and Nigel O'Brien

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Brian Heath **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Sarah Jackson

LANGAR

WATCH THIS SPACE

Twelve Langar teams competed at the British National 4-way FS Championships, with gold medals for *Tyranno4us Rex* in A Class and

JERSEY
Brian Heath and Mal Richardson,
by Nigel O'Brien

Blue Steel in Rookie respectively. Special congratulations to *Blue Steel* – a true Rookie team who started from scratch this year and worked hard to achieve their goal. AAA Class silver medal winning team *4mula* includes Langar jumpers Kate Lindsley and Nick Robinson (camera) too, so all-in-all our guys and gals have made another good showing this year.

We've had a couple of good events recently, despite the odd problem created by illness and the weather (no change there, then). Ally Milne's big-way head down weekend did some good stuff too, as did Will Cooke's multi-aircraft big-way organising.

Meanwhile, general jumping has been rattling along apace and the locals have been clocking up the number and hours – as you'll see in the Achievements list!

As I'm writing this a couple weeks before the Boogie, you'll have to do your own work on this bit: Langar Boogie 2 *happened/was great/was rubbish*; the weather *happened/was great/was rubbish* and the jumping *happened/was great/was rubbish*. After jumping, the parties *happened/were great/were a blur*. And we'll have another Boogie next year! Watch this space for accurate reportage on reality next time.

Halloween and Bonfire Night are coming up – always a fun evening! – so keep an eye on facebook/skydivelangar for info. In fact, all upcoming events details are on our Facebook page, so that's where to look if you want to know what's going on.

As ever, Langar is open seven days a week throughout the year. The skydiving season here ends on Christmas Eve and starts again on Boxing Day, but Christmas Day is a bit quiet...

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Phoebe Monk **GRADUATED AFF** Alex Bull **CAT8/CH1** Alex Bull, Hallam Knight **CH2/JM1** Saleem Almeel, Rich Guest **FS1** Sobhan Afroosheh, Saleem Almeel, Faith Elenga, Rich Guest, Tommy King, Phil Rolfe, Karen Whitehouse **FF1** Charlotte Harris **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Saleem Almeel 200 Josh Bryon, Brian Jackson 300 Dave Allen, Rebecca Mansfield, Paul Wood 500 Matt Kite, Hannah Parker 700 Matt Willson 800 Cath Anderson 1,000 Emma Pilkington 2,000 Rick Woolfall 8,000 Ally Milne 9,000 Phil Curtis **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Tom Connell, Christopher Edwards, Rich Guest, George Monk, Samantha White **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Cath Anderson **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Wayne Glenn **36 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Will Cooke **48 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Chris Cook 156 HOURS IN FREEFALL Phil Curtis



NETHERAVON
The REME team,
by Julie Cooper

NETHERAVON

BE THE BEST

3,000 jumps in the sunshine at the Armed Forces Championships

The Armed Forces Parachute Championships started in glorious sunshine, and service personnel from all of the defence services enjoyed sunny days preparing and participating in the top military sport parachuting competition of the year. Sixty-two teams entered the 4-way, Freefly, Freestyle and Wingsuit categories, while the Accuracy event attracted 77 participants. Along with the newly designed APA medals, three new trophies were awarded this year (the SAAFA Wiltshire Freestyle Cup, the SAAFA Wiltshire Wingsuit Cup and the Mark Sutton Rookie Wingsuit Artistics Cup), bringing the total amount of cups and trophies to 21 – that's a lot of silver to polish! The Highest Placed Navy Team went to *RNRM Armageddon* and ➔

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Highest Placed Corps Team to REME, while APA Overall Individual Senior was awarded to Shane Cook (REME). Tradition continued with the 8-way Speed event, which tempted even the most hardened wingsuiters back into 'sausage grabbing'! After four rounds of not-so-fast but definitely furious 8-way, the winners were *Insider Threat* and they also picked up the case of beer for the best (and only) second point.

BRINGING BACK THE GOLD

During the summer months, medals came flooding into Netheravon with a gold for Wez Westley at the UK CP Nationals. Spike Harper brought back two golds from the Wingsuit World Series events in Italy and Hungary, while wingsuit team *Tutti Frutti* (Mel Dando, Nicky Young and Kev Tucker) won Intermediate gold at the eighth International Acrobatic Wingsuit Competition in Mimizan in France. Kev also won the Top Intermediate Cameraman Award.

SIZE MATTERS

After several training camps throughout the year, Mike Lewis and Trevor Hooking brought their growing group of FS jumpers together for a multi-plane event in July. With the British weather for playing ball for once and our Nethers pilots flying in precise formation, success was secured for this group of committed jumpers. All the training paid off in the form of great exits, fast builds and safe landings. But the story isn't over yet! At the end of August, Trevor and Mike put together another great weekend with three 15-way formations in one Saturday alone – amazing.

NATIONAL PRIDE

Well done to all of the Netheravon teams who competed in the UK FS Nationals this year. There are far too many to mention each by name, which is a fantastic problem to have, and it's indicative of the high standards and popularity of FS at Netheravon.

IT'S NOT OVER YET!

The Nethers calendar is full of lots of great events: night jumps, coaches weekends, load organising, the Freefly Big-way Challenge and an epic Halloween Party.

Elana Cain

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Rick Arscott, Kara Beacock, Ross Gibson, Paul Hook, Will Humphreys, Mourad Malki, Nick Sheppard, Aaron Thornton, Tim Young **CAT8** Idris Miles, Mark Scott **CH2/JM1** Mark Hay, Alabama Shanker **FF1** Charlie Hutchinson, Colin Jenkins **FF2** Alabama Shanker **WS1** Martin Brown, Jack Dowse **WS2** Charlie Hutchinson **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Mark Hay, Alabama Shanker **100** Luke Slucock **200** Martin Brown, Charles Goodhew, Pete Gradalski **400** Emily Doman **500** Spencer Bailey, Ryan Beattie **800** Richard Holder **2,000** Russ Mellish **5,000** John Parker, Wez Westley



PETERLEE

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

We start this month with a beer fine for Jade and Lee Elliot for their first child. Charlie was born a little earlier than expected on July 13 and we are glad to report both Mum and Charlie are doing well and are now home. Lee, on the other hand, seems to be suffering from the worst case of Proud Father Syndrome that we have ever come across and Facebook is reported to be creaking under the strain of his stream of photos. Keep them coming, Lee – we can't wait to meet him.

At the time of writing, our Cessna Caravan is away for servicing. We hoped to welcome Mike Carruthers and the PAC 750 from Cark

“All the training paid off in the form of great exits, fast builds and safe landings”

during our extended bank holiday week, but strong winds kept the PAC and us on the ground for the time being. However, the Turbo FINIST SMG-92 from the Wingglider stable came to keep us in the air on the following weekend. Our thanks go to Mike Carruthers, Skydive North West, James Swallow and Wingglider for making their aircraft available.

We've had some great progression among the regulars since the last edition. Some first freefalls and a few A Licences have been awarded from our Category System programme and the AFF School, along with a clutch of FS1s, an FF1 and an FF2. One worthy mention goes to Mehdi Shabanzadeh, a Tandem Paragliding Instructor, who persisted patiently during the typical English summer and progressed from his first static line jump to qualified skydiver in just four and a half weeks. We've also seen the welcome return of David 'Fuzzy' Fusaro, who has been undertaking some valuable Freefly coaching.

Other congratulations go to Tomasz Lipiec and Lisa Stephenson for achieving their FS Coach ratings and to Dick Kalinski, who has recently achieved his type rating on the Cessna 208 Caravan and has certainly done some flying since. Well done to all.

We fielded two teams at the BPA 4-way FS National Championships. *Hyperion* competed in Single A, finishing in joint 11th place, and *Ninja Torpedoes* were joint 17th in Rookie class. Well done to all who competed and flew the flag for Peterlee in what is still the largest National 4-way FS Championships in the world. *Hyperion* have made great progress since last year's competition, but we're sure the *Ninjas* will take a leaf out of their book and will be hot on their heels by next season.

Janet Willcox and Lisa Stephenson are continuing to do a sterling job in keeping the social scene going, with a variety of Saturday evening events organised and planned for the coming few weeks. Keep your eyes on Facebook for the upcoming events. The improvements are continuing around the centre with the addition of some eye-catching new photo backdrops and signage produced by Simon Minto at his printing company on the rare days he's not Tandem Instructing. Hopefully, by the time of going to print, the concreting of the floor of Hangar Two will be finished. The microlights will also be departing from Hangar One, which will have become a purely parachute hangar.

Finally, we are saying goodbye to Paige Calder in manifest and, for the time being at least, from skydiving after she decided to develop her cycling to a more serious level. This leaves us with a half-day shift in manifest to fill, so anyone interested in working in manifest should contact Ian for details. Full training will be provided and an attractive jump discount deal is offered in return.

Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Rob Law **GRADUATED AFF** Andy Harris, Paul Harris, Larry Ward **CAT8/CH1** Mehdi Shabanzadeh **CH1** Andy Harris, Paul Harris, Larry Ward **CH2** Aaron Gao, Kieran Platts **FS1** Chris Erwood, Aaron Gao, Chris Jones, Terri Owen **FF1** Kieran Platts **FF2** David (Fuzzy) Fusaro **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Kieran Platts **100** Joe Burnie, John Welsh **1,000** Nigel Peacock **1,200** Andy Brumby, Simon Minto **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** John Welsh **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Tomasz Lipiec **THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Lisa Stephenson

READING

MEDALS, MAYHEM AND MUCHO VINO

After a day of jumping in July, the LPS tribe donned their finest clothes and celebrated with Rachel Harris for her birthday. Her lovely hubby Martin hired a marquee and, after a fine South African braai, the LPS Summer Ball got underway with a disco and mucho vino. It was great to see the boys in dinner jackets and bow ties and the ladies all looked lovely – cheers for the party, Martin.

But enough about parties, let's talk about jumping! Blanaid O'Sullivan came third in A Class at the Hib Cup with scratch team *Just 4 Fun* AND reached her 600th jump! Although she was the only LPS jumper on the team, we think she still deserves a mention. Tamsyn Stanton has been busy in the sky reaching her 100th jump and two hours of freefall, as well as achieving a silver medal with Team *Mayhem* at the Speed 8 competition at Netheravon. →

It's been a mixed bag of different club jumpers, though. It's tricky managing the 10k altitude limit, which means we don't get many freeflyers, but we've had quite a few tracking dives on the go and plenty of FS action too. A few teams have dropped in (literally) and Marie-Anne Stevens has been working through the many AFF students. Dominik Nawrocki finally got his A Licence, closely followed by Victor Kochemirovskiy – we are so pleased for them both. Marie-Anne has been coaching in the wind tunnel and took along the manifest team members to get them experiencing freefall too! Emma Roberts was a natural. It was also great to see yummy mummy Tracy Stone back in a jumpsuit flying with Katrina Kularia as well.

Our speedy Michael Lovemore came third at the ISSA World Series final at Hib, eighth overall in the World Series 2015 and then won the Nationals! He then joined the '500 club' at the World Cup in Teuge, coming away with a silver medal and a new UK Record, and is one of only five people ever to go over 500kph in competition. Massive congratulations to Mikey from all of the gang at LPS!

After all the jovial goings on and fun at the dropzone, we mustn't forget that our spare time at the dropzone each weekend means that we can end up spending more time with our skydiving friends than our family, which makes it feel as if we have an extended family in our network of freefall chums. When bad times come along, we can only hope that we have each other's back or a shoulder to lean on, and we do. In times of personal loss, there is certainly a wave of support for each other and all of the LPS club jumpers and staff wish to include a special mention here for one of our dearest club jumpers, Jon Avis, who sadly lost his daughter Jenny to cancer recently. She was a beautiful daughter, wife and mother and her loss has been felt by everyone who knew and loved her. God bless you Jon and all of your family at this sad time from your dropzone family at LPS.

Ann Lewis

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Victor Kochemirovskiy, Dominik Nawrocki

SIBSON

TONIGHT, WE DINE IN... THE SKY DINER!

When the cloud and wind have been elsewhere, the creaking of creepers, the cracking of canopies, the tidings of tannoys and ever-present bark of the Otter have been ever plentiful, along with the progression of many levels and skill sets. Everything from A Licences to Instructor ratings have been worked towards when nature let us.

The café has come under new ownership, is now run more closely alongside the dropzone operation and has also had a name change to the 'Sky Diner'. In what was a very frantic and very short period of transition, we saw a huge clean-up operation begin straight after a busy Saturday of jumping. Clubbies and staff all chipped in that evening to clean the facilities and get premises gleaming. Nobody expected to find themselves elbows and nose deep in sh... *ahem* Marigolds scrubbing pipes, pans and plugholes – such is the club atmosphere and unity we have! That same night saw us celebrate Shane Wood's 40th birthday. It probably didn't get off to the start he expected but, by the end of it, he looked rather worse for wear. The hangover the next day was compounded by a very early long-haul flight!

The kitchen has been refitted and a new menu (displayed on TV screens) produced, and all was installed and generated by our own clubbies! There is even a reduction in the food and drink prices, the dining area has new tables and chairs and the return of the sofas proved to be an instant hit. Just remember, fall asleep on them at your own risk! The ever-friendly and helpful staff from the old café have been kept on and are only too happy to help. Come over and see for yourself! Follow the ongoing improvement development of the diner on Facebook by searching for 'Sky Diner' – give it a like or two.

And what better way to test the café out than with the return of our boogie? And what a boogie it was! All of the stops were pulled out and, despite the weather having a go at times, it was epic! Both the Caravans and Dornier were worked relentlessly, load organisers were kept on their toes and a pizza Mini kept everyone fed. Yes, you read that right: a Mini with a pizza oven bolted onto the back of it.

SIBSON
Freefly collage,
by Michael
Wilson-Roberts



Stone-baked pizzas were cooked in a minute then pulled out again, and very nice they were too. There was also a firework party (tin hats will be provided for the next one) and even a lovingly polished ship's bell. Before you wonder too much, it is the beer fine bell...

August saw the setting of the first official British Wingsuit Record at Hibaldstow. Twenty-one wingsuiters made the record at 14 and a third of the total group were from Sibson. If you feel like learning some skills, come and see us – they'll be happy to help.

We played host to Brian Vacher's Flight-1 Canopy Course again and this attracted jumpers eager to improve their canopy handling. Both the 101 and 102 course were run and completed on the same weekend. For those of you that came to visit us, we hope you enjoyed yourselves and we hope to see you back one day.

Once again, the largest 4-way competition in the world has recently taken place and our teams have given a good account of themselves. *Tempest* walked away with joint fifth in Rookie after their first (ding ding) competition together. *Awesome 4some* came fourth in A and got their highest average yet. Closely behind them in fifth was our very own Blanaid with *Satori Aqua*. Points should be awarded for the imagination of team names alone and Justin Gumm's team would have walked away with it – *Ice Bank Mice Elf*. Certainly one to say carefully in public, or one that may generate a sizable faux pas on the microphone. Excellent efforts, guys!

Three of our teams competed in AAA and that hasn't been done in a while, if at all. They were *Green in the Window* (Pam, Frenchy, Katie, Mike and Seth), *Skyfools* (Becs, Vics, Shane, Chris and Grant) and *Bodyflight Aero* (Charlotte, Fiona, Sam, Giuseppe and Guy). They came a respectable 18th, 15th and 13th out of 24 teams respectively.

We bid a sad fair well to Chris Kabban, who is leaving us to take his doctoring abilities to New Zealand. It has been a pleasure having you with us, Chris. You'll be missed, as will your participation in the videos that brought many a chuckle. Stay safe and we hope that your new life gives you everything you hope for!

Now that we are into October, the DZ opening days have been reduced down to Friday to Sundays.

Follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook (UK Parachuting Sibson Airfield or Sibson Skydivers) or check out our website at skydivesibson.co.uk/category/club-events to keep up to speed with all the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson.

Green in the window! Explanation in the next Sibson saga...

Kye Bromley

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Tes Collins, Lukasz Gawlik, Chloe Tamsin Smith CH2/JM1 Matt Brown, Kyle Skoyles FS1 Lukasz Gawlik, Laura Mallott, Chloe Tamsin Smith FF1 Stewart Ewing WS1 Stewart Ewing JUMP NUMBERS 50 Matt Brown 100 Kyle Skoyles 200 Mark Flemming, Ben Laken 400 Emma Scrivener 500 Lee Armstrong, Stewart Ewing, Tim Plummer 700 Dom Goy 800 Justin Gumm, Fiona Millar 900 Sam Lee 1,400 Jamie Flynn 2,000 Matt Robinson →

“ There was also a firework party (tin hats will be provided for the next one! ”

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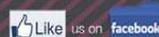


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SOS

DON'T BUY THINGS – GO SKYDIVING

The spending secret is out – skydiving makes you happy! Skydivers over Sixty spent a Sunday earlier in the year filming with Anne Robinson at Netheravon. It was a fun time and this can be seen in the last few minutes of her recent BBC TV programme on *Britain's Spending Secrets*. Not for SOS the accumulation of more and more possessions. Experiences are what make you enjoy life! Seen by nearly five million people, the message has been widely viewed.

For eagle-eyed skydivers, no, the Caravan did not fly to Dubai. That footage was taken by Paul French last February on another Dubai trip which was organised by Pete Marsden.

Many thanks are due to the APA at Netheravon who made the whole thing possible.

John Houghland

SOS
Anne Robinson
at Netheravon,
by Paul French



SWANSEA

PROGRESSION, PROGRESSION AND MORE PROGRESSION!

Lots of shiny stickers have been awarded here at Skydive Swansea! Congratulations to Sophie Rees, Ian Devlin, Nigel Thomas, Mike Palmer, Mohamed Mohamed and James Evans on getting your A Licences. The B Licence Award goes to Lee Matthews... and your prize? You now have your VIP pass to the southern PLA! Woohoo! Nice one, Lee. Well done to Fae Yip on the 100th jump! Don't worry, dude – we understand it was very cold that day. David 'Dangerous' Owen walks away with two prizes, both FS1 and 100th jump, and he also celebrated the latter with the traditional naked skydive. He shares his FS1 glory with Jon Davies. Come on, Gabby – your turn next. Don't let Jon outdo you, girl!

Nicholas Watts became an official member of the dark side by ninjaflying his way to FF1 status and getting his camera pass with jump 200. Congratulations on your engagement to fellow skydiver Sally too. We love a DZ romance with a happy ending, and especially when that ending involves a posh venue, lots of free food and copious amounts of alcohol!

We have also gained three new instructors at Swansea. Congratulations to Grayson Summers on getting your Tandem Instructor rating – our tandem students are in for LOADSA FUN! Finally, MASSIVE (I can't stress this enough!) congratulations to my two favourite Moroccan

“This worked out great until one of his students decided it would be a good idea to show Dan how good his downward dog move was, in the sky, at 10,000ft! Yoga is now banned at the DZ”

flame-haired friends Ricky Davies and Tanya Quigley for successfully completing their courses to become AFF Instructors! I'm so chuffed for you. Everyone knows gingers have mad skillz! Well done to everyone on the awesome progression, so see you in the sky for more carnage!

Blue skies!

Laura Turner

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Ian Devlin, James Evans, Mohamed Mohamed, Mike Palmer, Sophie Rees, Nigel Thomas
CH2/JM1 Lee Matthews FS1 Jon Davies, David 'Dangerous' Owen FF1 Nicholas Watts
JUMP NUMBERS 50 Lee Matthews 100 David 'Dangerous' Owen, Fae Yip 200 Nicholas Watts

SWINDON

DOWNWARD DOGS AND WORLD DOMINATION

Laurence of Arabia, Poisoned Arrow, Something for the Weekend, Naughty Knees, Mediocrity, Back to the Future...

Don't worry, I haven't gone completely mad and started listing all the films I've watched. No, these are all names of jumps taken from Patrick's logbook. I got a tip off to have a look at it if I got the chance, I did and I wasn't disappointed. Here's one of Patrick's jumps for your amusement:

Something for the weekend: "Looking out of the window at work all day – will it clear – then will it stay good, will I finish on time. Charge to the DZ – Luke to Brucie – there's a slot on lift 8 and I have a tall Irishman – Brucie – yes! Closed & opened door, practised spotting, float exit, play with mantis and arching! Wave off & pull @4k head into wind, nice pattern, nice accurate landing, flying across field to get close to cone."

So if you're ever at Redlands and need something to do in-between jumps, just have a read of Patrick's logbook. It's very entertaining.

Health and Safety Dan decided that his AFF students would benefit from a bit of post-lunch yoga before hitting the PLF mat. This worked out great until one of his students decided it would be a good idea to show Dan how good his downward dog move was, in the sky, at 10,000ft! Yoga is now banned at the DZ.

Darrell is going all out for world domination, since he is currently trying to get onto the camera team, learning to sitfly and also doing DZ control. However, there is one thing he is not too keen on: going out to catch the tandems. Whenever there is a shout for catchers, Darrell is nowhere to be seen. A strange thing happened one Saturday in August, though. Darrell actually went out to catch (there was no wind) and to say everyone was shocked would be an understatement! Just keep catching Darrell, just keep catching.

Dylan '10 chins' has signed up to do a Half Iron Man next year, which means two things. Firstly, he's not man enough to do a full Iron Man. Secondly, he's going to be at the DZ even less than last year. See you next year, Dyl! He has also been spotted skydiving a lot in one day, but it wasn't at Redlands so it didn't happen.

Congratulations to Rayner and Shaun for reaching the magical milestone of 100 jumps. They celebrated with a six-way speed star and Shaun had a little tear in his eye while on the jump because none of his boys were with him. They were busy moisturising and fake tanning, apparently.

Another canopy course has been booked in for September and, yes, Darrell has signed up for part two. I'm already looking forward to writing all about it in the next club news, so don't disappoint me Darrell!

Till next time

Cath Thorne

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Sophie Harris CAT8/CH1 Ellie Bramer, Sarah Thorp, Luke Tuffey, Zac
CH2/JM1 Henry Carter FS1 Aaron Doy, Darko Salaj FF1 Hazel Tyrrell
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Rayner Killingback, Shaun Zerebecki 1,000 Jon Eeles 2,000 Jon Moulder 4,000 H 48 HOURS IN FREEFALL Brucie Johnson →



TILSTOCK

CUTAWAYS, CARELESSNESS AND... COURGETTES?

What a funny summer we're having – and that's not just the weather!

Students have been trying to progress, but those silly winds have been wreaking havoc with their attempts. A great deal of patience and self-control have been seen in the clubhouse and many interesting ways of passing the time have been tried. We've found that Vicky's cakes, made with love, care and courgettes, are particularly useful at putting a smile back on everyone's faces. Of the students who did jump, it is worth noting Gary Bradshaw's first jump because this also involved his first cutaway. Congratulations to Gary, who came back and has continued jumping – brave lad!

Qualified jumpers have been progressing well in FS, with Mike Pritchard doing a sterling job and lots of people appreciate his skill, patience and encouragement. The Tilflockers are continuing to have great fun too and more wingsuits are appearing in the skies over Tilly.

Tilly are having a run on pilots at the moment and we have gone through another two. Some would say this is rather careless of us, but it is hard to argue with their reasoning. Julian Strickland has gone off to do a full-time professional flying job based much closer to his home and Phil Wright has left to go bush flying in Namibia! However, we warmly welcome Dave Lewis to the fold. He is also a skydiver, so we expect good things.

As reported in the last issue, Steve Cooper (Scoop) did his 2,000th jump in style (Freestyle, even) and continues to enjoy his newfound free time now that he is no longer instructing by doing lots of fun FS jumps. He is smiling more than ever!

Having started the Keele Skydiving Club, Dan Cope has abandoned us – but only for a while. He has somehow managed to wangle a year studying in America, based in San Diego, and several club members are working out how to get away with a visit over the pond to make sure that he is being looked after properly and not missing his friends. Dan's sendoff was rather fun and he has compiled a rather good video – see the Tilly Facebook page for a link.

While we're on the subject of internet-related things, Wilco has been busy and the Tilstock webpage has been updated and given a good going over. Check it out at theparachutecentre.com

Our romantic side was in evidence as Rob Wilson and Beth Richards married, as mentioned in the last issue. The forecast for the day was so bad so no-one was worried about having to choose between going to the wedding and jumping. On the day, the sun shone for the wedding, but an absolute deluge in the evening saw everyone retreating to the marquee where we were entertained by an amazing crooner – our very own Ritchie Baron. Who knew he could sing like that? He kept telling us he could, we just never believed him!

Tilly has been in the media, with Buzz (our CI) featuring in episode 25 of Skydive Radio UK. It's well worth a listen, and he's talking in

TILSTOCK
Scoop's 2,000th

WILD GEESE
'Crazy' Neal Fitzpatrick

the School of Hard Knocks about altitude, ability and what happens when you confuse the two.

Gareth Wood, an experienced skydiver with many years under his belt and nearly 6,000 jumps to his name, proved just how safe skydiving is when compared with many other sports. A source tells us that his skydiving ability is vastly greater than his diving ability – especially in judging altitude when you make a dive off the back of a boat! We hope you make a full recovery, Gareth.

On a very sad note, many of our club members, old and new, recently went to the funeral of Pat Waters, a long time CI at Tilly who had an impact on many people in the sport. Blue skies, Pat.

Gary Windon

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Lee Hackland, Becci Mann **JUMP NUMBERS 300** Dan Cope, Rich Scott **500** John Poole

WILD GEESE

IN THE PINK

With the usual unpredictability of Northern Ireland's weather, we've been hard at work exploiting the few jumpable days that we've been blessed with and battling to balance the first-time tandem students with providing plenty of activity for our fun jumpers.

We have been very pleased with the progress of our Category System students. It has been extremely rewarding to see the dedication of our homegrown students as well as the Queen's University Club turning up for re-caps week in and week out despite the weather. This dedication has paid off with steady progression throughout – keep at it, folks!

The Irish 4-way Nationals has seen new Rookie team *4nicote* travel south from the Geese, and they are 'Crazy' Neal Fitzpatrick, Aaron 'Blame' Blain, Michael 'Tell me about it' Telford and Stephen 'Maverick' Campbell. Not only did they come home with a silver medal, but they also won some tunnel time for being the only team with no busts – not bad for a first outing.

While Canopy Pilot Rod McCrory was competing in the Pink Canopy Piloting Open in Klatovy in the Czech Republic, Joanne Wilson was also at Skydive Pink Klatovy freeflying and celebrating her 500th jump with 30+ degrees heat, sunshine and five Skyvans to choose from. That's how to do it in style. Well done, Jo!

We must also give a massive shout out to both Linley Ewing and Colin Stevenson, who achieved their CSI rating. A fabulous result and richly deserved too. Well done those men!

All that is left for us is to keep an eye on the weather forecast and make the most of whatever Mother Nature supplies. If you're planning a wee trip to Northern Ireland, we are always glad to see visiting skydivers – we'd love to see you. So, until next time, Blue Skies and soft landings. If you have to swoop, do it low and hard!

Rod McCrory

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Jamie Roberts, Alex Woods **CAT8** Cam Stewart, Chris Thompson **CH2/JM1** Patrick Hunter **FF1** Levi Hamill **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Patrick Hunter **100** Matt Alderdice, Levi Hamill, David Thompson **500** Joanne Wilson **2,000** Pete Lehane



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October

October 6

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

October 10-11

U CH2/JM1 training

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

October 13-18

WS Wingsuit World Record

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

October 17-18

A Freely Big-way Challenge with *Euphoria*

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

October 20-24

U FAI World Championships in Tunnel Flying

Location: **Prague** • wisc2015.com

October 31

U Night Jumps and Halloween Party

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

October 31 - November 1

U CH2/JM1 training

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.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

November 28

U Night jumps

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

December

December 1

BPA Council and General Meeting

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

2016

January 30 2016

BPA Skydive the Expo and BPA AGM

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

Dates correct at time of printing

KEY

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CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING

CF CANOPY FORMATION
S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY
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ALTI!**

By Kev Coffey



By Ming Chu



AUGUST'S WINNER

Winner: "Plenty of space at the ends but it's standing room only, I'm afraid."
Paul Garwood

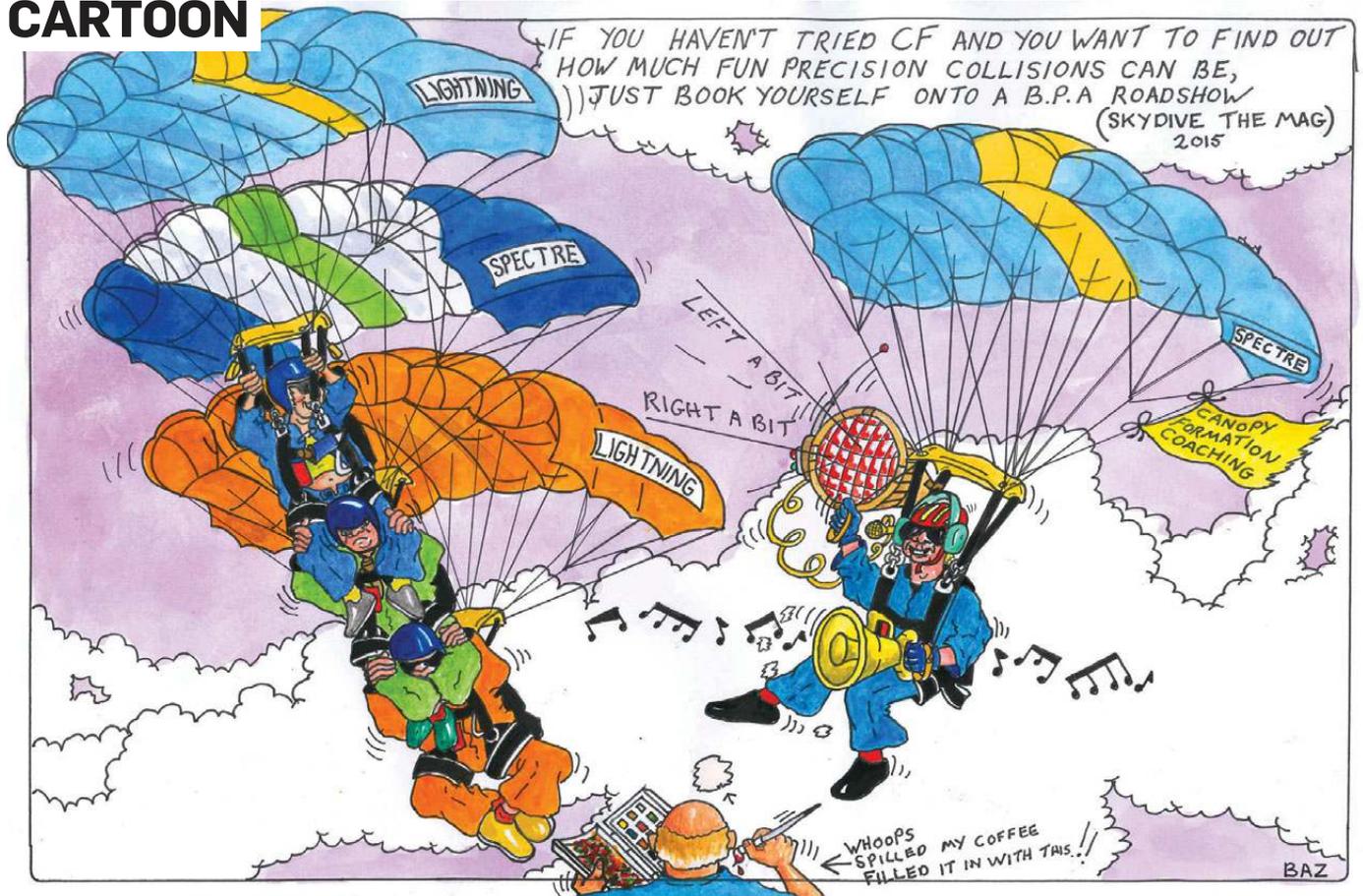
Runner-up: "It all went horribly wrong when the *Peterlee Pie Eaters* docked with the *Swansea Slimmers*."
Bob Murdoch

CAPTION COMPETITION
– WIN A SOLO AUDIBLE ALTI



Win a Larsen & Brusgaard SOLO audible alti, courtesy of The Jump Shop! To enter the competition, just send your caption to compzone@skydivethemag.com! The closing date for entries will be **November 12 2015**

CARTOON



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