



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com December 2015

# skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964



**INSIDE:** WORLD INDOOR SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS HONE YOUR HEAD UP WITH ALLY MILNE  
WINGSUIT WORLD RECORD BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO 2016 WE REMEMBER PAT WALTERS  
EURO FEMALE HEAD DOWN RECORD PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, IDEAS AND EVENTS

# Come skydive in Central Spain -

## Beginner and intermediate courses available

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

We cater for holiday makers who wish to do an AFF course and also have BPA coaches full time for FS1 and FF1, FF2 and CH1. Remember we have a vibrant mid week dropzone so getting the jump numbers you want on holidays is not a problem.



### One Instructor, One Student.

We provide you with your own exclusive UK AFF Instructor to personally see you through your course from ground school to completing your level 8. This means no waiting for 'your turn', leaving you free to focus on skydiving.



### Good Links with UK dropzones.

We are an established school and graduates who have completed our course have been well received on UK dropzones. We offer an unparalleled level of after course support which is why many of our students choose to return for a second holiday in the sun.



### Package Deal. What you want, when you want.

Talk to David or Lola in customer service about what type of package you would like. Whilst many things are included free such as video of all your skydives there are many options. For example you might want a car to visit Madrid or prefer to have your own hotel room. We can mix and match based on your requirements, and you can have your holiday at a time that suits you!

### Jump all day and don't get bored in the evening!

The FFU Ocaña is the home of the Madrid Skydivers. It is also host to turbine aircraft, the Swiss national teams and some of the best facilities a skydiving centre can offer, of note is a 30km<sup>2</sup> landing area, swimming pool, onsite hotel and bar/restaurant.

Aranjuez where we 'hang out' in the evenings is a modern city of 100,000 Spanish city workers who make the short daily commute to Madrid, European city of culture for 2005. Alternate activities, restaurants, music bars, clubs and skydivers bars number in the hundreds!

### Sample Package available.

Silver Package Budget	<b>£1280</b>
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- Return flights LGW, Luton, Lypool.\*
- Transfers / Car Hire 7 days
- 7 days 2\*\* private hotel room
- 8 Level **AFF Course** with British Instructor

✓ Recommended Upgrades	Prices
• 10 solo jumps	<b>£330</b>
Cost per jump	<b>£33.00</b>
• Group Discount	£call
• Military Discount	£call

Call our London office on 020 7870 2505  
7 days a week, 9am-8pm or contact us  
online at [www.freefalluniversity.co.uk](http://www.freefalluniversity.co.uk)

# FREEFALL UNIVERSITY

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



As my fifteenth skydiving season starts to wind down, I'm looking back at a fantastic year. I've been lucky to be on some great teams in 2015 – two outdoor and two indoor. First up was *3kix+1*, a hilarious weekend of player-coaching three Airkix Instructors at the Bodyflight World Challenge. Next came *Pineapple Jesus*, in our third year of AAA 4-way and having a right giggle doing it, closely followed by *Not Flat on This Occasion* (Rai Ahmed of *Kaizen/NFTO* and me) – we entered the Freely B Nationals with our awesome cameraman David and had so much fun. Finally, *Flarial* involved Rai and I lending our 4-way geekery to Steve Howes and Adam Dare at the Revenge Meet – the boys were fresh from double Nationals gold but weren't used to staying on their bellies. Add in a couple of Scrambles teams and it's been one of the best years yet.

I really do think that teams, whether belly, freely or otherwise, are such a brilliant way to focus your jumping, learn lots and have fun doing it. I can't wait for the 2016 season to kick off and, of course, January also brings us BPA Skydive the Expo. Hope to see you there!

Liz Ashley



**VIDEO:** [TINYURL.COM/BPAEXPO2016PREVIEW](http://TINYURL.COM/BPAEXPO2016PREVIEW)

BPA Skydive the Expo 2016 is bigger, better and back!

### British Parachute Association Ltd

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## CONTENTS

*Cover: Sara Orton about to jump into Chatsworth on a Jump 4 Heroes demo in support of the Royal British Legion. By Vance Allen*

*Welcome: Six of the S-202 aircraft climbing to altitude over the Ortega mountain range. By Willy Boeykens*

*Contents: One of many complete 202-ways over Perris, California in October. The S-202 event was organised by Patrick Passe, Dieter Kirsch and Milko and set a new World Record 2-point 202-way (including a healthy Brit contingent as usual). In fact, in trying for a third point, the team actually managed seven complete 202-ways during the event – including three 2-point sequentials. By Willy Boeykens*



# IN THIS ISSUE

### 03 Welcome

to the December issue of *Skydive the Mag!*

### 06 News Zone

Keep up to date with the latest skydiving news

### 10 BPA Zone

News and announcements from the offices of the BPA

### 14 Expo

BPA Skydive the Expo is bigger, better and back!

### 19 Wingsuit World Record

The jewel in wingsuiting's crown for 2015

### 24 Hone your Head Up

Ally Milne's tips for head up Daffy and Stag

### 29 Euro Female Head Down Record

Making the awesome look easy in only six jumps

### 32 FAI World Indoor Skydiving Championships

High heels, impromptu sleuthing and early starts in Prague

### 39 Female Freestyle Weekend

An event so good we can't tell you its real name!

### 40 Pat Walters

We remember the legendary Chief Instructor

### 43 Progression Zone

Wingtip vortices, docking in FS and Canopy Corner

### 47 Safety Zone

Two months in the lives of our Chief Instructors

### 50 Gear Zone

Shiny stuff for your Christmas list

### 53 DZs

How to contact your local DZ

### 54 Club Zone

All the goings-on at a DZ near you

### 80 Events Zone

Dates for your diary

### 82 Comp Zone

Win a SOLO audible alti, courtesy of the Jump Shop



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SOME OF THE PHOTOS IN THIS MAGAZINE MAY SHOW  
 SKYDIVERS WITHOUT HELMETS OR ALTIMETERS, OR  
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 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  
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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
February 2016	January 04	February 25

**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?

Alex Dand training over Empuria,  
by Andy Godwin



## Go Team GB!

The BPA is sending a monster delegation to the World Air Games in Dubai, which take place during the first two weeks in December. They will be competing across all disciplines as you read this, and your support really means a lot to them. Follow the BPA and *Skydive the Mag* on Facebook for updates on how they're all getting on. Teams and competitors to watch out for are:

**Speed** In the last four months, Mikey Lovemore has won the British Nationals, broken the long-standing British Speed record, become one of only five people ever to break 500kph in competition, won double silver at the World Cup and European Championships and become a first-time father! He is joined by Jason Bird and Tim Porter in the battle to see how fast they can go.

**Canopy Piloting** Multiple National Champions Wez Westley, Martin Reynolds and Brian Vacher return to Dubai yet again.

*Euphoria* will be flying the flag in both **Freefly** (Dave Pacey, Sean Freeman and Paul Capsey) and **Freestyle** (Andy Godwin and Alex Dand). The boys were last seen winning silver at the 2015 British Nationals, while Alex missed the Nationals but has managed to squeeze in some last-minute training with Godders.

*QFX VFS* are Paul Cooper, Ally Milne, Pete Dennett and Weed Stoodley with Ewan Cowie

MicroClim8,  
by Chris Cook



on camera. Check out Ally's article on P24 and Paul Cooper's upcoming seminar at BPA Skydive the Expo.

**4-way Female** Rai Ahmed, Anna Hicks, Maria Russell, Ane Brentford and Simon Brentford have been training hard since their 16.4 average at the 2015 British Nationals made them the UK's top female team. The World Air Games is the next major step in the plan for world domination, and the plan runs all the way to the Mondial in Chicago in 2016.

**4-way Open** The *Vision* boys took bronze at the 2015 British Nationals with a 17.7 average. Si Guest, Ady King, Mike Hayes, Pete Mather and Ged Parker face the toughest competition

of all, with the podium being the sole preserve of full-time professional teams – but there is still plenty to play for.

**8-way MicroClim8** have taken some lineup changes to be able to field a full team, 'borrowing' back some previous 8-way team members. Maria Russell will compete in both 8-way Open and 4-way Female – no lie-ins for you, Maria!

*CRWsaders* are stepping up to compete in **CF**. They are Paul Yeoman, Chris Davison, Phil Symons, Carl Marsh and Pete Thornton.

Good luck to the whole delegation; we'll be cheering you on at home.



NFTO, by Simon Brentford

CRWsaders  
4-stackCRWsaders  
in the aircraft

## They're breeding!

**Does anyone else** remember the days when the UK had no wind tunnels? You had to fly to Orlando to get 12ft, or drive through the other type of tunnel to France for a go on one with no glass up the sides – just some netting and padding that was rather an incentive against falling off the edge of the airflow (but it still happened).

Bodyflight and Airkix both celebrated their 10th birthdays in 2015, and look where we are now. Four established UK tunnels, constant rumours of where the next might pop up and a flood of overseas tunnels opening. Skydivers' geography has improved as we've asked questions like: "Where exactly IS Tatrlandia?"

The latest tunnel to begin construction is 17ft wide, 21m tall and is being built in Milan. This will be Italy's second wind tunnel.

## WS league results

**Congratulations to Spike** Harper, who has won the overall 2015 World Series of Wingsuit Performance. The final competition of the season at Elsinore saw Spike rack up a near-perfect score of 298.6 out of 300. This was 100% in Time, 100% in Speed and 98.6% in Distance. Fellow Brit Tony Uragallo just pipped Spike in Distance to come second.

The overall World rankings are similar, with Spike the overall winner for 2015 and Tony in third place. Jackie Harper, who was the overall winner in 2014, hands her title over to her husband and finishes in seventh place this year. Spike also won silver at the first-ever Wingsuit World Cup which was held at Netheravon in May, and they have both set new World and European FAI Records in Wingsuiting this year. What a fantastic year for wingsuiting and the Harpers!

Dane Kenny



## Skydiving on *The One Show*

**The Bonfire Night** edition of *The One Show* featured BPA Instructor Examiner Dane Kenny as a human firework! November 5 saw him exit over Netheravon at night in a streak of sparkles, much to the delight of the studio audience. If you missed it, catch up on iPlayer quick!

# RED BULL ACES

**The world's first-ever** wingsuit four-cross competition, as well as the first with air gates, Red Bull Aces was introduced in 2014 and returned to northern California this year. The goal of the contest – where athletes jump four at a time from a civilian Bell Huey helicopter to fly simultaneously through a one-mile aerial slalom course of five 112ft gates – is to find the world's best all-around wingsuit pilot.

Andy Farrington of the United States fought off a fierce challenge from an international field of 40 men and women from 18 countries to be crowned Red Bull Aces champion for the second consecutive year. Fellow American Noah Bahnsen had a repeat second place in the competition that has launched a new age in wingsuit flying.

By the time the lineup of only the best athletes from five continents was narrowed

down to the final four, the race was almost too close to call. Because both Farrington and Bahnsen passed through the gates with perfect accuracy, it all came down to time and Farrington edged Bahnsen by less than four-tenths of a second.

All of the gates are equipped with GPS positioning and the competitors each wear a GPS transmitter to determine whether they pass through the gates properly. Computers on the ground receive the information in real time, making the judging immediate. The winner is based not only on how quickly the finish line is crossed, but also on how many gates he/she correctly passes through.

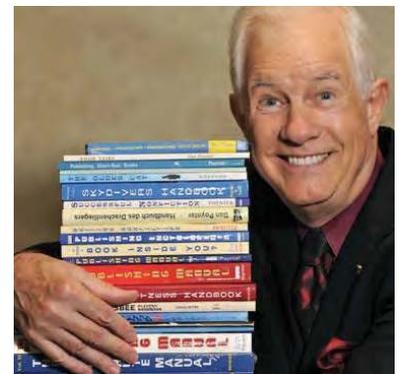
Brits Tony Uragallo and Spike Harper competed, coming tenth and 17th overall respectively (with Spike coming first in the qualifying rounds), and Jackie Harper was a judge.



## Lofty Thomas

**Former Chairman** of the BPA Lofty Thomas has died aged 84. Lofty did his first jump in 1967 and set up Thomas Sports Equipment, which is still run by his son Chris today. His other son, Derek, used to run Sun Path, and most of the Thomas family have followed Lofty into the sport.

It is not possible to do justice to a man of Lofty's parachuting pedigree in this small space or in the short time available, so watch out for a full obituary next issue. In the meantime, see Bridlington's Club News on P58 for their personal memories of him.



## Dan Poynter

**Dan Poynter sadly** passed away on November 2. Dan was diagnosed with an illness a few weeks earlier and the progression was fast. Dan was famous as the author of the Riggers' Bible – *The Parachute Manual* – but he published more than 'just' his rigging manuals. His contributions to worldwide rigging are immense, and we were lucky that he spoke at the BPA AGM a few years back. Dan was a prolific author, speaker and, most importantly, a contributor to the Parachute Industry Association where he served as president of the PIA, curator and trustee of the Skydiving Museum and Hall of Fame, and contributed to our skydiving world in ways that cannot be quantified. We will miss him, but we are grateful for having had the opportunity to know him.



*'Gates' suspended from helicopters.  
By Joerg Mitter and Balazs Gardi  
for the Red Bull Content Pool*



Safe diving to the 202 way  
Safe building of the 202 way  
Safe tracking from the 202 way  
Thank you organizers for a  
SAFE 2-point 202 way sequential!

... Congratulations on the  
**New World Record!**



Photos: Willy Boeykens

[www.vigil.aero](http://www.vigil.aero)





## BPA AGM

The **BPA AGM 2016** will be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre (EMCC), University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RJ at 10:30 on Saturday 30 January 2016 (concurrently with BPA Skydive the Expo 2016).

There is a special resolution on the AGM agenda to update the BPA's governing instrument, its Articles of Association. This is to change the composition of Council to better meet the principles of the Voluntary Code of Good Governance in Sport and Recreation. A document comprising the AGM agenda together with a letter explaining the proposed changes is being circulated as an insert to this Mag and it is available together with further information on the BPA website. Members unable to attend the AGM in person may vote by proxy using BPA form 270, which can be downloaded from the BPA website. The terms and conditions of proxy voting are set out on the form.



## BPA Gala Dinner

The **BPA Annual Gala Dinner** will be held at 19:30 for 20:00 at EMCC Nottingham on the evening of the AGM/Expo, Saturday 30 January. Dinner tickets cost £26 each and need to be purchased in advance via Form 239 available from the Expo/BPA websites or from the BPA Office: telephone 0116 278 5271 for payment with order (please have your card ready if telephoning). Seating will be in rounds of 10 and tables may be reserved if booking 10 tickets at the same time. If the vegetarian main course is required, it must be requested on booking and

special dietary requirements must also be notified. Dress will be dinner jacket or suit and tie for men and evening wear for ladies.

The dinner will be followed by live entertainment and a disco. Attendance is free-of-charge to BPA Members and their guests.

The onsite Orchard Hotel was fully booked for the Saturday night by late October. Please visit the Expo website at [skydivetheexpo.co.uk](http://skydivetheexpo.co.uk) for a link to the Travelodge and Experience Nottinghamshire websites for available accommodation.

## Election of BPA Council 2016

**Nominations closed at noon** on Monday 30 November, after the copy date for this Mag. If there were more nominations than the 15 available seats, an independently-administered election will be held. If there were 15 nominees or fewer, they will take their seats uncontested. Please see the BPA website for news of the position at the close of nominations. Council 2016 will take office immediately after the AGM.



## Christmas and New Year Holiday

The **BPA Office** will close at 17:00 on Wednesday 23 December and reopen at 09:00 on Monday 4 January 2016. The BPA Council and staff send all members and their families best wishes for the festive season.

# NEW RATINGS

**AFFBI**

Karl Chapman  
Lee Crudgington  
Simon Larcombe  
Lee Winter

**AFFI**

Richard Cotton  
Andrew Pointer

**CSBI**

Christopher Davison  
Gerardus Kendall  
Carl Marsh  
Susan Nuttall  
Richard Oakley  
William Ross  
Ian Wicks

**CSI**

Joshua Carratt  
Richard Drabble  
Richard Dixon  
Simon Finlay  
Dylan Morris-Roberts

Rab Peterson  
Matthew Willson  
Jon Wilson

**TBI**

Ionut Ciofu  
Scott Mackenzie  
Augustin Mera  
Keith Rivett  
James Stride

**TI**

Sean (Geordie) Best  
KJ Bull  
Aimee Southwell

**ADVANCED PACKER**

Richard Kimber (S)  
Mathew Knight (R)  
Justinas Kubilinskas (S)  
Chris Sharman (R)  
Christopher White (S)

**ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR**  
Ryan Mancey



*AFF examination jump,  
by Chris Judd*



## FROM THE CHAIR OF RIGGERS

### Paul Applegate, Chair of Riggers, BPA Life Member

I have been the Chair of the BPA Riggers Subcommittee for quite a few years now and, for those who don't know me, everybody calls me Apples. I've been in the sport for more than 40 years as a fun jumper, stunt jumper, competitor and Instructor – in fact, I have made more than 1,000 AFF jumps as an Instructor. These days, I'm perhaps best known as Chair of Riggers and as an elected member of Council, on which I've served for some years. This sets my work in rigging in the wider context of the sport as a whole. Originally from Somerset (a county famous for its apples), I now work as a self-employed Rigger (I'm an Advanced Rigger and Advanced Packer) based at Weston-on-the-Green in Oxfordshire.

A Rigger is a person – in the UK, a BPA Full Member – who is trained and qualified to pack, maintain and repair parachutes, harnesses and containers. They are required to understand fabrics, hardware, webbing, regulations, sewing, packing and other aspects related to the building, packing, repair, and maintenance of parachute gear. It goes without saying that rigging is safety critical and therefore an integral part of assuring that the sport is as safe as possible. As a specialist area, rigging has its own ratings (qualifications). Therefore, the Riggers' Subcommittee comes under the umbrella of the Safety and Training Committee and the Chair of Riggers is a co-opted member of STC.

### Riggers' ratings

There are four BPA Riggers' ratings which are Basic Rigger (BR), Parachute Rigger (PR), Advanced Rigger (AR) and Rigger Examiner (RE). Each of these allows the holder to undertake different roles in the rigging world. A Basic Rigger undertakes most general repairs to main canopies and containers under supervision while training, while a Parachute Rigger can do the same work unsupervised. An Advanced Rigger does this and

any work to reserve canopies and harnesses as well. In fact, an AR can repair anything and can build a complete rig if they want to. A Rigger Examiner does all of the above and also examines others to become Parachute Riggers and upgrade to Advanced. In the BPA today, we currently have 49 PRs, 21 ARs and four REs.

### BPA Riggers' Subcommittee

The Riggers Subcommittee meets bi-monthly and coincides with STC so that, as the Chair, I can report on recommendations or decisions to STC. The responsibilities of the BPA Riggers' Subcommittee include:

1. Approval and acceptance of parachute equipment and modifications as required under Section 6 of the BPA Operations Manual.
2. Formulation and revision of the Riggers' Manual.
3. Formulation and revision of the Safety Notice Index.
4. Formulation and revision of Rigging Training Syllabus.
5. Formulation and revision of the Packing Training Syllabus.
6. Discussion of equipment safety issues and taking actions where required.
7. Packing and rigging disciplinary matters in accordance with the BPA's Disciplinary Procedures.
8. Establishing projects that may progress the safety of equipment.

Participation in the BPA Riggers' Subcommittee is open to all Riggers. REs, ARs and PRs with a minimum of two years' experience after gaining their rating may vote, though only REs and ARs may vote on changes to the work limitations of the PR rating and changes to the training requirements of the AR rating as stated in the BPA Operations Manual, Section 14 Paras 3 and 4 respectively. Only REs and ARs may vote on disciplinary matters. The Subcommittee works closely with Tony Butler (Chief Operating Officer) and Jeff Montgomery (Safety and Technical Officer) on all equipment-related safety issues to ensure a joined-up approach and to learn from incidents that arise.

### Requirements to attend a course to qualify as a Parachute Rigger (PR)

- Be a full BPA Member
- Have a BPA Advanced Packer Qualification Grade (S)
- Hold a BPA Approved Packing Certificate that includes a Tandem system (i.e., a Tandem main packing certificate).
- Have a written recommendation from a CI or AR who has known the candidate for a minimum of six months.

There are two training methods. Method one is a five-day course. Method two requires at least 200 hours (excluding re-packs) of logged rigging work and a report to be submitted to the Examiners prior to the course. It is vital that all trainee Riggers work closely with a qualified supervisor and gain a wide knowledge of the equipment used in sport parachuting.

### Demand for Riggers

Riggers may be found at or around most dropzones and their place of work is customarily known as a 'rigging loft'. Although rigging and its

practitioners too often go unsung, rigging is a behind-the-scenes activity that is critical to the safety, performance and enjoyment of our sport. The fact that it is mostly behind the scenes work, sometimes in windowless rigging lofts, probably explains the myth that all Riggers are grumpy. While you are out there enjoying the sunshine and jumping to your heart's content, your Rigger is hunched over a sewing machine in the loft!

### How to find out more

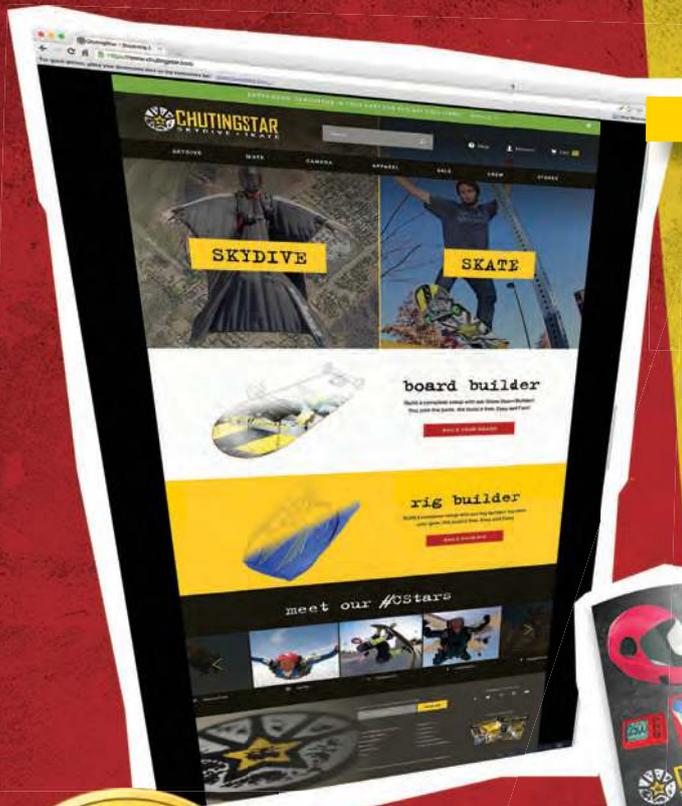
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1

# FLOCKING GLORIOUS

IT'S BEEN A FANTASTIC YEAR FOR WINGSUITING, SO FINISHING IT WITH A WORLD RECORD SEEMS PERFECT TO US!

**WORDS** DAVE BUTTERELL  
**PHOTOS** MARK HARRIS, MATT HOOVER AND NORMAN KENT

**T**his year, the FAI formally ratified worldwide criteria for judging large formations and thus allowed the first “formal” World Records to take place.

Since the judging criteria were ratified in March, the first Wingsuit World Records for large formations had been set at Flanders in Belgium. Using the FAI grid to judge the record attempts, the Flanders Select event set the bar for big-way wingsuiting with a 33-way and

then a subsequent 41-way formation. However, even before that event took place, eyes were set on something bigger being planned for Perris in California later in the year. Qualifying events, including the British Wingsuit Record at Hibaldstow, had been scheduled and many people had ‘being on a World Record’ as their goal for the year. Flanders threw down the gauntlet, so could Perris better it?

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

For many of those arriving for the World Record, it felt like a reunion. The familiar faces of those who had jumped together at previous records, warm-up events and skills camps made for a relaxed start. To some, including many of the attending Brits, it was their first event of this magnitude and there was a sense of pride at being part of it.

In total, 77 wingsuiters were part of the record group. With the FAI Judge arriving on day three, we had two warm-up days to

work on exits and approaches and dial in the required spacing.

Day one saw the team split into two groups to warm up with some “small” 39-way and 38-way two-plane formations. Actually, these were the biggest wingsuit formations many had been on and they acted as a steep learning curve for the record attempts ahead. Both groups progressed well and, once people got used to the flying speeds, the final jumps of the day showed great promise. →

**1** Nearly a 50-way, by Matt Hoover

**2** Jamming up the exit, by Norman Kent





Day two turned out to be one of those you look back on with a satisfied smile, a little disbelief and a slight sense of awe. Arriving for the morning briefing, the team was presented with a single 77-way four-plane formation. As if to prove their faith, the organisers were giving the team the chance to show what they could do. That faith was returned with some tight, spectacular flying that showed the quality of the gathered team – especially on only the second day of the event. The 16-way base was building quickly and consistently, most likely due to the often mocked but perhaps crucial extra exit practice Purple Mike made his plane do. As such, there was a solid foundation on which to build the rest of the formation. The camerawork was exemplary too, with Mark Harris receiving a spontaneous cheer in response to his head down rotating transition in front of the formation. Awesome! The day ended with us having completed five 76-way or larger formations. There aren't many days like that recorded in people's logbooks and, record or no record, many participants felt it was a day to savour.

### NOR RAIN NOR HEAT NOR – AH...

On the first day of record attempts, we were presented with an unusual sight in drought-stricken California: rain and fog! As such, our dark, early start was greeted with some bemusement as we dodged



puddles on the runway while dirt-diving to a murky sunrise. As the day progressed and with the insistence of the Brits that it really “isn't that bad” and “we'd be jumping back home”, the weather finally cleared. Two jumps involving the whole group were made, but a combination of the downtime and perhaps a lack of focus meant we had nothing suitable to present to the judge.

The next day was weather-affected again, but this time terminally. With only one aborted attempt and plane ride, no jumping took place. However, this led to a fairly significant breakthrough with the dirt diving and what was described by some as a “eureka moment”. Following discussions with some of the participants who had previous FS big-way experience and with a significant input from Dan BC,

a focus was placed on the ‘exit frame’ during the day's dirt-dives. The exit frame is the moment where the last person has exited the aircraft and the building formation is strung out. Unlike FS formations, a wingsuit big-way builds at 90° to the line of flight and this creates a very different exit frame. By building this on the ground and walking into slot, it was clear the participants could very quickly visualise their approach. This was a significant step forward on previous dirt diving and, though there was no jumping, many thought the breakthrough was worth the downtime.

The third day of record attempts saw a change of tack from the organisers. The previous poor weather and an equally unsettled forecast meant we weren't getting the jumps in. As such, the group

**3** Diagonal sight-lines, by Norman Kent

**4** Grid-perfect on the ground, by Norman Kent

**5** The new World Record 61-way from below, by Mark Harris

**6** All smiles, by Norman Kent

**7** Skyvan exit, by Norman Kent

**8** Waiting for the call to exit, by Norman Kent



was cut down to a 50-way record group and a 27-way bench. This was obviously disappointing for some, but there was a determination to get a record that the whole group could build upon.

Needless to say, the first attempt was a little over the line. An initial slow, controlled build deteriorated into a spectacular zoo of wingsuiters and close to 50 individuals breaking off. A reset was needed and reset we did, but what was to follow turned out to be four of the most calm, chilled and successful jumps we could have hoped for.

**ON A ROLL**

A second 50-way was quickly manifested without debriefing the first. This time, the approaches, build and entire flight were beautifully executed. For those in the formation, it felt like it flew for ages. Could we have done it? The video looked good, even getting an in-air nod from underneath cameraman Mark Harris. With the formation still being officially judged, the organisers didn't want to waste time and the 50-way was sent again. This time, it was even smoother and a review of the video seemed to indicate an even better performance. A long wait then ensued. With the weather looking good, we could only assume another formation was being planned. The organisers then appeared with news. The 50-way was the →



**VIDEO:** [TINYURL.COM/QCWN5F8](https://tinyurl.com/QCWN5F8)

Check out Matt Hoover's spectacular event footage

new FAI World Record! The room erupted with a sense of relief and excitement – but also determination...

The determination was to go bigger and bring the bench group on board. A 61-way was the planned formation. With the dirt diving now running smoothly, it didn't take long before we were taking off for the first attempt at another new record. Given that a record had already been achieved, the mood was slightly more relaxed.

Much like the preceding jumps, the formation built like a dream. The new exit frame and dirt diving was proving its worth by allowing smooth, efficient approaches and fast builds. Also, like before, the formation flew for a long time, allowing slots to be perfected and sight-lines to be adjusted. The team gathered for a debrief. The video looked good but, with the formation breathing, perhaps not great. Would it fit the grid? We didn't have time to find out.

## FIVE BY FIVE

With light fading, we were sent again. Gearing up for our fifth record attempt of the day, plane captain Scott Callantine's pep talk hit home: "We're all tired, it's late in the day, but nowhere in the world is anyone gearing up for a 61-way sunset wingsuit formation! Let's do this!" The jump was beautiful. The sun setting over the Ortega Mountains, an orange sky filled with towering puffy clouds and 61 people setting a new World Record! The team had done it again. Official confirmation only came the next morning but, in the end, we had three confirmed



record jumps in one day and finished on a 61-way – an awesome achievement.

Unfortunately, that's where the story ends. Our final day was weathered out again. Much to the frustration of all wingsuiters present, the towering clouds would have been fun to play with but were not suitable for the planned 73-way. Of the four days of record attempts, we lost two and a half to weather. That made the achievements even more significant.

## ALRIGHT, WHAT NEXT?

A great deal of thanks are owed to the organisers and plane captains Taya, Scott, Purple Mike, Lawrence and Zun for their work in putting on a safe and successful event. Likewise, the camera team made up of the legendary Norman Kent, Mark Harris, Matt Hoover and Dan Dupuis for their simply stunning images. Thanks also to Skydive Perris for letting us play with their fleet and being super efficient when the weather allowed. Congratulations to the Brits in attendance and on the record who continue to show

the world that this country can certainly wingsuit! Finally, a big thanks to those who didn't make it onto the record; your commitment and support helped make it happen.

Record events bring a multitude of emotions for participants; excitement at what is to come, pride at being part of something special, fear of being cut, anger at a poor performance, elation following success. You're there as part of a team aiming to achieve something never done before, but that team depends on individual performances. There's a pressure on each and every participant to do their job, make their slot and remain safe. This is what makes record events so special: the pressure, the camaraderie, the bonds formed. As participants, we often don't get time to step back and appreciate how truly awesome this sport can be or how privileged we are to be part of it. Next time you're jumping, whatever you're doing, take a moment to appreciate it because ours is the best sport in the world! ●

**9** *Dirtdiving at dawn, by Norman Kent*

**10** *77-way attempt with the whole group, by Mark Harris*

10



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!



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# HONE YOUR HEAD UP!



## TWO NEW POSITIONS TO TRY AFTER YOU CAN SIT-FLY: HEAD UP DAFFY AND STAG

WORDS ALLY MILNE

### FREELY HEAD UP DAFFY POSITION

When learning for their FF1, a student is taught a symmetrical head up Freely straddle position. This gives good balance and it is easier to learn a symmetrical position than an asymmetrical one. After FF1, it is useful to learn and develop a good toolbox of head up positions because each offers its own advantages and disadvantages dependent on the situation.

The Freely Daffy position offers good slow fall characteristics and good balance, and it can help with grip taking too. In the Daffy position, the legs are asymmetrical with one leg straighter and pushed out to the side while the other leg is hooked

on its respective side. You may have seen this position on Freely footage and always thought it looks cool, but now we are going to find out what it's all about.

When learning any new position, it will take time to fly with it as proficiently as your normal flying position. But, by working on building new muscle memory with sitfly drill dives, coach jumps, solo jumps or tunnel time, you can add each new position to your skill toolbox. Learning Daffy can include specific points of difficulty such as turning if your legs are not deflecting an even amount of air flow on each side and it can also slow you down a great deal. Slower flyers may have to work extra hard to remain on the same level or increase their fall rate by relaxing and raising their arms. For slower flyers, flying in a Freely Stag position with one leg down may be more suitable.

One way of explaining how to fly Daffy is to talk about two different slowfall techniques:

### SLOWFALL TECHNIQUE ONE

Bring your knees in slightly and push your heels out to the side. This will increase the airflow hitting your lower legs and will cause you to fall slower. The angle that the lower legs can be pressed out is determined by your hip flexibility and this flexibility will get better with practice in the air and on the ground.

### SLOWFALL TECHNIQUE TWO

Push your legs out to the side and straighter to catch more air. If your legs are too far forward, this may induce unwanted forward movement – a point of balance must be found.

Due to their nature, both techniques will increase the airflow on your legs and will therefore require an increase in leg strength. To prevent your knees from popping up, it is helpful to press them down a couple of inches.

**1** Hannah Swallow (R) flies in a standard sitfly position as Chris France (L) flies head up Daffy. By Ally Milne



this is a great technique for grip taking. However, at higher VFS speeds, flying in a Stag position (with one leg down) is better because it increases fall rate.

When using Daffy as a grip taking technique in group flying, it should be remembered that, by placing your legs further away, you may end up burbling members of your group. You should be prepared to fly the Daffy in an alternative configuration or choose another leg flying position completely. Having more skills in your toolbox means you can open up the possibilities.

Once you have learnt the Daffy position, the next one to try is a Freestyle Stag position. This is flying with one leg down and the other leg in the standard bend at 90°.

**2 Ally Milne demonstrates head up Daffy: one leg out straight, one heel out behind, arms free to take grips. By Chris Cook**

**3 Freestyle Daffy front splits, by Ally Milne**

**FREELY STAG POSITION**

Flying the Freely Stag offers many advantages over the standard sitfly straddle we learn en route to FF1. It has the advantages of manoeuvrability from →

Flying Daffy is where one leg uses Technique One and the other uses Technique Two. It will take time to learn how to move through all the relevant points of motion. While the point of balance will feel different, all head up inputs with the upper body will remain the same.

When you get your legs into a Daffy position, you will notice that you will slow down relative to your initial fall rate. This can be used to good effect as a slowfall technique. If, however, slowfall is not desired, then the knees can be pressed down further and the arms relaxed (or, in some cases, removed from the airflow) to ensure the fall rate remains the same. It is better to fly with the legs more than the arms because the legs are larger and therefore more powerful. Daffy is also useful for grip-taking because the arms will no longer be required to maintain lift and the position spreads your balance over a greater area - making it more stable. At recreational sitfly speeds,



4



having a leg down in side sliding, carving and forward/backward movements, and can be used as a grip-taking technique at higher wind speeds. The position also maintains some stability by the one leg maintaining balance at about 90° from the torso like a standard sitfly straddle. Initially, a new Stag flyer will find the position wobbly. However, over time, you will learn to balance it so that the position becomes second nature.

Points of difficulty about flying the Stag position are that it will reduce your total flying surface area and cause your fall rate to increase. This is more useful for those who struggle to fly fast or people who are flying head up in a VFS group. This issue is less apparent in a dynamic environment because the momentum will generate relative lift,

which means all flyers are able to use to it to best effect. Also, if the flyer has a poor chest arch or sitflies hunched over, this position has the tendency to magnify any slight back slide. An easy fix to this issue is to think about moving forwards at 2mph with a chest input and that will become your new stationary neutral position.

The essence of flying in a Freely Stag position is to press one leg straight down. It is very easy to dirt dive on the ground because you can stand and balance on one leg with the other leg up in the normal bent flying position. It is very important that the leg is straight down when flying the position because it can induce unwanted drive. Just like standing on one leg on the ground, it will take time to learn this balance.

5



**4** Check out the different positions used in this head up round exit for the recent Euro Head Up Record. By Gustavo Cabana

**5** Stag on the left, standard on the right. By Joel Strickland

**6** You can see examples of all three head up body positions on the new European Head Up Record 21-way, set over Empuria in September. By Gustavo Cabana

It will also take time to learn how to move through all of the relevant points of motion. While the point of balance will feel different, all head up input with the upper body will remain the same. Forward and backward movement will give much more drive than in a symmetrical straddle position, because the straight leg is catching more air during the movement when flying Stag. This is the same for side slide inputs and it's for this reason that it is a good idea to be able to fly proficiently with either leg – you will want to be able to side slide in either direction!

Slowfall is dealt with by leaning back slightly and pressing the lower heel forward, increasing the air hitting the back and lower leg evenly. However, it shouldn't be overdone; with a larger surface area than the lower legs, you could induce a forward drive. Relaxing the forearms or pressing the bent leg down slightly creates fastfall.

The Stag position reduces the burble area on the side with the straight leg when

grip taking because the thigh is now vertical to the airflow. This is another reason to learn with each leg down, so right and left grips can be taken on a formation. This makes it ideal for VFS formations or for people docking onto head up formations.

Flying the Stag position in a controlled static manner also helps when you want to learn or develop the skills of in-face and out-face carving. These skills are best flown with one leg straight to increase drive and reduce burble to any arm input.

Hopefully this overview will arm you with the knowledge you need to go out and try these two new positions or give you an idea of what to do on your next coach jumps. As with any skill, every coach will teach it differently. However, if we can give you the starting blocks of information, you can now find out how to fly it for yourself. ●

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**Daffy top view, by Paul Dewey**



**Stag by Joel Strickland**

**66** Initially, a new Stag flyer will find the position wobbly. However, over time, you will learn to balance it so that the position becomes second nature **99**



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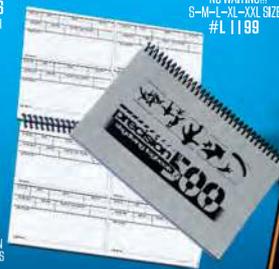
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WANT TO SEE 22 WOMEN MAKE THE AWESOME LOOK EASY IN ONLY SIX JUMPS? THERE'S A NEW EURO FEMALE HEAD DOWN RECORD ON THE BOOKS!

PHOTOS GUSTAVO CABANA

# STRAIGHT UP



The new record 22-way



Head down over the arid Spanish farmland



Organiser Anna Moxnes



Dornier G92



"The European Women's Vertical Record was awesome. As I got to learn this year, you need organisers to have an event so a big thank you goes to Domi Kiger and Anna Howerski who made it happen. But who takes part in the event also makes a big difference, and what a bunch of badass and awesome flyers made the trip to Seville – I was so honoured to be flying with them! I am also very grateful to the more experienced women on the record who hold many records and medals and who tagged

along, because it gave newbies like me the opportunity to get a record!

"Getting the record was an unforgettable memory. We built the formation relatively quickly and I could see Brochette across the formation saying with an immense smile 'We got it, we got it'. It flew for a good six seconds and I giggled with happiness under canopy and on landing. It was hugs and high fives and smiles all around – pure joy." Lorene Latour (British National Freely A competitor)

# EURO FEMALE HD RECORD

Reaching for the record



Dirtdiving



"We had two planes at Skydive Seville and it only took six jumps. It was good to get the record and, believe it or not, that was my sixth record for the year! I've been on five Head Down Records (UK Female 11-way, UK 37-way, World 164-way, World POPS 26-way and now this Euro Female 22-way) as well as the Euro Head Up 21-way... yikes! And, one day, I will have some idea!" **Weed Stoodley (BPA Artistics Rep)**

**Want to learn more about Freestyle Big-ways? Go to BPA Skydive the Expo where World Record holder Paul Cooper will be giving a seminar on January 30 2016!**



"It was such a pleasure to take part in the first European Women's Head Down Record: three days to meet new people, learn and have great fun working with the girls. Domi and Anna did such a great job; I was impressed how they managed to look at every one of us,

giving suggestions and tips to help us building that solid formation, in all of the debriefs. We got the record followed by a few seconds of perfectly flowing 22-way head down girls formation; what a great feeling! That's the kind of skydive we love: fun, commitment and results. I look forward to the next one!" **Tiziana Rossetti (former Team GB Freestyle competitor)**



Happy record-breakers

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BRONZE AND SILVER FOR BRITISH TEAMS AT THE FIRST EVER FAI WORLD INDOOR SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS – CONGRATULATIONS TO FLY LIKE A GIRL AND FLOH WELL!

PHOTOS VANIA DA RUI

**VDR**  
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**DYNAMIC** BY LUKE WARREN (FLOH WELL) AND LIZ ASHLEY  
The Dynamic 2-way, or D2W, category had 16 teams battling it out. It really is a battle too, because after the group stages come knockout rounds where teams go head-to-head against each other in either a speed round or a free routine. Team GB was *Floh Well*, Luke Warren and Ben Broad, who have only been training together for 10 months. They earned their slot by coming fourth at the Bodyflight World Challenge in April and were the highest-placed British team.

Luke takes up the story:

“We are an amateur team who just enjoy flying together, and we fly as much as money allows (I’m a carpenter and Ben is a window fitter). We trained our free routine the weekend before the championships in three hours, then did half an hour at Prague. Ideally, we would have done more – the tunnel was difficult to fly in. This was our most nerve-racking competition yet due to the pressure. The first battle was bumpy, but we improved and continued to fly solidly and consistently for the remainder, putting

**1 Sixth-placed Brit VFS team Omni,**  
by Matěj Trásák

# THIS OUT

together some decent speed round times. We knew it was going to be a good battle against the Aussies and the French, but we came out on top in both. The one against the French we just had to fly clean, which was difficult as it added to the nerves.

“We knew we wouldn’t win the final, but we just flew with a smile. We got busted on doing the turn the wrong way into the classic, which we didn’t know about – not even through training. We just assumed it was the same as the existing pool. But it didn’t matter to us, and we were so happy with how the comp went.”

Speaking to Luke, it becomes clear how much *Floh Well* have achieved in a short space of time. Ben (25) learned to fly head down three years ago, and Luke (21) about 18 months ago. In that time, they have trained their way up to a silver medal at an FAI World Championships – a phenomenal achievement that plenty of skydivers have been chasing for decades! Their training reminds me of various teams: “Playing silly games on the traffic-filled journey. Setting each other ridiculous food challenges. Training hard. Then doing the same as the way there on the way home, normally getting in around 1-2am and then up for work at 6-7am!” But the training itself, as with all top teams, actually does balance the silly with the serious.

“We work hard on the theoretical side of our flying – watching others, the mechanics of flying, research etc. We love to do what we do.”

#### 4-WAY BY KATE LINDSLEY (FLY LIKE A GIRL)

The 4-way Female category had teams from nine different countries; more than double the turnout of the recent outdoor World Cup.

The *Golden Knights* were especially looking forward to Prague after not being allowed to compete at the World Cup in Teuge earlier this year. With a line-up that has been together since 2011, they were ready to put their training to the test and they didn’t disappoint. Although the spotlight had been on the showdown between the *Knights* and the new French line up *FLY-IN*, it didn’t take long to see the *Knights* were having one of their best-ever indoor performances and were in a different class. They didn’t just have their sights on proving they were the best female team in the world and they went head-to-head with world champions *Hayabusa* in the mixed league table. The *Knights* finished with an amazing 29.4 average, including beating *Hayabusa* in Round 6 with 40 points to 36. This put them in second place in the mixed league table, with *Hayabusa* finishing on 31.1. The *Knights* will now be training



non-stop until the World Championships in Chicago in December 2016. The French girls who have had a recent change will have time to settle into their new line-up and it should be a closer battle in the sky.

The British female team *Fly Like A Girl* went to the meet knowing the *Hurricane Factory Chicks* were going to be their main competition for the bronze medal. The *Chicks* came fourth at the 2015 Bedford World Challenge and had been training hard after posting an impressive 21.2 at their recent indoor Nationals. They also had the home advantage as they all work and train at the Hurricane Factory wind tunnel. In contrast, *Fly Like A Girl* were technically a scratch team for the Bedford Challenge. With a change in line-up, →

**2 Ben Broad and Luke Warren of Floh Well, by Vania Da Rui**

**3 Floh Well winning yet another head-to-head battle, by Vania Da Rui**





4

Liz Matthews (off to have a baby) was replaced by Lynne Murray (previously of *Kaizen*) as IC. Due to members having other skydiving commitments, the team had only three weeks and six hours of training to bring together four fliers with different styles to deliver a world-class performance. Claire 'Sparky' Scott, with a long history of successful World Championships, was not used to this last-minute panic training and coach Joey Jones was given the challenge to get the team flying well together and bring out the best in three weeks. They did an exceptional job.

*Fly Like A Girl* got off to a good start on Friday morning but, due to a technical camera hitch in Round 1, the 4-way Open and Female teams all had to repeat the round. *Fly Like A Girl* then had to repeat Round 3 after a timing problem meant they only flew for 33 seconds of the working time. The repeated jump went very well and, with the French gaining several busts for using the tunnel wall as

an assisted grip, the Brits won the round and found themselves only three points behind the French – definitely not what they were expecting. However, with their extensive training and experience, the French pulled away and comfortably took the silver. By the end of day one, *Fly Like A Girl* were sitting 14 points ahead of the Czech girls and continued to hold their lead on day two, claiming the bronze medal with an impressive 22.5 average.

In the Open category, 16 countries fielded teams and *Voodoo*, having won the British Nationals in 2014, represented GB for the first time at a World Championship. The team originally started back in 1998 and has had multiple changes over the years, so this meet saw Steve Hamilton joining David Sumter, Vana and Dennis Parker. *Voodoo* had a great battle with UAE, which saw them progress to the semi-finals and finish joint seventh with a 22.9 average.

At the top of the table, *Hayabusa* didn't have the best start to their trip to Prague

## 66 A special mention must go to the Czech team *Fred and Ginger*, who exceeded all expectations – including their own 99

when some of the team helmets, jumpsuits and clothing were stolen from their van, meaning the team had to borrow suits and helmets to allow them to compete. The story made the news as the culprit was found accidentally by *Hayabusa* themselves when they spotted the thief wearing one of the stolen hoodies. However, this didn't stop them from doing what they do best and taking the gold.

Russia were tied with the French after five rounds. However, they won their last five rounds, managing to beat *Hayabusa* in one round to take a comfortable silver. This left an exciting battle for bronze between Qatar and the French where they switched places in the last few rounds, but in the end the French took the bronze by two points.

The first official FAI World Championships were an amazing success and the atmosphere was electric. With the live screens and non-stop commentary from Regan Tetlow and Domi Kiger streamed around the world, this provided great promotion of our sport as well as entertainment for the athletes, the friends and family back home and at the DZs who were watching. The Dynamic categories proved a fantastic spectator discipline with live scoring and knockout rounds – the

4 Head-to-head in Floh Well's free routine, by *Vania Da Rui*

5 (L-R) Lynne Murray, Claire 'Sparky' Scott, Kate Lindsley and Laura James of *Fly Like A Girl*, by *Vania Da Rui*

5





place was buzzing. A special mention must go to the Czech team *Fred and Ginger*, who exceeded all expectations – including their own – and became a crowd favourite for their head down swing/rock and roll Freestyle routine which left everyone on their feet applauding and wondering what they would do in the final. Who would catch whom in their arms on exit and would she be wearing her high heels again?

An indoor World Cup has been announced for next year, with multiple countries bidding and rumours of live judging in the 4-way category. With Britain not having an official indoor Nationals, it was agreed as a one-off to allow the British teams to compete in Prague this year. However, the jury is still out on which organisation will be responsible for sanctioning and hopefully supporting future British teams to attend this top-class event and be at a standard to be in medal contention. With many of the top countries already hosting indoor Nationals competitions and financially supporting their athletes in this discipline, the standards are likely to rise and hopefully the decision will be made shortly to allow UK teams to be prepared to attend next year's event.



**6** Steve Hamilton, Vana Parker, Dave Sumter and Dennis Parker of Voodoo, by Vania Da Rui

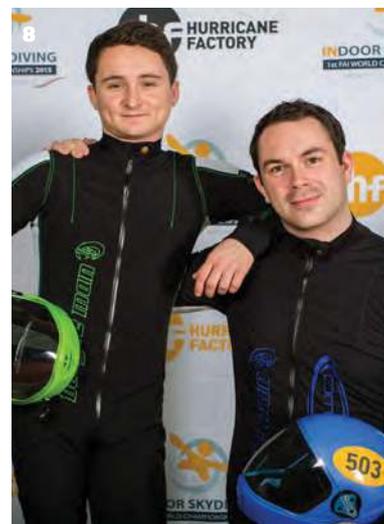
**7** Bronze medalists Fly Like A Girl with silver medalists Floh Well, by Vania Da Rui

**8** Gregory Lucas and Tim Gaines; half of Omni VFS, by Vania Da Rui

**VFS TIM GAINES (OMNI)**

When we saw the announcement for the first FAI World Indoor Championships, we knew we had to compete. VFS tunnel competitions are rare and it would be a great opportunity to see some amazing fliers up close. Knowing the likely skill level of the competition, our two goals were to have fun and not come last!

For VFS indoor competitions, the clock starts when any one person has both feet off the net. Due to most formations being head down, this poses the interesting mind game of building the formation with everyone facing the wrong way before a gripped launch into head down. Our first attempts went surprisingly well – no broken wrists! We spent many an evening in the weeks preceding the competition in the tunnel working out how to launch everything. It was really interesting to see the launch choices for all the teams in the competition, and each team has to adapt →





9

“ When we saw the announcement for the first FAI World Indoor Championships, we knew we had to compete. VFS tunnel competitions are rare and it would be a great opportunity ”



10

**66** We work hard on the theoretical side of our flying. We love to do what we do **99**



**9** 4-way World Champions Hayabusa in borrowed kit after theirs was stolen, by Vania Da Rui

**10** Floh Well on the podium, by Vania Da Rui

**11** Ben Broad and Luke Warren of Floh Well, by Vania Da Rui

based on the strengths and the size of team members.

The first round of the competition was a textbook case of competition nerves; a couple of silly incorrect grips, but otherwise OK. After that, we got into full swing with some fast clean rounds. It quickly became apparent how fast the established French and Russian national teams could fly. Along with the other tunnel-based teams from Poland, Dubai and the Czech Republic, they showed their dominance with only a few early mistakes from the local team keeping us in competition for fifth place. The remaining teams from Italy, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland and GB were battling it out for sixth place, knowing only the top six teams could make the final. After a great Round 3, we were surprised to be sitting in fifth place – albeit with two teams only a point behind us. A very long wait before being able to fly a tricky Round 4 saw us drop into seventh place at the end of day one.

Day two started very early, which never goes down well with skydivers! That being said, the day's dives were mostly fast with a couple of slot switchers and some tricky dive engineering. An unfortunate mistake on a transition in the closing seconds of Round 5 cost the Belgian team a few points, putting us back into sixth with a couple of points in hand. All we had to do now was maintain that lead. With Round 6 being very fast and all head down, this would make or break the competition for us. With a clean launch, we started to increase speed and turned several pages. We picked up a couple of busts, but nevertheless scored 24 points – the highest of our competition, which slightly strengthened our lead. Despite losing a point to Belgium in the seventh round, we just about held on to the lead and made it into the final. We had smashed our personal goal of not coming last!

With the pressure off and needing a miracle to move into fifth because the Czech team had a ten-point lead on us going into Round 8, we finished sixth out of 10 and retired to the bar for a well-deserved beer. It was a fantastic way to end the season and it has inspired us to come back stronger next year.

The FAI Indoor format promises to be a great competition series with World Championships and World Cups planned on alternating years, running opposite to the outdoor events. The skill level demonstrated by some of the competitors is truly remarkable, especially in the junior categories. We'd like to thank the BPA for agreeing to send a contingent to an indoor competition and Kate Charters for all her hard work as head of delegation. ●



**11**



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# FROCK AND AWE

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WORDS CAROL BEAUMONT PHOTOS ANTHONY HYLTON

**O**n October 17, the inaugural Minjas weekend kicked off at Skydive Langar. This had been organised by Lorene Latour to celebrate the awesomeness of UK female freeflyers and provide a unique opportunity for all abilities to receive coaching from some of the ladies who are leading the way in the UK and abroad in Freefly.

On the skydiving front, there was individual FFi coaching, small group load organising (both head up and head down) and outside camera from the honorary girls (a.k.a. 'the boys'), who produced great videos for the expert debriefing. During the less favourable weather moments, there was an introduction to Freefly B for those of us new to Freefly competition and a really inspiring talk from Weed on Big-way FF events. It was helpful to have input as well from Maria Russell, a very experienced flat big-way jumper, and compare the differences and similarities in the big-way events.

In the bar, the wine and cheese tasting was a great success along with the cross dressing from the guys, most of whom seem to have better, albeit hairier, legs than the ladies! Lots of fabulous goodie bags were handed out to all who registered and some super prizes were won in the raffle. Grateful thanks go to the sponsors L&B, Performance Designs, Cookie, Vector, Cypres II and Boogiemann for all their very generous prizes.



**VIDEO:** [TINYURL.COM/NV49MLB](http://TINYURL.COM/NV49MLB)

Check out Lorene Latour's video edit of the event

Big thanks go to the coaches Laura Kenyon, Liz Boniface, Weed Stoodley, Michael Wilson-Roberts and Paul Cooper, the Skydive Langar staff for making us feel so welcome and also to Lorene for turning the idea into reality. Overall, the event exceeded expectations and it was fantastic to make new friends who are kickass ladies, both the current and up-and-coming freeflyers of the future. Keep an eye out for the next event in 2016 which promises just as much fun and frolics in the sky. ●

**The 'Female' Participants:**

Lorene Latour, Laura Kenyon, Weed Stoodley, Karen Nielsen, Donna-Marie Jenkins, Eve Mason, Maria Russell, Carol Beaumont, Stefanie Parcel, Alana Foulkes-Williams, Martine Hopkins, Liz Boniface, Helen Draper-Mercer, Samantha White, Paula Cooper, MWR, Aimee Goodayle, Waynea Glenn, Christine Mayhew, Nev (Eve) Cartledge, Roy Wimmer





# PAT WALTERS

We remember the legendary Pat Walters, who has died aged 77

**P**at Walters was an AFF Instructor/Examiner and Parachute Rigger. He was Chief Instructor at several DZs, including Staffordshire Skydivers, Halfpenny Green and Tilstock, and he was involved in the early days of CRW and had done countless demos. Pat was responsible for the jumping careers of many of today's experienced club jumpers at Tilstock, taking them from their first jump right through to training them for display teams. His passion for the sport enabled him to encourage those around him and he would always go the extra mile – even flying out to Dubai to help club jumpers complete their AFF. Outside skydiving, he had a love of fast bikes and big trucks!



**“ Pat Walters was my Chief Instructor while I was serving in the Army and when I returned from a spell at RAPA on permanent staff. He was a nightmare to work for, as anyone who knew him will tell you! However, he had a vast knowledge of skydiving and helped me obtain my CSI rating back in 2001. He was cantankerous and, once he made a decision, he stuck to it and was unmovable – right or wrong. I wouldn't have wanted him any other way! You knew where you stood with Pat.**

**He was a good friend and mentor, and I miss him very much – as do many others in the skydiving world. He touched so many lives and it was a pleasure to have worked for him. He introduced so many to skydiving and was always giving advice right to the very end, whether you were a student or an experienced jumper. RIP Pat. Miss you. ”**

**Richard Barron  
D100230**

- 1 Back in the day
- 2 Demo delight
- 3 Presenting Tilstock Student of the Year
- 4 Checking his altitude while spotting the Airvan

**“** Pat was one of my Examiners on my Instructor course, and he belonged to the old-and-bold school of skydiving. I was only 20 years old and I had to work hard to earn his respect. He didn't 'give it away in cornflake packets', as he would gladly tell people. However, once you had proved your worth, he would be helpful, encouraging and conspiratorial. His pearls of wisdom were always delivered with a mischievous grin escaping from his thin moustachioed lips. When I later visited Tilstock, he took an hour out to show me round absolutely everywhere – driving me up and down the runway, pointing things out and telling stories.

I last saw him at the 2015 BPA AGM. He had already been ill for a long time and wasn't in a great way, but had come to see all his many friends. We had a long chat and said goodbye until next year, knowing that next year might never come for him. He takes with him a vast amount of skydiving knowledge, but he leaves behind a large number of new and not-so-new Instructors to keep carrying the torch for him. **”**

Liz Ashley



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By Mark Stone



## Wingtip vortices

**BPA Instructor Examiner** and CP Coach Paul Floyd sent in this photo of him landing through smoke. The pattern of smoke around the canopy gives us a great insight into wingtip vortices, as Paul explains:

"When a wing generates aerodynamic lift, the air on the top surface has lower pressure relative to the bottom surface. Air flows from

below the wing and out around the tip to the top of the wing in a circular fashion. An emergent circulatory flow pattern called a vortex is observed, featuring a low-pressure core.

"If viewed from the tail of the canopy and looking forward in the direction of flight, there is one wingtip vortex trailing from the right-hand wing circulating in an anti-clockwise direction.

"Should the left-hand wing vortex have been observed, it would have been circulating clockwise. The result is a region of downwash behind the canopy, between the two vortices (plural of vortex).

"The two wingtip vortices would not merge because they are circulating in opposite directions. They dissipate slowly and linger in the atmosphere long after the canopy has passed. They are a hazard to other canopies, known as wake turbulence. Many skydivers will have observed this when landing in a busy landing area. This is one of the main reasons CIs and DZOs emphasise landing in clear airspace."

### TOP TIP: DOCKING ON A FLAT FORMATION

Don't reach for grips when you're docking. It's tempting but, if you extend your arms, you would normally expect to go backwards because your front half tips up and you backslide. If you counter this by sticking your legs out, you will now

have all four limbs stretched out and so now you'll slowfall! A common error is to reach for grips, end up slightly above the formation, over-compensate and then go sailing through the middle of everybody (we've all done it). Keep your arms slightly bent, like in the photo, and you should stay in control.

Do keep the formation complete while someone breaks into it like this. The girls with the grip in the middle of the photo are doing a great job of making it

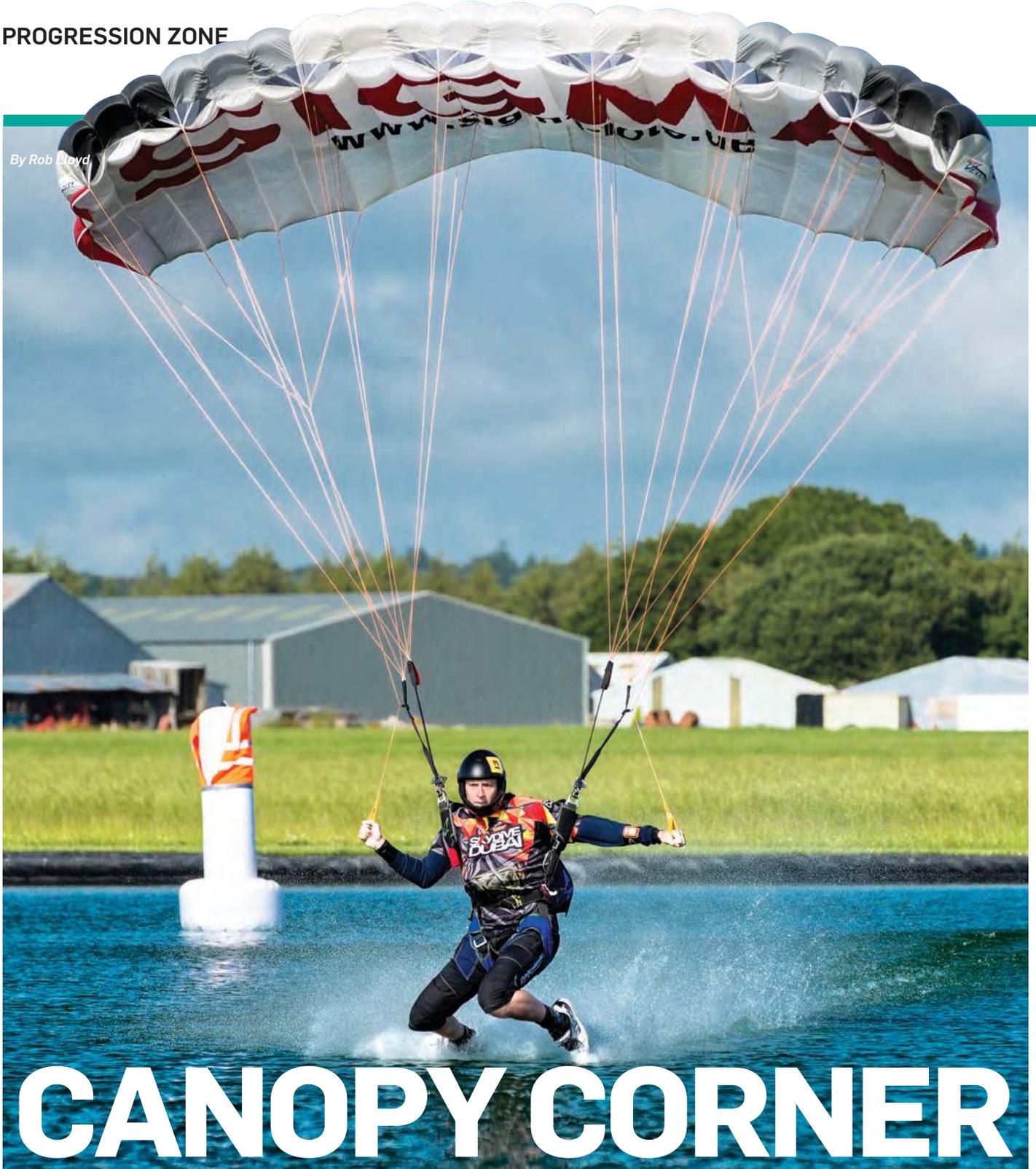
easy for the third girl to join them. If they were to break their grip and fly an 'empty slot' for the third girl to fill, this is actually harder than

if they give her a solid target to aim for. Once she has joined and has a solid grip on each arm, the original link can then be dropped.

By Kev Coffey



By Rob Lloyd



# CANOPY CORNER

**We learn from** the example (and mistakes!) of others, so it is useful to read about what other people have done. Each issue, we'll print case studies of people's canopy choices during their first thousand jumps and beyond, along with any lessons they learned along the way. Please do get involved – email your canopy progression if you've been around long enough to have lessons worth sharing.

**Max Bruffell** is a Netheravon-born jumper who now works full-time in the sport. He is a CP coach, an instructor for the *Alter Ego* project and a member of the British CP team.

**Year of first jump: 2008**  
**Total jumps: 5,500ish**

## CURRENT CANOPY

**Work:** Leia 74 because the openings are perfect for camera, it gets back from long spots and has flying characteristics that are closer to my Petra than anything else so it helps with training. Oh, and it's extremely fun to fly!

**Competition:** Petra 69, because it's a beast! It's pretty hard to have a chance in competition now without a Petra, Peregrine or Sofia. I went with this over a Peregrine for a few reasons, the main ones being: I can go terminal with it if I choose, I can change the lineset myself and I love NZ Aerosports!

**Backup:** Competition Velocity 84 because it opens nicely for camera and is fun to fly, does everything I need it to and I know it pretty well.

## CANOPY PROGRESSION

**0-70:** Student/Rental canopies (Navigator 290, 250, Spectre 210, Safire 2 209, 189).

**70-500:** Safire 169, loaded at 1.29. Probably slightly too small to start with, but it was a good wing loading to keep with. I really struggled to land this canopy at first so, after about 10 jumps, I decided to do my second canopy course with the guys from *HEAT*. I started full-time jumping at around 250 jumps and decided to teach myself to swoop doing 90s. This was a bad idea. After hitting the ground a couple of times, thankfully on the 169, I decided to get a little help from the other guys at work. This made me improve dramatically.

**500-600:** Safire 2 149, wing loading 1.46.

**600-650:** Crossfire 2 145, wing loading 1.5. After around 350 90s on the previous two canopies, I started with 180s on this canopy. There are two schools of thought on 180s and the only reason I was doing these was because I was doing full-time camera at a tandem-only DZ, so there was very little traffic to worry about.

**650-1,050:** Crossfire 2 139, wing loading 1.56.

**1,050-1,800:** Crossfire 2 119, wing loading 1.83. This was my favourite non-crossbraced canopy and will be my go-to if I ever decide to upsize for whatever reason. I started doing 270s on this canopy and found it so much fun to fly and land.

**1,800-2,000:** VX99, wing loading 2.2. This was my first crossbraced canopy and another animal after moving from the Crossfire. The openings were definitely lacking in softness and, for the amount of jumps I was now doing per year, I decided I would look for something else in order to save my neck.

**2,000-2,100:** JFX83, wing loading 2.63. This was slightly too big of a downsize, but I was very current. I had done more than 1,000 jumps in the previous year and I started to get proper coaching on my 270s with Pablo 'The Power' Hernandez.

**2,100-3,200:** Competition Velocity 90, wing loading 2.42. After starting to get coaching and trying to really work on my competition swooping, I decided I might be

better off upscaling. This would give me very slightly more room for error and I would also be moving to a more competitive wing in the process. I did my first few competitions on this and really managed to get a lot of power from a 270.

**3,200-Present:** Competition Velocity 84, wing loading 2.6. After getting as much as I felt I could doing 270s on my Velo 90, I decided I could either move to a larger turn or downsize slightly. The logical step was this canopy, which I then continued to compete on until September 2014 when I got myself a Petra. I also started to move towards a 630 degree turn on this canopy after about 2,500 270s in total!

**4,300-5,000:** Petra 72, wing loading 3.0/3.2 depending on weight. I only managed to do a couple of competitions on this wing and probably only did 100ish jumps on it in total, but it was a really nice transition to my 69.

**4,500-Present:** Leia 74, wing loading 2.95. I have only put about 250 jumps on this so far so I am only really starting to open up what is possible, but I am going to have a lot of fun on this!

**5,000-Present:** Petra 69, wing loading 3.2. This is my baby, my competition wing. I haven't even started to max out what is capable with this but, even so, still managed to break the UK Distance record on it at the Nationals this year. That gives me a great feeling of things to come!

N.B. In among these jumps, there are about 1,200 jumps on tandem gear.

All in all, I feel like I had a fairly conservative canopy progression. This, and especially upscaling when I wanted to start competing, really helped me with my swooping in a day-to-day and competitive environment. My advice to newer jumpers or people looking to start swooping would be: take it slow and enjoy the journey – it will pay off exponentially in the long run. I guarantee that you can have a lot of fun and learn a huge amount on the canopy you're on at the moment to get you to the point where you want to be *and* be quicker and safer! Learn to love the canopy you have, and take as many canopy courses as you can!

## NEW COACHES

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

### BASIC FF COACH

Jerry Greeves, Netheravon  
Jakub Langowski, Hibaldstow  
Leah Frost, Sibson  
Jessica Withers, Sibson

### CP COACH

Henry Van-Halewyn, Headcorn  
Nader Afsharian, RAPA

### FS COACH

Jarrold Owens, JSPC (N)  
Roy Little, Dunkeswell  
Alexander Anderson, Netheravon  
Tanya Burton, Chatteris  
Joseph Mann, Dunkeswell  
George Andrews, JSPC (N)  
David Pickersgill, JSPC (N)  
Christopher White, Netheravon  
Samuel Haste, Cark  
Peter Hutchinson, Peterlee  
Lucy Westgarth, Hibaldstow  
Danielle Hodson, Weston  
Don Blacker, Langar

### FF COACH

Benjamin Smith, Langar  
Tim Coxon, Netheravon  
Gregory Lucas, Dunkeswell  
Weed Stoodley, Hibaldstow  
Lorene Latour, Hibaldstow

### WS COACH

Ed Luke, Black Knights  
Matthew Lancaster, Hibaldstow



By Rob Lloyd



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**Dave Ruffell**  
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 Standard options vary by rig.



\* Sterling exchange rate @ April 2015 = \$1.46

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# TWO MONTHS IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHIEF INSTRUCTORS

The BPA's Safety and Training Committee, STC, meets every two months. Every Chief Instructor is a member of STC, and they review recent incidents and update the BPA Operations Manual as the sport evolves. There are usually more incidents in summer, simply because we make more jumps in those months. Here is a summary of the two months before the September STC meeting

## SAFETY SUMMARY

*There were 23 off landings, but this wasn't one of them!*  
By Kev Coffey



### **Eleven Student Injury Reports**

Eight male and three female. One student dislocated a shoulder reaching for the steering toggles. The remaining injuries were on landing.

### **Twenty Injury Reports received for A Licence parachutists or above**

Fourteen male and six female. One report was a freefall collision where a cameraperson landed on his 4-way team, tearing a muscle in his arm, and another was a cameraperson who dislocated her arm on exit. One report involved a low turn injury to a jumper with 745 jumps. He was practising high performance landings, was badly injured and was in intensive care for a period but is now making a recovery. Another serious injury was to a competitor at the CP Nationals.

### **Seven Student Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports**

Four male and three female.

### **Fifty-nine Malfunction/Deployment Problem Reports received for A Licence parachutists or above**

Fifty-three male and six female. Five were on wingsuit jumps.

### **Eighteen Tandem Injury Reports**

Seven male and 11 female. These included one where the Tandem student felt faint under canopy. Two where the students hurt their necks on deployment. Two where the students were hard to control in freefall, causing very minor injuries to the students and one minor injury to the Instructor. There was also an incident where the Tandem pair had an off landing and, because the Instructor was concentrating on the landing area, forgot to use the secondary handles for landing. This resulted in a heavy landing and the student breaking her ankle.

### **Twenty-two Tandem Malfunction/Deployment Problem reports**

A report had been received of a Tandem hang-up. The Tandem Instructor fitted the →



"Check canopy!"  
by Alan Thompson

aircraft restraint when he boarded the Cessna Caravan, but he forgot to unhook the release on the way to altitude. The Tandem pair exited the aircraft at altitude still attached by the restraint and were hung-up just outside the door. One of the camerapersons on board immediately saw the problem and cut the restraint webbing, releasing the pair, who continued the jump without further incident. Upon investigation, it appears that at some time previously to the lift in question, someone had moved the restraint further down the aircraft, closer to the door, which allowed the Tandem pair, who were first out of the aircraft, to get as far as the door without the restraint stopping them. It is quite easy to move the restraints in some Cessna Caravans. Procedures have now been put in place to ensure that restrained jumpers cannot get as far as exiting the aircraft if they are still restrained. Also, further checks are now part of aircraft procedures. The COO stated that those Clubs that operate Cessna Caravans may wish to note that some of the restraints are easy to move up and down the cargo rail and sometimes the jumper may move them (especially if they feel that it is a bit tight) without informing anyone. This appears to be what happened in this instance. The COO suggested that CIs may wish to consider having a

system in place whereby the restraints can't be moved up and down by the jumpers themselves.

#### **One report had been received of an AAD fire.**

A wingsuit jumper with 263 jumps could not find the deployment toggle at opening height. His arm/hand got caught in the suit wing. However, he continued to try to locate the toggle (hackey-sack) until his Cypres AAD fired. He made no attempt to deploy his reserve.

#### **Twenty-three 'off landings' reports received.**

One on a display and the rest at PTOs.

#### **Eighteen reports had been received of items coming off jumpers or being dropped, on exit, in freefall and under canopy.**

One camera, two Tandem leather helmets, seven helmets, three trainers, a student radio, a flag, an altimeter, a pair of ski goggles and a Tandem student threw a pair of gloves away to get a better grip of her jumpsuit legs for landing.

#### **Four reports received involving aircraft.**

One has already been mentioned – the Tandem Hang-up. One involved a Twin Otter, where a 'top hatch' (a small escape



"Look, locate"  
by Liz Ashley

hatch of around 18 inches) blew off the aircraft at approximately 6,000ft AGL. The aircraft landed with all on board. There was no damage to the aircraft and the police were informed. Another report involved a G92 which suffered a loss of electrical power to the radios on climb up at approximately 4,000ft AGL. The aircraft landed with all on board. The final report was a PTO who encountered severe chatter on frequency 129.90 affecting parachuting operations. It appeared to be a formation/acrobatic team who when contacted claimed it was a 'company frequency'. ●

STC minutes are published online every two months, and always contain a summary like this one. You can also find the Operations Manual, various Safety Notices and lots of other information. [bpa.org.uk/stay-safe](http://bpa.org.uk/stay-safe)

# SKYDIVE Hibaldstow



We're gonna rock and roll  
for Christmas! Join US...

## FINAL WEEKEND OF THE YEAR

**WHEN:** December 12th - 13th

**WHAT:** Last weekend of the year to finish those jumps off.

**WHY:** Get 15,000ft from our machines while you can - Nobody does it better!

## EXODUS UK - BOOGIE TIME

**WHEN:** December 14th - January 6th

**WHAT:** We're closed but the fun hasn't stopped at Skydive Spain or Algarve.

**WHY:** Sun's out fun's in. Don't be cold over Christmas - Jump in the sun.

## GRAND JANUARY REOPENING

**WHEN:** January 7th - 10th

**WHAT:** Our yearly refreshing for students.

7th - Hibaldstow Tunnel jamboree.

8th - Retrains at a very cheap rate - B-Licence briefs.

9-10th - Skydiving! Or bad weather activities and packing.

Our new calendar goes live soon.  
Watch out for new events!

[WWW.SKYDIVING.CO.UK](http://WWW.SKYDIVING.CO.UK)

SEE FULL DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS IN OUR EXPERIENCED SECTION ONLINE

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**GEAR ZONE**

WITH CHRISTMAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING WHAT TO ASK SANTA FOR. FRET NOT – WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN NAUGHTY (MORE THAN LIKELY) OR NICE (YEAH, OK), I'VE PULLED TOGETHER SOME COOL PRESENT IDEAS FOR YOU TO ADD TO YOUR LIST...



**Sony X1000VR**

I've long been a fan of the Sony range of action cams. Their longer-than-wider form make them better for mounting to helmets and the quality has always been up there with the best.

The latest in their range is the X1000VR, which follows the similar Sony style but boosts the resolution to 4K. Not only that, but it has a heap

of enhancements under the bonnet, including improved steady shot, 120p recording at 1080p for HD slow motion, an improved microphone and, at last, a proper tripod mount on the base.

RRP: £319 – [sony.co.uk](http://sony.co.uk)

**Maui Jim Peahi**

A lot of us jump wearing sunglasses, either with an open face or tucked safely under the visor of a full face. If it's the former, you'll want a really nice snug-fitting pair that sit close to the face.

Known for its superior optics, Maui Jim is a Hawaiian company that produces some awesome sunnies including the Peahi –

a super cool pair of high quality wraparound shades that are great for both ground and air.

The lenses used are the only ones available that block 100% of UVA and UVB rays and 99.9% of glare from above, below and behind the lens.

Using rare earth elements and compounds, they

significantly enhance colour, definition and depth perception – making them ideal for jumping.

Available in five different frame colours and three lenses, my favorite is the matt black with HCL bronze lens.

RRP: £170  
[mauijim.com](http://mauijim.com)



**Cookie Headsock/Multi-Tool**

A couple of ideal stocking fillers from the guys at Cookie include the Cookie Headsock and the Cookie Multi-Tool.

The Headsock is multifunctional, available in red, yellow or blue, and can be worn as either a scarf or sleeve-style hat. Ideal for keeping you warm in the winter or absorbing the sweat in the summer, it's also handy for keeping long hair attached to your skull in the tunnel.

Cookie helmets can be quickly adjusted for many situations but, like anything in



\*Prices converted from foreign currency and may not include shipping. Check the relevant websites for accurate pricing at time of order.



### Hit Case Pro+ Action Pack for iPhone 6/6s

If you're anything like me, you're constantly dropping your phone and need some decent protection for it – especially if you take it jumping for emergencies (like you should...).

The Hitcase Pro is a super heavy-duty case for the iPhone with a difference. Yes, it's shockproof, dustproof and waterproof down

to 10m, but it also comes with interchangeable lenses and a mount point.

By going for the Pro+ Action pack, you'll get their TrueLUX superwide lens and telescopic pole for selfies, a tripod mount and a sticky surface mount.

Using their slide mount, the case becomes compatible with any of the GoPro mounts – meaning that, with the right

helmet or mount, you could use your iPhone to film your jumps.

In conjunction with their free Vidometer app, you can also overlay cool information to your videos, including speed, altitude, G force and GPS location.

RRP: from £96\*  
hitcase.com



### Fluid Wings Prime

New boys to the canopy market Fluid Wings, based in the USA, have released the Prime – a 9-cell, hybrid construction wing that they claim is easy and fun to fly.

The Prime is designed for intermediate level jumpers who are looking for an easy to fly canopy with a strong flare and consistent, predictable openings. Combined with a good glide ratio for getting back from longer spots, it's also a good choice for wingsuiters.

It's currently available in 135, 150, 170 and 190 sizes, with more being released at a later date. Options include custom colours and an ultra-light fabric to lower the already small pack volume.

RRP: from £1,225\*  
fluidwings.com

life, you need the right tool. Sure, the helmets come with a selection of Allen keys, but what are the chances you'll have the right one with you at the DZ?

The Multi-Tool comes with all the keys you need for the majority of their helmets stored conveniently within the handle. An ideal tool to keep handy in your gear bag for when you inevitably need it...

RRP: from £10\* each  
flycookie.com



### Rig Sleeve

If you've ever tried to fly commercially with your rig, you'll understand the pain associated with it. Like me, you probably always take it as carry on just in case it goes walkies during transit. But then you're left with two options: 1) Hoping the bag you put it in doesn't add so much bulk that it won't fit in that check bin at the gate, or, 2) Carry as is, risking it getting damaged.

RigSleeve solves these problems and offers a fantastic way to travel with your rig, either commercially or just to the DZ. As the name suggests, it works like a sleeve over your rig. Made of a tough but lightweight fabric, it covers your rig, keeping the leg straps safe inside

and letting you wear the rest of the container as normal.

As well as the protection on offer, it features some handy pockets for the other flying essentials like your passport, iPad, a bottle of water etc and a carry handle at the top. Worried about your handles? No problem. It comes with two spandex covers with safety lanyards to ensure you take them off with the sleeve.

Available in a range of colours and two sizes to fit all containers, it also doubles up as a packing mat.

RRP: from £65\* – rigssleeve.com



### Go Pro Hero 4 Session

Action cam heavyweights GoPro have finally broken the mould and come up with a new shape for their latest camera. Called the Hero 4 Session, it's the smallest and lightest GoPro to date, with a square, rather than rectangular, shape.

Shooting at a maximum resolution of 1440p at 30FPS, the image quality is slightly less than the flagship model but it still produces a great image.

Additional features include being waterproof down to 10m without the need for a case, single button power/record operation, built-in battery and a new dual microphone setup. Compatible with the multitude of current mounts, the new shape also lends itself to a number of new mounting options.

RRP: £249.99 – gopro.com



# FOR ALL YOUR SKYDIVING GEAR

Photo courtesy of KOB



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# CLUBZONE

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

## BPA Affiliated DZs (PTOs) in the UK

**PAGE 58** **1 Black Knights**  
Black Knights Parachute Centre  
Hillam Lane, Cockerham, Lancashire LA2 0DY  
DZ: 01524 791820  
Mob: 07970 764850  
bkpcinfo@googlemail.com  
**bkpc.co.uk**  
*Blackhawk Caravan*

**PAGE 58** **2 Bridlington**  
Skydive GB  
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road, Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB  
T: 01262 228033  
Mob: 07522 335713  
info@skydivegb.com  
**skydivegb.com**  
*GA8 Airvan*

**PAGE 58** **3 Cark**  
Skydive North West Club  
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7LS  
DZ: 01539 558672  
T: 01229 889516  
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk  
**skydivenorthwest.co.uk**  
*PAC 750XL*

**PAGE 61** **4 Chatteris**  
North London Skydiving Centre  
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea, March, Cambs PE15 0EA  
DZ: 01354 740810  
T: 0871 664 0113  
info@ukskydiving.com  
**ukskydiving.com**  
*Twin Otter, Nomad*

**PAGE 61** **5 Cornwall**  
Cornish Parachute Club  
Perranporth Airfield, Higher Trevelias, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0XS  
Mob: 07790 439653  
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk  
**cornishparachuteclub.co.uk**  
*Cessna 206, guest aircraft*

**PAGE 62** **6 Dunkeswell**  
Skydive.buzz Ltd  
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG  
T: 01404 890222  
Mob: 07718 638000  
office@skydive99.com  
**skydive99.com**  
*Three Beech 99s and Caravan*

**PAGE 65** **7 Headcorn**  
Skydive Headcorn  
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX  
T: 01622 891670  
info@headcorn.com  
**headcorn.com**  
*Cessna Caravan, Islander*

**PAGE 65** **8 Hibaldstow**  
Target Skysports  
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow, Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN  
DZ: 01652 648837  
T: 01132 505600  
info@skydiving.co.uk  
**skydiving.co.uk**  
*Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92 single turbine, Cessna Caravan*

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

**PAGE 66** **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 66** **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 66** **12 Netheravon**  
Army Parachute Association  
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF  
T: 01980 628250  
generalenquiries@netheravon.com  
**netheravon.com**  
*Three Cessna Caravans, guest aircraft*

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

**PAGE 69** **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 70** **15 Reading**  
London Parachute School  
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS  
T: 0845 1307 194  
info@londonparachuteschool.com  
**londonparachuteschool.com**  
*Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan*

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

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

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

**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  
**skydivesthathallan.co.uk**  
*Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine*

**PAGE 73** **21 Swansea**  
Skydive Swansea  
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea SA2 7JU  
T: 07779 019655  
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk  
**skydiveswansea.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**PAGE 73** **22 Swindon**  
Blue Skies Freefall Club  
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm, Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA  
T: 01793 791222  
info@skydivelondon.co.uk  
**skydivelondon.co.uk**  
*Airvan*

**PAGE 74** **23 Tilstock**  
The Parachute Centre  
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA  
T: 01948 841111  
skydive@theparachutecentre.com  
**theparachutecentre.com**  
*Airvan*

**PAGE 57** **24 UK Para Beccles**  
UK Parachuting  
Beccles Airfield, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE  
T: 01502 476131  
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk  
**ukparachuting.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**PAGE 70** **25 UK Para Sibson**  
UK Parachuting  
Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE  
T: 01832 280490  
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk  
**skydivesibson.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**26 Weston**  
RAF 22 Training Group  
Currently military only

**PAGE 74** **27 Wild Geese**  
Wild Geese Skydive Centre  
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvagh, Coleraine, Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ  
T: 028 2955 8609  
jump@skydivewildgeese.com  
**skydivewildgeese.com**  
*Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan*

## BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs (PTOs)

**PAGE 62** **Cyprus**  
Cyprus Parachute Centre  
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus  
T: 0035 724 744337  
info@skydivecyprus.com.cy  
**skydivecyprus.com.cy**  
*PBN Piston Islander*

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

## Parachuting Societies

**PAGE 57** **BCPA**  
British Collegiate Parachute Association  
Sam Doughty, BCPA Chair  
mail@bcpa.org.uk  
**bcpa.org.uk**  
*A community for university skydivers*

**PAGE 69** **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 69** **SOS**  
Skydivers Over Sixty  
John Houghland  
13 Bowers Croft, Cambridge, CB1 8RP  
johnhskydive@hotmail.co.uk



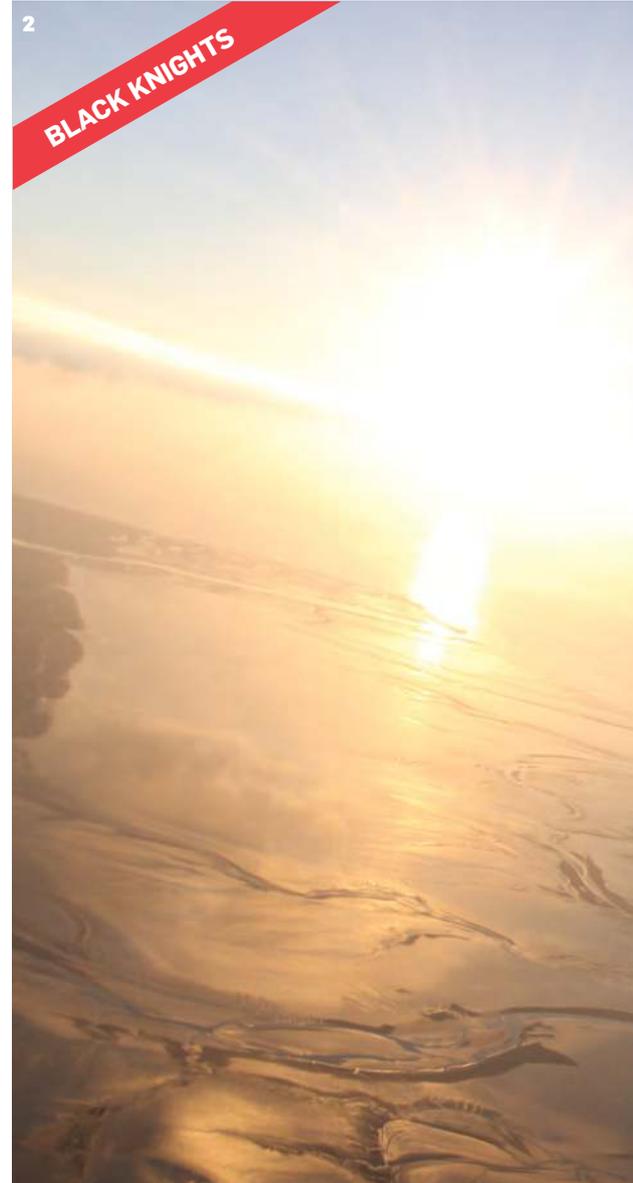
1

**CYPRUS**



2

**BLACK KNIGHTS**



3

**TILSTOCK**



4

**LANGAR**



- 1 *The Boogie*
- 2 *CF Team CRWSADERS, by Phil Symons*
- 3 *Pete Dickens posing*
- 4 *Will Cooke's group in a 22-way almost-star, by Tony Danbury*
- 5 *Tube over Dunkswell, by Joel Strickland*
- 6 *Liam and Kathryn's engagement, sealed with a kiss*
- 7 *Mayhem in action above Sibson*
- 8 *Diamonds, by Liam Goddard*



# 2016

**WE JUST CAN'T WAIT.**

**TWO MULTI PLANE BOOGIES**

**BIG WAY FOR BEGINNERS**

**FREE COACHING AND ORGANISING  
EVERY WEEKEND**

**CANOPY COURSES**

**UKSL 4WAY COMPETITION**

**SAFETY DAY**

**BIG WAY WITH WILL COOKE**

**4WAY COACHING FROM TEAM 4MULA**

**TRACKING WEEKENDS**

**FF AND FS INVITATIONALS**

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**NIGHT JUMPS**

**PROGRESSION DAYS**

**AND MORE...**



 /skydivelangar

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



**BCPA**

## KEEPING IT FRESH

**During the summer,** Airkix and the BCPA got together and fashioned a 'Try Skydiving: Tunnel Taster' session for our Freshers in October – the first of its kind. We hoped that, if our newbies weren't quite sure about the whole 'jumping out of a plane' bit yet, they could experience the wind in their faces and fly around our beloved windy-tube to get a glimpse at why we do it. We think it worked!

This all took place on one night at Airkix Basingstoke and we had the joy of meeting students from the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Kingston, Portsmouth and Southampton. The night ran surprisingly smoothly and the feedback we were given was positive and thoroughly rewarding. We also had VFS team *Omni* arrive halfway through to show us all how it's done.

A small selection of the feedback we received includes:

"Absolutely incredible experience, loved every minute" – Emily Davies, Southampton

"It was amazing" – Daniel Brewster, Tunnel Instructor

"Lovely and crazy people and such a good experience!" – Anonymous, but sums us all up pretty well.

As you read this, many (if not all) of the Uni skydive clubs will have had their first jump courses. Even if you haven't completed your first jump yet, we welcome you to the wonderful world of skydiving – you're going to love it!

Last month, we had our first big event: BCPA Freshers at Skydive Langar. Our fancy dress theme was 'Your Local' and we had members represent their Uni clubs in force! We hope everyone had fun and is super keen to attend all of the events coming up in the New Year.

Our next big thing is the Christmas Tour to the Algarve. As the UK weather lives up to its name and gets a bit wet and miserable, it doesn't stop the BCPA from jumping away into the New Year. Beaches, progression, friends, booze and skydiving; what more could you ask for?

We kick off 2016 (after exam season) with the legendary Indoors at Bodyflight Bedford over Valentine's weekend. Ten hours of tunnel filled with flat-flying heroes and free-flying ninjas improving their skills and having fun. We have a disco party on the Saturday night with lots of drinks and many poor decisions being made. So excited.

Looking at our league tables on our lovely new website, the University of Nottingham are topping competitions and achievements with 120 and 51 points respectively. Meanwhile, Eve Mason leads the individual league after getting her C Licence and WS1 and winning both the FS and FF monthly draws in August/September. Nice work! It's still early, though, so we're excited to see which club or individual might catch up and prove themselves tough competition.

I hope you all enjoy Christmas and celebrate 2016 in style!

**Cara Pritchard**

(P.S. Both Sams are doing well. Is that better, Jason?)

**BCPA**

*An excited bunch of Freshers looking forward to their first taste of freefall at Airkix Basingstoke, by Cara Pritchard*

**BECCLES**

*Selfie, by Gary Murray*

**BECCLES**

## THE WILD WILD EAST

**Ahoy skyflyers,** and welcome to another fantastic club news from the wild east that is UK Parachuting Beccles. We've had a cracking last few months and really ended the summer on a high.

We were blessed with another BPA Roadshow at the beginning of September and, for once, the weather gods shone down on us and we had some cracking blue skies to play in. This event was for FS and it saw us joined by two delectable ladies from AAA 4-way team *NFTO*. They both worked really hard doing plenty of 2-, 3- and 4-ways with all the clubbies who attended the event. They made sure to pass on masses of essential skills and knowledge to improve all our jumpers, whether they were novices to the more experienced skydivers. Big thanks to you awesome ladies for taking time to help us out, and hopefully you've inspired some of our jumpers to form their own teams and compete at next year's National Championships.

September also brought the exciting news that we have four new instructors. We have two new Tandem Instructors – Sam Carter and myself – and we have two new AFF Instructors – Danny French and Rick 'The Low Goer' Thompson. The weather wasn't the best over the week at Langar, but we managed to smash through the course by the Thursday. That meant we were all back at the DZ ready for the weekend to start showing new students the sport we all love and enjoy so much. Interesting fact: we now have the youngest Tandem Instructor in the UK working here at Beccles in the form of Sam. Yeah, I know you all thought I was younger than him, but there you go. Sam and I have to put out a heartfelt 'cheers you blinking legends' to Javi Gomez, James Brooke and Dave Tee for being our tandem students on the course. Without you, we would never have done so well.

Talking of legends and Langar, Andy Page took time out from the rigging shed to head up to the POPS Big-way Record attempt that was held at the same time as our course. The guys and gals were trying for a 44-way throughout the days they were there and got so close. Thanks to Andy and Paul for repping Beccles at the event. Perhaps if there's an incentive of tea and cake once you're on the formation next time you'll have the fastest 44-way ever built...



The end of September saw the last of the Wednesday Sunset jumps. More than 30 clubbies turned up, although that was probably due to the free pizza Tomo had on offer at the end of the evening. To make the day even better, Sy ran another packing course and the wonderful Yo was on hand to do JM briefs that ran on well into the night but were appreciated by all. So nice one, Yo. Sy? You're totally amazing.

Rolling on into October, we had ourselves a Beccles Big-way Weekend. This was run by the mega Hari Ganapathy and the completely suspect Danny French. Hari rocked it with our experienced jumpers and helped them achieve several very fine big-ways, including a 13-way that matched our current club record. Frenchy took the novice jumpers under his wing and showed them many tricks of the trade. Unfortunately, this has resulted in some of them needing a trip to the local clinic because Frenchy didn't teach them *just* his skydiving skills. Well done to all of you who came out and played – it is always great to see a plane packed with clubbies taking off for a trip up to our playground in the sky. Ace job Hari and Frenchy for proving such brilliant coaches. Frenchy is also coaching a new Beccles 4-way team, so here's looking forward to seeing them over the skies of Beccles soon. →

Unfortunately, I have some devastating news to report too. I'm saddened to say that one of our club jumpers, Barry Robinson, passed away in September. All our hearts go out to Barry's family and we all send our deepest sympathies. Barry was the epitome of a local club jumper and he would come up for a lob or two most weekends. On countless occasions, I would ask him how his jump went and he'd always reply with "Ooh, that were blooming lovely". So blue skies forever, Barry – you'll be truly missed by us all.

That's me signing off until next time. Be safe and fly hard, my high flyin' sky pirates!

**James Page**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Andrew Brooks, Thomas Cilvert, Rob Ebner, Andy Fraser, Mindaugas Jankauska, Lee Jenkins, Andrew Picking, Frank Trojans, Liam Tucker **CH2/JM1** Jenny Clark, Jason Elkin, Phil Gibbs, Amber Summerton **FS1** Chris Bradshaw, Jason Elkin, Andy Evans-Hendrick, Phil Gibbs, Wanderson Salgado Lemos, Jack Mountfield, Aron Stewart, Russel Summers, Richard Welchman **FF1** Tom Davis, Blane Kinge, Gaz Mooney **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Jenny Clark, Jason Elkin, Phil Gibbs, Amber Summerton **100** Jenny Clark, Aron Stewart, David Tee **200** Martin Burgess, Tom Davis, John Dippnall **500** Fredrick von Mowforth **900** Sam Carter **1,000** KJ Bull

**BLACK KNIGHTS**

## ENDING ON A HIGH

We are coming to the end of a very busy year already – where did that go? A big thank you goes to Jason for all his work on the AFF Programme and we wish him well in the future. With the AFF and Static Line Programmes up and running, we have had plenty of students come through the doors so a big thank you goes to the instructors as well for their continued hard work and commitment.

Team *Crwsaders* will be well on their way to the World Games in Dubai by the time this goes to print and all of the staff and regulars are behind them all the way. Good luck, team. This year has also seen progress by *BlackHawk*, and we hope that they continue to add to their medal collection both in the sky and in the tunnel.

We had great fun at the Halloween and firework parties in October and we're looking forward to the Christmas Party on December 19. We will start at the Manor for food and drinks (all are welcome) and will end with the party at the centre. Big thanks go to Adrian for providing the entertainment.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff and skydivers for helping to raise money for this year's charity of the year, Cash for Kids. We will be looking for nominations for next year's charity shortly, so please get in touch.

A quick reminder that we are still after names for the end of year nominations for 'Skydiver of the Year', 'Tool of the Year', 'Student of the Year' and 'Club Member of the Year'. Please send your nominations by email or leave them with the office.

Big thanks go to AJ for writing for the Mag over the past year, and we wish her and Mike all the best for their wedding in 2016.

We are open for a Christmas Boogie from December 27-31, so we hope everyone has a good Christmas. We are also looking forward to a busy 2016, and we reopen on the first weekend in February. For those of you who need refresher training during the closed period, please call the office to discuss your needs and we will do our best to accommodate you.

**Felix**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FS1** Cherish Dobson, Mike Richardson, Roy Vicente **WS1** Connor Lynch **WS2** Andy Gleeson **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Connor Lynch

**BRIDLINGTON**

## BLUE SKIES

It is with great sadness that I write about the loss to our centre of a true skydiving legend. Lofty Thomas was an amazing man

**BRIDLINGTON**  
Lofty Thomas, by Sarah Martin



and a much-loved character, whose unassuming personality and love for the sport made him one of my true heroes. He was known by just about everyone and his friends list included the late Neil Armstrong and Joe Kittinger. Lofty made his final jump with his sons and grandson for his 80th birthday and I flew camera. Not happy with a tandem, he made a solo descent and I think I held my breath for the duration of the jump. Lofty's family have followed his pioneering ways, with his gorgeous granddaughter being the

latest Thomas to take to the skies. I witnessed the pride in his eyes as she landed after her first solo jump.

Lofty leaves a huge gap in our centre and our hearts and we will miss him dearly, though his legacy will remain and we will speak of him proudly – we were fortunate to have known such an extraordinary man. His funeral was a true reflection of his life, with people from all over the world attending. As racing motorbikes was one of his passions, a procession of 20 motorbikes followed him on his final road trip. Our love goes to the Thomas family, and particularly to Grace.

Skydive GB has a new CI and we warmly welcome Steve and Karen to the fold. Ray Armstrong is busy with the many other things that need his time, though he will still be around. Possibly he will be sat rocking in a corner from all the stress we have given him over the last few years!

We will be running a safety day at the end of January 2016 where Karen Saunders will be offering kit checks to prepare you for the season and all are welcome to attend. There will be presentations on first aid and canopy control, and various other safety-related aspects will be addressed too. The details will be on our Skydive GB website soon.

**Sara Orton**

**CARK**

## ON THE UP AND UP

The club is overflowing with enthusiastic students after a very passionate and successful Freshers' Fair, so a big thanks goes to all of the Uni committee members for your efforts. Your constant hard work is paying dividends and so is the weather.

It's been a funny few months, with blue skies and low winds allowing us to get most of our weekend courses jumped with only one exception. The weather in September and October was quite mild mannered and that kept our CSI posse very busy too. Helen Clair, Dave, Don, Dan and Richard – huge thanks for your consistent training approach and progression with all our students. You all make it look effortless, and especially so in the student talk down! (White Toggle)

Evenings have been just as full, complete with DJ Neil spinning the tunes and filling the dance floor with smoke. He seems to have taken over from where Stuart leaves on a Saturday evening! To complete the evening's entertainment, Laura has also been showing off her pole dancing antics! →

**CARK**  
Billy O'Donovan at Cark, by Alec Hennis



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Where there are students, there are canopies to pack. George and Geraldine have been maxed out running packing courses and we have a few more able-bodied qualified packers too. George and Neil are the latest to submit their certificates to the office file, so we all thank you. Guys, your hard work never goes unnoticed.

October saw the last of the Sky Divas weekends and yet again another brilliant turnout from the gurlies. We hope you continue the Divas weekends into 2016. Many have learned from the group and you will have at least two new divas now that Emma and Collette have gained their CAT8 status as well. Well done, girls – it's great to have you all skydiving at the centre.

Our tandem donkeys have been lashed the last few weeks and we have benefited from the weather to clear some of our backlog. Most if not all have been doubling up on loads, and the hangar has been strewn with unpacked tandem canopies on many a Saturday afternoon. We appreciate your hard work, effort and professionalism.

To all our customers, we thank you for your support and commitment to our centre. We would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. We have seen a number of new faces this year, so we hope you enjoyed your jumping with us and that you will visit us again soon.

To our staff, we would never achieve our year-on-year success without you. You only need to read the comments book to understand why. Enjoy the break and we will see you at the start of term in February 2016.

Any members going abroad for the weather, enjoy and stay safe. See ya next year!

**Stu Morris D4818**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 James Clarkson, Jordan Dickinson, Collette O'Neil CH2 Scott McKinnon FS1 Scott McKinnon CF1 Dez Blyth JUMP NUMBERS 200 Scott Becker 800 Ming Chu 4,600 Peter Conner THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL Dez Blyth

**CHATTERIS**

# NO GORILLAS WERE HARMED IN THE WRITING OF THIS COLUMN

Despite the recent cold weather, the dropzone has been busy. Plenty of regulars have been braving the freezing temperatures up top, despite asking to borrow extra socks and glove liners!

However, September 19-20 was a perfect weekend for wingsuit flights. The weather gods smiled on the DZ, giving gentle winds and clear blue skies. Many thanks to Sam Laming, who not only found the time to give multiple first flight courses to both fun jumpers and dropzone staff members but also organised loads. He gave detailed ground mock-ups too, explaining exits and flights for the



“ On a separate note, I've been told that Dave Wickes, Jason Fox and Tony Labbadia have done 25 Horny Gorillas ”

**CORNWALL**  
By Ben

**CHATTERIS**  
Competitors in the 3-way Scrambles at Chatteris, by Andrew Mines

more experienced wingsuiters. It was a beautiful day with awesome jumps and smiles all around – especially due to the £18 jump tickets in a sweet Twin Otter! Everyone who took part in the BPA Wingsuit Roadshow is looking forward to Sam's next visit to Chatteris. *Alter Ego* were also with us for a few busy days in September, and Curt and Jeannie Bartholomew were great coaches who taught many different courses and helped to increase their students' confidence under canopy (and land on their feet!).

On October 3, we had our very own FS 3-way Scrambles competition organised by Chris Beattie and Graham Ablett. Graham put in as much hard work organising the teams and dive pool as he does chasing people's beer fines. He was also coincidentally in the winning team, but we looked past that and were grateful for a brilliant day. We had five teams in total: *Must Tri Harder* won, *Ruskis* came second, *Celts* were third and *The Men with No Names* and *Weirdy Beardies* took joint fourth. We finished the day with an amazing 15-way which came together beautifully and a barbecue with free beer. We had a lot of laughs and absolutely no cheating went on – we promise. We're hoping there will be another one next year.

There was a happy ending for *ChatterChaps* on October 20 as they won gold at Bodyflight Revenge. They started off the year with the dream of taking part in a few competitions, but each one just led to another! The team enjoyed the year far beyond anything they could ever imagine and they would like to thank everyone who helped and coached them in the past year. *ChatterChaps* have confirmed they will be returning next year in the A category.

A group of Chatteris regulars headed out to Skydive Spain in October for a repeat of last year's successful autumn trip. Despite a few days of unseasonably wet weather, some great jumping was had when the sun finally made an appearance. One newly qualified jumper did have a little trouble keeping up with the bad weather day activities though, describing events as "being like a nuclear attack on his liver!" On a separate note, I've been told that Dave Wickes, Jason Fox and Tony Labbadia have done 25 Horny Gorillas – congratulations guys! Those poor Gorillas...

Just one last reminder to everyone: the DZ closes on December 19 and will be open again on February 6 2016. See you in the New Year!

**Sophie Barnwell**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Rob Baskerville, Jack Mountfield CH2/JM1 Sophie Barnwell, Wayne Borley FS1 James Moran, Jack Mountfield WS1 Simon Chipp, Sean Healey WS2 Simon Chipp CP1 Jason Dodunski JUMP NUMBERS 50 Jack Mountfield, Michael Russell 200 Tamsyn Greetings 400 Michael Burns 12 HOURS IN FREEFALL Tony Labbadia



**CORNWALL**

# LOOK OUT, AMERICA

The Indian summer arrived just in time to make the end of the season a roaring success, so the jump numbers began to rise and the club lifts were full on every occasion. September was a record month for jumping! However, the Moorland crew at the Bodmin DZ struggled to get anything done yet again...

The laid back atmosphere at our little club has appealed to many visiting jumpers from up country (that's anything north of Bodmin), →

so some are already planning their leave from work for when we open again on the first weekend in March.

Tim Porter graced the skies over Cornwall again, pushing to get on every lift, and finally managed to squeeze his way onto a sunset beach jump along with Ray (both still owe beer), Stu and Aaron. What a stunning evening!

Dave, Monty and I braved a tunnel trip with some of the lads. Three hours of being treated like a target in a confined space kept us on our toes but, by the end of the session, there was some awesome flying from all and the speed of progression was worthy of applause.

By the time this goes to press, the hangar doors will have been pulled firmly closed for the winter. We wish Justin a safe trip as he sets off on his adventures, and his mugshot is being forwarded to all US dropzones as a warning. I'm sure the end of season party was a great success and, if not, with any luck we were all too drunk to remember.

Finally, a massive thank you from Chrissie, Dave and Ben Wood to everyone involved in making our dropzone what it is. Whether pilots, instructors, cameraflyers, club members or visitors, you all play your part. We have lots of exciting plans in store for next year at the Cornish Parachute Club as well, so keep your ears to the sand and eyes to the skies for future events.

We wish everyone a safe end to the season and a fantastic Christmas and New Year. See you all again in 2016!

UBI

**CYPRUS**  
Chas and  
Luke McNeil



**CYPRUS**

## END OF AN ERA

I would like to start by saying a massive THANK YOU to three very special members of staff who have been instrumental in helping move the club forward massively during their time here in Cyprus. Sadly, they will have all returned to Blighty and moved on to new challenges by the time this goes to print. They are Martin White (CI), Marcus Fountain (Chairman) and Chas McNeil (AFF/Tandem Instructor, Rigger and WS/FF Coach). All three have worked tirelessly to make sure we still have a club and to lay firm foundations to ensure we have a bright future here in Cyprus. Also, Marcus and Martin are continuing to work on our behalf to hopefully bring us closer to the Holy Grail that is the much-rumoured new aircraft. No pressure, lads!

It's been a very busy few months since the centre reopened after the summer break, with loads of new students arriving to start AFF and RAPS courses. We have seen a big rise in Tandem students taking advantage of the awesome view of Larnaca Bay from 11,000ft, and we welcomed Alessandro de Cucina and Jacob Cuba to the DZ. Both provided much laughter and some awesome FF coaching during this year's Boogie, so we hope to see them again in 2016. Cyprus Parachute Association also hit the road, with members travelling to Empuriabrava during the Cyprus shutdown to fly the flag for the CPA and make loads of new friends for the club.

I would like to thank everyone at the DZ for welcoming Joey and me to the club and to Chris for his efforts with the BPA magazine articles – hopefully this is okay, mate.

And finally, I can't sign off without mentioning that Chas had the magical moment of introducing his son to the sport by taking him

on his first skydive. By the look on his face, I think his parents need to start saving for AFF. Well done Luke McNeil – a new ninja is born!

Leigh 'Hobbo' Hobson

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Angelos, George Akritas, Mark Bell, Christian Bunyan, Pierides Marios, Nicolaou Marinos, Elliot Symons **CH2/JM1** Chris Berry, Ross McDowell, Gary Vincent **FS1** Agathangelou Charalambos **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Agataangelou, Chris Berry, Ross McDowell, Gary Vincent **100** Daniel Hurst **200** Nicolas Pavlou, Nicoszisis **500** Chris Spicas **800** Marcus Fountain **1,000** Panayiotis **3,000** Chas McNeil

**DUNKESWELL**

## YOU'D BE A FOOL NOT TO JUMP AT CHRISTMAS!

**True sky junkies** will agree that nothing beats skydiving EVERY day, so what better way is there to celebrate Christmas than by jumping out of a Beech99 from 15,000ft over the views of stunning Devon? We have decided to open for two extra jumping days on December 27-28 so, if you haven't fulfilled your jumping resolutions for 2015, get your festive jumper on – there is still time!

Other than Christmas jumping, we are open every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday up until December 12 (when we have the Christmas party). We reopen on January 15 2016, and it looks like we will become a five-day DZ next year and will be opening on an extra weekday due to demand. Watch this space!

This year has been busy and we have enjoyed every minute of it. Many BPA competitions were held in Dunkeswell for the first time, and we were proud to be the hosts of the UKSL, CP Nationals, VFS 4-way and 2-way as well as three CP Grands Prix. We are always happy to introduce competitors to the magic of Beech99s and our manifest always feels a bit guilty if giving more than a 20 minute call – we know the speed is what you need!

Our name has been going out in the media a lot. Actress Maisie Williams from *Game of Thrones* and *Doctor Who* jumped with us twice this year! We also had the honour to meet in person and jump the American actor and founder of the Dolphin Project, Ric O'Barry. One of our regular sports jumpers Andy Torbet happens to be a TV personality too, and he has been filming stuff for the BBC. On a separate project, DZ owner Jason Farrant was a stuntman for a Channel 4 documentary – check out the result in January.

We had a Yankee invasion in September when some of the world's best swoopers were here in Dunkeswell to show us and the UK's GP3 competitors how you do it. It was good fun to watch World Champion Nick Batsch and his *Alter Ego* teammates Curt Bartholomew and Jeannie Bartholomew compete in our cup. All in all, Nick and Curt had incredible runs and went away with medals – putting us on the world map of swoop!

It has been more than six months since we lost our staff member Sonny Hepburn to cancer. Illness stopped him only four jumps short of his aim of getting his C Licence so, with support from our staff and the BPA, four of his family members did tandem jumps with us and these were written into his logbook. We are pleased to announce Sonny has got his C Licence now. It was also incredibly sad to lose one of our Static Line Instructors, Chris Jones. Blue skies to you, Chris – we miss you.

If you look through our achievements list, it's been an incredible last few months for students and we are responsible for many newly qualified skydivers. Our jumping family is getting bigger and better, so Happy New Year everyone!

Miko

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Anna Blundell, Michal Kopczynski, James Phesey **CAT8/CH1** Ben Allen, Mike Baller, Mark Blowey, Florin Botosineanu, Ashley Cross, Joe Downey, Savannah Forrester, Joseph Greene, Elliot Gregory, Johnny Hull, Rob Kisiel, Matt McLeod, Matthew Offer-Hoar, Richard Onions, William Pritchard, Jasper Tambini, Ondrej Tekal, Eoin Watson **CH2/JM1** Ryan Goodman, Phil Husbands, →

“Nick and Curt had incredible runs and went away with medals – putting us on the world map of swoop”

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## HEADCORN

# THE BARE AND THE ESSENTIALS

**Now the clocks** have gone back and temperatures are taking a trend downwards, it really is time to get the thermals and winter gloves out for a cold but fun winter of skydiving.

Temperatures clearly weren't that low at the end of September for some jumpers from Imperial College as Jose Videria, Pippa Chalk, Iulian Udrea and Jonny Jackson decided that a naked jump was the right thing to do. Watching these types of jumps really is pleasure and pain, and it's fair to say the emphasis is on pain! However, fun was indeed had by all so congratulations to them for having the balls to brave the temperatures.

The Regional Accuracy Grand Prix also took place in September with seven competitors in the Seniors and four in the Juniors. Even Jane dusted off her Fury this year to have a go! It was congratulations to Cl Pete Sizer for no longer being the bridesmaid and taking first place in Seniors. Janos Leszko was second and Steve Hastings was third. The Junior category was very closely fought and was eventually won by Chris Olatunji, with Isaac Brown in second and Mike Leslie in third.

Simon Hughes organised a successful trip to the Algarve that saw many of our club members taking advantage of the warmer climate. This centre got a big tick from everyone who went, so a return is already planned for next year. Simon has also organised a trip to Deland next March for the eighth year in a row. This is always popular because the weather is fairly guaranteed and the party scene is fairly hot so, if you are interested in joining in, contact Simon at the centre.

Jane has been getting stuck in and packing a few tandem rigs lately to help out on busy afternoons when we are trying to cram all the jumping into a few hours. She assures me that she has no intention of requalifying as a T1 and I have more chance of seeing black snow than that happening again...

Chris Lynch revisited his cutaway drills after a 22-year lay-off when his Valkyrie decided to play up. It's pretty impressive that he went all that time and 13,000 jumps without a malfunction on his sport equipment.

Henry Van Halewyn is our latest Tandem Instructor and he has also recently qualified for his CP Coach rating. He is now working on his FF Coach rating.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Party on December 5, and let's see if we can behave ourselves once again. Pictures to follow on this one, I feel...

Don't forget that we are open for club fun jumpers on New Year's Day for those who have managed to survive the New Year's Eve festivities with their heads intact!

So, as we wrap up warm to prepare for the long winter of 'fun' jumping, we would like to wish all our club members and visiting jumpers, who are always very welcome, a Happy Christmas and safe New Year!

Blue (cold) Skies

## Si Beech

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Stephen Adam, Andy Beviere, Jason Burgoyne, Erico Dantas, Junjie Ju, Joe Knapman, Jamie Tolan, Sam Warburton, Nick Weller, Brent Willis **CH2/JM1** Joe Horton, Artur Kurginian, Mike Leslie, Stuart Turner, Colin Wright **FS1** Joe Horton, Chris Oates, Iulian Udrea **WS1** Marcus Muir Smith **CP1** Marcus Muir Smith **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Lindsey Eldridge, James Vassallo **400** Simon Soper, Ben Wilks **700** Alex Leslie **1,000** Chad Smith **1,100** Sam Laming **1,300** Si Beech **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Dan Cato **SIXTEEN HOURS IN FREEFALL** Si Beech

“Chris Lynch revisited his cutaway drills after a 22-year lay-off when his Valkyrie decided to play up. It's pretty impressive that he went all that time and 13,000 jumps without a malfunction on his sports equipment”

## HIBALDSTOW

# SLOWING DOWN? WHAT'S THAT?

**The DZ has** settled into its original groove again as the banners and judging system get put away for another season. What a fantastic Nationals meet, and one with some excellent results for our own flyers too. See you all next year for another showdown!

The student scene is just mad at the minute and the team are working hard to get the students up in all this nice weather. It's really paying off, with a huge surge in passes and so loads of new fun jumpers on DZ. With York University back now, it's going to be a busy season for our instructors. FS coaching has gone a bit wild too and we've had loads of new passes over the last few weeks. Big congratulations to Andy Eady, Mike Laverty and Calum Davies for their shaking hot shapes with our coaches and being rightly awarded FS1s. With so many people so close to FS1, it could be another month of beer!

Our next batch of FS coaches have been working hard at Hibaldstow to be sure they are of excellent enough quality to join the team. We welcome Lucy Westgarth and Stefan Potter to our team for 2016, and our own troopers – Magnum, Jack, Alyssa and Dan (a.k.a. all of the *Future Cynics* 4-way team) are putting the final touches to their flight skills and briefings.

We also congratulate Weed and Lorene for completing their FF Coach ratings over the skies of Hibaldstow under the watchful eye of Paul Cooper. Coop's gang braved the plush 20° temperatures of October for one last gig this year and it turned out to be a bit of a winner. Two days of sun and shapes to end October on!

Elsewhere, the DZ has grown its wingsuiting as Matt Lancaster and Nigel Thurston grabbed their ratings to teach First Flight Courses, thanks to the efforts of Dave Butterell and Rob Gray. Dave and Nigel themselves were just back from the new 61-way World Record formation wingsuit event and they have even been seen on TV pushing the suiting. Wingsuit wingsuit wingsuit!

Fergie's group has gone absolutely mad over the last few months. Our Intermediates scored some stunning skydives, made some big moves and had loads of fun stuff, followed up a few weeks later with some excellent advanced 18-20-way formation loads – we've never been so spoilt for flyers. Highlights included the boogie blocks that boogied too much, 'find the doughnut centre' and the 18-way spearhead to end the day. Want to know more? Look for pics online and keep an eye for our 2016 calendar soon.

The season isn't over and, with Hibbleween and our Algarve trip happening as this mag prints, you can expect a sizeable chunk for review next time. But don't forget our end of season Christmas party get-together! A three-course meal in the clubhouse, our awards ceremony and, of course, the boozy disco to close out a great year – tickets and voting open soon. See you there!

## Stubert Ferglstein

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CH1** Kane Jackson **CH2/JM1** Corrie Edgar, Danny Hayward **JM1** Kane Jackson **FS1** Calum Davies, Ant Hill, Mike Laverty **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Calum Davies, Corrie Edgar, Kat Haspel, Kane Jackson, Mike Laverty **100** Danny Hayward **200** Dan Gittins **300** Metaxas Navarro **500** Rich Dunn **600** Ryan May **800** Elliott Brown **900** Stefan Potter **1,000** Roy Little **1,500** Ant Hill →

**HIBALDSTOW**  
17-way, by  
Liam Goddard



**JERSEY**

# BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE

**I try hard** not to mention the weather in articles about skydiving and focus on the fun but, when a six-day event is organised and it rains more than the day Noah finished his boat, it's hard to ignore. Then again, seasoned skydivers tend to be positive optimists so they don't let a bit of inclement met dampen their spirits! Despite a reduced schedule, a lot of jumps were achieved and our super-fly Cessna 208 Caravan boosted us up to 15,000ft on many occasions.

A big shout of respect has to go out to Liam Hardman for organising the Jump Jersey 2015 event, Mally for supporting to make things run as efficiently as possible and many of the core club members who came together to volunteer their services. Michelle and Claire were superstars on the manifest and registration, while Pete did a great job ensuring the raffle was a success to help to boost the boogie bucks. George and Geraldine McGuinness are the stalwarts of the Skydive Jersey scene and are sure to be around when there's an event on looking out for everyone's best interests, so we're always happy to share their wealth of combined knowledge and experience. Sorry if I've missed anyone by name, but everyone's help is much appreciated, however big or small, and the whole operation is the sum of many moving parts.

Word spread well about the event and there was a good attendance from a range of jumpers from the UK. There was great feedback about the epic views and cordial Skydive Jersey hospitality, so we're hoping to build on the success for next time! Look out for the boogie vids on our Youtube channel at [youtube.com/user/skydivejersey](http://youtube.com/user/skydivejersey) in the coming months.

Finally, love is in the air and I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing Liam and Kathryn a very happy life together after getting engaged at the boogie. Liam went to a lot of effort to make sure it was a special skydive with a large proposal message drawn in the sand by a local artist and sealed the deal with a mid-air kiss on the helmet. Good times indeed, as he would say!

**Nigel O'Brien**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** GRADUATED AFF Pierre Mahy FF1 Liam Hardman JUMP NUMBERS 300 Jess Withers 600 Simon Griffiths

**LANGAR**

# ALL OUT, ALL IN, ALL UP, ALL DOWN

Following last issue's DIY Langar Boogie 2 report, here is the promised accurate reportage on reality:

The Parachutists Over Phorty Society unofficially beat their previous record of a 36-way with 42 skydivers in formation, but the all-out-all-in rule means they've still got work to do to make it proper. Jack Felstead, John and Di Boxall, Dave Morris, Phil Curtis and Chris Shaw made it all happen, but their efforts would have been in vain without the sterling efforts of pilots Gareth Thomas, Jan Wildgruber, Mike Carruthers, Paul Hollow and Dave Epton. Getting everything organised took a lot of effort by Dave and Angela Hickling and the team too. Many thanks to everybody who made it all work, and especially to Hibaldstow for the G92 and to Jan and Gareth for the FOXY plane.

So Langar still holds the European POPS Record set way back in 2006 – more attempts to come!

The general boogie-ing was good too, with a bit of something for everybody – formations, freely, tracking, tracing, wingsuit, canopy formations, swooping and even demo jumps. Maybe not skysurfing, though. What happened to them, eh?

The jumpers also raised more than £675 (plus whatever got put in the collection pot on the bar) for the Air Ambulance, both with

merchandise sales and the Boogie Raffle which was supported by more than 15 manufacturers and suppliers from around the world. Thanks to everybody who contributed goods and/or bought tickets or stuff, with special thanks to PD and Airtec for providing Hans and Max respectively!

We also ran a BPA Tandem and AFF Evaluation course during the Boogie, gluttons for punishment that we are! While the early part was a bit of struggle with weather, it all went well in the end and a whole bunch of newly qualified instructors went back to their dropzones in time for a busy weekend.

Overall, we made 217 lifts and approximately 2,700 jumps. As previously promised, we will indeed have another Boogie next year!

While we were busy with the Boogie, a group of Langar jumpers were representing Great Britain at the Skydiving World Cup in Holland. A big well done to *Phoenix* (4-way) and *Awkward Turtles* (8-way). Nice one, people!

Don't forget, we're open seven days a week even during winter. The only day we close is Christmas Day itself, so come and join us. Anything special happening will appear at [facebook/skydivelangar](http://facebook/skydivelangar), so keep your beady eyes on that to get the low-down.

**Tony Danbury**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Paul Walsh CH2/JM1 George Abrahams FS1 George Abrahams, Mark Bradley, Chris Edwards, Ryan Garner FF1 Salem Almeel, Joanne Woods FF2 Josh Carratt WS1 Simon Dickinson, Charlotte Harris, Ben Mitchell JUMP NUMBERS 50 Paul Bailey 100 Sobhan Afroosheh, Emily Aucutt, Ryan Garner, Samantha White 200 Charlotte Harris 300 Simon Perry 400 Ben Mitchell 500 Tom Shorten 800 Matt Willson, Roy Wimmer 1,600 Ryan Briddon, Brian Cumming 2,000 Chris Judd ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL George Abrahams, Sobhan Afroosheh, Salem Almeel TWELVE HOURS IN FREEFALL Matt Willson 24 HOURS IN FREEFALL Brian Cumming 36 HOURS IN FREEFALL Dan Williams



**NETHERAVON**  
Angle Flying Camp with Gigliola Borgnis and Cristian Vasari, by Greg Harwood

**NETHERAVON**

# BE THE BEST

**This has been** a year of amazing progression at Netheravon. Great advances have been made in every discipline, the trophy cabinets are bursting and records have been rewritten. The awesome weather during September and October gave the perfect opportunity to showcase top talent as well as progress students and run successful events.

**Angle flying with Gigliola Borgnis and Cristian Vasari**

Everything came together to make this an amazing event. Gigliola and Cristian organised brilliant skydives, the DZ made sure aircraft were almost exclusively available, pilots were generous with altitude and even the British weather played ball. Angle flying reached new skill levels thanks to Gigliola and Cristian's expert instruction, leaving Netheravon's angle flying future looking very bright indeed. At least two more events are scheduled in for next year already!

**Wingsuit Nationals – hosted by Netheravon AGAIN!**

September started with the 2015 Wingsuit National Competition in →

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Performance Flying and Acrobatics. With the added pressure of this being a qualifying event for the 2016 World Championships, standards reached new highs. The top eight competitors guaranteed themselves a place on the UK performance team for next year and the gold medal went to Spike Harper, with Joseph Likierman taking silver and Paul Cain taking bronze.

The Acrobatics Advanced category was won by *Per Aeris*, with *Tutti Frutti* taking the top of the podium in the Intermediate category. Both teams will qualify for the 2016 World Cup.

**FS Formations – getting even bigger!**

FS jumpers have enjoyed a 'something for everyone' season. While *Entropy* have been organising and coaching smaller groups with great results, more advanced FS jumpers have been preparing to pay it forward by attending the FS Coaches qualifying sessions. Mike Lewis and Trevor Hookings have had major successes with their big-way formation challenges and, with glorious weather and plenty of aircraft availability in September, the group had a fantastic autumn event with nine successful jumps over the weekend.

**Students – whatever the weather, get down to the DZ**

It's been a great autumn for student skydivers. APA Instructors have been guiding new jumpers through their progression lessons and briefings during bad weather to take full advantage of the glorious sunshine and low winds with days full of jumping, new skills and new licences!

**Romance**

Love has been in the air recently and special wedding congratulations go out to Ant and Jo, Jason and Debbie, Rachael and Jerry, Tom and Becky and Pete and Lizzie. And a big welcome to Clara – the latest addition to the Crudgington family!

**What's in store for 2016?**

Over the winter, while most APA members are enjoying a little bit of down time, the APA team will be hard at work planning a busy and exciting year. With our focus being on excellence, we will be filling up the diary with quality events, world class coaching and top-level facilities including the opening of our new bunkhouse. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and we'll see you in the sky soon!

**Elana Cain**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Lorenzo Berti, Matt Corden-Dilley, James Davidson, Nathan Read, Paul Selley, Simon Trew **CH2/JM1** Roy Arscott, James Davidson, Alex Slegg, Darren Street **FS1** Craig Anderson, Simon Bradbury, Lorenzo Berti, Jade Haron, George Schmidt, Alex Slegg, Simon Trew **FF1** Michael Bates **CH1** Nathan Read **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Craig Anderson, Roy Arscott, James Davidson, Paula Pettman, Alex Slegg, Darren Street **300** Claire Humphries **400** Michael Bates, Vince Blandford, Johnny Mursa **500** Wayne Collier, Brian Oz Gardner, Jonathan Smith **2,000** Alex Murphy **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Jade Haron

**PETERLEE**

**GIVING THE NEW TURBINE A SPIN**

The weather has been a little kinder to us over the last few weeks and we've made the most of it during our progression and tandem weeks. That's especially so since the return of our Cessna Grand Caravan, and it's fair to say that the regulars were all delighted to see the C208B back with us last month following its extended service and 'open heart' engine surgery. The hot section of the turbine has been completely rebuilt, giving it a whole new lease of life.

Our local University clubs all seem to have had a very successful run of Freshers' week recruitment drives this year. Durham (DUFFC), Newcastle (NUPC), Northumbria (NUTS) and Teesside (TUSC) have all completed their first Category System courses and all have lots more candidates booked in over the next few weekends. The Newcastle students all made their first jumps and a number of them have already returned, so progression is underway. Sadly, the weather didn't play ball for the first NUTS and TUSC courses. Hang in there, guys – it'll be worth the wait.

We also welcome new C182 pilot Bill Watson. Bill has spent much of his life around aircraft and airfields and is a welcome addition to our pilot roster. Paul Harris continues to regularly make the trip



**PETERLEE**  
**NUPC students good to go, by Sam Boardman**

from Glasgow to fly for us and keeps his hand in while the weather is poor by lending a much-needed hand on the packing mat.

Everyone is currently getting ready for one of our biggest après-jump events of the year. The Peterlee Halloween Party and huge firework display will hopefully be even bigger and better than last year, so check Facebook for the fancy dress photos and prize winners from the night.

We have a couple of notable mentions among the students this month. AFF Graduate Gareth Stephenson sailed through all eight AFF levels in two days and completed consols within a few more weeks. He's since gone on to gain his FS1 as well – good going, Gareth. Also from the AFF School, Sally Anderson has returned and finally completed her consols two years after successfully completing levels 1-8. Sally has blamed work commitments for the long gap. You know what they say about all work and no play, Sally...

**Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Oliver Saunders **GRADUATED AFF** Sally Anderson, Gareth Stephenson **CAT8/CH1** Rob Law **CH2/JM1** Neil Whitfield **FS1** Kieran Hogan, Gareth Stephenson, Neil Whitfield **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Andy Harris **100** Ben Boucher Giles **200** Gary Owen, Peter Rafferty

**POPS/SOS**

**MEDALS FOR MAYHEM**

**Team Mayhem**, a group of skydivers who don't take themselves seriously but who seriously enjoy skydiving, took bronze medals at Sibson in the recent 8-Way Speed National Championships on September 26-27.

Formed in 2001, *Mayhem* have entered the 8-Way Speed Nationals every year since then and this year *Mayhem's* six SOS jumpers and three POPS jumpers (with a combined age totalling nearly 550 years) took third place on the podium. The team comprised Paul French (Team leader and sole survivor from 2001), Tamsyn Stanton, Keith Clarke, John Houghland, Wayne Collier, Stuart Charlton, Jeff Chandler, Tim Bittleston and Mike Coleman on camera.

In the past year, training has comprised 15 training days at →

**POPS/SOS**  
**Mayhem**



Netheravon and three hours in wind tunnels. It hasn't all been hard work for members of the team, who have also jumped in Dubai, in Elsinore and on three trips to France where we jumped with the French POPS organisation.

Next year, the team are looking forward to Dubai in February, the French POPS Reunion in May, the World POPS Meet in Germany in August and at least three hours in wind tunnels during the upcoming winter.

*Mayhem* is not just for POPS, though. It is also for PUPS, the Parachutists Under Phorty, and *Mayhem* not only take enjoyment out of our sport but they also put something back in.

**Paul French**



**READING**

## GET PACKING

If the forecast is right, you will probably be reading this article in the depths of winter and sat in 10ft of snow with the memories of last season at LPS far behind you. Then again, we all know you cannot always rely on the forecast, don't we? Martin Harris has managed to get it right three out of five times with his 'weather calls' and invites to 'stay in bed' or 'roll the dice'. It's always a tough call, but it's nice to be at a DZ that actually makes a call so that you can do other things with your time instead of cloud watching.

Gary and Marie-Ann Stevens have put this down time to great use by getting students through progression and packing. An outstanding number of students have qualified this season – just see the achievements list! Thanks go to them both for their enthusiasm and support in getting progression briefs on and the students moving through. In one day alone, they managed to run a packing course and get five packing certificates issued to Roger Davis, Tom Hurst, Jan Wilczynski, Constantin Vochitoiu and Sam Blundell.

Meanwhile, Mikey Lovemore has used this down time to sit at home polishing his medals (one for the board) and a mega well done goes to our speediest skydiver in the UK and the second fastest in the world! Everyone at LPS is so proud to know you and we are all absolutely chuffed that you can be awesome and a nice guy at the same time. My PR skills – telling every tandem student that you film about your achievements – will never stop!

Martin Harris dusted off his wingsuit and got his WS1. He was scarily very happy for at least two days in a row after this.

Some of you may be off to sunnier climes for winter boogies and some of you may be just waiting for a chance to meet up again at the AGM. Some harder DZs with enclosed packing areas are open while LPS is shut so your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to dive elsewhere during the LPS shutdown and tell people what a great little DZ we are! No doubt there will be chances to fly together in tunnel time arranged by Marie-Ann, so keep an eye on the Club Jumper and AFF Facebook groups. Whatever you are doing in the off season, be safe and we look forward to catching up at the AGM!

And finally, I have been asked to include #markclayton and Taff Thomas #sog.

**Annie Lewis**

P.S. And Dylan is still a good boy.

**READING**  
*Oliver Stone*  
learning to  
pack early

“A special mention goes to Morgan, who completed her AFF at 16 and gained her FS1 just after her 17th birthday”

**SIBSON**  
*Morgan on her*  
swoop to pin, by  
*Fiona Millar*

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Sam Blundell, Luke Chen, Stefan Inge, Yusuf Mehmet, Niki Parasyri, Wendy Smith, Constantin Vochitoiu, Jan Wilczynski **CH2/JM1** Tony Lennard, Russ Upton **WS1** Martin Harris **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Russ Upton 200 Tom Hurst, Tamsyn Stanton

**SIBSON**

## NAMES WITHHELD TO PROTECT THE GUILTY

The season may be starting to wind down, the weather may be getting colder and events calendars may be coming to an end, but Sibson is as busy as ever. The progression is endless, keeping up the trend of a very successful year, and the achievements list with numerous FS1s and a few FF1s and FF2s speaks for itself. Both of the latter were awarded to a rather surprising person: canopy piloting ninja Brian Vacher! These were awarded with him having 10,000 jumps, so it just goes to show that there is always something to learn regardless of experience level. A special mention goes to Morgan, who completed her AFF at 16 and gained her FS1 just after her 17th birthday. She is our youngest AFF graduate and FS1 recipient ever!

We have held the annual BPA Speed 8 competition once again and, although only six teams participated, the fun and laughter was not restricted in any way. There were some good examples of flying, but there were also some... interesting examples as well. You know who you are. Even some of the exits proved entertaining. It is a no show, no grip exit and it is simple in principle, but it still generated problems. Grippers, knees, elbows, feet, fingers, you name it – anything starts the clock when it crosses the door and some competitors seemed to struggle in understanding that. One of the highlights was watching two fairly hefty competitors wedge themselves side-by-side and stopping dead in the door of the Caravan. All-in-all, it was a safe and fun competition. We'd like to see more teams enter next year so, if you fancy the idea of a relaxed completion, sign up and join in!

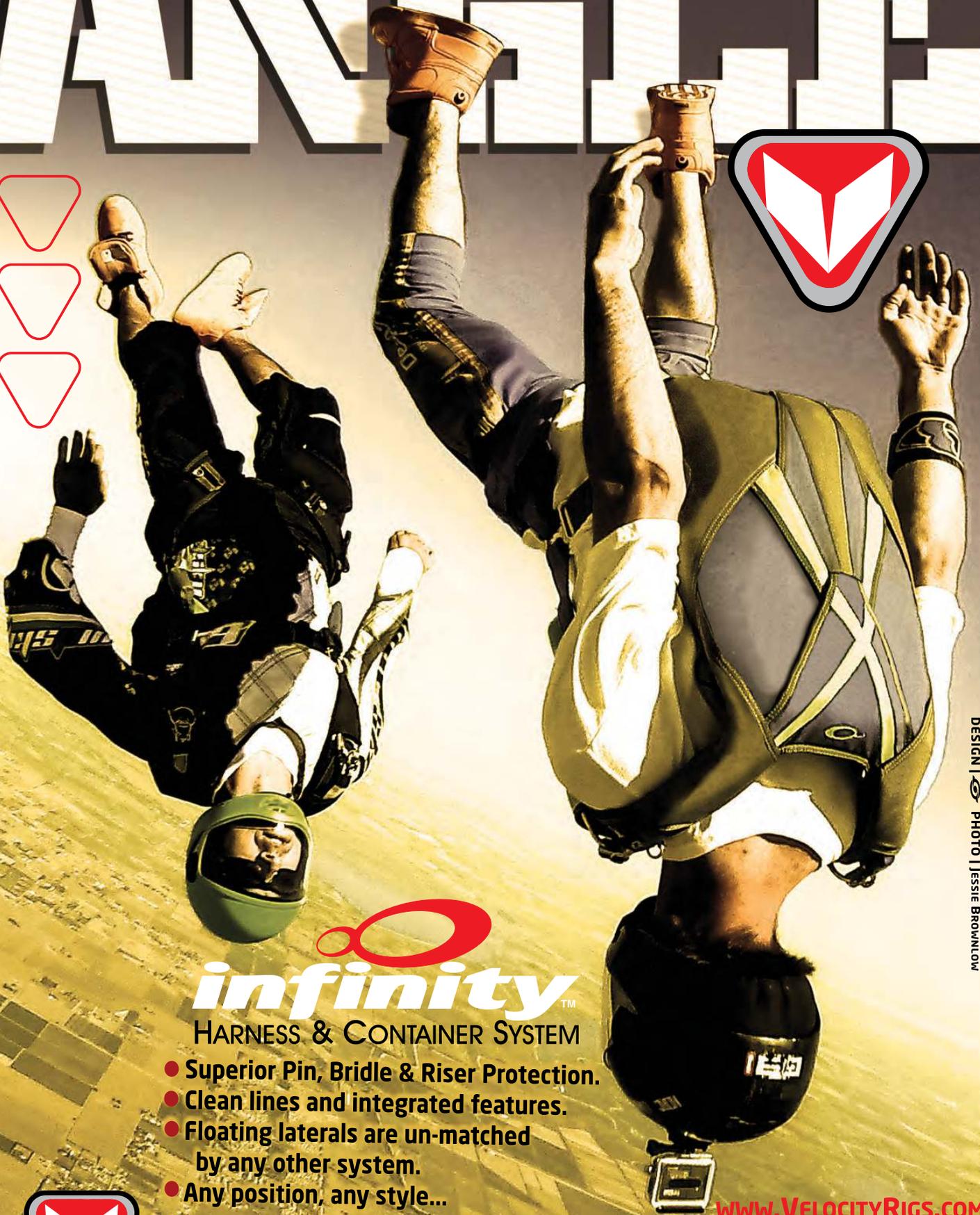
Big congratulations go to Karen and Michael Wilson-Roberts, who have become mum and dad to Liam Luka Wilson-Roberts. Liam has had his first visit to Sibson and proved a very popular little chap straight away. The ladies love the WR a lot already!

Some of our freefliers represented us at the UK Head Down Record attempt, which was organised by Killa and hosted by the guys and girls at Hibaldstow. It is a fantastic achievement and we are proud to have such talent with us. Remember that we have the 'Elite Freefly' school onsite too so, if you want some world class coaching, you know where we are. Not to be outdone, some of our wingsuiters joined a global gathering of flockers over in Perris to attempt a new World Record. They helped set not one but two new World Records! First with a 50-way formation, then breaking that with a 61-way diamond. A very impressive achievement – well done, guys! For more, see P19.

In the last edition, you may have seen "Green in the window" mentioned. It all stems from a Tandem student who observed the flight line checks for the load he was on. As we all do, we mention the colour in some form or other and carry out the checks. This unknowing soul took it to mean something else and it took the dropzone a bit of time to work out what he meant by saying "Green in the window" to everyone before walking off – *bless*. The greeting has now given birth to a team or two as well. →



Whatever Your



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### Kye Bromley

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Tes Collins **CH2/JM1** Lukasz Gawlik **FS1** Andy Clements, Tess Collins, Morgan Holland, Candice Kass, Belinda Lucas **FF1** Wes Lawes, Brian Vacher **FF2** Andy Beney, Brian Vacher **WS2** Liz Moore **CF1** Andy Beney **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Lukasz Gawlik, Chloe Smith **100** Daniel Prest **200** Ben Lakin, Dean Smith **500** Andy Beney, Brad Dimmock, Phill Kimpton **600** Tim Plummer **800** Papa Gee **900** Kye Bromley **1,700** Rob Gray **2,700** Michael Wilson-Roberts **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Leah Frost, Phil Webley **60 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Ricky Capani

### SWANSEA

## RIGHT ON TARGET

All was going well at Skydive Swansea until the fateful day when the ground power unit cut out, causing us a problem for the plane in mid-September. Little did we know how long outside parties would take to get us back online and that mild weather was ahead. It was annoying to say the least, but I want to thank James Swallow from Hib and everyone else for their patience and support throughout this testing period. A really big mention has to go to our Becky, who was at the sharp end and had to deal with rebooking everyone – doing a superb job throughout!

We anticipate that G-SYLV will be back with us in mid-November, so we should be back on track as you read this. On a positive note, it gave a few of us plenty of time to work on getting our handicaps down and we didn't miss any of the Rugby World Cup. We will also be issuing free ear defenders for any English rugby-loving skydivers over the next few weeks...

The REALLY BIG NEWS for Skydive Swansea is that we've been awarded the BPA Accuracy Nationals for the next three years. In May this year, Swansea hosted the Nationals for the first time and it was deemed a success by judges and competitors alike. We'll be aiming for an even better event next year, so put us in your diary now! The Nationals will be over the Bank Holiday weekend on August 27-29 with a practice day beforehand on August 26. The judges said they were surprised just how many novice and intermediate competitors entered in May, but we will again aim to encourage skydivers to compete with cash prizes, free beer and a barbecue during the weekend. Anyone with a B Licence or above can enter, so keep an eye out for regular updates on the Skydive Swansea Facebook page closer to the time.

Since the Nationals, Intermediate competitors Grayson Summers and Alun Jones have been training, both jumping Para Foils, and they intend to enter at Senior level. Dave Tylcoat has just taken delivery of a new set of gear and he recently purchased property close to the DZ, so he's back training regularly and will no doubt be fighting for a top spot next year. Dave will have his work cut out; things are getting serious in the Accuracy world and, for the first time in a long time, the top five men who attended the Nationals at Swansea have purchased matching PD Zero canopies. This is in preparation for the 2016 World Championships in Chicago and DIPC 6 meet in Dubai.

Back to the here and now, the club are having our annual Christmas get-together and almost 90 members will be attending at the Marriott Hotel in Swansea over the last weekend of November. This is a new

“I want to thank James Swallow from Hib and everyone else for their patience and support”

venue due to us all being too loud for the Morgan Hotel last year! Pics and antics to follow on the next write-up. It proves that the club is really growing, as there were only 57 people in attendance last year. It also supports the fact that the most AFF courses have trained and jumped to date this year even though we had an almost two-month hiccup with the plane!

Finally, Skydive Swansea intends to open throughout the winter period so, if anyone fancies a change of scenery or wants to brush the cobwebs off their gear, come along and we can enjoy a few beers in the Mumbles afterwards. You'll be very welcome to jump with us over the Gower, which has one of the best coastal views of any DZ in UK.

Thanks for your support in 2015, everyone. Have a great Christmas and New Year's Eve!

### Carl Williams

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Ben Smith **CH2/JM1** Sally Ann Antony, Michael Walsh **FF1** Alicja **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Sally Ann Antony, Michael Walsh **100** Grayson, Michael Phillips **300** Laura Turner **400** Will Tenison

### SWINDON

## MAN CRUSHES, STAND UP LANDINGS AND MISBEHAVING SWIM TRUNKS

**Did you know** that the average person in a restaurant takes about 60 minutes to eat their dinner? Why am I telling you this? Well, our very chatty and easily distracted Tandem Instructor Ant took three hours to eat his dinner when we all went for an Indian after a busy day's jumping. Ant was still eating his main while everyone else had eaten starters, main and dessert and was onto their brandy nightcaps. It became a very funny game to see how long he took between mouthfuls. With Jonny on timer duties, Ant averaged out at four minutes! Bring on the Christmas party; we reckon 2015 will finish before he does! Ant has also promised to take on Bensons' 2p challenge at the party...

Wez returned to Redlands, did another 101 course and then came back again to take the first group through their 102 course as well. Having heard great things from the others about their 101 course, I signed up for it along with Doog, Henry, Alex, Heath, Luke and that John Guy. We all had a great time, learned loads, and we even got Wez to smile (it probably helped that Darrell wasn't on the course). Wez also admitted that we were much better than the first group – I even got a high five on my last awesome landing! The 102 course also went well, Darrell behaved and Wez brought sweets as a reward for good behaviour (although he handed them out to keep everyone quiet so he could get a word in edgewise in the end!). A massive thanks to the best packers in the world, Chrissy and Jenny – without them, we wouldn't have been able to complete our canopy courses!

Coming off the back of the canopy course, I was feeling very confident in my newfound landing skills. Meanwhile, Patrick had been on six canopy courses (he has a very large man crush on Wez) at the last count and was also feeling confident. Therefore, Patrick and I have had ourselves a little competition and the challenge was to see who could stand up the most landings on our next 10 jumps. I got 10 out of 10 while Patrick, who obviously wants to go on another canopy course so he can see his hero again, managed a very poor three. The forfeit has yet to be decided. Be afraid, Patrick – be afraid!

As predicted, we haven't seen Dylan '12 chins' at the DZ for a while. But it's OK – we know that he's still alive because he is never off Facebook! His new favourite thing to post is pictures of himself (surprise, surprise) eating 'Daddy yogurt' in bed, on the stairs, in the swimming pool... every level of wrong. Dylan? You seriously need to come skydiving soon!

The lovely Darrell is at that age where any attention from the ladies is welcome and, when he went swimming the other week, he was getting lots of attention, from both men and women, while walking →

**SWANSEA**  
Dave Tylcoat doing an approach on his new canopy, by Dougy Evens





**SWINDON**  
Wingover with sun,  
by Jon Eeles with  
Rob Dawson

to the pool from the changing rooms. Darrell, thinking that his healthy eating and exercise regime was paying off, strutted his stuff and puffed out his chest like a proud peacock. It was only after Darrell had finished his swim and got back to the changing rooms that he realised he had his swimming trunks on back to front! Just keep swimming, Darrell. Just keep swimming...

In other news, Babs decided to get her first tattoo at the very youthful age of 70, although no one is quite sure why she opted for a tattoo of a wasp! Following on from passing his CH2, Jon Eeles has now been advised on the correct purpose for his hook knife and, in an unrelated issue, has also received tips on 'gentleman's grooming'. Patrick tore himself away from stalking Wez on Facebook long enough to complete his 100th jump. Mandy would have got her 100th too if she hadn't have been getting her hair done and if she could count.

**Cath Thorne**

*Postscript from Patrick Holmes: "Following on from the canopy handling courses, Catherine Thorne decided to show her adoration for Wez by undertaking a 'Stand-up Landing Challenge' with Patrick Holmes. While she has improved, suffice to say she now has the forfeit of offering to wash any Redlands jumpsuits over the Christmas break, with the exception of John and Doog's 100th jump mankinis."*

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CH2/JM1 Mandy 'Haircut 100' Clements, Patrick 'Face Plant' Holmes FS1 Mandy, Patrick, Ellie Bramer, Sarah Cox, Karen Wendland **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Patrick, That John Guy, Sarah Cox, Doog 'Mankini' Does, Aaron Doy, Darko Salaj **200** GK1 **300** Max 'Nobody wants me' Navarro **1,000** Jon Eeles **60 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Ricky 'Bullseye' Capanni

**TILSTOCK**

# SUNSHINE AND SHENANIGANS

**This year, our** club has added a new feature which may be unique to our DZ. As many will know, Tilstock was faced with the construction of a solar farm on the airfield this summer. Happily, the expected disruption to the operation didn't actually transpire and we are settling in to the new PLA, which was actually the 'old PLA', quite nicely. This year also saw the fiftieth anniversary of skydiving at Tilstock since the Manchester Skydivers set up here in 1965, making Tilstock one of the oldest continually operating DZs in the country. It has seen many changes, but the Tilstock vibe has continued unabated and our photo on P54 showing a beaming Pete Dickens jumping with the grandmaster Dave Major proves it.

Talking of Mr Major, he achieved a major milestone (sorry, couldn't resist the pun!) recently when he clocked up 40 years in the sport. Yes, you read that correctly: 40 years since his first parachute jump at Ashbourne Airfield! He could start a new club to rival POPS and SOS all on his own. Dave is not only a source of great wisdom and advice, but he is a charming lad who is happy and willing to help anyone who asks with good humour. His readiness to share his experience and time is greatly appreciated by many cub members, not least those for whom he repacks their reserves. If this wasn't enough, he is also one of our regular pilots and his skill in flying the aircraft to suit the needs of all those in the back is always appreciated. In his own personal 'thank you' post on Facebook, he managed to show his own appreciation to many people who have helped in his jumping and flying but he ended thanks with "most important of all, my wife and family that still allow me to 'Go and play every weekend'". Whether you've ever

jumped or flown with Dave or not, perhaps you might like to raise a glass at some opportunity and give thanks for all those who continue to allow us all to go and play!

With an improvement in the weather, we did get a lot of jumping in from September and we continued to see students going through their basic ground courses and get jumping. One of them, Paul Lugg, did his first jump with us in September and managed to get up to B License and FS1 in October. He did cheat and go to Weston on the Green, but it's good to see someone that keen and he is coming back 'home' to jump with us.

Tilly jumpers have become quite international in the last few months. Perhaps they were inspired by Dan 'Diego' Cope, who is still having far too much fun in San Diego? A source tells us he is getting up to all sorts of shenanigans in the sky and elsewhere and is even managing to fit in some studying – which is what he actually meant to be doing – as well. Rich Scott has been jumping in Canada, Pete Dickens and Mary Carbutt were with a group in Skydive Algarve and Jules Bergal was in California. We look forward to all the postcards and fridge magnets when they finally turn up.

By the time you read this, we will have had our Bonfire Party on November 7 and we are hoping that we will manage to get through another year without burning the clubhouse down – our fires do seem to get bigger and bigger. Having survived the Bonfire Party, we will then be looking forward to our Christmas Party on December 19 at Hawkstone Hall when the Tilstock vibe will be seen aplenty. Hawkstone Hall works very well for us and the staff are endlessly welcoming and patient – thank you for putting up with us!

Before the year is out though, another wedding – there is definitely something in the water at Tilstock! We send our congratulations to Lord Woof and Michelle as they marry on December 20.

If you have never jumped at Tilstock, 2016 is the year to come and see what we mean about being the friendliest club in the country!

**Gary Windon**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 William James CH2/JM1 Paul Lugg JM1 William James FS1 Paul Lugg **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Paul Lugg, Victoria Taylor **200** Pete Dickens **700** Johnny Galbraith **1,100** Jim Coupe **1,500** Stephen Anthony Owen-Smith

**WILD GEESE**

# WINTER IS COMING

**The clocks have** gone back, the days are shorter and the air is definitely fresher, so this can mean only one thing: winter is coming! It is also the time of year when we get to welcome all the freshers from the Queens University Skydive Club recruitment drive. Along with the other Wild Geese instructors, we have welcomed back Linley and his new CSI rating after his summer at Skydive Langar. With Linley to look after his fellow Queens students and Simon working hard to convert his CSBI, the new students will be in good hands.

After many years of waiting, one of our Wild Geese regulars finally jumped out of a perfectly good aircraft. With a gift of a tandem skydive in her pocket, Elaine finally took the bull by the horns and made the leap. With her main man Simon behind the camera and securely connected to Wild Geese legend Pete Lehane, Elaine loved every minute of the experience. Will she be booked on a solo course any time soon? Here's hoping! Well done, Elaine.

Some of our diehards made the trip to Skydive Algarve to have some fun in the sun. While there, they progressed excellently. Crazy Neal Fitzpatrick was successful in achieving his WS1 and Maverick Stephen Campbell achieved his FF1, so well done guys. Simon Finlay was also having a blast and Mike Murphy was flying his wingsuit like a pro too.

I must put out an apology to Pete Lehane for an unnoticed typo in the previous Mag. Pete in fact achieved his 3,000th jump, not 2,000th as printed. Sorry Pete!

From all at Wild Geese, have a great Christmas and New Year. For anyone heading to a Christmas boogie, keep your eyes open, keep your head on a swivel, be safe and look out for each other.

**Rod McCrory**



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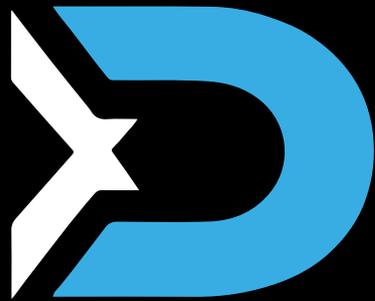
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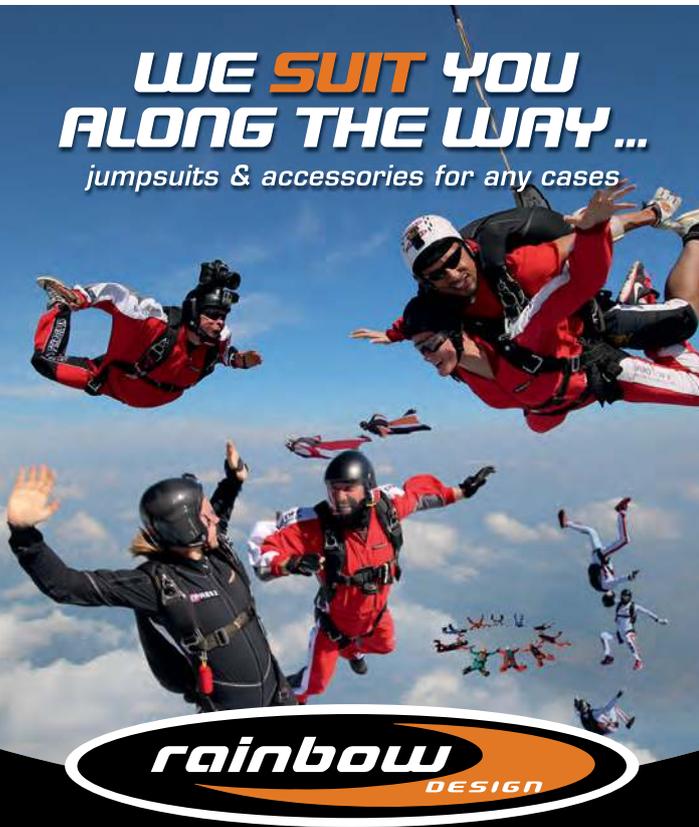
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2016

January 30

**BPA** Skydive the Expo and BPA AGM

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

February 8-12

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

Location: **22 Tng Group RAF, Weston on the Green** • bpa.org.uk

March 14-18

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

Location: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

April 18-22

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

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

May 7-8

**FS** **BPA UKSL**

Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

May 14-15

**S&A** **Accuracy Grand Prix**

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

May 16-20

**BPA** **CSI Instructor Course**

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

May 18

**U** **Royal Aero Club Awards Ceremony**

Location: **RAF Club, Piccadilly**

May 27-30

**WS** **BPA Wingsuit Performance and Acrobatics Nationals**

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June 11-12

**FS** **BPA UKSL**

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

July 16-17

**FS** **BPA UKSL**

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

August 20-22

**FS** **BPA 4-way FS Nationals**

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

August 26-29

**S&A** **BPA Classic Accuracy Nationals**

Location: **Swansea** • skydiveswansea.co.uk

August 27-29

**FS** **Backup BPA 4-way FS Nationals**

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

August 27-29

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

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

September 9-23

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

**Mondial 2016**

Location: **Skydive Chicago**

**KEY**

**BPA** BPA EVENTS  
**CP** CANOPY PILOTING  
**FS** FORMATION SKYDIVING

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

**A** ARTISTICS  
**WS** WINGSUIT  
**U** UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

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Runner-up: "The world's fastest hypnotherapy session. Look into my eyes, imagine you are falling..."  
**Bob Murdoch**

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