



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com December 2016

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the mag



INSIDE: XRW – AN INSIDE VIEW EUROPEAN CF BIG-WAY RECORD JUMPING WITH SMOKE
TANDEM INSTRUCTING – NOT FOR GIRLS?! TESTING THE GOPRO OMNI POPS WORLD RECORD
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*Cover: The 25-way
European CF Record,
by Ming Chu*

*Welcome: Landing
with delight, by
Karim Shokraee*



I'm full of the joys of education at the moment. One thing that unites all skydivers is that, no matter how many jumps you have, there is always something new to learn. I've already been telling anyone who'll listen how excited I am about a whole new world of freeflying

that has recently opened up to me, and it got me thinking. Our sport is unlike most others in that we all have access to the absolute top-level coaches if we want them. You can't call up David Beckham and ask him to critique your football skills, but most of our skydiving National Champions are available for coaching if you simply ask.

So I decided to take my own advice and just do it – I booked in for a weekend of canopy flight with Pete Allum and it was absolutely brilliant. I may have 2,700 landings now, but that's less than 10% of what Pete has done and I learned loads. Somehow 18 months had passed since my last canopy coaching, and it was great to focus on it again (and to only be going to 5k in the November weather – brrrr!). Two days later, it was time for more coaching with another National Champion

as Steve Howes continued his brave attempts to turn this former flatflyer into a freeflyer.

It was also great to hear from Fordy, Ally Milne and Mark Harris about their XRW project (see page 19). They have more than 31,000 jumps between them, but all three have talked to me with utter excitement about the jumps they have done and the new challenges they have faced. I look at them, and at Pete's joy of jumping, and am encouraged that this is a sport in which I will never run out of new things to learn.

As the late, great Martin Williams used to say: stay safe, have fun, learn something – in that order. I'm rediscovering that focusing on the last one pays off for the first two as well.

Liz Ashley

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*Pull-up pass jump,
by Kev Coffey*

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Some of the photos in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets or altimeters, or otherwise not obeying the BPA Operations Manual, in which case they were taken abroad. In the UK, it is mandatory to wear a helmet and alti for obvious safety reasons.

Skydiving training and systems vary in different countries. If you are considering taking a skydiving course or qualification abroad, we recommend you first establish its relevance in the UK, through your CI.

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BPA members get *Skydive the Mag* free as part of their membership. Also, if you take out a magazine subscription and subsequently join the BPA as a full member, your magazine cost is deducted from your BPA membership fee so you don't pay any extra. If you are not a full BPA member and would like to receive the printed *Skydive the Mag*, check out subscriptionsave.co.uk/skydivemag. You can also subscribe over the phone on +44 (0) 116 278 5271.

APPS

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE THE MAG APP:

Apple: tinyurl.com/skydivethemagapple **Android:** tinyurl.com/skydivethemagandroid

BPA members can access either version of the App free of charge for tablets or smartphones; simply give the BPA members-only login details when prompted. The details can be found in the BPA eNewsletter or on the address label that came in the post with this mag!

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE STARTER TABLET APP:

Apple: tinyurl.com/skydivestarterapple **Android:** tinyurl.com/skydivestarterandroid

Skydive Starter is the BPA's dedicated magazine for new and future skydivers and this free interactive digital edition for both Apple and Android tablets offers more than ever before. If you're a skydiver, this is the perfect answer to all those non-skydiver friends and colleagues – download it today!

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
February 2017	January 9	February 21
April 2017	March 14	April 25
June 2017	May 3	June 13
August 2017	June 29	August 8
October 2017	August 23	October 3
December 2017	October 19	November 28



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WINGSUIT WORLD MEETS

The first FAI World Championships of Wingsuit Performance completed with some impressive performances by the top three placed athletes. The USA placed first and second, and Norway took third. The top placed Brit was Spike Harper in seventh place, with the top 10 scores just 20 points apart – this event is getting very competitive.

There were a few chops, but no injuries. Nicholas Yu (former Nethers jumper) is now known as 'Rooftop Nick' after an... interesting

off landing and Alexey Galda from the USA gave himself Halloween eyes after bursting blood vessels during a high-speed spin in training.

The new records for the Brits were:

- Jackie Harper beat the Women's World Record for 'Competition – Time', going from 78.8s to 90.8s after switching to a Tony Suits Jedi 3.
- Spike Harper improved the British National Record with a new 'Time' score of 91.9s (previously 90s).

With the imminent sundown on the third day, the Performance competition came to a close after completing just seven of the nine jumps. It was time to award Chris Geiler the richly deserved accolade of becoming the first FAI World Champion of Wingsuit Performance Flying.

The first FAI World Cup of Wingsuit Acrobatics was a smoother event because it was held during the week and the DZ was quiet. GB team *Tutti Frutti* impressed the judges with clean precision flying and great camera work

AI

WINGSUIT FLYING CHAMPIONSHIP 2016



Fifth-placed
Tutti Frutti

in their free round and placed fifth, which made us all very proud. There were some well-trained teams in this event and the USA took first and second again, with Russia taking third.

Mark Bayada did a brilliant job as Head of Delegation, supporting the team and providing guidance and encouragement throughout both events. His reserve packing tools came in handy too! IPC Wingsuit Committee members Jackie Harper and Kate Charters supported Chairman John Smyth at the post-event competitor meetings and will meet at the IPC Plenary in early 2017 to take the events forward.

Jackie Harper, BPA Wingsuit Rep



CALENDAR 2017

Who said you never get anything for free these days? Your 2017 BPA Calendar is included with your December Mag, so Happy Christmas from us all and congratulations to the BPA members whose stunning photography will grace your wall for the next 12 months.



SKYDIVING MAGIC

As part of Guinness World Records Day 2016, magician Martin Rees, 28, set a new Guinness World Record for the Most Magic Tricks Performed On A Skydive at GoSkydive in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Martin successfully performed 11 tricks during the descent to raise money and awareness for the children's charity Spread A Smile.

Although Martin has years of experience in magic, he hadn't experienced a skydive before setting out to achieve the record. When asked about what it was like after his first skydive, Martin said: "It's the most incredible thing I've experienced. Nothing can prepare you for it but, once you're in the air, nothing compares to it! We spend our lives connected to the ground by gravity, so it was amazing to not be in contact with anything other than the Tandem Instructor and the views were simply breathtaking.

"Performing magic while skydiving was a real challenge because I hadn't anticipated just how cold the wind would be on my hands since I couldn't wear gloves. Also, it was a constant battle to keep hold of everything as the wind just wanted to blow things away while we were freefalling."

Martin would like to thank his Tandem Instructor Ryan Mancey and his friend and cameraflyer Andy Godwin.

SKYDIVE FOR A LIVING

Does that sound too good to be true? There are several ways to leave the 9-5 office life behind and make a living doing something you love. DZs often have vacancies for casual staff and packers, and this can be a good foot in the door to then build up your jump numbers and experience.

However, the last few years have seen a growth in structured progression packages such as the GoSkydive.com apprenticeship scheme and Hibaldstow's Earn and Learn programme. Both schemes are suitable for beginners and, in as little as three years, you can go from zero jumps to being a fully rated BPA Instructor who is capable of controlling the DZ.

The Stage One application deadline for the next round of Hib's scheme is approaching soon: January 8 2017. Contact eandthib@gmail.com for more information.

NEW STARTER MAG

We've been busy here at Mag HQ. Not only have we produced the fine December issue that is currently between your fingertips and a stunning calendar to go with it, but we have also updated the *Starter Mag*. This one-off magazine is aimed at total beginners who have just done, or are about to do, their first jump. It explains how to get into skydiving, different progression routes, the various disciplines that make up the sport, how to cope with fear and much more. It is available in print from DZs and the BPA Office, online at skydivethemag.com/starter and there is also a tablet app to download. If you have friends who want to learn to skydive, this is a great place to start.



NEW RATINGS

CATEGORY SYSTEM BASIC INSTRUCTOR

Andrew Livingstone
Marcus Budgett
Alasdair Tebbutt
Martin Brown
Stuart Dobson
Danielle Hodgson
Stuart Males
Alan Winkler

CATEGORY SYSTEM INSTRUCTOR

James Collins
Jon McMahon

Simon Dickinson
Thomas Shorten
Liam Goddard

TANDEM BASIC INSTRUCTOR

Vlad Vatavu
Blair Stent
Brian Foote
Lukasz Holownia-
Czarny
Justinas Kubilinskas
Simon Houston

ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR

Sara Orton

ADVANCED PACKER (S)

Lewis Butcher
Alexis McNaughton
Sandy Wilson

*Category System
student landing,
by Rob Lloyd*



NEW VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN BPA COMMITTEES

With fewer seats on Council from 2017 (12 compared with 15), there are likely to be a limited number of vacancies for new members on the Communications, Competitions and Development Committees.

These committees are looking to identify a skilled pool of members willing to volunteer their skills to help with their programme of work from 2017 onwards.

Volunteer members may help through membership of a committee or working party, a focus group or some other form of consultation/involvement. The committees usually meet six times a year on Tuesday afternoons in Leicester. Working parties may meet at different times and locations.

This is an opportunity for members with particular skills to get more involved with your BPA at the heart of our sport. That involvement can benefit your own personal development too.

We're particularly looking to hear from members with skills in the following areas:

- Competitions
- Media and communications
- Branding and marketing
- Customer service
- Increasing participation in sport
- Talent identification and development in sport
- Performance management in sport

Please email Martin Shuttleworth at martin@bpa.org.uk by no later than Tuesday 3 January to summarise (in 250 words max) how your skills, knowledge and experience could contribute to BPA committees, working parties, focus groups, etc. Please include the committee/area in which you're interested, your name, BPA membership number, the year you joined the BPA and your home DZ. We look forward to hearing from you.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

The BPA Office will close at noon on Thursday 22 December and reopen after the holiday on Tuesday 3 January. Council and staff wish all members compliments of the season.



ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

At the close of nominations at noon on Tuesday 15 November 2016, 19 nominations had been received for the 10 Elected Council Member seats on Council 2017. Therefore, an election will be held. Voting is scheduled to open on Monday 19 December and close at noon on Thursday 12 January, with the results due to be issued that afternoon. Voting will be electronic, except for members who have opted out of e-communication.

The nominees, in alphabetical order, are:
Paul Applegate; Mark Bayada; Gordon Blamire; Adrian Bond; Kate Charters; Brian Cumming; Linley Ewing; Danny French; Tash Higman; Jason Kelleher; Justinas Kubilinskas; Ian Marshall; Yassi Molazadeh; Andrew Pointer; Craig Poxon; Ian Rosenvinge; Martin Soulsby; Brian Vacher; and Georgie Vacher.

REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Refurbishment of the BPA Office building is, at the time of writing, scheduled to be completed on Friday 9 December. Council is planning an official opening, probably on the morning of the February Council meeting, the date of which will be confirmed on the day of the AGM.





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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

to be held at **East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park,**
Nottingham NG7 2RJ on **Saturday 28 January 2017 at 10.30**

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 To confirm the minutes (available at bpa.org.uk/member/agendas-and-minutes) of last year's Annual General Meeting held at EMCC Nottingham on Saturday 30 January 2016
- 4 To receive the Chair's highlights of the BPA Skydiving Year 2016 and a summary of Council's future strategy
- 5 To receive and adopt, if approved, the statutory Annual Report of the Directors and Annual

Accounts for the year ended
30 June 2016

- 6 To confirm the re-appointment of the Auditors, and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing financial year
- 7 To set subscriptions payable for full and provisional members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2017
- 8 To receive the result of the membership's election of Elected Members of BPA Council 2017 under Article 11
- 9 To appoint two Independent Non-Executive Directors under Article 12, Nick Bunting for two years, and Sue Stanhope for one

year – see summary biographies published in *Skydive the Mag*

- 10 To close the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting, to be followed by the BPA Medals and Awards Presentation Ceremony.

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

Martin Shuttleworth
Secretary-General

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINATED INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS (AGM AGENDA, ITEM 9)



Nick Bunting

Nick started his career with Cadbury's where he held a number of sales, production, marketing, management and operational roles. He then went on to work for Guinness running the on-trade operations, Pepsico, where he led the licensed trade function and the home baking side of Whitworths before becoming part of a management buy-out of the dry dog food division of Dalgety. As the Sales and Marketing Director, he created the largest supplier of own label dog food in the UK.

His sporting passions have always been rugby union and motor sports. He played rugby until a motorcycle accident resulted in a rethink. Nick then became a referee, where he represented the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and was appointed as the northern hemisphere referee representative on the International Rugby Board.

Nick joined the RFU to lead the development of refereeing. He spent 14 years, in a variety of roles, latterly, as a member of the Executive Committee, as the Head of Public Affairs and Operations (COO), generating more than £200m of inward investment into the sport for community-based activity and facility development.

On leaving the RFU, Nick became Chief Executive of one of His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales' charities. He developed and expanded the charity to reach more of its target group of the unemployed over 50s, creating more than 2,000 new businesses and 3,000 jobs.

Latterly, he was the Chief Executive of the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association where, as the Chief Executive, he led the organisation through a period of transformation and growth.

Both Nick's father and brother served in the RAF and his sister-in-law was a commercial pilot, so he has a natural affinity for all things aviation.

Outside work Nick has held a Ministerial appointment and several non-executive directorships, and acted as a trustee for a range of large charities.

He has been the Secretary General of the Royal Air Forces Association since March 2014.



Sue Stanhope

Sue started her working life 30 years ago at British Gas, recently retiring as Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development role at Sunderland City Council before setting up her own consultancy business.

As a member of the Executive Management Team of the Council working directly to the Chief Executive, she worked as part of the leadership team for the Council and was involved in setting the strategic direction for the organisation together with the associated transformation

programme. She has significant experience and knowledge of designing, leading and managing transformation and change programmes coupled with extensive experience of working with Trade Unions and Elected Members at a local, regional and national level.

In addition, Sue was Director of Sunderland's International Airshow for eight years, liaising with the display teams, working with the Flying Display Director and the Police and coordinating the delivery of Council resources to deliver the Airshow. She also held the statutory role of Returning Officer and as Electoral Registration Officer with responsibility for the safe and effective running of Elections in Sunderland including the declaration of all Election results. She was the Regional Returning Officer in the North East for the Referendum and for the Northumbria PCC elections, working with the Electoral Commission and the Home Office.

Most recently, she has been working with organisations in the public and voluntary sector on a consultancy basis.

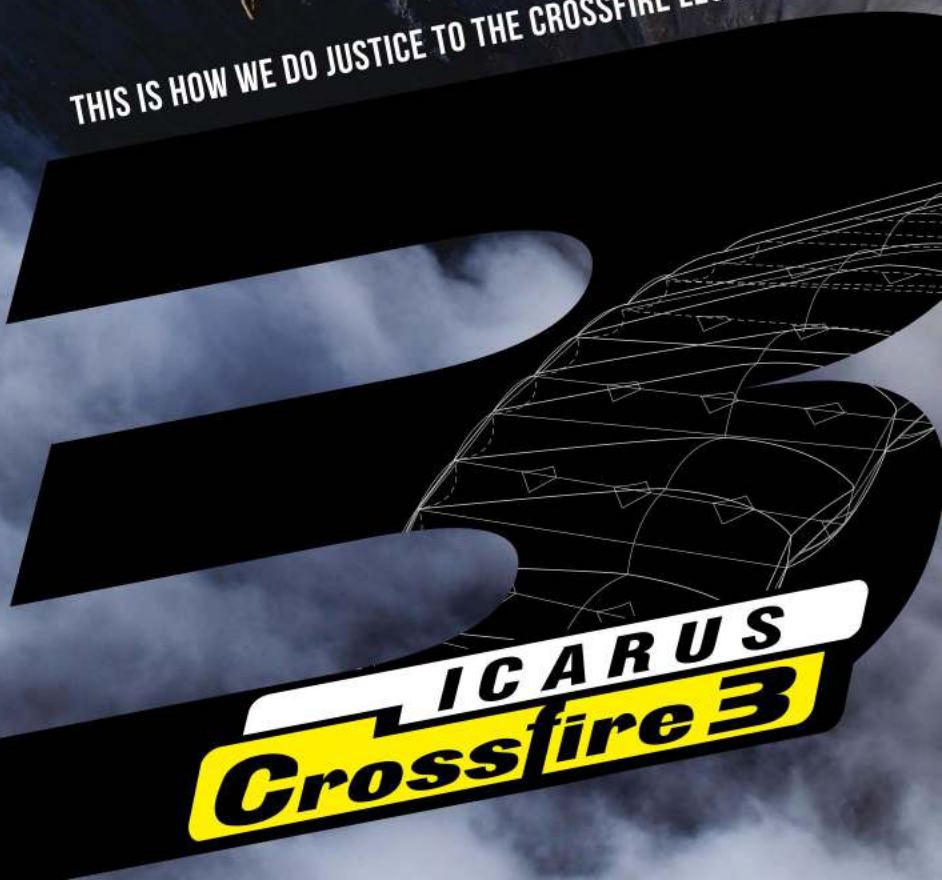
Sue is married with three adult children and her interests include watching sport. She is a fan of Leicester City Football Club and the Leicester Tigers.

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BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO 2017

The Awards: Brilliant **The Prizes:** Awesome **The Seminars:** Fascinating

If you have any plans for January 28 2017, cancel them. Trust us. BPA Skydive the Expo 2017 will be much better than whatever you've got planned.

The definitive event of the skydiving year is back and you can look forward to it all over again. Sticking with the classics, we've got seminars from some of skydiving's most entertaining experts – complete with the secrets of Speed from Mikey Lovemore himself, the Mag's very own Macca on wingsuiting, Brian Vacher's crowd favourite on canopy collisions and how to avoid them, a canopy skills masterclass with Mary Barratt you won't want to miss, and much, much more. In between everything else, you can meet the world's manufacturers and check out their products – it's not too late or too early for a Christmas present, after all...

Better yet, you can have your say at the BPA AGM and you can celebrate the UK's finest skydivers at the annual BPA Awards immediately afterwards without even having to leave your seat. You can cheer your mates, or you can see the people you'll want to beat this year!

Then you can round it all off with celebrating the new skydiving year in style at the Gala Dinner. Well, isn't the unwritten rule of skydiving to look great and have fun doing it?

See you there.

The Venue: East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham **The Day:** January 28 2017





British Parachute Association

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The Expo: Don't miss it!



To find out more, to register for the **Grand Prize Draw**, for terms and conditions and to book your tickets for the **Gala Dinner**, go to **SKYDIVETHEEXPO.CO.UK**



THE VIEW FROM



THE PODIUM



Cross-channel duels, podium invasions and more in this issue's Comps Zone

WORDS: KATE LINDSLEY, VOLITION **PHOTOS:** MEL ALLAN

INDOOR WORLD CUP 2016

This year's Indoor World Cup was held in Warsaw in Poland and the total of 94 teams competing showed exactly how much this new sport is progressing.

Jamie Arnold represented the UK in the Freestyle category with some very impressive routines. Jamie was also part of *Dynamos* with Dan Guest, who competed in the dynamic 2-way category along with *Papillion* at their first world meet.

The UK did not have any representation in the Junior 4-way or Freestyle but, with 17 junior teams competing, it was exciting to see the potential future world champions show their skills.

There were three British teams competing in the 4-way Open category: *ACM*, *Chimera* and *Phoenix*. *ACM* won the battle of the British Open teams, posting a 21.1 average, with the very impressive *Chimera* close behind on 20.8 in their first season. Many would have expected *Hayabusa* to walk away with the world title again, especially with *Airspeed* choosing not to attend, but the newly-formed indoor French team *Weembi* (including ex-*Hayabusa* flier Roy Janssen) created an exciting competition and *Weembi* went into Round 9 ahead of the current world champions. The battle in the last two rounds saw *Hayabusa* take a narrow four-point win but, with some more training for *Weembi*, this could prove to be an interesting future showdown waiting to happen for the indoor 4-way scene.

The medals for the UK came from the Female 4-way category. With an upset in Round 1, *Volition* took the lead on the *French Girls Weembi*, but the highly-trained French came back on form to take an impressive win and joint third on the mixed leaderboard. This made for an interesting battle between British teams *NFTO* and *Volition*, who both went on to score personal best averages that earned *NFTO* bronze with 22.7 and *Volition* silver with 24.2.

The World Championships will take place in Canada in 2017 and are set to be an exciting competition.

NFTO outdoors,
by Simon Brentford



BPA COMPETITIONS 2017

It's time to start thinking about the 2017 season! The following BPA competitions have already been decided for next year, with more to follow after the December Competitions Committee meeting.

National Championships:

May 26-29: Wingsuit Performance
– Netheravon

August 19-21: 4-way FS – Hibaldstow

(Backup: August 26-28)

August 26-28: 8-way FS, Artistics and Speed – Hibaldstow

(Backup: September 2-4)

September 1-3: Canopy Piloting – Dunkeswell

UKSL and Grand Prix:

May 6-7: UKSL 4-way

FS Meet 1 – Dunkeswell

June 10-11: UKSL

4-way FS Meet 2

– Langar

July 8-9: CF Grand Prix

– Langar

July 15-16: UKSL 4-way

FS Meet 3 – Cark

August 5-6: CP Grand Prix

– Dunkeswell

ESL FINALS 2016

This year's European Skydiving League Finals were held in Saarlouis in Germany, which will host the World Cup in 2017. It was fantastic to see another great turnout from the British delegation, with eight of the 20 teams representing the UK.

There were teams from the UK in all four categories and special mention goes

to *RAFSPA Raptor* and *Points B4 Friends*, who took silver and bronze respectively in the Rookie category. In AA, *RAFSPA Lightning* took the bronze medal and reversed the positions from the Nationals with *Tyranno4us Rex* placing fifth at ESL.

There was a special sight in the A category when three British teams dominated the podium. *4Sprung Durch Technik* took the bronze, *TBC* the silver and the *Pajama Pumas* – with a change in

line-up – continued their amazing story to take gold with an impressive 10.9 average.

It was a close battle with Germany for the Spirit Sword and it came down to a nail-biting two-point win for Germany.

The ESL was founded to allow 4-way teams from all categories to compete in an international setting and registration is now open for 2018, so get a team together and help bring the sword back to the UK.



• Micah Couch

• Mario Fattoruso

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THAT SYNCING FEELING

Every skydiver wants to learn something new.
But how do you find new challenges when
you've got 31,000 jumps between three of you?

WORDS: ANDY FORD **PHOTOS:** MARK HARRIS

The more skydives you accumulate and the more disciplines you think you've mastered, the more difficult it becomes to find those unique feelings we experience during the learning curve. Don't get me wrong; you can do 10,000 jumps in one discipline and still be learning. All skydivers in teams, whether 4-way, 8-way, VFS or formation jumps, are hunting for that next point average or evolution in their personal journey, but to be a student again, a newbie trying something for the first time, is a very different journey regardless of jump numbers. We all feel different levels of nervous excitement, fear, elation and frustration when trying to attain that new goal and that's the cool part about the journey.

The road less travelled

My new goal was to experience XRW (eXtreme Relative Work), so named because the participants are trying to fly a fully inflated parachute alongside a wingsuit flyer in a normal descent. It's either extremely cool, difficult or stupid, and maybe a bit of all three. XRW has been around since Jari Kuosma and Vladi Pesa flew together early in the millennium, but it became more popular and achievable through the evolution of canopies and wingsuits around 2011 when Jonathan Tagle, Jeff Nebelkopf and Taya Weiss started experimenting further. It's not as prolific as other disciplines because of the experience required to do it safely.

As with any new type of skydiving, it's important to choose your partner wisely and have an honest evaluation of your skill levels. I have a fairly varied background that includes more than 1,200 wingsuit flights and wanted to find a canopy pilot who would be comfortable jumping with high wing loadings. Ridiculously high, in fact. I asked Ally Milne, who I know and trust to be able to jump and land a high performance canopy while wearing 40-plus lb of lead. He was almost too happy to oblige.

ALLY MILNE

Being invited to be part of the project was great. It's always good to be involved in something that is pushing the boundaries and it's true that you usually end up learning a lot when you are the least experienced member of a team. Well, that and making the teas.

Flying the canopy with a 3.75lb per square foot wing loading that made even the smallest moves in the harness extremely responsive was challenging. Keeping any unnecessary movement to a minimum was vital to maintaining

a solid heading and even reaching for a grip could cause an issue – anything sound familiar? Using the in-air radio system took the guess work out of the proximity flying and the ability to communicate ensured that we could feed back to the rest of the team and alter the plan mid-flight if something wasn't working. It also made for discreet in-plane banter! Jumping with the additional weight of 52lbs meant a fast ride down under the 75 sq ft wing, and lugging the bag around on the flight line and onto the plane certainly felt like leg day at the gym.

So we jumped out, flew alongside each other, picked up a grip and had a chat while flying along happily together? Not quite. XRW is a fantastic visual experience, but easy it is not. Everybody on the dropzone was asking after each jump whether we had achieved a docking when all we were practising was exit timing, set up, approach, flying relative, keeping visual and, in this case, verbal communication via a Bluetooth comms set before we even attempted docking. It's not that dissimilar to FS1/FF1 in building the basic skill set before pushing it further, and was just as frustrating when it didn't work out through a lack of flying skills.

We are now 30 jumps into an XRW project that has no clearly defined goals apart from having fun, getting nice pictures and learning new skills. I can honestly say I have learned more about flying a wingsuit in the last 30 jumps than in the last 500, and have beaten myself up loads in freefall as I've gently glided past Ally to the point where we just ended the attempt to be relative at that point. With more jumps came more understanding and more success so, like all things, we keep working at learning more and getting better.

Three is the magic number

We wanted to document the flights from an outside perspective to aid debriefing and learning, so we added a third person with a like-minded approach and a great background in both wingsuits and camera flying. Mark Harris was around in the early days of wingsuit flying, has been part of every wingsuit World Record and was also part of the Dubai 'Raise the Sky' XRW Project in 2012, so he added a great deal to the group dynamic.

Mark and I swap between camera and docking so we get to learn different techniques while Ally flies the canopy because he loves the wing loading so much. By now, the ballast is 52lb of sand in a specially designed front-mounted bag that can dump the sand in case of an emergency and so the reserve doesn't end up with a 3.75WL. This has been tested and works a treat, but that's a story for the bar.

We get out at the end of a normal jump run after everybody else has exited and →

The first few jumps were a step into the unknown for us, which is exhilarating in itself. The PD Valkyrie opened and performed perfectly in flight, with effortless landings even at such high wing loading. Flying on full drive at speeds of more than 67mph with a descent rate of 16 seconds per 1,000ft meant I had to think a lot further ahead compared to the 2.6 WL on my VKY 84. However, landing the canopy was a dream because the stacks of speed created lots of power throughout and there was a great flare with what we believe is

possibly the highest wing loading ever landed in the UK – unless you're dropping tanks.

Our techniques and plans evolved gradually jump by jump so by the end we were consistently picking up multiple grips. The fantastic visuals of a wingsuit flyer cruising right next to me while under canopy became less startling and more the norm. All in all, the project has been a great experience and I am definitely looking forward to taking the XRW discipline forward in the UK now we have established a solid foundation to develop from.





'When the team has more than 31,000 skydives between us and the first dock is only four seconds in duration and is shortly followed by Ally shouting "Mark, did you get the shot?" over the comms and lots of whooping, you know that some things are worth the effort'

wait until between 1.5 miles and the furthest exit point the DZ allows, depending on uppers. The canopy pilot flies between 45-90° to the left on a left door A/C so the wingsuit flyers can maintain visual contact. The wingsuit flyers exit between 8-10 seconds after the canopy who, by this time, is removing the RDS system and is flying on full drive. The team alters the heading as necessary to make it back to the DZ while flying together, breaking off at between 4-5,000ft depending on what height the wingsuit flyers wish to pull.

Although the experience necessary to do XRW safely is very high, especially for the canopy pilot, the feeling of elation at the visuals and the first successful docking really isn't that much different to the moment you attain any goal in any discipline in skydiving. When the team has more than 31,000 skydives between us and the first dock is only four seconds in duration and is shortly

followed by Ally shouting "Mark, did you get the shot?" over the comms and lots of whooping, you know that some things are worth the effort.

Take a bow

Thank you to British Parachute Schools at Langar for allowing us try a new discipline and for being super helpful throughout. Thank you to Angela for the various customised run-ins and multiple changes while we worked out how we could do it safely for us and the rest of the load. Thank you to Ally for getting the brakes off, to Mark for bringing his camera and to the jumpers at Langar who have allowed us to dictate exits and flight plans while we got it working safely.

We have a Facebook group – UK XRW – where we have posted more in-depth information and experiences for jumpers wanting to fly XRW. Remember: whatever discipline, whatever level, it's all about the journey. ●

MARK HARRIS

If I'm completely honest, I had definitely lost some motivation for fun jumping after 24 years in the sport. However, this project would prove to be just what I needed to get myself fired up again. I realised it had been a good four years since last doing any XRW, and that I might as well be starting from scratch because I had a new and different wingsuit and would be flying with a different canopy pilot and canopy. This was enough to put the self-doubt and butterflies back in my stomach, which made me realise it was exactly what I needed.

One of my first challenges was learning to talk in-flight using a comms system. Fortunately I was the cameraflyer and didn't really need to say much, but I quickly realised how the system changed docking from a one-shot deal turn into three or four attempts with the ability to talk and help each other out. Fordy, on the other hand, found working with comms effortless.

Having the opportunity to swap roles with Fordy later during our attempts allowed me to take the cameras off and start close proximity flying and taking grips. This opened up more nuances that I hadn't previously considered. Everything was a little frustrating at times, but that's exactly what we wanted – a challenge, a steep learning curve, being a student again. I also found it really useful to put myself back in the position of the learner because, being an Instructor, I need to be able to empathise with my students.

TECH SPECS

Although this article isn't a 'How to' XRW piece, I would like to share some of the initial information we have worked out because there really isn't a huge amount to be found elsewhere. What works for us may not work for others, but it's a start.

Canopy: PD Valkyrie 75, loaded at 3.75

Wingsuits: PF Hunter and Squirrel Freak

Descent rate: 34-38 mph, forward speed 67-70 mph (data taken from a Flysight)





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*The new European Record
25-way diamond*



LIFTS IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS

The *European Canopy Formation Team* took on the existing 20-way record and smashed it – but they're still hungry for more. Here's the inside story

WORDS: MARY BARRATT PHOTOS: MING CHU

In 2015, some of the UK Canopy Formation jumpers got together with jumpers from across Europe. The short story is that we all realised that we share an interest in doing more challenging jumps and building bigger formations than we can on our home grounds. For the UK CRW dogs (playing off 'Canopy Relative Work', which is an old name for CF), this has been a very timely development; while the UK big-way crowd has grown a little in the last few years, we still haven't got to a point where we can regularly build anything larger than a 9-way – which is something a few of us have been very keen to do. Getting involved with a wider group of jumpers has given us a welcome opportunity to push our big-way skills, to share our passion for CF with similarly enthusiastic jumpers from across Europe and to jump with some of the best CF flyers out there.

If you are interested in knowing more about the *European Canopy Formation Team*, check out our website (european-canopyformation.eu/), contact Mary (mlbarratt4@hotmail.com) or visit the 'Canopy Formation Europe (CF/once CRW)' Facebook page.

On the way up

This pan-European group, which has acquired the name *European Canopy Formation Team* (or just *Euro CF Team*) has two core ambitions: to promote the discipline and to offer experienced CF pilots from across Europe the chance to do more challenging jumps. To do this, we have been generating some positive press around the discipline and sharing good coaching practices and resources. The organisers (Henk Lunshof, Herman Slot, Eward Slot and Gerben Frankvoort, with Peter Pfalzgraf and Pasi Pirrtikoski) have also come up with some great Euro CF Challenge events for us. This started with a 16-way camp at Finsterwald in Germany towards the end of 2015, which was very successful despite stormy weather. Jumpers from eight countries were involved,

including Marcus Muir-Smith, Jason Hobbs and myself from the UK. That camp was to be the first in a series of warm-up events, preparing the team for an attempt to set a new CF Record, which would be our challenge for 2016.

In early 2016, the second warm-up event took place at the CF 25+ camp in Teuge in the Netherlands. This time, 10 UK CRW dogs hit the road and a couple of us had already visited this DZ for some competitive CF, while others were familiar with it from footage of jumpers from Holland, Germany and Sweden making a spectacular 'thread the needle' dive in 2014. It was fantastic to find ourselves among such highly experienced company again. In fact, that alone made the trip worthwhile, which was good because a couple of issues had an impact on the jumping. Cloud, sporadic showers and inconsistent winds limited the number of jumps we could make. When we did get in the air, we struggled to get a stable base together and, as is the case for big-way in any discipline, →



31-way attempt



Training camp at Finsterwald,
by Laurent Dreyfus



you can't go big without a stable base. We didn't quite achieve the 25-way we had hoped for, but we did manage a few larger formations at 13- 16- and 17-way, which gave a couple of the UK jumpers firsts to buy beer for (good work, Kel Spittle and Simon Soper).

Several more camps took place across Europe and we held some events at Langar. CF pilots from the Netherlands and Norway came to join us, and we practiced tea drinking, video watching and cloud spotting alongside moaning about the wind and rain. This was extremely frustrating and the UK CReW dogs became increasingly worried about their lack of big-way currency. Even getting small groups off the ground was proving difficult. We were being sharply reminded of one of the biggest challenges that CF presents, which is the amount of time you get to spend under canopy. On a jump from 12,000ft at a non-competition wing loading, you might be flying a canopy for approximately 12 minutes. This means you get lots of working time, but it also means that you are much more sensitive to higher and inconsistent winds, loss of visibility due to clouds and the turbulent air that comes with many types of cloud. It also means you can be much more at risk of being caught out by changes in the weather after take off if you're not careful.

Despite our weather-induced lack of currency, six of the UK CReW dogs – Jason, Simon and myself, Pete Lindstrand, Martin Robiette and Mark Skarratts – were invited to join the 2016 CF Challenge and Ming Chu was also invited as part of the essential camera CReW. The plan was to build a 31-way wedge which, if we could make it happen, would be the biggest European CF formation to be formally ratified as a record under the current rules. Up to that point, the official record for the largest CF formation built

by European jumpers was a 20-way built in 2012 at Menzelinsk in Russia.

You should see us when we're trying

So, on October 7 this year, almost 50 CF pilots gathered at Teuge to participate in this ambitious event. The mix of jumpers at this gathering is testament to the continuing growth of CF across Europe; it included CFers from 10 different European countries with ages ranging from 23 to 63 and jump numbers from 360 to 6,300.

Friday started with some successful 16- and 17-way training jumps and a few smaller formations for the less experienced, and Saturday got off to a promising start. The first 31-way briefed, dirt-dived and went up aboard two Caravans. The formation didn't get beyond 24; it needed a little re-engineering. This time, the focus was on getting a 25-way base that could build quickly and fly in a stable manner without folding in on itself, so only 25 jumpers went back up. The rest of us watched gaps in the growing cloud, catching glimpses of a 25-way diamond building and flying beautifully. We seemed to be on our way to that 31-way wedge and to everyone getting the chance to experience being in a multi-plane CF formation. Things were getting exciting.

But the cloud just kept building. Friendly little cumuli kept banding together, puffing up their tops to form cumuli congesti several thousand feet tall and stretching out to form stratocumulus that seemed to go on and on and on. We waited and waited. A few smaller formations went up to cloud base, but the chance to go higher and

bigger just didn't come. On Sunday morning, it was clear that conditions weren't going to improve and the meet was called to an early close.

Silver linings

The 25-way diamond wasn't the formation we'd hoped for, but it was enough to set a new record for the biggest European CF formation (pending ratification) and included one UK jumper (thanks for making us look good, Martin Robiette!).

The *Euro CF Team* are very happy with this achievement after such a short time of working together and the team are now busy making plans for 2017 and 2018. CF skill camps and boogies are already being organised in Estonia, Germany, the UK, Poland, Portugal and the Netherlands.

We also plan to run a Euro CF Challenge event each year to really push our limits. The plan is currently for a competition event towards the end of the 2017 season, and a larger record attempt in 2018. To prepare for this, the camps in 2017 will focus on both 16-way skills and 2- and 4-way sequential skills. This acknowledges the fact that bigger formations really rely on jumpers having the precision of 2-way sequential moves combined with the ability to fly their slot as the formation builds. The *Euro CF Team* is also aiming to set a Euro CF Women's Record, which has been much inspired by the Canadian CFers flying an all-female 4-way diamond with a stinger making it a 5-way and setting a National Record in the process earlier this year. There isn't a current European Record and the *Euro CF Team* already has four experienced women among its members, so it seems quite feasible that we can at least double that over the next year. Off to a good start, then... ●

If you are interested in finding out more about CF or in joining us for introductory or intermediate coaching in the 2017 season, please contact Mary or the BPA CF Rep Gavin McLeod (gavin.macleod@gmail.com) or visit the 'Canopy Formation Coaching' Facebook page.



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1

SMOKE 'EM

IF

YOU'VE

GOT 'EM

Why should the aerial signwriters get all of the fun with drawing lines in the sky?
Here's what you need to know about using smoke canisters while skydiving

WORDS: ANDY THOMAS



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/J6YAENZ](https://tinyurl.com/J6YAENZ)

Andy Thomas, Wayne Glen and Nick Robinson jumping with the Enola Gaye SD75 smoke canisters and Rhomech Rigging UK bracket mounts.

By Tom Shorten, Wayne Glen and Andy Thomas



Skydiving with smoke has mainly been done by military display teams. However, Enola Gaye has recently released a product called the SD75 for the civilian market which they have tested and developed under the experienced eye of Frank Millerick and his colleagues from *The Tigers Freefall Display Team*.

The SD75 is classed as a firework and, providing you are 18 years of age and over and you fill in a registration of use form, you can get your hands on them. This is in contrast to some of the military smoke canisters, which can be classed as ammunition and often have different burn characteristics.

The smoke that emits from the SD75 canister is hot and it will burn anything that it comes into contact with, but it does cool over time as it leaves the canister. Hopefully this is not rocket science! A limiting factor of a high-output

smoke canister like the SD75 is that it will not burn forever and it emits smoke for only about 60-85 seconds. It's also important to know that, when you ignite the smoke, there is no delay. It will fire immediately, but it will take a second or two before it reaches full output.

The SD75 is available in a range of bright and contrasting colours, and the smoke canister will generally burn from anywhere between 50-100 seconds dependent on the colour.

Things you should consider before jumping smoke:

- Do you have a C Licence?
- Speak to your CI, DZ control, the aircraft owner and pilot.
- How are you going to attach it to yourself?
- Are there any possibilities of the smoke going off prematurely? What are you going to do about it?
- Where will you sit in the plane?

- How are you going to reduce the risk of the pin getting caught on someone or something?
- How and when are you going to ignite the smoke?
- What you are going to do if the smoke (a firework, remember) catches fire?
- What are you going to do in case you cannot put the fire out?

How are you going to attach it to yourself?

I was advised to try a smoke bracket from Rhomech Rigging UK and would recommend that anyone else check out their mount. The bracket they offer has been developed from a military dual smoke canister bracket and the result is a well-made bracket with a single hand release that will keep the smoke canister tethered through a steel wire rope. The bracket takes one SD75 and would suit other smoke canisters through the use of adjustable jubilee clips.

RED DEVILS CHAIN OF DEATH

"The Chain of Death is basically the same as one of our flag bags but bigger.

The bridle is attached to a 2-ring system at the bottom of the bag, which is secured by a cutaway handle (although, as far as I know, it's never been cutaway).

We attach the smokes and have the caps off ready, then place them into the bag one at a time with the bridle stowed neatly.

The lowest hanging smoke will be the first to come out, so it will be at the top of the bag. The jumper will pop it by hand, drop it, do the next one, and so on until they are all popped.

Then, finally, he pops one on his ankle."

L/Cpl Ian Cain,
Red Devils

Have a plan

On igniting the smoke, there is always a possibility of having a flame-out. Therefore, it's really important to have a plan and have all of the above points covered. Your plan could go like this:

- Pull smoke
- Check smoke
- Flame? Kick/shake. The change of airflow around the canister could put out the flame and result in the canister emitting smoke, as it should have done the first time.
- Carry on/release the smoke to a tether. Think about how a underslung fireball could make your landing more interesting vs. moving one leg away and letting the canister burn out.

Tips on using the SD75

- Only have one canister on each leg. Using more than one on each leg could cause a flame-out.

- Peel off all or as much of the aluminium foil from the ignition side as realistically possible. It burns and flakes off during use, so it could damage your equipment.
- Face the emitting end away from your leg and mount it as far away from your leg and any equipment as possible.
- If you are using smoke on a high-performance canopy, attaching a pull-up to the ring pull makes for quick location and easy ignition of the canister before going for your toggles at the key height. However, this does create a larger snag hazard in the plane.

So you still want to jump smoke?

Smoke makes everything look cooler. There is plenty of planning involved and it's certainly not something to be taken lightly, but it's a novel and increasingly accessible extra for experienced jumpers. ●

DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE

"People love seeing smoke, particularly if they've never seen skydiving before! The more smoke and the wider the colour range, the better. Smoke has never been so accessible to jumpers, largely thanks to the paintball market. Low-intensity smoke is available in a range of colours, typically for under £5/unit, and, although it's not quite the 'cool burn' that's advertised, most modern paintball smoke poses less of a burn risk to kit and people compared to military-style metal-bodied smokes.

"Although it's not a common occurrence, I've had smoke canisters from various manufacturers fail to operate, take a long time to get going and emit flames and sparks of varying intensity! The moral of the story is to use a lanyard/cutaway mounting bracket with a good foot of lanyard. I have managed to extinguish a flaming smoke by pointing it nose-on into wind for a few seconds. This seemed to go down well with the crowd on a display, who thought it was a sophisticated pyrotechnic! We wear boots and gloves on displays (not trainers with synthetic socks, for example) for reasons that include smoke use. Using lanyards also avoids the massively undesirable scenario of having to drop a flaming smoke over a crowd, as rare as this would be.

"Notifying the local police about displays is not the overkill it may appear to be. Anecdotally, a member of public called the police some years ago to report seeing 'A man on fire falling out of a plane', driven by the use of smoke on exit.

"A 'dead smokes' metal box makes life easy for temporary storage after jumpers have landed and the whole bracket/smoke assembly can be dumped in it while hot. It gets it away from the public and even the 'cool burn' smoke needs time to cool enough for the unit to be removed from the bracket (such as via Jubilee clips) comfortably.

"As handy as it is for a display commentator, I avoid trailing smoke in the door above about 3,000ft when wearing a single smoke because I want it still to be smoking well on landing where the crowd can see and take good photos. If you trail smoke in the door, get your foot positively clear into the wind. If not, the Venturi effect will siphon some into the plane. Smoke is sticky stuff and adheres amazingly well to aircraft and jumpsuits; it's also not fun for other jumpers and the pilot to chew on. I've never seen a smoke canister accidentally fired in a plane, but it's happened. The moral is just to take care and remove the safety as late as possible.

"Lastly, be careful what you do with whatever you pull out/off to activate your smoke. It's better to put it down your jumpsuit top than let it freefall into a crowd."

Tom Canty, Former Team Leader,
Royal Navy Parachute Display Team

1 Andy Thomas
exiting Langan's
Caravan, by
Tom Shorten

2 The Red Devils'
'Chain of Death'!

3 Downplane
with smoke on
a demo over
Paignton, by
L/Cpl Lee
Crudgington



No sh*t, there I was... I

"I experienced a flame-out during the development of the smoke. Unfortunately, the bracket's cutaway failed to jettison the cargo, so I had a hot foot and damaged boot. After a complete rework of the cutaway system, another flame-out was successfully chopped away. Because there is a tether, the flames are out of reach but remain attached. It's a safe system that works without too much effort to release."

Vance Allen, Jump 4 Heroes Display Team



No sh*t, there I was... II

"Our British canisters have a five-second delay before they produce the smoke, which gives time to pick up grips and go. American smoke, however, is produced instantly when the pin is pulled. On a demo in the US with the *Golden Knights* out of a C-130, I was jumpmaster for



the *Red Devils* on the first pass with the whole 82nd Airborne Division on the ground. I was spotting from the door, pulled my smoke and gave the signal to go from the tailgate. I heard a lot of shouting and, when I looked around, the aircraft was full of smoke. I thought I would suffer for this, but the *Knights* bum spotted their pass, landed out and my indiscretion was soon forgotten."

Scotty Milne, Red Devils (1972-74 and 1976-78)

No sh*t, there I was... III

"I've been in the aircraft when someone has pulled the ignition prematurely, then dallied in the doorway with smoke spewing into the aircraft. I know of a few cases where canisters have blown up and caught fire, so it's advisable to have flameproof jumpsuits if doing demos. A chap on the team, Dave Sands, had a smoke canister catch fire when over

a huge crowd and, although we used safety release systems, he couldn't release it or someone below would have suffered the consequences of it hitting their head. It burned a large hole in his old-fashioned Para boot (which we had to wear for demos) and he had a terrible burn to his foot.

"We used to use one smoke for freefall and another for under the canopy. Caution should be taken when landing to avoid burning through lines or canopy, so step gingerly out of the lines if they are around your feet. I've seen the first person to land take off their smoke bracket and throw it clear of their canopy, only for a later jumper's canopy to land on the hot canister and burn a hole in it. Always have the DZ party pick them up while doing a team line-up to avoid the public picking them up and burning themselves."

Jackie Smith, Red Devils (1971-77)

3



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NOT FOR GIRLS?!

"Why on earth would you want to be a Tandem Instructor? You're a woman – and a small one at that! You should stick to doing AFF and cameraflying..."

WORDS: YOLANDE (YO) LEE

My jumping career began in 1990, while I was studying at Swansea University. I'd never been on a plane before and jumping from 2,200ft on a static line round was the most exhilarating experience of my life. I was totally hooked, right then and there. I made three jumps that day and I've never looked back since. Twenty-six years and 7,300 jumps later, I'm just as enthusiastic and passionate now – if not more so.

All through my years in the sport, I couldn't help noticing how male-dominated skydiving is. However, looking back through history, many of the pioneers have been women. Take Georgia 'Tiny' Broadwick (5ft tall) who, back in 1914, was the first person to intentionally freefall. Today, we have Dilys Price OBE, who is the oldest qualified female skydiver ever and a true inspiration to us all. We are pretty unique; ours is one of the few sports in which male and female can compete on even terms. Why, then, is the ratio of women to men so low? For the record, it's roughly 15:85 among experienced jumpers although it's closer to 50:50 among tandem students – where do all the girls go?

While at uni, I qualified as a teacher and spent 20 years in the profession but was always living for the weekend and life on the DZ. Naturally a teacher, I gained my CSI – and, fairly recently, my AFFI rating as well – and have been proud to qualify new people, especially women, into our sport. My ability to coach in the wind tunnel has been a useful training aid helping me to accomplish this and led to my next challenge: becoming a qualified Wind Tunnel Instructor.

Now, if I thought the AFFI course was hard, this was something else! I was met with initial scepticism but, after joining my local gym, many hours of gruelling tunnel training and a lot of sheer grit and determination, I succeeded in passing the course. If a small girl could do that, then why not become a TI too?

Anything you can do...

With today's multicultural society, there is an ever-increasing demand for female Tandem Instructors. Working full-time as an AFFI and cameraflyer at Beccles, I was fortunate to have a CI willing to recommend me. "You're on the course in September," he announced, a few days after I mentioned my aspirations.

So the preparations began. I contacted the few women TIs I knew and asked for their experiences and advice. All were very positive and encouraging. The gym membership was reinstated and the addition of a personal trainer for the final month was organised. He was invaluable and structured a programme specifically to meet my needs.

The BPA lists a number of requirements to attend a TI course which include having at least 800 jumps, eight hours of freefall, two years in the sport, a TBI/AFFBI/CSBI rating and completing the TI Proficiency Card. Although I already met most of these requirements, I still had a lot to learn such as giving briefs, fitting the harnesses and packing a tandem parachute. Practising tandem suspended harness drills (all 19 of them) until you dream them in your sleep and studying the Ops and TI manuals are all essential too.

Then there was the problem of the tandem rig actually fitting me – I couldn't →

BECOMING A TI

even reach the drogue! Andy Page came to the rescue and adjusted two sets of kit to fit. Sorted!

One advantage I did appreciate was the opportunity to fly a full military tandem kit drogueless in the tunnel and then to fly in tandem with another Tunnel Instructor acting as a student. This did wonders for my confidence, as I now knew what it would feel like to be attached to another person and that I could control this aspect of the skydive.

Kit and kaboodle

Time seemed to accelerate towards the oncoming course and three months passed in a flash. Monday morning at BPS Langar saw the five of us TI candidates sat amidst a sea of equipment going through the usual start to any BPA course – the kit and docs check.

I'd attended previous courses on the other side of the fence as a cameraflyer for candidates and seen the whole process building up from bag jumps to those with live students; the tension in the aircraft, the concentration on their faces as they shuffled to the door and their relief on landing. But now it was all becoming real for me.

Then things kicked off with the opening address by Jeff Montgomery, the course director. BPA courses are highly professional and the examiners are very supportive, informative and encouraging but, even though this was a 'coaching course', we were under no illusions. Any screw-ups and you were on your way home. There was no compromising safety.

Reg Green, who was in charge of TI candidates, drilled us in suspended harnesses first thing every morning. Then there were specimen lessons and lectures by Advanced Candidates, which were often interrupted as the weather played ball and the jumping programme kicked in.

I remember our first bag jumps really well. The nervousness and concern that we would remember the systems checks and skydives and complete everything correctly stand out, but my main concern was: 'Would I be able to flare the canopy?' At 366 sq ft, it was more than three times the size of my Katana and I would be carrying the additional weight of the bag on the front. However, that did not prove to be as much of an issue as I'd thought. Landing on our bums, however, did. Many of us got reprimanded for standing up our first landings; it was sliding them in from now on or else!

Each skydive must be performed exactly by the book with a series of objectives to be completed over a minimum of nine and maximum of 12 jumps. Dives are videoed and debriefed ASAP with comments noted on the candidate's record sheet. Does that sound familiar?

With four bag jumps completed successfully, it was time to take our first live students. While waiting on the weather, we were shown a delightful collection of video nasties and, if we hadn't realised the enormity of what we were about to undertake, there was no



uncertainty now. As a TI, YOU are responsible. This person's life is entirely in your hands from leaving the flight line to arriving safely back at check-in.

With four live jumps safely under our belts, it was time for our tandem parachute packing session; we would be jumping our own pack jobs for our hop and pops. No pressure there, then. Unfortunately, the weather took a turn for the worse so we spent the remainder of the Thursday giving specimen briefs and undertaking our written exam instead. With Friday's weather looking even more horrendous, we knew there was only a slim opportunity to complete the course with a tiny weather window late in the evening. The Langar staff were exceptional, pulling out all the stops to get all our remaining jumps completed in time.

It was a very proud moment when I stepped up to receive my certificate and shake Jeff's hand.

Supply and demand

Friday saw me back at my DZ and I didn't have to wait for long before taking my first three students, all of whom were asking for a female Tandem Instructor. The DZ Manager has continued to be supportive, building my confidence by carefully selecting students, gradually increasing the weights and taking the wind and weather conditions into consideration.

On every jump, I am consumed with this intense feeling of my responsibility for getting a student down safely and giving them a very positive experience and insight into our sport – one they'll never forget and hopefully for all the right reasons!

Only seven of our 333 current BPA TIs are female – that's just 2%. If you've ever dreamed of becoming a TI, what are you waiting for? ●

1 Deployment, by Pete Long

2 Student Tracey Smith with Yo on landing – Tracey was so delighted that she phoned the Chris Evans Radio 2 breakfast show to tell the world! By Sam Warburton

3 Kaz Bain, another of the BPA's seven female Tandem Instructors, by Rob Lloyd



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When I got the opportunity to partner with GoPro to showcase their new 360° virtual reality camera setup, the Omni, I was ecstatic. I had seen footage of people surfing huge waves in Tahiti and skiing down the French Alps, so I felt excited about adding skydiving to that mix and especially so because I would be filming the attempt at a new UK Head Down Record from the inside. However that excitement very quickly turned into consternation when the Omni was actually delivered.

What I had expected to be a small, lightweight camera setup turned out to be a professional-grade disco ball of fun!

In skydiving, the camera is usually mounted directly to the helmet. However, when I tried this with the Omni on a test jump, the resulting image had a horrible mess of weirdly cut helmet on the bottom of it where the stitching software got confused. Not wanting to give up, I emailed my contact at GoPro to ask how they achieved awesome helmet-mounted videos and GoPro's response didn't give me confidence: they sent me a 15cm pole extension to mount on my helmet.

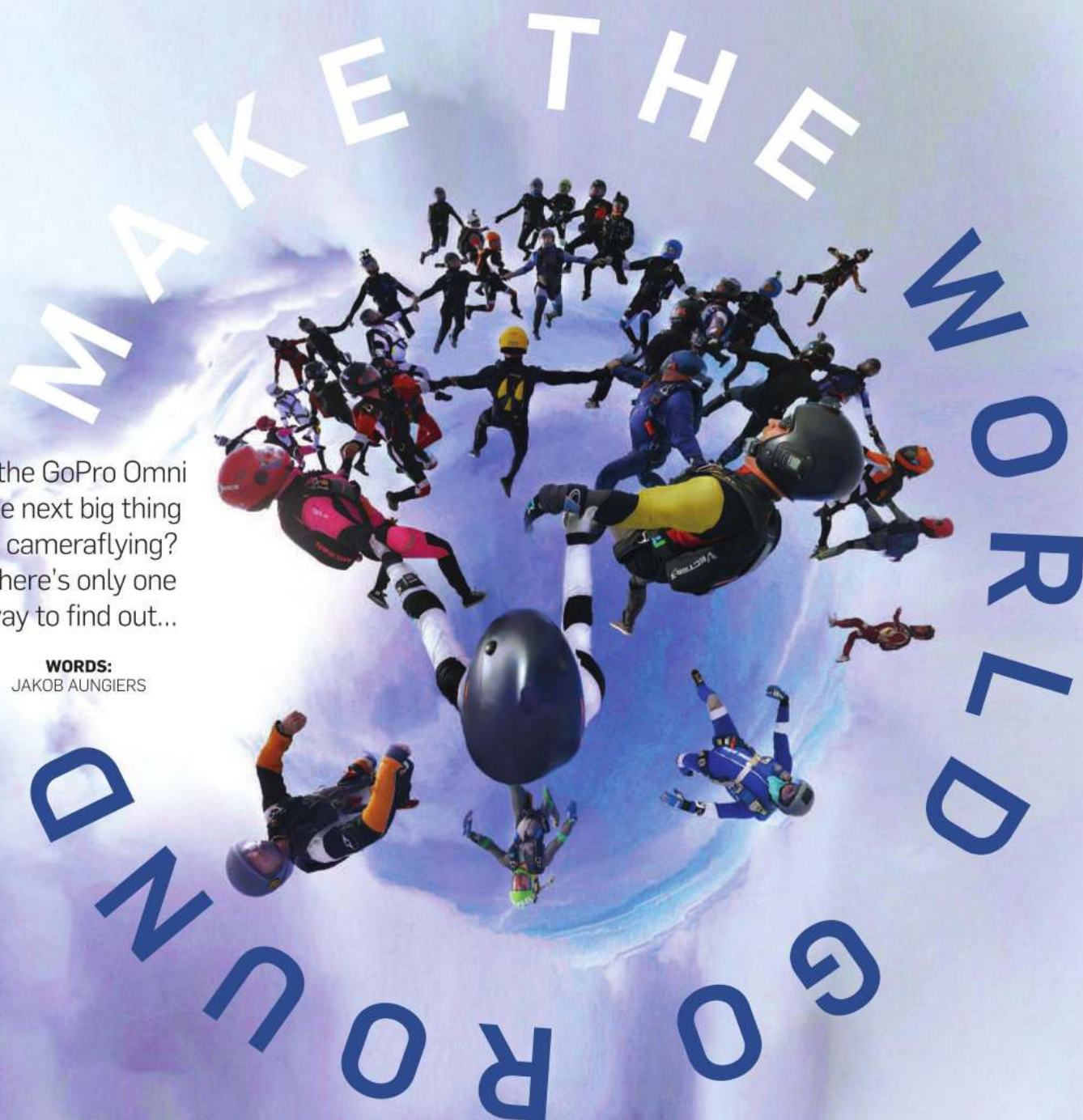
The Omni itself, as I had found out when I received it, was not a light piece of kit. The 'cube' is actually a solid metal housing which, while having a very sturdy and professional feel about it, also adds a significant amount of weight. Combine that with six GoPro cameras and the centralised computer block inside the cube and you have yourself a camera rig which weighs the same as a professional level DSLR camera.

This shouldn't pose an issue to a good flier with a decent helmet but, if you then want to raise this weight above the helmet, the leverage effect of having the →

1 Inside a 40-way UK Record attempt, by Jakob Aungiers

Is the GoPro Omni the next big thing in cameraflying? There's only one way to find out...

WORDS:
JAKOB AUNGIER







weight away from your head significantly amplifies the force on the helmet itself. I knew as soon as I saw it that a 15cm extension, while just about fine when strapped to a skier, would not be ideal when flying head down at 180mph and would pose a very real threat of the mount shearing off (or giving me a very sore neck on opening if it somehow survived freefall). Again, this got me disheartened, so I found an intermediate solution and bought myself a small spigot extension online. This allowed me to raise the Omni rig 2-3cm above my head, which I felt was just about acceptable without the leverage of the weight becoming unbearable while also allowing the Omni enough clearance from the helmet.

Twist of fate

My first jump with this setup was pretty nerve-racking, not least because the first jump would also be the first attempt at a 40-way UK Head Down Record! To my relief, the jump went off without a hitch and, although we didn't manage to build the full formation, the Omni rig behaved on my head and felt reasonably fine. I would be lying if I said you cannot feel it at all in freefall, but you will always be aware of it when you have almost 3kg dangling 3cm above your head. It did not hinder my flying other than me flying



'It did not hinder my flying other than me flying more cautiously from a mental perspective'

more cautiously from a mental perspective – the last thing I wanted was to take a hit to the head and lose a £4,000 camera setup that was on loan to me. The most aware I was of the camera was on deployment, when I pitched and kept myself in a head-low position while hoping I had packed my Katana 97 softly.

We carried on and did three more attempts at the 40-way over the weekend. We got tantalisingly close to the record, but it was not to be. On the final jump of the Sunday after I had led my tracking pod away from the main formation, I waved, pitched and waited for the usual soft and on-heading openings I had been getting all weekend. However, when I looked up, I was greeted with a sight that I really did not need at that moment in time: my canopy was snivelling open with two and a half twists in the lines. I crossed my fingers and hoped that it would open and fly on level but, two seconds later, I found myself spiralling towards the ground at speed.

I completely forgot about the Omni sitting on my head and started trying to kick and twist out of the diving line twists. I fought it for some time until I heard my hard deck start to scream in my ear. At that point, spinning on my back and with two twists still in the lines, I reached for my handles and cut away. It was only once my reserve had fully opened and I had steered away from the other reserve that opened right in front of me (the line twist gremlins were out in force on that jump, and unfortunately Karim and I both encountered them) that I remembered about the Omni. I gingerly reached my hand to the top of my head, fully expecting the force of the shenanigans 10 seconds prior to have torn the camera away from its mount. To my surprise and relief, I felt the Omni still sitting rock solid on my helmet.

While we didn't set a new UK Head Down Record this year, that final jump made for a great perspective on a large multi-plane freefall jump with a cutaway and reserve deployment all filmed in VR. The added advantage of that was that I could look behind me on deployment and see what was going on to cause the twists. I sent the video to PD and they confirmed my suspicions that, in my attempt to not get a harder opening while wearing the Omni, I had wrapped the tail too tightly and this caused the canopy to stay in an uninflated cocoon for a few seconds, allowing the wind to spin this cocoon around two and a half times before it finally started to inflate.

An interesting maybe

In summary, while it was a great experience to jump with the GoPro Omni and the final footage it produced was phenomenal, I think it is quite limited for skydiving applications in its current state due to its size and weight. It was almost a relief to remove the Omni setup from my helmet after the weekend of jumping it because the weight of it was causing me to mentally limit my flying. All movements were slower and I wouldn't dream of wanting to do a fast head up/head down transition with the leverage of that weight on my head!

This is not to say that VR won't take off in skydiving eventually. As with all things, the Omni is only the beginning of the VR camera trend and I can certainly see that VR will start to make a much more frequent appearance in the sport if the cameras get considerably smaller and lighter. I predict that, in the next two to three years, we will begin to see a revolution in new video capture styles filtering in to skydiving and I for one cannot wait to see all the great new shooting applications people will come up with! ●

2 Approaching the record attempt with the Omni – Jakob at 4 o'clock. By Andy Ford

3 Cutting away while wearing the Omni, by Jakob Aungiers

4 Freestyle Eve Mason in 360° view, by Jakob Aungiers

5 The disco ball mount





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PHOR THE GLORY

1



The Parachutists Over Phorty are back, and this time they set their sights on the World Record at Perris

WORDS: GARY POWELL PHOTOS: CRAIG O'BRIEN

After a very successful year of 4-way while competing in single A with *Dive Hard 4.0*, it was time to go bigger. I remember the Facebook message from Gordon Hodgkinson back in December 2015 very well when he asked if I was POPS-eligible yet (ha ha ha...) because *Team Ripcord Skydiving* were putting a POPS World Record event together. That got me thinking: "I think this could be something for me..." So, after a bit of discussion with Gordy, I registered for the event online and

summarised the key reasons why I felt I should be selected for this event. After a long wait, I received an acceptance email in early April 2016. I was in!

The formation and slots were finalised the week before the event and these were to be altered slightly to each individual's capabilities. We were going to attempt to beat the previous 123-way formation record and I left for my Gatwick to Los Angeles flight with a sense of anticipation and nervousness; this would be my biggest formation to date by far. Previously, it was a 60-way completion

organised by Dave Morris and Mike Lewis at Netheravon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee back in the summer of 2012.

Work your way up

The two warm-up days went well, starting with single plane on the first day and then two-aircraft formation loads on the second day. People were split up into groups, with the 40-way base as one group and the eight 11- and 12-way outer sectors going into other groups. This helped the organisers to finalise all the slots for the main event. →

1 The base chunk exits the Skyvan

2 A 132-way attempt

The full team dirtdived a 134-way and we were using six planes: two Skyvans and four Otters. We were going from 16,500ft above ground level (AGL) with oxygen, Skydive Perris being about 1,500ft above sea level. My slot was now in the 8-way base after performing well on the previous warm-up day. What an inspiration and privilege as well to be jumping next to Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld – a.k.a. Dan BC. The dirt dive was broken down, firstly building the complete formation, then backing it off in segments to the stadium approach you would be in for the build, and finally to the exit frame with everyone in their correct positions in each aircraft, imitating the exit. This was done numerous times, with everyone in full kit, to see people's colours of rigs and jumpsuits for visuals.

Oxygen is used if you are at an altitude of more than 12,500ft for a long period of time. This is to raise the blood oxygen levels to stop hypoxia, and there is an oxygen bottle at the front of the aircraft with aluminium tubing running the length of the aircraft bolted to the cabin walls. Plastic tubing for each person on board hangs down from these with a female connector at the end. Each individual has their own piece of tubing which is inserted into this when required, either for a nasal cannula or inserted into the mouth. This can be routed through your jumpsuit or just stored away before exiting the aircraft.

All planes take off and travel in formation up to the exit altitude. It's a slow climb to altitude – about half an hour – and the oxygen is turned on at 12,500ft. A slow trickle of air can be sensed through the nasal cannula.

Showtime

Red light, door open, it's that time! Green light, Dan BC checked the spot, took grips in the base and then we went back in up to the door of the Skyvan to launch out the 8-way base from the lead aircraft. As Dave Morris would say: "Rule number one – 'Don't **** up!'"

From the lead aircraft, a super floater left about a second before the base launch. This was the cue for the floaters of the other aircraft to exit. This also helps get the timing correct so everyone can be in the correct place when the base exits.

The first day was all about building the 40-way base to completion and the eight 11- and 12- way sectors to lay off grips and fly their slots, work on fall rates and basically get a feel for it, visualising where you should be and mastering your stadium approach. Any fall rate issues can be adjusted between jumps (add more lead or a baggier jumpsuit). The outside wave broke off at 7,000ft followed by the second wave at 5,500ft, and that left the 8-way base to break off at 4,500ft. Each plane had its own designated landing area to help with traffic under canopy.

I landed, buzzing and thinking: "Wow, that was awesome." The debrief was done separately in three groups – the base group and two groups of four sectors – to allow more thorough feedback.

2



'I left for my Gatwick to Los Angeles flight with a sense of anticipation and nervousness; this would be my biggest formation to date by far'

We completed three more jumps like this, re-dirtdiving between each jump.

The next day saw us going up as a 130-way. This time, everybody would be taking grips and now we were going from 18,500ft AGL. The plan for the day was to jump, pack, debrief all together, dirt dive and go again. We were getting close, with only a few people not docked and little things not quite right, but this happens on an event like this. At the end of the day, we are trying for a World Record.

Day three was better still. We were now a 128-way and on jump two of the day. The base exit was sweet, as is now normal. The build looked good from my perspective. There were nodding heads from Dan BC and another of the organisers in the base.

"Have we got it? It looked good in front of me."

You know how this goes

Time for the debrief. There was lots of anticipation and the room was silent as the camera footage rolled. The build looked good – nice, slow and steady, people on their radials. The frame was paused... and the place erupted. We had a new POPS World Record 128-way!

We added a few people back in and had another couple of attempts at going bigger, but no joy. Instead, we broke out the beer to celebrate our record.

The next day, everyone was on a high and the atmosphere was so different. We had three jumps left of the event. The first two went very well, with only a couple of people not docked and so no completion, but we had the best start we had of any day

so far. The last jump of the event was a 130-way which was another good jump, which felt really good and which looked good in front of me. There was no reaction from any of the organisers. Whatever the outcome, people were smiling.

Everyone packed for the last time and then we went in for our debrief. The room was in complete silence again – that anticipation: have we, haven't we? Roll camera. Dan BC did his normal debrief, giving nothing away. The build looked good but there were a few little issues and bumps between people. Nearly. Is it, isn't it? *It is?* Surely it is? The video was paused – the formation was built, and it held for three to four seconds.

The whole room went wild. A 130-way POPS World Record on the last jump of the event? You can't get much better than that. The next 15 minutes were spent watching the footage of the jump from all four cameraflyers' perspectives.

Then it was time to chill with a beer and take in the event: a great DZ; four awesome cameraflyers; 20 countries involved; 11 flyers in the UK delegation; ages ranging from two months after turning 40 up to one gentleman who was 80. I'll be glad not to have to wear that 12lbs of lead any more too (I never normally wear lead!).

A big thank you to *Team Ripcord Skydiving*; Kimbo Godwin and his family for all their hard work; the DZ for hosting the event; Dan BC for organising; the plane captains; the pilots and all the FS jumpers involved for making this such a memorable event for me. What a great way to end what has been my best year in skydiving yet. ●



THE BRITS

From left to right:

Heather Little
Graham Stone
Gary Powell

Mark Fosbury
Dave Stephens
Tiiu Haamer

Rob Jonson
Derek Thomas
Jack Felstead

Stewart Brookes
Adam Pemble

SKY SKILLS



2 - WAY DIVE

A 2 - FOUR POINTS

Objective: Controlled, short, in-place turns

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Option: Next time you try this formation, build the stairstep with the other person facing outwards first.

Hot tip: Don't rush into your turn. On the key, take a second to be 'balanced' and then make a good in-place turn.



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CSI:UK

PHOTOS: ROB LLOYD

Last time on CSI:UK: *Rich, a Category System Instructor who qualified in 2016, looks back at what inspired him to start on the long road to becoming an Instructor. Now he needs 200 jumps, a radio licence and to start teaching lessons and practising Static Line dispatching...*

A couple of weeks after my downwind landing spectacle, I'm back on the DZ for my first official 'Instructor Training'. It's a beautiful day and the DZ is buzzing. A couple of friends ask: "Are you jumping?" There are some surprised looks when I say that I haven't come to jump today and a few more when I say that I'm at the DZ for the first part of my Instructor Training.

One or two don't manage to stifle a surprised "Instructor Training?". It doesn't help my confidence much.

The first meeting is more about setting out a programme of instruction over the next couple of months. The six of us are told that it's the first time the DZ has run a training group for potential CSIs; previously it's been done on an ad hoc basis. We are each presented with a loose leaf folder

with a few notes about methods of instruction, details of the prerequisites for booking a Category System Basic Instructor course, a copy of the DZ 'basic skydiving course' manual and a handful of forms to fill in. This includes the 'proficiency card', which is basically a list of practice lessons, briefs and other stuff that has to be completed ready for the BI course. At only 140 jumps, I am by far the least experienced in the group and I feel like I'm miles behind before I start.

I carefully take note of the programme of training. The first really significant date seems to be about a month away and I will be delivering a lecture on 'equipment'. I also pick out the Radio Operator's Certificate of Competence as being something I should be able to tick off the list fairly soon – I'm a professional radio engineer and I have had a radio amateur's licence for many years. That evening, I download the latest revision of the Operations Manual from the BPA website and it becomes my bedtime reading for the next few months.

From the ground up

I'm at the DZ each weekend over the following weeks, constantly finding myself torn between 'getting my numbers up' and 'doing the Instructor stuff'. People around the DZ seem to begin to accept that, one day at least, I'm going to be an Instructor. The disbelieving looks turn to curious questioning and generally to encouragement.

A couple of weeks after the initial meeting, I put myself up for the radio operator test. This is to be marked by the Chief Pilot, and there are some sympathetic looks as I hand over my written test and begin the oral test. I drop one mark for misspelling a phonetic, the paperwork is completed and I post my application that night.

Later, I have my first go at talking down students under canopy but leave the 'flare' instruction too late on the first two. They land heavily but walk away. The next one is much better and I get (or is it he gets?) a ripple of applause from the spectators. I take my first go

at running DZ control and find it a frighteningly busy job as I realise just how much is involved.

During my spare time, I practise my equipment lecture again and again until even the dog is bored with hearing about the Static Line Deployment process. Each visit to the DZ sees me leave with more manuals and documents.

On the morning of my equipment lecture, I notice that the folder I was given a few weeks earlier is so full that it has burst open. As I prepare the classroom, I reflect that my head feels like that folder.

I begin my lecture nervously and stiffly but, within a couple of minutes, I begin to relax. It seems to flow well and we move from the classroom to the area I have prepared in the hangar. The rest of the lesson flies by, and I notice that my nerves are gone and I'm really enjoying myself. I become so confident that I reach the end of my lesson and somewhat fluff the closing remarks.

The observers' comments are "very good" and "excellent". I'm assured that teaching of that quality would pass not only a CSBI course but a CSI course too. I'm surprised how well it went myself, since I'm usually a bag of nerves doing anything like this. But then, as I've often noticed, being on the DZ seems to somehow make me a different person.

You'd better watch out...

Christmas is approaching as my jump numbers top 180. With only 'teens' to go, I begin to realise I will get the required 200 in time for the May CSBI course in Strathallan. About this time, I learn that one of the Instructor candidates has dropped out and we are down to five.

I have my 'dispatching brief' just after Christmas. It begins: "The only thing you have to worry about is the Static Line," but then goes on for about an hour. It's all fascinating, but again my head feels like that now sorry-looking folder.

That afternoon, I dispatch a C Licence volunteer doing a Dummy Ripcord Pull and it all seems so fast. I concentrate on keeping his line under control and watching his body position as his canopy deploys, and I only later realise that I never even noticed his 'textbook' DRP. I reflect that a real student would have been pretty angry with me. The more I learn, the more I realise I have so much more to learn.

I'm back at the DZ early in the New Year to deliver another lesson, except that this time I don't know which lesson until the day I arrive. I'm first up again and this time it's 'Aircraft Procedures and Aircraft Emergencies'. It's not my strongest area and I feel my lesson is far from perfect. My examiners agree, but I'm



assured it would have been good enough to pass. I know I could have done better, but I listen to the advice and resolve to do better next time.

The following day sees my jump numbers up to 194. The following weekend is lousy but the next weekend after that I'm up to 197 by Saturday evening. That day, I learn that our 'Candidate Instructor Group' is down to four. "No pressure," the CI grins, "but, if you aren't up to the mark, we will drop you from the course."

On Sunday, it feels like everybody on the DZ knows I should make it to 200 by the end of the day. As I manifest for my 200th, somebody asks: "Doing anything cool for number 200, Rich?" I've just manifested to follow out a student on his CAT8 qualifier with the same Instructor who took me for my CAT8 a little over two years ago. "What could be cooler than that?" I think to myself. The student is good and qualifies easily; his is the first hand I shake as we leave the landing area congratulating each other.

Wait and C

That evening, a fat envelope is on its way to the BPA in Glen Parva containing my licence, course application and CH Coach application.

As the rest of the group head off for the February course, I begin to feel a bit more relaxed and confident but I know that they will be back with CSBI ratings in a week and I will find it hard not to be jealous.

A spell of lousy weather keeps me from completing the last item on my proficiency card – a Static Line descent – for several weeks, but I finally get my chance. I don an ill-fitting orange 'student' jump suit and Protec helmet, and pick up a 340 from kit stores. It's great fun to be back in an aircraft full of nervous students and I'm more than a bit nervous myself. I doubt I could survive the embarrassment if I fail to get my DRP or fluff my landing.

As it happens, I find the DRP easily. It all seems so much slower and easier than the ten goes I had at DRPs when I was a student. The canopy flight seems to take forever and, much to the disappointment of the gathering of curious experienced jumpers, I make a comfortable stand-up landing.

I feel confident that I'm ready for my course, but I still have about a month to wait.

Next time on CSI:UK, Rich attends his CSBI course.

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 FREEFLY COACH

John Walton, Weston
Sara Orton, Bridlington
Richard Bremner, Weston
Gary Owen, Peterlee

FREEFLY COACH

Lee Crudgington, JSPC (N)
James McCarthy, APA

BASIC TRACKING COACH

Alexander Anderson, APA
Richard Bremner, Weston

TRACKING COACH

John Carter, Langar
Lorene Latour, Langar

Lee Crudgington, JSPC (N)
Jakob Aungiers, Langar

CANOPY FORMATION COACH

Lee Crudgington, JSPC (N)

FORMATION SKYDIVING COACH

Levi Hamill, Wild Geese
Johnathon Freeman, Beccles
Lewis Phillis, JSPC (N)
Chris Fawcett, JSPC (N)

Chris Stone, JSPC (N)
Graham Jackson, JSPC (N)
Daniel Place, Weston
Richard Bremner, Weston
Richard Dixon, Cark
Dean Penn
Cara Pritchard, Skydive Buzz
Robyn Dean, Skydive Buzz
Anthony Medlicott, Cyprus
Andrew Pinkney, Pilgrims
Claire Humphries, APA

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Protect your pins and handles on climbout, by James Stevenson

NEAT AS A PIN



When you think about it, we demand a lot from our skydiving containers. We want them to open reliably whenever we throw the pilot chute or pull the reserve handle, and to absolutely definitely NOT open at all other times. We expect this despite sometimes treating them harshly, pulling them along the hangar floor while packing and only getting them inspected and serviced by a professional once every six months.

We need to play our part if a container is to achieve the holy grail of reliable, but never unwanted, deployments. The most important part of this is checking both main and reserve pins before going anywhere near the aircraft. Both pins should be suitably far through the closing loop so that the container is held securely closed.

If a pin is 'on the edge' or close to the grommet, just a small knock in the aircraft could cause it to pop out. At best, this will be annoying because you won't be able to jump, will have to move away from the door and must ride the plane down. At worst, if a pin pops as you are moving around in the door of the aircraft, your pilot chute could leave the plane without you. This is one of the scariest things that can happen and you are at the mercy of Lady Luck as to what happens next.

If you, or a nearby jumper, realise what is happening and can assist a fast exit, this is likely to be a good thing but is far from guaranteed. It is better than being pulled through the side of the aircraft, but could still see you hitting the aircraft tail or horizontal stabiliser. There have been incidents where the jumper has been pulled over the top of the airframe or



WRONG – MAIN PIN ON THE EDGE

where the canopy has gone over the top but the jumper has gone below, causing a hang-up. This is a good time to start crossing your fingers and toes that a) you can find your knife, b) you're conscious enough to use it, c) it's your main and not your reserve that's damaged and d) you leave behind an aircraft that the rest of your load is able to exit and that the pilot is able to land.

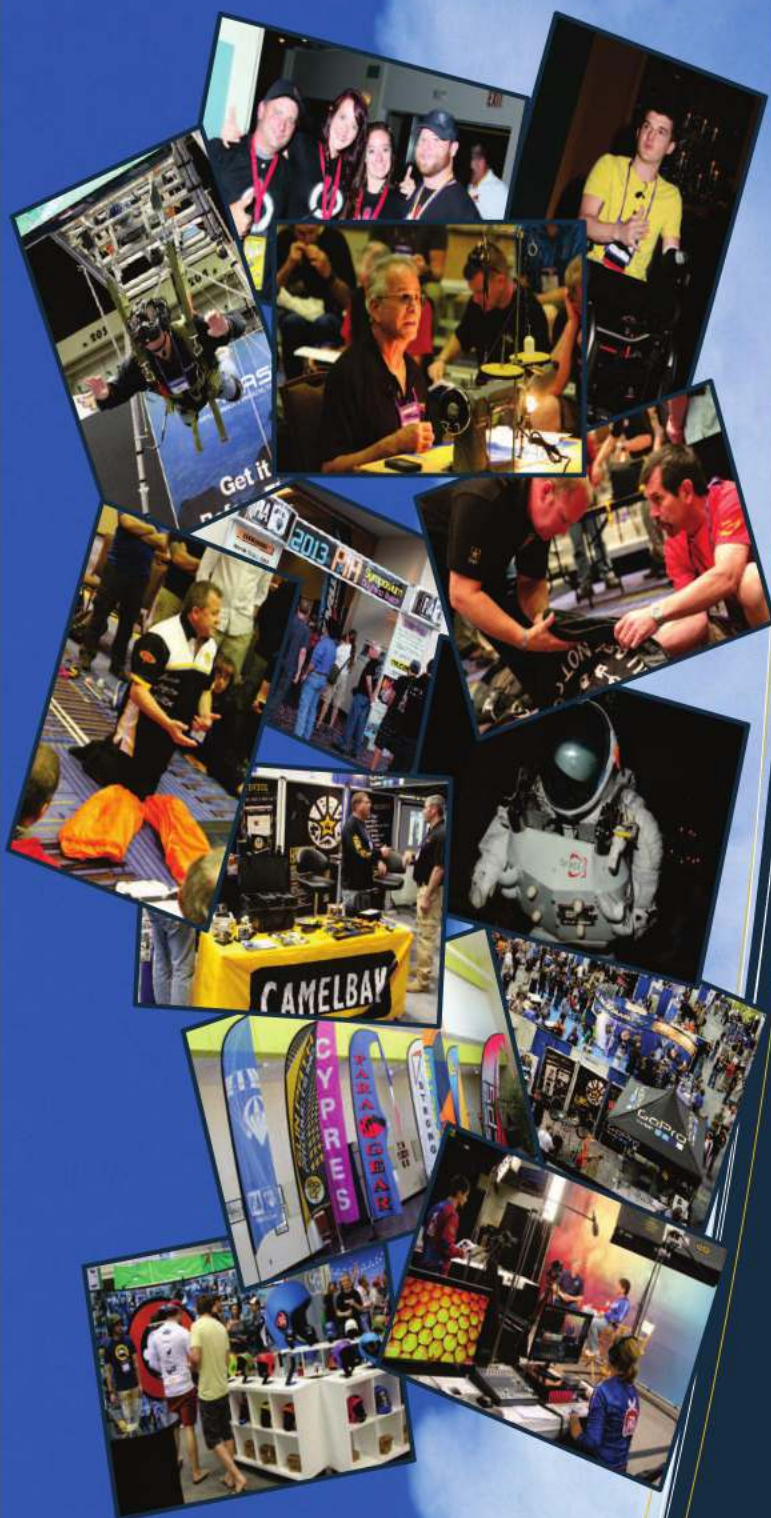
Although a premature deployment on exit is potentially the most catastrophic of all prematures, it can still be very bad news in freefall too. If your main pin pops during the skydive, you could end up with an unexpectedly early deployment, a horseshoe malfunction, an entanglement or a sudden tête-à-tête with any



RIGHT – CORRECTLY SEATED MAIN PIN

cameraflyer who happens to be above you.

If that all sounds a bit nasty, then that's because it is. Pin checks, however, save lives. Never put on a rig that you haven't personally checked both pins on, and maintain your closing loops in pristine condition. Protect pins and handles in the aircraft by keeping all shuffling around to a minimum. If you are concerned that you may have knocked one, get someone to check it before the door opens. Avoid brushing your container against the door or other jumpers on climbout, and protect your handles. Be wary of 'pack-jamming', which can decrease the tension on your closing loop and knock your pin, and ask about other floating exits instead.



PIASYMPOSIUM.COM



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Dilys Price is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest active female skydiver!

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KNOWLEDGE! In our sport, knowledge about your gear can help keep you alive to jump another day. With hundreds of riggers and virtually every gear manufacturer under one roof, you will never have a better opportunity to learn!

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RIGGERS' CONTINUING EDUCATION! Riggers who attend a minimum of 10 hours of rigging or technical seminars will receive both FAA and PIA certificates to hang in your loft to show your customers your commitment to staying current.

PIA EXPO HALL! The largest trade show in the skydiving industry, bar none. Be the first to see what's new in the sport and the industry as a whole. From weekend skydiver to military purchasing, there is something for everyone.



GEAR ZONE



By James
'Macca'
Macdonald

Facebook.com/
skydive macca



Rigsleeve Unpacked

For those that don't know, the Rigsleeve is a great, unique product that basically covers your rig and allows you to carry it with minimal bulk. Ideally suited to travelling with your rig as carry on, it's equally useful to get it to and from the DZ.

The new Unpacked version of the Rigsleeve is just as good for travel, but is perhaps aimed a little more at those travelling home from the DZ. As the name suggests, this new version creates a much bigger bag, allowing you to stash your unpacked canopy in with your rig for packing at home. For travelling, it gives you a bit more space to take things with you.

Featuring a larger external pocket and a compression system, the Rigsleeve Unpacked allows you to squash the bag down while still keeping your rig and canopy safe. As with the previous version, you can also use it as a packing mat.

Available in a selection of colours for \$99.

rigsleeve.com



Under Armour

One thing that you can be certain of while jumping in the UK on either side of the two days in August we call summer is that it's going to be cold in freefall. Adding extra layers can help with the chill, but with it comes extra bulk that can be restrictive when you're trying to look like a ninja in the sky.

I've jumped a lot of different base layers, but none are as good as the updated range of cold gear items from Under Armour. This US-based clothing company has long been synonymous with performance sports and has ranges to keep you warm/cool.

My choice is the ColdGear Armour Compression long sleeve mock and leggings. These provide a snug-fitting thermal layer that adds little to no bulk and will keep you absolutely toasty warm.

You can get yours in a range of styles and colours for both men and women, and prices start at £45.

underarmour.co.uk

Nokia 130

In this crazy world of ridiculously expensive smart Appldroid phones, I've noticed something: no-one really bothers to take them with them when they jump. That includes me – they're just too damn big and are more than a little fragile.

I won't wax lyrical about the reasons you should carry a phone with you when you jump, other than to say you really should, but instead I will share what I use.

Enter the teeny, tiny, almost-indestructible Nokia 130.

Harking back to the old days of mobile telephony, this thing is almost lost in your hand and is absolutely ideal to keep in your jumpsuit. Made from hardest substance known to man (old Nokia phones, I believe) and with a battery that lasts literally forever, just 10 of your English pounds will buy you this little bit of peace of mind.

Seriously, that's less than half a jump ticket. A perfect Christmas gift that might actually save your life one day. Get it bought.

ee.co.uk





Jedi Airwear Camera suit

UK-based Jedi Airwear have released a new and improved camera bootie suit, which they say is just as good for filming tandems as it is for filming FS. Featuring articulated Lycra joints for maximum movement and comfort, the suit also comes with vented booties to give you extra leg power, reinforced knees and butt panels, a mesh-lined interior and triple-stitched seams for strength. The wings themselves are an extended size and connect to the thigh area by adjustable fastex buckles. As all their suits are custom and made to order, you can specify if you want the suit to be a tighter or a looser fit depending on your flying preference and, of course, they have a wide choice of colours.

jediairwear.co.uk

Cookie reversible beanie

Helmet legends Cookie have released a new beanie hat to keep your noggin warm this winter. Featuring a giant Cookie logo, this bad boy is a one-size-fits-all hat that would make a great Christmas gift for that helmet-loving partner or friend in your life. They're available for the princely sum of just \$19.

flycookie.com



Suunto Ambit 3

I'm a fan of using a watch alti, largely because it means I always remember to bring it to the DZ. Having jumped Suuntos for many years (first the Vector, latterly the Core), I was keen to try one of their newer offerings: the Ambit3 Vertical.

This is a lot smarter than the Core – not only in looks, but the brains behind it too. Outside of skydiving, it can do a whole heap of exercise-related things but, being as painfully lazy as I am, I'm only interested in its ability to tell the time and my current altitude.

Out of the box, it's a thing of beauty and feels really solid on the wrist. A quick charge and configuration via the included USB lead and it's ready to go. If you want to use it for skydiving, you'll need to create a new 'activity' which means it'll

display altitude on the main screen. Fortunately, this is super simple to do.

A nice feature is that you can choose between normal and reversed colour displays, which is useful depending on the light conditions. Additionally, despite its relatively small size, it also offers GPS tracking functionality and the data from this can be overlaid to Google Maps after your jump. The altitude accuracy is as you would expect for Suunto, and is great under canopy.

Usual caveat for using a watch alti: check with your CI before you jump one, and nothing is clearer to read in freefall than a nice big analogue dial.

The Ambit3 is available with a number of different types of straps, and prices start at £325 RRP.

suunto.com/ambit3vertical



RIGGING INNOVATIONS SERVICE BULLETIN

Rigging Innovations have released a service bulletin to cover the Talon 1 and Telesis 1 harness and container systems. Essentially, as these are now 31 and 28 years old respectively, they're letting the world know that they will no longer support them.

Spare parts will be available up until 1 January 2017 but, after this time, they will no longer offer parts or factory repairs. They stress that any of the certificated parts can only be replaced with OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts.

If you own either of these two containers, it will be up to your Rigger to determine its end of life.

rigginginnovations.com

2017

A LOOK FORWARD...

Dates for your diary:

Boogie One 14-23 April Boogie Two - 9-17 September

2017 is going to be an awesome year at Skydive Langar!
We have free walk up load organising, free FS/FF/TR coaching,
Saturday evening BBQs during the summer,
and the bar will be open as usual every day after jumping.

As a new event we will also be running multiple FS, FF & Angle flying skills camps with
organisers including 4Mula, Ally Milne & Adam 'Killa' Mattacola!

What's back for 2017?

Paul Cooper's VFS load organising - Coaching Weekends
Will Cooke's FS load organising - Big Way Beginners
UKSL Langar - Safety Day - CF Grand Prix
Sky Candies FF Weekend - Flight 101/102
Bonfire & Halloween - Christmas Party
Bullet Tracking Weekends
And more!

 /skydivelangar

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



CLUBZONE

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

BPA Affiliated DZs (PTOs) in the UK

PAGE 63 1 Black Knights

Black Knights Parachute Centre
Hillam Lane, Cockerham,
Lancashire LA2 0DY
DZ: 01524 791820
Mob: 07970 784850
bkpcinfo@googlemail.com
bkpc.co.uk
Blackhawk Caravan

2 Bridlington

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

PAGE 63 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 64 4 Chatteris

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

5 Cornwall

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

PAGE 64 6 Dunkswell

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

PAGE 67 7 Headcorn

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

PAGE 67 8 Hibaldstow

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

9 Hinton

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

PAGE 68 10 Jersey

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

PAGE 68 11 Langer

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

PAGE 71 12 Netheravon

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

13 Paragon

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

PAGE 71 14 Peterlee

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

PAGE 72 15 Reading

London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome,
Icknield Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire
OX10 6AS
T: 0845 130 7194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

16 Salisbury

Go Skydive Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
T: 01722 567536
info@goskydive.com
goskydive.com
Cessna Caravan

17 St Andrews

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

18 Strathallan

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

PAGE 75 19 Swansea

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

PAGE 75 20 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 76 21 Tilstock

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

PAGE 63 22 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 72 23 UK Para Sibson

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

24 Weston

RAF 22 Training Group
Currently military only

25 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
wildgeeseskydive.com
Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs (PTOs)

Cyprus

Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58,
Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus
T: +357 2474 4114
info@skydivencyprus.com.cy
skydivencyprus.org
PBN Piston Islander

RAPA

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

Parachuting Societies

BCPA

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

PAGE 71 POPS

Parachutists Over Phorty
Polly Chandler, Top POP
parachutistsoverphortyUK@gmail.com
pops.org.uk

SOS

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



GALLERY



1 Cark 8, by Duncan Haynes

2 Langar POPS Record exit, by Nige Rowlan

3 A local girl who grew up in Dunkeswell next to the skydiving school on her first skydive, by Andy Guest

4 AFF, by Elliot Mitchell

5 Lightfoot by name and lightfooted by landings! By Ian Mawson

6 6-way snowflake, by James Stevenson

7 Donna Whelan-Smith's 1,000th jump – welcome back!



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NEWS



BECCLES

TWO PAIRS OF GLOVES

The days are finally getting colder and summer has drawn to a close. However, we are sending our jealous regards to Sam Carter, who has made the big decision to fly high in the sunny skies of Australia. Your family at Beccles all wish you the best of luck and want you to continue to pursue your dreams. Just watch out for the Sheilas and swoop ponds; both are as dangerous as each other.

In mid-September, we sent Speed 8 team *Altern8* to the BPA Speed 8 Nationals at Sibson. *Altern8* was led by Michael Wemyss and the team consisted of Andy Cobb, Mark King, Freddie Freeman, Ian Fleming, Blane Kinge, Lewis Nixon, Terry Wilsoncroft and cameraman Rob Bellman. The team did very well, finishing in fourth place, and we are all happy with your performance here at Beccles.

Next up, I would like to give a special mention to Andy Parker who successfully (and willingly) paid for two fun jumps in one month. Unbelievable, mate – keep spending instead of earning. Also, a massive thank you to everyone who attended Danny French's Big-Way Weekend and I can't forget to congratulate Donna Whelan-Smith on passing 1,000 jumps after many years out of the sport. Roll on 2,000!

This year is drawing to an end and I'm sure we are all looking forward to some well-deserved time off at Christmas. Just remember we are closing on December 18 and opening our doors again on New Year's Day! Beccles is the place to be in the New Year, especially since we pulled 10 loads out of the bag last year. Just remember: if you want to jump early next year, make sure you bring two pairs of gloves.

Over and out.

Callum Kennedy

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Ross Adamson, Mike Barber, Shani Brooks, Lee Bug, Adam Derbyshire, Damon Dixon, Jason Edwards, Gavyn Martin, Kevin O'Connor, Luke Oliver, Jordan Themaras, Jake Walsh CH2/JM1 Keith Greatbanks, Helen Kirkham, Sean Nolan, Lukasz Zalewski FS1 Nina Clarkson WS2 Mark King TR1 Tony Kerry, Kevin Woods TR2 David Neary, Michael Wemyss JUMP NUMBERS 50 Keith Greatbanks, Helen Kirkham, Sean Nolan, Lukasz Zalewski 100 Keith Greatbanks, Ross Lainchbury 200 Tony Kerry 300 Dan Semper 400 Greg Lainchbury 500 James Brooke, Gary Murray 700 Russell Shearman 1,000 Donna Whelan-Smith 12,000 Andy Page 100 HOURS IN FREEFALL Yolande Lee 125 HOURS IN FREEFALL Andy Page

BLACK KNIGHTS

FLYING SOUTH FOR WINTER

We have had an amazing season so far at Black Knights. The weather gods have been good to us, allowing our AFF and Static Line

students to progress and continue to jump well into November despite it being -22° at 15,000ft.

We would like to thank everybody who came to our Halloween Party. It was well-attended with some great (and some not so great!) fancy dress, and thank you to Phil and Elliot for putting on a great display of fireworks to kickstart the night. It's safe to say that there were a few sore heads the next day. Thank you to Suzie who delivered amazing fry-ups the next morning – it was massively appreciated by us all!

By the time this goes to print, Black Knights will be taking the club jumpers out to Morocco to help with any progression and training that they may require. We will also be taking our AFF students, so hopefully we can return to the UK with a few newly qualified A Licence skydivers. I'm sure there will be few stories to be told.

The club jumpers are continuing to progress and gain more experience here at BKPC. Thank you to all of the coaches for their coaching and for helping those new skydivers work towards gaining their ratings. Great job, guys! There has also been great progression by our club jumpers at the tunnel, so hopefully they can put their training to good use in the sky if the weather stays good (and if they are brave enough to face the cold!).

We are now nearly into December, which means we are closer and closer to our BKPC Christmas Party. This year, it will be held at Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Centre on December 16 and will start at 19:00. Please see Sharon or Alex for more information about menu choices, payments etc. We hope to see you all there!

As we are getting near to Christmas, we would like to wish everybody including staff, club jumpers and students a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we hope to see you all in 2017 when we reopen on January 29 with our Safety Day. For more information, please visit our Facebook page.

Blue Skies

Felix

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Matt Brears, Steve Broadbent CH2/JM1 Louis Cuddy WS1 Geoff Akien WS2 Chloe Smith TR1 Joseph Coyne JUMP NUMBERS 100 Louis Cuddy 200 Tyler Guerin 500 John Welch 1,100 Emily Plant 1,300 Elliot Mitchell THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL Tyler Guerin

CARK

REC AND ROLL

Our Freshers' Fairs have been a great success and the Uni committees have been eagerly recruiting the next budding student skydiving fraternity. Courses have been full and most have been able to complete their very first jump within the weekend. →

CARK
Ian Chick with Sean
on an AFF dive, by
Peter Hughes



With the clocks changing, we have seen a change in the weather and the progression of our students has slowed due to the breezy conditions. That said, the spirits of our student skydivers remain high – especially on a Saturday night in the recreation room. Thanks to all our Uni committee members for all your hard work and keenness to promote not only your universities but also our club and sport.

A special mention goes to Sangita Mistry, who has finally managed to progress from Static Line onto freefall and remain there. YIPPEE. Your grit, determination and perseverance will be rewarded one day. Now boasting 20 second delays in her log book, it won't be long before we have another fully qualified skydiving diva!

The last remaining staff jumpsuits are rolling off the production line as I write. The corporate image is certainly sending out a good vibe across the dropzone and we're looking good on the tandem DVDs. The next batch of staff jackets should be with us shortly, for those who have not received one yet. No excuses for not coming now, in the colder weather...

The rec room is getting a much-needed makeover at the start of next year. Many will have fond memories of the décor which, if we left it for another 20 years, might have come back in fashion! It will be a simple modernisation with a more upbeat colour scheme chosen by the girls in the office. Future infrastructure development has been drafted and will emerge later next year.

Congratulations to Brian Foote, who completed and gained his TBI, and we all wish Mike the very best when he attends the last hurdle of his advanced rating early next year.

As we all begin to relax and prepare for the Christmas period, some of our club members are migrating to sunnier and warmer climates again. We hope you all have a great time, pick up a tan from the nice weather you will hopefully experience and stay safe wherever you are going.

To all our club regulars, students, instructors, camera team, organisers, coaches and packers, we thank you for all your hard work this year. You are all a credit to our sport and your DZ. We wish you well for the remainder of 2016 and look forward to seeing you all back with us when we start up our operation again on February 11 2017.

Congratulations to all our achievers this year too, and here is our final hall of fame for 2016.

Stuart Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Daniel Portal **AFF GRADUATE** Sue Manickum **CH2/JM1** Lewis Brown **FS1**

Jon Yeates **50** Lewis Brown, Sangita Mistry **100** Jordan Dickinson, Ed Corcoran, Jason Neate, Jon Yeates

CHATTERIS

¡UNA CERVEZA, POR FAVOR!

A group of Chatteris regulars headed out to Skydive Spain in mid-October to beat the weather and I've been told the holiday was a success, with many skydivers getting achievement stickers. There was a group jump to celebrate Mike Russell's 100th jump and Bobby Islam managed to ignore the set landing direction and landed in the opposite direction – resulting in, of course, a beer fine!

By the time you read this, the DZ will have hosted night jumps on November 26. Many Chatteris regulars have volunteered to set up and help out on the date.

The SCCL Club Committee applications were received and considered on October 28. Club Committee members have now been elected to the board and the first meeting will be before the DZ AGM on December 17. Chatteris regulars are looking forward to attending BPA Skydive the Expo in January for a bit of bargain-hunting and socialising too.

Remember, ticket prices for February to December are at £20 for 0-50 jumps, £15 for 51-75 jumps and £12 for 76 jumps onwards. Get jumping before it resets next year!

Please go to the website for any updates on the 4-way Members



CHATTERIS
I Believe I Can Fly,
by Vlad Vataavu

Challenge Cup, which will take place in 2017. There's £15,000 in prize money up for grabs for the winning team and £5,000 for the runners-up. The qualification period is up to December 17. The club will be operating a pre-booking system for the teams taking part in the 4-way competition to enable them to offer the best service possible for both visiting skydivers and regular fun jumpers. If any sponsors would like to add to the prize fund, please contact the club on 01354 740810 or email martin@skydivechatteris.co.uk.

Sophie Barnwell

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Alex Juarez, Lee O'Flynn, Andrew Smith **FS1** Rowan Salger, Matt Summers **CH2/JM1** Matt Summers **FF1** Hagen Schumacher, Matt Summers, Ionel Tohanean, Marian Tohanean **TR1** Lewis Nixon, Ali Peock **TR2** Ali Peock **WS2** Alex Kean **JUMP NUMBERS** **100** Michael Russell **500** Terry Wilsoncroft

DUNKESWELL

NIGHT OF THE HELICOPTER

We tried something we've never attempted before on October 17 when eight people got to do helicopter jumps at night! Unfortunately, the clouds rolled in after the second helicopter load and we could not continue on safety grounds. Daytime helicopter jumps on the same day were as amazing as ever and everyone got to jump.

This autumn has been amazing and it feels like we have jumped more than ever before. There are loads of AFF and Static Line students from universities, and we hope they get a quick progression so they can join the fun at the friendliest dropzone in the world.

Our Christmas party will be on December 17 and we are closing for jumping after this date. We will open for two days between Christmas and New Year, though. If you fancy some midwinter jumps, come on over on December 29-30. We will reopen for the new season on January 13 2017.

Happy New Year everyone! For more updates and events, please check out our website at skydive.buzz and Facebook page Skydive99 – Dunkeswell.

Miko

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Charles Wallace **CAT8/CH1** Scott Beavan, Max Fuller, Seb Hill, Brian Hutchings, Marcin Kopciuch, Owen Simpson, Tom Venables, Charles Wallace, James Watkins, Karolina Zatorska **JM1/CH2** Justin Davis, Kyle Grimley, Liam Mather, John Newcombe, Scott Palmer, Stephen Simpson, James Wright **FS1** Kyle Grimley, Luke Knight, Michael Kopcinski **FF1** Stuart Blick **WS1** Marc Graham, Oli Melzack **TR1** Simon Crisp, Chris Dutton, Elliott Fry, Jamie Havard, Liam Mather, Will Perkins, Andy Thomas **JUMP NUMBERS** **100** Leo Jiang, Stephen Simpson, Richard Wall **200** Elliott Mees, Joseph Powell **300** Neil Hooper **400** Aija Stikane **500** Phil Cane **600** Jon Wilson **2,000** Richie Taylor →

“The rec room is getting a much-needed makeover at the start of next year. Many will have fond memories of the décor which, if we left it for another 20 years, might have come back in fashion!”



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HEADCORN

PASS THE SLEIGH AT 13K

We have had an exceptional run of jumping this year and October has been no exception. There has been plenty of action in the skies with lots of variety, FS, FF, wingsuiting, swooping, AFF and Static Line – it's all happening here. Some of our members took time off to go to Portugal at the end of September for the boogie and lots of progression took place there too. Jane and Pete have been kept very busy handing out stickers!

Meanwhile, freshers from Kingston and Imperial completed AFF and Static Line training, giving a boost to the student winter progression.

Welcome back to Vitaliy Hordiychuk, who came for a tandem in July and followed it immediately with his AFF. On his last consol in August, he broke his leg. Undeterred, he braved the cold and returned to the skies on November 6 to finally gain his A Licence.

We had a joint Halloween/Bonfire Night celebration at the airfield, which was a good excuse for lots of people to get dressed up. The airfield was dry enough to get a huge fire going for once, which raised the temperature a few degrees and meant we could enjoy the fireworks and tethered balloons. After that, everyone retired to Wings for food and music. The party went on long into the night.

We are now winding down into winter, and we're hoping that the weather is good enough that the staff can get airborne on Christmas morning!

Jane Hopkins

ACHIEVEMENTS **AFF GRADUATES** George Hendry, Martin Higgins, Jay Rumford, Olivia Wang **CAT8/CH1** Vitaliy Hordiychuk **CH2/JM1** Brent Willis **WS1** Jason Burgoyne, Wayne Kennedy **FS1** Piotr Warso **FF1** Kim Buddle, Dave Hillwood, Wayne Kennedy **TR1** Gareth Corfield, Nick Mentz, Nick Woods **CF1** Henry Van Halewyn **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Piotr Warso 200 Kim Buddle, Will Howes, Jamie Tolan 300 Wayne Kennedy 500 Kamal Akbar 1,300 Sam Laming, Alex Leslie 1,600 Tilly Attewill 8,000 Simon Hughes **120 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Clem 'The Brave' Quinn

HIBALDSTOW

FOUND: ONE BLOOD-, TEQUILA- AND GLITTER-SPLATTERED TRICYCLE

As of October, Skydive Hibaldstow officially had its busiest year ever, with AFF and fun jumper numbers soaring and less than 10% of the

jumps being tandems! We must be doing something right. Is it the Jägerbombs? Is it the Dorniers? Is it the stunning staff? Who knows. All we know is that we are delighted and hope that next year is even bigger and better. After all, it will be our 25th anniversary. Stay tuned for that.

Once again, the famous Hibbleween saw people hitting the bar and the sky alike hard and fast. Unfortunately, the Scrambles competition had an early close without completing a round due to the weather. However, there were still a lot of amazing points and shapes built. A huge congratulations to team *Lady Garden*, who took first place, and Ane Brentford, Krystian Groom, Lizzie Attwood and Jeni Berry managed to turn in an incredible 10 points. The bar opened after the clouds closed in, leaving fake blood, glitter, tequila and (for some reason) a tricycle scattered around the DZ in the early hours of the morning. After a long night of searching, we did indeed find Wally. He was fast asleep in the bathroom.

Freefly Fridays with Jakub Langowsky are a huge hit, with many making progress and none more so than the one and only Andy Eady. After 400 coaching jumps, it seems that the Green Goblin has miraculously managed to secure his FF1 and a hefty beer fine. Well done, old chap. As well as this, Jakub managed to secure 3,000 skydives! And what did he do to celebrate this monumental milestone? Tandem camera.

In mid-October, York University turned up with nearly 30 Static Line first timers. In the course of a day, we managed to get every student jumped twice as well as more than 50 tandems and AFF students. What a monumental day that was! We are even happier to see them return and carry on their progression to becoming licensed skydivers!

Another hero we have in our midst is none other than Liam Pyne. The 16-year-old champion came on the ground school a month ago and got his A Licence in less than a month after completing Levels 1-7 in a week. I think we will be seeing much more of Liam.

The 4-way Meet and Greet was a success, with lots of people fresh from FS1 all the way to the elite skygods turning up to shake hands and make friends. Groups were put together and the sky was filled with some brilliant formations. →

HEADCORN
The pot of gold in the Caravan, by Jane Hopkins

HIBALDSTOW
Stu's group, by Joe Mann



The BPA Instructors course recently took place at Hibaldstow, and huge congratulations to everyone who passed – and to none other than our own Ally Tebbutt and Marcus Budget for getting their CSBIs.

Over the past two months, we have seen a phenomenal amount of achievements. Ezra Morris dominated the sky and got his FS1, as did Sam Hall. An A Licence goes to Paul Jolley and Dean Masters got his C Licence. As well as this, Dean managed to figure out how to turn on a camera and has been seen lurking in corners, above 4-ways and tandems while producing some awesome footage.

As the weather grows colder, we see more and more people migrating to the tunnel in hopes of their fingertips remaining intact. Hibaldstow tunnel camps are seeing brilliant coaching and spaces fill up fast. If you want some fantastic skills and no frostbite, book into the Hib camps!

Sophie Harper

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Chris Ayres, Derry Dudley, Adam Fox, Emma Hanley, Lee McLaughlin, Ryan O'Brian, Anthony Ribouton, Sam Watson **CAT8/CH1** John Briggs, Michael Deakin, Michael Dudley, Adam Fox, Tefik Hadzhi, Simon Huntridge, Rob Johns, Paul Jolley, Jen Parry, Liam Pyne, Chris Tibbott **CH2** Andrew Pointless **CH2/JM1** Emma Watson **JM1** Jeni Berry, Sam Hall **FS1** Gary Bradshai, Ivon Coles, Sam Hall, Ezra Morris, Emma Watson **FF1** Andrew Eady **IS1** Paul Hollow **TR1** Stu Henderson **TR2** Bjorn Rittar **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Jeni Berry, Sam Hall, Emma Watson **200** Dean Masters **400** Bjorn Rittar **1,000** Gareth Toner **2,700** Liz Ashley **3,000** Jakub Langowski

JERSEY

NO ENVELOPE LEFT UNPUSHED

Celebrations abound again this month, kicking off with the skydiver's wedding of the year on the beautiful St Brelade's beach on the west coast of Jersey. The weather gods were blowing a bit too hard to allow the entrance by canopy that Liam had hoped for, but that didn't detract from the day. Kathryn looked radiant in her dress, the sun was shining and love was definitely in the air. A very strong contingent of jumpers made the trip from the big island over to our small rock and a ground-based speedstar formed around the happy couple without any burbling or docking issues. The full set of pics is on my website at nigelobrienphotography.com/liamkathryn.

The loads have certainly been going up in the last couple of months and lots of happy tandems have floated back to earth full of high praise for the Jersey crew. The Facebook page is currently on a perfect five-star score from every customer review, so we must be doing something right!

The club members continue to push their envelopes through the sky, as I understand the metaphor goes. Shayne Lightfoot has tick-tocked through the one hour in freefall milestone – keep smashing it!

Big up to Ian Mawson, who started his skydive career like a boss by avoiding the classic tandem first route and going straight for the

“We've got aircraft with heaters and we're not afraid to use 'em. If your DZ has wimped out for the winter, come and join us – everybody is welcome”

JERSEY
Liam and Kathryn
Hardman's wedding
speedstar, by
Nigel O'Brien



Static Line course at SDJY. He blasted through a good number of jumps over the course of about a year, got some skills sorted in the wind tunnel and has recently returned from the Algarve with his A Licence after nailing the AFF. Congratulations from everyone at the club to another great enthusiastic ambassador for the sport who is always willing to help out and get stuck in.

Michael Stocks, last year's most progressed skydiver at the club, has been in the Algarve too flying wingsuits and has just entered his 300th jump in his logbook. By the time this goes to print, it could be another 100 on from there going by the amount this dude jumps!

Claire Allen has gained her C Licence and has been a superstar rounding up the club to get everyone together for jumping. That's sometimes a thankless task, but not today. Muchas, muchas gracias!

Brian Heath gets recognition again this month (he's always in here, isn't he?) after logging 200 hours of jump plane flying – a pretty stellar commitment to the club.

That reminds me: there are plenty of beer fines for all these achievements, so the aero club bar takings should benefit from all these friendly, enthusiastic skydivers again this month.

Peace out.

Nigel O'Brien

ACHIEVEMENTS **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Claire Allen **300** Michael Stocks **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Shayne Lightfoot

LANGAR

ARSON AROUND

Our guys had plenty of international activity at the tail end of this year! Teams 4 *The Queen*, *Pyjama Pumas*, *TBC*, 4 *Sprung Durch Technik*, *Tyranno4us Rex* and *Points B4 Friends* all represented us at the European Skydiving League meet in Germany, *Chimera* and *Volition* both competed at the World Indoor Championships in Poland and Jonathan Charles took part in the FAI World Wingsuit Performance Flying Championships in Florida. Nice showing, everybody!

We finished off our season with the usual combined Halloween and Bonfire Night Party, which went with the usual bang (sorry...). Ben, Ryan, Tom, Sion, Cookie and Dylan built a suitably stupendous bonfire with help from various local companies, Adam snuck some fuel to light it with and Ben started the conflagration. They even built a Guy, who slid gently down his supporting pole into the flames to meet his end. Everybody came up trumps with donations of fireworks (special thanks to Tamsin Gulliver for her good work) and we had more top-quality explosives than ever before. The team still got rid of the lot in about 12 minutes, mind you! Then we partied in true Langar fancy dress fashion, of course.

The summer skydiving season may be over, but that just means our winter season has started. Langar is open every day of the year bar Christmas Day itself and we keep jumping regardless of how chilly it might get. We've got aircraft with heaters and we're not afraid to use 'em. If your DZ has wimped out for the winter, come and join us – everybody is welcome. It's also a great place to be when avoiding the relatives over the festive season!

We're already organising 2017 events and the Langar Boogie 1 dates are April 14-23. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (facebook.com/skydivelangar) for details of all our upcoming happenings.

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Adam Capell **AFF GRADUATE** Billy Aldridge, Jamie Oliver **CAT8/CH1** Billy Aldridge, Mike Homes **CH2/JM1** Angus Wilson **CF1** Simon Perry **FF1** Iulian Udrea **FS1** Phoebe Monk **WS2** Philip Brennan **TR1** Thomas Bird, Linley Ewing, David Harrison, Emma Hart, Dan Nesbitt, Haider Salman, Iulian Udrea, Dan Watson, Paul Wood **TR2** Will Cooke, Linley Ewing, Emma Hart, Iulian Udrea **TR3** Emma Hart **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Ted Atkins, Mark Bradley, Haider Salman, Dan Watson, Collette Williams **200** Sally Gittings, Ed Karam **300** Ryan Garner **400** Steve Lawrence **500** Kel Spittle, Emily Sugars **600** Ian Benzie, Ben Mitchell **700** Dylan Morris-Roberts, Paul Rimmington **800** Jason Hobbs **900** Linley Ewing **1,000** Tom Shorten, Matt Willson **1,700** Ivor Flowers **9,000** Ally Milne **10,000** Tony Danbury **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Ed Hill **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Linley Ewing, Ben Mitchell →

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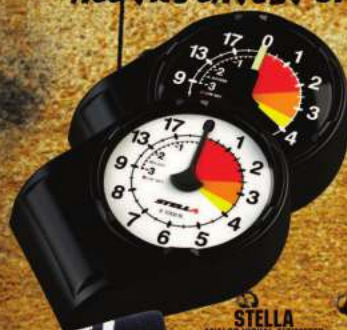
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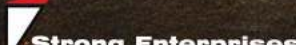


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NETHERAVON

ENDING ON A HIGH

WHAT A PERFORMANCE!

Spike and Jackie Harper set new British National Records at the Wingsuit Performance Flying World Championships this November at Z-Hills in Florida. In doing so, both Jackie and Spike broke the UK Time Records they set at the UK Wingsuit Nationals earlier this year. The UK performance team of eight consisted of Paul Cain, Steve Murfin, Tom Owen, Tony Uragallo, Jackie Harper and Spike Harper – all Netheravon jumpers – along with Mike Williams from Dunkeswell and Jonathan Charles from Langar. They constantly achieved new personal bests, establishing themselves as serious players on the world stage. Nethers' acrobatics team *Tutti Frutti* came fifth overall – which is fantastic. Despite being the least experienced team in the competition, *Tutti Frutti* did amazingly well with a free round full of impressive linked fruity loops and synchronised barrel rolls.

SOUNDS SCARY!

The annual Halloween party was another awesome night with ghouls and ghosts in varying states of decomposition. Even though the weather had prevented jumping during the day, APA members materialised in the bar as soon as darkness fell for a spooktacular night and some truly frightful karaoke performances from Paddy Livingstone and Stacey Canning! The Christmas party is next, so don't delay in getting your tickets for a great night in the Stones Hotel on December 17.

WELCOME VISITORS

It was a great pleasure to host the Sri Lankan Army Parachute Team at Netheravon in October. The team came over with the aim of improving their individual skills and developing display techniques; they successfully achieved both. Each member completed a minimum of 19 jumps, with three passing their Wingsuit First Flight courses. We look forward to seeing them again in the future.

PREPARING FOR A GREAT 2017

Supporting soldiers and developing the APA as a centre of skydiving excellence is our focus for the future and we are dedicating our Black Hawk aircraft, Hound and Badger, exclusively for Netheravon DZ operations. The new powerful engines guarantee our members an increased lift capacity and quicker turnaround than ever before. To finance this massive investment, we have had to sell Foxy Caravan. This has put the club in a sound financial position and allows us to concentrate on our members.

SAFETY

This year's safety weekend was a great success and resulted in a particularly good year. We will be repeating this event at the beginning of 2017, with dates and times advertised on our website and Facebook page.

COMPETITIONS, COURSES AND COACHING

There is something for everybody in our Events calendar. Details and joining instructions are on the Skydive Netheravon Facebook page and are also advertised in our APA e-Newsletter.

NETHERAVON
Opening ceremony.
Credit: APA
Netheravon

“We are dedicating our Black Hawk aircraft, Hound and Badger, exclusively for DZ operations. The new powerful engines guarantee members an increased lift capacity and quicker turnaround than ever before”

AND FINALLY...

Thank you to everyone at the APA, all members and the staff for making 2016 such a success and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2017. The dropzone will close for Christmas on December 17 and reopen for another amazing year on January 14.

Julie Cooper

ACHIEVEMENTS

CAT8/CH1 William Cowley, Ross Murray, David Nelson, Kathryn Owen, James Raynor, Catherine Voysey **CAT8** Toby Oliver **CH2/JM1** Craig Gadd, Will Garforth, Toby Oliver, Patrick Pringle, Adam Sneddon **FS1** George Collwell, Craig Gadd, Jim Karthaus, John Mollison, Toby Oliver, Adam Sneddon, Graham Webber **FF1** Alex Baker, Pippa Chalk, Base Jay, Andy Livingstone **WS1** Andy Swafeld **IS1** Mark Bayada **TR1** Toby Oliver, Andy Swafeld **TR2** Becky Dickens, Colin Jenkins, Gerwyn Legg, Johnny Mursa **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Craig Gadd, Will Garforth, Toby Oliver, Patrick Pringle, Adam Sneddon **100** Bob Darkens, Will Humphreys **200** Dan Crawford, Becky Dickens **300** Daryl Bradley **600** Colin Jenkins, Gerwyn Legg **THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Becky Dickens **EIGHT HOURS IN FREEFALL** Colin Jenkins

PETERLEE

DOUBLING UP

Congratulations to Lee and Jade Elliott on the birth of baby Abbie, who entered the world eight weeks early on October 7. All are doing great, including proud big brother Charlie.

It has been a great year for tandem skydives and we have doubled our count from last year. We have also said farewell to three of our Tandem Instructors who have gone to the other side of the world for the winter. We would like to wish Dave Taylor, Lee Sample and Robbie Matreic the best of luck in New Zealand and we're looking forward to seeing you back in 2017.

While October was still a mild month, lots of our students – both Category System and AFF – have been carrying through with lots of progression.

Our last jumping day this year will be November 28 and we will end the evening with our End of Year Awards. The centre will reopen on February 4 2017, so have a great Christmas everyone and we're looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Lisa Stephenson and Simon Minto

ACHIEVEMENTS

CAT8/CH1 Lillian Taasaasen **FS1** Billy Hendrie, Lillian Taasaasen **WS2** Chloe Smith **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Henry Simmons **300** Nik Murphy

POPS

ADVANCED BEER ETIQUETTE: AN INTRODUCTION

The POPS Record Attempt was held at Langar from September 14-17. The main event lead organiser was Dave Morris, while the organiser and general dogsbody was Jack Felstead.

On the first day, which was dedicated to selection and preparation, 62 skydivers attended. With a total aircraft capacity of 50 plus two cameraflyers, the remainder had to be allocated to the 'Alpha Bench' as standbys. The 11-way base in the lead aircraft did three skydives to get the base in shape, while the remaining record attempt skydivers also did three skydives to sharpen their large formation skills. The plan was made to try a four-aircraft arrowhead formation for the following day.

On the second day, 50 skydivers made three jumps each and equalled the current record of 36. Unfortunately, the record was not broken because some of those declared did not get in. There was a lot of good flying and the skills levels were clearly high, so the potential was definitely there.

Also, John Boxall and Harry Saunders managed their 2,000th jumps →



that day so congratulations to them. One bought a case of beer, while the other did not.

Sadly, days three and four were cancelled due to the weather.

A special thanks must go to everyone involved – the organisers, the skydivers who travelled from all corners of the UK, the pilots, the DZ staff and the canteen staff. Finally, a special mention goes to Langar for hosting this event.

Hopefully we will get it next year. All we need is some good weather drifting east from Florida, the price of Jet A1 to drop and Harry the Jock to prove to the English that they too can buy beer.

Les Cooper D2637

READING

MAKING AN ENTRANCE

What a sad end to the season, with the last weekend a complete fog out and only one lift completed all weekend. Waiting patiently on the ground was Matthew Stevens (son of legends Marie-Ann and Gary Stevens of Rhomech Rigging), who has waited all of his 16 years of life on the DZ in preparation for the day he would too become a skydiver. In the final hours of daylight on October 30, Matthew, his mum and his dad had to abscond to Netheravon and catch the last lift where, with Wes Westley as AFF Instructor and with his mum as the other AFF Instructor, Matthew FINALLY got his Level 1 in! Well done Matthew and, to top it all off, he jumped his own pack job!



POPS
POPS record attempt, by Les Cooper

“Marie-Ann Stevens, Ian Charnock, Paul Floyd and the other AFF Instructors have really thrown themselves heart and soul into moving everyone along”

READING
Baby Bhodi and Josh Allen with beer fine!

Since the last club news update, I asked a few of the clubbies for their news for this edition and got the following. Kim Tyler still has consols to complete, is progressing well and has used the bad weather down time to purchase LPS gloves and a hoodie. She got talked into staying for a couple of drinks but misheard that as a couple of bottles of wine! Mikey Lovemore, his lovely wife Jo and baby Maya have had a holiday in Cornwall. Mikey was slightly less awesome than he had been of late and came fourth in the World Championships in Chicago, but remains the British Champion and he is sporting a mighty fine beard too. Nick Hynes and his beautiful wife have had a baby – Bodhi Hynes, born at 04:09 on October 9 and weighing 6lb 5oz. Congratulations to Nick and Sadie. Josh Allen paid up his beer fine for getting his A Licence in style by bringing two crates to the DZ! Tim reckons that Dylan is a good boy. Our regular TIs missed the last weekend of ‘waiting in fog’ to work in Cyprus. Hopefully they were having a good catch-up with Andy Duncan, who we all still miss very much.

At the time of writing this, a Brecon Beacons Black Mountain event was planned for November. We should have some great pictures and stories of this gathering at Chez Binksys in the next issue.

Next year, we are all looking forward to meeting up again at BPA Skydive the Expo with some newbies attending. On January 28, it will be Mikey Lovemore’s and Nikki Parasyri’s birthdays along with a 20th wedding anniversary for Gary and Marie-Ann, so plenty to celebrate.

This year has been a phenomenal year for AFF courses, progression and qualifications. Marie-Ann Stevens, Ian Charnock, Paul Floyd and the other AFF Instructors have really thrown themselves heart and soul into moving everyone along and we’ve grown our own new clubbies. We’ve had a flurry of new club jumpers who have found us, and a visit from RAF Dave who dropped into our beer, pizza and fire-pit evening with a Chinook fly-by. We waved, Dave!

We resume our Ipsden fun at LPS at the end of February 2017 when we layer up and start the season all over again! See you all then.

Annie Lewis

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Josh Allen, Marvin Vella **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Mike Charnock 100 Stefan Inge 200 Tom Simpson 2,000 Graeme Rose **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Stefan Inge

SIBSON

HOW NOT TO HANDLE EXPLOSIVES

The season has all but wound down for us, but what a busy one it has been. Progression has been ongoing at Sibson and we welcomed four more Instructors to the team. Mike Roberts and Shane Wood have recently qualified as AFFIs and have been thrown straight into the action. The Tandem Instructors have two new Basic Instructors join them in the form of James Macdonald and Just-out. Keep going you two, and keep on top of the prep and practice.

Those at the beginning of the great jumping ladder are also doing well, and so much so that our FS Coaches have been pushed to the limits covering the demand. B Licence briefs have been sought after too, with the Bradley twins hosting a very successful day of briefs recently.

Quite a bit has been happening outside of the DZ too. We send our congratulations to Kathryn and Liam for tying the knot in Jersey with some superb weather. The photos don’t do such a spectacular day justice!

A huge congratulations go to Ben and Tess, who became parents to Louis. The club was honoured with Louis’ presence at the fireworks party, and he won the attention and affection of the club. We look forward to seeing you around more often!

A big congratulations go to Jamie and Leah too for showing Isabel to the world. We look forward to meeting her as soon as we can!

We await Candice and Richard becoming mum and dad in the New Year with eager anticipation. Watch this space for the latest in baby bulletins!

November carried on the tradition of the bonfire night and it was a far bigger show than we were used to. It was more professional this time – a shiny box with buttons was used! That is probably a better idea given the history of rogue rockets, upside down mortars and →

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hideously big things wedged into the ground by their sticks. No one had to dodge, duck, dip, dive or run this time. That is not to say that some didn't go a little differently to what was expected, and it wouldn't be a Sibson firework party if it went to plan! Just make sure that, when you throw empty boxes on a huge bonfire, that they haven't got any left that didn't go off. *Isn't that right, Giuseppe?* A big thank you to Paul, Ben and Pete for obtaining the weapons grade explosives and the mountain of pallets for the fire. It was a blast! Sorry...

A little mention needs to go to Del Hopkins, who has been whinging that his 5,000th jump has not yet been recorded in the news yet. So here it is: well done on getting your 5,000th jump! I hope you are happy now.

By the time you come to read this, our season will be over. We will be closed for three months and will open up again on March 4. We have a major engine overhaul on AX, hence the length of the break. Rather than have summer and winter opening days for 2017, we will be open Thursday to Sunday every week (and bank holidays).

As we draw closer to the festive season, have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. To those of you going away to warmer climes, you leave a lot of jealous skydivers behind! While you are away, have fun and stay safe. The end of January is when BPA Skydive the Expo is held in Nottingham, so hopefully we will get to see fellow Sibsonites there and can have a catch-up.

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

Kye Bromley

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM1 Jamie Clohesy FS1 Luke Coulson
FF2 Claire Hill WS1 and WS2 Wes Lawes JUMP
NUMBERS 50 Jamie Clohesy 200 Manny Williams 300 James Colley,
Nik Murphy 400 Chris Holland 500 Martin Ball, Wes Lawes 1,000 Justout,
Sam Lee 1,600 Barrie Bremner 5,000 Del Hopkins 10,000 Chris McCann
120 HOURS IN FREEFALL Chris McCann



SWANSEA

LAUGHING IN THE FACE OF WINTER

As the season draws to a close for many centres that operate on grass, this is a reminder to all that Skydive Swansea will be operating throughout the winter period.

The end of year bash at the Marriott in Swansea with a 'Disney Characters' theme will have taken place by the time you read this, so there'll be plenty of antics to report for that event in the next edition. I can't wait to see what Reg Green turns up as this year! There are potentially up to 90 people attending, which reflects the ever-growing club side of the centre. Last year, it was 70.

The recent change to the restriction to jump onto the southern PLA has gone down well with club jumpers. Previously, it was



SWANSEA
*Tanya Quigley taken
by Aled Bonsall at
Skydive Swansea*

SIBSON
*Shane on his first
live AFF jump*

BPA B Licence and above. Now, it's open to A Licence holders who have completed all pre-declared landings with CI approval. No doubt the beer fridge will soon be overflowing!

Jamie Clement and Emma 'I'm off to Canada for a bit' Bolt got their A Licences and our new centre packers Michael Price and Eloy Navarro both achieved their B Licences. During a recent visit, Will Tenison completed his 500th jump and got his FF2, which was a formality given that he now lives in a tunnel somewhere in England.

We also say farewell to JB (Jean Baptiste), who has packed for us over the last couple of seasons and who soon returns home to France with his FS Coaching tick in the box too. Best of luck from us all.

The 2016 Skydiver of the Year Award has been awarded to Victoria Tomlin and Tracy Coaker because they've both persevered this year to get their A Licences and then jumped in Switzerland soon after too. Well done both! The final HUGE WELL DONE has to go to Teej, who not only has now landed a proper job, but it's linked into sending some very expensive bits and pieces into space – which was always her aim!

The last jumping day this year will be December 18 and then we'll reopen on January 7. To all who have enjoyed the spectacular views over the Gower this year, thank you for supporting us and have a great Christmas and New Year. Roll on 2017!

Carl Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Emma Bolt, Jamie Clement CH2/JM1
Eloy Navarro, Michael Price FF2 Will Tenison
JUMP NUMBERS 50 Eloy Navarro, Michael Price 500 Will Tenison

SWINDON

HITTING ALL THE HIGH NOTES

By the time you are reading this, Redlands will have had our annual Tunnel Scrambles and the Christmas Party and we will be on our winter shutdown. So, with this in mind, I am going to do my best Mystic Meg impression and predict the future!

The Tunnel Scrambles will be won by Chrissy's team, her team members will be Patrick, Mandy and myself, and, as with last year, the judges will try to fix the results in favour of a less awesome team. The Backstreet Boys will get the Wooden Spoon Award, mainly due to getting bored of trying to fly FS, changing to FF and then not managing to score any points because they are yet to master the skill of docking. →

Dylan will win the Wall Magnet Award, mainly due to making sure he's looking good while checking out his reflection in the glass.

On to the Christmas Party, where Princess Ant will try to finish his dinner before everybody else leaves the pub, Darrell will win the Sky God Award for the second year running, Chris Wall will win Student of the Year for finally getting his A Licence, Rob Zealley will win Instructor of the Year because of his awesome student talkdowns and enormous amounts of alcohol will be consumed, mainly by Bruce, who will then tell everybody how much he loves them!

But back to the here and now. Apparently Doog and friends went to Dunks and did a helicopter jump and a night jump. I say apparently, because he's been very quiet about it! Bud finally managed to bust out his FS1 and still hasn't got over his obsession with trees and hedges. He has also found himself some teammates and put together an FS1 team, *The Flying Fossils*, and the other fossils are The Gerrish, Jim and Heath. Good luck at the Nationals, guys! Ellie and Aaron went on a trip to Skydive Arizona, where Ellie had a few firsts including the first time jumping out of a Skyvan and the first time packing her own rig. Rumour has it that she had to have a little nap after her first pack job! Word on the street has it that Darrell has got a new lady in his life. She is, by all accounts, a little bit feisty, definitely likes to be in control, is very temperamental and has been known to give Darrell a good spanking when he misbehaves. Her name? Katana! Just keep swimming, Darrell, just keep swimming. *Double Trouble* are continuing to bust awesome shapes in the sky and are continuing to work on the criteria for FJ1, Patrick just needs to bust out his FF1 and then watch out Nationals – we are coming for you! Jonny regretted jumping from the roof of the classroom to the mez, although it has done wonders for his soprano voice...

Cath Thorne

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Joe Saunders, Chris Wall FS1 Bud 'Tree Hugger' Flint **JUMP NUMBERS** 800 Martin Rhodes 1,000 Jon Eeles

TILSTOCK

SSSHH! DON'T TELL THE BISHOP!

Just when you think it can't get any stranger, it does! It didn't rain on the Tilly bonfire this year...

We have had a lot of fun in various ways and tried to make the most of the jumpable days we did get. In between jumping, there have been some opportunities to catch up on briefings, gear checks, weighty debate and general a***ing about.

Ollie Dreghorn reappeared after a 10-year layoff in some style. A malfunction on your first jump back is pretty bad luck in anybody's book, but blowing a canopy was taking things a bit far! He has been back again, so it can't have been that bad. Welcome back anyway, Ollie.

In the middle of this rather odd weather, we have managed to progress some students and the dedication and determination of some of our student body is a credit to them – we must be doing something right. Our student membership is also increasing through the outreach activities of Richie (Baz) Barron, who led a Static Line course at Keele University Campus. This is the second time that a lecture theatre at Keele has seen a syllabus taught on skydiving! We look forward to more links with other local universities.

We also managed to squeeze in training up a new pilot, so welcome to Frazer Conway. It's nice to see more people interested in enabling us to do what we like. We would like to initiate you into fellowship properly; a Static Line in the dim and distant past won't quite cut it.

Staff numbers have also been boosted by another jumper making money to jump by joining the manifest team, so welcome to Rachel O'Hara. Rachel will be joining Lisa and Becci in the office.

Some of our number took desperate measures and fled abroad to try and get some more jumping in various locations. It was of some comfort to those left behind that even going abroad didn't always do the trick! Rich Scott went the farthest – to Canada – and visited six dropzones, but only managed to jump at three due to the weather! Tough luck Rich, but lots of bonus points (and air miles) for the effort.

“Word on the street has it that Darrell has got a new lady in his life. She is, by all accounts, a little bit feisty, definitely likes to be in control, is very temperamental and has been known to give Darrell a good spanking when he misbehaves. Her name? Katana!”

TILSTOCK
Richie Barron and the students at Keele having part of their static line ground school, by Dan Cope

A party went to Valencia in Spain and managed to get some sun and jumps in. Our source informs us that Gareth Wood even managed to not break any of his body on this foreign trip, which is a relief to us all. Indeed, he took time out in his busy schedule to make a truly inspiring instructional video with Micky Cox available on Facebook. It was nothing to do with skydiving, but was instead a hilarious look at how to drink tequila (not). By the time you read this, another party – this one led by Steve Smith – will have braved the horrors of the dollar exchange rate and made the trip to Florida to experience some sunny jumping. Well, or so they hope.

More locally, it was good to see some Tilly jumpers taking part in the POPS Record attempt at Langar recently. Well done to Mike Pritchard, Steve (Scoop) Cooper and all those who took part – better luck next time. Apologies to Scoop while we mention him – I demoted him to CSBI in the last club report, but our source reminds me that he is a CSI (among many other things).

We also seem to be expanding our SOS membership this year and it's great to see so many SOS around the place proving that skydiving is a sport you can continue to enjoy. It would be interesting to see the BPA membership figures analysed by age to see how the age profile is developing across the sport.

In the hope of supplementing incomes while we can't jump, we have considered a new reserve packing service. One thing we've never seen offered by other Riggers is a fully blessed repack! After a repack, why not have your rig professionally blessed? Only a tenner and it's all got to help. Don't tell the bishops; they might want a cut. We can now offer this service in a variety of different faiths and are looking to expand our range all the time.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Nathan and the team in red (*Devils*) who did a display jump from balloons at the North Wales International Balloon Festival which was organised by and fundraising for the hospice I work for in Wrexham. The reception they got from the crowd was fantastic, as evidenced by the attention they got trying to get back to the refreshments afterwards. It took about an hour to walk 800 yards.

This is the last chance for anyone to join us at the poshest club Christmas do in the country as we descend on Carden Park on December 17. Contact the office if you'd like a ticket but haven't got one yet.

A big thank you from Kat and Buzz to all those of you who have supported Tilly this year and made it the place it is as we come to their first Christmas totally in charge of the DZ, in a new house, with a new baby – what a lot of new starts!

Have a wonderful Christmas and a terrific New Year – with lots of blue skies!

Gary Windon

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM1 Charlie Broomhall, Rachel O'Hara FS1 Gary Bradshaw, Becci Mann **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Rachel O'Hara 200 Gary Windon





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January 27

BPA Drop Zone Operators' Specialised Interest Group Meeting (Pre-registration only)

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

January 28

BPA BPA Skydive the Expo and BPA AGM

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

February 6-10

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

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

February 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

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

March 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)

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

April 10-14

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)

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

May 6-7

FS UKSL 4-way Meet 1

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

May 8-12

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

Location: **Strathallan** • skydivestrathallan.co.uk

May 15-19

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

Location: **Strathallan** • skydivestrathallan.co.uk

May 26-29

WS BPA Wingsuit Performance Nationals

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

Tim Parrant exiting the Beech, by Dougie Evens



June 10-11

FS UKSL 4-way Meet 2

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

June 19-23

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)

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

July 8-9

CF Canopy Formation Grand Prix

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

July 15-16

FS UKSL 4-way Meet 3

Location: **Carl** • skydivenorthwest.co.uk

July 20-30

CP The World Games

Location: **Wroclaw, Poland**

August 5-6

CP Canopy Piloting Grand Prix

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 7-11

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

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

August 7-12

FS **A** **CF** World Cup and European Championships in FS, Artisticals, CF and Speed

Location: **Saarlouis, Germany**

August 14-18

BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Tandem/AFF)

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

August 19-21

FS BPA 4-way FS Nationals

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

August 24-31

S&A European Championships in Style and Accuracy

Location: **Podgorica, Montenegro**

August 26-28

FS **A** BPA 8-way, Artisticals and Speed Nationals and BPA 4-way FS Nationals backup

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

September TBC

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)

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

September 1-3

CP BPA Canopy Piloting Nationals

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 2-4

FS **A** BPA 8-way, Artisticals and Speed Nationals backup

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

October 20-22

T World Indoor Skydiving Championships

Location: **Laval, Quebec, Canada**

November 6-10

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

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

KEY

BPA BPA EVENTS
CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING

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

A ARTISTICALS
WS WINGSUIT
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