



British Parachute Association [skydivethemag.com](http://skydivethemag.com) June 2017

# skyDIVE

SINCE 1964

the mag



**INSIDE:** STARTING VFS WITH OMNI A WEDDING WITH A DIFFERENCE HEAD UP BIG-WAY CAMP  
NEW MEDICAL FORMS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW SOS AND JOS RECORDS RAEC AWARDS  
WHERE TO FIND BPA ROADSHOWS PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

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*Cover: Head Up  
big-way training,  
by Gustavo Cabana*

*Welcome: Milko  
organising at the  
Sequential Games,  
by Gary Wainwright*



# WELCOME



I'm writing this on the way to the dropzone. The sky is a perfect blue and smoke is rising vertically into the air in the nil winds – the season has truly started.

There is so much happening this year that it's difficult to know where to start, but BPA Coaching Roadshows are high on my list. Whatever your discipline, you can get free coaching from our top competitors at dropzones up and down the country and from now until September! It doesn't matter whether you're an experienced jumper who wants to progress under expert coaching or whether you're totally new – the friendly BPA coaches are all passionate about passing on their skills. See page 19 for all the details of what's on, where and with who.

Happy and safe jumping!

*Liz Ashley*

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By Gary Wainwright

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# INFO ZONE



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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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**Apple:** [tinyurl.com/skydivethemagapple](http://tinyurl.com/skydivethemagapple) **Android:** [tinyurl.com/skydivethemagandroid](http://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:

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*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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## CONTRIBUTE

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

### Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
August 2017	June 29	August 3
October 2017	August 23	September 28
December 2017	October 19	November 23



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# FIRST DRONE JUMP

It's not really a skydive, but it's not exactly a BASE jump either! Latvian jumper Ingus Augstkalns has accomplished the world's first drone jump. The 28-propeller drone was built by manufacturer Aeronex and lifted Ingus to 330m (just less than 1,100ft) where he then let go and opened his BASE canopy. The jump was done in cooperation with JSC Latvian State Radio and Television Centre, whose 120m communications tower was used as a platform for the jump. Ingus climbed the

tower, waited for his drone pick-up, held on for the short ride to 'altitude' and then let go!

Preparation involved six months of testing, gradually increasing the payload of the drone up to 200kg. Jānis Putrāms, chief engineer of Aeronex and pilot of the drone, said: "Our technology will save human lives, will help to fight fires and carry out other challenging and significant work. With this project, we show that we are ready for serious tasks in the field of civil defence and sports."



By Ansis Starks

## NEW UK HEAD UP RECORD

Freely records in the UK have settled into a rhythm of Head Up one year, Head Down the next.

The last UK Head Down Record attempts were in 2016 (albeit weathered out), which makes 2017 a Head Up year. This mirrors the international focus, with Head Up flying being high on the agenda, a Euro Record planned for June 21-25 and skills camps popping up all over the place – just see page 17!

Ally Milne and Matty Mitchell's latest Head Up camp at Hibaldstow saw a new 14-way UK Head Up Record set. Ally said: "We didn't particularly aim for the record; it was more a training weekend with three groups of people. The main event is September 1-2 at Hib, with Adam Mattacola and myself



By Ally Milne



By Rob Lloyd

By Jackie Smith



## BPA WINGSUIT NATIONALS

The first BPA Nationals of the year in Wingsuit Performance and Wingsuit Acro were held over the second May Bank holiday. Forty-eight competitors attended, including 11 International competitors from eight countries. Mark Bayada did an awesome job of making sure the competition was run safely and making the most of the weather. The Performance competitors completed five of their six tasks, while the Acro competitors finished all six rounds.

Thanks to some nice tailwinds, awesome distances were recorded in the Performance event. In total, 14 wingsuiters recorded distances of more than four kilometres in the 1,000 metres altitude competition window and three new World Records were set:

**World Distance Record:** 5.192km – Tasos Polykarpou (CYP)  
**World Speed Record:** 324.4kmh – Dawid Winczewski (POL)  
**Women's World Distance Record:** 4.359km – Jackie Harper (GBR)

The British National Performance Champion 2017 is Paul Cain, with silver going to Angelo Grubišić and bronze to Spike Harper. In the Open event, Anastasis Polykarpou of Cyprus took gold, Dawid Winczewski of Poland took silver and Alexey Shatilov of Russia took bronze. The Intermediate Performance Champion 2017 is Chris Berté and the Rookie Champion Florian Robin. Full results can be seen on the Paralog website.

The standard and enthusiasm increases year by year in the Acro event. A total of four teams took part this year, two in each category. *Tutti Frutti* retained their title in the Advanced category, with *Angry Birds* picking up silver. Intermediate saw *Flight Junkies* crowned champions and *Hand Grenade Monkeys* take home silver.

## FLIGHT-1 UK COURSE DATES

When was the last time you had dedicated canopy coaching? If the answer is "not since my CH2" or "not this year... or last year either"

then, for just £120, you could attend a one-day Flight-1 course and become a safer skydiver. The 101 course, 'Flying the Modern Wing', helps you develop good, soft and consistently accurate landings. The 102 course is the natural next step, allowing you to explore the performance range of the canopy so that you can deal with emergency situations and difficult atmospheric conditions. The Level 2 courses are for people who want to learn high-performance landings: 201 is about developing speed, while 202 is where you can safely learn about high-performance turns.

The Flight-1 instructors based in the UK are Brian Vacher and Wez Westley. All courses can be booked via [flight-1.com](http://flight-1.com), and the dates are:

**Beccles:** 101/102 (June 10-11) and 201/202 (August 19-20)

**Black Knights:** 101/102 (July 8-9)

**Langar:** 101/102 (June 24-25)

**Netheravon:** 202 (July 22)

**Peterlee:** 101/102 (June 3-4) and 201 (June 2)

**Sibson:** 101/102 (June 22-23 and August 26-27)

## NEW UK SPEED RECORD

We're seeing more people becoming competitive at the sharp end at almost every Speed skydiving competition. More and more speeders are 'getting it' and joining the 500 Club – that's 500kph-plus. There are now 10 and I'm sure more will be joining soon.

The third Tim Mace Memorial Cup was held at Paranodon at Illertissen in Germany, which is the second meet in the 2017 ISSA World Series. At this beautiful Bavarian setting within sight of the Alps, there were 24 competitors from nine different countries including many new faces and most of the current big names. The competition was organised by Tim Mace's widow Gerda Klostermann-Mace and was yet again a fitting tribute to a man who inspired many to achieve more than they knew was possible.

Straight out of the gates, Moritz Friess became the next person to go over 500kph. By the end of the competition, he'd set five new German records and left it at 524kph. This was a well-deserved reward for his efforts as one of the people who've done a lot in recent years to develop the discipline and get it into the mainstream position it now enjoys. After a shaky start, Max Hurd set a new UK Record with the third fastest competition jump ever of 551kph. He is the current favourite to take the World Series title and the *Gladiator* sword (yes, the one from the movie) from Mikey Lovemore. The Brits showed how strong we are in Speed with Max, Mikey and James Parker finishing second, fourth and sixth respectively.

There are two more competitions in the World Series for 2017, with the final being at Dunkeswell from June 30-July 2 – check the ISSA website for details at [speed-skydiving.com](http://speed-skydiving.com). The competition is open to anyone who can angle fly on heading and has a recommended minimum of 200 jumps, so come and get some World Series action and learn from the best.

If you want more info about Speed skydiving, use this shiny new email address to contact Mikey Lovemore: [Speedrep@bpa.org.uk](mailto:Speedrep@bpa.org.uk)

organising. This new 14-way record sets us up to go directly to two-plane attempts in September."

The groups then joined together for a two-plane 25-way angle dive, which might be the biggest ever seen over UK skies. Has anyone been on a bigger one?



## PROJECT CIRRUS

Unfortunately, bad weather meant no new World Records were set and there were 'only' new European and UK Records for altitude of 35,508ft. Fraser Corsan spoke to the Mag:

"We experienced extreme heat in Davis, California, which peaked on the day of the jump at 104°F. For the last 20 years, Davis has typically been 30°F less than we experienced. This made our target altitude of 37,500ft unobtainable because the aircraft simply could not climb that high and it also shut down the upper winds which were so critical for the distance records. The last distance record was set with a 111-knot tail wind, but we only had around 34 knots!

"I exited and had a 1,500ft spin. Our exit speed was 256mph. Once recovered and flying, I found the insulation suit and battery pack on my insulation gloves were blocking me from flying my wingsuit grippers, which had a drastic effect on the ability to fly the suit to its full performance. This was very frustrating, because I have consistently been flying 32mph average descent rates for entire flights and

have been training for more than nine months for these jumps.

"After some modifications (that it was not possible to test fly previously because the suit is simply too hot to wear under normal conditions and it arrived five days before we left), we were ready for Canada and what should have been ideal conditions for this time of year. However, we arrived to find heavy rain and streams running down the street. We then sat out four days of low solid cloud. With two storm systems approaching, the team finally called it and disbanded because we could not afford to keep team indefinitely in position. We will now look at what we do for our next steps.

"I must thank the team who have made this possible, from our main sponsors Fujitsu to our equipment sponsors: Sunpath for the amazing Aurora Container that is superb in flight and deployment; Airtec for the WSC CYPRES; Flysight for the excellent GPS units; Cobham Mission Systems for the O<sub>2</sub> equipment and support; Flexitog and Cloinsulation for the insulation suit; Larsen and Brusgaard for altimeters; and Bonehead for the extraordinary helmet that protected my O<sub>2</sub> systems from freezing."

1972 whisky advert with Gordon Fernie over Grindale. Photo by Charles Shea-Simmonds



## GORDON FERNIE

One of the original generation of Scottish sport parachutists, Gordon Fernie passed away aged 80 on April 28 2017 after a short illness.

Gordon started jumping with the Territorial Army in 1960 and joined the Scottish Parachute Club, now known as Skydive Strathallan, in 1965. As a dedicated club member, he held the positions of Secretary, Chairman and Instructor over the years, was Club Chief Instructor from 1970-72 and remained an Instructor until 1993. A member of the BPA Council in 1970 and 1971 and still jumping occasionally up to 2014, Gordon was awarded a BPA 50-year certificate at the 2013 AGM.

Displays were Gordon's favourite kind of jumping and his demo team, *The Red Barons*, operated until 2005. In 1984, the team jumped into Aberdeen International Airport with a full DC3 load and this still ranks as one of the biggest civilian demos in the UK.

Gordon's funeral in Comrie, Perthshire, was held under a rare but perfect Scottish blue sky and was attended by friends and family from all walks of his life. This included past and present members of the Scottish Parachute Club from its very beginnings in 1960 right up until the present day, including all of the current office bearers of the club.

He is survived by his wife Fiona, whom he met at Strathallan and who was also an Instructor at the club. Our deepest sympathies are with Fiona at this sad time. Gordon Fernie was a true gentleman and he will be missed by all who knew him.

## VR4D SKYDIVE AT BEDFORD

The latest gizmo to hit indoor skydiving has launched at Twinwoods Adventure (the new name for the place we all know as Bodyflight Bedford). If you want your friends and family to experience a real skydive but can't convince them into an aircraft, wind tunnel flying with virtual reality goggles and a tunnel rig might just be the next best thing! The world-first VR experience is of a skydive over California with 360 views and future VR options will include skydiving over Dubai or a jump into the Grand Canyon.

By Jarno Cordia

Photo: Luciano Baque



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# T H E 0 A R T 1 1 0 1 0 F 0 1 0 0 D A T A 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 P R O T E C T I O N

**As many of** you will be aware, the BPA is currently developing a new membership database, PIMS – the Personal Information Management System – because the old one is showing its age. The new database will offer greatly improved member online self-service, including renewal of ratings, as well as consolidating existing and new information in a single place.

Data thefts are rarely out of the news these days, with many large companies falling victim to hackers, and the thought that one's personal

data may be legitimately disclosed to third parties without adequate controls is just as worrying. This update is intended to confirm to all members and other affected parties that the BPA takes its obligations towards data protection very seriously.

The BPA has partnered with respected IT developers Tangent to develop both PIMS and the new BPA website. The BPA, as data controller, is fully committed to ensuring that the confidentiality of all data will be protected to the same degree practised

by the BPA when it is processed by Tangent during implementation of the new database. This requirement to ensure that your personal data is protected to the standard required by law under the Data Protection Act 1998 has been underwritten in our contract with Tangent.

These are exciting times for the BPA's IT systems and we are looking forward to some great deliveries by the end of the year.

**Graham Spicer**  
Chair, BPA IT Strategy Group



## BPA MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

The BPA membership year runs from April 1 to March 31 the following year and the BPA membership totals for the last membership year from April 1 2016 to March 31 2017 compared with the previous year were:

Category	2016/17	2015/16	Variance
Full	6,463	6,398	+1%
Temporary (including Joint Services Adventurous Training)	2,652	2,552	+4%
Student			
Provisional	60,489	58,792	+3%

Full membership continued to grow year-on-year by 1% to a record 6,463 members. This figure comprises renewals up 2% year-on-year, offset by a drop of 42 in the number of conversions to full membership. Weather is always a factor, sometimes a significant one, in year-on-year variance.

## BPA STARS



Nominations for the BPA Star Awards 2017 are open. We're inviting A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service over-and-above the norm

that they have received from other BPA members: Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition. For full details and to download the nomination form, visit [bpa.org.uk/star](http://bpa.org.uk/star).



## ROYAL AERO CLUB TRUST BURSARIES

Twenty-three young skydivers were among the 50 people recently awarded bursaries by the Royal Aero Club Trust to enable young air sport enthusiasts to advance their existing air sport qualifications. The significant increases in 2016 and 2017, both in the number of applications received and the awards made, follow a decision by the Trust in 2014 to widen the age range for eligibility and to introduce follow-on awards to enable previous award winners to continue to make progress in their chosen air sport.

BPA members received bursaries towards FS1, FF1, C Licences, attending Nationals and more. They were: Josh Allen (17), Marie Anderson (20), Sara Anderson (20), Emily Aucutt (23), Bethany Denner (20), William Dickens (21), Jordan Dickinson (21), Eloy Fisher (20), Jodie-Leigh Foster (20), Sophie Harper (19), Rhian Hogg (20), Max Holmes (22), Timothy Johnson (21), Callum Kennedy (19), Rayner Killingback (21), Alex Leslie (21), Joshua Mahony (18), Alice Marshall (19), Sangita Mistry (21), Jack Phillips (18), Samad Rashid (19), Haider Salman (21) and Alabama Shanker (18).

Applications for 2018's bursaries will open in September 2017, with a closing date of March 31 2018.

# NEW RATINGS

### AFF INSTRUCTOR

Jenny Bouquet  
Benjamin Dawson  
Jon Moulder  
Roberto Saddy

### TANDEM INSTRUCTOR

Justinas Kubilinskas  
Pete Brookes  
Vlad Vatavu  
Blair Stent  
Neil Oliver  
Simon Houston

### ADVANCED PACKER (S)

Chris Judd



# Welcome Summer!

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# GETTING THE SHOW

Summer has finally arrived and BPA Coaching Roadshows aren't far behind. Here's what you need to know

# ON THE ROAD



*Pete Mather, BPA FS rep and 4-way competitor with 4mula, by Rob Lloyd*



Euphoria Freestyle (L-R: Dave Pacey, Paul Capsey and Sean Freeman) winning World Cup and European Championship bronze, by Mikey Lovemore



## BPA COACHING ROADSHOWS

The BPA has invested heavily in grassroots skydiving by planning a full programme of Coaching Roadshows for 2017. You can visit a new DZ and get free coaching from our top competitors in FS, Speed, VFS, Freestyle, Freestyle and CF. Come and get involved!

At the time of writing, two Coaching Roadshows have already taken place. Mikey Lovemore introduced Speed Skydiving to some delighted Cark jumpers on April 22-23. Kev Coffey tried it for the first time and commented: "I was really, really buzzing after the first jump when you aim head down at a caravan below. I had two audibles in my helmet. I do lots of steep tracking, but that is something else!"

Kate Lindsley, Siân Stokes and Milko were the BPA coaches at the next Coaching Roadshow, taking top-level FS to Black Knights on the second May Bank holiday.



Emma Hart, BPA Artistics Rep and Freestyle competitor with Revolution Freestyle, by Rob Lloyd



Mikey Lovemore, BPA Speed rep and current British National Champion

## BPA COACHING ROADSHOWS:

**June 17-18:** BPA Speed Coaching Roadshow with Mikey Lovemore – Langar

**June 30-July 1:** BPA CF Coaching Roadshow – Tilstock

**July 1-2:** BPA FS Coaching Roadshow for big-ways and smaller groups with Ane Brentford, Martin Soulsby, Martin Cressey and Ruth Morrison (all *MicroClim8*) – Black Knights

**July 22-23:** BPA FS Coaching Roadshow for small groups and one-to-one with Pete Mather (*4mula*), Vana Parker (*NFTO*) and Cath Anderson (*NFTO*) – Beccles

**August 5-6:** BPA Speed Coaching Roadshow with Mikey Lovemore – Hibaldstow

**August 5-6:** BPA Artistics and VFS Coaching Roadshow for Freefly, Freestyle and VFS with Adam Dare (*Varial*), Ben Reed-Smith (*Revolution*) and *Omni VFS* – Langar

**August 13-14:** BPA CF Coaching Roadshow – Langar

**September 9-10:** BPA Artistics Coaching Roadshow for Freefly and Freestyle with Paul Capsey (*Euphoria*), Dave Pacey (*Euphoria*) and Emma Hart (*Revolution*) – Beccles

### The BPA is also providing coaches at the following competitions:

**June 10-11:** UKSL 4-way Meet 2 – Langar (FS coaching from Anna Hicks (*NFTO*), Debbie Lamsley (*NFTO*) and Liz Matthews (*Volition*). Camera coaching from Simon Brentford (*NFTO*))

**July 15-16:** UKSL 4-way Meet 3 – Cark (FS coaching from Laura Hampton (*Chimera*), Audrey Rowe (*MicroClim8*) and Ros Ayling (*MicroClim8*). Camera coaching from Matthew Willson (*Chimera*))

**August 19-21:** BPA 4-way FS Nationals – Hibaldstow (FS coaching from Claire 'Sparky' Scott (*Volition*))



Ruth Morrison, 4-way and 8-way competitor and new MicroClim8 member. By Rob Lloyd

Paul Capsey of Euphoria Freefly, by Rob Lloyd



## WHO'S WHO?

If you turn up to a BPA Coaching Roadshow all of the coaching will be absolutely FREE and it will be from one of our top-level competitors, most of whom represented Team GB at the 2016 World Championships. Here's who you can expect to meet:

**Speed** Mikey Lovemore is the BPA's Speed Rep and current National Champion, the first Brit to top 500kph and the person who has inspired many others to follow.

**VFS Omni** are the current British National Champions and also won the BPA Indoor Nationals in April 2017. They are super-keen to get more people involved in VFS and have also organised an Intermediate VFS competition at Dunkswell on June 24-25. Check out their article on page 24 for more.

**Artistics** Emma Hart is the BPA's Artistics Rep and current Freestyle A competitor with *Revolution Freestyle*, while *Revolution* cameraman Ben Reed-Smith is also coaching at a roadshow. *Varial Freefly* are our current National Champions, while *Euphoria Freefly* are our current silver medallists nationally and bronze medallists at the last World Cup.

**FS NFTO** are our national female 4-way team (outdoor) and they won bronze at the 2016 World Championships, bronze at the World Indoor Championships 2016 and bronze at the 2017 Bedford World Challenge in their new line-up. *Volition* are our national indoor female 4-way team who won silver at both the World Indoor Championships 2016 and the 2017 Bedford World Challenge. *4mula* won silver at last year's 4-way Nationals, have now joined forces with bronze medallists *Vision 99* and the combined team are training hard with their eyes on the top prize. *Chimera* are the newest of the 4-way teams, but they have put some outstanding scores on the board already and were the top Brit team at the 2017 Wind Games. Finally, *MicroClim8* are our British National 8-way team with members who have won more than a dozen National Championships each.

Many of these competitors also boast a long list of achievements with former teams.

Adam Dare, British National Champion with Varial Freefly, by Rob Lloyd





Langar jumpers on tour

## UKSL DUNKESWELL

The first UKSL Meet of the year was held at Dunkeswell on the first weekend in May. The BPA provided coaches in the form of Dennis Parker (*MicroClim8* and formerly *Voodoo 4-way*), Kate Lindsley (*Volition* and formerly *4mula*), James Woods and Sarah Ashworth (both *Chimera*).

The dropzone did an excellent job of hosting the event. Jason and his team went out of their way to make people welcome and ensure that they felt comfortable for the duration of the competition, including slowing down calls and managing the aircraft for the less experienced teams. The dropzone had the Beech 99 available on Saturday and added a second Beech 99 on Sunday to ensure that the competition could be easily finished on Sunday morning.

The event was attended by 11 teams, with most teams in AA, A and Rookie. There was a single AAA team with one member

who had 37 jumps. Despite this, they produced a solid result and the BPA Coaches commented: "Hayley produced a stellar performance for that number of jumps – someone to watch for the future." Most of the categories were quite tight throughout the competition and there was a jump off for silver in the A category. Medals went to *Manatee* (gold, 4.7 average) in AAA; *Pajama Pumas* (gold, 9.3 average), *Vantage* (silver) and *Dive Hard 4.0* (bronze) in AA; *Poor 4cast* (gold, 8.7 average), *Boobasaurus Rex* (silver) and *Jurassic Pork* (bronze) in A; and *RAFSPA Shadow* (gold, 4.2 average), *Aero4m* (silver) and *Let's Do It Girls* (bronze) in Rookie.

Coach Dennis Parker commented: "All in all, a great event and it's clearly fantastic to see this event supported by competitors, the dropzone and the BPA." Coach Sarah Ashworth added: "Dunkeswell did a fantastic job of hosting and it was a very friendly DZ. Most of the teams used the coaches and it was great to see the teams progress throughout the competition."



Fun jumping at Dunkeswell UKSL, by Joe Mann



Competitors and judges at the Headcorn Accuracy Grand Prix

## ACCURACY GRAND PRIX

The first Grand Prix of the year has taken place at Headcorn in Kent and an impressive 27 competitors took part across Junior,

Intermediate and Senior categories. Brian Webb's score of 56cm on Round 1 was enough to secure him the gold medal, while Jeremy Pearce's 40cm Round 1 in Intermediates had the same effect. The bar is high in Senior, and Dave Crowhurst won with a total score of just 5cm over two rounds.

Senior competitors also join together in teams of four, with the lowest total winning. *Sizer's Rejects* came out on top on Round 1 with a combined score of 29cm, ahead of *Team GB* on 36cm. However, *Team GB's* Round 2 total of just 17cm was unbeaten and they took home the team gold.

## ALLOWABLE LINE-UP CHANGES

When is a team no longer the team it used to be? If you are a team that thinks you might be representing the UK at an international competition or even applying for sponsorship from the BPA after this year's National Championships, then this applies to you! If you think that you might have a team member or two that might move on after this year's National Championships, this is where you can find out if you can carry on with the same team name and retain the benefits of continuing to be that team.

For instance, in 4-way Formation Skydiving teams, you are now allowed to change one 'performer' and your 'videographer' only – a slight change to previous years, but a change that will help teams maintain their team-performer dynamic across the seasons. The proposals mean that in no discipline can 50% of a team line-up be changed and still allow eligibility, thus removing the situation where Team A splits 50% allowing two 'Team A's to be eligible.

**You can download all the allowable team line-up changes from the BPA website by searching for BPA Form 299.**

## RULE CHANGES

If you plan to compete in any discipline at any level, whether Rookie FS or Advanced CP, it really helps to understand exactly how you will be scored. The BPA Discipline Reps have been busy updating the Nationals rules for 2017 which, as usual, are based on the international rules set by IPC. You can download the rules for your particular discipline from the Competitions section of the BPA website. Some disciplines only contain relatively minor changes, such as in FS, whereas others are much more material. We spoke to BPA Artistics Rep Emma Hart about the changes to Freestyle and Freestyle:

"The rules for the Artistic disciplines have always been and probably always will be contentious. However, after the World Championships and Mondial in Chicago last September, a workshop was held between both the Judges and the competitors to make some significant changes to the rules for 2017 and beyond. It took more than five hours to hammer out all the details, with many heated discussions taking place.

"In summary, some of the existing compulsory moves were altered, some moves were stretched further in terms of difficulty to keep the very top teams engaged and challenged, some moves were scrapped

altogether and some past moves were resurrected and modernised. It was agreed that the combination of moves should create all-round great flyers in all axes of flight.

"One of the main priorities was to try and make both Freestyle and Freestyle more accessible to new competitors to encourage greater participation. This was addressed by making the difficulty of the compulsory moves more progressive. Therefore, you can start by learning the basic moves and, as your flying progresses, you can increase the difficulty to score more points. You must now specify which difficulty level you are flying before the competition begins (for A category only). The changes are also hoped to make the judging process more transparent and less subjective. The contents of the free rounds remain entirely up to the team to display their creativity.

"The BPA rules for Freestyle A and Freestyle A have been updated for the 2017 Nationals in line with the FAI. The UK Freestyle B and Freestyle B categories have also been altered to better lead on to the updated A category.

"If you are planning to compete this year, please read the new rules carefully – they are all on the BPA website. There is a BPA Coaching Roadshow before the Nationals at Langar on August 5-6 that can help and another at Beccles on September 9-10. As the BPA Artistics Rep, I will endeavour to answer any queries too."

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# FROM FFF2 TO VFS



In the first article in a two-part series, we look at VFS – how to choose your slots, build a solid exit and score as many points as possible

**WORDS:** GREG LUCAS AND MARTIN ROBERSON  
**PHOTOS:** DAN GUEST



## PART ONE OF TWO

Next issue, we look at flying camera for VFS



**V**ertical Formation Skydiving (VFS) is a relatively new discipline which combines the precision and energy of 4-way Formation

Skydiving with the speeds of Freeflying and the complexity added by having two orientations. Learning VFS can be a daunting prospect, but it doesn't need to be. When we started two-and-a-half years ago, some of us could only just transition and fly a bit of head down.

VFS doesn't yet have an Intermediate category in the UK and has now been extended to include 16 randoms and 22 blocks, the same as AAA 4-way. With the additional difficulties involved in dirt diving when you spend time both head up and head down, the wind tunnel is an invaluable tool for learning the dive pool and training. Getting four people together also makes flying in the tunnel much cheaper and allows for rapid progression.

There are many ways to dirt dive VFS, but most teams principally dirt dive as if they're

head down. This can get confusing for the head up flyers because all their moves and grips will be mirrored while dirt diving. Similar to 4-way flat, mental work and a good grip plan are essential – doubly so if you have lots of transitions and need to ensure you transition in the right direction.

### Slot choice

VFS has four slots: primary head up, opposite head up, piece partner head up and primary head down. You'll want to play to your strengths and fit your skills to the slots as best you can.

### Primary Head Up

Arguably the most difficult slot, they will spend a lot of time on their feet – you'll want your strongest head up flyer here. Sometimes they get entire dives without any head down. They also generally have the most transitions, so it's worth having someone who is comfortable with dive engineering and transitioning in both directions.

### Opposite Head Up

This slot has a good balance of head up and head down. They will generally spend more time flying and transitioning without grips than the piece partner head up slot.

### Piece partner Head Up

Again, a good balance of head up and head down. However, this slot typically does most of the head up block moves with the primary head up. Most of their transitions are done with a grip on another flyer, so you'll need someone who is comfortable transitioning with grips. They are also one of the centres of the formation, so solid head down skills are a must.

### Primary Head Down

This slot will spend most of their time head down, so ideally you'll want your strongest head down (or weakest head up) flyer here. They are the primary centre and anchor for fall rate and position.



They also have a number of moves flying with grips on three of their limbs, which can be challenging. This is the most tiring slot to fly in the tunnel, so fitness is key.

### Exits

If you've got your FF2, you're probably used to taking head down launches out of the plane. However, it can be challenging taking an exit out that flies on the relative wind straight out of the door. For VFS, we think the easiest and most versatile head down launch is an A (Cross). It flies well with good spacing, is solid with the double centre grip and allows a lot of transitions to other points.

For all HD exits, you will want to have three people outside the plane and one person (your primary HD) inside it. The piece partner HU flyer will be in the middle outside and primary HU is either

at the front or rear of the door, depending on which way you choose to fly blocks. Unfortunately, we don't have enough words to explain why in this article, but speak with us and we'll try!

Much like 4-way, the two key things for pulling off a great HD exit are correct presentation from the second you let go of the plane and timing i.e. making sure everyone leaves the plane at the right time to avoid tension in the grips. Because this doesn't always work and is impossible on certain exits which rely on tension, death grips are essential. Bruises heal, but you're never going to get those points back. Each slot has something different to think about during the A launch:

#### Inside slot (Primary HD)

This slot gives the key and can be a little tricky to get right. It has most of the

responsibility for making sure the exit doesn't rotate. This is an energetic exit and requires you to drive your hips and head out of the door at the same time with your body parallel to the bottom of the door. Arching and driving your head back for a split second when you leave will help presentation and limit rotation of the formation.

#### Outside front slot (Primary HU or Opposite HU)

Start with your left hand on the bar hanging low in the door and look back towards the tail. Keep your left foot on the plane and consider trailing your right leg to give room for everyone else's feet. When leaving the plane, you want to drop your head back into the relative wind so that you are looking back up at the plane. Timing-wise, you should wait

**1 VFS National Champions Omni in Block 4 (Chain Gang)**

**2 Launching an A (Cross). Slots:**  
**Greg in green is Primary Head Down;**  
**Martin in orange is Primary Head Up;**  
**Sarah in purple is Piece Partner Head Up;**  
**and Tim in blue is Opposite Head Up.**  
*Keep your hands low and try to extend out to accelerate into your freefall flying position so you can turn the point as fast as possible*



and almost allow the inside flyer to push you out.

### Outside middle slot (Piece partner HU)

You want to come out on your side, so the more you can do to set up like that in the door, the better. Crouch over your left foot while hanging on your right hand. Putting your right foot into the bottom right corner of the door will help with getting over to the correct angle.

### Outside rear slot (Primary HU or Opposite HU)

Get as high as you can and over the top of the formation. When it launches, you'll need to drive over the top. Failing to do this will pull the formation away from HD.

Once you have this launch nailed, you'll find it's easy to use the same techniques

on most other head down exits, get stable earlier and start turning points further up the hill. You will then be ready to progress onto learning single-slot head up as well as two-slot head up (piece partner and opposite) exits. It's worth bearing in mind that, while all the exits are technically possible to launch, most teams don't launch all of them in competition. Some of the best teams in the world get by on three or four different exits with a few grip variations. *Dubai Nexus* (now *SDC Core*) achieved a 15-point average before they learned a single head up exit, and that average would have put them fourth at the last World Championships!

Break-off in VFS should be the same as in any other head down group; just turn 180° from the centre and slow peel off on your back. You'll often see us belly out immediately, but it's much safer to

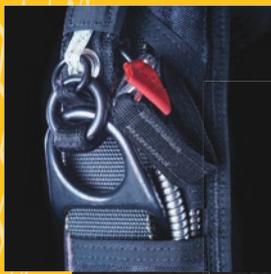
break off properly and a direct break off should only be done when you can see everyone else in front of you. Try and avoid diving too hard on break-off because you'll quickly find yourself on level with the cameraflyer.

For those interested in learning more, we're running an Intermediate VFS competition at Dunkeswell on June 24-25. This will consist of six rounds and we'll be providing free coaching. The only requirement is to have FF2 and be comfortable in a small group. If you're alone or don't have a full team or camera, just get in touch – we'll try and accommodate everyone. We'll also be coaching at the BPA VFS Roadshow at Skydive Langar on August 5-6, so come along for some free coaching and to prepare for VFS Nationals at Dunkeswell in September! ●

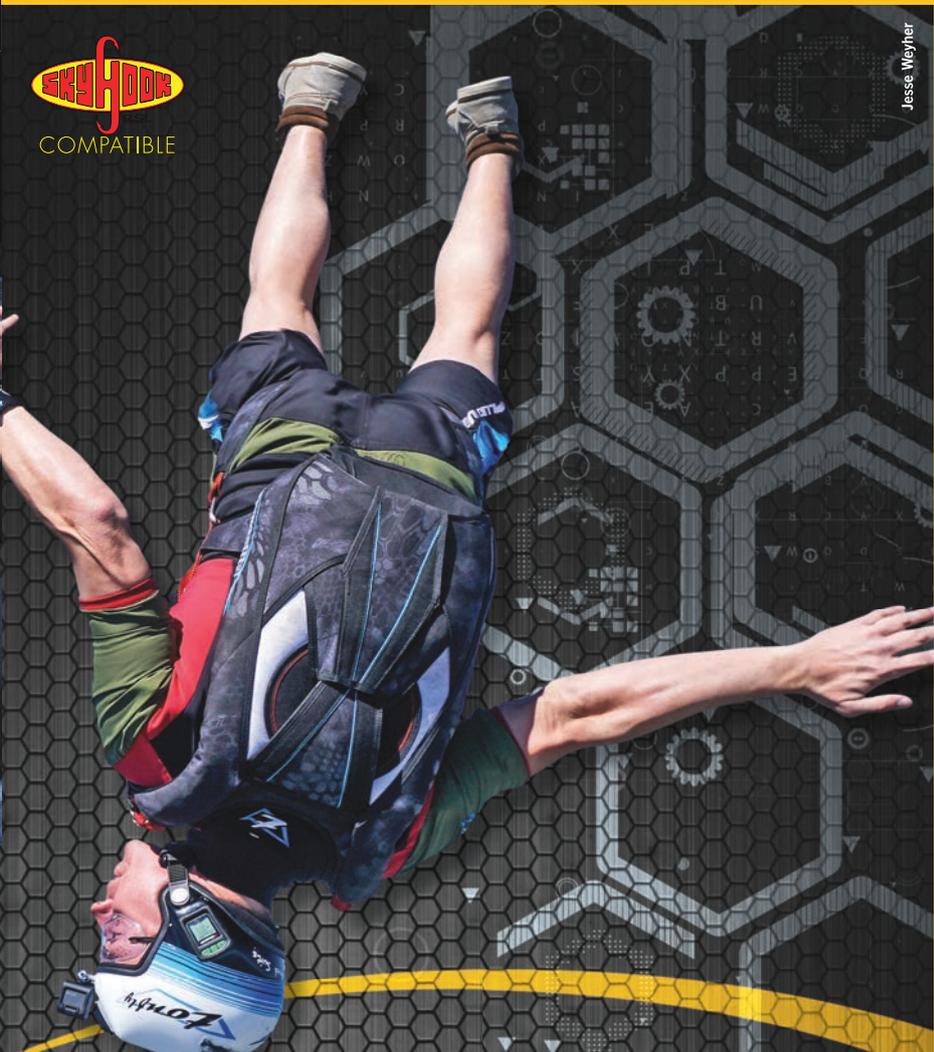
**3 Mocking up an A (Cross).** Greg is inside with (L-R) Martin, Sarah and Tim on the outside of the aircraft. Try and get everyone as close to head down on the relative wind as possible

**4 Mocking up a G (Mixed Star),** probably the easiest double head up launch. The head down flyers roll over and into the wind line. The rear head up flyer leaves as late as possible, while the front head up flyer leaves with inside head down

**5 Training Block 5 (Mixed Accordion)**



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# HOW TO PULL OFF A



# SKYDIVING WEDDING

Scott and I met at Langar and, soon enough, we became an item and got engaged. From early on, we decided that we both love skydiving so why not get married that way? But, at this point, we knew nothing about it, how to go about it or if it was even possible...

**WORDS:** LIZZIE CALCRAFT (NÉE SWANTON)  
**PHOTOS:** ANMAR SADIE



## Planning

First of all, we needed to check that a skydiving wedding was possible. Where would be the best place? What time of year would the weather be good enough? What would we wear? Who would be in the plane with us?

In November 2016, we contacted Dan BC at Skydive Perris in California because the weather is better there and so it would hopefully give us more of a chance to jump on the date we had planned. He confirmed that it was indeed possible.

Then we did some further planning with Dan to see what Skydive Perris required from us. After lots of emails back and forth discussing how many jumpers we would have, who would be in the plane, what kind of plane we would need to allow the room for a ceremony and so on, we managed to set a preliminary date of April 24 2017. Although this seems pretty simple, it wasn't as straightforward as it sounds because we had family members who were not jumping but who still wanted to be on the plane. This entailed further emails back and forth to ascertain what we would need

to do to ensure their safety. Dan came up with a plan that non-jumpers could come up and down in the plane, but would need to wear a rig and have an Instructor with them in case of an aircraft emergency.

Next, we needed to work out what kind of plane we would want for the ceremony and whether it would be readily available when we needed it. Could we choose the time of day we could do the wedding? Would we need to hire the whole plane or just pay for the slots? Most of this was sorted easily with Dan's expertise, and we were advised that hiring a Skyvan would be more beneficial because we would only have family, friends and Instructors with us. Importantly, this would give us the adequate space and time for the ceremony!

After laying the foundations of our big day, we then started thinking about a best man. Scott asked Jack Johnson, another Langar skydiver who had known Scott for eight years, and he was more than happy to volunteer. We also needed somebody to ordain the marriage so I asked Terry Stears, another fellow skydiver and a close friend of mine. He managed to get himself ordained

easily online for free, and what skydiver doesn't like things that come free?

Just as we were beginning to feel as though we had finalised our plans, we were informed that the week of our wedding had just become super busy because of the SOS Record going on at the same time. This would mean we would need to be at the DZ early on the morning of the wedding and would need to be ready to go at any minute.

We arrived in California on April 18 to give me a few days to familiarise myself with the DZ – although Scott had jumped at Perris before, I had not. We did all the formalities of DZ briefs, gear checks and finalised the last few pieces with Dan about what would happen on the day. For the actual jump, we decided on tracking because we have a mutual love for it.

## The big day

On waking up on the morning of our wedding, we looked out the window to see – as per skydivers' luck – full cloud coverage despite all of the glorious sunshine in the week leading up to the day. Because of this, we initially worried



**1 Posing for wedding shots before going tracking!**

**2 The service in the Skyvan**

**3 Lizzie completing the wedding look by having her first reserve ride**

**4 Friends and family ready for a wedding to remember!**

it wouldn't happen and even more so because the best man and minister both had flights home the day afterwards. We called the DZ, who informed us that it should be jumpable before midday and that the Skyvan would likely become available in the late afternoon.

Once we arrived at the DZ, we hit another obstacle when Perris suddenly informed us that they might not have enough Instructors free for the non-jumpers. Luckily, our camerawoman Anmar Sadie was our saviour. She had previously worked at Perris and was able to round up the Instructors we needed.

After speaking with Anmar and her sorting out the Instructors, we were on a 40-minute call. We started to change; myself into white shorts and a white top, Scott and his best man into their suits and our minister into his official 'outfit'. Suddenly, our camera team suggested a belly exit rather than a tracking exit so they could get a good shot of us kissing in mid-air. Seeing as though we were both in full faces, we decided it best to just 'look' as though we were kissing (a.k.a. 'a head bump').

When we were on the plane, we handed out earpieces and radio sets so everybody would be able to hear the ceremony. However, for some reason, they stopped working. Therefore, our minister shouted his lines and we shouted our vows. Looking back, it was quite comical. It was very hot and loud in the plane, but the atmosphere was incredible as we exchanged rings.

When the green light came on, our second cameraman Devin LaMon hung out the back of the plane in the hope of getting some good exit shots. We left the plane at 13,000ft holding hands and transitioned straight to a star and 'kissing'. Scott (being a typical tracking-obsessed skydiver) then started looking straight down at the ground and working out which way we needed to track. Once our camera team, best man and minister were with us, we released from the star still holding one hand between us and we transitioned to a track. This was quite an unusual feeling, but nothing could wipe the smile from my face. On break off, we all went our separate ways and we deployed.

Just to add extra surprises to our jump, I had a malfunction which required me to cut my main canopy away. Although I landed safely and unharmed, I was shaken up from my first reserve ride. One of the many highlights of the day was our second cameraman Devin pointing out that, seeing as I was wearing a white top and holding my white deployed reserve in front of me, it indeed looked as though I was wearing a wedding dress. He suddenly became a surprise bridesmaid and held out my new 'reserve dress' for me.

Despite the number of hitches we had, we wouldn't change a thing and would recommend a skydiving wedding to anyone!

We would like to thank everybody involved who made this jump so incredibly awesome: Anmar Sadie for her incredible ability to sort any problem at the drop of a hat and for getting the most amazing pictures, Devin LaMon for coming on the jump at the last minute to be an extra cameraflyer, Jack Johnson for being the best man who kept us sane and smiling the whole time and Terry Stears for ordaining a ceremony we won't ever forget. ●

# BPA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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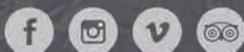
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# THE DOOR OPENS...



...and every single one of those 16,400 feet is going to matter. They're going to be precise, accurate and calculated. The dock onto the formation is the reward, but you have to do the work to get the reward. This is big-way head up flying, and this is my learning experience at my first big-way camp

**WORDS:** ANTHONY ANDREWS **PHOTOS:** GUSTAVO CABANA

**O**ne of the fundamental attitudes we must instil when trying to build a head up formation is discipline. That needs to happen on many levels; work starts the second you step onto the dropzone in the morning and ends as the first beer opens in the bar after jumping. You need the discipline to stay calm, to rehearse the jump physically as a team and mentally on an individual level, to stay focused amid all the noise and to know that the reward presents itself if the prerequisite targets or waypoints are achieved.

## START AT THE START

A typical jump from start to finish begins with a dirt dive. There's lots of talking, organising, referencing and trying to ingrain every detail of the jump into the backs of our minds. We need to know where we sit in the plane, which leg is in which position on climb out and so on,

right up to the visuals of what the dive is going to look like so I know that catching a glimpse of a red and black jumpsuit on my left tells me that my exit is good. Luckily, the giant banana jumpsuit of Raphael Coudrie from *Fly Warriors* will be on the base where our pod will build. At least the visual element is easy.

We focus on the approach, what is safe and what is unacceptable. Do not fly past the formation. Stay above the formation and you will be able to see what's happening. Make your way to your slot. Don't look for the grip. If you are in the right slot and referencing across the formation, then the grip will present itself. Remember to fly strong, because how can you give the next stinger or the next pod-closer their reward if you aren't presenting your grip properly? Just because you have yours, it doesn't mean you give up – quite the contrary. We keep flying and we keep

## 1 Head down diving towards the head up base

**2 Brits on the camp included Paul Cooper, Ally Milne, Ming Chu, Matty Mitchell, Jimmy Meen, Elise Sharp, Weed Stoodley, Gary Crisp, Pete Dennett, Dave Bloomfield, Karim Shokraee, Anthony Andrews, Peter Hutchinson and Lorene Latour**

building until 6,500ft where the first wave of track-offs start.

Transition from head up to head down smoothly, making sure nobody is directly behind you before starting the rest of the skydive. Tracking off can be fun, but it can also get a little hairy on big-ways so the importance of one of the basics – all-round observation – is crucial at track off.

Finally, the deployment through to landing. You need good awareness under canopy, predictable flying and nothing radical so we can all land and get packed again. And that's just the dirt dive!

## ON THE WAY UP

There's lots to take in and there's 30 other people thinking the same thing. It's like a house of cards with a collective consciousness; we help each other, we feel each other and we are a team. If one person doesn't do the right thing, then the formation as a whole can't complete.



In the 30 minutes or so between the dirt dive and boarding the plane, we all go and gather our thoughts. Some sit in the sun with a bottle of water, some are smoking cigarettes, chatting and being happy and some spend time in the toilet. What they do is their business.

What I found the biggest help with the camp was that my mindset was the battleground. The more I imagined, visualised, practised and thought about the jump, the more prepared I felt and that helped me to be more relaxed. In turn, that made my performance easier to achieve. If I messed up on the last jump, now is the time to put it behind me and do it right this time.

Okay, I'm ready. As the smell of fuel and the noise starts to pick up, like the Twin Beech and the Porter's engines, we do one last dirt dive. Silently and with no talking, as it is in the sky, complete with the communication, the exit key and the bodies piling out of the mock-ups like sand going through an hourglass to uniformly open on the grass and build the formation. For our 6-way base, it was like honey bees working to build their hexagonal hive. Track off, good dirt dive.

With everyone organised, we board the plane. This is what all of the preparation has been leading up to. It's like the World Cup final; getting on the plane has the same feeling as getting on that pitch.

We're all ultra-focused, well-hydrated and raring to go on the 15-minute climb out over Empuriabrava. There's something special about being in a multi-aircraft load. Seeing the other plane next to you on climb out is just awesome, but it's not really the time to be thinking about that.

I close my eyes, take one deep breath and start to focus on the breathing. A second breath helps drown out the noise of chatter and the aircraft. A third deep breath and I start to see the skydive. It's like time travel; about three minutes into the future, there's the exit key and away you go. "Plan the jump, jump the plan"

## HEAD UP BIG-WAY CAMP

springs to mind. I repeat the process three times in three minutes so that I am thinking of nothing else other than the skydive.

Before long, the door is open and the base is in position in the door. I'm seventh out of the plane, so I sneak a look out of the window and the team are outside the other aircraft.

Boom. Off we go.

### SHOW TIME

It's time to put all this into practice, and the first waypoint on this skydive is the exit. We exit head down, but it helps to basically cannonball for the first second or two. It's the best way to build up speed at the start of the jump. Once we cannonball and open up into our dive, we should see the base and hopefully on heading at that. As we dive down, we make sure we are in the right sector. Was Bananaman on my left or right shoulder during the dirt dive? Left. Cool. As I get on level, I'm still head down and waiting for the first stinger to get his slot. Why? Because it's easier on the body to stay head down. I'll transition when I'm ready.

There it is. I pop up a little during my transition to head up, but it's not a problem. I'm still in my slot and I'm still above the formation, so I fly down into my slot without looking for where my grip should be. Surprisingly, the grip is there first time.

I hear this voice in the back of my helmet say "Once you have the grip, do not stop flying and do not get lazy" at the very same time as I start to lose lift and sink out on the formation. It's everything I can do to not completely stop flying and kill my pod. It hurts, and I don't think I've ever

wanted to fly more than this point now. My legs are up for it, though. As I rise a little, the visual of the dirt dive comes back.

I look across the formation at David Nimmo and, in my head, I know I've done the business so far. Holding the grips, I suddenly feel Dany Henschen take his grip on me. I allow myself a sneaky glance and exchange a big grin with him as our team is starting to complete the job. The part where it starts to really hit home is where the grip changes from a standard 'combat dock' to what I ended up calling the 'dock tickle of success'.

I was very fortunate to have Dany on my left, but I was just as fortunate to have the legend Paul Cooper on my right as the first stinger. Paul gave some great tips and was very happy to share his vast knowledge of big-way flying and VFS with me, which really helped. Imagine bending your fingers into a C-shape and then interlocking with your partner's fingers in the very same way. This C-shaped grip is ridiculously robust on a formation. It spreads and dissipates the breathing and movement of the formation, and is a much stronger grip than any other. You can try it yourself and on your own, and you'll find that pulling the grips apart takes a lot of strength. It takes a lot more than if I just grabbed your arm. As my flying improved and my grip discipline became easier throughout the camp, Paul and I gelled quite well and we started to have fun with it.

Every now and then on a jump, after transitioning the grip to the dock of glory, I could feel Paul's middle finger tickling the palm of my hand as if to say "nice one

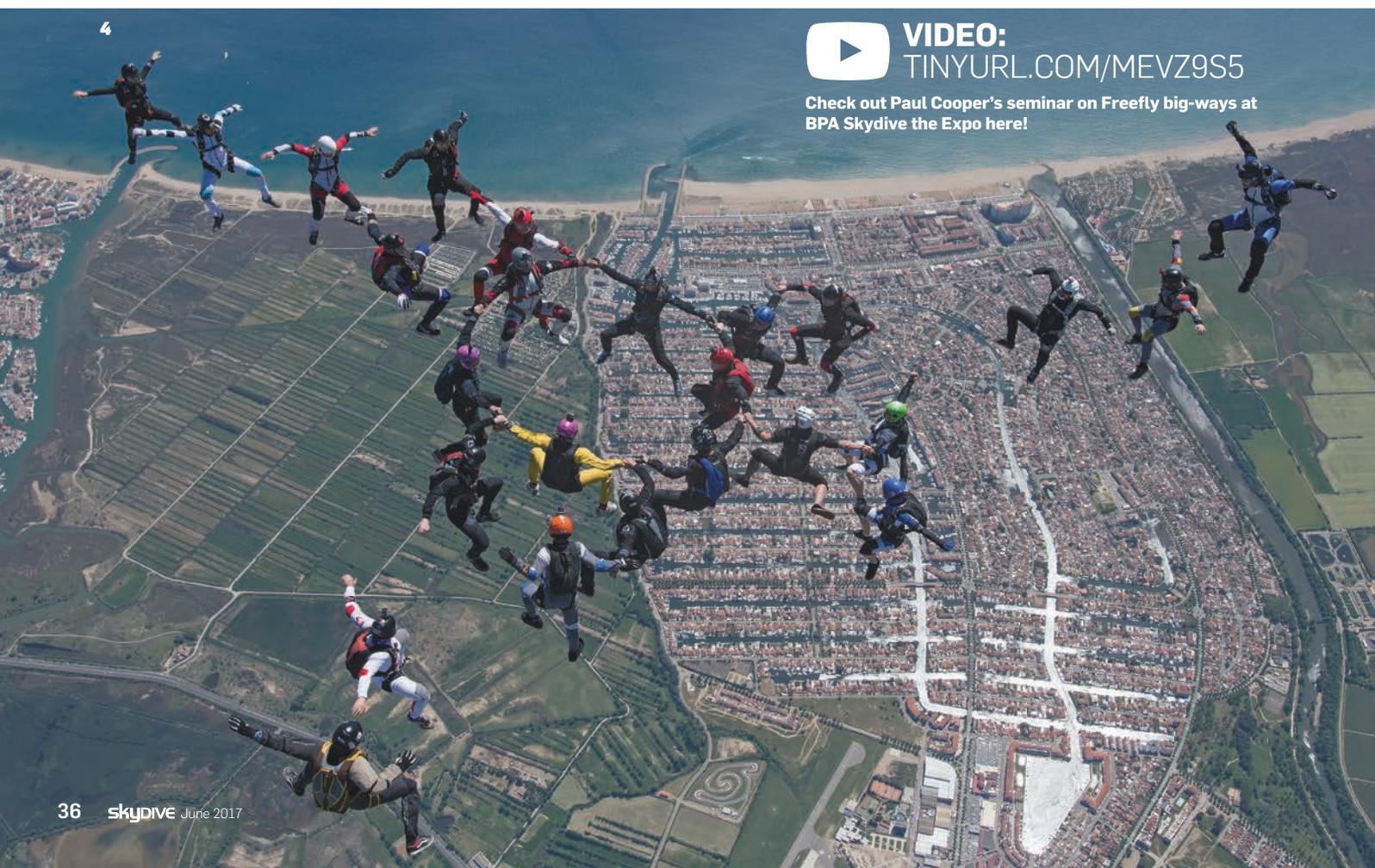


pal, that's good". A little bit of reassurance from a hero goes a long way, and it enabled me to be stronger to present the grip for Dany to close the pod. Through the week, our group became more positive and started to achieve. We even ended up unofficially breaking the European Head Up Record with a 27-way!

I would recommend big-way freeflying to anybody. Head to the right camps and DZs, and learn from people who already know how to do it. Pick up as much knowledge off them as possible; I'm sure they are more than happy to share with you! Also, be confident that your skills will improve. Watch your own video back, and watch Paul Cooper's Expo seminar about Freefly big-ways on the *Skydive the Mag* YouTube channel. Be critical and see which of the waypoints on that skydive were good and which were bad. If you understand a problem, the solution is far easier to stumble across! ●

**3** Tracking away in waves from the 6-way base

**4** "Don't look for the grip. If you are in the right slot and referencing across the formation, then the grip will present itself."



**VIDEO:**  
[TINYURL.COM/MEVZ9S5](https://tinyurl.com/MEVZ9S5)

Check out Paul Cooper's seminar on Freefly big-ways at BPA Skydive the Expo here!



# Skydive AUSTRALIA



## SKYDIVING INSTRUCTORS WANTED

Skydive Australia is looking to hire qualified Tandem instructors for its 18 DZs across Australia.

- Seasonal and full time work available
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- Preferably Sigma rated
- Must have handcam experience
- Possibility of exploring more long term options
- 100+ tandems

If a lifestyle of awesome jumps, meat pies and BBQs is of interest, send a cover letter and your skydiving CV to [careers@skydive.com.au](mailto:careers@skydive.com.au).

**[SKYDIVE.COM.AU/CAREERS](https://www.skydive.com.au/careers)**

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# LIFE BEGINS AT 40?

New medical declaration forms were introduced for experienced jumpers from April 2017. The old requirement for anyone over 40 to get a doctor's signature has gone and now many more skydivers can self-declare than ever before.

Liz Ashley spoke to Dr John Carter, the BPA's Medical Adviser

## Why did we need new forms? What was wrong with the old ones?

A year ago, after more than two years of review by a BPA Working Party and after inviting feedback from PTOs and CIs, the BPA introduced a system of self-certification without age limit for tandem students. The age range was no longer 16-39 but had become 16-100+, so more information was included because of the differing disease distribution in the extended group. The disease areas named

had not really been significantly reviewed in four decades and so they were updated. The doctor's certificate was also changed so that tandem students unable to self-declare were no longer certified by a doctor as fit/unfit (a stressful and unwelcome decision for many doctors) but rather as 'normal risk', 'acceptable extra risk', 'acceptable extra risk if Chief Instructor informed' or 'unacceptable risk'. The information for doctors was expanded based on the most common areas covered in

thousands of requests for advice from certifying doctors over several years.

After a year of the new tandem system running without any significant problems being reported by PTOs or CIs, the system has been extended to solo parachutists as well.

## The new forms are full of detail. Aren't the BPA just trying to stop us jumping?

It would be fair to say that the new medical forms have provoked

a range of opinions, both negative and positive, by email and on various group pages. In almost every respect, however, the new forms are much more relaxed about the process of self-certification and medical advice although they are wordier and longer than the old ones.

I have seen posts/emails from jumpers who are concerned that they are suddenly restricted by the new declaration whereas previously they believed they were not. For the most part, they clearly were affected

by the old forms too but had not interpreted them as affecting themselves. If you cannot sign the new declaration in good faith, you were probably similarly unable to sign the old one. The most important sentence on the form for those that are worried is this: "If you have one of these conditions, it does not necessarily mean that you cannot jump but you should first seek qualified medical advice and certification."

Some of our membership will have a good understanding of their own health/illness/injuries and the way this can interact with their skydiving. They would often be happy to make their own decisions about their fitness to jump and will no doubt feel the forms are unnecessarily over-restrictive for themselves. Others have limited knowledge or understanding of their own health/illnesses or may have very limited skydiving experience and may not understand how their health can affect safety at the DZ. The forms are intended to give the latter groups adequate information to make the best decision for themselves.

Many medical conditions exist on a spectrum ranging from perfect health at one end through mild and moderate impairment in the middle and then finally disabling disease at the other end. It is inevitable that a system of self-declaration of fitness will allow some people to decide that their medical/surgical/mental condition is so mild that they will not take a doctor's advice and will just sign the declaration. While this has already been the case for many years for the under-40s, it remains to be seen whether or how this will affect incidents and injuries for the over 40s in the future.

### **What if my doctor tries to stop me from jumping? They're not a skydiver; what if they're more cautious than me?**

When a jumper takes medical advice for a condition which does increase risk, the categories of 'acceptable extra risk and parachutist aware' or 'acceptable extra risk if Chief Instructor informed' will allow certification in many cases where a doctor would previously have been reluctant to sign. The new

Licensed Parachutist doctor's certificate is now also significantly more permissive than both the Solo Student Parachutist doctor's certificate and the old general parachutist medical certificate for a number of conditions. This reflects an appropriately greater level of protection offered to novices and an acknowledgement that a parachutist's health can deteriorate with the passage of time, but often in a manageable way. Particularly for very experienced parachutists, it is often possible to make special arrangements to keep them jumping without excessive risk after medical deterioration. However, this will often involve an informed discussion between various combinations of the parachutist, their doctor, the BPA medical adviser and their CI.

One of the further options explored by the working party was to allow experienced parachutists not only to self-declare "fitness" but also to self-declare "having had adequate medical advice" – thus doing away with any need for a doctor's certificate. For the time being at least, the working party decided that this was a step too far. I am sure there will be a full spectrum of opinions on whether that was a good or a poor decision.

### **What if I want to be a blood donor? Skydivers are often fit, healthy and altruistic – perfect donors**

For decades up until now, the BPA has had a very specific policy on blood donation. The BPA Operations Manual Sec 11, Para 2.5 states bluntly that "parachuting and giving blood are not compatible". The new advice in the medical forms is an appropriate relaxation of this stance, with a view to facilitating a socially beneficial activity while keeping skydivers safe. Inevitably, advice that is appropriate for a self-declared, 60-year-old, small-framed, civilian parachutist with a poor diet and plans to jump at the maximum allowable 15,000ft without oxygen will appear overprotective for a physically fit, medically certified, large-framed 20-year-old serviceman on an iron-rich diet and jumping at a

maximum of 12,000ft, with an emergency oxygen supply carried in the aircraft. The advice has to be appropriate for those at greater risk and not just for the fittest.

The reality is that the BPA has neither knowledge of nor interest in controlling your activities away from the dropzone. Usually, no-one will know whether you have given blood or whether you have followed the advice on the medical form. Nonetheless, the BPA does have an obligation to advise you on how to maintain your physical and mental performance at altitude and to reduce your risk profile at the DZ.

### **The form says things like "I have never had fractured or broken bones"**

This caused some members to jump to conclusions without reading the rest of the paragraph, which continues "OR I have had one of these conditions in the past and have already completed 100 further jumps since receiving qualified medical advice that the condition is healed or stabilised".

It has always been the case that skydivers are meant to take medical advice before returning to jumping following an injury. Provided they are an active skydiver and have had no problems since returning to jumping, that injury is unlikely to need a doctor's advice again when their declaration is renewed three years later.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

You can download the new forms from the BPA website by typing '115' in the 'Forms' search box. This will bring up the declarations for Tandem students (115A), Solo students (115C) and Licensed skydivers (115E). If you need medical advice, then you can request this from your doctor using form 115B (Tandem students), 115D (Solo students) or 115F (Licensed skydivers).

There is already a Medical FAQs page for tandem students on the BPA website and there are intentions to develop further medical FAQs pages for other skydivers. Please bear in mind that this will inevitably take some time and these pages will change with feedback. The medical forms

themselves are not set in stone and are bound to change in response to queries and reports received in the future.

Time constraints make it unlikely that I can become involved in most of the web discussions on medical certification, although I do browse some of them and take some of the more helpful suggestions into consideration for future amendments. Jumpers with queries about their own fitness to skydive should initially discuss this with their own personal doctor who has access to their full medical records after the doctor has read the information on the doctor's certificate. As well as the advice on the medical forms, there is more detailed advice on 'Asthma and Skydiving' and this is also downloadable from the BPA website. The BPA is a fairly small organisation which is unlikely ever to be able to employ a medical adviser directly available to parachutists for a first opinion – unless, of course, you wish that expense to be reflected in your membership subscription!

### **I strongly disagree with something on the form. What can I do?**

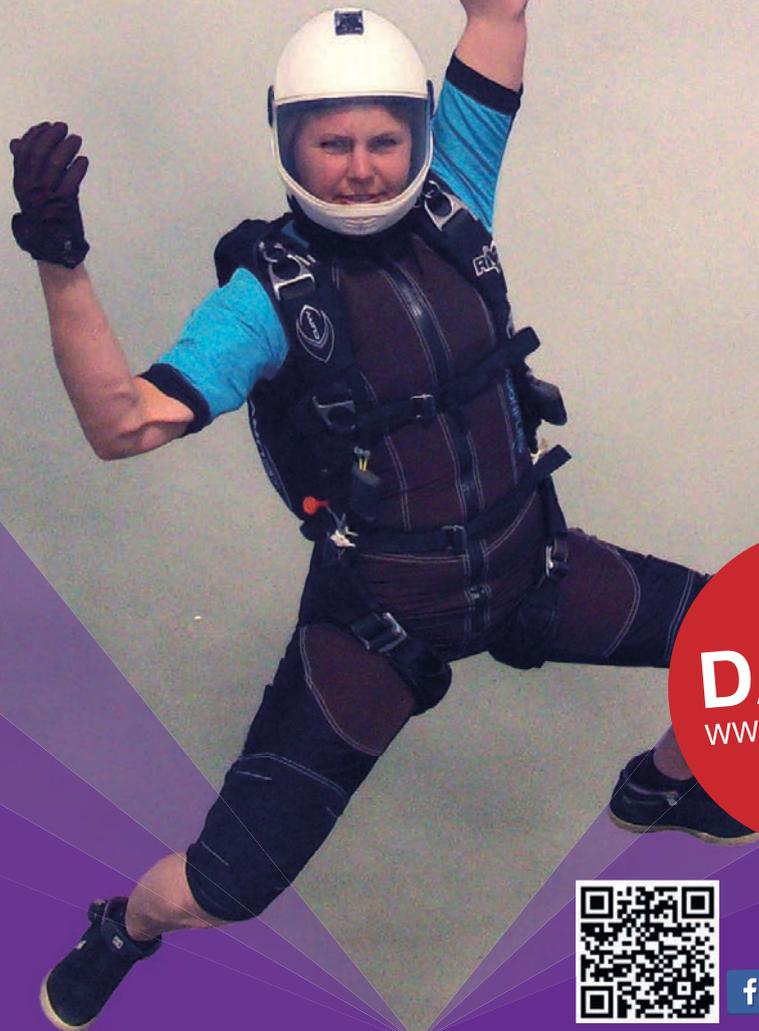
Jumpers can have their opinion represented in BPA policymaking by discussing their point of view with a CI, who can bring it to Safety and Training Committee if they are themselves convinced by it. Ideally, any changes in policy should be based not just on one's own situation and knowledge level but on being beneficial for the majority of skydivers and particularly those with limited knowledge or experience. For anyone with relevant medical qualifications and a good working knowledge of parachuting who feels that their input would improve the Association's policies and who is prepared to give significant amounts of their own time on working parties or providing direct medical advice at no charge to the Association or to its members, they should let Jeff Montgomery or Tony Butler know of their availability. Even the recommendations that come from working parties still have to go to STC to be approved or rejected by the CIs before they can become BPA policy. ●

**The most important sentence on the form for those that are worried is this: "If you have one of these conditions, it does not necessarily mean that you cannot jump but you should first seek qualified medical advice and certification"**

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# SAME OLD STORY

What's more than 4,000 years old and  
has broken four World Records?

**WORDS:** PETER STONE





**M**ore than 80 skydivers with ages ranging from 60 to 85 gathered at Skydive Perris from April 20-30 for the annual attempts to break oldies' World Records. The first record set was on April 21 for JOS (Jumpers Over Seventy), and a 24-way formation was built from a Skyvan and a Twin Otter flying at 13,500ft ASL. The formation held for 13 seconds and it beat the existing 20-way World Record.

The WSOS (Women Skydivers Over Sixty) set two new sequential records on April 23: a two-point 11-way and then a two-point 12-way almost immediately

afterwards. Then, ten of the women went back up and set yet another record with a three-point 10-way. There were not enough women to attempt to beat the current WSOS World Record of a 16-way set in Elsinore in 2015.

On April 26, 65 of the SOS (Skydivers Over Sixty) climbed into a Skyvan and three Twin Otters with the objective of beating the current 60-way World Record set in Elsinore in 2012. After five barren years, the records had already started to tumble and the SOS achieved their 65-way World Record on their third jump on April 27. The SOS group then went back up to attempt a sequential

record, a 60-way two-point dive, which was achieved on April 30.

The key to these successes was lots of dedicated senior citizens and the magic dust sprinkled on them by the superlative coaching of Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld and the total commitment of the Skydive Perris organisation. Jumpers attended from five countries, and the British contingent comprised Stewart Brooks, Stuart Charlton, John Kallend, Peter Stone and Ron Wands.

The dates for next year's attempts will be between April 20-29 2018 and everything will be held at Skydive Perris again. ●

**1** *The new Skydivers Over Sixty 65-way World Record, by Craig O'Brien*

**2** *The new Jumpers Over Seventy 24-way World Record, by Terry Clay*

**3** *Author Peter Stone (back left) with his fellow record-breaking Jumpers Over Seventy, by Terry Clay*





# ANOTHER TREAT FOR WIND TUNNEL FLYERS IN POLAND

*Flyspot is opening their second ISG wind tunnel in Katowice*

FROM May 2017, pro flyers will be able to choose from two first class but still very affordable wind tunnels in Poland. In addition to their popular wind tunnel in Warsaw, Flyspot is opening another facility in Katowice right next to the historic town of Krakow. Located in southern Poland, it is approximately 600 kilometres away from the big European cities Prague and Vienna.

Flyspot likes to be known for the support they give to some of the top athletes in the sport – you have probably heard of names like Inka Tiitto, Maja Kuczynska and Rafael Schwaiger – and the fact that their very existence is built around offering great service for pro flyers. Visitors can enjoy a variety of camps with top coaches to choose from every month, smooth ISG air and a chilled atmosphere combined with highly professional, friendly staff. The new 14ft tunnel is not going to be an exception to the rule.



Katowice is easily reachable thanks to its airport with cheap flight connections from a number of cities or through the neighbouring city of Krakow. You can get to the tunnel by public transport or arrange a taxi pickup through the tunnel. The modern concrete building is located right in the city centre, opposite a huge shopping mall, and is only 1.5 kilometres from the train station. There are also a variety of hotels and Airbnb accommodation options to choose from within two kilometres. As a cherry on top, Flyspot is celebrating the opening of the new wind tunnel by offering super cheap summer prices topped off with some free tunnel time!

If you want to know what's happening in Flyspot, check out their social media feeds. Flyspot's very own media crew provides every week new video and photo coverage of extreme sports like tunnel flying, skydiving, base jumping, speed riding... you name it. Welcome to Flyspot!



# THE BACKBONE OF THE BPA

The Royal Aero Club (RAeC) is the national co-ordinating body for airports organisations in the UK. It presents its annual awards at the RAF Club in Piccadilly every year, and 2017 saw three people recognised for their contribution to the BPA

PHOTOS: MARTIN GAMMON, HEREANDNOWPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



**Dean Fisher – Bronze Medal**

Dean Fisher, who was awarded a RAeC Certificate of Merit in 2010, made his first parachute jump in 1965 and has been in the sport ever since. From 1970 to 2007, he was a member of the *Barnstormers Display Team*.

Now aged 78, Dean’s continuous enthusiasm for skydiving and his endless dedication to the tuition of students makes him an inspirational hero in our sport. He has been training student parachutists as an Instructor for more than 48 years. An Instructor at Skydive Langar, Dean volunteers his services entirely free of charge – not even seeking reimbursement of his petrol money.

There are many skydivers who have represented the UK at world-level, some becoming World

Champions as well as World Record holders, who would not be where they are or would not have had the courage to continue skydiving in the early days of their jumping were it not for Dean’s encouragement. The same holds for the Chief Instructor at Skydive Langar, and so very many in the UK skydiving community.

Even with health issues such as requiring a replacement hip, Dean’s enthusiasm has never dulled. He still completes 200-300 jumps a year and dispatches students on a regular basis.



**Graham Spicer – Certificate of Merit**

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2011, the BPA put out a call for assistance in establishing a BPA Archive Project. Graham Spicer was one of two members who responded. Graham Spicer telephoned the BPA to say he was a longstanding member



who had joined in 1991, had recently taken early retirement from BAA (formerly British Airports Authority) at Gatwick and believed he had relevant skills to offer our sport. How true this has proved to be!

Since then, Graham has made a sparkling contribution to the BPA. Firstly, as one of our two BPA Archivists – a role in which he excels through his mix of interpersonal and technical skills, keen eye for detail and a fascination with the development of our sport. The BPA Archive Project has digitised the whole back catalogue of the BPA magazine from its first issue in 1964, together with many historic films, and made them accessible on a website created by the archivists specifically for this and other archive material on UK sport parachuting and our parachutists on the international stage.

Graham's skills extend to planning digital infrastructure and services

for the future. He was the natural choice to chair the BPA IT Strategy Group, which was formed to co-ordinate and consolidate the various IT initiatives that were (and, in some cases, were not) going on in the BPA.

Graham formulated a detailed technical specification for a new BPA Personal Information Management System and prepared the open invitation to tender for this and a new BPA web hub. He was a member of the commissioning group that considered tenders for a contract worth approximately £100K and interviewed those shortlisted. Lead developers of prospective suppliers were surprised and delighted by the depth and quality of the BPA's technical specification.

Graham has also played an invaluable role in planning the IT infrastructure for the £0.3m refurbishment of the BPA

Headquarters building, assuring its fitness for purpose now and in the foreseeable future.

An absolute exemplar of a committed, dedicated and expert volunteer, Graham Spicer has made a significant contribution to our sport by sharing his impressive repertoire of professional skills.



### **Sue Allen – Certificate of Merit**

Sue Allen of Membership Services joined the BPA staff in the mid-70s and has been an integral part of the Association for more than 40 years. This is an incredible feat of loyalty and commitment, and Sue is the British Parachute Association's longest-serving member of staff.

Sue delivers exceptional service to members with a smile and sometimes even a song! Over the years, Sue has repeatedly turned her willing and capable hands to every task in the office including cashier, clerk, cleaner and even caterer for committees – her cheese and beetroot cobs are the stuff of legend. Sue is an encyclopaedia of the BPA and can answer just about any question from a member or prospective member. Her work over the decades is at the very heart of the Association's activity, but has too often gone unsung. However, without the delivery of our core membership services of processing applications to join and the renewal of memberships and ratings, we would not have an association.

Sue, for all you've done for the BPA for so many years, it's time for you to step into the spotlight to receive your RAeC Certificate of Appreciation. ●

**'Dean's enthusiasm has never dulled. He still completes 200-300 jumps a year and dispatches students'**

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# SKY SKILLS

## 2 - WAY DIVE POOL

Are there two of you jumping but you don't know what FS to do?  
Welcome to Chris Shaw's Sky Skills FS dive pool for two skydivers

### B 3 – FIVE+ POINTS

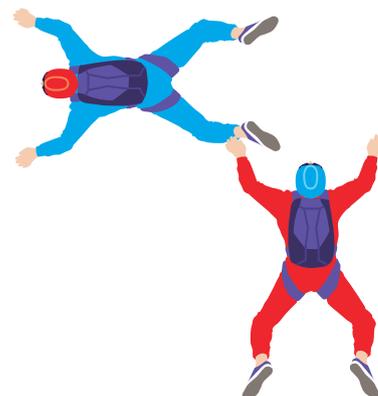
**Objective:** Develop precise in-place turns while synchronising with your buddy when out-facing from the formation.

**The moves:** Launch the 2-way (compressed). Drop grips and move to second point; share the move between both skydivers. Then each turns as per the arrows, which 'cogs' the turns as in skydive B2. Remember to STOP your turn before taking grips. Build the compressed again and now build the next formation so that each of you have swapped positions. If you faced out first, you now face in and vice versa.

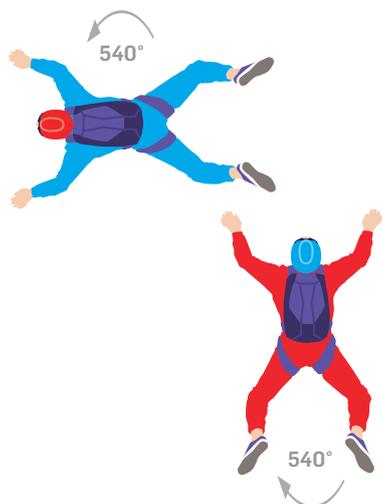
**Hot tip:** The person facing in to start with on the 540° turns makes this turn in two stages. At the first stage, do a 360° turn and then pause to ensure your buddy is finishing their 540° turn. At the second stage, finish your turn by completing a 180° (in the same direction as your 360°!) to face outwards. By doing this in two stages, the person finishing as outward-facing is confident that their buddy is facing in and can therefore see them and is ready to take their leg grip before they complete the 540° turn to face away from the formation.



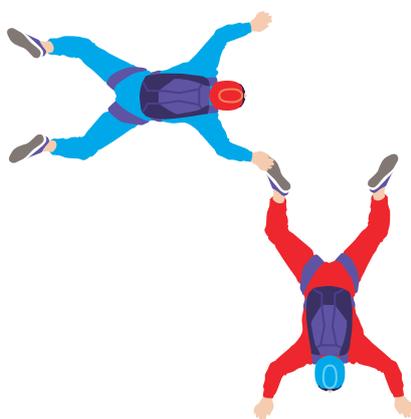
1



2



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4



5

# CSBI: UK

PHOTOS: ROB LLOYD

**In this final instalment, Rich has successfully navigated both the CSBI course and his probationary period. He now faces the Instructor Examiners on his Category System Instructor course, the only hurdle between him and a full CSI rating.**

As I arrive at Hib, Storm Abigail sweeps across the country. I bump into a friend from my CSBI course and ask for some help shunting the caravan into place. By the time I'm set up, a few of the other candidates and some of the Instructor Examiners are beginning to arrive. The first evening is passed pleasantly in the bar, but the mood changes the following morning as we are introduced to the course.

"This course is about assessment. You will receive no coaching and no feedback. You are here to demonstrate that you have the necessary skills to act as Instructors without supervision."

## IN AT THE DEEP END

Just like the BI course, we have to choose one lesson and are told that we will be given one lesson and one brief to complete. I choose 'Equipment', or 'Kit Fam' as the military types seem to insist, and I'm up third. It's clear that everybody is feeling the pressure but, despite the nerves, I have two good lessons to follow.

I begin nervously. I feel hot and I have to wipe sweat off my face a couple of times as I work my way through my lesson plan. I'm stopped during the first part of my lesson and asked to skip to the bit where we open up the container and drag out the canopy. I try to take this as a positive and move the class down to the packing area where I've prepared an area marked out with a sign: "Area required for teaching – please leave clear." I notice the Examiners confer and write in their notes. "Good," I tell myself, "They have noticed that I have prepared a clear area."

I work through the deployment process and then disaster strikes as I step back and bang my head on a low beam! I'm mortified, and my head is thumping as I insist that I'm OK to carry on. I complete the lesson and I'm not at all confident.

The rest of the day is passed with the other candidates' lessons. I foolishly have just a little too much beer in the bar that night and wake up feeling less than my best. By lunchtime, I'm feeling better and the last of our chosen lessons is completed.

The Examiners gather us together and tell us in no uncertain terms that the standard so far is below what is expected. I guessed as much, but having this confirmed just makes me feel under more pressure. I'm not enjoying this course at all. It's lunchtime on the second day, I'm feeling exhausted and I just want the week to be over. The Examiners, who were so positive and helpful on the BI course, are giving away nothing. Was that "not good enough" lecture just a ploy to put the pressure on? I don't know, but I take a deep breath and tell myself to keep cool.

## WITH THE RIOT ACT READ...

The second lessons are allocated and I'm given 'Malfunctions theory'. "That's okay," I tell myself, "I can do that." Then I think a little: "I would be happy with any lesson; I can do them all." It's a positive thought at a very stressful time and leaves me feeling a bit more confident.

The lesson goes okay but, as I work through 'Totals' and move into 'Canopy malfunctions', I realise I didn't cover the reasons for a total. Should I go back? I decide (rightly or wrongly) that the reasons are a 'should know' and not a 'must know', so I continue through to the end. Again, the Examiners don't give any feedback. They just do their usual poker-faced observation and note-taking.

That afternoon, we are briefed for dispatching from the Dornier. I don't really like it. The bench seats seem to be in the way and feel like just another hazard to catch the static line on. The dispatching process seems to involve far too much moving about for my liking.

Despite a doubtful forecast, we are told to be ready for dispatching first thing in the morning. Sure enough, the weather turns out windy and everybody is looking nervous at jumping student Mantas in winds



on the limit for 'experienced'. By the time we are all kitted up, the wind goes over and we switch back to teaching practice. I'm given DRPs as my brief. Again, I'm happy with that and think to myself that "I could do any of them". My brief goes alright, but some of the others are asked to do second briefs. I'm not. Is that a good thing? Am I not good enough for a second chance or good enough to pass without a second go?

The weather the following day looks good, so we kit up to jump/dispatch again. I check my 'students' carefully and then, when the student checks are done, remind them that they are jumping with student AADs so student rules apply. I notice an approving nod from one of the Examiners; the nearest thing to positive feedback I've seen all week. The dispatching goes well enough. I'm not very happy with it, but I don't do

anything dangerous and I'm told it was "good enough".

Quite soon, the last few briefs are completed and we all hang about for what seems like hours while the Examiners consider our results. Eventually, we are told they are ready and we line up to collect our results one at a time.

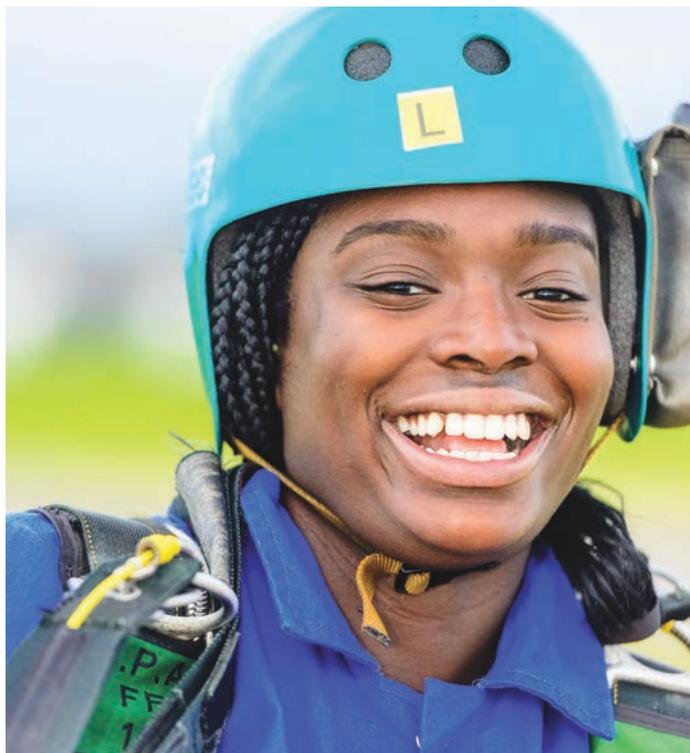
We all nervously chat with each other as we wait. I half-heartedly join in, but I find my mind wandering. I feel totally mentally exhausted and wonder how I will feel if I pass... or fail.

## BACK AT FIRST PRINCIPLES

I try to remember why I embarked on the whole thing. I can't really remember the reason, but I find myself thinking about a student I came across back in the summer. She had been overprogressed in a very dangerous way at a centre outside the UK and put on freefall after a very few very shaky

*Rich's eldest daughter Sarah Drabble on the day of her first and only skydive*





Static Line and DRP jumps. Her first freefall had gone well, but on the second she rolled, deployed unstable and had a nasty arm and leg entanglement. I shivered when I read the log entry; she must have been terrified!

She had arrived at Langar as a very nervous student on DRPs. The last jump was a good DRP, but she asked for another DRP brief because "it was a couple of weeks ago". I briefed her again and there were lots of nervous questions – unsurprisingly, mostly about reserve drills and entanglements. We went through it all lots of times and did lots of practice.

"I need to see you smile or I will fail you," I joked as we walked to the aircraft. I barely got a forced grin.

Ten minutes later and still very nervous, she did what was

basically a near textbook DRP. She groped about for the pull for maybe half a second, but kept an excellent body position with her eyes on me all the way. There was no smile, but I saw grim determination on her face. At debrief, she was nervous and unsure of how she had done. She was surprised when I said it was basically very good.

More exit practice and nervous questions followed, and up we went again. This time, it was pretty much perfect but there was still a grim look as the DRP popped out.

As I was debriefing her, I suddenly realised that was her third good DRP. Okay then – "Freefall," I said.

Still being a CSBI, I asked the CI to sign her off for freefall, which he did with no problem. The first freefall brief took longer than

usual, with lots and lots of nervous "What if...?" We went through it all a dozen times and she was ready without a doubt, but still nervous.

As we climbed to altitude, I noticed the blank look, pale face and slightly shaky hands. All attempts at getting a smile just got a very nervous forced grin. We went through the dive two or three times on the way up, and again just after her pre-jump check.

By "Feet out", she was visibly shaking. At "Head up" she looked me in the eye and I clearly saw her fear, but also trust – which made me almost as nervous.

"Looking at me and smiling all the way... GO!"

Out she went with a good exit and a lovely arch, her eyes fixed on mine but with that same grim look on her face and bellowing out her count.

At "Reach thousand", her hand fell straight on the ripcord and the biggest grin spread across her face as she pulled it, still in a perfect position.

When I landed, she was still grinning and buzzing as she ran up and gave me a hug!

At debrief, she kept thanking me and apologising for her nerves again and again.

A week later, I was back at the DZ and noticed her name on a student manifest from a couple of days ago. She had been doing her second 10-second delay.

The pay is rubbish, with an hourly rate well below minimum wage that will never pay back my expenses from gaining the rating, and I've already had some negativity and hostility from students that I've refused to progress (firm but fair!). But knowing that I've helped a very, very nervous student get to the point where she can enjoy the best sport in world is pretty much priceless.

**THE MOMENT OF TRUTH**

The next candidate comes out of the office with a blank look. "I didn't get it... failed".

I look around and it seems I'm the next in.

"So, how do you think you have done?"

"Could have done better... a lot better... a lot of things a lot better."

I mumble and stutter like an idiot and they look confused, so I gather my thoughts a bit. "But I don't think I've done anything dangerous. I think I've taught the essential skills my students would need. I think I've probably passed."

At last I'm put out of my misery as a Category System Instructor certificate is handed to me.

I look at the certificate, thank the Examiners and shake hands.

I don't feel happy; just exhausted, relieved that it's over and glad that I can get on with training new skydivers.

**RICH'S UNWRITTEN RULES**

1. It's hard work and it will be harder than you think.
2. You don't need to be a sky god to teach a basic skydiving course – just a good basic skydiver with a safe, systematic approach.
3. Teaching is a skill that needs to be learned.
4. Don't do this for the money or the free jumps. Not only are those the wrong reasons, but you will be disappointed to find you don't get much of either.
5. The rewards can be immense, but are not financial.
6. It really is hard work and really is harder than you think.

**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**

James Kinniburgh, Netheravon  
Clinton McKenzie, Netheravon  
Alexander Anderson, Netheravon  
Andrew Livingstone, Netheravon  
Eve Mason, Langar

**FREEFLY COACH**

Christopher Mayhew, Hibaldstow

David Bloomfield, Black Knights  
Nancy Grieger, LPS  
Emma Hart, Langar

**BASIC TRACKING COACH**

Andrew Duncan, Cyprus  
Anthony Rayson, Cyprus  
Graham Jackson, JSPW(N)  
James Kinniburgh, JSPW(N)  
Jamie Hart, JSPW(N)  
Darren Drew, Sibson

**TRACKING COACH**

Christopher Mayhew, Hibaldstow

Tony Lock, APA  
John Price, Dunkeswell

**CF COACH**

Gordon Orrock, St Andrews

**CP COACH**

Michael McNulty  
Wojciech Gwiazda, Wild Geese

**FS COACH**

Julia Halstead, Blue Skies  
Liam Goddard, Hibaldstow  
Christos Sphicas, Cyprus  
Antony Mather

Laura Turner, Swansea  
Simon Perry, Langar  
Dennis Parker, Langar  
Vana Parker, Langar  
Emily Aucutt, Langar  
Michael Grocock  
Daniel Watson  
Anthony Fernyhough, Peterlee  
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**WS COACH**

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# THE LONG WAY DOWN

Taking a closer look at a cold and miserable 15,000ft reserve ride and learning a valuable lesson from it

**WORDS:** HENRY CHOW **PHOTOS:** JORDAN SIMCOE

It was a regular April Saturday that was a little chilly, but it was the UK – what else could we expect? At least the sun was out. Like thousands of jumps I had previously been on, we prepped, mocked the exit, geared-up, gear-checked and boarded for some nine-way action. Soon after our ritualistic handshake and a final gear check, the lights came on, we proceeded to spot and then set up for exit. As a rear-floater, I was the third to climb out alongside the unenviable front-float. With four of us plus a cameraflyer on the outside, it was cosy but nothing out of the ordinary.

As centre-float climbed out, I turned to face the front and put my left hand on his pack. This was my routine. Facing the front gives everyone a bit more space. My left hand on my neighbour's pack gives me the ability to keep my distance while protecting my handles as we exit should we get a little too friendly.

Ready, set – the key felt a little strange. Outside centre, who was giving the exit count, went down on 'set' unexpectedly and forcefully low. At that point, I felt a hard tug on my harness. "Hmmm, that felt weird. Damn it, I'm late." I leapt from the door while simultaneously feeling something landing on my back. "That also feels weird. Wait, what?" The next thing I knew, my friends were nowhere to be seen and I was alone under a reserve at 15,000ft. The lyrics from Eric Carmen – "All by myseeeeeeeelf..." – percolated in my head.

## BASICALLY, OOPS

My reserve pad was dangling precariously. It all made sense, so it was going to be a cold and

miserable ride down. My visor was already fogging up so I opened it, as if it wasn't already cold enough. At least my canopy was big and square, but the brilliant white was not the colour I'd like to see above my head. It took me a surprisingly long time to get my bearings; everything looked the same but inexplicably different. As I took control of the toggles, my reserve pilot chute floated merrily by 20ft above my head. It was a breezy day and, with four weeks to go before a training camp, I really could do without losing my gear. For a fraction of a second, I considered following it. Thankfully, common sense prevailed instead.

*Right 360°, left 360°, assess drift, repeat...*

"Really? 12,000ft?" I started to feel a little light-headed. Was it the lack of oxygen or was I just getting dizzy? No time to worry about that.

*Right 360°, left 360°, assess drift, repeat...*

At around 7,000ft, I started to fly straight into wind. I was a little more downwind to the main landing area than I'd like to be, but at least I had breathable air, had not turned into a popsicle and remained within the boundaries of the PLA.

After a marathon canopy ride down, I landed safely on the dropzone where a concerned staff member was waiting for me with the minibus. Two thoughts occupied my mind on the short trip back to the hangar: paperwork and ordering a new free-bag and reserve pilot chute at the soonest possible moment. I had decided there and then that searching for my kit was going to be a lost cause. On the bright

Reserve pilot chute launch



Freebag off



Cleared the tail



side, at least I wasn't wrapped around the tail of the aircraft.

## WELL, SOMETHING HAPPENED

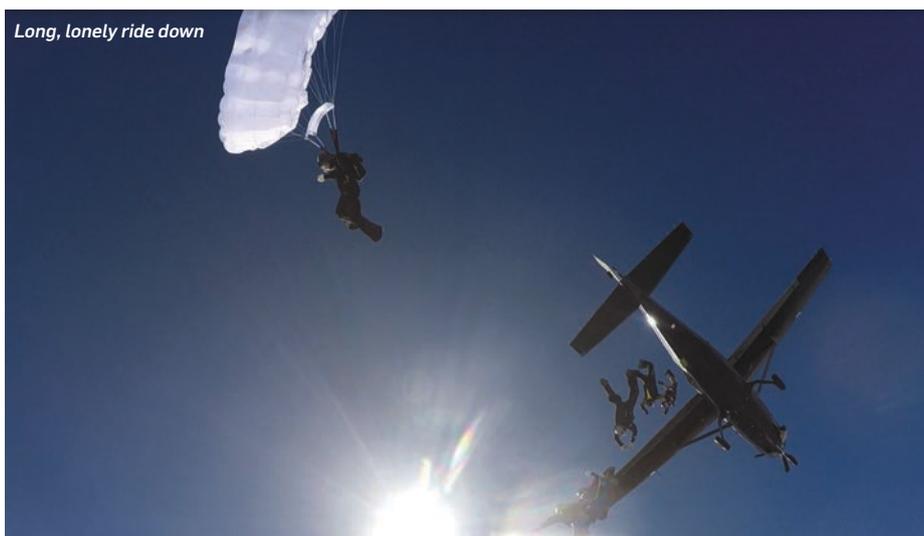
Back in the warmth, we watched the video countless times. It captured the whole thing and it looked more terrifying than it felt. The poor floater behind me got a faceful of lines and was momentarily entangled with them. If I had held onto the aircraft a moment longer



Freebag out



Limbs and lines getting friendly



Long, lonely ride down

or if the floater behind me hadn't dragged my reserve away from the aircraft, things could have ended up very differently. The frustrating thing was that we couldn't point a finger at anything specific. However, as with most incidents, it is rarely one thing but an accumulation of events.

So, what have we learnt? We could have talked through the climb out a bit more. An efficient climb out and positioning at the door

would give everyone a little more space for a better, safer exit. We could have talked about the exit key. The outside centre, who was giving the exit count, was experienced but new to the DZ, so there was potentially a familiarisation issue. Retrospectively, the up/down motion of the key was somewhat dramatic. My preference would be breathe, visible shake, then a deliberate but measured up-down-out that is visible while minimising

movements at the door. Despite the best of intentions, I could have been more assertive in keeping my handles clear – especially when space is tight.

Perhaps the most poignant lesson of all is, that no matter how many jumps you have, sh\*t can happen. Look after the little things and we can stay safe. It was a cold reminder that, to quote a cheesy 1990s movie, "Control is an illusion, you infantile egomaniac!"



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GEAR ZONE

GEAR ZONE



## Cookie Fuel Cutaway Chinstrap

If you're wearing one of Cookie's super-popular Fuel helmets with a camera, you'll need a method of cutting it away in case of a pant-filling moment. If you've got lots of weight up there, the cutaway chin cup is a great option. However, if it's just a

smaller action camera, many prefer the less-restrictive feeling of a chinstrap.

Cookie has just updated their Fuel cutaway chinstrap to feature the same ease of use as their chin cup system. The new low-profile but easy-to-access

cutaway handle allows the jumper to easily disconnect the chinstrap and, ultimately, jettison the helmet.

You can add this to your Fuel for a mere \$59, or you can configure your new one with it by selecting the requisite options on their website.

[flycookie.com](http://flycookie.com)

## GoPro Fusion

Do you like your video world in immersive 360? Then perhaps the new GoPro Fusion camera is for you.

The details are still a little thin on the ground, but what we do know is that the Fusion will feature a 5.2K resolution spherical lens that will allow the camera to capture immersive 360° footage as well as more conventional non-VR video and stills.

The video legends say that the camera will be compatible with the majority of standard mounts

and will allow content creators scope to capture some new angles that weren't previously possible.

Filming in 360°, you'll be able to 'punch out' the part of the shot you want for a conventional video or stills. That would be pretty cool for capturing something that might normally have just crept out of frame.

Although not officially launching until later in the year, GoPro are inviting 'professional content creators' to apply now to get their hands on one early. If you want to try your luck, input your details at [gopro.com/fusion](http://gopro.com/fusion).



## AON2 Brilliant Pebbles

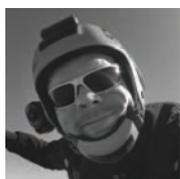
You may not have heard of AON2, but they're a UK company working their way into the altimeter market. Their first product, the Tritium, was a wrist-worn alti that replaced the numbers with a series of coloured LEDs. Although it looked cool, it didn't really take off.

Their new product, however, may well be of interest if you're looking for a cheap, no frills audible altimeter. Named the Brilliant Pebbles Audible, this new device is about as simple as it comes. There's just one button on the device, which is to turn it on, and all of the settings are sorted via a USB cable to your Mac/PC or Android device. There's currently no support for iOS, but they're working on it.

The audible will work up to 30K, offers up to 20 different alarms, can be set to feet or metres, has a

battery life of approximately two months and is recharged via USB. They're currently running a launch promotion

of just £65, with the regular price being £75. You can buy direct from their website at [aon2.co.uk](http://aon2.co.uk).



By James 'Macca' Macdonald

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info@skydivegb.com  
**skydivegb.com**  
*GA8 Airvan*

**PAGE 64** **3 Cark**  
Skydive North West Club  
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DZ: 01539 558672  
T: 01229 889516  
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk  
**skydivenorthwest.co.uk**  
*PAC 750XL*

**PAGE 64** **4 Chatteris**  
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T: 0871 664 0113  
info@ukskydiving.com  
**ukskydiving.com**  
*Twin Otter, Nomad*

**PAGE 67** **5 Cornwall**  
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cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk  
**cornishparachuteclub.co.uk**  
*Cessna 206, guest aircraft*

**PAGE 67** **6 Dunkeswell**  
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**PAGE 68** **8 Hibaldstow**  
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**PAGE 68** **10 Jersey**  
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**skydivejersey.net**  
*Cessna 206, guest turbines*

**PAGE 70** **11 Langar**  
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**PAGE 70** **12 Netheravon**  
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*Cessna 182*

**PAGE 71** **14 Peterlee**  
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*Cessna 182, Cessna Grand Caravan*

**PAGE 73** **15 Reading**  
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T: 0845 130 7194  
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*Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan*

**PAGE 73** **16 Salisbury**  
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**18 Strathallan**  
Skydive Strathallan  
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA  
DZ: 01764 662572  
T: 07836 201953  
kkbrady@btinternet.com  
**skydivestrathallan.co.uk**  
*Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine*

**PAGE 74** **19 Swansea**  
Skydive Swansea  
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea SA2 7JU  
T: 07779 019655  
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk  
**skydiveswansea.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**PAGE 74** **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 74** **21 Tilstock**  
Skydive Tilstock Freefall Club  
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA  
T: 01948 841111  
skydive@skydivetilstock.co.uk  
**skydivetilstock.co.uk**  
*Airvan*

**PAGE 63** **22 Beccles Skydivers**  
UK Parachuting  
Beccles Airfield, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE  
T: 01502 476131  
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk  
**ukparachuting.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

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

**PAGE 77** **24 Weston**  
RAF Weston on the Green, Bicester, Oxford OX25 3TQ  
Currently military only

**PAGE 77** **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, BFP0 58, Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus  
T: +357 2474 4114  
info@skydivencyprus.com.cy  
**skydivencyprus.org**  
*PBN Piston Islander*

## Parachuting Societies

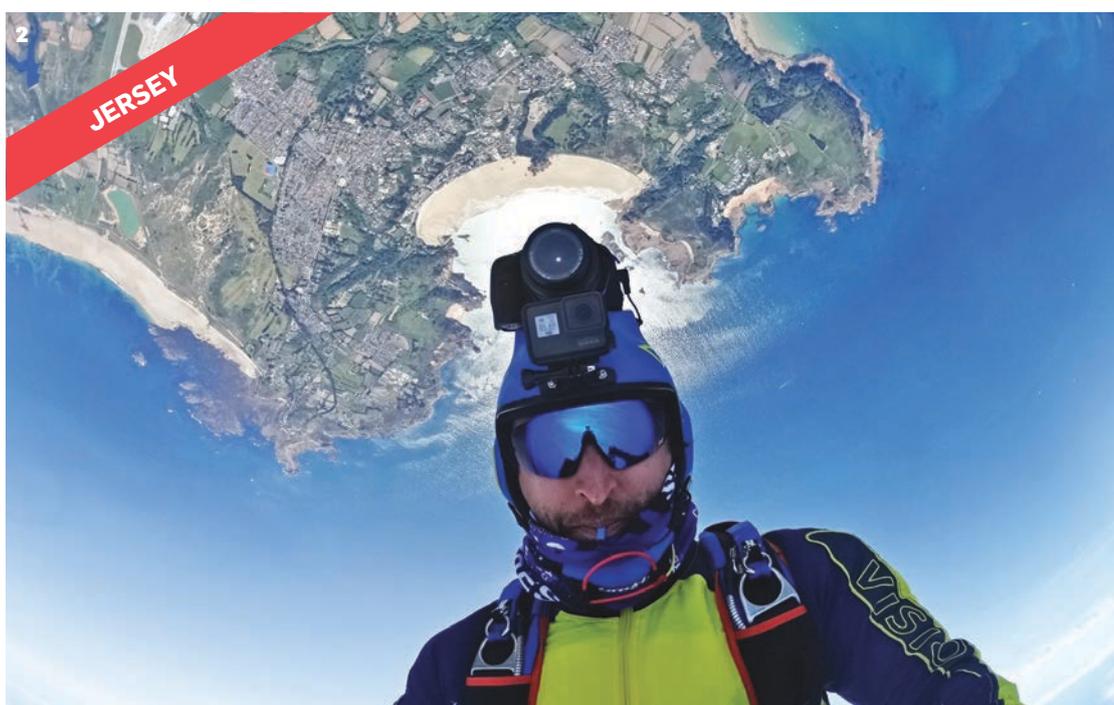
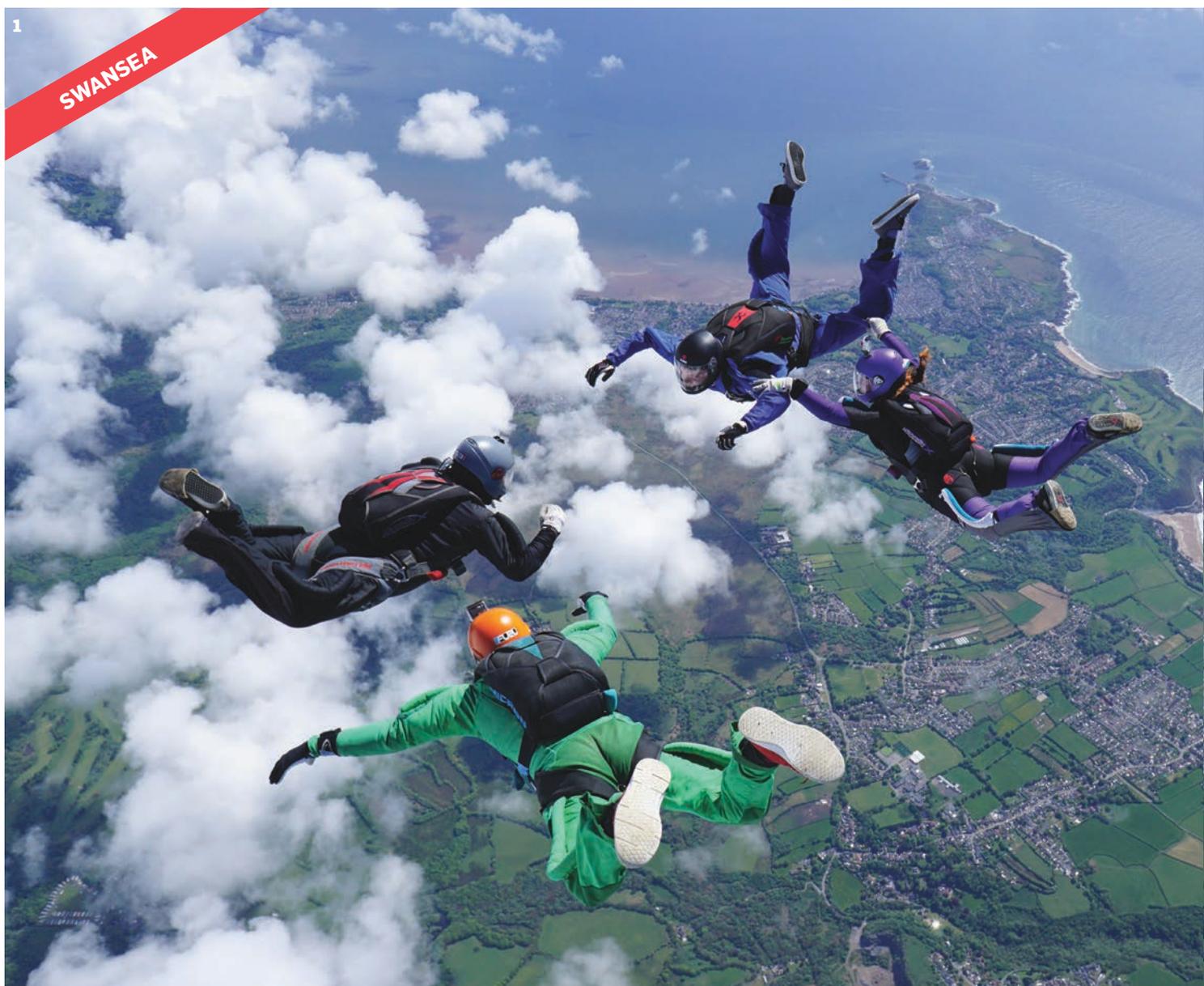
**BCPA**  
British Collegiate Parachute Association  
Sam Doughty, BCPA Chair  
mail@bcpa.org.uk  
**bcpa.org.uk**  
*A community for university skydivers*

**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** James Lewton on his FS1 dive, by Carl Williams

**2** Nigel O'Brien over St Brelade's Bay, by Alun Griffiths

**3** Matt in the Algarve, by James Moran

**4** Tandem hybrid dive to welcome a new member of staff, by Kris Cavit

**5** SOS World Record team participants, by Randy Forbes



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# NEWS

## BECCLES

### CELEBRATING THE LOSERS

**I think it** is safe to say that summer has come early to Beccles. There has been plenty of jumping, heaps of days with gorgeous weather and the return of our summer jumpers, and it's good to see you all again after your hibernation period.

Where else to start this article than with the success in this year's Scrambles competition? There were 10 teams, four rounds and 23 loads all in one day along with plenty of enthusiastic tandem students soaking up the summer sun in the air and on the ground. Congratulations to *The Losers*, consisting of Katy Saxby (Coach), Nina Clarkson, Josh Jamieson and James Colley, for winning the competition. I would also like to take the opportunity to say thanks to all the other coaches (Mike Roberts, Hari Ganapathy, Mark Walker), to James Brooke for the thankless job of editing due to Frenchy taking a holiday and to Tomo for making the competition possible.

Well done to Steve Kingdom for achieving his WS1 qualification with Javi. You did a great job, mate – blue skies await you.

#### Callum Kennedy

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Tyler Aitken, Ashley Cuan, Erwin Haag, Zafin Meng, Connor Mitchell, Tony Petheridge, Michael Smith **CH2/JM1** Nina Clarkson, Dale Leeks, Grant Lines, Andrew Picking **FS1** Lisa Lungley, Andy Picking, Karl Thackeray **FF1** Greg Lainchbury, Jon Sidebotham, Richard Welchman **WS1** Steve Kingdom **TR1** Dale Leeks, Andy Picking, Richard Welchman **TR2** Ashley Bunn **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Nina Clarkson, Dale Leeks, Grant Lines, Andrew Picking **100** Helen Kirkham, Kevin Woods **200** Sam Warburton **400** Callum Kennedy **900** Maximus Meridius **1,100** James Page



## BLACK KNIGHTS

### BLUE SKIES

**It's been like** Lanzarote at Black Knights. With temperatures soaring, the thermals are away, the guys have had their shorts out and even Paul and Phil had to cover themselves in factor 50!

April and May has been FS crazy, with thanks to Brian Cumming and Trevor Hookings for their training and guidance with the FS big-ways. Of course, we cannot forget to mention a big thanks to Mark Lord for his continued help with these events. By the time this goes to print, we will have been fortunate enough to have held the BPA FS Coaching Roadshow run by Milko Hodgkinson, Siân Stokes and Kate Lindsley at the end of May. I'm sure the photos will be in the next issue.

We have been mega busy with both AFF and RAPS students, with them taking advantage of the good weather we have had. Some of

the guys now have A Licences and some are now on their consols. Good job, you lot! Big congratulations to Annie, who now has her A Licence and managed to get her packing certificate before she was even was on her consols. Well done!

We have still got many events planned over the next few months, so make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page.

On a sad and difficult note, many of you may already be aware that our club was unfortunate enough to lose two of its most-loved members. Everybody here at Black Knights will miss them both unconditionally and our thoughts are with both family and friends. To Carl and Steve, fly free and may all your skies be blue.

#### Felix

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Annie Jackson-Elliot **CH2/JM1** Calum Davies, Martin Jenson, Mike Laverty, Mike McAndrew **CF1** Louis Cuddy, Ian Longbottom **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Calum Davies, Martin Jenson, Mike Laverty, Mike McAndrew **300** Geoff Akien **500** Mark Lord **900** Marvin Lloyd **1,100** Dave Bloomfield **FIVE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Geoff Akien **16 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Dave Bloomfield

**BLACK KNIGHTS**  
*Annie Jackson-Elliot, Paul Yeoman and Dave Simpson, by Elliot Mitchell*



**BECCLES**  
*Ashley Bunn, Jenny Clark, Mike Roberts and Mark Walker, by Dave Tee*

## BRIDLINGTON

### EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

**It has been** a few months of some sunshine, lots of wind and a fair amount of sitting around waiting for the clouds to go away. Despite this, there have been some significant achievements. Jess Saunders has sent the majority of staff and jumpers insane while deciding what to do for her 100th jump and it reached a point where simply pushing her out was an inviting option. However, 'nice bloke' Shaun Ruffell stepped up to the mark and showed her the wonders of interesting exits and fun jumping. She has been warned not to mention another significant jump number until she reaches at least 1,000.

Darren Glover, our resident swooper, also sent us into shock when he proved he can actually go above 5,000ft without turning into a pumpkin or becoming hypoxic. This rare turn of events reminded us that not only is Darren an awesome swooper, but his head down skills are fairly amazing too. The most surprising element of the jump was when he landed into wind and on his feet. That's never been seen before and I secretly thought he didn't know how to do it.

Blair Stent has worked hard and achieved his tandem rating, so Skydive GB now has two Tandem Instructors of less than 5'6" and the aircraft is definitely reaching altitude faster than it does with the big ones in there! A huge congratulations to Blair, who will be an asset to the centre. Blair also reached 3,800 jumps and 48 hours in freefall.

The Skydive GB canteen staff threw in their aprons the other week and disappeared off in a helicopter. This was a new concept for Mel and Anita, and they loved it. Thank you to John Brompton and his Wetwheels charity for helping to make this happen. There are concerns that they may now have a taste of the high life and not come back, in which case the majority of us will probably starve.

Apparently Lorah Battams stood up a landing. As there was no camera footage, this needs proving and is a matter of open debate.

Simon Huntridge has recently raised £250 for the charity CALM by jumping in an Iron Man morph suit. Unfortunately, as Simon was



**BRIDLINGTON**  
Darren Glover,  
by Sara Orton

floating, Dave Ruston was diving and ended up with his head in Iron Man's highly visible crotch. Hopefully prescription drugs will get him through this time of trauma. Dave has also completed his FS1 under the guidance of Colin Stevenson. He worked exceptionally hard to achieve this and it is well earned.

Kevin 'Mac' McCormack has starting jumping regularly again and has passed two hours in freefall. It's good to have his smiley face and very orange 'Jump Marines' helmet back on board. Mac has also been a great help with DZ control, so thank you.

There have been many tandem students through the door recently, all jumping for great causes and all with different stories. One lady who worked in a religious role caused particular amusement when she decided to fully bless me in freefall while I was filming her tandem. When we got down from the jump, she said that she had blessed me twice – she felt I may need it!

Sam Rehill has been achieving great things at Skydive GB yet again and this time it's completing his FS1 a short time after initially qualifying. Sam has a great attitude towards the sport and is not fazed by anything; he just gets on and does it. Congratulations Sam on a truly well-deserved achievement.

There have been many achievements from the fun jumpers over the past few months, which highlights that the staff at Skydive GB are ensuring the club is enabling progression alongside running a tandem programme. Thank you to those taking time out to coach others.

**Sara Orton**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** FS1 Sam Rehill, Dave Ruston **JUMP NUMBERS**  
100 Jess Saunders 200 Erik Bowie 3,000

Colin Stevenson **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Kevin McCormack **48 HOURS**  
**IN FREEFALL** Blair Stent

**CARK**

## STACKS OF FUN

**Cark's Crew** (Jordan, Dez, Dave, Becky Don, Stan and George) have been busy building varying formations, the latest being a very nice six-stack caught on camera by Stan Peake.

Phil Curtis and Cath Anderson have been visiting over the last couple

**CARK**  
Above Cark Airfield,  
by Stan Peake



of months to load organise and coach our club members. Quite a number have taken them up on the offer, building some nice 8-ways and turning at least four to five points. Many of our recently qualified members have benefited from the one-on-one coaching and are now at the FS1 qualification stage too.

The UKSL 4-way FS comp will soon be upon us on July 15-16, so don't forget to enter a team and enjoy the competition fun. A shed full of new creepers are currently being constructed in preparation for the meet.

Happy birthday to Annie, who runs the skydive shop. Thank you for the lovely cake and for all your skydiving goodies – call in and see the girls.

We have another Blyth at the DZ with the arrival of Rikki Martin. Congratulations to Dez, Sylwia and Granddad Ned. We may see Ned a bit more around the DZ depending on how Rikki sleeps!

The Rawson posse have been at dad's wallet again after Ferne completed a faultless AFF Level 1-8 with Kieran and Ian. Now on consols, Ferne is catching up with Brooke, her older sibling, who has recently achieved her FS1 after coaching by Don Blacker. Dad's eager daughters have left his wallet empty of funds but, with a gin farm in the boot of his van, his jump ticket stash will soon grow. Well done, girls.

The usual Saturday night revelry continues and the big 60 was reached by Helen Shaw – marked, of course, with cake, champagne and a little light entertainment provided by musical magician Neil Mc. With numerous bottles of bubbly provided by Martine and Kay, a few overindulged – one being our lovely Clair Armstrong, who was suffering the day after. Miller states his mum should drink more; it keeps her out of his hair and him in mischief.

With Louelle and Jo now assisting in the office at reception with Kay and Martine, the weekends now resemble an episode of *Loose Women*. Banter, laughter and high spirits (not yet, Kay) along with an air of professionalism confirms the good vibes the girls are producing for all our customers.

We have recently had an influx of visiting jumpers from both north and south of the border. It's been great to see and meet with you all and to hear that you are enjoying the PAC and its altitude. Remembering names isn't my strong point, especially when running manifest, but thanks to Fletch and George Gilchrist for your enthusiastic and honest comments about our DZ – they are greatly appreciated.

We have a number of events already published via our Facebook page. Jo will keep everyone up to date on our current and forthcoming events, so watch out for her regular postings.

Keep safe, and congratulations to all our recent achievers.

**Stu Morris**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Oscar Postlethwaite **AFF GRADUATE** Ferne Rawson **CAT8/CH1** Alistair Crossley **CH2/JM1** Emma Jane Dennis, Sangita Mistry **FS1** Emma Jane Dennis, Aaron Dickinson, Dan Schrieber, Brooke Rawson **CF1** Jordan Dickinson **IS1** Eric Bowie, Phil Wayper **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Emma Jane Dennis, Sangita Mistry **200** Jordan Dickinson **FIVE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Dez Blyth

**CHATTERIS**

## INSTANT PARTY: JUST ADD BEER

**The hot air** balloon has seen a couple of jumps already this year, so here's a reminder that your first balloon jump still counts as a beer fine (OK, OK – I'll bring mine this weekend!). Special thanks to the pilots and those who have woken up extra early to help organise and set up the balloon so that these jumps could be achieved. We rely on eager fun jumper volunteers, so please let us know if you're around to help.

A group of Chatteris regulars made their way out to the Algarve at the end of April, but the first two days of jumping were forecast to be windy so they drove to Skydive Spain! When they finally managed to jump in the Algarve, Bobby had his first taste of paddling a dinghy in order to retrieve his main from the other side of the river after his first mal (first means beer, Bobby!). I was informed that everyone did a whole lot of freeflying for the rest of the trip; proof is in the pictures.

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There are discussions for another trip away in October; more details are TBC.

May 27 saw a night to remember when we celebrated our 20th anniversary. Tanya Burton and other dedicated club members organised, and special thanks to James for providing his sausages.

An Introduction to Big-way session will be held on June 17-18 and the numbers will be restricted to eight people, so please let Chris know if you're interested in attending.

Steve North delivered an excellent skydiving-orientated First Aid course for the staff, so you can rest assured you're in safe hands at Chatteris.

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. Keep jumping to get cheap tickets!

**Sophie Barnwell**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** FS1 Anna Pav TR1 Tanya Burton, Matt Summers  
**JUMP NUMBERS** 200 James Moran, Matt Summers  
 300 Ali Atlasi, Tanya Burton, Sebastien Spagnou 400 Ali Peock 500 Alex Kean  
 800 Derek Hancock



**CORNWALL**

# IS THERE ANYTHING GAFFER TAPE CAN'T DO?

Summer came early here in Kernow, with a record-breaking April and May for jumping. We have achieved 13/14 lifts a day on more than one occasion and club jumpers have been able to do up to eight jumps a day – not bad out of a 206! The word is finally spreading across the border to jumpers far and wide about just how chilled out the skydiving scene is down this way and also how the view is well worth the journey. The offer of free beer might have something to do with it too!

The first open week of the year was very busy, with tandems and fun jumpers basking in the glorious sunshine. Keely from the café and her friend were lucky enough to be the first HALO tandems over CPC, and we all deserved a cold beer after that one. The next open week is September 4-8, so put it in your diary. You can come along enjoy the fun or pull a sicky from work, and I'm sure it will be worthwhile.

The new camera team are producing some awesome footage and photos every week – keep up the good work, lads. Being the new boys on the block, however, does have its downside at times. A thick skin is required to accept all the banter and abuse and, if your cars/vans aren't being slept in, they are being driven into while you breeze through a three-hour edit. When your camera bag isn't left in a safe place, it's being made safe by rolls of gaffer tape along with all of its contents! If your name is Guy, you'd best avoid Monty and me when we have a cough so you're not the 'butt' of our joke!

**CORNWALL**  
 By Guy Wells

**DUNKESWELL**  
 Verdun Hayes, by Dan Guest

Well done to Mumbles for racing through to 400 jumps. The guys are loving having you around to freely with along with your camera (when it's working).

Guy racked up his 1,300th skydive and paid his beer fine before his name made the board – take note, all you beer offenders. I would stop you putting your name on the manifest board until you paid up if we had a manifest board. I might have to get one...

Lex is trying hard to get his name at the top of the CPC Door 2 Floor board, but has forgotten who he is actually up against.

Another record is held by our AFF student Ross, who did Levels 1-5 in one day. He could have completed easily, but took a three-hour lunch break to settle his nerves with a rattler or two.

Red Neck has been working hard as always with improvements on "his" plane. When I say improvements, I obviously mean turning more and more of it bright orange!

While I'm talking about staff, it's probably best that I mention our new "under training" packer formerly known as "doughnut lady". Also, we wouldn't be able to manage without the help of our junior staff team of Ozzy, Brook and Maddy (your uniform is on order).

We are looking forward to our upcoming display season with jumps onto golf courses, beaches and even the sea.

In other news, "and worth a mention as it's not a regular thing", Chainsaw is creeping further ahead in the Wood Cup Annual Golf Challenge. It is, however, still early.

Keep a good eye for each other up there, guys, and stay safe until the next time.

**UBI**

**DUNKESWELL**

# OUR OLDIES ARE GETTING BOLDER!

This year, skydivers have seen an increase in older people taking up this extreme sport. The 100-year-old D-Day veteran Verdun Hayes became the UK's oldest skydiver when he jumped last year and he loved it so much he has done it again. This time, he set the World Record! Mr Hayes completed his jump on May 14 2017 at the age of 101 years and 38 days, beating the existing record by 35 days!

Our first big event to kick off this year was the first UKSL 4-way Meet. The event was attended by 11 teams, with most teams in AA, A and Rookie. There was a single AAA entry. We had the Beech99 available on Saturday and added a second Beech99 on Sunday to ensure that the competition was finished by lunchtime.

On Saturday morning, we found it was not to be and the weather put a hold on proceedings until around 6pm. They were able to complete two rounds before close of play on Saturday night. Sunday morning



brought better weather and, with two aircraft, the meet was finished by about 1pm. This event was lightly attended by UKSL standards, which could well be due to the weather forecast. However, a great meet was had by all who did attend, with a fab atmosphere over the whole weekend. The results were:

**AAA – Gold:** *Manatee*

**AA – Gold:** *Pajama Pumas* **Silver:** *Vantage* **Bronze:** *Dive Hard 4.0*

**A – Gold:** *Poor4Cast* **Silver:** *Boobasaurus Rex* **Bronze:** *Jurassic Park*

**Rookie – Gold:** *RAFSPA Shadow* **Silver:** *Aero4m* **Bronze:** *Let's do it girls!*

There are some periods this summer when we are open for five, seven or even 10 days in a row. Please check our diary online or on Facebook (Skydive99 – Dunkeswell).

**Miko**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Karol Karpinski **CAT8/CH1** Louise Downton, Amy Schaverien, Macauley Shaw **CH2/JM1** Duncan Davidson, Lauren Miles **FS1** Liz Hourahine, Mona Nasser, Callum Norman **TR1** Richard Hamer, Konrad Wysocki **FF1** Max Hogg **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Duncan Davidson, Lauren Miles **100** Shelby Collins, Liam Mather, Matthew Offer-Hoar, Emile Waite-Taylor **200** Garrick Ingham, Chris O'Mahony, Konrad Wysocki **500** Leighton Cross **700** Joseph Graves

**HEADCORN**

# REACH FOR THE SKY

The season has started! After the winter lay-off, it's been great to see the dropzone buzzing again. We've already witnessed some fabulous jumping and zealously patriotic scenes of the demo team training with flags against a backdrop of wheeling Spitfires. Such fun!

Charlie Wakeham's FS load organising has proved very popular. Fortunately, he's used to being the centre of attention. The organised loads have brought some structure and progression to the start of the season, so I'm sure we'll be setting new Headcorn records soon!

Also, Mary Barratt is now offering CF coaching and organising as part of Walk-Up Wednesdays. There's nothing better than bit of midweek canopy bashing so, if you're free on a Wednesday, give it a go.

Speaking of having a go, there was an excellent turnout for this year's regional Accuracy meet. It wasn't just men in tight trousers, but there was a good showing in the Rookie and Intermediate categories too. Well done to everyone who took part in what were tricky wind conditions.

Progression briefings are happening regularly, load organising and coaching is dragging out hidden talents and, now that Lee's back, the packing shed is clean too! So come on down and get your summer on!

**Soapy**



“With our window of opportunity for jumping being while the tide has dropped, we need to be as efficient as possible”

**HEADCORN**  
Club members prior to a fun speed star jump, by Bernard Devine

**HIBALDSTOW**

# HI-VIS – THE NEW INVISIBILITY

Here at Skydive Hibaldstow, we have had a mountain of achievements despite battling the elements. Cheryl Watson smashed through her AFF and received her A Licence – she's a tenacious fellow. Our very own Tom Whipps and Marcin Martinez also succeeded in achieving their A Licences and are powering onto FS coaching. A B Licence was also awarded to Adam Parker, Rob Johns, Mike Stanford and Marco Rizzi, and FS1s went to Chris Gonnerman, Jake Willoughby, Ryan Hartigan and Johann Pretorius. With Nationals looming ever closer, there has been an abundance of teams taking to the sky trying to become the best of the best.

In April, Hibaldstow held a BPA Tandem Course and AFF Course. Congratulations to all who passed, including our own Neil Oliver, who annihilated the course and got his TI rating.

As well as a BPA Course, we also had Bruno Geada here! As the Canopy Course was in full swing, we saw a mass of improvement by all jumpers involved and the staff coaching day was just as successful. Also on the Canopy Course were some of our new Earn and Learn! These guys are the backbone of the DZ and can often be seen walking around in hi-vis jackets, trying to sneak onto loads. If you see these guys, say hello! The new additions are Rob Johns, Tom Whipps, Chris Gonnerman, Marcin Martinez, Shaun Zerebecki and little Liam Pyne.

With Stubert and Matty Mitchell's and even Ally Milne's groups growing ever bigger and more impressive along with the influx of tandems, we have been seeing two aircraft taking to the sky to make the most out of the ever-improving weather and take full advantage of the new and improved Caravan. However, you have to be here to experience it yourself! See you soon.

**Sophie Harper**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Rob Corbridge, Marcin Martinez, Pheobie Scott, Tom Whipps **CH2/JM1** Rob Johns, Adam Parker, Marco Rizzi, Mike Stanford **FS1** Chris Gonnerman, Ryan Hartigan, Johann Pretorius, Jake Willoughby **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Rob Johns, Adam Parker, Marco Rizzi, Mike Stanford **100** Chris Gonnerman, Sam Hall, Jordan Lomas, Emma Watson **200** James Brown, Martin Leedley, Ryan Logan **700** Braedon Dimmock **900** Neil Oliver

**JERSEY**

# A BANG UP JOB

With the mercury rising, it's been high times for the SDJY Club. The enthusiasm is palpable and there are big smiles all round the DZ.

The Easter weekend saw a kickstart to the season, with Bella's bangers on the beach raising the profile of the Club and the tandem opportunities. We clothed the passers by in SDJY merch and sold sausages sizzled on the SDJY BBQ to raise always-needed funds for the Club. The barbie was expertly crafted by The Car Clinic, one of our local partners, and it's a thing of beauty. It's also on its own trailer so we can cook on the beach to enjoy bangers and beer at the end of those balmy summer days.

Helping Wings is a local charity with a mission statement: "Enabling the disadvantaged and the disabled of all ages to share the exhilaration and fulfilment of flying". One recent recipient of their help, Chakotay Wood, experienced flight through this scheme and was so grateful for the change it made to his life that he chose to get right out his comfort zone and let himself be strapped to Mal for a tandem jump. That's a courageous feat for most people, but Chakotay has a rare form of spina bifida and so displayed another level of heroics entirely. He raised £2,500 in sponsorship and donated it to the charity which helped him, so enabling others to enjoy the life-affirming experiences he'd benefited from. That's a great example to set, so kudos from all of us at the club.

With our window of opportunity for jumping being while the tide has dropped, we need to be as efficient as possible to maximise the

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**HUGE NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH | NO BOOGIE FEES**

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number of loads in a day. Things have been turning around super smoothly the last few weeks, so big thanks to everyone who makes it happen and gives up their time to support the club – stalwarts Brian, Claire Allen, Bella and Joe Kennedy to name only a few. Keen aviators Mike and Anne Fleming have been enjoying the club vibe and have been getting stuck in on the ground operations, which is really appreciated by everyone too.

We will have a visiting Turbine – a Cessna Caravan – on August 21-24. Visit [skydivejersey.net/experienced](http://skydivejersey.net/experienced) for details and, if you've always said you wanted to visit Jersey, what are you waiting for?

Last but not least, Matt Falloon had a fantastic day in the sky on May 14. He took control of the Piper Warrior training aircraft on his own for his first solo circuit – a massive milestone on the piloting flight path – and topped it off with a skydive at the end of the day. You're living the dream, big up Matt!

**Nigel O'Brien**

**LANGAR**

## DON'T BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE

**Thank you to** everyone who made Boogie One a brilliant event! We managed 148 loads (that's just over 2,000 skydives) and saw lots of new faces as well as our regulars. FOXY Plane provided super-fast lifts and organisers Will Cooke, Phil Curtis, Jim Bradwell, Taff Davies of *4mula* and the *Parallel Freely* guys provided the organising along with other Instructors, Coaches and organisers too numerous to mention here. The jumpers made the most of Performance Designs and NZ Aerosports demo canopies and other gear from Cookie and UPT, so thanks to Al and Pixie Hodgson (NZ, Cookie, UPT) and Hans van Marewijk (PD).

The new Langar fire-pit proved a popular evening venue and, of course, we had all the usual entertainments, including live music by Jamie Oliver's band Dumbjaw – sorry, not the UK Subs! Jamie's been skydiving with us for a while now, and you can check out his Skydiver Profile interview on the news pages at [skydivelangar.co.uk](http://skydivelangar.co.uk).

Photos and videos of everything Boogie-related are on our Facebook page as ever, and we'll do it all again but bigger and better at Boogie Two from September 9-17.

The April B Licence Day run by Simon Dickinson was well-attended and the weather played fair, so they even got to jump! Pete Harries provided packing tuition to complete the package, so it was a very successful course.

The Angle Flying weekend by Kim Törnwall and Ally Milne was also rather good – "awesome" was the general view – and there is a great Dynamic Flying video edited by Chris Cook available via Facebook. More of these jumps to come!

The May coaching event was a great weekend of jumping, with a bit of pretty much every discipline going on: Formation Skydiving coaching and groups, Freely, Canopy Piloting and a Canopy Formation Scrambles competition too.

**JERSEY**

**Patented Bella track along St Aubin's beach, by Alun Griffiths**

On the downside, ticket prices have increased by a small amount. We've avoided any increase for the last six years, but now the time has come. On the upside, you'll get a bit more freefall time for your money because we have put our normal exit height up to 14,000ft. There are still discounts for bulk purchases and any jump tickets you already own are still valid.

To make sure we've still got plenty of capacity for fun jumpers during the busy UKSL Formation Skydiving competition in June, we're bringing in a super-fast Supervan to complement our fleet and it will be here right through the following weekend too. That's with us for the whole period of June 10-18, so come and take advantage!

Don't forget, details of all events are published on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/skydivelangar](https://facebook.com/skydivelangar).

**Tony Danbury**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT 8/CH1** Jamie Ball, Jake John, Aaron Klewchuk, Michael Simmers, Murray Speight **CH2/JM1** Gary Topping **FF2** Joe Frankel, Dylan Morris-Roberts **FS1** Kallie Dickens, Trevor Henegan, Aaron Klewchuk, Jake John **TR1** Peter Boone, Josh Bryon, Aidan Chaffe, Chris Edwards, Josh Haigh, Chris Keene, Ania Kulak, Lucy Marriot, Dan Mills, Jamie Oliver **TR2** Rich Rajowski, Steph Stylianou **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Kallie Dickens, Becky Jarvis **100** Dave Eyre, Ed Hill, Hallam Knight **200** Chris Edwards **400** Matt Cumming **500** Ryan Garner **600** David Gagno, Emily Sugars **800** Dylan Morris-Roberts **900** Cath Anderson **3,500** Nick Robinson **168 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Phil Curtis



**NETHERAVON**

**Martin Leadly, Olli Dixon and Catherine Folley, by Harry Shanker**

**NETHERAVON**

## AWESOME APRIL AND MAGNIFICENT MAY!

**The past two** months have seen some great sunny days of skydiving at Netheravon. Here is just a snapshot of what's been going on.

**WELCOME TO OUR WORLD**

We've had an awesome spring with hardly a day of jumping weathered out. Students have been progressing through their AFF and each weekend has seen planeloads of static line jumpers complete their first-ever skydives and then go on to do more! Welcome to the APA.

**SCRAMBLE SUCCESS**

Wow! Six 4-way teams and all rounds completed. The return of FS Scrambles to Nethers was a resounding success, with everyone raving about the event. A huge thank you goes out to organisers Franky Rutherford, Claire Humphries and Vince Adams for making this such a fun competition. Many new friendships were formed and, without doubt, this has to be one of the best ways to make new FS jumping buddies. Well done to *No Chance* for taking the gold – well deserved! The next Scrambles comp is during the Solstice Boogie. Sign up for it NOW!

## FULL ON FOR THE FREEFLYERS

It's been a crazy season so far for our freeflying community. They've had events on almost every weekend, with jumpers picking up log book stickers and amazing skills being developed. It's hard to pick out any single event to highlight but, when skydive legend Kim Törnwall visited in April, he definitely knew how to get the best out of our freeflyers. Kim took full advantage of our growing skill base and, with the help of the beautiful April sunshine, made our freeflyers look even more fantastic than ever. Thanks Kim, and see you again soon!

## DEMOS GALORE!

Han van Marrewijk from PD Designs visited us in April and brought with him a huge range of PD stock. Over the weekend, members got the chance to jump new canopies and even try out reserves without having to experience a malfunction! Being able to discuss kit issues with a subject expert was an opportunity that was taken up by many. Hans was overwhelmed by the warm welcome he received and is looking forward to visiting us again.

## HAPPY LANDINGS

Wez Westley's PD Flight 101 and 102 courses were fully booked this May, with 10 jumpers on the first module and eight on the second. With canopy handling being fully explained in the classroom, jumpers put the theory into action under Wez's watchful eye. Each jump was individually analysed and debriefed. The result? Confident, competent and safe canopy pilots. There are more courses coming up, so keep your eyes on our Facebook events page.

## BIG-WAY BONANZA

Trevor Hookings has been really busy over the last couple of months with load organising for all levels. There have been four events in two months, and each one has been well supported and seen FS jumpers of all experience levels challenge their comfort zones, progress and have fun. Trevor will be load organising again at the Solstice Boogie on June 24-25. Sign up on Facebook NOW!

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE

The Solstice Boogie is on June 24-25 and is going to be the best event of the year! We've got load organisers and coaches to look after everybody of every experience level and there'll be something going on both in the air and on the ground, so don't wait for the weather report – just do it! Boogie on down to the Hippy Party on Saturday night – you might win one of our unbelievable raffle prizes – but one thing is guaranteed: you'll have a great time! Register on our Facebook page or call 01980 628250 now!

By the time this goes to press, Netheravon will have hosted their sixth National Wingsuit Competition. With APA members ranking high in the British field, we hope they had a great competition – again!

## Elana Cain

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Zaheer Ahmed, Stephen Evans, Iain Grant, Nathan Lewington, Nadia Pavlov, Jordan Rawlings, Michael Veevers **CH2/JM1** Aaron Dickenson, Dave Hillier, David Jenkins **FS1** Aaron Dickenson, Graham Glass, Alexandria Goodman, Iain Grant, Dave Hillier, Kerrie McGeown, Nathan Read, Michael Veevers **FF1** Michael Bayada, Catherine Folley, Si Goodman, Kathryn Owen, Jim Thomas **WS1** Jason Mackenzie **TR1** Iain Grant, Jim Thomas **TR2** Richard Ham, Jason Mackenzie **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Aaron Dickenson, Dave Hillier, David Jenkins **100** Michael Bayada, Owen Evans, Kathryn Owen **200** Khadak Chhetri, Catherine Folley, Carl Hobbs, Jeremy Millward **600** Si Goodman **800** Colin Jenkins, Sue Nuttall **1,000** Kara **4,000** Tom Blakey **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Owen Evans **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Jim Thomas **10 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Si Goodman, Colin Jenkins

## PETERLEE

# ON THE WAY UP

We've seen lots of progression happening over the last couple of months, from first freefalls to A Licences and a few milestone jump numbers. Very well done to Mary Sunter, who recently qualified thanks to her persistence and dedication. It goes to show that being at the DZ even when the conditions don't look suitable and doing daily revision does pay off.

We welcome Mark Robson back to the sport. After 28 years, he has finally returned and is doing AFF with GoJump@TheAFFSchool.



## PETERLEE

**Team Go Jump**  
**8-way Speed Star,**  
by Alan Thompson

We also welcome Heather McMullan to the team. Heather has joined us as 'Charity, groups, corporate sales and marketing coordinator'. As the name suggests, Heather will be targeting charities and businesses primarily for tandem sales.

Over the weekend of April 22-23, we held the second Caitlyn Jade Smith Memorial 8-way Speed Star event. Paul Moore and Lisa Stephenson took the helm in organising the event, which was a great success. The weather played ball and we fielded two full teams this year, with *Go Speed* (Shell Meakins, John Horne, Henry Simmons, John Welsh, Gary Owen, Caitlyn Stewart, James Perry and Dan Tully) taking the trophy. Thanks to Alan Thompson for the awesome camera work for both teams throughout the day, a special thanks to Janet Willcox for her efforts preparing the food for the after-competition party and a final thanks to everyone who donated to the raffle. We managed to raise £200 for Diabetes UK, which is Stephen Smith's chosen charity and is very close to his heart.

We have also been filling the bad weather days with useful events, having run packing courses and a safety day which was fantastically well attended. Our Instructors also presented some invaluable seminars. Many thanks to all who attended and contributed.

## Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** Josh Come, Alex Llewelyn, Jack Lloyd, Mary Sunter **CAT8/CH1** Paul Flemming, Matt Penney, Mary Sunter **FF1** Luke Lonsdale **TR1** Philip Wayer **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Luke Lonsdale **300** David Houghton, Henry Simmons, Mehdi Shabanzadeh

## POPS

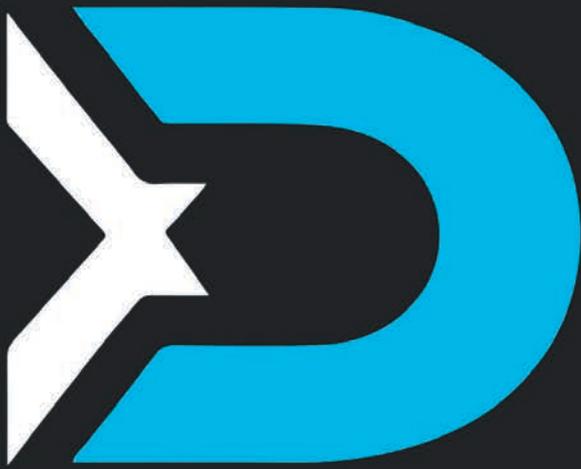
# NOT SLOWING DOWN

**The British contingent** for the World Record attempts in Skydive Perris this year comprised Stewart Brooks, Stuart Charlton (UK POPS 515), John Kallend, Peter Stone (UK POPS 871) and Ron Wands (UK POPS 765). New JOS, SOS and female SOS (sequential) records were achieved. For more, turn to p42.



## POPS

**Team Apollo**  
**training at Skydive**  
**Netheravon for the**  
**World Meet 2018**  
**(Polly Chandler,**  
**Nicola and John**  
**Bagwell and Jo**  
**Haggarty), by**  
**Simon Donnelly**



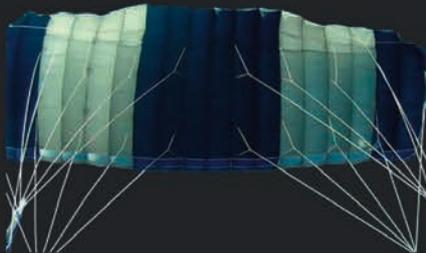
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Alti-2 altimeters (Atlas, Galaxy)

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We now hold a large stock of rental gear including AADs, canopies, and complete rigs. No long term contracts and easy payment by Direct Debit. More info at [xds.uk/rentals](http://xds.uk/rentals)

## New Gear

The highly anticipated L&B Protrack II and the PD Horizon wingsuit canopy are both now available to order. With prices on imported goods at a 7 month low, it's a great time to buy!



**OUR UPCOMING EVENTS ARE:**

**French POPS Record:** Paris Jump, St. Florentin – June 5-9 2017 (www.pops-france.fr)

**Italian POPS Meeting and Championship:** DZ BFU Reggio Emilia, Italy – June 2-4 2017 (www.popsitalia.it)

**European POPS Record:** Eisenach, Germany – June 26-July 4 2017

**POPS UK Scrambles and Speed Star:** Dunkeswell – July 1-2 2017 (parachutistsoverphortyuk@gmail.com)

**Skyvan Boogie:** Skydive Fano – July 21-23 and September 4-10 2017 (info@skydivefano.com)

**POPS UK 40/50-way Record:** Langar – September 11-15 2017 (Contact Jack Felstead)

More details are available on the Australia World Championship and Meet at www.popsworldmeet.com.

**Polly Chandler (TOP POP #11)**



**RAPA**

**FALL OUT**

**April 22 saw** RAPA's last ever party! Due to the drawdown of British troops in Germany, the military powers were finally forced to start the closure of the iconic DZ at Bad Lippspringe. The DZ has been a home for many skydivers over the years and I still find it amazing that, no matter which continent I go to, there is always someone I bump into who has jumped at RAPA.

Many older skydivers will gladly tell their stories of RAPA in its heyday when a normal weekend would consist of jumping out of various military planes and helicopters and partying hard throughout the night. Our 'Uncle Tom's' bar would surely make a few of them blush with tales of its nightly shenanigans too!

Personally, I started my skydiving 'career' here at RAPA in early 2000 as an assistant staff member and would argue that it was possibly the best year of my life. After coming back as a fun jumper for several years and then again finally as the DZO, I would like to think that I made full use of the Bad Lipp experience as many before and after me have done.

That farewell party was celebrated in true RAPA style with a blazing fire, food, beer and many stories of years gone past. We even enjoyed a German version of the Scottish pipes and drums. We chose to laugh about the good times instead of the fact that it is essentially the end of an era and did much laughing and reminiscing until the early hours of Sunday morning. It was the perfect way to show our appreciation of such an iconic DZ and the many stories it takes with it.

**Rob Kendall**

**READING**

**START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON**

**An extremely busy** and eventful start to our season at LPS brought some new faces to our dropzone; the extremely enthusiastic Freefly Nancy and her Tandem Instructor partner Wilco. A big warm LPS welcome to you both. Welcome also to Becky Hill, our ace new TI.

**READING**

**Richard Allen and Becky Hill, by Paul Floyd**

**RAPA**

**RAPA's final party, by Bish**

“No matter which continent I go to, there is always someone I bump into who has jumped at RAPA”

Nick Brownhill has joined the team too. Steve Scott has joined us to safely pilot us to the top – hi Steve! It's great to have such experienced and friendly staff on the team.

Meanwhile, Katie Unwin got back into the sky after a short layoff and it was nice to see her smile after her first few 'bottle-it' jumps. As ever, Marie-Ann Stevens was on hand for some moral support and a bit of company in the sky.

Cameraflyer James Mundy decided to buy some new lenses for his prescription goggles. He hadn't intended to do that, however, and did so after a cutaway caused a mean-looking riser strike across the face, resulting with an impressive bruise and a missing lens! Sadly, it didn't turn into the mean and moody scar he was hoping for to complete his 'cool guy' look. His reserve was repacked, he bought his new goggles and life went back to normal for him. Better luck next time, James. Chris Stone kept him company and had his first chop – beer!

The ground crew have been busy with their new and improved task list. Cl Jay Webster has been whipping them into order, getting them slick at refuels and catching and getting the steps to the plane sorted as well as editing. In between hiding from Martin and being whipped by Jay, they have managed to amass some fab skydiving beer fines too.

Trystan Allen and Charley Lawson got their A Licences, Mike Charnock and Matthew Stevens got their B Licences and both Mike C and Josh Allen got their FS1s. Trystan and Josh convinced their dads to get up in the sky on tandem jumps too. Club jumpers Stefan Inge and Wendy Smith both qualified for FS1s and Androniki Parasyri achieved her B Licence. Tamsyn notched up 300 jumps and Victor K got his FF. Well done to our AFF student Daniel Surtees on getting his A Licence. His face was a picture when he arrived in reception to pay for his first club jump, kit hire and packing for only £35! Happy days, Daniel – it doesn't really get cheaper now, you'll start buying gear too!

On April 22, we held the Jane Allen Memorial Cup. The fire pit was lit, the assault course prepped, a £300 pizza order was placed and a great night was had by all. Alex (bust the tower) Fixsen, our visiting pilot from Texel with the Supervan, took part in the assault course against Jane's husband Richard, dad to our Joshy, and his sister Zoe did a tandem the same day. It was an emotional event in memory of a brave lady. And thanks to Dennis and Julie for hosting us. The Supervan took us all a bit by surprise as we reached altitude in the quickest time ever – the Gs took a bit of getting used to. Nice to meet you, Alex!

And finally, a great big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Gary Stevens. How on earth he has reached 50 years of age without Marie-Anne hanging him, we'll never know!

Nearly forgot #markclayton.

**Annie Lewis**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Trystan Allen, Charley Lawson, Daniel Surtees CH2/JM1 Mike Charnock, Androniki Parasyri, Matthew Stevens FS1 Stefan Inge, Wendy Woo Smith FF2 Victor Kochemirovskiy **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Mike Charnock, Androniki Parasyri, Matthew Stevens 300 Tamsyn Greetings 500 Roger Davis

**SALISBURY**

**NORMAN KENT VISITS GOSKYDIVE**

**The Hollywood freefall** photographer and cinematographer Norman Kent has visited the team at GoSkydive for the second year running to give a series of exclusive hands-on training and development sessions. Aimed at advancing the teams' camera skills, Norman's





visit demonstrates GoSkydive's investment to creating the ultimate tandem skydiving experience for customers.

Norman Kent, from El Paso in Texas, has been a photographer and cinematographer for more than 45 years and has spent many of them as a skydiving and aerial cinematographer, director of photography and stuntman. In the skydiving community, Norman has earned the accolade of the world's best skydiving cinematographer.

With 'delivering an exceptional customer experience' being at the heart of the GoSkydive brand, Norman was invited to visit the team to inspire and share new techniques on how to capture and create the best possible freefall photography and cinematography.

Norman's three-day visit to GoSkydive included a series of workshops and presentations to critique the team's video work and both filming and flying techniques. These techniques were then put into practice by the team, with flight position training in freefall conducted with Norman.

During his visit, Norman said: "I'm really excited to be visiting GoSkydive. The commitment to customer service here is exceptional and that is demonstrated through their investment in cameraflyer training. The team here at GoSkydive already have a great reputation for creating unforgettable experiences for customers, but it's fantastic to see that they're all open to learning new ways they can do or improve upon what is already being done."

**Rachael Hallett**

**SWANSEA**

## ALL THE WAY TO 15K

Going to 15,000ft on Fridays (and Bank Holidays) is both back and now the norm, and is proving very popular with our regulars. If anyone requires Accuracy coaching, this is the day to do it – I tend to do DZ control on Fridays.

Remember to book time off at work to enter this year's National Championships on August 1-4. Despite the competition being run during the week, early indications are that this suits many people who may not have otherwise entered because they work at DZs. We're hoping to see some new faces this year!

On the jumping side of things, a big congratulations to Anthony Rabey for completing his 100th jump, Steve Adams for completing his 200th, Matt Oakley for completing his 400th and Grayson Summers for completing his 1,600th.

Sara deserves a mention for working with Brian Stokes to completely overhaul the website, which now looks brilliant. G-SYLV has a new hangar to move in and out of, and this also doubles up as an overflow packing area when required.

All in all, things are gearing up for another cracking year at one of the most scenic DZs around. We look forward to seeing you all sometime this year.

**Carl Williams**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 James Giddings, Rhys Jenvey FF1

**SALISBURY**

**Norman Kent**  
working with the  
GoSkydive team

**SWINDON**

Ross in the Algarve,  
by Aaron

Steve Adams, Michael Walsh **FS1** Eloy Navarro, Michael Price  
**JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Anthony Rabey 200 Steve Adams  
400 Matt Oakley 1,600 Grayson Summers

**SWINDON**

## WHAT HAPPENS ON TOUR...

What a **jumpastic** start to the season we have had. In an effort to dodge the dreary March weather, Redlands on Tour decamped to the Algarve. As we stood in the cold watching the conveyor belt of cloud float by on the winds, it felt as though we were still in Swindon. However, with perseverance and Brucie beasting the early starts to ensure we were all on load one, we managed to make the most of the sunny bits and the stunning coastal views proved we were certainly not in Swindon! Making the most of the large Dornier door and extra altitude saw us building a few larger formations and even a hybrid. Coaching was going on at all levels, with progression towards B Licences, jump numbers being attained, Ross getting his TR1 and Julia becoming our newest FS Coach – congratulations! Thanks also to Amanda for ensuring we all ate, drank and made merry in the evenings.

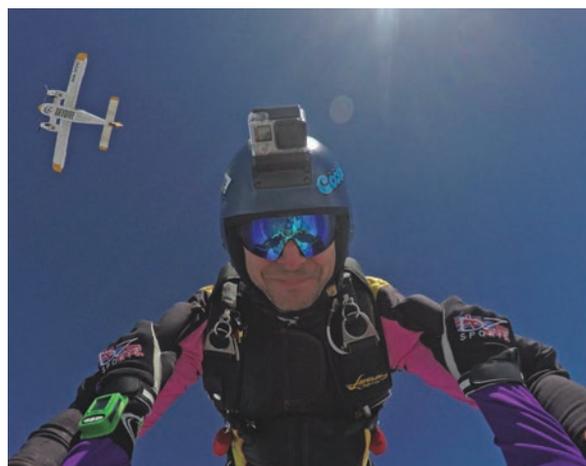
Back at home, Jonny and I have passed the AFF Instructors course and are excited to be working with our new AFF students. Ant Andrews finally knuckled down and concentrated for a whole skydive to get his FF Coach rating and then swiftly went on to help Chris Wall to gain a fancy FF2 sticker to add to his collection. Nice work, guys.

Hosting the *Silver Stars Display Team* training camp for two weeks kept the DZ unusually busy midweek and, while Brucie moaned like a tantrum-throwing teenager at having to do some work and fly the plane, it did provide yet more opportunity for our club jumpers to sneak onto the aircraft for some cheeky hop and pops. It was great to see some CF being flown above our fields.

Last but by no means least, a massive congratulations to Chrissy who, despite a severe dose of flu in the days before, successfully ran the London Marathon. All the hard work and training paid off and it was smiles all round as she crossed the finish line. Well done – we are super proud of you!

**Jenny Bouquet**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Daniel Clements **CH2/JM1** Amanda Carrigan, Joe Saunders **TR1** Ross Walker **FF2** Chris Wall **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Amanda Carrigan 100 Joe Saunders 200 Ellie Bramer, The Gerrish 1,700 Ant Andrews



**TILSTOCK**

## MAKE TILSTOCK GREAT AGAIN

In another fun-packed episode, we've all been having fun in the sun – or something like that. The odd start to the year continues to



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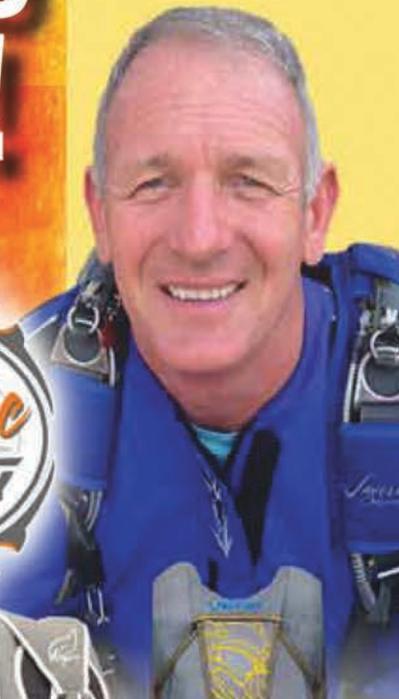


**GATORZ**



**Dave Ruffell**

National Team - 8 way  
World Meet Participant - 8 way  
4, 8, 16, Swoop & Accuracy  
Competitor  
World Team Participant  
Chief Instructor, Coach,  
AFF Instructor & Tandem Master  
Has over 10,000 Jumps  
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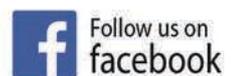
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confuse and bemuse us all but just because we haven't jumped quite as much as we would like hasn't stopped us from being busy bees!

Last year was our best year in terms of jump numbers, with both more tandem and club jumps than ever before, so well done to one and all, staff and club members alike, for their continued support and efforts. Talking of which, we recently held our club AGM where Buzz shared a number of his hopes and aspirations for the DZ over the next few years – there are lots of exciting things to come! The first of these is to give the clubhouse and packing hall a new roof. We'll be following this up with a spring clean and a spruce up. There is only quite so much you can do with what is effectively a temporary building and we are looking to redevelop our facilities in the future, so watch this space.

Our club jumpers are developing their skills and we are growing some more Instructors, with Pete Dickens and Dan Griffiths preparing for their CSBI courses this autumn. Dan and Pete are already qualified as CH Coaches and our other Dan (Cope) has qualified as a FS Coach. Roger Hughes is back with us regularly, so we are benefiting from his skills and he is adding to his ratings with a TBI course booked for the autumn. Development of our coaching for club members can be seen in some of the wider events planned for this year, with a CF course on June 30 and an open week in September.

Along with Roger came Sarah Drummond, who clearly stood still for too long and has now been recruited as the latest member of our manifold team. Welcome, Sarah – keep moving next time.

The club has been developing in other ways too with one of our camera jumpers, Aiden Chaffe, having increased his family with the addition of a beautiful baby girl. Congratulations to Aiden and Pippa!

Piotr Czartolomny somehow managed to spend enough time away from skydiving, gliding and sailing (oh, and work as well) to finally marry Malgorzata. Some of you may have seen photos of him in his wedding suit on Facebook and I'm sure you'll agree that it takes a man of considerable confidence to carry that look off! Well done – mainly for the marriage bit, but also for the suit (it was epic). Piotr's daughter Kamila has also been hooked into the joy of skydiving, having now completed her ground course and first jump.

Foreign skies are being sampled again this year, with trips already organised to Russia and planned to the USA – jokes about which country Donald Trump will be in at the time are to be avoided. We are also looking towards Canada this year as we said a sad farewell to Rich Scott, who has moved to the other side of the Atlantic. However, it does mean a source of free accommodation close to a number of Canadian dropzones – thanks Rich!

Also, it's good to see our students developing their packing skills and building on the recent packing course. The modern equivalent of all-in wrestling is still being 'enjoyed' and it's definitely an amusing spectator sport (especially the tangle tests).

Lastly, talk of a specialist jump ship later this year is not all hot air and a very interesting idea is being floated around. Hopefully details will be available by the next edition of the Mag.

**Gary Windon**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CH2/JM1 Alastair Allen JM1 Piotr Czartolomny IS1 Ellie Southworth TR1 Pete Dickens **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Alastair Allen **100** Gary Bradshaw **300** Dave Titcombe **600** Aiden Chaffe, Pete Dickens **2,000** Steve Smith

**WESTON**

## A QUICK INTRO

As this is the first entry for Weston-on-the-Green DZ in Club Zone, I'll use this opportunity to introduce readers to what we do and who we are. We are a military-only DZ running Category System and AFF courses for military personnel in the form of Adventurous Training. We also run advanced and intermediate courses for qualified parachutists to further their skills in all the different skydiving disciplines.

We would like to congratulate our Instructors Becky Hill, Mat Winkler and Arran Tilley, who have successfully passed their Tandem Instructor, Category System Instructor and Category System Basic Instructor courses.

A busy few months at the DZ saw the first Category System course of the year defy the awful weather and achieve one jump. The week

“Some of you may have seen photos of Piotr in his wedding suit on Facebook and I'm sure you'll agree that it takes a man of considerable confidence to carry that look off!”

that followed saw the Advanced Course take to the skies at Skydive Hinton. A great couple of weeks saw all members progress with FS, FF and packing!

If any military personnel are interested in attending a course, please get in touch.

**Freya Lees**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CH2/JM1 Jake McClure, Ross O'Rourke, Will Stuart FS1 Jake McClure, Will Stuart, Ram Younsei **FF1** Freya Lees **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Jake McClure, Ross O'Rourke, Will Stuart **200** James Betts

**WILD GEESE**

## SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST

It's been the usual story with some not-so-hot weather BUT we've also had some great weather. May has shown us that, with a bit of sunshine, there's nowhere more spectacular to jump than sunny 'Norn Iron'.

We've had some great progression, with Alex Woods and Aaron Klewchuk getting qualified. Mark O'Kane has been pushing hard to get toward that CAT8 jump and subsequent A Licence. Jutta McNaulty has been turning some points and got her FS1. The most significant and, in fact, unbelievable achievement comes from QUB Skydive Club – their outgoing President Orla Donnelly actually did a full pack job completely unassisted. I know you don't believe me, but it's true!

Some other awesome news is that our pilot trainer Alex Brand has been over and working hard training more pilots. Along with Club Chief Pilot Drew, they have an additional pilot signed off – welcome to the team, Martin! – and another close to getting there – keep at it, Paul! That could have Wild Geese with a pool of five pilots, and potentially six if Captain Chris Doherty comes home from Emirates for some real flying. That'll be a welcome first for Wild Geese and, with so many pilots, there'll be no excuse for flying from dusk 'til dawn. Or should that be the other way around?

We'd also like to congratulate a couple of our jumpers for figuring out what the red handle and yellow cables do. Both Matt Alderdice and Nicola McDermott got beer fines for their first cutaways, so good job on saving your own lives!

Finally, a couple of shout outs for Phil Bannon who's 'been off the drink since Sunday', Jonny Morton is having 'another significant gap out jumping', and Mark 'Chainsaw' McGarvey for managing to complete one jump in the last bazillion months.

Fingers crossed we get some of the recent weather for the summer months. Keep your head on a swivel and, if you're gonna swoop, go hard and fast!

**Rod McCrory**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** FIRST FREEFALL Marl O'Kane FS1 Jutta McNaulty **JUMP NUMBERS 500** Levi Hamill **800** Joanne Wilson **1,000** Eimear McGovern



**WILD GEESE**  
Orla packing, by Neal Fitzpatrick

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## JUNE

June 10-11

**FS** UKSL 4-way Meet 2Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

June 13

**BPA** BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA HQ, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

June 17-18

**A** BPA Speed Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

June 19-23

**BPA** Instructor Course (Tandem, AFF and Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

June 30-July 1

**CF** BPA CF Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Tilstock**

## JULY

July 1-2

**FS** BPA FS Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Black Knights** • bkpc.com

July 3-7

**BPA** Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

July 8-9

**CF** BPA CF Grand PrixLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

July 15-16

**S&A** BPA Accuracy Grand Prix 2Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 15-16

**FS** UKSL 4-way Meet 3Location: **Cark** • skydivenorthwest.co.uk

July 20-30

**CP** The World GamesLocation: **Wroclaw, Poland**

July 22-23

**FS** BPA FS Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Beccles** • ukparachuting.co.uk

July 27

**BPA** STC MeetingLocation: **BPA HQ, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

## AUGUST

August 2-4

**S&A** BPA Classic Accuracy NationalsLocation: **Swansea** • skydiveswansea.co.uk

August 5-6

**A** BPA Artistics and VFS Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

August 5-6

**CP** BPA CP Grand PrixLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 5-6

**A** BPA Speed Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

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, Artistics, CF and SpeedLocation: **Saarlouis, Germany**

August 8

**BPA** BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA HQ, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

August 13-14

**CF** BPA CF Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.co.uk

August 14-18

**BPA** Instructor Course (CSI/Tandem/AFF)Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

August 19-21

**FS** BPA 4-way FS NationalsLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

August 24-31

**S&A** European Championships in Style and AccuracyLocation: **Podgorica, Montenegro**

August 25-26

**CP** FAI Swoop Freestyle World ChampionshipsLocation: **Copenhagen**

August 26-28

**FS** **A** BPA 8-way, Artistics and Speed Nationals and BPA 4-way FS Nationals backupLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

## SEPTEMBER

September 1-3

**CP** BPA Canopy Piloting NationalsLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 2-4

**FS** **A** BPA 8-way, Artistics and Speed Nationals backupLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September 8-10

**CF** BPA CF NationalsLocation: **Black Knights** • bkpc.com

September 9-10

**A** BPA Artistics Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Beccles**

September 11-15

**BPA** Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September 16-17

**A** BPA VFS NationalsLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 16-17

**FS** BPA Speed 8 NationalsLocation: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

September 21

**BPA** STC MeetingLocation: **BPA HQ, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

September 21-24

**FS** ESL FinalsLocation: **Saarlouis, Germany**

September 23-24

**A** BPA VFS Nationals reserve weekendLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

## OCTOBER

October 3

**BPA** BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA HQ, Leicester** • bpa.org.ukDates correct at  
time of printing

KEY

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

**CF** CANOPY FORMATION  
**S&A** STYLE AND ACCURACY  
**T** TUNNEL

**A** ARTISTICS  
**WS** WINGSUIT

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