



British Parachute Association [skydivethemag.com](http://skydivethemag.com) October 2018

# skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964



**INSIDE:** ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BPA NATIONALS 2018 WOMEN'S WORLD RECORDS  
HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO FLY THE MUTANT? PROGRESSION ZONE CF SPECIAL  
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Cover: National Champion Anna Hicks of NFTO touches down at Hibaldstow. By James Stevenson

Welcome: NFTO teammate Cath Anderson, who has now won every 4-way category from Rookie to AAA. By James Stevenson



# WELCOME



"Not bad for a Doris," came the friendly feedback on my CSBI course in 2003. I was 20 years old, still at university and keener than a keen thing that had just had a bath in mustard. I barely noticed that every comment about my teaching, or indeed my skydiving in general, was often accompanied by some kind of reference to me being female. The different standards that I experienced, "for a girl", sometimes worked in my favour – there was never a shortage of FS coaches when I wanted my FS1 and my Accuracy landings were all signed off despite at least one being rather a long way from the intended landing area. But these well-meaning actions often actually did me no favours. I remember being told that, no, I couldn't downsize from a 190 to a 170 at 100 jumps because the 170 was far too big for me. Apparently, the only sensible step was to get on a 150. I really had to insist on being allowed to try a 170 first.

However, it's great to see that the sport has moved on since those days, even though they weren't all that long ago. It's still not perfect, and this is a consequence of our recent history, but it feels like we are all more equal than we ever were. Rather than allowances being made for 'the weaker sex', gender has become increasingly irrelevant. There were women on the podium

in almost every Nationals discipline this year, from CF to CP and from Freestyle to 8-way. *NFTO* won the 4-way Open Nationals, the first all-female team to do so since *Storm* in 2008, and all-female team *Alola* won AA – the first time that the 'double' has been done.

One of the things I love most about the sport is that it is usually a pretty tolerant and inclusive community, where people are judged on their treatment of others and not their age, race, gender, background, sexuality or any other feature. Long may this continue to improve; we're all just skydivers.

*Liz Ashley*

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200-way breakoff,  
by Ewan Cowie



# IN THIS ISSUE

## 03 Welcome

to the October edition of *Skydive the Mag*

## 06 Info Zone

Who to contact and how

## 08 News Zone

A Vertical World Record attempt gets close, Satori Academy is back and the SOS still have the right stuff

## 11 BPA Zone

News and announcements from BPA HQ

## 14 BPA Skydive the Expo

THE skydiving event of the British winter

## 17 Comps Zone

All of the highlights from the BPA Nationals 2018

## 36 Women's World Record

How to break four world records in style...

## 41 Enter the Mutant

It's outrageous and you probably can't fly it, but you need to read this anyway!

## 44 Rob Haggarty

A tribute by his wife, Jo

## 45 Darren Glover

A tribute by Sara Orton

## 46 Progression Zone

Have you ever wondered how pretty CF formations are built?

## 51 Safety Zone

It takes two to tandem...

## 53 Gear Zone

All-black PD options just in time for Halloween, picked out by the occult hand of, uh, Macca

## 57 DZs

How to contact DZs and parachuting societies

## 58 Club Zone

The latest news and photos from a DZ near you

## 82 Events Zone

Dates for your diary

# 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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Approved GA/101/96

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

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### DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE THE MAG APP:

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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!

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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
December 2018	November 5	November 23

# STORM



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\*REVIEWS FROM DROPZONE.COM



#DreamOfFlight

# VERTICAL ELITE

PHOTOS: EWAN COWIE

**More than 200** of the world's best freeflyers assembled at Skydive Chicago in August with the goal of safely setting a new Vertical World Record. All had successfully earned their slot by performing on one or more 2018 camps and going home with a coveted Golden Ticket.

The previous 164-way World Record had been achieved in the skies over Chicago in 2015, and 2012 had seen a new record 138-way there. Like the well-oiled machine that it is, SDC brought together 200 Golden Ticket achievers, a huge team of organisers, a bench group of around 50, five world-class cameraflyers, nine aircraft and much more behind the scenes. Unfortunately, the one thing they couldn't control was the weather.

One Sherpa, two Skyvans and six Twin Otters hauled the jumpers to altitude for 11 record

attempts over five days, but it wasn't quite enough. Despite some super-smooth flying and several 190-plus-way completions, it doesn't count as a record if you build 199 but you were going for 200. As the days ticked by and the weather holds kicked in, every single jump demanded perfection. In a final attempt to break the 164-way at least, the organisers removed the outside layer of the formation for an attempt at a 171-way, but this too was just a single grip out.

The event achieved its primary goal of 100% safety, but it was the second goal of breaking the record that was so heartbreakingly close but that didn't happen this time. These are still the biggest head-down jumps ever attempted and breaking 200 is within reach... next time. If it was easy, it wouldn't be a World Record.





Satori Academy teams,  
by Dave Head



## SATORI ACADEMY

It's back! The hugely popular Satori Academy is taking on teams for 2019. The format will be similar to before, meaning teams will be selected through tryouts in the tunnel in late 2018 and early 2019. Teams will train at Skydive Algarve for a week and for four days at Hibaldstow along with four hours of tunnel time prior to the British Nationals 2019. Like last time, it will be open to all experience levels in all categories.

The coaches will be multiple National Champions Julia Swallow (née Foxwell) and John McIver. Julia is a nine-time British National Champion and former Female World Champion, while John McIver has won the British Nationals 19 times! Julia, who recently took a short break from her long competitive skydiving career to have her two young children, says: "I am very excited that I will be getting it going again. I've had a lot of people say they have missed Satori Academy."

This is a fantastic opportunity for FS flyers of all abilities, especially those who are new to being part of a structured team. You can sign up as an individual and be placed in a team, or you can take part with your existing team if you already have one. Thirty-five teams have benefited from being part of the Satori Academy and now it's your turn. You can contact Julia at [satori4wayteam@gmail.com](mailto:satori4wayteam@gmail.com).



## CALENDAR 2019

Your December Mag will include a free 2019 Calendar, and we are looking for awesome photography that deserves to be showcased. It doesn't matter whether you've never sent in your photos before and we are after a wide range of different disciplines. Please email or file-share submissions to [editor@skydivethemag.com](mailto:editor@skydivethemag.com) by no later than October 18.

## SOS WORLD RECORD

Three Brits were on the new Skydivers Over Sixty World Record, which took place at Skydive Chicago alongside the Vertical World Record attempts. The new record is now a 75-way and congratulations go to Ron Wands, Stewart Brookes and Jonathan Smith, who are all also UK POPS and SOS members.

Talking of POPS, there is a World Record 150-way attempt taking place at Skydive Perris in California in early October. Good luck to all involved!



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## COUNCIL ELECTION

Three seats on the BPA Council become available for elected members at the AGM on January 26 2019. The election by full (voting) members takes place not at the AGM itself but in advance, over Christmas and the New Year.

Nominations are invited from 09:00 on October 1 2018 when the Mi-Voice (election scrutineers) will go live at [mi-nomination.com/bpa](http://mi-nomination.com/bpa). Nominations will close on at noon on November 13. Council members are non-executive Directors of British Parachute Association Ltd and among their most important responsibilities are setting the strategic direction and assuring the good health of our Association.

If you are interested, please read BPA Form 178 (Duties and responsibilities of a Council Member) and Form 297 (Council Member role description), both of which can be downloaded from the 'Search Forms' box at [bpa.org.uk](http://bpa.org.uk). Then visit the nominations site for further information including eligibility and how to stand. Each nominee needs a proposer and seconder who, like the nominee, must also be full members.

## BRITISH SKYDIVING

The canopy and flag logo concept came out top in the recent membership survey, and thank you all members who took part. Council has referred the concept to the Communications Committee for refinement.



## NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR:

### BPA Taz Casuer Experienced Skydiver of the Year Award

This is for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nomination, giving the name of your nominee with reasons (no more than 250

words, please) to the BPA Office by November 14 and Council will consider nominations at its meeting later that month.



### BPA Star Awards 2018

We're asking A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service. Have you received a shining example of customer service at a BPA Affiliated Parachute Training Organisation from another BPA member? Service above and beyond the norm or that goes the extra mile? Service that's made a real difference by helping you to stay in the sport, to achieve your next goal, or to give you that all-important extra support just when you needed it most? Have you received Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition? For full eligibility criteria and details of how to make a nomination, visit [bpa.org.uk/star](http://bpa.org.uk/star). Closing date: November 1.



### BPA Safety Innovation Award for Sport Parachuting

Sponsored by the BPA's insurance partners Romero Sports and Leisure (brokers) and XL Insurance (underwriters) with a £5,000 cash prize, see [bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-innovation-award](http://bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-innovation-award) for more. Closing date: November 1.

## 2019 ROYAL AERO CLUB TRUST BURSARIES

Would having up to £1,000 help you out with training and progressing in the sport? The Royal Aero Club Trust, which is supported by the BPA, has launched its bursary scheme for young people for the 2019 season and is inviting applications.

Applications must arrive at the Trust by March 31 2019 and are welcome from BPA members, subject to support from your CI. Applicants must be UK citizens, resident in the UK, and the training and flying can only be conducted at clubs, associations or training establishments in the UK.

Full details and the rules, as well as the relevant application forms, are available on the Royal Aero Club Trust website.



Sophie Rees, who received the John Downer Bursary 2018. By Doug Evens



Sean Richards, who received the George Farhar Bursary 2018

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As part of the BPA's contract with our media partner, Archant Dialogue, we're running a campaign in Archant print and

digital media with an estimated reach of 3.7m people across their range of titles to let everyone know about our fantastic sport.

To help people learn 'more about skydiving and what a jump will do for you', encourage them to visit [bpa.org.uk/your-first-jump](http://bpa.org.uk/your-first-jump).

## NEW SOFTWARE PARTNER ANNOUNCED

At its August meeting, Council appointed 3Si to develop the BPA's new Personal Information Management System (PIMS) and web hub. Based at Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire, 3Si Limited specialises in providing the UK not-for-profit sector with

versatile and customisable member relations management software under the brand name OM.net. 3Si emerged from an open competitive tender process as the BPA's preferred bidder, after 35 expressions of interest resulted in 11 bids for the contract. The bids were considered by the BPA's tender team comprising Graham Spicer (Chair, IT Strategy Group), Craig Poxon (Development Chair) and Adrian Bond (Communications Chair) who together have expertise in IT and commercial contracts.

## INDOOR SKYDIVING

As indoor skydiving is emerging as a new discipline or sport, the BPA currently has responsibility. However, there are issues that lie outside the BPA's current purview. Therefore, Council decided at its August meeting that we could assist indoor skydivers in establishing their own organisation and delegate to it, by way of a licensing

agreement, the power to carry out the selection, administration of British indoor skydiving delegations. Such an arrangement would be for a fixed period of five years from 2019, with a break clause at (say) three years. Under the terms of this arrangement, the BPA would delegate to the new organisation the issue of FAI sporting licences to indoor skydivers. The BPA is now discussing this way forward with indoor skydivers.



## NEW RATINGS

### TBI

Ashley Horton  
Elliott Mees  
Samuel Warburton  
Amy Schaverien  
Macauley Shaw  
Christopher Stone  
Jason Tippins

James Bruce  
Steven Powell

### AFFBI

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# EXPECT THE EXPO

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If you plan to stay overnight, don't forget to reserve your accommodation early because

it books up more quickly every year and especially at the on-site De Vere Orchard Hotel. You can book at the special discounted BPA rate by calling the Orchard Hotel direct on **0115 876 0900**, or you can book online and gain the same discount by entering the BPA promotional code – keep an eye on the Expo website and social media channels for details. While you're there, the Expo website

will also have news of when tickets for the BPA Gala Dinner go on sale too and, as always, the dinner will be followed by an evening of great partying and entertainment. Make sure the date is in your diary.

*BPA Skydive the Expo 2019 is sponsored by Archant Dialogue, Romero Sports and Leisure and XL Catlin.*



PHOTOS: ROB LLOYD



## BPA SPECIAL RATES

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All other drinks – 20% off

For more information and to find out how to book accommodation nearby, check out [skydivetheexpo.co.uk](http://skydivetheexpo.co.uk). Look for the latest news on the **BPA's Facebook** page.  [FACEBOOK.COM/BRITISHPARACHUTEASSOCIATION](https://www.facebook.com/BRITISHPARACHUTEASSOCIATION)

Photo: Luciano Baque



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# SHOWDOWNS IN THE SKY

The highlights from the BPA Nationals 2018, complete with Zen, double rainbows and the power of Facebook!

Since the last Mag, there have been BPA Nationals in eight different disciplines and World Meets in two. Many of our competitors are now preparing for the October World

Championships in Australia, where the best 4-way, 8-way, VFS, Freestyle, Freefly, Speed and CF competitors will battle it out. To round off the season, we'll have six 4-way teams in the BPA delegation at the World Cup of Indoor Skydiving in Bahrain.

1, 5 By Chris Cook  
2 By Peter Hughes  
3, 4 By Adam Pencharz  
6 By Paul Dewey



4



5



6



# 4 - W A Y F S

The BPA Competitions Committee stuck their necks out this year and trialled a new format for the 4-way event. It has traditionally been held across two three-day weekends (down from a week-long event about 20 years ago!), meaning that the competition 'rolls over' to the backup weekend if there are still rounds to complete by the end of the first Monday. There have been two rollovers in the last 10 years and coming back a week later usually guarantees some different weather so that the meet can then complete. However, it also means that all teams have to make the journey yet again – sometimes for only the last few jumps of the competition – and attendance on the second weekend has always been lower because some teams drop out.

The new format is a 4-day weekend with no rollover, held from Friday to Monday. Thursday evening saw torrential rain and an amazing double rainbow over Hibaldstow, but Friday improved enough to get the competition underway in between weather holds. Saturday was mostly beautiful and, by the end of the day, there were just one or two rounds to finish off across all categories. However, Sunday only had one lift first thing, then the rest of Sunday and all of Monday was sadly a write-off.

This made for some tough mental challenges for our top athletes, as *NFTO* went one point ahead of the favourites *Satori XL* on Round 1 and then maintained their lead throughout the competition. By Sunday morning, *NFTO* were sitting on 185 points to *Satori XL*'s 184 with just one round to go. It stayed that way until 7.15pm on Monday, when both teams were kitted up and bussed down to the aircraft for one last chance at Round 10. Of the nine rounds that had been completed, the two teams had scored the same as each other on four of them, with *NFTO* winning three and *Satori XL* winning two – it had been neck and neck.

Despite almost two days on a weather hold, there was no magical break at the end for Round 10 and the competition was called on the rounds that had been done. AA completed all of their rounds but every other category was one round short.

In AAA, *NFTO* won both the Overall and the Female events with their best-ever average of 20.6. *Satori XL*'s 20.4 is the highest-ever average to 'only' win a silver medal at the British Nationals, and *Chimera* overcame a few dodgy early rounds to take a well-deserved bronze. All nine AAA teams posted double-digit averages; proof that, although team numbers are down from a high of more than 70 to 'just' 40 this year, quality still beats quantity.

AA was won by another all-female team. *Alola* have trained hard under the experienced eye of Stu Ferguson and won a well-deserved victory. We believe this is the first time ever that female teams have won





both AAA and AA in the same year – great going. *Draconis* took silver and *Boobasaurus Rex* took bronze, and also came back the next weekend to win a silver medal as *Boobasaurus Freely B!* A special mention goes to *Nexus*, whose last place belies the fact that one of their team members broke themselves on Round 1 and spent the rest of the weekend on crutches. *Nexus* continued as best they could, putting a sausage suit on their cameraman, Spence, and engineering the dives to give him the best chance of catching all the grips in frame while also being one of the people taking them! Kudos to them for their top score of six points on Round 6 while employing this strategy.

In A, the *Cloudbusters* won six of the seven rounds to take gold, while *Average Joes* were their closest competition and they took silver. Four teams were clustered behind them on the leaderboard, with the *Flying Fossils* collecting the bronze, but *Nebula*, *RAFSPA Meteor* and *Imperial Leather* were all within five points of them.

Finally, Rookie was won convincingly by *4Reigners*, who were head and shoulders

above the other teams. Second place was close between *Chikara* and the *Jersey Beans*. Both teams had scored 58 points after seven rounds, but it was the *Beans* who took home the silver (read more about them in the August Mag) while *Chikara* won bronze.

So, what next? Siân Stokes and Cath Anderson of *NFTO* have now won gold in every 4-way category from Rookie to AAA, and Siân has also won 8-way Intermediate and Senior! Her fiancé Milko has done the same (although Siân is technically one ahead of him by also winning the Female category...). *NFTO* and *Satori XL* both now shift their focus to the World Championships in Australia in October, and we all wish them good luck! There is then a line-up juggle because if you start with *NFTO*, delete Cath and insert Kate Lindsley, you get current World Indoor silver medallists *Volto*. They will be competing for us at the World Cup of Indoor Skydiving in Bahrain, right after Australia, and will be joined by *ACM Weembi*, *Eros*, *Manticore*, *NFTO*, *Zephyrus* and *Satori W* – fly hard, everyone!

**1 National Champions NFTO, by James Stevenson**

**2 Female 4-way medallists, by Rob Lloyd**

**3 Rookie champions 4Reigners, by Rob Lloyd**

**4 A champions Cloudbusters, by Rob Lloyd**

**5 AA champions Alota, by Rob Lloyd**

**6 AAA champions NFTO, by Rob Lloyd**

# VFS

VFS is hard and the barrier to entry is high. You need your FF2 and three similarly qualified friends to even think about putting a team together, and it's still a long road until you'll be turning points like four-time National Champions *Omni99*.

*Omni* know this better than anyone and are passionate about making the discipline more accessible to beginners. They introduced a new 4-way VFS Intermediate Nationals as a test event in 2017, which was successful and is now an established category for 2018 with a reduced dive pool compared to VFS Advanced. This year has also seen *Omni* run two more BPA Coaching Roadshows as well as introducing a Rookie 2-way category at Nationals. Not only did they test out the dive pool and encourage teams to enter, they also offered themselves up as cameraflyers to make it happen. This is especially nice of them given that it meant squeezing in 16 rounds of competition instead of focusing on just their own 10.

Although the number of teams is relatively low compared to some of the more accessible disciplines like 4-way FS, it was great to see the enthusiasm of all the teams and the commitment

to cracking 'proper' VFS. *Cowadunga* in Intermediate scored points on every round (no mean feat in VFS!) and were happy with a high score of six on Round 7 and a gold medal. Rookie VFS was won by *TBC* for Jersey, and was called a round early so that the final round could be a 4-way by putting the two 2-way teams together – finishing off the meet with a taste of what's to come.

The standard was high in the Advanced category. The *Pandies* stepped up from Intermediate last year and coped well

with the harder dive pool, scoring 38 points over nine rounds to take the bronze. Ahead of them were *Horizon*, who are definitely ones to watch for the future as their total of 83 gave them a brilliant 9.2 average in their first year in this category. Well done to champions *Omni99* for breaking through a 10-point average in VFS Advanced, which hasn't been done since 2013. In fact, they eventually finished on 11.2. Thank you for leading from the top, and congratulations to new BPA VFS Rep Tim Gaines.

**1** *Omni99, Horizon and The Pandies, by Rob Lloyd*

**2** *Horizon in training, by Paul Dewey*

**3** *Horizon cameraflyer Karim Shokraee films Ming Chu, Peter Hutchinson, Elise Sharp and Steve Smith. By Paul Dewey*



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# 8 - WAY FS

There were nine teams competing in 8-way at this year's Nationals: five Senior, one Intermediate and three Rookie.

The big success story was overall winners *MicroClim8*. They have done two training camps this year and had an awesome meet where they won every round, were the only 'clean' team (no busts) and set two new British Records! Their top-scoring round of 19 points in time broke the record set in 2003, and their 15.0 average broke their own 14.0 average set in Chicago at the 2016 Mondial.

Pooky has now won the 8-way trophy 19 times in the last 20 years, and several other teammates have also won it repeatedly. Congratulations to the Brentfords for doing the double; Simon Brentford won 4-way gold filming *NFTO* and Ane Brentford won 8-way gold on *MicroClim8*. Good luck to the whole team in Australia.

*Project Ride The Dragon* have had a quiet season, but they can be proud of their 9.6 average and silver medal. *Groomed* took bronze with 7.2, ahead

of the *Awkward Turtles* on 5.7 and the *Jim Jam Jaguars* on 5.2.

Intermediate only had one team, but they had done some training at Netheravon with coaching by *MicroClim8* alternate Mark Whitehead. *M8Way* were pleased to pull off most of their launches and score some solid rounds.

In Rookie, the gold medal and best team name both go to *Blame 8 on the Bootie*, a Hib-based scratch team that formed in the days and hours before the meet thanks to the power of Facebook! It was a close competition, with *AV8* just one point behind and then the *Chatterm8s* taking bronze.

**1** *MicroClim8* in black 13, *Double Satellite*, by Joe Mann

**2** *National Champions and British Record holders MicroClim8*, by Rob Lloyd



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ARTISTICS <sup>1</sup>Rai Ahmed's  
impressions from  
the judging box

This was another year of firsts for me! The first time in 12 years of competitive skydiving that I have not competed in something... anything! My first year of judging outdoor Artistics (OK, as a 'trainee'). And the first year of sitting in a box for a whole 14 hours, watching people jump in what I can only describe as a perfect weekend of weather.

**FREESTYLE**

I have been looking forward to what the freestylers would bring to this year's competition. We have some really good talent in the UK and have been salivating over how the competition would play out. Would there be any moves brought in from the tunnel to the sky? Do I really need the performers to point their toes? Would the new IPC camera rules be a hindrance to the teams?

In the end, it turns out that some moves have been brought in from the tunnel, these freestylers have trained and most of the rounds were framed very well by the cameraman. I have so much respect for the time and effort that is spent building a routine between performer and cameraflyer to make it a visual experience for spectators and judges.

*Volosity* were the firm favourites and Jamie Arnold and Dan Guest brought their trademark moves and flow to their free routine, although not always



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executed to perfection – I expect we will see a more refined routine at the world meet. Their gold medal marked a successful defence of their National Champion title from 2017. Silver medallists *FSU* are going from strength to strength and Alabama Shanker has brought some moves from the tunnel into the sky. Dave Pacey has been working hard to get it framed and, considering some of the moves had significant change in levels, chapeau!

You can tell that bronze medallists Ed Cracknell and Chris Mayhew fly together

**1** *National Freestyle Champions Volosity*, by Roy Wimmer-Jaglom

**2** *Jamie Arnold and Dan Guest of Volosity*, by Rob Lloyd



well in the tunnel and the sky; the great communication in NOVA's routine was much improved from last year. Maybe Ed will work on pointing his toes and pander to what the judges would like to see in future? All in, the placings were correct as *Volosity* were the stronger team on the compulsories. The second compulsory round let a lot of teams down, pretty much coming down to interpretation of the angle flying. Personally, I think we need to replace this and come up with another compulsory. I will put my thinking hat on!

A special mention goes to *Prism 99*. They were not as trained as the other teams, but Eve Mason and Greg Lucas showed some flowing moves and their potential. I am looking forward to what they bring over the next few years.

*Vulpine 99* took Gold in Freestyle B. Considering that Shelby got her 200th jump over the Nationals weekend, what a talent to look out for in the future!

I wish *Volosity* and *FSU* all the best in the upcoming world meet, and I am looking forward to seeing how they fare on the world stage.

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**3** *Shelby and Hutch, Freestyle B champions, by Rob Lloyd*

## FREEFLY

We have a new category introduced this year: Freefly Intermediate. It has been put in to bridge the gap for head down and head up flyers. The interpretation from the teams that competed was a lot of static flying with few linked moves. Going forward, I would like to see the flyers bring some flowing moves into their routines, and use belly- or back-orientated flying to make the routines more visually appealing. Otherwise, it can lend itself to routines focusing on the strengths of the HD flyers.

We did have a tight competition between winners *RAFSPA Vulcans* and second-placed *CCB Freefly*. *CCB* were a 'scratch team'; we enjoyed interpreting their performance sheet and looking forward to what they come up with next year.

In Freefly B, there was a point in it between *Boobasaurus Rex* and the winners *RAFSPA Fury*. *Fury* was the more trained team, but I was super impressed with team *B-Rex*, all of them big-way FS flyers showing us that you can cross over successfully and do a Freefly team!

Freefly A had two teams register: trained team *Parallel* and *British Army Titans*. *Parallel* brought a team that was well put-together, but had some issues with the new camera infringements. They are still learning their trade, and I hope they stay together and add more dimension and flow to their routine. *The Titans* did a great job, taking silver, and considering they decided to step up a category on the eve of the competition, maybe we will see more of them now they have a taste for bling!

All in all, attendance was low this year for Artistics and we need to ask the question why. There will be no representation from the UK at the World Meet this year from the UK and that saddens me somewhat. The judging panel this year consisted of a few trainees and observers. Because we need to bridge the gap between what competitors want to show and what judges want to see, education for both is needed. Let's see how this pans out over the next few years.

**1** *British National Freefly Champions Parallel*, by Chris Cook

**2** *Intermediate Freefly Champions RAFSPA Vulcans*, by Rob Lloyd

**3** *Alan, Chris and Rich of Parallel celebrate their win*, by Rob Lloyd



**PARATEC**

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# SPEED

Nine competitors entered the 2018 BPA Speed Skydiving National Championships. Multiple National Champion Mikey Lovemore was conspicuous by his absence, although he did have the excellent excuse that his second daughter was born a week earlier – congratulations, Mikey!

Speed has been one of the BPA's most successful disciplines on the world stage in recent years. Max Hurd won bronze at the 2016 World Championships, then silver at the 2017 World Cup (less than 2km/h behind gold). He also won the 2017 ISSA series. However, Matthew Byrne is the 2018 ISSA series winner and set a new British Record this year, so it was all to play for in this Nationals.

Speaking to Max in the bar, he explained that "the thing about Speed is that you need to be totally relaxed. As soon as you start trying to go fast, you introduce tension and end up going slower." So Speed is a very 'Zen' discipline, making it hard to train on the mental side because competition pressure cannot be replicated in training. This applies whether you're leading the scoreboard and are anxious to stay there or not at the top and anxious to get there.

Two rounds in and Max was firmly in the lead, the only competitor to go faster than 500km/h so far. However, he then scored zeroes on Rounds 3, 4 and 5 by being 'OB' or 'out of bounds'. This is when the difference of the two average speeds recorded by the two Pro Tracks is 60.1 km/h or greater. Why was this happening? Well, he was competing in a new aerodynamic helmet. In training, it had led to an increase of 15-20 km/h. The downside is that it can then become very wobbly to fly at such high speed because it acts a bit like a rudder. Speed is judged on the average of the best five jumps out of eight, so Max couldn't risk any more OBs. The aerodynamic helmet came off and the Cookie went back on, and he was the fastest competitor on each of the three final rounds.

Silver went to Cez Kryczkowski, whose consistent scores included a PB of 481.83km/h. Jimmy McCarthy is new to Speed, but he had an excellent meet and went home with the bronze.

With just a month before the World Championships in Australia, it's time for Max to fit in one last training camp to add to the 120 training jumps already this year and a final decision on whether to risk the aerodynamic helmet on the world stage. Good luck to him and to fellow competitors Matthew Byrne and Lewis Young, who are all representing Team GB.



1 British National Speed Champion Max Hurd, by Rob Lloyd

2 The Speed podium, by Rob Lloyd



**'Mikey Lovemore was conspicuous by his absence, although he did have the excellent excuse that his second daughter was born a week earlier'**

# ACCURACY

## THE WORLD MEET

The 35th World Championships in Style and Accuracy Landings were held at Erden Drop Zone in Bulgaria on August 24-31 2018.

The hosts were Anni and Angel Stamenova, who did everything possible to make the meet run smoothly and successfully. Their daughter Vesilar did a fantastic job running the manifest and being the meet interpreter.

The organisers were badly let down by some local hotels who had promised rooms. As a result, some teams, including GB, had to find accommodation 28 miles and a very bumpy 45-minute bus ride away in Berkovista. This meant that we were up at 5am every morning to be on the bus that left at the ungodly hour of 5.40am. We shared these silent, sleepy and dark journeys with the Russians and the Dutch teams. Worse, Bulgaria is two hours ahead of the UK so that's like a 3am start! Buses didn't return until jumping finished at 8pm, making supper after 9pm. This meant long days and short nights, which was altogether rather draining. Fortunately, the food was good both at the dropzone and our hotel.

The Opening Ceremony took place in the Central Square in Montana on Saturday, enveloped in the warmth of a summer evening. The setting, within the pedestrianised area of the city and with the backdrop of the town's famous fountains, was a perfect venue to accommodate almost 400 athletes including their respective managers, coaches and Heads of Delegations.

The British team had a full complement of five men. Bottom of the stack was Carl Williams, followed by Dave Crowhurst, Pete Sizer and Steve Hastings, and Les Carroll was floating around for ages at the top of the stack.

Esther Reynolds is still our sole woman competitor, and she jumped on an International team called *Mix 2* comprising of our two Commonwealth friends from Canada and Australia and two ladies from Croatia. Because her team was a mixed team it did not receive an official placing, but they all jumped well with Esther leading the team scores while equalling Carl Williams' score of 33cm after eight rounds. This won her 43rd place.

While the team is actively trying to get youngsters involved in Accuracy, the lack of a women's team is quite sad. For anyone interested in Accuracy, it is one of the last disciplines that offers free coaching. With coaching available at Swansea, Headcorn, Dunkeswell and Sibson together with strong interest at Carl and Peterlee coming soon because veteran jumper Bill Yule has just invested in his own tuffet and scoring system, there is no excuse not to give it a go.

The Men's Team Accuracy competition was very efficiently run, with each round taking just over three hours, and it was completed in just four days with the exception of a jump-off for silver and bronze which drifted into the next day.

There were 36 men's teams in total – 29 national teams and seven mixed teams. We ended the meet in 22nd place just behind the USA and in front of Australia and the Netherlands. That wasn't the position we were hoping for, but in reality 13 of the teams that beat us are full-time professional teams with another three that are fully sponsored with equipment and jumps.

The conditions were certainly changeable. We witnessed jumping in nil winds to nine metres per second (competition limit is seven), and teams jumping in torrential rainstorms and temperatures in the low



30 °C range creating very thermally conditions. We never explained in the same conditions that we jumped in. We were using AN2s but, even so, the wind shifts certainly took their toll. As it turned out, I think we actually got the best of the conditions in most rounds. However, the turbulent weather created an unprecedented number of disastrous results for many individuals including some of the very top competitors, with former world champions dropping 16cm. While that made it interesting for the spectators, it was nerve-racking for those jumping next...

The conditions were reflected in the scoring, with the winning team score being double that of the recent CISM meet.

Ian Marshall, our Head of Delegation, did a great job of representing GB and keeping us updated on the technical issues. Les Carroll, our team leader, attended all the daily meetings and kept things running smoothly.

A massive thank you goes to the BPA for their support, and we are now looking forward to the next World Meet which is a Mondial to be held in Siberia in two years' time. Before the World Meet, we have four Grand Prix competitions, two



National Championships, an international in Argentina and 11 World Cup series meets. If you're interested in getting involved, come and join us at one of the Accuracy Roadshows or contact any of the team.

## BPA GRAND PRIX

*Les Cooper reports from Dunkeswell*

The main competition dates were August 4-5. However, a small party of bandits covertly descended on Dunkeswell on August 3 for a bit of pre-competition training. They were no doubt trying to get a feel of the place and also to zero in their specs! On Saturday, a briefing was held in the canteen and names were drawn out of a hat to allocate four-man teams and their exit order.

The morning brought mist and low cloud, so the competition did not kick off until later on in the day with each competitor making four jumps. There were some great scores and some not so good ones. Most landed on the tuffet, but there were some strays.

That evening, while sitting outside the Aviator Restaurant having a meal, a discussion took place about the technical suitability of a canopy. Several points were raised, which were promptly taken on board by a jumper who scored 3cm the following day.

August 5 saw the morning break with brilliant sunshine. Unfortunately, the winds were above competition limits. Every now and then, we all watched the wind readout and hoped that it would drop as was forecast.

And it did shortly after 13:00. They now had only two rounds to do. Sadly, Esther Reynolds – having done really well with her scores (two, four, two, one and six centimetres) – was now given a 16cm for the last round as she had to leave to take

some cargo to Holland. If not, she might have beaten some more of the lads.

### Individual Accuracy scores:

- 1st: Les Carroll – 9cm
- 2nd: Roumie Radountcheva – 18cm
- 3rd: Steve Hastings – 24cm
- 4th: Dave Crowhurst – 30cm
- 5th: Esther Reynolds – 31cm
- 6th: Dave Tylcoat – 36cm
- 7th: Mr Ghost – 36cm
- 8th: Richard Bisette – 50cm
- 9th: Jeff Chandler – 59cm
- 10th: Michael Bogh – 61cm
- 11th: Kostov Konstantin – 68cm
- 12th: Robin Mills – 79cm

### Team Accuracy scores:

- 1. *Team 99* (Dave Tylcoat, Esther Reynolds, Les Carroll and Kostov Konstantin)
- 2. *The Pirates* (Michael Bogh, Richard Bisette, Roumie Radountcheva and Mr Ghost)
- 3. *Team 257* (Jeff Chandler, Steve Hastings, Robin Mills and Dave Crowhurst)

The Judges were Roger Flavell (Chief Judge), Bob King, Liz Warner and Jimmy Frith. They all did a grand job and their experience, patience and dedication to the sport stood out well.

A special thanks must also go to Skydive Buzz for hosting the event. With aircraft like the twin turbine Beech, we all got in a lot of jumping – as was proved by the DZ also hosting a 'Flocking to the Beech' wingsuit event during the same period.

Finally, a great thanks must go to Andy Houston for providing all the ground equipment. Times have certainly changed from when the 10cm disc was in the pea-gravel pit. If you screwed up, you were sometimes tempted to "accidentally" give the judges a face full of gravel...

Well done everyone, and once again a special thanks to Skydive Buzz.

*1 Centre of the tuffet at the Dunkeswell Grand Prix, by Les Cooper*

*2 The GB Accuracy delegation at the Bulgaria World Meet*

## WS

### BPA WS Rep Mike Williams reports from the Czech Republic

Jump-Tandem at Prostějov in the Czech Republic was the venue for the second FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championships 2018. A simple opening ceremony kicked off the competition at the dropzone on August 22, and a full closing ceremony with fireworks was held at one of the local hotels in Prostějov on September 2.

A total of 63 Performance competitors from 24 countries and five Acrobatic teams from four countries competed using the dropzone's own TurboLET 410. The TurboLET is a great aircraft for wingsuits and all of the competitors enjoyed the nice big door!

This year, the new 600m lane for

Performance was introduced at Prostějov. There were a total of 124 lane violations, usually varying from 10% to 50% reductions of scores, and this meant a zero score in a few cases. With this introduction, most if not all of the Performance wingsuit competitors

learned so much and had a great time. I was 58th in Performance and our Acro team *Tutti Frutti* were fifth overall.

No matter how many competitions we compete in, we never stop learning. The best way to learn about competitions is to have a go.

*3 The GB Wingsuit delegation at the Czech Republic World Meet*





# CF

## BPA CF Rep Mary Barratt reports from Dunkeswell

The BPA National Championships in Canopy Formation saw one great DZ, 10 teams, four categories, 48 2-way competition jumps, two 4-way competition jumps, many, many points scored, zero reserve rides, zero big knives used, zero off-landings and one CFI achieved.

This year, the Championships took place during the week at Dunkeswell rather than over a long weekend, which worked surprisingly well. Teams began to gather over the weekend, with many making the most of an opportunity to get a few extra training jumps in. By the start of the competition, there was a good mix of returning competitors and new faces. There were entries across all three 2-way Sequential categories (Senior, Intermediate and Rookie) and two scratch teams entered the 4-way Rotations category.

Round 1 was completed fairly swiftly, but then the weather deteriorated and kept us on the ground for the rest of the day. On a positive note, one complete round meant we had a competition. On day two, the weather got worse rather than better and there was no CF jumping at all. So, with good weather forecast for day three, the Meet Director and Team Captains decided to leave the 4-way Rotations teams with one round in the bag and use the last day of the competition to smash through as many 2-way rounds as possible. This was a good call and, by mid-afternoon on the last day of the competition, all of the 2-way teams had completed their six rounds and the anticipation was tangible as we waited for the judges to appear from their little room with the scores from the last rounds. One of Skydive Buzz's eager CF students made the most of this opportunity to get some experienced CF-ers together for a 4-way CFI jump, which was highly successful, great fun and drew together jumpers from several CF teams.

*Double Trouble*, *GHUF* and half of *VelociWraptors* had all competed in Intermediate 2-way Sequential in 2017 and returned this year to enter Senior

2-way Sequential. Technically, that's quite a step up and each of the teams rose to the challenge. *VelociWraptors* in particular put in a very consistent performance, scoring 34 points overall and becoming our new National Champions. Silver went to *Double Trouble* with 19 points overall and bronze to *GHUF* with 11 points. In Intermediate 2-way Sequential, gold went to *Air Crew* who finished on 19 points, and this gave them a two-point lead on *Cark Corner*. Three teams from Skydive Northwest competed in Rookie 2-way Sequential and it was great to see jumpers new to CF keen to improve their skills and putting in really impressive performances. *Cark Sliders* scored an outstanding 52 points which gave them gold, silver went to *Cark Crew* who scored 26 and *Cark Circus* took bronze with 11 points.

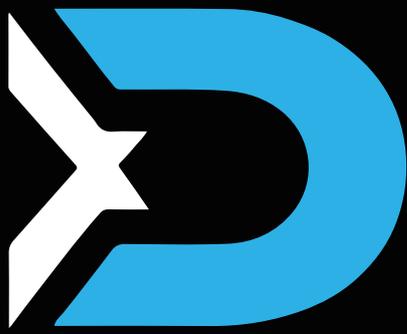
CF competitions always seem to be more about coming together and celebrating being part of a rather small but strong community than points and medals. This National Championships was no different; the CF crew were happily sharing cameraflyers, kit and tips during the day, and meals, beers and "No sh\*t, there I was..." stories in the evenings.

**1 Brooke Rawson and Dez Blyth, Rookie 2-way champions Cark Sliders, by Peter Hughes**

**2 Happy crowd of CRW jumpers, by Dez Blyth**

**3 Senior 2-way champions VelociWraptors**





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# CP

Stop press! The BPA National Championships in Canopy Piloting completed just a few days before this Mag went to the printers and here are the headlines

Twenty-four competitors assembled at Dunkeswell on September 7 to compete in the three-day event. Nine rounds later, the meet had completed in a single day (as it did last year too!) and it was time to celebrate some outstanding performances.

CP is judged relative to the best performance in each round, with the winner scoring 100% and everyone else being compared to that maximum. There are three rounds apiece in three disciplines: Speed, Distance and Zone Accuracy. This gives a maximum possible score of 300 per discipline and 900 overall.

Our new National Champion Martin 'Dangerpants' Reynolds had a fantastic meet; a far cry from the 2017 event when he had to retire early with an injured hamstring. He took the gold medals in both Speed and Zone Accuracy, as well as coming fourth in Distance. His overall score was a brilliant 856.958,

including the maximum 300 points in Zone Accuracy.

Taking the overall silver medal was last year's overall champion, Dan Guest. Dan picked up silver in Distance and two bronzes in Speed and Zone Accuracy, as well as setting a PB of 123.9m in Distance on his Petra 57. Dan's collection of medals must be getting quite heavy by now because, as well as this year's CP bling, he is also the 2018 National Champion in both VFS (with *Omni99*) and Freestyle (with *Volosity*). He was also the 2017 National Champion in CP, VFS and Freestyle.

The overall bronze medal went to Logan Donovan, who also picked up bronze in Distance and who came fourth in both Speed and Zone Accuracy. Logan is a software engineer who noticed that CP meets were usually recorded on Excel spreadsheets or even pen and paper, and decided that she could do better. As well as training up to be a ninja swooper herself, she also wrote the Control Tower software that is now increasingly popular at CP meets. Logan has dual US/UK citizenship and this was her first British Nationals. Her overall bronze medal gains her a slot on the BPA Canopy Piloting team and she also broke three records at the meet: a UK and European Women's Speed Record of 2.438 seconds and a UK Women's Distance Record of 111.58m.

Also picking up medals in individual events were Wez Westley who won the Distance gold, Brian Vacher who picked up silver in Speed and Sooty Sutcliffe who won silver in Zone Accuracy. Jay Leighton won the new Darren Glover Award for Best Newcomer. ●



1 Overall bronze medallist Logan Donovan, by Emma Reynolds

2 Distance gold medallist Wez Westley, by Emma Reynolds

3 Overall champion Martin Reynolds on his way to a perfect score in Zone Accuracy, by Emma Reynolds

**'CP is judged relative to the best performance in each round, with the winner scoring 100%'**





# SKYDIVE

## HIBALDSTOW

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BPA UK NATIONALS!**

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# HOW TO SET FOUR WORLD RECORDS IN STYLE

Once upon a time, 120 courageous women were going to Ukraine to jump out of two big, fast, sexy aeroplanes to try to break a European Women's Large Formation Skydiving Record...

**WORDS:** CHERYL FARNDEN

**T**hree days before the event, we were sent an email explaining that we'd lost the use of the two AN-72 planes. However, all was not lost. Plans were already in motion for something different – a 60-way sequential. If we nailed three points, we'd earn ourselves a Women's WORLD Record instead! While this was exciting, it left us nervous that there were only half the slots available. But, if you're anything like me, you love a challenge...

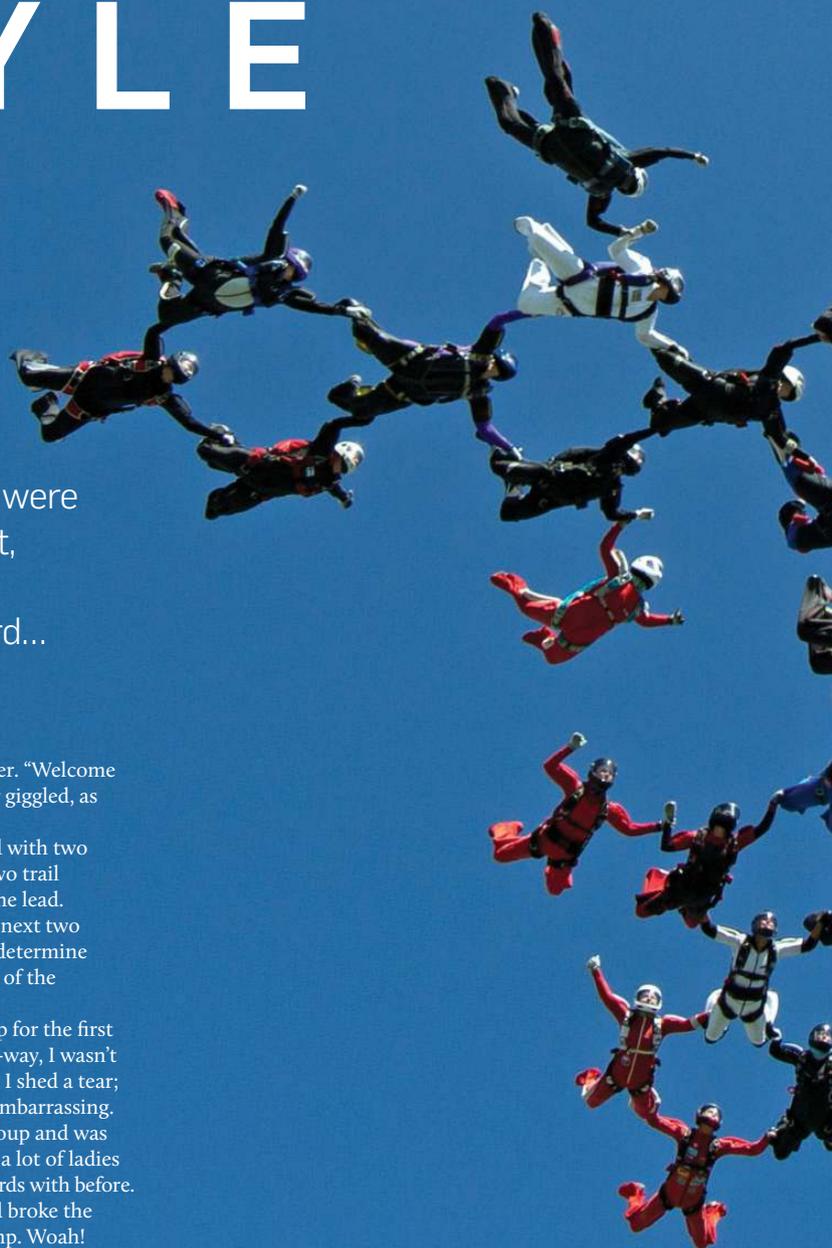
A few of us participated in Maxine Tate's Flight-1 Canopy Course, which was especially organised to get us ready for flying our canopies safely in the big-way – similar to rush hour. Thankfully, we had a huge landing area, which I (ahem) made use of. We also learned to channel our fear of falling out of the back of a plane that has no door and how to exit

when going around a corner. "Welcome to Ukraine!" our translator giggled, as I held on for dear life.

The next day, we started with two 50-way formations from two trail AN-28s and a LET-410 as the lead. Our performance over the next two days and six jumps would determine if we were going to be part of the record or not.

When the list was put up for the first world record attempt, a 57-way, I wasn't chosen. My heart sank and I shed a tear; it was upsetting and very embarrassing. I joined my new 'bench' group and was comforted that there were a lot of ladies here that I had broken records with before.

The 57-way went up and broke the record on the very first jump. Woah! Amazeballs! I was so happy it felt like I'd broken it too, but I hadn't...





*The third point,  
by Andrey Veselov*

## WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD

The next day, the record team (now 60-strong) did it again. Kate Cooper-Jensen was watching our 'bench' very closely and she called 11 people to replace others on the record load. To my joy, my name was called and I skipped off happily to the dirt dive. Some very nice ladies taught me how to fly the slot I was taking over and this was a wonderful bonding experience.

We climbed to 18,000ft, a curtain of oxygen tubes hanging from the ceiling. Then, in freefall and in the formation, I knew we had it because of the look on Lise's face. I let out a big "WOO HOO!"

as my canopy opened – partly because my non-jumping boyfriend had just successfully packed his first parachute and partly because WE HAD THE RECORD!

We landed and it was confirmed. We then swapped with another 11 people. The idea was to give everyone a chance of achieving a record and this last group did it too! At the end of the day, our wonderful women broke four world records back to back and all on the first attempt. The Brits in particular shone, and we shared the honours with the Dutch for the highest number achieving a record – 12 ladies.

I'd like to thank our organisers Kate Cooper-Jensen, Lise Nansen, Marloes Swarthoff and Lesley Gale – these women are why I do this. They are strong, inspirational women who really know their sh\*t! The record took two years of planning and they will be working on the paperwork to get these records recognised for months. Their experience meant that, even though the main aircraft were lost three days before the event, 82 women became world record holders. I take my helmet off to you ladies – bravo and thank you. ●

**1 Cheryl on landing,**  
by Rob Lloyd

**2 Cheryl in disbelief,**  
by Rob Lloyd

**3 Celebrating being world record holders,**  
by Rob Lloyd

**4 BPA members on tour in Ukraine!**  
By Rob Lloyd



## THE BRITISH TEAM

Ali Woodhouse  
Catherine Brown  
Charlotte Pope  
Cheryl Farnden  
Emily Aucutt  
Erica Richardson  
Kiera Chapman  
Lesley Gale  
Lizzie Attwood  
Maxine Tate  
Pam Roberts  
Raphaelle Barbier  
Saint Hilaire  
Rebecca Bradley  
Ruth Green  
Sián Stokes  
Victoria Bradley



**SKYDIVE**  
SPAIN



**SKYDIVE**  
ALGARVE

**FREE REGISTRATION**

**15.000FT**

**RAFFLE!**

**FREE REGISTRATION**

**BEACH JUMPS**

**15.000FT**

**DEC 21 - JAN 4**

# XMAS BOOGIES

**SPAIN LO:** Regan Tetlow FS - Kim Tornwall FF  
Efraim Folgerts FF - Simon Wandeler WS  
Marino Kalligas FS - Adrian Daszkowski on camera  
(more announced soon!)

**ALGARVE LO:** Milko Hodgkinson FS - Sian Stokes FS  
Lesley Gale FS - Karine Joly FF - Ally Milne FF - Zemi Abreu FF - Helder Sousa WS  
(more announced soon!)

[SKYDIVESPAIN.COM](http://SKYDIVESPAIN.COM)



[SKYDIVEALGARVE.COM](http://SKYDIVEALGARVE.COM)

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 **Skydive Spaceland** – "Hard to beat four loads per hour with 30% less fuel burn."

 **Skydive Santa Barbara** – "10 Tandems to 13,000' in less than 13 minutes not bad!"

 **Sky's the Limit** – "... the 900 Caravan is the only one that gets no noise complaints versus all other aircraft, including the OEM Caravan."

 **NZone Skydive** – "...this plane is the quietest and most efficient on the market... best fit for our business, our environment and our neighbors."

 **Donnerflug Aviation Services** – "... this aircraft differentiates us from our local competitors and is directly tied to our recent business growth. ..."

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## FACT:

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## FACT:

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1

ENTER

THE

You probably can't fly the Mutant, but you should keep reading anyway. Trust us on this...

WORDS: PETE ALLUM

MUTANT

In the early 2000s, Vince Reffet and Fred Fugen – now known as the *Soul Flyers* and most recently famous for flying their wingsuits into a Pilatus Porter in flight – were spending winters in Val Frejus, learning how to speed ride. One of their prominent mentors and pioneers in paragliding, Antoine

Montant, asked them why skydiving harness design had not followed the same progression as paragliding by suspending the pilot in a more efficient flying position beneath the wing.

In 2008, Vince got to work putting together a harness that could be jumped in conjunction with a regular container and achieve the supine position that

paragliders and speed flyers preferred. During early test jumping, he immediately felt the increase in wing feel and performance. The problem with this early prototype was that it required a cumbersome and inelegant addition to an existing container, as well as an inverted deployment position. In 2010, however, things got really interesting

**1** *The Mutant harness/container system allows the wearer to sit back under the canopy, not hang vertically from it*

2



3



**2** Vince, Fred and Pete flocking with their Mutants over Empuria

**3** Attached at the belly, not the shoulders

**4** Vince jumping a previous prototype in which deployment had to be initiated in a back-fly position to allow the canopy to lift off the belly

**5** Pete Allum on a Mutant hop 'n' pop

**6** Deployment on an earlier prototype harness

**7** The Mutant harness has evolved and now deployment is similar to your own kit, with the wearer being suspended from the shoulders initially until they pull this cable

**8** Once the cable is released, the harness disconnects at the shoulders and the weight shifts to the belly attachment points

after a discussion with Mark Procos and 'Blikkies' Daniel Blignaut at UPT. The partnership began to explore the concept of a specific design that could solve the problem of deploying in freefall in a standard opening configuration and then make a relatively simple shift to supine 'flight-mode'.

Fast forward several years, many prototypes, test drops, jumps and hours spent in the hanging harness, and the Mutant was born.

Around 2012, Vince approached good friends and CP competitors Pablo Hernandez and Ian Bobo with the idea of flying in this super-efficient position in competition. Starting in late 2014, Bobo has committed the last few seasons of CP training and competition to adapt to the Mutant and is currently blasting out some Speed and Distance runs that can seriously challenge world records. His efforts in flying the Mutant are proving the potential of the supine piloting position and the future direction of the CP discipline in terms of performance.

Vince and Fred started using the Mutant as soon as it was ready for daily service, giving them the opportunity to apply their incredible talent in learning how to make the most of this new toy. In fact, they now only jump a regular harness when flying the Jetman and enjoy the Mutant on all of their freefall jumps.

Because of the changes in standard equipment operation required to use the Mutant, it was decided that a specific programme would be needed to introduce and train people in order to achieve the utmost in user safety. UPT, Ian and Vince were keen to offer a training programme similar to the world-recognised Flight-1 canopy courses and, this summer, the three of us spent some days together in a collaborative Flight-1 forum, designing, refining and testing the training program that is currently being launched in conjunction with the release of the Mutant to the 'public'.

Potential customers will be directed to experienced Mutant ambassadors around the world who will assist them in their ordering, fitting and training on the system. Possible users of the Mutant include highly experienced Paragliders/speed flyers who are also capable canopy pilots, highly experienced CP competitors/pilots who are looking for an edge and more range, XRW canopy pilots and physically impaired experienced canopy pilots who require a modified landing position.

This is a pretty small pool of potential users and, in comparison with the amount of time, effort and money invested in developing the system, is completely out of proportion. However, as in Formula 1 or Team Sky's domination in cycling, the sharp end of the sport is where the changes should be happening to keep progression occurring. ●



**CHANGES TO NORMAL HARNESS/CONTAINER**  
 Increase in operations required to shift from opening to 'flight mode'  
 More sensitivity in roll and yaw axes  
 Different sight pictures for landing



**ANTOINE MONTANT** was a pioneer of speed riding and one of the best acrobatic paragliders of his era. His nickname at that time was 'Mutant' because he was doing stuff that no-one else, even to this day, dared to try. See him in action here:  
[tinyurl.com/SkydiveOct2018Mutant1](http://tinyurl.com/SkydiveOct2018Mutant1)  
[tinyurl.com/SkydiveOct2018Mutant2](http://tinyurl.com/SkydiveOct2018Mutant2)  
[tinyurl.com/SkydiveOct2018Mutant3](http://tinyurl.com/SkydiveOct2018Mutant3)

**BENEFITS OF THE MUTANT**

- Normal opening configuration
- Standard cutaway and reserve procedures
- More comfortable position
- Less drag
- More speed
- More range
- Increased range and sensitivity in the roll and yaw axes
- Less use of front and rear risers, allowing a smoother wing shape
- Pitch change is created by standing up or lying back in the harness



**"THE NAME 'MUTANT'** is in memory of Antoine Montant, who was a great friend, a member of the *Soul Flyers* and a pioneer of acrobatic paragliding and speed riding. He always told me that such a harness would be great for swooping, better aerodynamics and overall increase in the performance of the canopy because of the hip attachment point that balances your centre of gravity."

Vince Reffert



# ROB HAGGARTY

... as remembered by his wife, Jo



I first met Rob in 2003 on a night out at Tiger Tiger in Portsmouth. Neither of us was into skydiving at that point, but that all changed after doing a tandem skydive in 2005. Although he enjoyed the experience, Rob was somewhat reticent about taking the sport any further. Instead of waiting for him to make a decision, I booked us onto the AFF course at Netheravon and the phone call went as follows: “We start our skydiving course on Saturday and you owe me £1,300!”

He never looked back. It was the start of a new life of excitement, great friendships and adrenaline. Rob tried a little FS at first but, in his own words, he wasn’t “aerodynamically compatible” with the discipline. He enjoyed freeflying, but his real passion lay with wingsuiting and embracing the extra freefall and the serenity of flying through the clouds.

In 2009, he embarked on a trip with a friend to the Perrine Bridge which crosses Snake River in Idaho. It was there he partook in his BASE first jump course, which was a huge success and was the beginning of his nine-year career in the sport.

He was one of the few jumpers to gain both day BASE (1496) and night BASE (220) numbers,

achieving these jumps in both the UK and Europe. I always remember telling him to be careful when jumping abroad and not to get caught because I didn’t want him ruining any holiday possibilities for us in the future!

Rob’s exploits in BASE took him to France, Switzerland (Lauterbrunnen Valley), Norway (Lysebotn) and Italy (Brento and The Dolomites). The hikes up to the exit points were sometimes quite challenging but, through sheer determination, he would always make it. On one occasion, he had his sights set on jumping the Eiger Mushroom and his friend bailed part-way up, but Rob persevered and managed to achieve his goal that day. The Heli Boogie in Norway and Italy were a big hit with Rob; less hiking and more jumping! Having said that, on a more serious note, Rob was a super-conservative BASE jumper and often endured the climb back down as opposed to taking a risk if the conditions weren’t quite right.

We both made many lifelong friends through the sports of skydiving and BASE jumping, all of whom have been an invaluable support to me over the last couple of months and hopefully many months and years to come.

Aside from sky sports, Rob had a fervour for anything he turned his hand to. He was a keen cyclist and loved hiking and scuba diving. We did our PADI course together in 2004; the water temperature was 4°C and it was snowing. It was probably not the best time of year to choose in the UK, but we had a few memorable holidays in the tropics afterwards.

We were in the middle of renovating our house when Rob passed away. He was a dab hand at most practical things and would have a go at pretty much anything while also having high expectations of other people’s skills – my birthday present this year was a tool box! He also adored animals and our two cats, Simpkin and Ruby, played a big part in his life.

Rob died doing something he loved and, although I worried, I would never have stopped him fulfilling his dreams. He always said that he’d much prefer to live to the age of 65 having had a life of fun, cake and great holidays than live until 95 with a more conservative lifestyle and a diet of lettuce!

Rob was a true inspiration with his general zest for life, and he was loved and will be missed by many. Blue skies, Rob. ●

# DARREN GLOVER

... as remembered by Sara Orton

It is difficult to even consider how to write a fitting tribute to someone like Darren. How can anyone do justice to such a unique man? Darren remains one of my true skydiving heroes, for his accomplishments and achievements, his qualifications and credentials but also his character and attitude.

Darren's name was known well throughout the worldwide skydiving community due to his longevity in the sport, his competitive career and his impact on those around him. His talent shone to anyone who witnessed him in the air but, despite being an incredibly impressive skydiver, he was understated and modest and so rarely spoke of his achievements – such a rare and noble trait. Darren's skydiving career remained a mystery to many of those around him at his local DZ. He was known to many as a guru of swooping, though his achievements did not end there.

**Freely National Champion – 2000s**

**VFS team *Bad Council Tenants* (camera)**  
– Bronze, UK Nationals 2010

**VFS Team *VFS15* (camera)** – Silver, UK Nationals 2011

**VFS Team *QFX* (camera)** – Silver, UK Nationals 2012

**VFS Team *QFX* (camera)** – Seventh in World Parachute Championship Mondial Dubai 2012

**Team GB UK Head Down Record Holder**  
– 2010-2012

**UK Canopy Piloting Nationals – 11th, 2014**

**UK Canopy Piloting Nationals – Ninth, 2015**

Darren jumped all over the world. His foreign travel and unsung virtues truly made him our very own 'international man of mystery', a nickname we sometimes deployed when we found out something new about him. Darren was an exceptionally private person, so we would make up our own versions of his lifestyle and eventually opted for him obviously being a spy. This was completely incorrect – he was, in fact, a specialist welder – though his lifestyle was still quite exciting compared to the majority.

His skydiving starting point was Bridlington and, despite his many travels and adventures, he always returned to us. He held a love of and loyalty to Bridlington, probably due to his Yorkshire roots that he was very proud of. Darren was a much-loved member of our community; he was low maintenance, high skill level and had a world of experience – every Chief Instructor's dream.

Darren was aiming to compete in the UK Canopy Piloting Nationals at Dunkeswell in September. His presence will be sorely missed, but his memory will be honoured by The Darren Glover Award for the best newcomer – a fitting tribute given the time, care and commitment Darren gave to supporting new skydivers.

One striking and endearing character trait was Darren's willingness to help others in the sport. Darren was a skilled coach in Canopy Piloting and Freeflying and would run courses to an excellent standard, with rave reviews about his ability to share his knowledge, passion and love of the sport. He was described to me as 'an ambassador of the sport' and I fully support this observation. He would always give his time, his enthusiasm and his knowledge to those that wanted to learn and had tolerance levels that put the rest of us to shame.

Darren also had some quirky traits that were often noted. One of his requests in the skydive

centre cafe was always three-quarters of a cup of coffee. We never really understood why this was; it just became an unwritten rule.

So many people have learned so much from Darren over the years and we all have treasured memories of him. As I reflect on why Darren was a true hero, it is not only his achievements, not only his level of skill and determination, not only his enthusiasm to help others or even the fact that he was one of the nicest men you could wish to meet. What made Darren my hero was his humanity, his humility and his integrity. As he now swoops off into the sunset, we are left with grief and loss of a great man and good friend.

In August 2018, we completed Darren's final skydive at Bridlington and his ashes were scattered over the runway in front of his close family. A plaque on the runway marks his passing and keeps his memory alive. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Keep on swooping, my friend. ●



Darren, by Rob Lloyd

# NOT JUST A PRETTY PICTURE

Throwing these shapes takes skills

WORDS: MARY BARRATT, BPA CF REP PHOTOS: MING CHU

**Do you ever** look at those pretty pictures of big canopy formations and wonder "How on earth do they do that?" If so, read on. It seems that more and more people are going beyond the "That's crazy!" reaction to CF and asking questions about the flying skills behind the pictures. So, as fantastic weather and a recent Canopy Formation big-way meet gave us some new CF shots to share (thanks to Ming Chu), this seems like a good time to put out an article that looks at the skills that make these pretty pictures happen.

## It all starts with engineering

A CF meet generally starts with some head-scratching in front of

a white board, standing on the scales, swapping canopies around and finding out what the wind's doing between 3,000ft and 13,000ft. This isn't because the CF crowd are trying to avoid jumping; it's actually a crucial part of getting those pretty formations in the air. Wing-loadings, canopies and the spot can make or break a formation. For example, in general terms, everyone taking part in big-way CF should have a wing-loading of around 1.35, but it can be useful if those on the centre line are slightly heavier so that the centre of the formation drives forward while the pilot should have a slightly lower wing-loading than the rest of the formation. There are other factors too, such as the

positioning of canopies: larger canopies are better at the top and in the centre; an older canopy is likely to perform better on a wing because it won't try to outride the formation; and an old 'sinky' canopy is unsuitable for the pilot slot.

## All about the base

As in other disciplines, nothing builds without a base and the pilot is crucial to this in CF. They are first out of the aircraft and, as soon as they are under a fully pressurised canopy, they need to focus on holding a heading. This provides a target for number two and number three, who approach one after the other from the right and left. They each position the bottom skin of their canopy so that the pilot can

just swing their foot into the outside A-line to make the grip (CF canopies have non-cascaded A-B lines, which makes this a whole lot easier). The pilot has to take these grips while keeping their own canopy on heading. If they make any harness or toggle inputs, this can either take the base off-heading or turn their canopy into number two or three's canopy and that will slow down the build for sure. Number four is in next and they present an outside A-line to number three, who takes canopy or line with one hand while avoiding unintentional harness inputs and using the other hand to keep control of their own canopy. Numbers two and three give each other a nod and both swing a foot in





CENTRE OF THE FORMATION/CENTRE LINE



Nine has gone a bit low here. It will help if they move back out to the side and into clean air. Then they can use rear risers and the sink rate of the formation to gain some height and attempt the dock again

to make the grip, and the 4-way base is complete. If the pilot can keep flying with a minimum amount of turning, it's possible to build things like a 6-way box, a 10-way kite, a 16-way base for bigger things and all sorts of crazy shapes.

Building a 9-way diamond involves adding another layer of jumpers to the 4-way base. To do this, numbers five and six fly as a 'wing/lock pair' and numbers seven and eight mirror this on the other side. An 'unlocked wing' often wants to pivot around into the formation, but the formation tends to become more stable once the wing is 'locked'. When a 'wing' docks, the 'lock' should be just a few seconds behind. Sometimes numbers six and eight arrive at the same time, which can be quite challenging for number four, but this is actually a good thing for the formation. Once the wing/lock pairs are there, number nine completes the formation, presenting an outside A-line to number eight first and then to number six. It is important that all these docks are controlled, that they don't bring energy to the formation and that canopies approach at the right angle, not from above or below. This means that the jumpers must fly their canopy consistently, relative to the formation. They must also contend with invisible challenges such as body and canopy burble and wingtip vortices. This is precision flying at its finest.

### Happy jumpers and healthy formations

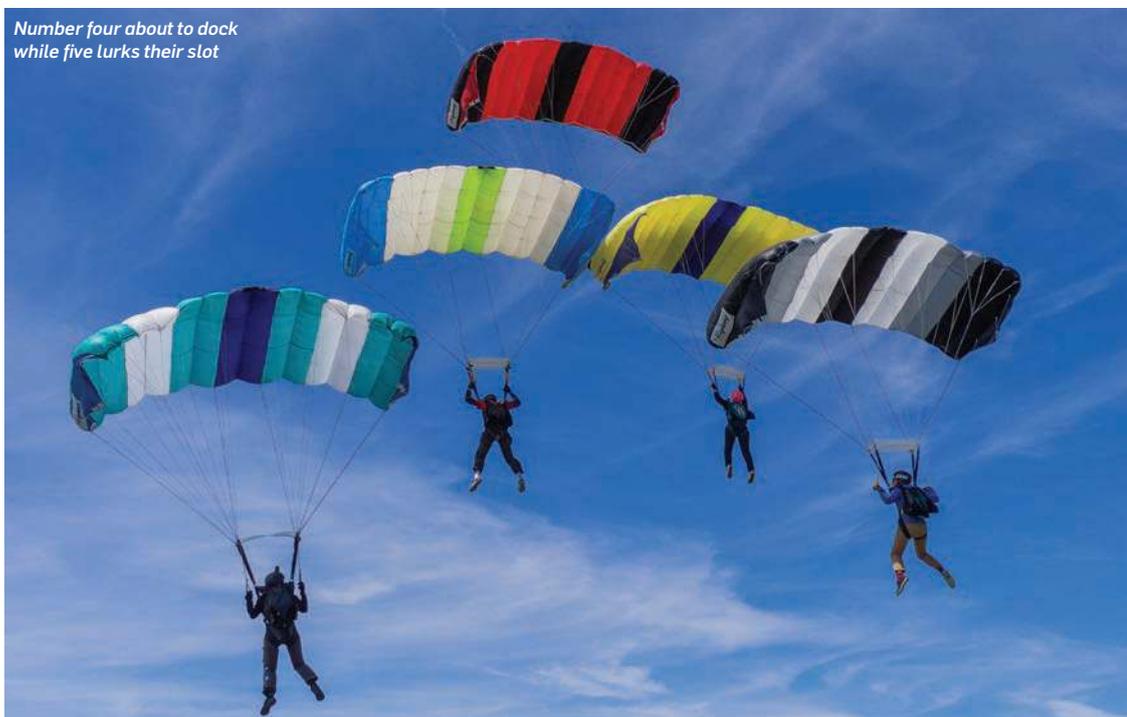
Getting it right isn't just about making the dock; there are also some rules to follow when approaching a formation and flying next to it while it builds. CF jumpers talk about a 'centre line,' which extends in front of and behind a formation. Crossing that line risks burbling the formation and getting in the way of other jumpers, so it should be avoided at all times. Flying anywhere in front of the formation is also a bad move because no-one's happy when a jumper burbles the formation. While keeping to one side of a formation is quite easy, staying with a formation as it builds (the bigger it gets, the faster it sinks) with only a small space to work in can be quite a challenge. Each waiting jumper has to fly their own canopy within a very small 'tube' while being fully aware of the movements of canopies to either side. If no-one makes any radical or unpredictable movements, everyone can fly in place and make their dock at the right time.

Once in the formation, a jumper only gives about 5% of their

*Numbers five and six stay to the left of the centre line, waiting for the black and white canopy of number four to dock*



*Number four about to dock while five lurks their slot*



## 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

Antonis Loizou, Cyprus  
Jonathan Kilpatrick, Hinton  
Oscar Ball, Peterlee  
Si Goodman, LPS  
Richard Harrison, LPS

### BASIC TRACKING COACH

Jonathan Kilpatrick, Hinton  
Robert Southwell, Hinton  
Samuel Burrell, Netheravon

### CF COACH

Rebecca Higham, Cark  
Emily Sugars, Langar

### FS COACH

Dan Griffiths, Tilstock  
Adam Lewis, LPS  
Mark Rondel, Hinton  
Christopher Hayes, LPS  
Si Goodman, LPS  
Holly Jenkins, Hinton  
Kara Beacock, Weston  
James Walker  
Richard Owen, Sibson  
Robert Johns, Hibaldstow  
Jason Mackenzie  
Andrew Kilpatrick, Hinton  
Samuel Burrell, Netheravon

### TRACKING COACH

Elise Sharp, LPS  
Andrew Kilpatrick, Hinton  
Mark Rondel, Hinton

### WS COACH

Chris Ings, Netheravon



attention to taking a dock. Around 85% of their attention is focused on flying their own canopy, which basically means looking at the leading edge of the canopy and the foot (or feet) hooked in there, and responding to what they see. The remaining 10% of their attention is given to things like cross-referencing the other jumper(s) in their line – looking up or down at a jumper who should be on the same level usually means that the formation is heavy on one side. A formation that is unevenly weighted in this way tends to ‘seesaw,’ which is generally a sign that it is ‘unhealthy’. Seeing or feeling canopies in the formation ‘breathing’ excessively (compressing and expanding span-wise) is another sign of a formation that is not flying well. Sometimes, this

kind of movement will settle when the next lock docks; sometimes it will get worse and lead to canopies collapsing. The more formations that jumpers experience, the better they get at reading these signs and responding to them intuitively.

### “Break it down” or “starburst”

Any jumper in the formation who feels or sees something that they think risks the formation ‘funneling’ or ‘collapsing’ can call “Break it down, break it down!” This call means that the formation breaks down from the bottom. One at a time, each jumper who feels there is an issue will call “drop [their name]” to those above, who simply releases the foot grip when they hear the call. This is a

relatively slow way to break a formation, but it means that jumpers whose canopies are not flying well can be dropped while jumpers with happy canopies will stay together. That usually means that a base stays intact so the jumpers who have been dropped can easily make another attempt at building the formation.

Once a formation has built, the pilot will hear a shout of “Complete!” echo up from the bottom of the formation. Then, if it’s a healthy formation, the pilot might fly it around for a while before calling “Starburst, starburst!” This call signals the start of a countdown, which is led by the pilot and echoed across the formation. The countdown ends with all grips being dropped simultaneously and each jumper

making a very small, pre-planned riser or toggle input depending on their position in the formation. It’s a quick and very pretty way to end a formation. It also means there can be very little separation between jumpers and, as a large formation will usually break above 3,500ft, there is still plenty of time and opportunity for all sorts of 2-, 3- and 4-way fun – as long as the pilot made some good heading choices and everyone is in the right place to land on, of course.

**Got questions? Fancy giving CF a go? Already got your CF1 and want to try big-way? Get in touch with Mary Barratt (mlbarratt4@hotmail.com), post on the CF Coaching Facebook page or see if there’s a CF Coach at your home DZ.**

# ENOUGH SPACE FOR YOUR WHOLE TEAM

IN GERMANY'S LARGEST  
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# IT TAKES TWO TO TANDEM

**When a candidate** arrives on a Tandem Instructor course, the examiners will start by saying that Tandem Skydiving is not as easy as it may appear and that they will certainly encounter a few students that will test them throughout their career. On a Tandem course, candidates are required to make a minimum of eight descents – the first four being with a suitable container and a further four with a B Licenced parachutist or above acting as a Tandem Student. Candidates are required to undertake one further descent to conclude the assessment, which is carried out from 7,000ft AGL (a hop 'n' pop)

and which simulates an aircraft emergency. If a candidate is successful and gains a Tandem Instructor rating, the next day they may find themselves jumping with students of different weights and sizes. The bottom line is that you should never assume that the skydive will go the way you expect it to! *Always* double-check that the student has understood the relevant safety points included in the tandem brief and in particular the required freefall and landing positions, especially if you have not delivered the brief yourself!

**Jeff Montgomery, BPA Safety and Technical Officer**



*"Head back, legs back, arch" – not!  
Sometimes students throw some  
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you brief them. By Pieter Potgeiter*



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# GEAR ZONE



## Dekunu: One Explorer Edition

Never before has there been so much hype over a new alti, but then, never before has there been an alti worth so much hype.

Dekunu, based in Australia, believe they have completely reimagined the alti and brought it kicking and screaming into the future. Don't think of it as an alti; think of it more as a wrist-worn computer that does a plethora of things including telling you how high up you are – or aren't.

Their mission statement says that they want to make every skydiver more aware and provide the information needed to make better, safer decisions and, when you look at what the One can do, you can see they're really going for it.

So (and take a deep breath before reading this out loud) the Dekunu One offers: GPS tracking, a high-res sunlight-readable 2.4" display, a resistive touchscreen that works with gloves, ground speed and heading

information, compass direction and groundspeed under canopy, local weather reports, comprehensive post-jump reporting, wireless syncing and customisable cases and LED colours. Phew.

What does this all actually mean? Well, that stunning screen is going to offer you a lot of information in the various stages of your jumping. Not only that, but it's going to log it all too. This means that, when you get down, you can easily sync it with the Dekunu cloud and then look at all your jump data in 3D overlays, analysing speeds, distances, you name it.

Dekunu already had a limited release of the One Explorer edition, which sold out pretty quickly. They've just opened up the second round of Explorer editions so, if you want one, order it quick. This will be the last batch ahead of the final unit's release some time in the future. If you want one, it'll set you back a pretty reasonable £322.16 which includes a wrist strap in the colour of your choice.

[dekunu.tech](http://dekunu.tech)

By Roy Wimmer-Jaglom



## Performance Designs: Peregrine

Swoopers, listen in. PD has released a couple of new options for their epic Peregrine canopy.

First up, you can now get it in all black – yup, like the soul of your enemy. It'll even make you go 1.76% faster. Kinda.

More interestingly, there's a

new slider option to give softer openings. PD have noticed that a lot of people into XRW are using their Peregrines, so they've created a new DOME RDS slider which, they say, will make the openings much more pleasant.

Want to find out more? Hit up your local dealer or speak to PD direct through their website.

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

## Tubular Retainer Band Failures

The Parachute Industry Association (PIA) have issued an informational advisory about Tubular Retainer Bands (TRBs) over concerns about their failure during a parachute

deployment. You may know them as Tube Stows or one of the other brand names, but essentially these are the rubber tubular bands that are glued in the middle.

The PIA has become aware of a number of incidents around the world where a TRB has failed at the glued overlap due to excessive heat,

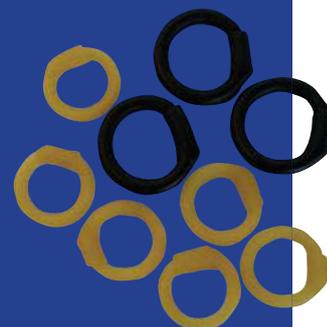
UV and ozone exposure. The concern with this is that a failure prior to full line stretch could result in an out of sequence deployment, which in turn could result in damage to the parachute – or, indeed, the jumper.

They are advising that all parachutists and Riggers should check the condition

of their TRBs to ensure that they are not weakened and detail a simple test as part of the advisory.

You can read how to do the test and find out more about the PIA's concerns by reading the full advisory, which is available via their website.

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



## Vertex: Flex Suit

If you're into your Freefly, you'll know that thin and slim is the new baggy and saggy in the world of jumpsuits. As a wise man recently pointed out to me, Freefly suits tend to follow the fashion of jeans. They started out all baggy and now we're into the world of skinny hipster.

Getting in on the action is UK suit manufacturer Vertex, with its newest suit: the Flex. Flex is a suit that's been designed for fast dynamic flying and, while not quite spray-on like some manufacturers have been working on, it's certainly going to be a snug fit.

Mixtures of spandex, cordura and taslan in the various areas of the suit offer good durability for skydiving, comfort and that important tight fit all over.

Vertex suits are fully customisable and the Flex is no different. In addition to the sizing, material options and colouring, Flex offers a number of options including grips, leg pockets, padded knees, a high collar and differing cuff choices such as zipped, elasticated and hidden. As standard, the suit comes with the zipped hybrid cuff which offers both a tight fit and a zip to make it easy to get on and off.

One thing Vertex is keen to point out is their embroidery feature on their online suit designer. Customers can simply upload their own PNG files for placement on the suit, which they will then use for the embroidery. This makes it super simple to add custom logos or text wherever you want it.

Flex is priced at £260 and, if you want one, head over to their website to check out the measurement guide and to place and order.

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



## Phoenix-Fly: Onesie Power

In the old days, we tracked in jeans. It was a pleasant, carefree time where we were happy to have just cleared the aircraft and made it off jump run. Things, however, have moved on quite drastically.

Tracking suits came first, giving more surface area and, latterly, better glide. These two-piece designs have recently made way for an all-in-one, which we now find are being developed even further.

Phoenix-Fly has now introduced the Onesie Power, which sits above the wonderfully named Onesie in their tracking suit range.

The Onesie Power, as the name would suggest, is a one-piece tracking suit that offers a faster inflation, solid pressurisation and significant step up in terms of performance. The design and geometry of the suit have been changed, along with a new wing profile and back deflector,

and this offers more balance at higher speeds.

As the arms are not fixed like in a wingsuit, your arms are completely free to deploy the canopy without the need to unzip should you need to deal with any post-opening issues.

Available in a range of colours and either parapak or ultralight material, Onesie Power comes with sturdy YKK zippers, 5.10 BASE soles, storage pockets and new anti-slip bootie straps.

Priced at €1,020 (plus VAT), you can order yours from their network of dealers or direct via their website.

[phoenix-fly.com](http://phoenix-fly.com)



By James  
'Macca'  
Macdonald

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# Affiliated DZs available to BPA members – how many have you jumped at?

## BPA Affiliated DZs (PTOs) in the UK

**PAGE 60** **1 Black Knights**  
Black Knights Parachute Centre  
Hillam Lane, Cockerham, Lancashire LA2 0DY  
DZ: 01524 791820  
Mob: 07970 764850  
bkpcinfo@googlemail.com  
**bkpc.co.uk**  
*Blackhawk Caravan*

**PAGE 61** **2 Bridlington**  
Skydive GB  
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road, Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB  
T: 01262 228033  
Mob: 07522 335713  
info@skydivegb.com  
**skydivegb.com**  
*GA8 Airvan*

**PAGE 61** **3 Cark**  
Skydive North West Club  
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7LS  
DZ: 01539 558672  
T: 01229 889516  
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk  
**skydivenorthwest.co.uk**  
*PAC 750XL*

**PAGE 63** **4 Chatteris**  
North London Skydiving Centre  
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea, March, Cambridgeshire PE15 0FB  
DZ: 01354 740810  
T: 0871 664 0113  
info@ukskydiving.com  
**ukskydiving.com**  
*Twin Otter, Nomad*

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

**PAGE 63** **6 Dunkeswell**  
Skydive.buzz Ltd  
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG  
T: 01404 890222  
Mob: 07718 638000  
office@skydive99.com  
**skydive99.com**  
*Three Beech 99s and Caravan*

**PAGE 64** **7 Headcorn**  
Skydive Headcorn  
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX  
T: 01622 891670  
jump@headcorn.com  
**headcorn.com**  
*Cessna Caravan, Islander*

**PAGE 64** **8 Hibaldstow**  
Target Skysports  
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow, Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN  
DZ: 01652 648837  
T: 01132 505600  
info@skydiving.co.uk  
**skydiving.co.uk**  
*Dornier G92 twin turbine, Supervan 900 Cessna Caravan*

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

**PAGE 67** **10 Jersey**  
Skydive Jersey Ltd  
C/O Jersey Aero Club, L'Avenue de la Reine Elizabeth II, St Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands JE3 7BP  
T: 01534 747410  
info@skydivejersey.net  
**skydivejersey.net**  
*Cessna 206, guest turbines*

**PAGE 68** **11 Langar**  
British Parachute Schools  
Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY  
T: 01949 860878  
info@skydivelangar.co.uk  
**skydivelangar.co.uk**  
*Two Cessna Grand Caravans, guest aircraft*

**PAGE 68** **12 Netheravon**  
Army Parachute Association  
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF  
T: 01980 628250  
generalenquiries@netheravon.com  
**netheravon.com**  
*Two BlackHawk Caravans, guest aircraft*

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

**PAGE 71** **14 Peterlee**  
Peterlee Parachute Club  
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH  
T: 01915 171234  
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk  
**skydiveacademy.org.uk**  
*Cessna 182, Supervan 900 Cessna Caravan*

**PAGE 72** **15 Reading**  
London Parachute School  
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS  
T: 0845 130 7194  
info@londonparachuteschool.com  
**londonparachuteschool.com**  
*Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan*

**16 Salisbury**  
Go Skydive Ltd  
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield, Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ  
T: 01722 567536  
info@goskydive.com  
**goskydive.com**  
*Supervan 900 Cessna Caravan*

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

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

**PAGE 75** **19 Swansea**  
Skydive Swansea  
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea SA2 7JU  
T: 07779 019655  
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk  
**skydiveswansea.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**PAGE 76** **20 Swindon**  
Blue Skies Freefall Club  
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm, Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA  
T: 01793 791222  
info@skydivelondon.co.uk  
**skydivelondon.co.uk**  
*Airvan*

**PAGE 76** **21 Tilstock**  
Skydive Tilstock Freefall Club  
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA  
T: 01948 841111  
skydive@skydivetilstock.co.uk  
**skydivetilstock.co.uk**  
*Airvan*

**PAGE 60** **22 Beccles Skydivers**  
UK Parachuting  
Beccles Airfield, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE  
T: 01502 476131  
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk  
**ukparachuting.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**PAGE 72** **23 Sibson Skydivers**  
UK Parachuting  
Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE  
T: 01832 280490  
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk  
**skydivesibson.co.uk**  
*Cessna Caravan*

**24 Weston**  
RAF Weston on the Green, Biester, Oxford OX25 3TQ  
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**PAGE 76** **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@skydivecyprus.org  
**skydivecyprus.org**  
*Cessna Grand Caravan*

## 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





1 CRW 5-stack,  
by Duncan

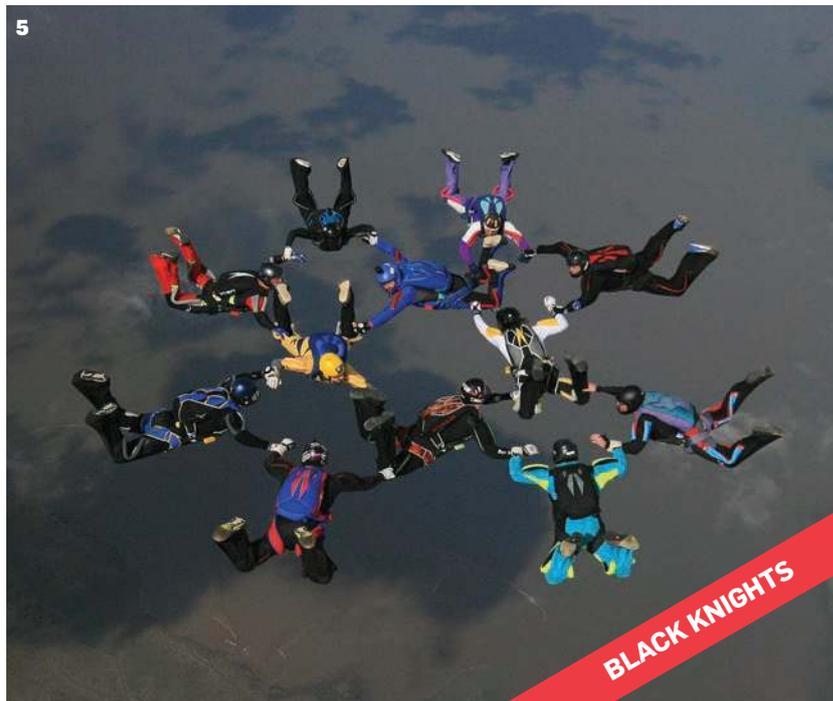
2 Breaking off from  
the Euro Big-way  
Camp, by James  
Stevenson

3 Sam Barfoot  
and Max Fuller,  
by Jan Zackl

4 Andreas cruises  
out of the door, by  
Nick Davison

5 Black Knights  
in a 12-way, by  
Sam Bemment





# NEWS



## BECCLES

### CRACK OF DAWN

Another month, another article, and with recent days of endless jumping and club jumpers making for some awesome achievements across the board. To name a few: Karl Thackeray achieved his FF2, Brandon Maxwell achieved his FF1, FF2, got his FF Coach rating and hit D Licence and Gary Murray achieved his FF2 and hit 1,000 jumps.

#### BECCLES

Stewart Salmon, Marty Burgess, Ross Fisher, Greg Lainchbury and Javi Gomez, by Marty Burgess

#### BLACK KNIGHTS

Black Knights in a 10-way, by Sam Bemment

After a long summer that's slowly drawing to a close, we have filled up our days in the sky by making new memories and new friends each and every day. Jumping from dawn until dusk with lots of sunset jumping and a yummy barbecue afterwards, we have definitely had some awesome months!

This year has flown by and winter will soon be closing in. It's time to get the woolly socks and Santa suits out because Christmas is on its way – fast!

#### Callum Kennedy

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Connor Cunningham, Pawel Dudkiewisz, Sandra Federhofer, Bradley Lambert, Ross Mason-Smith, Dora Militaru, Alex Sammons, Ollie Wilson **CH2/JM1** Lucy Abbey, David Cranna, Yazmin Maskell, Barry Woollard **FS1** Matthew Rozier **FF1** Brandon Maxwell **FF2** Brandon Maxwell, Gary Murray, Karl Thackeray **TR1** Sam Waylen **JUMP NUMBERS 50** David Cranna, Maggie Kelly, Tom Lloyd, Yazmin Maskell, Barry Woollard **100** Lucy Abbey **500** Rhian Hogg, Amber Summerton, Ian Whayman **800** Sam Warburton **1,000** Brandon Maxwell, Gary Murray **1,300** Callum Kennedy **1,700** Maximus Meridius **3,000** Sam Carter

## BLACK KNIGHTS

### ROOKIES CELEBRATE BRONZE

The summer season started well but, in true British style, August nearly ended up in a complete washout. Although the BPA FS Roadshow resulted in us not being able to get up in the sky, we had the opportunity to complete some ground school seminars, which I think everyone found beneficial. Thanks go to those who attended and all the coaches for visiting us.

Huge congratulations to our 4-way rookie team *Chikara* on taking bronze at the Nationals with only five team training jumps and 30 minutes of tunnel time beforehand. Well done guys!



Our thanks also go to Natalie and Martin for organising our BKPC charity event for the North West Air Ambulance and to everyone who got involved and donated, raising lots of money in the process.

Keep your eyes peeled for our next wingsuit event, which will be taking place over a weekend in October. We will be confirming dates soon on our Facebook page. We still have lots of events to take place before the end of the year, including Jim Bradwell's 10-way FS event and Ally Milne's Freestyle and Tracking weekend.

We would like to wish Dan, our pilot, the very best on his new venture. We will miss you midweek, but we will look forward to seeing you still on the weekends. Last but not least, we would like to wish Chris and Emily, who are tying the knot in September, a happy married life and we hope you guys enjoy your honeymoon.

Blue Skies

**Felix**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CH2/JM1 James Allen, Ben Willis TR1 Ben Willis **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Ben Willis 100 Murray Speight 200 Steve Broadbent 300 James Allen, Michael Simmers 2,000 Roger Hughes **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Craig Oliver-Walsh **FIVE HOURS IN FREEFALL** Michael Simmers

**BRIDLINGTON**

# A FITTING FAREWELL TO DARREN

It's been a busy few months here at Bridlington. As with all DZs, we've made the most of the glorious weather and packed in as many jumps in as possible. Long may it continue!

As all of you know, we lost our hero Darren Glover earlier this year and last month we said our final goodbyes as we took him for his last skydive. With family and close friends present, Sara scattered Darren's ashes high above Bridlington DZ where he and the mighty Fluid Wings HK once flew. On the same lift, we saw swooping from Grant Macpherson and Luke Lonsdale and flag jumps by Colin Stevenson, Paul Gibbs, and Alec Flint. Thank you to everyone that went out of their way to make this jump possible and give Darren the send-off he truly deserved.

As always, our fun jumpers have been keeping busy. Big congratulations go to Paul Gibbs on hitting 1,200 jumps and to Matt Penney for hitting his 100th jump and achieving his B Licence.

Sara and Louise took a well-deserved break, taking in Skydive Seven

“With family and close friends present, Sara scattered Darren's ashes high above Bridlington DZ where he and the mighty Fluid Wings HK once flew”

on the Algarve. They caught up with Simon, a former Brid jumper, and the rest of the family. Looking at the photos, there was plenty of fun to be had.

It's great to see a couple of old faces enjoying their skydiving fix recently. We welcomed back Steve Watts, a Brid jumper of many moons ago, along with Sara Burnside who is smashing her way through the Static Line system after a little time off.

Congratulations to Jane for hitting the year milestone in our cafe, where she always keeps us and the customers fed and watered.

Finally, a huge thanks to everyone who has mucked in over this busy season. You know who you are, and you're all awesome!

**David Ruston**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CH2/JM1 Matt Penney **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Matt Penney 1,200 Paul Gibbs

**CARK**

# STACKS OF ACTIVITY

Our open week saw some brilliant weather as AY and OH flew formation loads coached by Phil Curtis and Speds, slowly building up the two groups from 10-ways to 20-ways. On the odd morning that we had inclement weather, Phil, Mike and Katie held seminar and open forums to discuss malfunctions, FS coaching, big-way disciplines and low turns. The 65-plus members attending enjoyed the chats and learned a great deal.

With plenty of visiting jumpers, the manifest was soon full and extra board space was soon required. It was great to see plenty of Skydive Langar wingsuiters flocking to Cark to enjoy a cruise around the Lake District for a few minutes. Big thanks go to Steve Searle, who coached some of our club members through to gaining their WS – well done Dez and Clair.

To celebrate our World War II heritage, Mike had arranged for a T6 Harvard to fly in and take club members for a pleasure flight around the lakes. At least nine people took the opportunity to fly low over the lakes and barrel roll over the airfield. All enjoyed the thrill and, for those that missed out, the plane will be coming again – put your name down early.

Cark seems to have developed CRW mania, with plenty of our club members and some management wanting to have a go – Davey McMinn was running out of CRW rigs at one point, so popular has this discipline become. They are not the most attractive rigs in the world, but the stacks just kept getting bigger.

**BRIDLINGTON**  
Yorkshire Air Ambulance Day,  
by David Ruston





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This was also a great method for training for the up-and-coming Nationals, and to celebrate Andy Bates' 100th jump the CRW team coached Andy and built a 5-stack. Top show, boys, and congratulations also go to Becky Higham for obtaining her CF coaching status. Unsung hero of the week was John Hargreaves for his painstaking efforts in keeping AY and OH fuelled up and flying – cheers John.

Great weather meant many achievements. Congratulations go to our first-time freefallers Liam Kelly and Oliver Williams, to Scott Rawson for his AFF qualification and to Ben Fisher, Andy Bates and Georgina Morris for their FS1s.

It's a big welcome back to our uni committees and their recruited freshers. Hopefully, we can continue the great work you have all done and progress as many of your students as possible through the category system.

The Cark Christmas do will this year be held at the Hydro in Windermere. Please see the team in the office to book your place and ensure you don't miss out on a hellraiser of a party, especially if the Blyths and Rawsons are there!

**Stu Morris**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8** Vinnie **FS1** Andy Bates, Ben Fisher, Georgina Morris **FF1** Brooke Rawson **CF1** Brooke Rawson **WS1** Clair Armstrong, Dez Blyth **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Malky Hunter, Will Smith **100** Andy Bates, Sue Manickum, Dominic Ward **500** Pete Donald **800** Tracey Miffiin **1,300** Clair Armstrong

**CHATTERIS (BELOW)**  
*Craig and Erica, by Alex Turner*

**DUNKESWELL (BELOW RIGHT)**  
*Omni99 4-way team training, by Dan Guest*



**CHATTERIS**

# SUCCESS IS A TEAM EFFORT

**Our local 8-way team** has brought home medals! *Chatterm8s* competed at the Nationals on September 1-2 and won bronze in the Rookie category. Congratulations to Alison Peock, our team captain, Tony Labbadia on camera, Jill Judd, who provided us with cake, and to Blanaid O'Sullivan, Ali Atlasi, Anna Pavlitski, Avi Gidar and Dave Wickes. We're also very grateful to our packer Rezz for doing such a wonderful job. Thanks also go to the staff at Hibaldstow and other teams for helping us out and teaching us lots of new techniques. And finally, a special thanks to Chris Shaw – without him, this would not have been possible. It's been a wonderful experience for everyone, enjoying ourselves and progressing.

In other news, the August bank holiday BBQ was a success, and thanks to all that joined us. There has been a lot of progression, meaning plenty of beer, with a little help from Alex Kean. Craig celebrated his 2,000th tandem skydive with his girlfriend Erica. There are also many more people enjoying £12 jump tickets on our loyalty scheme.

The Wingsuit Coaching Weekend on September 8-9 was a success with many people experiencing and enjoying their first wingsuit jump. Thank you to the coaches and to Graham Ablett for organising this and to Chatteris DZ staff for accommodating the event.

**Sophie Barnwell**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Stephen Baldwin, Rebecca Cains, Svatopluk Danek, Michael Foulster, Pete Hodgkinson, Stamen Marinovski, Sebastian Ponari, Gerie Simon **JM1/CH2** Saúl Oliva Cabrera **FF1** Laura Anne, Sam Barfoot, Anna Kulak **FF2** Graham Ablett **TR1** Charlie Smart **TR2** Charlie Smart **JUMP NUMBERS 200** David Edmondson, Lee O'Flynn **500** Jan Zackl **700** Alison Peock

**DUNKESWELL**

# THE NEED FOR SPEED!

**On July 6**, the INFMS ISSA Speedskydiving World Series Final came to Dunkeswell and what a fantastic competition it was! Speed skydiving is a discipline with as simple a definition as it gets: achieve the fastest speed possible over a given distance. It has developed over the last few years and represents the fastest non-motorised sport on Earth. In essence, Speed skydiving is the discipline where only one aspect of skydiving counts – freefall speed. The competition went really well, with 16 competitors from all across the world, and was completed over the two days. Massive thanks to Mikey Lovemore for superb organising! The final results saw Matthew Byrne in first place, Stefano Celoria in second place and Henrik Raimer in third place.



On August 4-5, we hosted the second BPA GP Accuracy Meet. In the morning, we had thick mist and low-level cloud. The competition didn't kick off until later in the day, with each competitor completing four jumps. Most landed on the tuffet, but there were a few who didn't quite make it! On Sunday morning, we had brilliant sunshine but the winds were above competition limits. The winds dropped shortly after 13:00 and the last two jumps were completed. In Individual Accuracy, Les Carroll took first with a result of 9cm, second went to Roumie Radountcheva and third went to Steve Hastings. Congratulations to you all!

We were so happy to hold another fantastic BCPA Boogie here at Dunkeswell in mid-June. This was a very busy Boogie, even with the poor weather, and everyone had lots of fun.

We are open on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays so come and have some fun! Some dates for your diary:

**Sept 28-30:** Altitude Brothers – Beech Multiplane Loads

**Oct 12-14:** Monthly Freeflying with Andy Kilpatrick

**Oct 13:** Chicks ROCK charity event

**Oct 19-21:** Formation, Freefly, Tracking and Wingsuit Progression Weekend

**Miko**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **FIRST FREEFALL** James Pearce **CAT8/CH1** Fatih Guney, Zak Upcott **FS1** Ryan Clark, Matt Woodford **FF1** Laura Bamford **CP2** Joe Mann **WS1** Max Fuller, Lee Jones, David Nelson **WS2** Oli Melzack **TR1** Arthur Amara, Lauren Miles, Cara Pritchard, Alex Potter **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Elisabetta Launari **5,000** Adam Pemble

**HEADCORN**

# A BIG LEARNING CURVE

**Brian Cumming** visited again in August to run a very successful 'bigish-way' camp, bearing in mind we can only operate one aircraft and can never put together more than a 14-way. A total of 18 people registered, and most completed 10 jumps over the three days. The learning curve was steep for some people but there were some noticeable improvements from last year, especially David Griffiths-Jones.

“ Les Carroll took first with a result of 9cm, second went to Roumie Radountcheva and third went to Steve Hastings ”

The airfield once again hosted an Invicta Military Preservation Society weekend in August, which included an air show in the afternoon and that meant that we were grounded. However, on the Saturday, 18 of our members were lucky enough to be part of the air show when they had the opportunity to jump from a C47. Sadly, the Sunday jump did not go ahead due to a 2,000ft cloud base.

Chelsea Tooley gained her C Licence in July and started videoing tandem students. Having successfully proved her ability, she is now part of the camera team – well done to her.

After many successful years of co-operation, Headcorn Parachute Club has parted company, on amicable terms, with Steen Ulrich by taking on full ownership of the Caravan G-GOHI. Steen provided us with the Beaver, Nomad and our first Caravan and shared the purchase of GOHI. We thank him for all his help and support.

**Jane and Pete**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **GRADUATED AFF** Ben Hodges, Helen Terry **CAT8/CH1** Ben O'Brien, Seth Carnwath, Steve Joyce, Richard Latter, Peter Petrov, Bonnie Van Rossum **CH2/JM1** Steve Joyce **FS1** Max Clinch, Jade Evans **TR1** Hasan Al Rahal **WS1** Emma Negus **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Steve Joyce 200 Mike Leslie, Jack Reed, Brent Willis 800 Fleur Jones, Tony Lloyd

**HIBALDSTOW**

# HIB HIB HOORAY AT NATIONALS

**Before the British** Nationals descended on us at the end of August, the Hib Cup returned as a money meet. Over the weekend, we had 13 teams competing in all categories and all coming away victorious: *NFTO* in AAA, *Alola* in AA, *Average Joes* in Single A and *4Reigners* in Rookie. All received money into their training accounts to use towards the Nationals.

The British Nationals then descended on us for two weekends. You can find the full write-up from P17 onwards, but the Hib teams of *NFTO*, *Satori XL*, *Alola*, *Average Joes*, *4Reigners*, *Imperial Leather*, *Ane-Berated*, *Silence of the Lambsleys*, *Nova*, *Blame8 on the Bootie* and *Groomed* all took part.

The new four-day format for the Nationals started on the Friday morning and that's where it stopped until the next day. Saturday

**HEADCORN**  
By Paul Rimmington





photo: Matt Baldelli

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was sunny and clear and, by the end of the day, 90 lifts had been completed. Most teams completed seven rounds and the AAA 4-way completed eight. The fight was on in AAA between Hib-sponsored *NFTO* and *Satori XL*, with the former one point ahead.

Irritatingly, we had rain and low cloud all day. There was hope on Monday, but it was short-lived. However, another round of Seniors was completed, with the scores remaining tight. Alas, that was it and *NFTO* triumphed in the AAA category by a single point.

The AA crown was taken by *Alola*, mentored and coached by Stu, giving them their second gold position after winning the Hib Cup. Sally, Corrie, Kat and Catherine deserved the podium place, although Sally was a little concerned the following morning as she frantically tried to relocate the trophy that had been lost in all the excitement.

In Single A, *Average Joes* Eric, Jake, Sarah and Wendy took silver and in Rookie, Anna, Vera, Alan and Stephen's *4Reigners* took the crown, all again coached and mentored by Stu. Awesome achievements all round.

The following weekend saw the 8-way competition and Artistics. This time, the weather was on our side and the competition was finished by Sunday lunchtime.

*Microclim8*, who have trained at both Hib and Skydive Algarve, came out victorious in Seniors with two new British records for a 15-point average. In Rookie, gold was won by a scratch team from Hib, *Blame8 on the Bootie*, which registered with five minutes to spare. Well done to Jeni Berry for getting the guys together and to Kat for coaching. Hib's *Team NOVA*, consisting of Ed Cracknell and Chris Mayhew, came away with bronze in Freestyle A. Well done to everyone taking part.

The season isn't over and we've plenty to keep you busy as we go into winter. Keep an eye out for all the events on our Experienced Skydiving Group Facebook page.

**Ash Kemp**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Liu Dongdong, CharlieThacker CH2/JM1 Will Furlong FS1 Katie Bulmer, Lyanne Cotton, Beatrice Rix, Steve Shipp WS1 Jeni Berry, Rich Dunn, Leander Hambley, Magnum Tsang WS2 Jeni Berry, Leander Hambley, Magnum Tsang CP2 Rich Madeley TR1 Sara Henricson JUMP NUMBERS 50 Will Furlong 100 Kim Fabian, Adam Parker, Christian Tuerk 200 Sonny Burnside, Vera De Ruiter 300 David Cunningham 400 Chris Scott 500 John Welsh 600 Jason Fox 700 Nigel Thurston 900 Catherine Leather 1,000 Cez Krzyczkowski 1,500 Dave Bloomfield

“Sally was a little concerned the following morning as she frantically tried to relocate the trophy that had been lost in all the excitement”

**JERSEY**

**TEAMS ON THEIR METAL**

The island was represented in two competitions at the Nationals and brought home precious metal from both. The *Jersey Beans* 4-way team took silver in the Rookie class after a hard-fought, close-scoring finish, and this was a very impressive season for the five team members. For a suitable aircraft and tunnel training, travel off the island is required – bringing with it time and financial costs – so to find a group of committed individuals to see through over a year's worth of training and competing is a major achievement in itself.

When I spoke to Liam Hardman, team captain, he was rightfully extremely proud of the team for finishing first or second in all their competitions this year. Congratulations to Liam, Claire Allen, Michael Stocks, Hedi Green and, on camera, Luke Gale.

Simon Griffiths took gold in the VFS 2-way Rookie class. After putting a shout-out on Facebook about a week before the competition for a partner to compete with, he met James Round and their videographer Greg Lucas on the day of the event. The story of last-minute preparations and getting an incredible result in his first VFS comp is exactly what we'd expect from Simon, who is known for his laid-back attitude, massive smile and likeable personality. Muchos kudos and bring us back some more treasure next year, you sky pirate.

The island DZ has been seeing a great amount of action recently with the glorious consistent weather. Opening during the week more regularly has meant lucky fun jumpers are getting multiple drops after work some days too.

The annual pilgrimage of the flying circus to our neighbouring island of Guernsey happened twice this year, bringing smiles to many grateful locals, and some 'regulars' are coming back for multiple jumps year after year.

The official Jersey season is running through to the end of November with a possible few openings if we find weather windows.

**Nigel O'Brien**

**JERSEY**  
Simon Griffiths and James Round, by Greg Lucas

**ACHIEVEMENTS** JUMP NUMBERS 600 Michael Stocks 900 Simon Griffiths



LANGAR

# JUMPERS SET SIGHTS ON RECORDS

Langar's jumpers have had a busy couple of months at home and abroad. We've had jumpers taking part in the European Women's Record jumps in Ukraine, the Head Down Record jumps in the USA and the British Head Up Record attempts here in the UK.

A strong contingent of Langar teams competed at various National championships – big congratulations go to *Parallel Freefly* (FF A Class), *Chimera* (FS AAA Class), *Boobasaurus* (FS AA Class) and *Angry Birds* (WS), who all brought home medals in their disciplines. Many of those competitors are regularly around Langar for coaching, so come down and make the most of them!

By the time this goes to press, Boogie2 will have come and gone. I can only assume that we will have had wall-to-wall blue skies and heatwave weather, fitting for a beach party. Thanks to everyone taking part – you make Langar what it is and we really do appreciate you all coming along to jump and/or party.

Chris Judd

**ACHIEVEMENTS** GRADUATED AFF Matt Bird CH1/CAT8 Olivia Youlton CH1 Matt Bird JM1 Katie Robinson FS1 Raf Kamorov FF1 Sam Bemment, Pete Harries, Ania Kulak JUMP NUMBERS 50 Katie Robinson 200 Ed Hill 300 Cat Brown, Ania Kulak 700 Emily Aucutt, Nigel Evans, John Mycock, Steph Stylianou 1,000 Rich Beazley, Matt Cumming, Ryan Garner 1,100 Paul Rimmington 1,700 Des Meyer 2,400 Fiona Birnie

NETHERAVON  
By Harry Shanker

NETHERAVON

# ARMED FORCES PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Netheravon has been a hive of activity over the last month, culminating with the 19th Armed Forces Parachute Championship which ended on August 24. As always, the summer weather did not exactly behave and we battled the elements, but we managed to complete all of the disciplines at the eleventh hour!

The Championships saw 157 competitors and 47 teams from all three services, including a 10-strong team from the Sri Lankan Army, challenge each other over five disciplines.

As well as both individual and team events, disciplines included Canopy Formation, 4-way Formation Skydiving, Artistic Freestyle and Wingsuit Acrobatics. The lucky winners received their trophies and medals from APA Chairman General Paul Cain, ably supported by Colonel Mark Lyndsey-Smith and Rear Admiral Matt Briers RN. Some of the worthy winners were:

- **Junior Individual Accuracy – The Jack Fowler Trophy:** James MacFarlane REME
- **Intermediate Individual Accuracy – Bulmers Strongbow Rosebowl:** Iain Grant AGC
- **Senior Individual Accuracy – Senior Accuracy Trophy:** Jason MacKenzie RE



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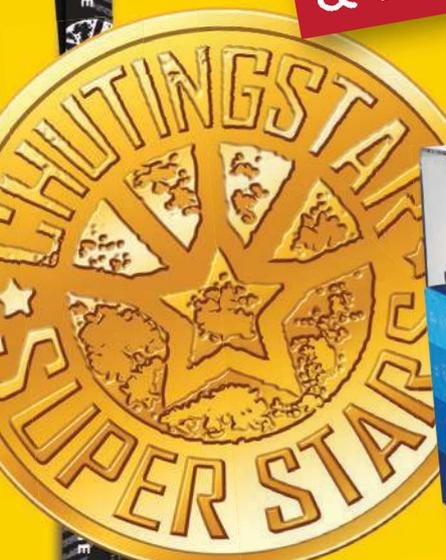
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- **Junior (A) 4-way FS – The Daz Gardiner Sword – Team VOLTAGE**
- **Intermediate (AA) 4-way FS – The Commandant's Cup:**  
*PHWO4R, RLC*
- **Freestyle Cat B – SSAFA Wilts Freestyle Cup:**  
*AMS Screaming Lizards*
- **Freefly Category A – The Freefly Cup:** *Royal Signals*
- **Freefly Category B – The Freefly Cup:** *The Titans, RE*
- **Rookie Wingsuit Artistic – Mark Sutton Wingsuit Cup:** *RN Merlin*
- **Crew 2-way – The CRW Cup:** *Cool Potatoes, RLC*
- **Highest Placed RN Competitor – RN Team Cup:** *Dan Fraser*
- **AFPC Overall Individual Senior – The Soldier Magazine Cup:**  
*Jason Hughes*
- **Highest Placed Navy Team – The David Paton Memorial Trophy:**  
*RN Merlin*
- **Highest Placed Corps Team – The Royal Corps of Transport Cup:**  
*Royal Engineers*

It was a very competitive and good-natured competition. The corridors of Netheravon were a much quieter place the following week, with everyone having moved onto the National Championships!

Also, FSU have been working hard at the Army Parachute Association (APA) at Netheravon over the past few years. The Freefly and Angle community has been growing bigger and stronger and, each month, we aim to put on (at least) a one-to-one and Skills Camp event in which people can learn and earn new stickers, progress their skills in groups or even become coaches. On the one-to-one side, the Coaches are dedicated to giving thorough briefs and debriefs to help push their padawans over the weekend. It has been amazing to see so many people progress, make new friends and continue practising what they've learned on the weekends in their own jumps while covering it all in safe practices. On the skills camp side, people are matched with similar flyers and put into small groups with comparable aspirations so that they can get as much out of the weekend as possible. All levels are briefed on many safety aspects of Freefly and Angle that are perhaps forgotten after that burst of knowledge gained while attaining their stickers. The skills camps are very important, but don't just take our word for it – ask the participants!

**Julie Cooper and Harry Shanker**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Lisa Bayliss CH2/JM1 Josh Clark, Anthony Gilham, Alex Jenkins, Alistair Longworth, Joss Mowforth, Nathan Read FS1 Alistair Longworth, Joss Mowforth FF2 Jase Hughes CP2 Jase Hughes TR1 Anthony Gilham, Bob Smith TR3 Max McLeod JUMP NUMBERS 50 Josh Clark, Anthony Gilham, Alex Jenkins, Alistair Longworth, Joss Mowforth, Nathan Read 100 Nick Cook, Matthew MacKay, Liam Parker, Ben Payne, Jordan Rawlings, Jay Tamplin 200 Stacey Briggs, Jim Cowan, Gemma Perkins, Michael Veevers 300 Iain Grant 900 Iain James, Paddy Livingstone, Sam Stevens

**PETERLEE**

## A SUPER TIME FOR ALL

The 'once in a generation' summer we had this year meant our Supervan was super busy and, with loads happening around the DZ, we all enjoyed the super weather.

Recent highlights have included Brian Cumming's Big-Way Event, while Brian Vacher returned to deliver another of his ever-popular Flight 1 Canopy Courses. Both were extremely well attended and, for a change, the weather didn't limit the jumping or progression. We are looking forward to seeing both Brians back at Peterlee in the near future.

*North Wings Parachute Display Team* did their first live demo this



**PETERLEE**  
*Alex Llewelyn's FS1 jump with Stephen Ashley*

year into Sunny Blunts Park for Armed Forces Day. Well done to Jared Morris, Ian 'Geordie' Batey, Nigel Peacock, Alan O'Neil and Dan Place for an amazing display. The cheers from the crowd said it all.

Thanks also go to our commentator David Knox and ground crew Simon Minto, Lisa Stephenson, Caiti Stewart, Trish Ford, Christina Peacock and Joe Green.

**Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Alice Mitchell CH2/JM1 Connor O'Brien FS1 Sally Anderson JUMP NUMBERS 50 Connor O'Brien 200 Josh Come, Mary Sunter 400 Peter Rafferty, Mehdi Shabanzadeh 900 Janet Wilcox 5,000 Dave Taylor ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL Sally Anderson

**POPS**

## PHIL BOWS OUT AFTER 4,000 JUMPS

We start by welcoming new members Ryan Mancey and Michael Johnson, and with huge congratulations to Phil Gibbs on achieving 4,000 parachute jumps. With that milestone reached, Phil has also announced his retirement from skydiving. Thank you, Phil, for all that you have done over the years and your energy during POPS events.

Congratulations also go to Ron Wands, Stewart Brookes and Jonathan Smith, who participated in the new SOS World Record, achieving a

**POPS**  
*Ryan Mancey, by Lucy Mancey*



75-way at Skydive Chicago. It was great to see three of our UK POPS members participating in a world event – well done guys.

Some work is planned for the POPS UK website shortly and I am putting out a call for any members to submit POPS photos, stories, ideas and so on for inclusion. Please send them to me via the POPS email address – parachutistsoverphortyuk@gmail.com.

We are still in the planning stage of the next POPS World Meet and Championship 2020 at Skydive Buzz (Dunkeswell), but I hope to have an update shortly. In the meantime, I am calling for any budding artists, cartoonists and graphic designers to design the next World Meet event logo/badge and T-shirt. Criteria are that these represent Britain, our POPS community and the dropzone, remembering that we are not all old, have white beards and sit in rocking chairs. Please send your ideas via the POPS email address before the end of December; all entries will be considered and the best will be shared with our community before a final decision is made.

This is our opportunity to celebrate success, so please tell us about your achievements or future events so that they can be shared with our community. You can do this via our Facebook page or emailing the TOP POP email.

**Polly UK TOP POP #11, World TOP POP #12**



**READING**

## TAP INTO OUR APP

During August, we shut down for two weekends for a local glider competition – a shame, but necessary as we have to play fair and share sky time. Some of our clubbies headed for other DZs and some were on holiday but all were glad to return in September for more jumping.

Martin Harris used the downtime to bring even more technology to the club with the new Skydive Centre app launched and live. The app, which is available for iOS and Android devices, allows you to check your account, check kit that you have registered with the DZ (if you have your own) and allows you to register to jump if you are within 600 metres of the DZ. You can find the app by searching for 'Skydive Centre' in the App Store or on Google Play. For even more technology, London Parachute School is also going virtually paper-free.

So what have the club members achieved? All-round nice guy Josh Allen notched up his 100th jump while Gustavo Nóbrega and Aiguo Ding gained new A Licences. John Willis is grateful to all involved after successfully achieving his FS1, thanks to a combination of time with Nethers and LPS FS coaches getting him through progression.

Tim Lawson has been busy with paint and screwdrivers and transformed the camera room into a fusion of orange... and orange. Welcome back to Nancy, who returned to LPS from the USA, and, finally, Hashtag, AKA #markclayton, is still awesome – it's been a great year so far maintaining this standard. No-one else is even close.

There will be a summer party joined up with the end of season party, which may just merge with the Christmas do – standby for updates on our Facebook page at /lpsclubjumpers.

**Annie Lewis**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**CAT8/CH1** Aiguo Ding, Gustavo Nóbrega **FS1** John Willis **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Josh Allen

**SIBSON**

## BLAME IT ON THE BOOGIE

**Sibson Scrambles was** awesome. Well done to *Rhythm and Blues Alibi* for winning the competition, and especially to Stephen from the team who did his 100th jump and gained his FS1 sticker in the process. Nice work!

The Sibson Boogie wasn't as great due to the first bad weather for months and it was a weekend to stay indoors. Fortunately, the second Boogie attempt a few weeks later went better. Lots of jumps were made and fun was had by all, even though the weather didn't play ball the whole time.

In August, *Funnel the Tunnel* (Fab, Becca, Paul and Richard) headed up to Hib to compete in the Nationals and they won! Specifically, they won at Monopoly, drafts, chess and Scrabble. Well done, guys! They also put in a great effort in Rookie 4-way FS, but unfortunately a misbehaving bootie kept them further down the table than they are used to.

Meanwhile, *Scratch Fource* (Blan, Pam, Sara and Elliot) competed in AA 4-way FS with Andy Clements on camera. Truly scratch, their first jump as a team was Round 1! They were never in a medal slot, but they achieved their aim of having lots of fun competing.

Away from events and comps, a British DZ is often a fascinating place where unique and eccentric goings-on can be observed. For example, Sibson has a well-maintained grass runway. It's kept in good condition by shepherd McCann, who regularly instructs his flock of vegans to give it a good trim.

Del has taken to wearing some new hi-tech equipment in the form of augmented reality sunglasses with a head-up display, made by Skolllob Tech. These glasses allow the wearer to view the world exactly as anyone else would see it, but with one exception; if someone named 'Mark' comes into view, the display reacts by digitally overlaying a large target on his back, along with trajectory and velocity information to ensure a precision landing. If your name is Mark, watch out for Del on the PLA or maybe just grab his sunglasses and reprogramme them.

This summer has seen some amazing weather, but there have been some occasional surprises too. Not many people realise that there have been a number of tornadoes occurring at Sibson over the warmer months. Rare and localised, they are known to specialists in the field as J-class tornadoes or 'Tornado Jumps'. The unusual meteorological phenomena are generally seen on a clear and bright day, when the

**READING**  
Dean Hoskins, by Dorian Harwood



**SIBSON**  
Chris celebrates his birthday at the DZ, by Matt Allsop

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heat of the sun has brought freeflyers out in shorts. These tornadoes aren't generally dangerous, but you should be cautious if you happen to be stood next to somebody describing how they experienced flying in one while holding a beer.

Sibson will soon have an events committee, so we can all look forward to an eventful 2019. If you think you've got what it takes to be on the committee, please send a handwritten CV and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to 1984.

Oh, and well done to Ged and Cassandra for completing the Bedford Half Marathon! This is true.

**Russ Horne**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** FS1 Stephen Chapman FF1 Gloria Bayne, Morgan Holland TR1 Matt Allsop **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Toril Bugge, Stephen Chapman, Morgan Holland, Craig Horton, Candice Kass **600** Kyle Skoyles **800** Wayne McDermott **1,000** Chris Bryant

**SWANSEA**

# HUMBLE SKY

**Apologies to all** as I managed to miss the last Mag write-up, so hopefully this will cover everything that has happened over the last few months at Swansea. I can say that we've had our best summer season for a long time, due to the hot weather, which included a date with the BBC's Kate Humble.

BBC Wales contacted us in order for Kate to do a tandem with the RAF while she presented the Royal Welsh Show and we had plenty of air time each evening that week. What people didn't know was the chap editing the footage to be aired each evening was our very own club jumper Alun Jones, so hats off to him.

After much badgering, Becky Jones finally got back in the air via a tandem, after a nine-year lay-off, and we're all waiting to see if more jumps will follow soon.

Congratulations also go to Anthony Rabey and Susan Grimes on their engagement and a big well done to Grayson Summers for completing and being awarded a Fine Art degree after three years of uni work.

Loads of people achieved various milestones, listed below, but we must mention Brian Stokes, who has been living in the gym since he found out about the tradition of making your 100th jump at Swansea naked. Considering he was three stone heavier a year ago, he's done well.

**SWANSEA**  
**Tandem landing,**  
**by Tanya Quigley**

Michael Phillips attended and passed an AFF BI course recently and Joby Chadd gained his AFF rating too, so well done to them both.

After attending the World Accuracy Landing Championships in Bulgaria recently, I have the bit between my teeth and I'm keen to help anyone wishing to get into Accuracy – especially in the Junior category for people under 25. With a bit of work, you could be attending the next World Championships in Russia in 2020. If you want to know more, please get in touch.

**Carl Williams**

**SWINDON**  
**Darrell Gibson and**  
**Jenny Bouquet, by**  
**Jon Moulder**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Craig Carless, James Feigl, Gareth Hedges FS1 Murry Marsh FF1 Danniella Hurt TR1 Sam Chess **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Bethan Bonsoll, Brian Stokes, Tom Ward **200** Danniella Hurt, Eloy Navarro **400** Michael Walsh **800** Kris Wojciechowski



SWINDON

# CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES!

**Our newsworthy events** start away from the airfield. Having disappeared to a tropical beach to tie the knot, club members Aaron and Ellie treated us all to a fabulous celebration of their wedding, carrying off a mix of strawberry margaritas, an Indian buffet and beautiful Cotswold barn with style and panache. Unable to jump into the party due to inclement weather conditions, the skydivers still made their presence felt. Ant proved that to dress stylishly all one needs is a pull up, Darrell caught a bouquet, Gerrish had his own 50th birthday celebration and, as the wine and disco music carried us into the night, we all threw some shapes on the dance floor – even Brucie proved he had some moves.

Continuing with the celebrations, Rob Spour made an emotional static line jump with Dylan to mark the 10-year anniversary of his first turning up at Redlands... proud of you, Rob. We're equally proud of KC, who has taken a regular slot on our camera team.

We were all watching the scoreboards as our home-grown FS team *The Flying Fossils* competed at the Nationals. A solid performance won them bronze for their first attempt in A Class, so massive congratulations to Ian, Jim, Heath and Bud – all the hard work is paying off and you've done us proud.

In the *Fossils'* absence, we celebrated the bank holiday with an old-school beer, burgers and firepit evening at the DZ – a fitting way to chill out after what has been a super-busy end to the summer months. Well done to all the newly A-Licensed skydivers, commiserations to Pip and Darko for introducing your canopies to the hedge (we will enjoy your beer fines) and a big well played to Brucie for completely covering Babs in tiny bits of polystyrene – we haven't laughed so much in ages.

**Jenny Bouquet**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Ben Cope, Dave Cox, Rich Puddle  
**JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Heath Flicos 300 Craig Lillington 700 Jimmy Morham

TILSTOCK

# THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Oh, what a confusing time at Tilly! One of our cameraflyers, Stuart Selley, went and got his T1 rating so now he might be jumping camera or maybe tandem. That wouldn't be too bad, but he's the second cameraflyer to do it after Roger Hughes. To top it all, we've now had young Pete Dickens join the ranks of those who jump for money by becoming a cameraflyer, so now it's getting really hard to work out who's doing what and when. We're all getting worried in case Wilko goes in for his T1!

Our two latest CSBIs also went and got their full ratings, so welcome to CSIs Gary Bradshaw and Dave Titcombe. We just hope that Gary can cope with the dichotomy of still wanting to have fun and being a fully paid-up member of the Fun Police.

Talking of fun, Tia Moore had a lovely long canopy ride – so long, in fact, that everyone else had been picked up and were on the way back in the bus before she reached the bus stop! Feeling lonely, she started the long walk back. Fortunately, someone finally remembered they were a little light on the bus and went to get her – sorry Tia!

However, the score for the family having the most fun together on one day has to go to the Daltons – eight tandem skydives from one family, all to celebrate the senior member, Diane's, birthday. Congratulations to Alexander, Eric, Emma and Thomas Bolze, Kathrine Erhardt and Diane, Richard and William Dalton, and many happy returns to Diane.

**Gary Windon**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** JUMP NUMBERS 100 Paul Butcher 300 Steve Pugh 800 Pete Dickens

“Someone finally remembered they were a little light on the bus and went to get her – sorry Tia!”

WILD GEESE

# MAKING THE A GRADE

**Wowers! The summer's** gone. Where'd that go? I suppose we can't complain after a very decent July followed an equally good June, but August saw the weather gods at their usual antics and finding the sucker hole was ever-more challenging. That being said, perseverance paid off for not one and not two but three of our students who managed to qualify with their A Licences. Congratulations to Ben Goddard, Kevin Brady and Pete Campbell.

In the milliseconds after qualifying, Pistol Pete was lightning-quick to the draw and had a new custom Vertex FS suit ordered and delivered, a new custom Cookie Fuel in the bag and a trip to Portugal booked to skydive and to put these new tools of the trade to work. Ehhhhh... actually, I've just been informed that Pete's trip to Portugal is to get married, but somehow Skydive Algarve just 'accidentally' happened to be in the vicinity. Not sure how that'll go down with the new wife, but they do say you should start as you mean to go on. We'll soon find out how this all plays out, so good luck to Pete and Paula on your big day!

Meanwhile, the newly formed Rookie Team, *Team T.O.R.N.* (Tom, Orla, Ralf and Neal), ventured to the tunnel for some 4-way training and the expert tutelage of Rebecca Bradley. After four tiring sessions, they were ready to head to Hibaldstow for the UK National 4-way Championships. A true scratch team in every way, they set themselves targets to not come last and to have fun. Check and check, both goals successfully achieved. To add to the experience, they were one of the few teams to have zero busts! Well done you lot. An extra big up goes to Crazy Neal, who clocked up his 13th hour in freefall in the process. Unlucky or lucky? Obviously, none of the scoring would have been possible without the expert cameraflying of former Wild Goose Colin Stevenson on behalf of *Team T.O.R.N.* Many thanks Colin!

Back at the ranch, we're digging out the thermal base layers and the winter gloves. We're looking forward to the chilly autumn months on the run-up to the year's end, although there may or may not be a serious squad from Wild Geese going to get some winter sun at the Irish Invasion 6 at Skydive Seville late in October, with canopy courses by Brian Vacher, FS coaching by Sián and Milko and FF groups with Matty Mitchell. I'm guessing I'll have some stories to tell in the next edition, so stay tuned.

Until the next time, fly fast!

**Rod McCrory**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Kevin Brady, Pete Campbell, Ben Goddard

**WILD GEESE**  
*Team T.O.R.N.*  
 prepare for  
 the 4-way  
 Championships

*Team T.O.R.N.*,  
 by Rob Lloyd





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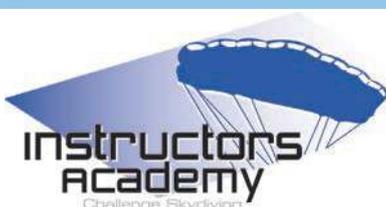
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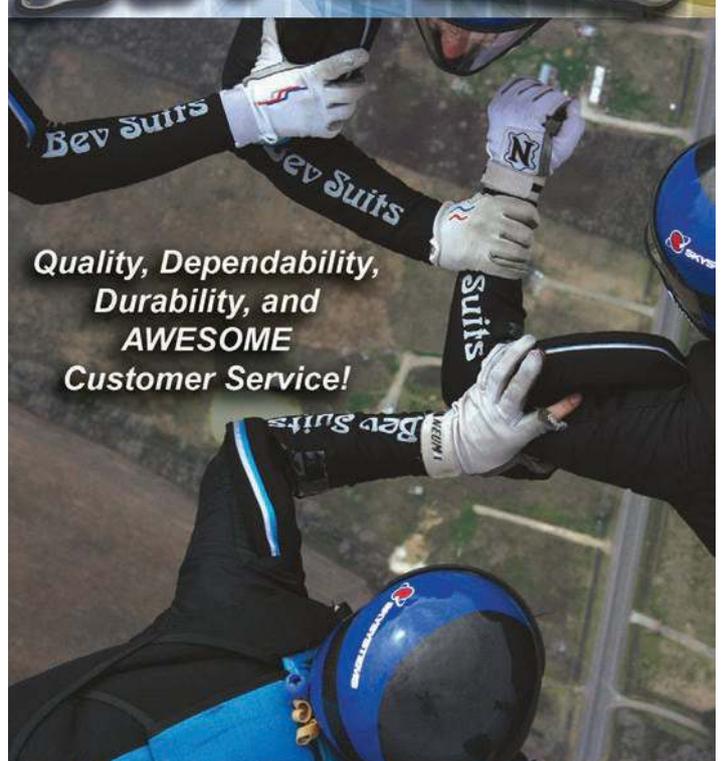
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October 25-28

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Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 12-16

**BPA** Instructor Course (CSI)

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 15

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

November 27

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

## 2019

January 26

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Location: **EMCC, Nottingham** •

skydivetheexpo.co.uk

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February 7

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May 20-24

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July 25

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July 29-August 2

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November 26

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Dates correct at time of printing. The 2019 STC/Riggers and BPA Council Meeting dates are subject to confirmation at the AGM

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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