

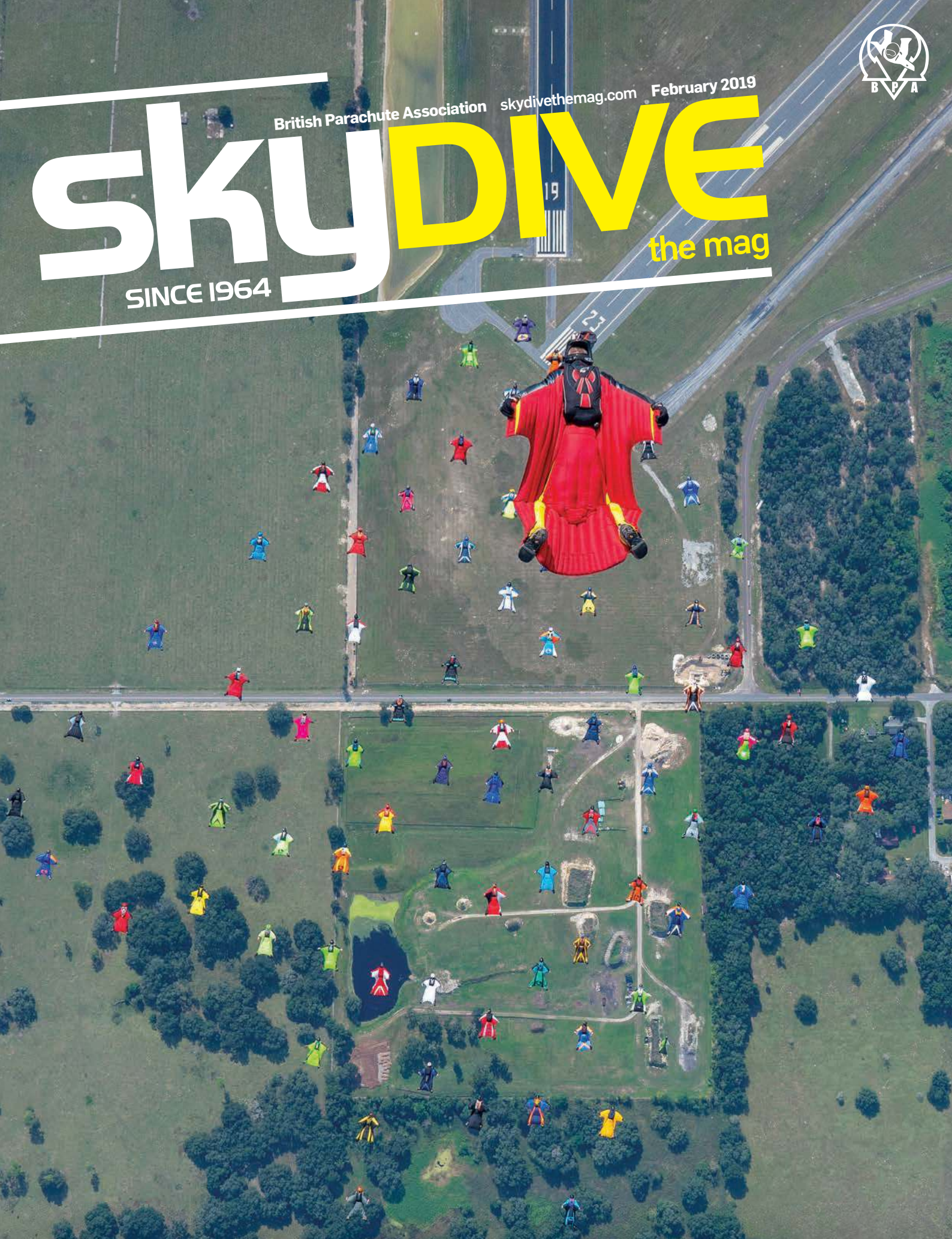


British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com February 2019

# skyDIVE

SINCE 1964

the mag



**INSIDE:** HIGHLIGHTS FROM BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO 2019 BPA STARS OF 2018 NEW WORLD RECORD FLAG JUMP SATORI XL – WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO THE EPIC BOTSWANA BOOGIE ANDY GUEST'S CF SHENANIGANS PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

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WELCOME

Cover: Mark Harris filming the Wingsuit World Record attempts at Z-Hills, by Norman Kent

Welcome: Joe Mann, by Jack Davies

WELCOME



We may be a couple of months into 2019, but it still feels like the very beginning of the new skydiving year. UK dropzones are either still on winter shutdowns or busy posting photos of the snowscapes from altitude and the temperatures at the top once you factor in windchill – brrrr!

It feels like the right time to be thinking about the ghosts of skydiving past and the spectres of skydiving future; where we have been and where we are going. This issue, I enjoyed reading about Andy Guest's crazy 1980s CRW adventures on P47 (some of which were before I was born!) but also hearing about the new CF Manual from BPA CF Rep Mary Barratt. All of the changes, including a new CF2 grade, will be up for approval at the February meeting of the BPA Safety and Training Committee and, if ratified, will be explained in the April Mag.

So, what did 2018 bring you and what might 2019 hold? For me, the last Mag of 2018 was my 50th (where did that time go?), and 2019 marks the year that I will have been jumping for half my life (ditto!). It's hard to remember what life was like before it had skydiving in it.

Whatever your plans for the year, I wish you a happy and safe 2019.

*Liz Ashley*

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*Sunset load, by  
Martin Martinez*

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# INFO ZONE



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

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

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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
April 2019	March 11	April 17
June 2019	May 7	June 12
August 2019	July 8	August 7
October 2019	September 2	October 2
December 2019	October 28	November 27



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NFTO, by Roy Wimmer-Jaglom

# WIND GAMES

**History was made** at the Wind Games 2019 as *Hayabusa* became the first team ever to average more than one point per second in 4-way FS. Their 35.4 tunnel average saw them win seven of their 10 rounds, including a 50-pointer on 9-D-5. They took gold more than two points per

round ahead of their closest competition, the French *Weembi High Rollers*. *Arizona Airspeed's* 31.4 won them bronze and the Qataris managed a 30.0 average too.

In Open, *Chimera* managed 119 points but this does not really mean an 11.9 average. They

missed their first five rounds due to an error and their subsequent last place should really have been more like seventh overall.

*NFTO*, competing with Julia Swallow standing in for Anna Hicks, were in the lead by three points after three rounds in the Female category. Despite *NFTO's*

excellent 25.3 average overall, the French female team overtook them to take the gold on 26.3. However, we can be excited that, after recent years of French female dominance, we are snapping at their heels! Here's hoping that *NFTO* and all our teams have an excellent 2019.

By Jamie Arnold







IPC President  
Gillian Rayner with  
Mikey Lovemore

## IPC

The annual International Parachuting Commission meetings took place in January and saw a few changes. In the big-way world, there was excitement that Patrick Passe's 'total break' rule was accepted. This means that all grips must be dropped between sequential points, although there need not be simultaneous separation shown during the transition. If the next point is picked up on one side of the formation before the previous point is fully released on the other, then that is okay as long as each of the two points are complete.

There was also 100% agreement to change the name from IPC to ISC, the International Skydiving Commission, and to launch a competition to design a new logo. *Déjà vu* for all us BPA – sorry, British Skydiving – members!

Mikey Lovemore's bid for Dunkeswell to host the next Speed World Cup this summer was successful, and he had the following to say about this exciting news:

"It was a busy week in Lille at the IPC meetings and Plenary for the Speed Skydiving Committee with huge rule changes. Weeks of work for the committee and the final drafting of the new rules in a couple of epic sessions in time for the Plenary to vote culminated in the following changes in Speed:

1. We will be changing to GPS-based measurement (previously, it was barometric/air pressure) and the Flysight is currently the only approved device for competition.
2. The result for a round will be the average of the best three seconds of the jump between exit (3,962m/13,000ft) and break-off (1,700m/5,577ft). This changes from the average between 2,700m-1,700m.
3. There will be no throwaway rounds any more, so all eight rounds will count. Consistency will be important.

"Making such significant rule changes is a very challenging process. Many people involved in the discipline, from top competitors and judges to technical

experts and FAI officials, had widely differing points of view. Arnold Hohenegger, one of the pioneers of Speed Skydiving who is still heavily involved, did an amazing job of managing this process and keeping the communication going positively and constructively. We believe we've managed to find the closest thing to the middle ground while also maintaining the simple, pure essence of the discipline. The consistently fastest speeder will be the winner.

"Personally, I'm hugely proud to be part of this major change in the discipline and having been involved in the testing and development that led to the changes. This was part of my motivation to put in a bid to host the first major competition that will be run on this basis. I'm immensely pleased to announce that I will be the organiser and meet director for the 2019 FAI Speed Skydiving World Cup and European Championships, which will be hosted by Skydive Buzz at Dunkeswell on August 13-15."

## CF-TASTIC

The 2019 season is in sight and it's already looking pretty exciting for Canopy Formation jumpers. Here's the latest from BPA CF Rep Mary Barratt:

"Simon Perry and Wes Guest of 2-way CF team *VelociWraptors* gave a presentation at BPA Skydive the Expo reminding us all of how very cool CRW is (Canopy Relative Work is the old name for Canopy Formation). What a great way to start 2019!

"Then, as we come into the new BPA year, a new CF Coaching Manual will be added to the BPA website. This brings in quite a few changes, including CF1 becoming CF1 and CF2 – watch this space for more information on why those changes came about and what they mean for those learning CF and for CF coaches.

"For many skydivers, the new BPA year signals the start of the season and the focus is on getting in the air and having some fun. With that in mind, Langar is hosting a CF Scrambles at the beginning of April (6-7). This is an informal, 'dust-the-cobwebs-off,' 2-way competition open to anyone who is current in CF, has CF1 and can bring a Lightning that they load at around 1.35. It promises to be points, prizes and fun all the way.

"In May, a Skills Camp for CF teams will bring world-class coaching to the UK (Langar, May 25-28). Whether your CF team is 2- or 4-way, are newly formed or have been together for years, trying to nail centre rotations or refining moves from the senior dive pool, this event is a must. This year, the event will include a 'coach the coaches' evening which will also be open to those not attending the Skills Camp.

"The dates for three BPA competitions are also already in place, with a nice spread through the 2019 season: a CF Grand Prix at Cark on June 15-16; a CF Grand Prix at Langar on July 13-14; and the CF Nationals at Dunkeswell on September 8-10.

"So, if you already have a bit of CF experience, there are plenty of ways you can get involved. However, there does seem to be a shortage of organised events for those wanting to try CF or to work towards their CF1. This is where BPA Skills Coaching Roadshows are great, because members of the BPA's top teams in the discipline will provide coaching free of charge. As we only have one of these roadshows pencilled in for CF (July), there is still room for another. If you want to try some CF, ask your Chief Instructor to email the address below and request a CF Skills Coaching Roadshow at your home DZ and let's see if we can make it happen."

For more information on any of the above, please email Mary Barratt at CFrep@bpa.org.uk.

## FUNDFLY



FUNDFLY is all about giving back so others can get back. We sell high-quality sports clothing, run skydiving events and

crowdfund items. We are proudly not-for-profit, as all proceeds go back into our chosen charities. So far, we've given away 50 jump tickets and an L&B Altimeter. Our first donation was £500 to Air Ambulances UK, with more to come. We have Manufactory Apparel jerseys on the way this month, with all profits from everything we do going towards a charity related to the community.

Check out our Facebook page, FUNDFLYHQ, and get involved.

## JIM CROCKER

It was with great sadness that the BPA learned of the death of Jim Crocker. A towering figure in our sport, he was the longest-serving Chair of BPA Council, from 1983-90, after which he became our longest-serving Vice President. He was also a Vice President of the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom and Chairman of Trustees of the Royal Aero Club Trust, a registered charity whose Flying for Youth bursaries have enabled many younger BPA members to progress in our sport. A full tribute will follow in due course, and the family's thoughts are that Jim would much prefer donations to the Royal Aero Club Trust Charity rather than flowers.

*Skydive*



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Student freefaller,  
by Tom Shorten

# BPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2019/20

The full member subscription for the new membership year from April 1 2019 to March 31 2020 is £101.33. For joint members, the subscription is £182.36. This is a small increase from last year, due to an increase in the BPA's operating costs.

Your BPA membership renewal form for the new membership year 2019/2020 is enclosed with this Mag. However, if you don't have any ratings, you may be eligible to renew online and you may find that easier and quicker. Please note that, to jump on or after April 1 2019, you need to renew for the new membership year.

## Online renewal

Online renewal for the new membership year will be available

from March 1 2019. Please do not try to renew online before then!

The BPA online membership facility is available for:

- Full members in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address. They may update their contact details by post, telephone or email.
- Full members aged 18 and over in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address who do not hold ratings\* may also renew online.

\*Ratings include Instructors, Riggers, packers, pilots and any other rating that has to be 'signed off'. Please note: we regret that we are currently unable to offer the online renewal service to members who hold ratings because ratings need to be signed off. We are developing an online facility to do this.

Full members will need the following to activate their online BPA membership account:

- Name
- BPA membership number (not licence number!)
- Personal email address as already recorded on the BPA database
- Postcode or BFPO number as already recorded on the BPA database.

The BPA online membership service is not available for:

- Full member renewals where ratings are held, although full members with ratings in the UK and Channel Islands or at a BFPO postal address may update their personal contact details online

- Full member renewals for overseas members (other than those with a BFPO postal address)
- Changes of name or ratings
- Conversions
- Retired Members (please see BPA Form 103A for eligibility criteria)
- Taking out Student Provisional or Temporary Memberships
- Updating personal contact details of Student Provisional or Temporary Members
- Pilot applications
- Making discretionary donations to the British Team Fund or the Drop Zone Defence Fund. Such donations continue to be extremely welcome, and may be made by card payment over the phone during BPA office hours (M-F, 9-5) or by cheque or bank transfer.

## AGM

At the AGM, Chair of Council Martin Soulsby presented highlights from the BPA Review of the Year 2018 and a summary of Council's future strategy. The BPA Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended June 30 2018 were approved by the AGM, which also confirmed re-appointment of the auditors and set subscriptions for the new membership year from April 1 2019. The AGM reappointed

Sue Stanhope as an independent non-executive director (Council Member) for three years and Sam Lee took office as an elected non-executive director (Council Member) for three years. The first Council meeting of 2019 took place immediately after the AGM to elect Officers and Committee Chairs, and there were no changes from 2018.

For committee compositions in 2019, including discipline reps, please see the BPA website at [bpa.org.uk/about-us/council-and-committees/](http://bpa.org.uk/about-us/council-and-committees/). The discipline reps are:

**Speed:** Mikey Lovemore (Speedrep@bpa.org.uk)  
**CF:** Mary-Lou Barratt (CFrep@bpa.org.uk)  
**CP:** Brian Vacher (brianv@bpa.org.uk)  
**FS:** Georgie Vacher (FSrep@bpa.org.uk)  
**VFS:** Tim Gaines (VFSrep@bpa.org.uk)  
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**WS:** Mike Williams (WSrep@bpa.org.uk)  
**Judges Coordinator:** Liz Warner (judgescoordinator@bpa.org.uk)

## RAeCT BURSARIES – LAST CALL!

Would up to £1,000 help you train towards a qualification? If you're young enough to be eligible for this year's Royal Aero Club Trust bursaries, there's still time to get your application in. The deadline is March 31 2019 and all the details you'll need can be found at [royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://royalaeroclubtrust.org).

## BPA REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018



The BPA Review of the Year for 2018 has been published and is free to access online. You can find it on the BPA website at: [bpa.org.uk/news/bpa-review-of-the-year-2018/](http://bpa.org.uk/news/bpa-review-of-the-year-2018/).

## BRITISH SKYDIVING BRANDING TENDER INVITATION

An open invitation to tender for development of the BPA's new brand (trading name) of British Skydiving to develop a brand personality and from it a visual identity is being issued. For further details, please see [bpa.org.uk](http://bpa.org.uk).

## CONSOLIDATED PROCEDURES

A consolidated document setting out the BPA's updated grievance procedure, together with the disciplinary procedure, is set out in the updated Form 256, which is available on the BPA website using the Forms Search box.



# NEW RATINGS

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Josh Clark  
Oliver Loak  
Henna Niutanen  
Robert Jones  
Jordan Sowsberry

### AFF BASIC INSTRUCTOR

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James Garnett  
Sharon Floyd  
Billy Payn  
Radaslow Wlazlo

### ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR

Andy Pointer

### ADVANCED PACKER (S)

Henry Mole  
Daniel Hirst

### PARACHUTE RIGGER

Daniel Mercer  
Phil Wayper  
Marie-Ann Stevens  
Martin Cole  
Steve Handley  
Karl Peart  
Brad Dimmock

### TANDEM BASIC INSTRUCTOR

Gary Murray  
Florin Cotofana  
Elliott Fry  
Marius Vancea

### CATEGORY SYSTEM INSTRUCTOR

Levi Hamill  
Nathan Evans  
Stephen Stewart  
Emily Aucutt  
Ryan Garner  
Alison Woodhouse

### BASIC RIGGER

Daniel Hurst  
Cameron Clark  
Henry Mole

### RIGGER EXAMINER

Noel Purcell  
Andy Shaw  
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Photo: Luciano Baque



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WORDS: LIZ ASHLEY PHOTOS: ROB LLOYD AND MARTIN MARTINEZ



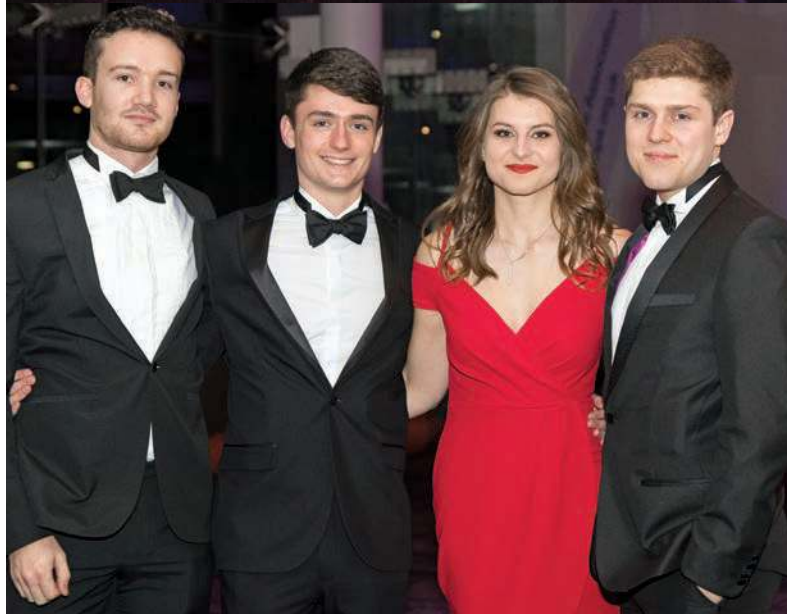
## BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO

**W**ell, when you pour almost a thousand skydivers into a hotel for the weekend and keep them well supplied with fantastic seminars, shiny kit to buy, great entertainment and plenty of bars to drink dry, how could it be anything but brilliant?

### Seminars

The BPA always make the most of having so many of us in the same place by putting on a packed seminar schedule. Headline names making the trip across from the US included Kenneth Gajda and Tom Noonan from UPT educating us about the Skyhook and telling us that 'The World Is Your Dropzone', and Albert Berchtold from PD on 'Choosing the Right Canopy'. Dilys Price OBE inspired us all with 'It's Never Too Late', we had 'Going Beyond Stratos and Stratex: Skydiving and Human Space Exploration' with Professor Anu Ojha OBE and they were followed by BBC presenter Andy Torbet talking about skydiving on the telly, complete with HAHO and rocket boots. As if that wasn't enough, Ray Armstrong and Allan Hewitt rounded things off by sharing their experiences on *Mission: Impossible*.

If you thought all that was a great line-up, that was only the main stage! Four other conference rooms each had talks on the hour throughout the day and you could enjoy seminars as diverse as 'Skydiving Fitness' with *NFTO*,



'The Future Sport of Drone Racing' by Richard Rowland and Leo Whitfield, 'How Not To Pack Your Parachute' with PD European Tour Rep Hans Van Marrewijk, and Andy Ford's 'XRW Then and Now'. Chris Shaw spoke passionately about how better communication can add value to your coaching skills, David Alatorre and Peter Storey took their Freefall Camera update from the last Mag and went into an hour of detail, and Wes Guest and Simon Perry answered the question 'Is CRW Cool Again?' We had 'Speed Skydiving' with British National Champion Matthew Black, 'The Evolution of Freefly' with Paul Capsey, Joel Strickland's monster road trip of jumping in all 50 American states and Marc Fletcher of the British Indoor Skydiving Association shared his hopes and dreams about tunnel flying becoming an Olympic sport.

The Expo is a great opportunity to get specialised groups together, so the BPA Pilots and Judges each hold meetings too. There was also







**‘Marc Fletcher of the British Indoor Skydiving Association shared his hopes and dreams about tunnel flying becoming an Olympic sport’**

## BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO

a Competitions open forum where you could put questions to your BPA Competitions Committee, and an update from the Canopy Working Group seeking feedback – for more, see p42.

Since nobody can be in five places at once, you probably missed several interesting seminars. However, you haven't missed out completely – they will be going online on the BPA Skydive the Mag YouTube channel. When the next bad weather day happens, get together and watch them with some friends or show a playlist at your DZ!

### Spending

A room full of skydiving kit from all the major manufacturers and cheap tunnel time for sale, you say? On the last weekend of January when everyone's 'shiny gear' buttons need pressing and payday has just arrived? Oh go on then, it would be rude not to...

### Blagging

However, if Christmas hit just a little too hard and there weren't enough spare pennies to make the most of all the awesome stands, you could cross your fingers and hope to win free stuff instead. There was an exodus back into the main theatre at 5.00 for the annual Prize Draw and, by 5.30, many happy skydivers were clutching vouchers for jump tickets, tunnel time, altimeters, jumpsuits and even canopies and containers.

### Training

The BPA Personal Development and Safety Day for Tandem Instructors takes





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**'It always seems strange to see everyone in black tie and posh frocks when you're used to seeing them in jumpsuits.'**



place on the Friday before the Expo and is now into its third year. Extending it to include a concurrent day for Riggers and Advanced Packers worked so well last year that this was repeated for 2019, this time with training from UPT, Sunpath and PD. More and more people are now travelling up on the Thursday evening for a packed long weekend of professional development, networking, working together to drive standards ever higher... and, of course, some partying.

### **Partying**

As usual, the evening kicked off with a formal dinner in which we all proved, yet again, that skydivers do actually scrub up pretty well! It always seems strange to see everyone in black tie and posh frocks when you're used to seeing them in jumpsuits. Comedian John Robertson entertained us all

after dinner, and then live music from Colonel Mustard and the Dijon 5 and a DJ kept us going well into the night (or, at least, until the fire alarm went off some time shortly before 2am...).

### **AGM**

The official reason for meeting up every January is to hold the BPA AGM and the auditorium was packed out for BPA Chair Martin Soulsby's presentation at 10.30. As usual, there is an online Review of the Year which can be downloaded from the BPA website. This left Martin free to cover the highlights and great success stories in both the national and international competition arena. A video review of some of the best skydiving bits left everyone pumped up and wishing for warm blue skies to go and play in. Vice Chair Craig Poxon then took over for the awards...

# BPA SKYDIVING AWARDS 2018

## THE JIM CROCKER TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORT

For his lifetime's dedication to our sport, Council is delighted to award the BPA Jim Crocker Outstanding Contribution to Sport Parachuting Trophy to Rob Colpus.

Rob Colpus is an icon in the world of sport parachuting who has made us so proud on both the national and international stage in an abundance of competitions and records. Over the years, he wrote a lot of the rules for Formation Skydiving competitions and designed many of the dives that remain in use today. His contribution to our sport since the 1970s is magnificent and varied, continuing long after he stepped down as an active competitor. The BPA celebrates this, and his retirement last year, with the award of the BPA Jim Crocker Trophy in recognition of his Outstanding Contribution to our Sport.

The presentation of the impressive sword trophy will take place at the Royal Aero Club Awards Ceremony at the RAF Club in London in May.

## THE TAZ CAUSER TROPHY FOR EXPERIENCED SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR 2018

Jamie Arnold has won the Taz Causer Skydiver of the Year Award 2018. In 2018, Jamie and teammate Dan Guest (BPA Experienced Skydiver of the Year 2017) successfully defended the British National Freestyle title of their team, *Volosity*, for a third successive year. At the 2018 FAI World Championships in Australia, Jamie won silver in Freestyle as performer, again with Dan Guest as cameraflyer. Jamie has pursued his dream, becoming a great ambassador for our sport, and is an inspiration to others.

## THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR TROPHY 2018

The COO and STO choose the Instructor of the Year and this is awarded to an Instructor who gained an Instructor rating within the past 12 months. The criteria used are that the Instructor not only did very well on the Instructor Course, but is also the type of Instructor that Students would be very happy to turn to for advice.

The COO and STO have chosen Emily Aucutt from Skydive Langar as Instructor of the Year for 2018.

## THE MIKE FORGE TROPHY FOR NEW SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR 2018

The BPA New Skydiver of the Year for 2018 is Steve Joyce from Skydive Headcorn.

Steve did his AFF training on July 3 and his level one on July 4. By July 19, he had his A Licence. FS1, August 12. B Licence, August 30. TR1, September 27. On October 7, he had 100 jumps. In November, he got his TR2. Along the way, he has almost done a water jump (bad weather stopped play) and a round parachute jump. He wanted to do the round jump on his 100th, but it was too windy so he jumped in his underpants instead!

Obviously, he has quite a lot of time on his hands and a large deficit in his bank balance, but it is such a joy to see someone so enthusiastic who wants to progress. His list of achievements is also a testament to his natural ability. Steve has stated that he is also keen to get his Coach's rating as soon as possible, because a lack of good coaches was one of the frustrations he encountered.

Headcorn wish Steve luck and look forward to retaining him as one of their valued club members, even though he has spread his wings and travelled to other centres in this country and abroad in order to better himself.

## CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Certificates of Merit have been awarded to Mary-Lou Barratt and Simon Soper in recognition of the work involved in rewriting the BPA Canopy Formation Manual.

Certificates of Merit have been awarded to Ian Barstow-Davies and Sara Orton in recognition of their help and guidance in formulating the BPA Safeguarding Policy and training PTO Safeguarding leads.

## THE FAI LEONARDO DA VINCI PARACHUTING DIPLOMA

For his outstanding contribution to the sport as an FAI Controller, Jury Member or Jury President at first and second Category Events, the FAI has awarded the Leonardo Da Vinci Parachuting Diploma to John Hitchen.

## BPA NATIONAL JUDGES CERTIFICATES

National Judges Certificates are awarded to the following Judges who qualified in 2018:

Rai Ahmed – Artistics  
Paul Capsey – Artistics

## JUMP/FREEFALL CERTIFICATES

Sandy McRobbie – 144 hours of freefall  
Andy Page – 13,000 jumps, 9,000 tandem jumps, 132 hours of freefall  
Bryn Chaffe – 10,000 jumps, 130 hours of freefall  
Ally Milne – 10,000 jumps  
Del Hopkins – 6,000 jumps  
Billy Payn – 6,000 jumps  
Adam Pemble – 5,000 jumps, 60 hours of freefall

## 2018 GRAND PRIX/UKSL OVERALL MEDALLISTS ACCURACY (JUNIOR)

OVERALL CHAMPION (GOLD):  
Rhys Jenvey

ACCURACY (INTERMEDIATE)  
OVERALL CHAMPION (GOLD):  
Tony Lightfoot

ACCURACY (SENIOR) CLASS  
OVERALL CHAMPION (GOLD):  
Dave Crowhurst

CF 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL (ROOKIE)  
OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD):  
Cark Sliders

CF 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL (INTERMEDIATE)  
OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD):  
Cark Corner

CF 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL (SENIOR)  
OVERALL CHAMPIONS (GOLD):  
Velocivaptors

FS 4-WAY (ROOKIE)  
GOLD: *Jersey Beans*  
SILVER: *Funnel The Tunnel*  
BRONZE: *RAFSPA Poseidon*

FS 4-WAY (A CLASS)  
GOLD: *Cloudbusters*  
SILVER: *Flying Fossils*  
BRONZE: *Nebula*

FS 4-WAY (AA CLASS)  
GOLD: *RAF 100*  
SILVER: *Manticore*  
BRONZE: *Vertigo*

FS 4-WAY (AAA CLASS)  
GOLD: *Pajama Pumas*  
SILVER: *NFTO*  
BRONZE: *Vantage*





# NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

**T**here were three elected Council members whose tenures came to an end at the 2019 AGM. Mark Bayada and Tash Higman decided to stand for re-election, and Brian Cumming chose not to. Sam Lee also stood as a new Council nominee. There were therefore three nominees standing for three seats on Council, so all three were successful without the need to hold an election.

Since their candidate statements were not circulated, we have used them here instead so that you can find out a bit more about what they each bring to Council and what they hope to achieve in their time on the Board of Directors of the BPA.



## Mark Bayada

I started skydiving in 1992 and, from 1993, I have been involved full-time. From 1993 to 1998, I was lucky enough to be a member of the *Red Devils* display team and I took part in displays around the world. I also competed in 4- and 8-way FS, winning gold in the 4-way Intermediate category and silver in both Senior 4-way and 8-way.

I became a Tandem, Category System and AFF Instructor and moved to the parachute centre at Bad Lippspringe in Germany, where I also gained my Advanced Instructor and Instructor Examiner qualifications and took over as Chief Instructor.

In 2005, I moved back to Netheravon and worked full-time as an Instructor and Chief Instructor. Around this time, I took part in several Canopy Piloting competitions and represented GB at the Canopy Piloting World Cup in Vienna.

In 2010, I took over the role of Chief Instructor in Cyprus which I held for two years. I retired from the Army in 2012 and have worked at Netheravon since then, taking over as Chief Instructor in 2013. As well as instructing, I am also a qualified Rigger and authorised pilot.

During my time as a Chief Instructor and Examiner, I have assisted with many working groups and enquiries, including the writing of the Canopy Handling system and the new medical declarations.

I was first elected to Council in 2017 and have sat on all three committees, initially Development and Communications and

now Competitions too. I strongly believe that the BPA system is the best in the world, with a second-to-none safety record, well-attended roadshows and competitions and well-run dropzones around the country. However, there are still changes that need to be made to ensure that it stays up to date and can deal with the needs of its members.

The changes made to Council over the last couple of years ensuring good governance are starting to show the benefits and now need to be persevered with, ensuring that all the strategic aims of the next five years are met.

Having worked full-time in skydiving for more than 25 years as a Chief Instructor, Examiner and DZ manager, and having been a Council member for the last two years, I am fully aware of what is good and not so good with skydiving in the UK and am also confident that I am both qualified and have the required experience to help bring about these changes.

Both my children are now active skydivers and I want to do my bit to ensure that the BPA continues to be the sort of organisation that will allow skydiving to continue and prosper in the UK so that they can have the same opportunities that I have.



### Tash Higman

Outside skydiving, I am a qualified accountant with an MBA and more than 20 years' experience in Finance and Operational Change. My professional career previously prevented me from devoting the time and energy I believe is necessary to properly serve the membership as a Director of the BPA. I am now semi-retired and am using my experiences as a fun-jumper, competitor, coach, judge and finance and operations professional to benefit the whole membership.

My ambition when I stood in 2016 was to improve transparency of managing competition judging by documenting and publishing existing procedures. As scribe for the team of BPA Judges, I succeeded in this and the current Form 277 is the outcome of this work. Like any procedures document, it is constantly evolving and includes the mechanisms to enable it to be developed transparently over time.

In 2017, I took on the responsibility for monitoring the Competitions Committee budget on the departure of the other accountant on the Committee. This included preparing summaries of spending for each meeting and the annual liaison with Jon Gretton to collect the Team Fund monies included in competitor registration fees at BPA National Championships. In 2018, I used this experience to build and present a zero-based budget for the committee and athlete sponsorship to Council – a big departure from the previous allocation approach. I led the work to develop performance KPIs against which the Committee will be measured to justify its spending. I strongly believe competitors and the Competitions Committee can deliver a broader benefit to the membership than is currently the case and would like the opportunity to develop this in my next term on the Board.

I did my first of more than 1,400 jumps at Netheravon in 1997. Since then, I have set belly Big-way World Records, have my FF2

and have competed in CF 2-way, CF 4-way rotations and FS 4-way. I have lived in and jumped under the regulations of the DFV in Germany, PASA in South Africa and the USPA in the USA, giving me an insight into how other organisations handle challenges similar to those faced by the BPA.

I also have FAI Judge ratings in CF, FS and Speed Skydiving. After gaining my FAI Judge rating and judging at international and national championships of various countries, I was invited to join the CF Committee of the IPC and have been attending the annual IPC meetings in that role since 2016.

### Sam Lee

As a Project Manager working for a large international engineering company, I believe I have the skills and experience to uphold the necessary governance requirements and I'm appreciative of the business management tasks required to be a Director of the BPA. Influencing others, communication, teamwork, risk management and implementing process improvements are all part of my daily life and are things I'm very good at.

However, what I will really bring to the role is fresh ideas, the understanding of what is required to develop the younger members of the association – having previously spent three years on the committee of the British Collegiate Parachuting Association (BCPA) – and the motivation and energy to represent all areas of the membership to bring change for the better.

The BPA has made some good changes over the last few years, but has fallen foul of criticism for certain decisions and policies. Rather than just complain about these, I've decided to stand up and put myself forward for the challenging role of BPA Council Member to actually be able to influence these decisions and give feedback to the membership on why certain decisions are made. Change is something the BPA does need, but it needs to be constructive change and for the right reasons. I believe I am able to balance my positive and negative experiences in the sport with my business acumen and management experience to be a level-headed influencer on the Council.

Starting my skydiving career 10 years ago while at university, I have accrued 1,300 jumps – mainly focusing on FS, 4-way and big-way camera – and dabbled with working in the sport with a few seasons of tandem camera and manifesting. I have always enjoyed competitions, starting out with BCPA competitions while at university, all the way to winning UKSL and Nationals medals in 4-way and 8-way and representing Team GB at an international level. I've also enjoyed supporting newer members of our community, having undertaken more than 100 FS Coach jumps and participated in more than 40 FS1 qualifying skydives (mostly successfully!).

I fully acknowledge that there's a lot more to our sport than FS and competitions, however, and I'm keen to represent all areas of the membership and make sure that everyone's voice is heard. In addition, I have no commercial interests in skydiving, so can act completely independently without any external influences or conflicts of interest. ●





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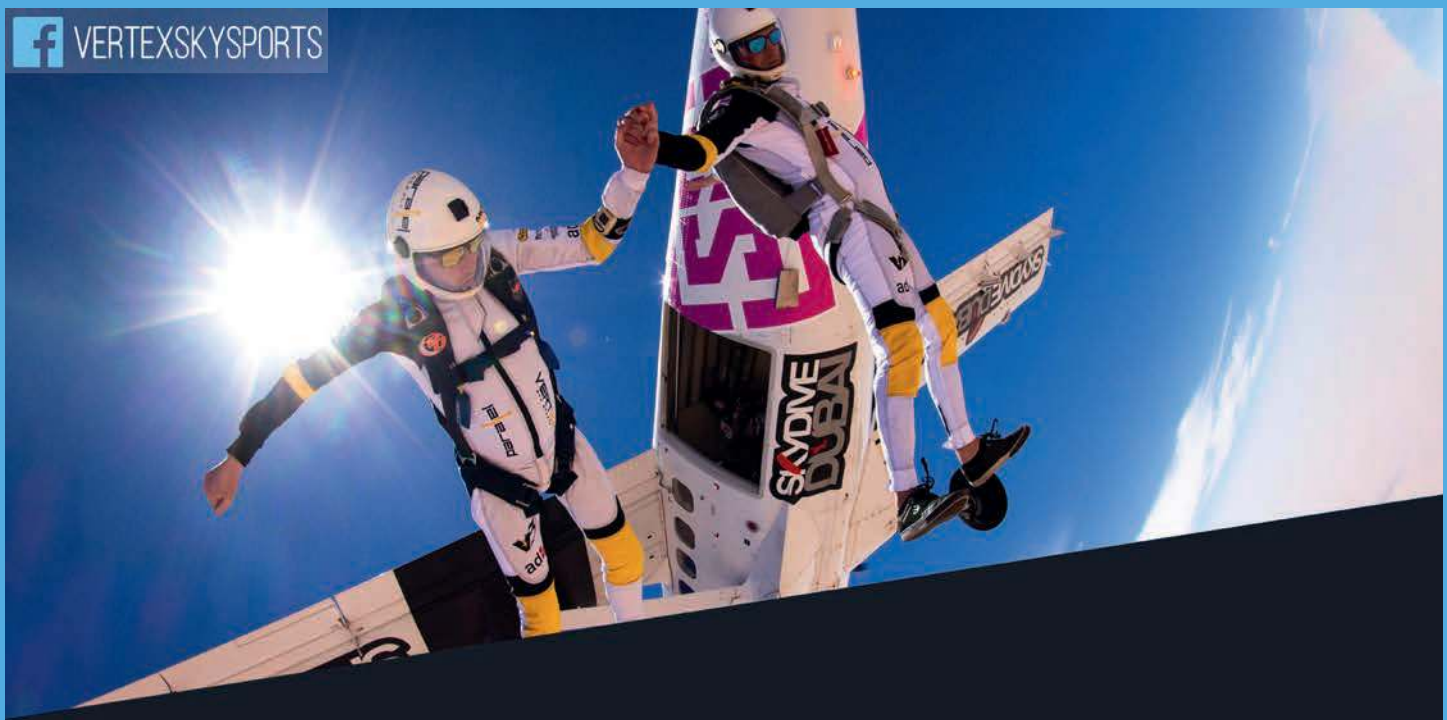
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# B P A S T R S

Congratulations to Fleur Jones, Lucy Westgarth and Phil Curtis – the BPA Stars of 2018

**B**PA Star awards exist to recognise the many examples of fantastic service in our sport. Service above and beyond the norm that goes the extra mile. Service that's made a real difference by helping jumpers to stay in the sport, by helping someone achieve their next goal or by giving them that

all-important extra support just when they need it most. In short, Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition.

BPA Chair Martin Soulsby says: "Camaraderie and that comfy feeling of being welcome and belonging can make the difference between staying in the sport or leaving. The BPA Star nominations are all heart-warming personal stories which,

in aggregate, shine a light on the human factors that help to improve retention – which is essential if our sport is to grow and flourish. Retention rates may be expressed in cold statistics, but these statistics cover stories of humility, friendship and warmth – stories of BPA members who genuinely care about the progression of their fellow members."

**1** *Cath Anderson (for Phil Curtis), Lucy Westgarth and Fleur Jones with BPA Chair Martin Soulsby, by Rob Lloyd*

### Fleur Jones

#### Nomination by Huw Rees

"I had just got back into skydiving after an unfortunately long break and had got my currency back, but I wasn't really progressing on anything – then I met Fleur. I mentioned I was interested in working on my FSr and she immediately got me started. She talked me through the process and got an understanding of my experience straight away. Next thing I knew, we were on the next load and I was beyond excited to start my FSr. Fleur accommodated my erratic schedule incredibly and was very fair with her time when inundated with students. Fleur's openness, understanding and smile continued throughout my FSr and helped me become a better skydiver while thoroughly enjoying every jump. I can't wait to complete my FSr and hopefully it will be with only one more jump, but it certainly won't be the last jump I share with Fleur."

#### Nomination by Richard Latter

"When I first turned up at my local DZ for my AFF Level 1 jump, I had no idea what to do or where to go. Fleur Jones was the first person to smile and say hello, welcoming me to the world of skydiving. All the way through my AFF training, Fleur was there in the wings, tracking my progress and giving me pointers and tips. As soon as I completed my AFF, she was there to start me on my FSr training. At this, Fleur has been absolutely fantastic. She has been incredibly patient, even when we were tumbling uncontrollably through the air on our first few dives together. Seeing the fear in her eyes when I wouldn't let go is something that is etched indelibly in my mind forever and I really thought she wouldn't want to go anywhere near me in the sky again after that Saturday. Her patience, diligence and perseverance paid off though and I can now say that my exits are a lot more refined and controlled, which I put completely down to her. Fleur's coaching language and descriptions are simple and easy to understand and her debriefs are always constructive and positive but never demoralising, even after what I have considered to be a total flop of a jump. Fleur is a real credit to the sport: energetic, supportive, always smiling, happy and positive and I feel very lucky to have met her and have her as a Coach."

#### Nomination by Stephen Adam

"I've found Fleur to be enthusiastic, committed, positive and knowledgeable. Her passion for the sport is evident as soon as you start talking to her. She's gone out of her way to make herself available for coaching, even offering me a lift to the DZ if I need one.

"It can be a frustrating experience making the transition from green A Licence holder to a competent B Licence holder. Experienced coaches are often teaching AFF and many FS coaches are either professionals trying to juggle paid work or experienced fun jumpers who help out when they can. It's dedicated people like Fleur who make coming to the dropzone such a pleasure and progressing through the sport much easier than it would otherwise be."

2



**'She has been incredibly patient, even when we were tumbling uncontrollably through the air on our first few dives together'**

**Lucy Westgarth**

**Nomination by Catherine Brown**

“Lucy’s lively personality and big smile make her a welcome face at all competition meets and we really appreciate all the additional support she provides beyond just counting our points and many busts.

“I first met Lucy last year at Revenge where, moments before the tunnel switched on and she had to begin live judging, she taught our Rookie team how to enter into the tunnel linked.

“Lucy always seems happy to help and, for every bust we’ve received, Lucy has found time during each comp to go through the footage with us.

After scoring our exits for comedic value, she clearly explains what went wrong and advises how to prevent making the same mistakes in the future, be it camera angles, glove colours or a simple explanation for how to fly the block better. Lucy proactively does this for all teams, no matter how much or little of her favourite Haribo is supplied. Lucy is fair to all teams, showing no favouritism, but enjoys keeping us all on our toes when announcing round scores and the top teams are score boarding. Lucy is an all-round fantastic judge!

“It’s been a pleasure to have Lucy on the UKSL circuit and we hope she continues to judge our 4-way efforts in the future.”



3



**Phil Curtis**

**Nomination by Ed Hill**

“Phil helped our 4-way FS team out of a difficult situation this summer when our season was at risk of falling apart after one of our team had to take some time away for personal reasons. We were a serious team who had put in a lot of hard work to compete, and suddenly we were scratching around trying to find anyone who could fill a slot. Then Phil stepped in.

“Apart from being completely supportive to our absent teammate, Phil went above and beyond to help the team. Not only did he change his plans at the last moment to fill our slot, he was also happy to debrief each jump. From struggling to find a sandbag as a replacement, we suddenly had a coach with a wealth of experience to pass on, allowing the team to get the most out of our training. Phil also filled in at short notice during our tunnel training session on the same weekend.

“To cap all this, Phil insisted on covering his own slot for all of this, despite his presence being a huge favour to the team. Phil was motivated by his passion for the sport, his desire to help us develop our skills and his general helpful attitude. This nomination will be no surprise to people that spend much time at Langar and see this from Phil every day, but I think it’s time he got a shiny award for it.” ●

2 Fleur Jones, by Sussex Police

3 Lucy Westgarth, by Rob Lloyd

4 Phil Curtis

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# FLYING THE FLAG

Skydivers are a competitive bunch, so the world record for the biggest flag jump wasn't going to last for long...

**WORDS AND PHOTOS:** MARK NORMAN



1



2



3



4



5

**B**reaking world records in skydiving is not easy, as anyone who has taken part in one can attest, but we love our flag jumps here at Skydive Dubai. You can see them being regularly flown at the dropzone, at special events and at demonstration jumps throughout the region. Therefore, the goal for this special project – headed up by Pablo Hernandez under the watchful eye of Abdulla Al Mansoori and Samer Al Ammar who came up with the idea and facilitated the sponsorship and resources – was to break the current world record of 2,607 square metres currently held by the Germans (see the June 2018 issue of this

Mag!) and to make it stand for some time. No mean feat by any standards.

With that, I found myself at the desert campus staring in disbelief at a 185kg container that was going to be piloted by David 'Junior' Ludvik. Two earlier dummy drops from a Twin Otter had determined that a helicopter would be required to reduce the run-in speed. Evgeny Gruzdev, the Rigger in charge, did the last-minute checks on the flag's container, we loaded the aircraft and were on our way for the first live drop. There were eight of us in all: three to assist with the flag and the rest of us to record the event.

The two-minute call came quickly. The atmosphere was palpable as the

pre-flight checks were done, the cameras were switched on and Junior was unceremoniously gone, flag and all. Words aren't needed when something isn't going well. Over the noise of the turbine and gearbox, I could see Pablo gesturing not to jump. We circled and could see the drogue over the nose of the canopy; the bundle had separated from Junior with the opening shock.

### Take Two

It was established that we needed heavy drop equipment. Many hours of rigging later and with the help of United Parachute Technologies and Performance Designs, we were ready for our second

**1 The UAE National Flag over Skydive Dubai desert campus**

**2 Officially a World Record**





attempt using a military-grade tandem rig with a 460 square foot canopy along with a reinforced flag container.

On the next attempt, the flag unfurled from the container only to have the attachment point under Junior's feet break and the entire flag slide down the rope.

The following day was going to be our last attempt and, with that, we found ourselves climbing to 9,500ft. After an uneventful exit and deployment, this had to be it. The attachment point had been reconfigured and we all watched and waited for the football field-sized flag to make an appearance. Circling in the helicopter, I could see Junior rocking the bag back and forth and tugging on the

release handle. He seemed to be struggling, so we descended slowly to follow him as he kept trying to get the container to open. The bundle was cut away and landed in the desert under a parachute. The release system had jammed under the weight of its contents and, even with all his might and effort, Junior could not get the container open. He was exhausted when he landed.

Needless to say, morale was low and the ride home was quiet. So much time and effort had gone into making this a reality. Later that evening, a call came through from Pablo. There would be one more attempt; we weren't going to give up without a fight!

It is hard to imagine the pressure

on everyone to make this work. It was indeed a quiet ride to altitude, then everyone got ready and off went Junior into the void again.

As the flag unfurled, there was jubilation in the helicopter. At last, there it was in all its glory – nearly 4,885.65 square metres of UAE flag glistening in the afternoon sun. It was truly an absolutely amazing sight to behold, with wingsuiters buzzing past and flag bearers from sponsors circling. I am sure this record will stand for years to come, although you never know...

Special thanks to Skydive Dubai and everyone who worked tirelessly to make this happen. ●

**3** A record-breaking 4,885.65 square metres of flag is celebrated with a wingsuit fly-by with smoke

**4** Loading the 185kg container onto the helicopter

**5** The record was set following three unsuccessful attempts, including the bundle detaching due to opening shock on the first go!

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# WHY WE DO

4-way inspiration from the top with *Satori XL*

# WHAT WE DO

**C**ompetitive 4-way is the world's most popular skydiving discipline and it's mesmerising to watch when done well. Teams train for hundreds of hours and thousands of jumps to shave tenths of a second off block times. Competitions can be won or lost on which team can transition fastest from their exit to the second point. Current world champions *Hayabusa* won the

World Parachuting Championships 2018 in Australia with an average score of 27.9 and a world record of 62 points in time on Round 6. It's fast, precise, addictive and requires total commitment to working together as a team.

But how do you train to reach the top levels of competitive 4-way and what motivates someone to put themselves under such intense performance pressure? We spoke to all five members of *Satori XL* to find out.



2

## 'It's a mental game of balancing the nerves, breathing, body and mind' to get the perfect performance'



### Pete Mather

"I have always been into sports and wanting to be good at them. I got into skydiving because of a

friend's dad who'd been jumping for 30 years. He told me about AFF and how to get into skydiving, so here I am now 10 years later with more than 3,000 skydives and I love the sport more and more.

"The first time I saw a team training at a high level was a 4-way team called *Sonic V*. I remember seeing them training at Skydive Spain while I was doing AFF. They were walking and creeping the jumps, doing back-to-backs, 12-14 jumps per day and – most of all – having fun. From that day, I knew what I wanted to do and that was 4-way. I went back to the UK and started to find out what I needed to do and how to get on a team. Since 2009, I have been competing in 4-way and absolutely love it. It has good times and bad, but being part of a team and doing your best is the best thing in the world.

"For me, being on a team is about the friendships you make, developing shared goals, training hard and having fun.

The biggest thing is the drive that I get to be the best that the team and I can be. This might be planning for the year or years ahead, training hard outside the sport (for example, in the gym), eating right and being mentally strong. When I'm with the team, I'm happy from early on in the season in the tunnel, then in the air doing good skydives, learning more about myself and my teammates, getting better as a team and then culminating in

performing in a major competition. There is so much to learn every day and it translates to make me better in other aspects of my life."



### Rich Orford

"Towards the end of 1999, after five years in the sport, 269 jumps and a loss of direction,

I reluctantly considered quitting. A friend suggested I might make a half-decent 4-way jumper and he knew of a team needing a fourth jumper that I should try out for. I quickly became hooked on the skill improvement, hard work of team training and competition thrill.

"After 12 years and numerous teams in every slot, I needed a break. I somehow wound up not only coaching my friends in a single A team, but even shooting video – something I'd never done. This experience opened up a whole new world. After six years on the other side of the camera, I'm still nowhere near the 4-way videographer I'd like to be so there's plenty more to learn and accomplish.

"I also started filming tandems in 2018. I'm still pretty rubbish but, with a concentrated amount of jumps, I am getting better every day and I'm absolutely loving the ride.

"I still enjoy dabbling in other disciplines for fun but concentrating on one or two specific areas of focus to get good at keeps me challenged and hungry. Without this, I suspect I'd have become disillusioned and left the sport long ago."

**1** Training over Hib, by Geordie Steve

**2** World Meet exit prep, by Steve Fitch

**3** Block 4 exit, by Rich Orford





**John McIver (Jocky)**

“My skydiving career started back in 1987 at Tilstock. One of my early

memories was seeing a 4-way team arrive to make some training jumps and I was so impressed at seeing them operate. That team was led by Sandy Spence. I was then on a mission to have a team and compete. To keep the story short, I eventually had a goal to win the British Nationals and compete at the World Championships, then be happy to stop. I managed to do the first two, but stopping didn't happen! I continued to this day, winning 19 National 4-way titles. I love 4-way and being in a team. Through the briefing and debriefing process, I've learned so much about myself and teammates and seeing the results from training is a great feeling. Over the years, I have come to enjoy competition more and relish the nervous feelings that come along with it. Then it's a mental game of balancing the nerves, breathing, body and mind to get the perfect performance. It's not easy to find that zone and that's a major reason why I'm still addicted.”



**Ady King**

“In 2005, I completed my AFF course at Netheravon. However, that wasn't because of an ambition to become a

4-way jumper or even because of a desire to get involved with the sport. I wanted to make sure that parachuting was actually something I could follow as a career path before committing to the role of Parachute Jump Instructor in the RAF.

“Thirteen years later, having competed at every 4-way Nationals since 2007, I ask myself how I arrived at this point. I was exposed to the fast, exciting and competitive world of 4-way FS by my early RAF skydiving mentors Steve Forester (Fozzy) and Mick Barron. The discipline provided the perfect opportunity to satisfy my competitive nature.

“In 2010, I was representing the RAF in a close battle for Nationals AA gold against *Unagi*, which contained my more-recent *Vision99* and *Satori XL* teammate, Pete Mather. At the same time, I was inspired watching the performance of *Satori* (John McIver, Julia Foxwell, Aaron Faith and Katie Woods) as they scored a 20+ average and won the National AAA title. I remember watching their rounds being scored in the old bar at Hib and thinking: “I'm going to get to that level.” I didn't know how long, how many jumps and hours of tunnel time it would take, how much it would cost or if I would even find a like-minded group of jumpers at a similar experience level who wanted to join me, but I knew from that point exactly what I wanted

to achieve within 4-way. That single moment created the motivation that would shape my commitment to 4-way for the next eight years.

“Having recently returned from the 2018 World Championships, achieving two 20+ average performances in the season and having won my first UK National title in 2017, the reasons why I do 4-way are still the same: the thrill of close competitions; the excitement from the speed of good quality 4-way; the exhilaration of flying all types of exits and turning points on the hill; and the feeling at break-off and on the landing area having just completed a good training jump, even more so during competition (Rounds 1 and 10 are the best when you do them well).

“As I look up the scoreboard from the World Championships, I find myself in a similar position to 2010. I'm inspired by the performances of *Hayabusa* and *Airspeed*, looking at how the scoring levels on a world stage have increased over the past 10-15 years and wondering what would it take to get to that level, how long, how many more training jumps and hours of tunnel!”



**Pete Allum**

“As a kid hanging around the DZ, the most exciting thing to me was reading about and watching videos of high-level teams

train for and attend National and World Championships. Even before I started jumping, I had posters of teams on my bedroom wall. In the late 1970s, it was the US 8-way teams and the UK 4-way team *Symbiosis*. In my mind, these teams were semi-mystical groups that spent months training at exotic DZs. Remember that, at that time, my skydiving world encompassed a couple of wet and windy UK DZs.

“My first team was a group of friends that travelled to a few larger UK DZs to see what the big wide world was all about. We made a couple of jumps, entered no competitions and generally had a blast. From then on, I was fortunate to be involved in national 4- and 8-way teams from 1985 to the present day.

“For me, being part of a team is sharing in a goal and then doing everything possible as an individual to make that goal happen. On a personal level, I have to constantly ensure that my skydiving skills, physical condition and mental state are ready to take on the demands of training and competition. On the ride to altitude, preparing mentally for the jump and the feeling of being in the starting blocks on exit are all sensations that heighten the experience.

“During the debrief, I like the highly critical and performance-based environment and relish the opportunity to make constant mistakes and therefore improvements. Attending competitions as a team is the culmination of training and the end of term exam. They will be stressful, but there is so much to learn about yourself and your teammates in these moments.” ●

4 Ady and John, by Martin Martinez

5 Block 6 on the hill, by Rich Orford

6 Mid-competition, by Martin Martinez



**‘Being on a team is about the friendships you make, developing shared goals, training hard and having fun’**





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# TIME FOR AN UPDATE

Why do we need a working group and what is the problem? Here's an update from the Canopy Working Group

**WORDS:** MARK BAYADA

In the last 10 years, there have been 17 fatal accidents at BPA PTOs. Of those, seven have been landing accidents under a perfectly good working canopy. Five of those were low turns; the other two had extreme turbulence as a contributing factor. In 2018, we had three fatal accidents, all on landing and all while carrying out deliberate high-performance landings. Two of these were by experienced skydivers who were in the process of learning CP.

In the last 10 years, 35% of all BPA fatalities were under a fully serviceable canopy. *Something* needs to change.

The need for better education on canopy flight was first identified nearly 20 years ago following a large number of fatal landing accidents. Unlike now, where there seems to be a pattern being set with the types of accidents we are seeing, there was no pattern back then. Some accidents were very experienced jumpers, some were by jumpers on large canopies who were very inexperienced and at least

one was probably caused by landing in an unsuitable area.

To try and tackle the problem, Canopy Handling and Canopy Piloting were devised. Two manuals were written and the grades CH1, CH2, CP1 and CP2 were introduced. This meant mandatory canopy handling proficiency in order to gain an A and then B Licence, and structured CP progression after that if desired. At the time, it was decided not to legislate on type of canopy.

To start with, the results were promising. However, there is a real problem now. Too many jumpers are now flying canopies that are either too small or too fast for their level of experience. This puts them and all those around them at too much risk every time they jump. Jumpers who have downsized quickly have a higher risk of being involved in an incident; getting injured on landing; hurting another jumper; already being on a canopy that's too small when learning CP; and are



1 *Sunset landing,*  
by Mark Norman

**'In the last 10 years, 35% of all BPA fatalities were under a fully serviceable canopy. Something needs to change'**

therefore more likely to get themselves and/or others seriously injured or killed.

So, what can we do about it? Firstly, ensure that the training we give our jumpers is good enough to keep them safe at all times. Secondly, ensure that they are using suitable equipment. Thirdly, ensure that they have a safe place to land.

### **How are we going to do this?**

First, a working group of Chief Instructors and canopy coaches with a great deal of experience in these matters has been formed. The working group is made up of myself, Noel Purcell, Stuart Meacock, Nick Robinson, Wez Westley and Brian Vacher. The working group will research every area of risk and how best to tackle that problem. It will consult Chief Instructors, PTOs and jumpers to seek feedback on how those changes may affect them. Once complete, the working group will write a report and make any recommendations to the Safety and Training Committee. The working group is looking at the following:

#### **1. Update Canopy Handling**

Canopy Handling needs to be updated to ensure that all our jumpers are taught the skills that they need to keep themselves safe when flying modern canopies in busier skies and landing areas. The types of canopy that most of our lower experienced jumpers are now using and the fact that most PTOs now have large turbine aircraft put together mean that jumpers need to be better trained at this early stage in their careers not only how to land safely but – just as importantly – how to ensure that they land in the correct area without putting themselves or other jumpers in any undue risk. They must also be taught how to constantly assess all situations and, should the need require, make good decisions and take appropriate action.

#### **2. CP progression**

There have been some very worrying trends developing over the years to do with how jumpers have been progressing and getting coached. To tackle these trends, there's a real need to completely shake up how high-performance landings are taught and carried out. This will involve not only a rewrite of the CP manual, but also a look at the syllabus and how it is coached.

One of the unforeseen problems when CP1 was introduced was that people would rush through the syllabus to get the qualification and perhaps be pressured into carrying out higher degree turns than they were ready for. One suggestion is to reduce the requirements for CP1 to 90° turns to take away the urge to progress too quickly.

One of the other problems is jumpers underestimating how many jumps it really takes to fully learn each technique and manoeuvre. To combat this, it is proposed to increase the number of repetitions. CP2 would then take jumpers from 90° to turns of more than 270° but, again, it will take many more stages of progression with more jumps required at each stage. The aim will be for no one to ever have to

## CANOPY WORKING GROUP

make a big jump in what they are doing but they will instead make a lot of tiny little steps along the way. The whole process will probably take most jumpers hundreds if not thousands of jumps to complete.

The requirements to be CP2-qualified to attend the UK CP Nationals will be looked at separately.

### 3. Canopy coaching

Coaching CP is a very risky business. Even the best-intended coaching tips, if interpreted wrongly, can have disastrous consequences. It is vital that all CP coaches know and understand exactly what they are looking for and then give the correct advice at all times. The CP coach qualification will be looked at and updated as needed.

### 4. Suitable canopies and PLAs

As well as better education for all our jumpers, we also have a duty as a national governing body to ensure that people are using suitable canopies and that all landing areas are suitable for the landings they intend to carry out.

Many other countries have now devised national systems to control the type and size of canopy being jumped, dependant on the jumper's weight and experience. These systems can cause as many problems as they solve but, if implemented correctly, can have a marked effect in reducing incidents.

Another factor in all landing incidents is the landing area itself. Landings involving a large degree of turn and normal landings do not mix very well, putting everyone at an unacceptable risk of collision. For this reason, landing areas may need to be split and a dedicated high-performance area nominated. It is possible that the location and size of the high-performance area will need to be legislated along with how all landing areas are managed.

No one thing anywhere in the world has had a positive long-term effect. The only success has come from countries that have improved the education of their jumpers, ensured that they use suitable equipment and ensured that their PTOs manage their landing areas better.

Not all of the ideas and recommendations will be popular with jumpers, coaches or PTOs, but it is essential that something is done. All of the above are only ideas at this stage, so the next step is to consult with PTOs, Chief Instructors, coaches and jumpers. The content of this article was presented at BPA Skydive the Expo 2019 to a packed seminar room of skydivers and, interestingly, a show of hands indicated that most people agreed with this direction. Nobody thought we had got it totally wrong.

To minimise the disruption when implementing the new system, updates will be published regularly and we would really like to hear from everyone about how they feel they might be affected. All feedback should be sent to me at [mark.bayada@bpa.org.uk](mailto:mark.bayada@bpa.org.uk). ●

**2** Chad Smith  
at Headcorn, by  
Geoff Cowells

**3** Taking a tumble,  
by Les Cooper

**4** Canopy Working  
Group member Wez  
Westley landing  
at Oceanside, by  
Emma Reynolds



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1



2

# BACK IN THE DAY

Reminiscences, reflections and a little bit of sheer lunacy by Andy Guest



3

4

jump no.	date	place	aircraft
773	25 <sup>th</sup> /8/80	NETHERMUON	ISLANDER
equipment	altitude	delay/total time	330HOURS
UNIT Crossing	7,000	3 / 6HOURS 59mins 34secs	
maneuver	C.R.W. 5 STACK P.C. on top		
description			
5 <sup>th</sup> guy on for a few seconds			
		Gang heavy UNIT	
		ME Cousin	
		ANDY BRILL UNIT	
		Zan Graham UNIT	
Charlie Hoare BPA 53733		Paul Applegate	
signature			

## Big stacks

It's the 1980s and I'm descending over the Devon countryside underneath my parachute, which at this moment is feeling like a kid's security blanket. It's a beautiful day and I'm admiring the landscape below me from what was a fun jump when I hear a voice shouting: "Stay there!" My head turns to the left, only to see my brother Pete sideslipping across. The nearer he gets, the larger my pupils become until he grabs hold of my parachute.

There's a voice shouting in my head: "Is he mad?!" The choice of words is surprising for a serving Royal Marine, as it now dawns on me that I have been hijacked and no longer have control of where I am going. My brother steers me to the landing area. I really want to be that back seat driver, but my lips are still sealed and clearly I'm still in shock. We both land on our feet and my brother has a beaming smile, while I'm controlling the urge to drop down on my knees to kiss the ground.

Pete wanders over to me and says: "Andrew, you're part of the *Royal Marines Parachute Display Team* now. This is our bread and butter on displays and it makes us different from other display teams. You will get used to it." The inside of my head echoes like an underground cavern as the words "YOU WILL GET USED TO IT" bounce around. At that moment in time, I could never imagine how much CRW (CF) would define me as a skydiver.

Fifteen months later, I find myself having participated in British, European and World CRW Records – the first time the World CRW Record had been taken off the Americans. CRW was progressing at a fast pace. We were no longer hooking our feet into the cells of the parachute but around the lines, and we were sliding down to the anchor points between the risers too.

As my confidence grows, so does my desire to experiment and try new things. Rather than go in blind, I would constantly evaluate, take two steps back and try to see the larger picture. I liked the feeling of my heart beating faster and seeing something unusual. Our sport develops each year thanks to individuals having a new idea and pursuing it. Yes, it's true that the unknown has risks, which is why it's prudent to do your homework and talk to others for their views in case they see something you haven't. Fear is not what you see, but what comes from within you that needs to be conquered.

My brother Pete explains the sight picture when docking third. You keep the bottom guy in between your centre lines and the leading edge should be at the waist so you see no more of the person than his legs. I learn that the sight picture doesn't change whether you're docking third or twenty-third – you just have to remember that the bigger it gets, the faster the big stack sinks so

you set up further below. The main problem with a big stack is that it's more affected by turbulence as it grows. The bottom of the stack can start to oscillate, and it's important when approaching and seeing the bottom of the stack oscillating to maintain that sight picture and keep the bottom guy in between the centre lines to prevent a wrap and so you follow the swing.

Individuals higher up the stack can help kill the oscillation by countering the swing and lifting up on the opposite side to swing using the cross bars in between the risers. There are times when this still won't work and those involved in the oscillation are in for a wild ride. However, the advantage we had on the Royal Marines big stacks was the discipline of the individuals involved. I filmed some classic footage looking down, with four to six guys being thrown horizontally and still hanging on. It always brings gasps from those watching as a calm voice in the stack can be heard shouting: "Hold it!"

Another problem with a big stack is that the weight increases as it gets bigger. The canopies lose a proportion of their lift due to resting on the rigging lines, so it's important to take the weight where you place your feet under the crossbars. The visuals looking up or down at the stack are breathtaking and I know I am involved in something special.

## Square peg, non-square hole

The key to docking on a round parachute using a square parachute lies in appreciating the difference in the speed of the parachute. The round parachute would face into wind and the square would set up behind the round for a long run up from downwind – so nothing is rushed. Hitting someone on full drive is likely to age them and require a change of underwear. As you approach the round on half brakes, you go on full drive just before docking because this has you sinking below the round. Keeping the round jumper in between the centre lines as you start to lose sight of them, you flare the canopy. Time it right and all the speed is washed off just as you hit or, should I say, dock. Once on, you will be required to stay on half or a bit more brakes to stop the square canopy trying to overtake the round one you have docked onto.

The biggest stack I have been involved in using a round parachute on top was five. What we found was the four square parachutes, though on deep brakes, still had a tendency to try to outrun the round parachute. This resulted in the stack tilting back close to the stall, which is a very uncomfortable feeling. I even tried square docking on a Delta-wing triangular parachute, which involved the same approach as if docking on a round parachute except for needing to sit on brakes once docked.

**1** Square on brakes to match the (lack of) round forward speed

**2** Looking up at one of the Royal Marines big stacks

**3** An original approach to docking: inside the cell like a sleeping bag!

**4** Four squares on a round in 1980

**5** Royal Marines record stacks in 1986, by Simon Ward

**6** Yes, triangular parachutes were briefly a thing. Yes, this is a square parachute docking on one

**7** Big stack over Pampisford, an old dropzone near Cambridge

**8** Round docking – inside view

**9** Round docking – outside view

**10** Lining up to dock on a big stack



5



6



7





### Double trouble

Those with military parachute training will know that a round parachute above another round will lead to the top canopy collapsing, so it's best to avoid that situation. However, when dealing with round parachutes that have forward speed, the distorted air does not go straight above but comes back at an angle. Therefore, it misses the top canopy and allows it to stay inflated. The interesting thing about doing CF on round parachutes is that everything seems to go in slow motion; the negative side is having to wear a front-mounted reserve.

Choosing to do the CF with an aeroconical and a Papillon parachute allows me on the aeroconical to slide in front of the Papillon (that has more forward speed) to pin me. It still feels like slow motion compared to two squares. As I approach the Papillon, there's a gentle dock on the lines just where the rigging lines are attached to the parachute. I start to come down the lines and I have to use brute force to haul myself down. It's a slow process and I'm hanging out as my heart rate feels like I am running a marathon.

Slowly but surely, I am getting down and – eventually – I reach the other jumper, Neil. He grabs hold of my legs and pulls me down, so we now have a bi-hand. There are no smiles or laughter. What I see is that Neil is still processing what he feels is a crazy situation while Leo Dickinson is flying around us. The camera he has given us is still filming away, though I am more interested in looking at the visuals. It's clear that the aeroconical dwarfs the Papillon, but they are flying nicely together. I twist my body 180° and we now have an opposing bi-hand. Though my assistant Neil was extremely keen to step outside his comfort zone and approached me asking to do it, he has just discovered the difference between talking about it on the ground and doing it in the air and politely informs me: "Never, ever again."

### CF today

A lot has changed in nearly 40 years. It's often said that you experience more when you leave the well-trodden path. CF is fun and goes hand in hand with adrenaline, so try it – you may be surprised by just how much you enjoy it. There's so much more to experience once you have that confidence, and the visuals will last a lifetime.

*So, I have this idea... ●*



IT'S A BOOGIE,  
JIM, BUT NOT AS  
WE KNOW IT...



With Milko, Siân and Dan BC organising jumps out of a C-130 Hercules in Botswana... why wouldn't you go?

**WORDS:** JIM BRADWELL

**T**he Makgadikgadi Epic Boogie was a four-day event based at a temporary dropzone outside Sowa in Botswana. On the first day, flatflyers jumped in small groups of all abilities out of a Botswana Air Defence Force CASA C-212's tailgate (think Skyvan, without the "iconic" design!). Then we moved to the BADF C-130, jumping 28-30-ways and lower-experienced 12-ways which still turned three-four points.

Milko, Siân and Dan briefed fun dives too, with fantastic debriefs full of laughter and learning. Andre du Preez from South Africa also had fun with his Freefly organised group. Everyone really enjoyed the jumping and atmosphere.

The large landing area was beside a local festival and there were 2-3,000 spectators over the course of the event. Locals arrived in droves with picnic hampers and cool boxes to enjoy the open-air music and watch in amazement as we landed alongside them. And just because it could, the Herc made a



low pass over the event after every lift. It was probably just a coincidence but, late in the evening, the stage became packed with revellers... 95% of whom were skydivers!

The Boogie was "inclusive" in several ways. Transport to and from Kasane was laid on, along with accommodation and all meals. We arrived to a miniature tented village with fully functioning and clean shower and toilet facilities. "Tented" implies camping, but there were proper bed frames with mattresses, your bed was made every morning and the tent was swept too! Food (included, again) was professionally prepared in a purpose-built kitchen facility adjacent to the large gazebo-style marquee where everyone ate together – all very sociable. The challenge with three different meat dishes at each meal, salad and vegetables, starters and sweets was to not eat too much!

It was also inclusive for the non-skydivers. Not only could they go for a spin in the Bell Ranger helicopter and see the beautiful countryside, but they could ride to altitude in the Herc and watch the groups

exit the tailgate too. And, if you didn't want to ride the boat on the lake, you could sit in the sun with fresh ground coffee in the heart of the skydiving activity. Another benefit of travelling to Botswana is the lack of a time zone shift and only one hour of difference to BST – no body clock havoc.

On the last day, unfavourable weather stopped play and thoughts turned to the long return by coach to Kasane. But the Epic Boogie had one final ace to play...

"Right, everybody – go and collect your gear because the Herc is going to fly you all back." WOW! We all loaded our bags in the back, secured with a large net and the help of the loadmaster, found a webbing seat and took off. A few minutes after that, I checked the window and realised we were still very low. Just because he could, the pilot made one final low pass over the DZ. Awesome!

But to go all that way and only skydive would have missed the point. Botswana is home to the world's best wildlife safaris and the opportunity to experience the most stunning and densely populated game areas up close and personal should not be

missed. Chobe National Park was amazing. We travelled a few days early for a camping safari and there was a day trip to the jaw-droppingly beautiful Victoria Falls, as well as amazing game viewing by boat from the Chobe River. Lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo, zebras, giraffes, impalas, kudus, fish eagles, crocodiles, hippos and much, much more were there in abundance. It was an adventure that was not to be missed.

The event's success was driven by a phenomenal collaboration between the Botswana Tourism Organisation, the Botswana Defence Force and the Parachute Association of Botswana in conjunction with Johannesburg Sky Events (Eugene 'Pottie' Potgieter and Fritz Schoeman) and the magnificent team from Johannesburg Skydiving Club. Where else in the world does that happen?

So it was a Boogie, but not as we necessarily as know it. In my opinion, it had the best activity package skydivers and non-skydivers alike will ever experience! ●

**1** Exit from the incredible C-130 Hercules, by Ioannis Vlachiotis

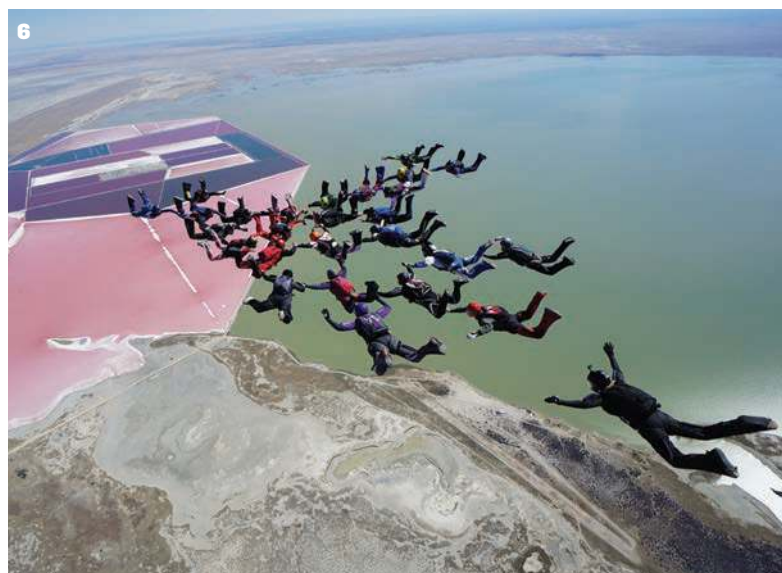
**2** By Jim Bradwell

**3** Jim Bradwell landing at the Botswana temporary DZ. Credit: Botswana Unplugged

**4** Wingsuiting off the tailgate, by Ioannis Vlachiotis

**5** By Jim Bradwell

**6** Big-way over Botswana, by Ralph Wilhelm



# Boogie in beautiful Botswana

## 12. – 15. July 2019

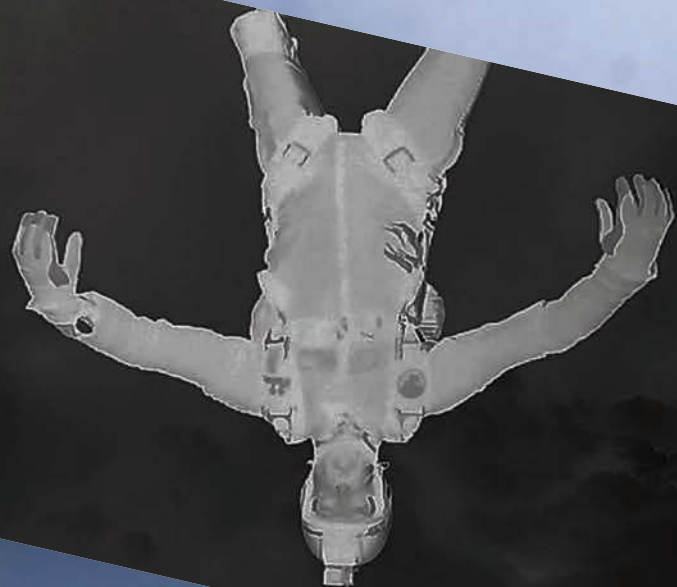
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# DAVID GOODWIN

...as remembered by Ian Rosenvinge

**D**avid Goodwin was sadly lost to us on November 30 2018 following a non-parachuting plane crash in South Africa. He sustained what would prove to be fatal burns after putting the priority on getting others out to safety ahead of himself. This was typical David – always willing to volunteer for the common good.

David was a long-standing parachutist, Instructor and Parachute Pilot for many years,

briefing and despatching – among many others – our own BPA Chairman on his Category 8 qualifying jump back in the day at Sunderland Parachute Centre. David also jumped regularly at Border and Topcliffe Parachute Centres, and when Sunderland closed ahead of Peterlee opening. Work took David away from the North East and he lived for several years in the Manchester area, parachuting and instructing regularly at Tilstock, Topcliffe and Chatteris as well as other dropzones. He was one of the first

UK qualified Tandem Instructors and also qualified as a BPA Parachute Pilot, latterly parachute flying regularly for Peterlee and St George.

He leaves behind his partner Michelle, his mother Joan and very many friends. We will dearly miss you, David – be it as a pilot, parachutist, Instructor or friend to many. He was always there for the team, whether to readily volunteer to cover a gap or to support events. Thank you for all you did – your contribution is the greatest loss! ●





# STEW EWING

...as remembered by Jason Fox

**F**unny... cheeky... always smiling and always laughing... mischievous... an infectious and positive presence whenever he was near."

These are the common themes that run through all of the sentiments I received after reaching out to the skydiving community to ask for your contributions to this article, which celebrates the life of our dear and much-missed buddy Stewart Ewing.

I had the pleasure of knowing Stew for about 10 years and, while we weren't in close regular contact, those typically 'Stew' characteristics were always present whenever we did share time on a DZ. There was never a dull moment if he was in the vicinity. He would always cast off any negativity from a jump and ensure that the team had fun and focussed on the positives of a competition or a jump, whatever the outcome.

Many of you shared moments about Stew's antics and mischievous pranks. If you ever did something wrong or said something stupid, you would be quietly and desperately hoping

that Stew wasn't in earshot so you could avoid the ferocious mickey-taking that would ensue!

Stew started jumping in 2010, taking his AFF at Skydive Chatteris. After competing in 4-way for a while, he developed his camera skills and spent a few seasons filming 4-way FS – primarily and proudly for RAF teams in his capacity as an ex-serviceman.

Stew got his FS Coach rating in 2014, his FF1 in 2015 and his WS2 in 2016, competing in both the 2016 and 2017 Wingsuit Performance Nationals in the Intermediate category. I spoke to Stew in April 2018 because I was considering entering the 2018 Wingsuit Nationals (I wimped out!) and wanted some advice from him as I had very few wingsuit jumps. As ever, he was modest and provided words of encouragement, telling me that he entered his first wingsuit competition with just 10 wingsuit jumps and to "just fly in a straight line!"

Stew first noticed the early signs of a rare form of cancer in May 2017 and he and his family were given the brutal diagnosis in December that year. He was hoping to compete in the 2018

Wingsuiting Nationals, but his illness and the treatment prevented this.

His wife Emma told me that, apart from being a hugely dedicated father and husband, he talked all the time about his love for skydiving and she would catch him looking up wistfully on blue sky days. We all know that feeling! She wanted to thank all of his skydiving friends for making his hobby such an important part of his life.

It's said that the best of us are taken early and, for Stew, that is absolutely true; he succumbed to his illness and passed away on September 13 2018. He completed his 723rd and final jump less than three months earlier on June 24 2018.

At his funeral on October 3 – and in true 'Stew' style – we were told that he even managed a joke or two during his last moments. Fittingly, he was brought into the church to the tune of 'Dance The Night Away' by Lionel Richie.

Blue skies, mate. You are missed hugely by so many and, without those cheeky grins, stories and laughter, the long weather holds will seem a little bit longer. ●





photo: Matt Baldelli

**FUNDAMENTALS OF BASE**  
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# LANDING IN



# WATER

Perfect spot, by  
Bruno Brokken

**Water jumps** are definitely some of the more unusual jumps you can make. Planned water jumps can be great fun, and are often (but not necessarily) part of a display. Unplanned water jumps are a very unusual and particularly terrifying experience, implying that something has gone badly wrong. If unintentionally landing in water is the only available option, then the jump has already gone wrong due to a bad spot or poor canopy flight choices. So, what do you need to know?

## What do the BPA rules say?

As always, the BPA Operations Manual is the place to look. Section 7, paragraph 5 says that, where open water and deep rivers (excluding minor rivers and small shallow ponds) exist within 1,200 metres of the centre of PLAs, all parachutists, unless otherwise agreed by STC, must be equipped with suitable flotation aids.

Section 8, paragraph 8 contains further information about planned water jumps. An Advanced Instructor must be in overall charge and must be present, and all water jumpers must hold at least a B Licence. There is also a currency requirement: a minimum of 10 jumps in the previous three months. All parachutists must be equipped with suitable buoyancy aids and must have been briefed on their use, and the landing area must be a large open body of water of at least 500 metres diameter. Along with other rules, there must also be a minimum of one power boat to each parachutist in the air.

## What do I need to consider?

If you are going to do a planned water jump, you will receive a full briefing. This will cover factors such as:

- Equipment choice. It may be tempting to swap your shiny modern kit for something older that you don't mind getting wet, but it must still be airworthy. Also, some altimeters and AADs are water-resistant and some are not!
- Procedures under canopy, including whether or not you should disconnect your RSL.
- Where to land and where the safety boat will be.
- How to land. For a planned landing into water, this may involve flaring as normal then waiting for the safety boat if it will be quick. For an unplanned water landing, it may make sense to cut away as your feet touch the water. This might make it easier to float without being hindered by the main canopy which may inflate and drag you, get caught in a current or fill with water and sink.
- Removal of kit. While there is anecdotal evidence that a packed reserve is actually fairly buoyant at first, your kit may weigh you down once water saturates it. Loosening the chest strap under canopy can make it easier to remove your rig entirely once you are in the water. This sounds expensive if it then sinks and cannot be found, but you can buy new kit and you can't buy a new you.
- Flotation aids and their usage. If you are jumping into or close to water, you

## 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

Karl Thackeray, Beccles  
Darren Graham, Cyprus  
Jack Dowse

### CP COACH

Stephen Simpson, Cark  
George Kakkis, Cyprus  
Richard Wheatley, Langar

### FS COACH

Matthew Stevens, LPS  
Shane Pennington, Hibaldstow  
Jordan Bate, Beccles

### FF COACH

James Moran, Langar

### TRACKING COACH

Ryan Garner, Langar  
Benjamin Mitchell, Langar

will be briefed on how to attach the aid to yourself without interfering with your handles as well as when to inflate it if needed.

- How to safely wash and dry your kit afterwards, especially if you landed in the sea. Saltwater can destroy kit if the salt is not removed because it crystallises as the kit dries. Dirty water can cause similar problems.

## What's the worst that can happen?

Unfortunately, although water jumps can be planned safely, the risks are such that poor planning can lead to serious consequences. One of the most famous disasters was more than 50 years ago when 16 jumpers from a load of 18 drowned in Lake Erie, Ohio. As is often the case with such tragedies, there was no single decision that led to the fatal outcome and there were several opportunities to change the course of events. There was cloud cover so the jump should not have gone ahead, and the pilot was communicating with a local air traffic control which changed controller and confused them with another aircraft. The pilot gave the okay to jump based on false information of where they were and the jumpers chose to jump despite the cloud. They entered the cloud layer at around 6,000ft, emerged at 4,000ft and deployed their parachutes at 3,000ft, only to find they were over the water and four or five miles offshore. All 18 landed in the water and just two survivors were lucky enough to be picked up by boat.

*If cutting away, it is important to wait until your feet touch the water.*

*Otherwise, what looks like 3ft might actually be 30ft and, if you then rotate or bellyflop, you might even be knocked out as you hit the water – definitely not ideal!*

*Photo by Mikey Lovemore*



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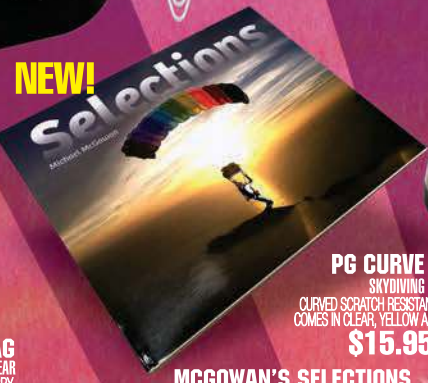
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# 2018 IN REVIEW

## Intentional high-performance

'swoop' landings are probably the most dangerous skydiving discipline and cause more serious injuries and fatalities worldwide than any other aspect of the sport. These high-performance landings must be completed at a height that allows the canopy to recover from the turn before applying rear riser or toggle pressure for landing.

The timing of the turn is crucial because, if a turn is made too low, the parachutist risks impacting with the ground at a speed that may prove fatal or give rise to serious injury. Life or death decisions are being taken within just a few seconds and the evidence shows that even parachutists who are experienced in high-performance landings can be caught out.

In 2018, there were three fatal accidents to BPA members and several others who suffered serious injuries while attempting to carry out such landings at Affiliated Parachute Training Organisations (PTOs).

The Chair of Council has noted in his review that, because of these accidents, a working group of the Safety and Training Committee (STC) has been formulating a series of recommendations on new safety provisions in relation to high-performance landings. The working group, chaired by Mark Bayada, is likely to report to STC in February 2019. It will consider all aspects of this discipline, including canopy sizes, training requirements and performance criteria. For more, see P42.

The Technical and Safety Committee of the International Parachuting Commission (IPC) has thanked the BPA, in particular Tony Knight, our Aviation Adviser, for his successful efforts to have the voice of our sport heard by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). Our representations about planned new EASA provisions for parachuting operations regarding parachutists' restraints, which make sense for most general aviation aircraft but would be inappropriate for parachuting aircraft, appear to be being taken on board by EASA.

It is this kind of unsung hard work and lobbying, beavering away behind-the-scenes and ferreting out consultation on the development of rules for general aviation that could cause problems for aircraft in the highly specialised role of flying sport parachuting sorties – sometimes akin to looking for a needle in a haystack – that helps to keep our sport in the air.

STC is grateful to the Chief Instructors from all Affiliated PTOs who comprise its membership, together with the Chair of its Riggers' Sub-committee. After 21 years as Riggers' Chair, Paul Applegate decided to stand down. We record our most grateful thanks to Apples for his long service to the Association and the sport in this specialist role and we congratulate Pete Sizer, our new Riggers' Chair, who we wish well in his new role.

We are also grateful to the Chief Instructors, Instructor Examiners, Advanced Instructors, Advanced Riggers and others who have volunteered their expert skills for service on STC Panels of Inquiry, Working Groups and audits. Other notable contributions during the year include those from Mary-Lou Barratt and Simon Soper, who are carrying out an update and re-write of the Canopy Formation Manual. We are also grateful for the wise counsel of Dr John Carter, BPA Medical Adviser.

Our regular safety and training activities in 2018 included 13 one-week Instructor courses covering eight different ratings run at seven Affiliated PTOs, leading to 166 Instructor candidates being trained/coached, 159 being assessed and 142 being awarded BPA Instructor ratings. We also carried out 18 PTO audits.

Safety more broadly interpreted includes safeguarding: an umbrella term that includes welfare as well as operational safety. The sport parachuting community is a cross-section of society and, now we have opened our eyes as a sport to safeguarding, we have had several cases emerge in which it has proven to be essential to

Jeff Montgomery,  
by Rob Lloyd



have a safeguarding policy and procedures in place for our sport. This includes a nominated safeguarding lead at every Affiliated PTO.

For this, our thanks go to BPA Honorary Safeguarding Adviser Sara Orton who, as well as being a Drop Zone Operator at Skydive GB in Bridlington, is professionally involved in safeguarding through her parallel career in youth work for a local authority. We are also most grateful to Sara's professional colleague Ian Barstow-Davies, a safeguarding legal specialist, for co-presenting with her at a training day for PTO safeguarding leads which broke new ground by being the

first such event we are aware of, anywhere in the world as far as we know, that dealt specifically with safeguarding issues in our sport.

**Jeff Montgomery**  
Safety and Technical Officer  
and STC Chair

*This extract is part of the full BPA Review of the Year 2018, which also includes reviews by the Chairs of Council, Competitions, Communications and Development, as well as the Chief Operating Officer, Treasurer and our two independent non-executive directors. You can find the complete document at [bpa.org.uk/news](http://bpa.org.uk/news)*

# GEAR ZONE



## Alti-2 Europe TC-5

We all know Alti-2 Europe make some brilliant altitude awareness instruments right here in the UK, but did you also know they service, repair and check altis for you at their HQ in Essex too?

Part of this service involves checking the accuracy of your alti and, as so many people have shown an interest in it, they've

released a bit of kit that you (or, more likely, your DZ or Rigger) can buy to test any brand of altimeter.

Built into a rugged Pelicase, the TC-5 test chamber allows you simulate freefall and the associated pressure changes. All you need to do is put your test altimeter in the padded compartment with a known accurate altimeter, power it up and compare the two.

There are controls to vary the rate of ascent and descent, so you

can simulate slow and fast speeds like canopy flight and freefall. The TC-5 works with both digital and analogue altimeters that measure barometric pressure and the unit operates on voltages of 80-240v, meaning it'll work pretty much anywhere in the world.

If you want one, give Zoe at Alti-2 a shout – prices are on application.

[alti-2.eu](http://alti-2.eu)

## NZ Aerosports JFX2

Fresh out the building from our friends on the other side of the world is the brand new JFX2 from NZ Aerosports. This is a canopy that's going to appeal to a lot of people, especially fans of the original JFX. So what's new?

Well, first off, their original plan was to just make a couple of tweaks to the JFX and leave it at that. But just like when you start eating a bit of a cake and then eat the entire thing, they made so many changes that the JFX2 was born. NZA are keen to stress that it's not a radical redesign and that the JFX2 will stay true to all the awesomeness of the original, but it now includes the features they know you want.

So what are you getting for your money? The JFX2 is a fully elliptical, crossbraced 21-cell canopy and the big new additions are a Powerband, mini-ribs and sail loaded ribs. All of these are things which are tried and tested from other canopies in their range.

The Powerband debuted on the Petra and helps with controlling the shape of the top surface of the wing more accurately, especially on the leading edge where 90% of the lift is made. The mini-ribs, which can also be found on the Petra and Leia, are added to the tail and decrease trailing edge drag, so increasing glide and flare performance. Sail loaded ribs? These bad boys are added to the loaded ribs, where the lines with the highest stress and distortion are attached, to reduce rib distortion and maintain the wing's shape through all flight profiles.

NZA say that the JFX2 will offer consistently predictable openings, intuitive flight characteristics and stacks of flare. This new canopy should be a good canopy for experienced nine-cell elliptical pilots who are looking for their first crossbraced canopy and they claim it's great for cranking turns, raging swoops and gentle touchdowns.

The JFX2 will respond well to harness inputs and pulling on the toggles will give you a



powerful response, even at the bottom end. The stall point is slower and lower than the original, giving plenty of feedback. The dive is longer than the original, but not as long as with the Leia and it should be easy to get the wing into a dive and maintain it. As to the all-important flare, it's powerful and especially so in the bottom end – giving you plenty of stopping power.

The recommended wingloading is between 1.8 and 2.8 and, as with any NZA canopy, you can have a truly custom size. For the JFX2, this is anywhere between 69 and 119 sq ft. There are obviously lots of colour options and you get Vectran 500 lines as standard. If you don't mind changing line sets more often, you can opt for black Vectran 400 lines.

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



## Huel

Regular readers of Gear Zone will remember that I reviewed Huel, a quick and easy meal replacement product, last year and gave it two firm Macca thumbs up.

If you didn't see it before, Huel is a powder that you mix with water or milk to give you a great-tasting drink that can be made (and, more importantly, consumed) quickly. The best bit is that it's not like some diet shake. Huel genuinely fills you up and contains only good stuff.

Sometimes, however, it's not always easy to get water or milk and, as skydivers, we're a lazy bunch. Anything that makes something easier is a win for us, and that's where Huel's new ready-to-drink meal alternative comes in.

No careful scooping or mixing is needed; this bad boy is all ready to go. Just take the cap off and drink. Available in two great-tasting flavours – berry and vanilla – they still contain everything you need including 20g of protein, 5.7g of fibre and all 26 essential vitamins and minerals, including vitamins A, C, D, potassium, iron and calcium.

It nicely fills you up, but doesn't leave you feeling bloated or greased out like that burger from the DZ café. The ingredients are all totally vegan too, and the bottles are widely recycled.

You can buy ready-to-drink Huel directly from their website, where a box of twelve bottles will set you back a mere £33.30. Buy two boxes and get a cool T-shirt thrown in for free. There are also subscription options if you want to get your Huel on regularly.

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



By James  
'Macca'  
Macdonald

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# 2019 EVENT DATES

- MAR 16-17 Safety Day
- APR 06-07 CF Scrambles
- 13-14 Progression Weekend
- 17-22 *BOOGIE ONE (with FOXY)*
- 27-28 Paul Cooper Head Up LO
- MAY 04 Angrybirds Wingsuit (*Flock N Roll*)
- 5-6 Angrybirds Wingsuit (*Fly Hard*)
- 18-19 Paul Cooper Head Up LO
- 25-26 Progression Weekend
- 25-29 CF Coaching
- JUN 01-02 Hybrid Weekend
- 29-30 Progression Weekend
- JUL 06-07 Flight 101/102 course
- 13-14 BPA CF Meet 2
- 20-21 Angrybirds Wingsuit (*Stack Attack*)
- 20-21 BPA FS Coaching Roadshow
- AUG 03-04 Progression Weekend
- 24-25 Flight 201 Course
- SEPT 07-15 *BOOGIE TWO (with FOXY)*
- 07-08 Angrybirds Wingsuit (*Big Suit Big Suit*)
- 14-15 Progression Weekend
- 28-29 Flight 101/102 Course
- NOV 02 Bonfire & Fireworks



ALL EVENT DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

***#GETYOURSKYDIVEON #THISISLANGAR***



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

## BPA Affiliated DZs (PTOs) in the UK

**PAGE 68** **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 68** **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 69** **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 69** **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 69** **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 71** **7 Headcorn**  
Skydive Headcorn  
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX  
T: 01622 891670  
jump@headcorn.com  
**headcorn.com**  
*Cessna Caravan, Islander*

**PAGE 71** **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 71** **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 72** **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*

**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 72** **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  
kbrady@btinternet.com  
**skydivestrathallan.co.uk**  
*Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine*

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

**PAGE 75** **20 Swindon**  
Blue Skies Freefall Club  
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm, Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA  
T: 01793 791222  
info@skydivelondon.co.uk  
**skydivelondon.co.uk**  
*Airvan*

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

**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  
Currently military only

**PAGE 76** **25 Wild Geese**  
Wild Geese Skydive Centre  
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvaghy, 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

**PAGE 68** **BCPA**  
British Collegiate Parachute Association  
Sam Doughty, BCPA Chair  
mail@bcpa.org.uk  
**bcpa.org.uk**  
*A community for university skydivers*

**PAGE 72** **POPS and SOS**  
Parachutists Over Phorty and Skydivers Over Sixty  
Polly Chandler, Top POP  
parachutistsoverphortyUK@gmail.com  
**pops.org.uk**



# GALLERY

1



**1** Congratulations to Bob Connell (in the rainbow jumpsuit) who celebrated 40 years in the sport on October 11 2018. By Simon Brentford

**2** Neal's 1,000th jump over Portugal, by Dan Maden

**3** Andreas, Nick and Chris (and himself), by Matt Robinson

**4** Balloon jump with Matt Offer-Hoar and Lee Jones, by Andy Guest

2





# NEWS

## BCPA

### JUST GETTING STARTED

This year is looking to be a great one for the BCPA. Universities have finished their first semesters and, with that, hundreds of new students have been introduced to skydiving through RAPS and AFF courses. We held our first semester kick-off event for our newbies (and experienced jumpers wanting to relive their fresher days) at Langar – what a blast! Massive thanks to Langar for hosting us and to Emily Aucutt for help with the coordination of the event.

We used the opportunity of everyone being together at Langar to announce something we're bursting with excitement for: the BCPA Tour to San Diego, organised by our very own Michael Homes. Taking place from April 2-17 with Twin Otters, Skyvans, free coaching and balloon jumps, it's not to be missed.

In the meantime, we're preparing for BCPA Indoors – our annual wind tunnel competition at Bodyflight Bedford on February 16-17, where we'll be doing our "super serious" FS and FF competitions, 8-way coaching, dynamic 6-way with Brian Cumming and, of course, TUNNEL TWISTER! Who needs good weather, eh?

We're also happy to confirm that we'll be returning to Peterlee on March 16-17 and we'll have plenty of fun with their Texas Turbine Supervan.

To register for these events, please head to [bcpa.org.uk](http://bcpa.org.uk) and check out our Facebook page.

Blue Skies everyone!

**Dominic Ward**

## BLACK KNIGHTS

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

So the 2018 season is behind us and we are looking forward to a busy 2019 season. The weather gods were not so kind to us at the end of 2018 and we only managed a few good skydiving days, but thanks to all those who braved the cold and continued to come and have fun in the sun.

The end of year party is now a distant memory and a good night was had by everyone. The nominations were pretty unanimous this year, so well done to Dave Mellor and Al Holmes (Club Member of the Year), Jean-Pierre Virjoen (Student of the Year), Matt Briers (Skydiver of the Year) and Steve Broadbent (Tool of the Year). The Special Recognition Award went to Phil Symons for all of his continued commitment to the centre and hard work throughout 2018.

Congratulations to Levi Hamill on completing his CSI course, and well done to Dan Mercer for obtaining his Parachute Riggers Qualification. Well done to Levi for also getting to 1,500 jumps, Dave Bloomfield for 1,600 jumps and Elliot Mitchell for 2,700 jumps. Bob Connell is also celebrating 40 years in the sport, so congratulations Bob.

We have lots of events lined up for 2019, starting with the safety day that will be run on the first weekend of reopening. This is usually well-attended and well-informed.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page and the Skydivers Board for future events and, if there is anything you need, then please speak to the staff.

Blue Skies

**Felix**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**CAT8/CH1** Matt Hauker, Alan Langton, Jean-Pierre Virjoen, James Wallace **JUMP NUMBERS 1,500** Levi Hamill **1,600** Dave Bloomfield **2,700** Elliot Mitchell

“Our new and very colourful Skydive GB hoodies have arrived and are being snapped up. When our regulars stand in close proximity, they look like a fruit salad”

## BRIDLINGTON

### WHAT QUIET PATCH?

Skydive GB has been closed throughout December but, despite this, there has still been a lot of activity. The Airvan has been for her annual service and lives to fight for another season.

Work on the new hangar started in December and it is taking shape beautifully. Alec Flint and Dave Saville have worked tirelessly to ensure that it is functional for the start of the season and the aircraft will finally have the home it deserves. This will also increase room for packing and generally make life a lot easier. Though the outer structure of the hangar is in place, there are still a lot of further improvements to make to the inside and this work will be ongoing during 2019.

The final weekends of the season were fairly epic, with Sam Rehill achieving his first coached FF and 100th jump. Jess Saunders reaching 200 jumps and her C Licence and Lorah Battams completed her FS1 on her 100th jump. Mac McCormack has received his 'old school' blue D Licence, which is the equivalent of a red C Licence and a complete headache when it comes to the required paperwork!

The Christmas party was far from conventional and was hosted in a Bridlington curry house. What started as a few people going out for a quiet curry ended up with 30 of us taking over the place. It was nice to have a get together.

A few of the regulars have started frequenting the wind tunnel to improve their skills and have some fun. It would be good to see Skydive GB have a 4-way team enter the Nationals in 2019.

Our new and very colourful Skydive GB hoodies have arrived and are being snapped up. When our regulars stand in close proximity, they look like a fruit salad.

Last year was a year of highs and lows – literally. We had a great season and beat our previous record for tandem numbers, many people achieved many things and, from a business perspective, we flourished. However, the year was tinged with sadness at the loss of Dennis Ivanov and Darren Glover, both well-loved and respected members of our community. We are looking forward to 2019 as a year of more progression, improved facilities and lots of laughs.

**Sara Orton**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**FS1** Lorah Battams **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Lorah Battams, Sam Rehill **200** Jess Saunders **1,000** Mac McCormack

**BRIDLINGTON**  
Alec Flint building the hangar, by Dave Saville





**CARK**  
*The Christmas bash*



**CHATTERIS**  
*Bobby catching the sun, by James Moran*

**CARK**

## GETTING TROLLEYED

The Christmas bash was a great success at our changed venue of the Hydro in Windermere. There was fantastic food, great speeches and a free bar all evening – OMG! Of course, no-one over-indulged. However, Becky – our latest trapeze artist – didn't fare too well with the porter's suitcase trolley. Ouch...

Our award winners received some beautiful glass trophies this year for their achievements. Our winners were:

**Students of the Year:** Ethan Clarke Gauld and Georgina Morris

**Skydiver of the Year:** Jonathan Bellamy

**Outstanding Achievement:** Brooke Rawson

**Commitment to the Sport:** Scott Rawson

And finally, after some 30-plus years at the DZ and 18 long years as CI, Dennis Buchanan has retired from his role as CI. Dennis received a Long Service Award for his spirited efforts at the helm of SNW, and he will still be working at the centre in another role once he returns from his tour of Asia.

It was a whistle-stop tour for our NZ engineer Craig O'Hare, who visited AY for her annual C of A sign-off. She passed with flying colours and is ready to rock when we reopen in late February. Craig then ventured across Europe to check the remaining PAC flock.

Over the Easter long weekend, we will be organising both CRW and Accuracy competitions. Both competitions will be run simultaneously with a handicapping system to even out the skills across both disciplines. Free coaching will be available for all who wish to enter too. Of course, there will be prizes for our winners/achievers across the weekend.

**Stuart Morris**

**CHATTERIS**

## NO REINDEER WERE HARMED IN THE WRITING OF THIS COLUMN

The Chatteris AGM took place on December 15 and it was reported that there was an increase in experienced skydiver descents this year

compared with last year. For this, we thanked Lloyd and sadly said goodbye to him as he left manifest to start a new career. We'll miss you, Lloyd.

Congratulations to Sebastian Ponari for becoming Student of the Year due to his commitment to his training, to Alex Matei as Most Improved Club Jumper and to Alex Kean as Club Member of the Year! There is also some good news in terms of jump ticket prices; they are staying at the same price of £20 with a reduced price of £12 once you have completed 60 jumps at the DZ.

The Christmas party was a success, with club members enjoying trying to stay on the Rudolph Rodeo and getting a little creative with the game – especially after a few pints.

The committee have been busy planning events for next year, including canopy formation and wingsuit coaching, balloon jumps, a canopy control event, load organising, freeflying and tracking events and, of course, our traditional beer and barbecue evenings. We can't wait for the season to properly start!

**Sophie Barnwell**



**DUNKESWELL**

## ROLL ON 2019!

**Firstly, a belated** Happy New Year to everyone! We are very excited for 2019. If you haven't been here before, here is a little insight into our dropzone. Come and say hello!

Dunkeswell is on the map for having the fastest and most comfortable jump planes in Europe. We are the home of two Beech99s and this makes all the difference with speedy turnarounds and short waiting times. Flight level 150 gives you more time in freefall and you can see three coastlines from above. The closest beaches are only 30 minutes' drive away too – a great alternative for days with non-jumping weather.

We normally open for jumping on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. In summer, there are some extra midweek jump days. We have a bunkhouse, accommodating 20 people. There is also camping and a restaurant and coffee bar: The Aviator.

We're very excited to be hosting the Wingsuit Nationals in July this year. We have lots of wingsuiting here in Dunkeswell and our wingsuit school has the suits for you to borrow, so you are welcome to try this with our wonderful coaches. We are also the home of the only competition-standard swoop pond in the UK. Swoopers from all across Europe and the UK are training in Dunkeswell. In September



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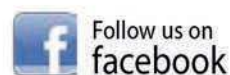
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last year, we held the UK CP Nationals too. We are hoping to organise some coaching weekends here over the summer.

We will be holding lots of events in 2019, including balloon jumps, a heli day and night jumps, Beech night jumps, the UKSL Meet 3, the Accuracy and CF Nationals, lots of progression weekends and more. The calendar is starting to fill up! We're also very excited to be hosting the POPS event in 2020! More to come on that later...

**Roo**

## HEADCORN

# ENDING WITH A BANG

We had a good run of weekend jumping in November and we jumped on seven out of eight weekend days. Sadly, December let us down and we only managed to jump on the last day we were open – December 16. However, we did manage a respectable eight lifts on that day before the weather went down the pan and we took the plane to Rochester for its annual maintenance. Lucy Smith even managed to sneak in her last consol and get her A Licence!

Well done to our own Mary Barratt, who has just been appointed CF Rep and was the only Brit on the European Canopy Formation 30-way Record. If you want CF coaching, you know where she is!

Tony Lloyd managed a balloon jump in ideal conditions right over the landing area! Chad and George had to land in the balloon because it did not go anywhere near the landing area.

January, as always, was a quiet month with maintenance and repairs going on, but not much else. The office, as always, was busy taking bookings for the season. We can confirm that Brian Cumming will be back this year to run some events and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of February.

**Jane Hopkins**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Lucy Smith  
JUMP NUMBERS 900 Tony Lloyd

## HIBALDSTOW

# NOT SLOWING DOWN

**Happy New Year** to everyone. Although the new season will be well and truly underway soon, we have to look back on the end of last season and what's in store this season.

With the end of the year approaching, the die-hards stayed in the UK and a few ventured to our sister dropzone in the Algarve for a long weekend of fun and big-ways with Milko. Although the weather was not at its best, we still managed 15-plus jumps!

Back at Hib, Simon Brentford organised a very successful 6-way meet for the die-hards with Accuracy and a pub quiz thrown in for good measure. This event was so popular, we are planning another in March and again in October. If you would like to get involved, just let us know

**DUNKESWELL**  
*Dunkeswell skies,*  
by Mikey Lovemore

and come and join Blyth Davies' and Jordan Simcoe's teams.

For the last weekend, Coby and Cath captained a 4-way comp with two teams each and, although the weather didn't play ball on the Saturday, a very determined and competitive creeper competition ensued. If there was ever a good reason to have a cameraflyer present, this was it. All I can say is that Tony Bradbury is a legend!

So on to this year. We have regular weekends of FS coaching and load organisers, freely weekends with Andy Godwin, Ally Milne and *Team Nava*, big-way camps with multiplanes with Lesley Gale, a wingsuit record attempt, 4- and 8-way FS coaching roadshows and much, much more. And finally, we will once again be hosting the Nationals in 4-way, 8-way and VFS.

If you are a team and are looking for team rates, please email us at [teams@skydiving.co.uk](mailto:teams@skydiving.co.uk).

**Ash**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** JUMP NUMBERS 50 Lyanne Cotton, Lucy Parsons  
200 Lauris Vinbergs

## JERSEY

# COMEDY AND MOMENTARY INEPTITUDE

The last few jumps of the season were back in November, seizing on a weather window for some fun loads and rounding off a great season by landing on the sand. The awards were presented a few weeks later in December to recognise the club members who shone in 2018.

First up, Shayne Lightfoot scooped the Most Improved Skydiver trophy for 2018, adding his name for the second time with the first being in 2014. This last 12 months, he's been clocking up the jump numbers through the 200 mark, working on his freely skills, started working on his cameraflying for tandems and learnt to pack tandems – a big bonus for the small club to have a regular packer. Congratulations dude.

The Prix D'Aviation was picked up by Brian Heath, a regular winner of the award for his consistent support for the club by happily flying our Cessna 206 with a big smile for all the jumpers. Congratulations also go to Brian for recently retiring from his day job as Head of Probation in Jersey, so hopefully he'll have even more time for aviation now!

The Club Member of the Year Award was awarded jointly to Mike and Ann Fleming this year for their dedication and support for the club, helping with many elements of the operation, running the manifest, greeting tandem students, helping on the beach and fixing our fleet of luxury vehicles. Much respect from all at the club for your efforts to keep us all having fun.

Much has been written about the *Jersey Beans* 4-way team. To recognise the dedication and positive publicity they've provided over the last year, Mal awarded them with a special trophy to recognise their performance. Well done, ladies and gents!

Lastly, and probably the award that we all try to avoid, is the Potato Head Award for Services to Comedy and Momentary Ineptitude. This is not meant to shame anyone and is usually only awarded to people

**JERSEY**  
*Brian Heath –*  
winner of the Prix  
D'Aviation 2018



who have the skills to perform, but just had a lapse of concentration resulting in a bruised ego and maybe a bruised bottom as well. We congratulate Claire Louise Allen on a meeting with a tree while under canopy – this would probably be a little funny on its own, but being on a canopy control course at the time takes the irony count stratospheric. Thanks to Claire for sharing the story and for being a good sport. It'll be your turn to pick the winner in 2019.

**Nigel O'Brien**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Shayne Lightfoot  
**400** Claire Louise Allen

**LANGAR**

## SHUTDOWNS ARE FOR WIMPS

We're in the midst of deepest darkest winter, but Skydive Langar is still here ready to sate your appetite for jumps! We've seen plenty of visiting jumpers while many centres are on their winter shutdowns, so thanks for stopping by and we hope we'll see you all more in the coming season!

The universities have been keeping the DZ ticking over with static line students, with plenty of first jumps and even a handful getting qualified already.

Loads of Langar jumpers could be found enjoying the delights of BPA Skydive the Expo and the legendary after party. Congratulations to Phil Curtis on being nominated as a BPA Star! For more, go to page 27.

Our events calendar for 2019 is starting to fill up already, so check out facebook.com/skydivelangar for details.

**Chris Judd**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **CAT8/CH1** Tom Dent **CH2/JM1** Dave Allsop  
**JUMP NUMBERS 50** Dave Allsop, Phil Taylor  
**400** Steve Seymour **900** Simon Perry **1,200** Ryan Garner, Pete Harries  
**12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Simon Perry **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Ryan Garner

**PETERLEE**

## BLUE SKIES

The sun will hopefully have shone on the DZ by the time you are reading this and the most intrepid of you will have braved the temperatures to get back in the air.

We rounded off 2018 as usual on the last weekend of November by celebrating the achievements of the year at our annual awards dinner and party. It was a fantastic event, as ever, and was well attended. The highlights were Finlay Holden winning Most Progressed Student, Most Persistent Student going to David Bloomfield, Most Mentioned Instructor going to Dave Taylor, Most Entertaining Landing going to Katie Stewart and, finally, Durham University Freefall Club won Uni Club of the Year. Congratulations to you all.

We have also seen the end of an era at Peterlee when Paul and Lesley Moore locked the doors of Shotton Aero Sport Club under their ownership for the final time. I'm sure we all wish Paul and Lesley the very best for their future endeavours, which I'm sure we will hear about from them on the other side of the bar after having just bought our beers from the Club's new owners, Jared and Karen Morris. I'm sure everyone wishes Jared and Karen the very best of luck with their new venture too. There are already a number of events arranged for the start of the season and, as ever, keep your eyes on social media and the club noticeboard for more.

Sadly, very soon after the season ended, we learned of the tragic loss of David Goodwin. Much has been shared since between us about our memories of David. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Michelle and David's family and to state how proud we are to have had the privilege of knowing him and being able to call him our friend. For more, please see page 55.

**Lisa Stephenson and Simon Minto**

“ We congratulate Claire Louise Allen on a meeting with a tree while under canopy – this would probably be a little funny on its own, but being on a canopy control course at the time takes the irony count stratospheric ”

**POPS/SOS**

## END OF AN ERA

I would like to thank John Houghland for his contribution to POPS as he stands down as UK TOP SOS. Any future requests for SOS membership will need to come through to me while we find someone suitable to fill his shoes.

We hope all the POPS members had a great break over the festive period and I look forward to hearing all about your adventures in the coming year.

Please let me know of any events you become aware of and details of all the antics you get up to so that we can share it in our Club News.

**Polly Chandler**

TOP POP #11

World TOP POP #12

**READING**

## SUNSHINE AND SCRAMBLES

Trystan Allen got his 100th jump in the Algarve at the 2018/19 Christmas Boogie, with Josh Allen, Rodrigo Alvarez, Niki Parasyri, Terence Hughes, Mike Hughes, Tamsyn Stanton and Matt Stevens there from Boxing Day to New Years Day and Hannah Richie, Roger Davis and Jan W joining us a couple of days later.

Sharron Floyd recently got her AFFBI rating and is on her way to her Instructor rating soon – all the best, Shazzer, and well done. Jonny Castell reckons he's increased his wing loading over Christmas but we don't believe him, especially when he posted that he has run extremely far all in one go on purpose.

The LPS Wind Tunnel Scrambles in November was brilliant fun once again, and thanks to Marie-Ann Stevens and Kat Kaluria for organising it.

Niki Parasyri and Terence Hughes would like to announce that LPS will soon be having a NEW Tantrum Instructor joining the team. Little Miss Hughes has had seven 'tandem' jumps so far and announced her appearance to her 'daddy to be' during freefall. Everything is going well on board and they are expecting her to make a soft landing in her crib by mid-May 2019. I think there is something in my eye...

Annie Lewis, Stefan Inge and Debs Hughes attended Mikey Lovemore's Altitude Brothers Scrambles and didn't get daunted at all about flying blocks! It was nice being able to level up on skills with some new people too. He's planning on running them monthly and they are highly recommended – cheers Mikey, and mend fast after your dodgy bike fall.

Mark Clayton remains awesome, of course, as standard.

The DZ reopens at end of March, so see you all then!

**Annie Lewis**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Trystan Allen

**SIBSON**

## NEW YEAR, NEW SEASON, NEW PLANE!

It's winter, and the tunnel becomes more popular for a lot of Sibson jumpers while the coldest months are upon us. That was clear at the tunnel Christmas FS Scrambles in December – there were a lot of Sibson clubbies present. A massive thanks to Milko, Siân, Vic and Beccs for creating such a fun event. It was great to fly with some





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fantastic teammates, and personal highlights included the speed rounds and 6-way!

Thanks also go to Jed and Bev for organising a great Christmas party!

But now Christmas is over and everyone is looking forward to the new season. There are a few changes at Sibson for 2019, and we will be welcoming Gloria Bayne as our new office manager. A big thanks goes to Paul Dorward for the past few years too – good luck with all new ventures, mate.

This year, we have a new plane. On many weekends, there will be two Cessna Grand Caravans running all day. We open again on March 1 and there's a fantastic line up of events for this season, including:

**February 23:** Safety Day

**April 18-22:** Boogie 1

**June 1-2:** FS 4-way Scrambles

**July 20-28:** Boogie 2

**September 14-15:** 6-way Speed Comp

Events and competitions are open to everyone, so get in touch if you're interested.

There will be numerous two-plane weekends throughout the year, including all event weekends. Other events include canopy courses and DZ hops between Sibson and Beccles. For a full list of events and details, please check out the experienced jumpers section on skydivesibson.co.uk. Otherwise, we will be open Friday-Sunday (Thursday-Sunday from May to September) and there will be jumping until sunset!

Let's make it a great 2019 season. See you there!

**Russ Horne**

**SWANSEA**



**WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU A WEATHER HOLD...**

The weather gods were not kind to us at Swansea in the last couple of months

**SIBSON**  
*Andreas over the Algarve, by James Moran*

**SWINDON (RIGHT)**  
*Rich Puddle on a packing course, by Babs*

**SWANSEA (LEFT)**  
*Skydiver of the Year 2018 Gareth Hedges, by Sara the cat lady*

of 2018. In 10 weeks, we only managed half a day of jumping! However, there were plenty of opportunities to teach packing and to bring new packers to the team for 2019.

The weather didn't dampen spirits for the end of year get together, which was attended by 70 staff and club members, and thanks go to Sara for organising another memorable night. Big congratulations go to Gareth Hedges for becoming Skydiver of the Year 2018 and thanks to Adam George of In House Entertainments for providing some great games to play too. Anthony Rabey and I were officially champions of the table soccer that night.

So a big thanks to all who supported the club in 2018 and we look forward to seeing you at Swansea this year – especially as 15k jumps will be back too...

**Carl Williams**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** GRADUATED AFF Joby Chadd JUMP NUMBERS  
100 Lewis Cashell (Naked!) 400 Michael Walsh  
800 Kris Wojciechowski

**SWINDON**

**SHENANIGANS, AS USUAL**

While the weather was a little drab, we had a fabulous end to the 2018 season with our annual (and yearly) Tunnel Scrambles competition which was swiftly followed by the Christmas party.

The skill level was high and the competition fierce as we battled it out, if not for the prize fizz then for the glory of first place in a Redlands meet. Shapes were made, moves were executed and walls were indeed hit, as is required at a Tunnel Scrambles. Special mention to Simon Cresdee for his Wall Magnet Award (again) and being clearly outdone by the less-experienced Nicky Jackson and Ronnie Shalom who both proved themselves very able Baldricks. Congratulations to my team. We were all awesome and I hope you enjoyed your fizz!

The only way to follow such impressive flying is with an equally impressive party down at the local pub. A full Christmas dinner was served to a bunch of skydivers who had put on their best going 'out out' clobber and who looked almost respectable. As the beer fines were demolished behind the bar and the wine and beers flowed, respectability made an early exit – leaving room for festive shenanigans and the dance moves of John Guy and Doog.

We have hopefully all recovered from the hangovers by now, as the New Year is upon us and there is much to look forward to. Doors open on March 2, so come and get your knees back in the breeze, students get those refreshers done and let's get this year off and running!

**Jenny Bouquet**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Mehdi Zinetti





**TILSTOCK**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

The season has well and truly finished now and, as the year turns, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all they have done this year.

I think it's safe to say that, even though we had a fantastic summer, the terrible weather we had at either end and the issues we had with NX certainly did their best to put a dampener on things.

Jumping wise, it certainly hasn't been the best year but it's also not been the worst. We're a little down on tandems from last year, up on student jumps and down on fun jumps. Looking at the days we operated, it's easy to see why we are down on fun jumps – a combination of events, not least the weather! We were only able to fly on half the Fridays or Saturdays we could have, much less than we normally do. Fortunately, we had much better luck with the Thursdays we were open and, as the students quickly caught on to that, we have had some excellent progression this year. Marta Hovan gained her A Licence, with Zoltan Borbas, Lisa Ball and Suzie Whitehurst not far behind. Had we been able to jump more in November and December, I am sure they would have qualified as well.

This year has also been a great year for Instructor progression with Dan Griffiths, Dave Titcombe and Gary Bradshaw gaining their CSI ratings, Henna Niutanen becoming a CSBI, Stu Selley becoming a TI and Pete Dickens, Dave Titcombe and Dan Griffiths also joining the camera pool. Well done to everyone on your fantastic achievements. Next year sees Henna going for her CSI rating, Gary Windon going for his CSBI (heaven help us, literally) and Stu his AFFBI. If there is anyone else who fancies becoming an Instructor, let me know and we can get you started on the path.

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helps the club run smoothly – the CSIs and CSBIs for running DZ control and looking after the students, the TIs for providing excellent customer service to all our tandem students and, through their skill and professionalism, giving us an injury-free year, the cameraflyers for making them all look good, the pilots for flying their socks off and making sure we were in the right place and at the right height, Lisa Wright, Rachel O'Hara, Dan Pinson, Suzie Whitehurst and Beth Linder-Arrowsmith for running manifest as slickly as they can with Buzz doing his best to throw a spanner in the works, and Vicky Thomas for keeping us all fed and watered with some spectacular baking. That's no mean feat considering how sporadic our operation has been this year.

We ended the year with a fantastic Christmas party, which was once again held at Darwin's Kitchen in Shrewsbury with a great turnout and lovely food – especially for the vegans! Zoltan kept the fizz flowing, while Buzz getting everyone to move seats each course was a surprise success and a good way of bringing the non-skydiving partners into the skydiving fold! It was a lovely evening with equal amounts of laughter and booze and it made a great end to a soggy season. Congratulations to Marta Hovan for taking Student of the Year and Dave Titcombe for capturing the Club Member Award. A special thank you to everyone for ensuring there wasn't a Crater

**TILSTOCK**  
Julie Murray, by  
Dave Titcombe

of the Year or Take Up Golf Award (NX was ineligible!). As we enjoyed it so much, we have already set a date for the next one so put December 14 2019 in your new diaries!

Into 2019, we started the new season on February 2 with a serviceable aircraft, resplendent with a new engine and propeller. We will be operating on Saturdays only during February and then every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from March through to November. We have a new pilot (Tiggs) on board as well as Martin Petrie coming back online to join the rest of the aircrew, so the future is looking bright.

We have already booked a Caravan for the late May bank holiday and plan to fly it from the Thursday to the Monday. We will be bringing in FS, FF and WS load organisers and are also looking at putting on something a little special on the Sunday, so keep an eye out here for more info.

Here's to 2019! Let's make the most of it and jump our butts off.

**Kat and Buzz Busby-Hicks**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** JUMP NUMBERS 1,000 Dave Gordon

**WILD GEESE**

## WILD GEESE ON TOUR

**Happy New Year** to one and all. The centre has been closed for Christmas and the New Year, so there's not too much locally to report.

However, just before the break, Wild Geese descended upon the Bushtown Hotel for their annual Christmas dinner. During the festivities, Cl Andy Clark had the honour of presenting the Student Skydiver of the Year Award to the very deserving Ben Goddard. Well done Ben, keep up the good work. When asked for some help with the Christmas Draw, the lovely Orla Donnelly just happened to pull out the raffle ticket with her own name on it. "Fix! FIX!" Well done Orla.

After closing the hangar and locking the doors for the 2018 season, several keen skydivers took themselves off to sunnier climes for some winter sun jumping. Neal, Pete Lehane, Anthony, Rod, Orla and Pete Campbell headed to Skydive Algarve's Christmas Boogie. Ailbhe and Aaron were in Seville, but came to Algarve to visit. Anthony got to master his skills on the board that he hasn't had the pleasure of in quite some time, while Orla, Pete and Neal enjoyed some FS load organising by Milko, Siân and Lesley Gale. Rod did some FS, FF and CP.

During their travels, Neal managed to clock up jump number 1,000 and the right to apply for the coveted D Licence while Orla managed to clock up jump number 200 and achieve her C Licence. While Neal was on organised loads with Siân Stokes for his 1,000th, Orla did something a little unusual for her 200th and let me take her for a 15,500ft tandem over Algarve. Such a fun jump and a gorgeous day for it...

Before you jump into the new skydiving season, don't forget to inspect and repack your gear.

**Rod McCrory**

**ACHIEVEMENTS** JUMP NUMBERS 200 Orla Donnelly  
1,000 Neal Fitzpatrick

**WILD GEESE**  
Orla's 200th jump



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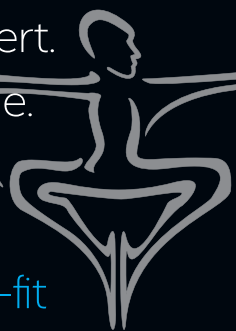
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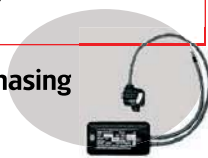
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March 18-22

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

Location: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

## APRIL

April 4

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

April 8-12

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

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

April 16

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

April 16-20

**T** Third FAI World Indoor  
Skydiving Championships

Location: **Lille, France**

April 20-21

**S&A** BPA Grand Prix in  
Accuracy Meet 1

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

## MAY

May 4-5

**FS** BPA UKSL 4-way Meet 1

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

May 13-17

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

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

May 18-25

**S&A** 14th FAI World Cup  
of Freefall Style and  
Accuracy Landing

Location: **Cordoba, Argentina**

May 20-24

**BPA** Instructor Course (CSI)

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

May 30

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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



## JUNE

June 8-9

**FS** BPA UKSL 4-way Meet 2

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

June 8-9

**S&A** BPA Grand Prix in  
Accuracy Meet 2

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

June 10-14

**BPA** Instructor Course (Tandem,  
AFF and Pre-Adv/Observers)

Location: **Sibson** • bpa.org.uk

June 11

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

June 15-16

**CF** BPA Grand Prix in CF Meet 1

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

## JULY

July 1-4

**WS** BPA National Championship  
in Wingsuit Performance and  
Acrobatics

Location: **Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell**

July 1-5

**BPA** Instructor Course (Tandem,  
AFF and Pre-Adv/Observers)

Location: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

July 6-7

**FS** BPA UKSL 4-way Meet 3

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 13-14

**CF** BPA Grand Prix in CF Meet 2

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

July 25

**BPA** STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

July 29-August 2

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

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk



## AUGUST

August 3-4

**S&A** BPA National  
Championship in Accuracy

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 5-9

**BPA** Instructor Course  
(CSI/Tandem, AFF and  
Pre-Adv/Observers)

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 6

**BPA** BPA Council Meeting

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

August 13-15

**S** Speed Skydiving World Cup  
and European Championships

Location: **Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell**

August 14-18

**CP** BPA National Championship  
in Canopy Piloting

Location: **Klatovy, Czech Republic**

August 17-20

**CF** 10th FAI World Cup of  
Canopy Formation and  
Eighth FAI European Canopy  
Formation Championships

Location: **Strejnic, Romania**

August 23-30

**WS** World Cup of Wingsuit Flying

Location: **Ravenna, Italy**

August 24-27

**FS** BPA National Championships  
in FS 4-way and VFS

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

August 31-September 2

**FS** BPA National  
Championships in FS 8-way

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

## SEPTEMBER

September 2-6

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

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

September 8-10

**CF** BPA National Championship  
in Canopy Formation

Location: **Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell**

Dates correct at time of printing.  
Council meeting dates from August  
2019 are subject to confirmation

**KEY**

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

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

**A** ARTISTICS  
**WS** WINGSUIT  
**S** SPEED

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