



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com October 2019

skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964

INSIDE: COMPS ZONE JUMBO SPECIAL! FS, VFS, CP, ARTISTICS AND ACCURACY NATIONALS SPEED NATIONALS AND WORLD CUP CF AND WINGSUIT WORLD CUPS THE INSIDE STORY FROM THE HEAD UP WORLD RECORD PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

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WELCOME

Cover: Break-off at the Head Up World Record attempts. Brit Dave Bloomfield (in red and black) demonstrates a great backtracking position, having just tweaked his heading after spotting cameraflyer Norman Kent right in front of him!

Welcome: British CP silver medallist Lee Crudgington, by Emma Reynolds



What a summer! So much has happened that it's hard to know where to start. This Mag brings reports from the Nationals in 4-way, 8-way, VFS, Speed, Artistics, Accuracy and CP, as well as World Cups in Speed, CF and Wingsuit! It is certainly a jam-packed issue and that's even before we hear about the cover story, the new Head Up World Record – for more pretty pictures and inspiration, turn to page 40.

I am especially proud that the Speed World Cup, which was organised by BPA Speed rep and Meet Director Mikey Lovemore, was held here in the UK at Dunkeswell. If you want to get some idea of just how much work goes on behind the scenes to bring an FAI First Category Event to the UK, check out page 22. Great achievement, Mikey!

On another behind-the-scenes note, this is the last Mag to be produced with Archant Dialogue before we move to a new publishing partner from the December issue. In the nine years that I've been working with the Archant team, we've produced 55 Mags, nine Calendars, seven Starter magazines and two apps! I couldn't have done it all without my fantastic Production Editor Mike Waters and Designer Matt Copland – thank you both for all of your hard work over many years.

Liz Ashley



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UK CP competitor
Wez Westley on the
pond in Klatovy, by
Emma Reynolds



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

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

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

APPS

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE THE MAG APP:

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

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE STARTER TABLET APP:

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

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
December 2019	November 4	December 4
February 2020	January 20	February 19
April 2020	March 3	April 1
June 2020	May 1	June 3
August 2020	July 6	August 4
October 2020	September 7	October 7
December 2020	November 2	December 2



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U K H E A D D O W N S E Q U E N T I A L R E C O R D

After a successful VFS Nationals at Hibaldstow, which finished ahead of schedule, many of the freeflyers stuck around on the Bank Holiday Monday for some load organising by Paul Cooper. They achieved a UK Vertical Full Break Sequential Record by flying a

two-point 12-way formation with a complete break between the two points. In fact, the second point flew for 13 seconds – and, if 'salmoning' counted as a point, then you could even call it three...

The record participants were Paul Cooper,

James Moran, Weed Stoodley, Pete Dennett, Stuart Todd, James Round, Gary Crisp, Martin Roberson, Greg Lucas, Dave Bloomfield, Steve Smith and Tim Gaines, with Dan Guest on camera and pilot Paul Hollow flying the Dornier G92.



PROJECT 19

Project 19 aims to build an all-female 100-way Head Down World Record at Skydive Chicago in July 2020. This fully sponsored event will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the US Constitution, in which American women received the right to vote. UK Regional Captain Weed Stoodley has been busy running warm-up events at Netheravon, Hibaldstow and Langar throughout 2019, and more training dates have now been released for events all over Europe and beyond. These include October 25-27 at Skydive Spain, November 28-December 1 in Empuria, November 29-30 in Eloy, December 27-30 in Deland and more – check out the website for an up-to-date list. Selection events so far include January 25-26 and March 7-8 in Eloy and April 16-19 at Skydive Spain.

brokenrecords.world



CALENDAR 2020

Your December Mag will include a free 2020 Calendar and we are looking for awesome photography that deserves to be showcased. It doesn't matter whether you've ever or never sent in your photos before, and we are after a wide range of different disciplines. The Calendar is printed in landscape orientation, as opposed to portrait. Please email or file-share submissions to editor@skydivethemag.com by no later than October 17.



COMMS UPDATE WITH ANGEL FERNANDEZ

By the time this hits your doormats, summer will be over and the last of the BPA National competitions will be completed. I've been at the BPA Nationals in FS, VFS, Artistics and CF as well as the World Cup in Speed Skydiving, but that won't be the last of the competitions for the year. The World Cup of FS and Artistics is in Eloy, USA from October 7-12 and the World Cup of Canopy Piloting will be held in Pretoria, South Africa from November 20-24. You can find out more about those competitions on social media as they happen and in the December issue of *Skydive the Mag* but, until then, I'd like to wish all members of

Team GB the very best of luck at both international events.

The rebrand to British Skydiving has also taken an important step forward since the last magazine update. Our brand partners, Creative Sponge, presented their research, the brand narrative and the initial visual logo concepts at the Council meeting in August. The concepts were very well-received and the team went away with some valuable feedback to develop the chosen ideas further. We are all looking forward to seeing the ideas develop and are confident that our new branding will provide British Skydiving with a fresh new style and energy that we can all be proud of.

PIMS, the Personal Information Management System, was showcased to the attendees at the Drop Zone Operators Meeting recently. The DZOs went away with test login details

to try out the system, discover the increased functionality and enable them to provide further feedback to the developers, Eudonet. The DZO meeting also had an update of the progress of STC's Canopy Working Group from its Chair, Mark Bayada. The canopy survey that was sent out via the eNewsletter and social media had more than 500 responses, which provided some valuable data for the group to work through. Thank you to everyone who responded, and further details will be provided in future editions of the magazine and also at the AGM where Mark will present his findings.

Don't forget that there is always an open invitation for your questions and comments, or perhaps you would like to see your content and videos featured on our social media. Simply get in touch by email at angel@bpa.org.uk.

Team GB at the Speed World Cup, Dunkeswell



INSURANCE INDEMNITY LIMIT

The BPA Council is considering a possible increase in the indemnity limit of the member third party public liability insurance cover from £5m to £10m per incident. This is in the light of court settlements from sport cases in the public domain. The indemnity limit was last increased in 2014 from £2m to £5m. No settlement on BPA insurance to date has reached £5m, but the brokers' advice is that it would be prudent to increase the limit. Drop Zone Operators have been consulted and, at a meeting in August, there was a significant majority in favour.

The increase to the annual subscription for full membership would be likely to be around £7-8. Chief Operating Officer Tony Butler said: "The insurance premium for full members, currently £38.27, has fallen significantly from a high of £99.78 in 2007/8 and I believe members should seriously consider raising the indemnity limit at the next AGM in January, which would apply from April 1. There have been few member-to-member claims in recent years, but these may arise and may be among those with the potential to give rise to high damages."

BPA insurance is not personal accident insurance, which members are strongly advised to take out through the commercial market.

BPA AGM AND BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO 2020



BPA Skydive the Expo 2020's member/consumer day will be held on the day of the BPA AGM, January 25 2020, at EMCC Nottingham NG7 2RJ. There'll be great content for you to share in and ways to contribute to our passion for inspiring and growing the skydiving community. Enjoy the exhibition, prizes, seminars, surprises and, most of all, the camaraderie of skydivers' biggest get-together of the year. The BPA Annual Gala Dinner, entertainment and disco will be on the same day and well into the night! Keep an eye on the Expo website at skydivetheexpo.co.uk.

Our exhibition partners, Eventpro UK, will once again be organising the exhibition and will be in touch with this year's exhibitors directly. If you are a potential new exhibitor, please contact Marie Moss at Eventpro UK on 01509 610452 or marie@skydivetheexpo.com. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, so please enquire.

If you'd like to offer a 50-minute seminar for presentation at the Expo or have a topic you'd love to hear a presentation about, please email us on skydive@bpa.org.uk headed 'Expo seminars'. Seminars should be inspirational, educational or celebratory.

COUNCIL ELECTION

Four seats on the BPA Council become available for elected members at the AGM on January 25 2020. The election by full (voting) members takes place not at the AGM but in advance, over Christmas and the New Year.

Nominations are invited from 09:00 on October 1 2019 when Mi-Voice (election scrutineers) will go live at mi-nomination.com/bpa. Nominations close at noon on November 13 2019.

Council members are non-executive Directors of British Parachute Association Ltd (to be known by our new trading name

of British Skydiving) and among their most important responsibilities are setting the strategic direction and assuring the good health of our Association.

If you are interested, please read BPA Form 178, Duties and responsibilities of a Council Member, and Form 297, Council Member role description, both of which are downloadable from the 'Search Forms' box on the BPA website at bpa.org.uk. Then visit the nominations site for further information including eligibility and how to stand. Each nominee needs a proposer and seconder who, like the nominee, must also be full members. If there are more eligible nominees than seats available, this will trigger an election.

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR:

BPA Taz Causer Experienced Skydiver of the Year Award 2019

Nominations are invited for this award for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nominations, giving the name of your nominee with reasons in no more than 250 words, to the BPA HQ at skydive@bpa.org.uk. Closing date: November 13 2019.



Safety Innovation Award

Sponsored by the BPA's insurance partners Romero Sports and Leisure (brokers) and Axa XL Insurance (underwriters) with a £5,000 cash prize. See bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-innovation-award/ for more details. Closing date: November 1 2019.



BPA Stars

Nominations for BPA Star Awards 2019 are now open. Tell us about great service, over-and-above the norm, from other BPA Members – Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition. For full details and to download the nomination form, visit bpa.org.uk/star. Closing date: November 1 2019.

BPA APPOINTS COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS CO-ORDINATOR

The BPA is delighted to announce that Marie Kent has been appointed as the Competitions and Awards Co-ordinator. Marie started her new post – based at BPA HQ in Leicester – in early August 2019. Marie (pictured) joins us with several years' experience of admin roles within various sectors including legal, financial advice and transport.

Marie said: "I feel very fortunate to be joining the BPA as it is exactly the new challenge I was hoping for. I was drawn to it due to the sheer enthusiasm of the BPA members and staff alike. I feel very excited to begin my journey and look forward to working alongside the friendly team."



NEW RATINGS

CATEGORY SYSTEM BASIC INSTRUCTOR

Gemma Perkins
Stuart Hall
Louise Aveyard
David Ruston

TANDEM BASIC INSTRUCTOR

Trevor Evans

Lex Deeley
Bradley McBride
Benjamin Smith

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Lucy Smith-Willey
Josh Clark
Oliver Loak
Rafal Kacprzyk

TANDEM INSTRUCTOR

Trevor Evans
Bradley McBride
Simon Guest
Lex Deeley

AFF INSTRUCTOR

Eoin Kerr
Levi Hamill

ADVANCED PACKER

Luke Osborne (S)
Jordan Dickinson (S)
Nigel Rowlan (S)





START WITH A BANG

Check out the website at skydivetheexpo.com for news of the biggest consumer skydiving event in the world – BPA Skydive the Expo! It will take place at EMCC Nottingham on January 24-25 2020, with an industry day on January 24 and the BPA AGM at 10:30 on January 25. The AGM agenda will be published in the December Mag. Keep an eye on the Expo website and social media

channels for details. While you're there, the Expo website will also have news of when tickets for the BPA Gala Dinner on January 25 go on sale too and, as always, the dinner will be followed by an evening of great partying and entertainment. Make sure the dates are in your diary.

If you plan to stay overnight, don't forget to reserve your accommodation early. Due to enormous demand, only a

limited number of bookings are left at the De Vere Orchard Hotel next door at the time of going to press and further bookings are by phone only – call 0115 876 0900, pick option one and quote BPA or 19523326. Options for alternative accommodation nearby can be found on the Expo website.

BPA Skydive the Expo 2020 is sponsored by Romero Sports and Leisure and XL Catlin.



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COMPS,

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AND MORE

Nationals, World Cups, records, parades, champagne, taking an unscheduled dip in the swoop pond, ex-Soviet leviathans, evolving nicknames, DZs with resident DJs and aiming in the general direction of Italy? Yep, everyone's been busy...



COMPS



Holiday Specials

Look for special deals from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day on the green banner at the top of our website, Facebook and Instagram posts.

Used Gear

Check out the Used Gear section of ChutingStar.com for a wide selection of quality used skydiving gear at reasonable prices inspected by Master Rigger Mike Gruwel.

Legendary Service

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4-WAY

Forty teams rocked up to Hibaldstow for the BPA Nationals 2019 – 13 Open, five AA, 13 A and nine Rookie – and the forecast was the best in the last decade! By the end of the first day, there had been 80 lifts and 1,183 jumps; the judges were churning through the rounds and the scoreboards were hotting up. Day two saw the competition complete easily and the presentations take place, leaving plenty of time for the party and then some big-way loads (or hungover lie-ins) on the Bank Holiday Monday.

Our AAA athletes were competing for an added accolade this year. As well as being crowned British National Champions, they would also be presented with the Queen's Cup of the Royal Aero Club. This prestigious trophy, made of Irish silver and dating back to 1719, was gifted to the RAeC by Her Majesty the Queen in 2010. Airsports organisations such as the BPA may bid each year to hold an event to determine the winner of the Queen's Cup, and this year we

were successful in our bid. *NFTO*, as well as retaining their National Champion title, are therefore the winners of the Queen's Cup for 2019.

The road to the AAA medals was an interesting one, with the sensible money all going on four teams for the top three places. *NFTO* were the reigning champions and this year's favourites, with newest member Kate Lindsley delighted to achieve a 10-year dream. They topped the leaderboard from Round 1, increasing their lead to seven points by the end of Round 6. The top spot was far from secure, however. *Eros* had shared the Round 1 top spot with *NFTO* by matching their 21-point score and, having also matched them on a further two out of the first six rounds, were providing some serious pressure from second place. Meanwhile, *Chimera* were just two points below *Eros* and *4mula* were also hitting some big scores despite just 21 training jumps together – 15 of them the day before Nationals!

Chimera scored an absolutely blistering 22 on Round 7, picking up four points on *NFTO*, and then bagged another two on

2





8-WAY

Five 8-way teams descended on Hibaldstow, sadly finding somewhat windier weather than for the 4-way Nationals, but they still completed the competition on the Monday. Reigning champions *MicroClim8* had won all but one Nationals since 2010, but they were fighting a season of line-up changes and next to no training with only three training jumps in their final line-up! A last-minute shuffle moved usual cameraflyer Phil Hartree into the formation and brought *NFTO's* cameraflyer Simon Brentford in to film. Their 10.2 average was still enough to comfortably take the gold medal – the second in two weeks for Simon.

Silver went to *Groomed*, who are off to the World Cup in Eloy in October and are feeling confident after having increased their average since last year to 8.8. *Skywars: The Funnel Menace* scored a respectable 8.0 average for bronze while *Tardy* took fourth place.

1 Eros took bronze in AAA, then a week later their *Inside Centre Travis* took gold in 8-way Open!
By James Stevenson

2 *4mula* scored an impressive 17.5 average on just 21 training jumps together. They played with 'interesting' engineering – basically "put Ane in the middle of anything spinny!"
By Martin Martinez

3 AAA medallists *Chimera*, *NFTO* and *Eros*, by *Martin Martinez*

4 *BPA Chair Martin Soulsby* training hard with *MicroClim8*, by *James Stevenson*

5 8-way Open medallists, by *Martin Martinez*

Round 8. Having leapfrogged *Eros*, they had now closed the gap to just three points away from gold. Round 9 saw *NFTO* pick up a much-needed three points at the top, while *Eros* moved up into joint silver. It was all going to come down to *R10*, and both *Chimera* and *Eros* crept the jump-off round after landing from their 10th lift. However, in the end, it wasn't needed – *Chimera* matched *NFTO's* 19 on Round 10 to take the silver with a new record 18.7 average. *Eros* were rewarded for their season of hard work with a bronze medal and an 18.5 average, scoring 22 points more across the competition than in 2018. A special shout out also goes to those lovely Irish rascals, *H4O*, who made it to sixth place with their 13.1 average and set a new Irish Record in the process.

All three medal-winning teams are now training hard for the re-match: they will represent Team GB at the World Cup in Eloy in October. Joining them will be the *Pajama Pumas*, who took fifth place at Nationals behind *4mula* with a PB 14.4 average, and last year's AA champions *Alola* who have stayed together and stepped up to AAA, learning a lot this season.

Talking of AA, it was a close-run thing this year with multiple leaderboard shuffles, but the eventual victors were *RAFSPA Phantom* with 91 points in eight rounds. The brilliantly named *Hench* (Pench, Kate French, *Henry Chow...*) were five points behind for silver and *Nebula* took the bronze. In Single A, *British Army Volt4ge* finished a brilliant season by adding a Nationals gold medal to their three UKSL golds with a convincing 81 points in eight rounds – the first time in 10 years that an Army team have been crowned National Champions. *Algorithm* took silver on 73 while bronze was a fight between the *Jersey Beans* (now with 60% less Jersey but still full of beans) and *3 Ring Circus* (who formed as a scratch team the day before the competition). Despite some serious to-ing and fro-ing in and out of the medals, it was *3 Ring Circus* who take home this year's bronze. A special mention in Single A has to go to *Ice Bank Mice Elf 2* with the best name

of the comp (try saying that one over the tannoy...).

Finally, the *Winged Hussars* took the gold in Rookie, with a tight race for second place seeing *Random Precision* take silver and *Shadow* the bronze.



In Intermediate, *Blame 8 On The Bootie* came back for more, having got a taste for 8-way at last year's Nationals. They registered for the 2018 competition with five minutes to spare and, despite being a scratch team, beat two other teams to win the gold medal. This year they have stayed together, trained and moved up a category - and were rewarded with a 60% increase in their average and another gold medal!

Out of all the many FS competitors who are now getting ready for the World Cup in Eloy, two will be achieving something quite special. This will be Emily Sugars' second World Cup of the year. As well as being on 8-way team *Groomed*, she also competed at the CF World Cup in Romania with the *VelociWraptors*. Meanwhile, Joe Mann will be filming 4-way team *Alola* in the Eloy World Cup in October, then heading to South Africa to compete in the CP World Cup in November. Two World Cups in two different disciplines on two different continents in two consecutive months is not a bad way to end the year!



VFS



1



1 Five-time British National Champions Omni99, by Dan Guest

2 Rookie VFS medallists (L-R) Steve, Two Ways For Days and Royal Navy Kraken, by Martin Martinez

3 Horizon and Omni99, by Martin Martinez



'Omni responded with a new British Record of 20 points in time in Round 6 and, despite another Omni-beating Round 8 from Horizon, Omni won their fifth British Nationals with a new team PB average of 12.3'

VFS is going from strength to strength in the UK, with a good turnout of teams at the British Nationals and some impressive scores across the board.

The 4-way Open category had two trained teams fighting it out for the top spot. Defending champions *Omni99* are Tim Gaines (BPA VFS Rep), Greg Lucas, Sarah Boyd and Martin Roberson with Dan Guest on camera. *Omni* came into 2019 with four consecutive Nationals titles behind them but not much training this year, having taken a bit of a break to focus on boogies and fun jumping (and making it onto the cover of the last Mag...). *Horizon* won silver in 2018 and are now Pete Dennett, Steve Smith, Ming Chu and Peter Hutchinson with Karim Shokraee on camera.

Last year's Nationals saw *Omni* finish on a new personal best average of 11.2, while *Horizon's* 9.2 marked them as up-and-coming challengers to *Omni's* crown. This made for an eagerly anticipated rematch as both teams stepped up their game for 2019, with *Horizon* hoping to bridge the gap and *Omni* feeling the heat.

Omni set off at a blistering pace, throwing down scores of 16, 11 and 14 on the first three rounds. *Horizon* were two points per round down, meaning the gap was starting to open up but *Omni* were still being kept on their toes. Round 4 saw the two teams just one point apart, then *Horizon* beat *Omni* for the first time on Round 5. *Omni* responded with a new British Record of 20 points in time in

Round 6 and, despite another *Omni*-beating Round 8 from *Horizon*, *Omni* won their fifth British Nationals with a new team PB average of 12.3. Special congratulations to cameraman Dan Guest who has now won 10 overall Nationals gold medals across three disciplines – VFS, CP and Freestyle.

In Intermediate, *AC-DC* are Adam Potter, Dave Bloomfield, Matt Law and Matt Kite with James Round on camera. They were happy to have progressed since last year and to fly some tricky exits to finish on 27 points in eight rounds with no zeroes.

The 2-way Rookie category, now in its second year, was contested by three teams and watched over enviously by the 4-way teams who all agreed that the dive pool looked really fun to fly! Improvements made after last year's test event mean that both flyers now need FF2, but that the points are fast and furious – a great route into VFS. The 2019 champions are *Two Ways For Days* – James Moran, James Parry and Hutch, who are all current UK Head Up Record holders and who did just one day of training the day before the comp! Their six-round total of 38 put them ahead of silver medallists *Steve* (Stuu and Eve, with James Round on camera) on 30, and *Royal Navy Kraken* (Emma Reynolds, Dave Lee and Andy Godwin) who scored 20 points in total.

We finish with a quote from each of our top two teams. *Omni* say "It's great to see all teams progressing and we hope to see them again next year", and *Horizon* say "Bring on 2020!"

SPEED



1

REFLECTIONS AT SPEED

As I was taking down flag bunting and folding away wind blades a couple of days after the 2019 FAI Speed World Cup and European Championships at Skydive Buzz, feeling completely empty, exhausted and like I'd been on another planet for a few weeks, I reflected on when and how I had got myself into this situation...

The background

I have organised a few international Speed Skydiving competitions through the ISSA (International Speed Skydiving Association) and I enjoy creating the environment for a good competition. Developing the space for competitors to be at their best and achieve their personal goals is as satisfying to me as being in the thick of it myself.

The organisational side of big events that I've been to, such as the World Air Games in Dubai, always fascinated me. I have seen successful ones and some that have not gone so smoothly. It is often easy to see where mistakes are made, but it is not always evident to see what makes a big competition run really well. It seems effortless, like watching a virtuoso musician play. There is also something else on top of just good organisation that creates the right atmosphere. Call it good vibes, if you like. This, to me, is a vital ingredient and I aim to put it at the heart of any event I take on.

All World Cups in Speed have previously been run in conjunction with other freefall disciplines. Usually, only wingsuiting or the canopy disciplines are run independently, due to their unique requirements. The opportunity to run Speed on its own is rare.

Skydive Arizona decided not to include Speed as part of their 2019 bid, so there was a period during 2018 when we thought there may not be a Speed FCE (First Category Event) in 2019. As a member of the IPC (International Parachuting Commission) Speed Skydiving Committee, after exploring several options with no luck, the idea of taking on the World Cup myself popped into my mind. Honestly, having competed at a few FCEs (World Championships, World Cups, a World Air Games and European Championships), I didn't know how I was going to do it justice but I thought that if they can do it, then so can I. If it was the only option, then surely the IPC would agree to it?

Arnold Hohenegger has been involved with the IPC and Speed Skydiving for many years. To me, he is the 'father of Speed'. He and Elisabet Mikaelson (first Vice President of the IPC) both know me well and, between them, they have an immense amount of experience of FCEs. They assured me that I was capable of taking it on and pledged their support. I have been in constant contact with them throughout this process and their help has been invaluable.

When I mentioned the idea to Jason Farrant at Skydive Buzz (Dunkeswell), his reply was an almost-immediate "Yes!" and

he gave me the autonomy to create the event as I wanted. The BPA were equally excited about the opportunity to host a FCE at a BPA Skydiving Centre and were very supportive through the whole process too. It was great to have Angel Fernandez, the BPA's Communications Manager, there through the whole competition to do social media outreach and as our media contact.

I was due to attend the IPC meetings in January anyway in my capacity as Speed Committee member. We were making major changes to the rules of the discipline, including moving from barometric measurement of skydivers' speeds to GPS. This was another incentive for me to take on the bid to host. Many people have been openly critical of the Speed discipline and the use of barometric SMDs (speed measurement devices), but have done nothing positive to help improve it. Having been part of the team from the ISSA and the IPC committee who have undertaken the relevant testing and development, it was an immense privilege to be given the opportunity to organise the first big competition using the new rules and technology and to take the discipline forward. My 11th hour bid to host was very well-received at the IPC plenary, which made presenting my first-ever bid a little less nerve-wracking.

The list of requirements to fulfil in organising an FAI-sanctioned FCE is long. Firstly, a bid must be presented to the IPC plenary meeting, which takes place in a different country each January. Delegates from all National Airsport Commissions scrutinise bids and vote to decide where to host FCEs. I have benefited from seeing many bid presentations as a member of the Speed Skydiving Committee at the IPC and I have seen what makes successful bids stand out.

The FAI takes a deposit of €5,000 per discipline as an incentive for organisers to see an event through and run it properly. They appoint an FAI controller and a jury of three officials to oversee the organisation of the competition, to make sure you hit deadlines and stick to your 'organiser agreement' – a contract between the organiser and the FAI. If there is any deviation from the original bid, this must be approved by the IPC bureau. Two bulletins are put out by an organiser in the run-up to the competition which include detailed information about every aspect of the competition.

The event

I was checking the weather forecast as far ahead as I could in the run-up to the competition. As the major uncontrollable variable that dominates our sport, the weather is always going to throw some extra challenges into the ring. Sure enough, thanks to that sod Murphy, there was a great big World Cup-sized black cloud predicted to lurk around over the whole three days of the competition. I admit I did think to myself "What is the point in even trying?" Oh well, it was too late now. Maybe we could have a seminar and go on a local brewery tour instead.

Shane Turner (AUS) and Fabien Wernli (CH) were the first competitors to arrive a week ahead of the World Cup to compete at the BPA Nationals and fit in some training at Dunkeswell. I had a warm-up in my role as Meet Director at the BPA Nationals, where we ironed out any issues so that we were ready for the big one.

Our main issue was exit altitudes. The rules state that the exit altitude for Speed is 13,000ft and each speeder is responsible for making sure that they exit at the correct height. We were initially running in using the aircraft's barometric altimeter, but the Flysight data was reading that we had exited too high. We switched to running in on GPS altitude, but then the competitors weren't able to check their exit altitude. We decided during the Nationals and subsequently at the World Cup that we wouldn't penalise competitors for an incorrect exit altitude and that, if it was too high, they would be offered a re-jump. Pilots Rob Wotton, Wayne Smith and James Hallam demonstrated the accuracy of their flying and, with a slightly increased run-in speed of 85 knots, every exit across the whole competition was within an altitude range of 60ft.

At the opening ceremony in Dunkeswell's Aviator restaurant, John Smyth, Jason Farrant and I welcomed 18 of the world's top 20 speeders to Devon. In total, we hosted 28 competitors representing 11 countries, and the largest contingent of female competitors (seven) ever seen at a Speed FCE. Arnold declared that the competition was open on behalf of the FAI, meaning that all FAI boxes were ticked, and we listened to the FAI anthem while unfurling the flag. By this time, the

weather forecast was giving us glimmers of hope and Tony Butler came all the way from BPA HQ to buy a round of drinks. The good vibes were already abundant.

Day one of the competition arrived and, as expected, the weather did not play ball. However, I had an immense feeling of relief when we got all competitors up for one jump and a full round of valid scores. This meant that, if nothing else happened, at least we had a valid competition and, even better, Brits Max and Jimmy were in first and second place at that point.

The rest of the day hung in that familiar zone of 'almost jumpable'. We put the Texas Turbine up twice and the competitors brought it down again. We missed a couple of big gaps and I started to feel the pressure of keeping these athletes on the ground when they were chomping at the bit to get in the air. Nobody wants to be in that position. We stuck it out until sunset, then stood down until the following lunchtime because the forecast was and always had been a big no for the morning.

We made use of the down time on day two to hold our competitors' meeting. For the first time since the IPC Speed Committee was set up, we were all in the same location so we also had a meeting. The day consisted of lots of detailed discussions, differences in opinion and great ideas for the development of Speed Skydiving.

We did not jump at all on day two but the forecast had slightly improved for day three, so it was early nights all round and we went at it and completed five more rounds on day three. Our cut-off to have the last load in the air was 16:00, and lots of people cheered and counted down as Wayne got the last load airborne at 15:58 – phew!

1 BPA National Champion Jimmy McCarthy going FAST, by Joe Laming

2 Every exit across the whole competition was within an altitude range of just 60ft. By Joe Laming

3 Brit Kiera Chapman won European Championship bronze and set a new British Female record of 364.26km/h

4 Brit Max Hurd won World Cup and European Championship bronze and set a new British Record of 500.17km/h



The medals

BPA Chair Martin Soulsby welcomed everyone to the closing ceremony and then we distributed the 36 medals which had been contested in Open, Male, Female and Team categories in both the World Cup and European Championships.

Belgium and Germany took all the gold medals, with Luc Maisin (BEL) winning Open and Male category golds and Lucia Lippold winning Female gold. Germany took the Team gold too. Max Hurd (UK) took bronze and he now also holds the official FAI World Record at 500.17kph. Elisabet announced that the competition was valid (which means I get my deposit back), and we folded the FAI flag and presented it to Aliya Ananina, Russia's delegate to the IPC, to take it to Tanay for the 2020 Mondial. All-round positive vibes man Ryan Mancey then played us out with a brilliant set into the early hours.

I'm so grateful to so many people for helping to make this competition a reality and giving me this opportunity of a lifetime. Thanks to Jason for agreeing to host it at Skydive Buzz. My wife Jo-Anne has basically been solo parenting our two little girls for a couple of months, allowing me every spare minute to bring this together. Arnold, Elisabet and John Smyth helped a lot in the preparations, allowing me to draw on their extensive FCE experience. I had a fantastic judging team in Angelika, Tamy and the cool, calm and collected Chief Judge Bert Ham. Assistant to the Chief Judge Lucy Westgarth basically assisted everyone and was generally amazing. Holger Enderlin was our Speed Technical Director, keeping software and devices working. Margit took photos at the closing ceremony. UK Head of Delegation Jason Bird was close by throughout, ready to help in any way he could.

Many of the Dunkeswell team provided invaluable support. Shout-outs especially to Altitude Brothers' Andy Kilpatrick, JJ, Ruth, Mike Williams and Andy Shaw. Our sponsors, the Infamous Team, NZ Aerosports, FlySight, Cookie Helmets, Larsen & Brusgaard, Vertical Suits and Sky Gear UK, all supported the event in different ways.

Gernot Rittenshober, one of the FAI Jury and an experienced event organiser and meet director himself, said to me on the first day of the World Cup that normally when he's at a FCE as an official, he ends up having to help the Meet Director a lot to keep things running smoothly. On this occasion, he thanked me for a relaxing week as he left. I'll take that as a compliment.

Organiser and Meet Director of a FAI first category event... tick!

Mikey Lovemore, BPA Speed Rep

5 BPA Speed Nationals 2019, by Jodie McCarthy



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE!

The 2019 BPA Speed Nationals was an amazing success! Twelve competitors, including two international guests, took to the sky over the enchanting Devon countryside at Skydive Buzz on August 3-4. We completed seven rounds out of a possible eight, despite the typical English weather trying to stop us.

STATISTICS

Twelve competitors, two international guests, four records broken, seven rounds completed, 84 slots and zero injuries or incidents.

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN A TYPICAL SPEED JUMP

A maximum of six speeders exit at 13,500ft on each pass, with the first turning right off the jump run and

the second turning left. This pattern continues until all competitors have exited. To achieve high speeds, it is a matter of exiting and getting into the most aerodynamic body position as quickly as possible, finding a heading and holding this body position while giving small inputs to maintain an angle of attack and heading without losing vertical speed. At 5,577ft, the dytters sound – signifying the end of the run – and you must gently pull out of the dive, de-arch to lose as much speed as you can and deploy. Now breathe!

THE JUDGING SYSTEM

The rules have changed to taking your fastest speed held over a consecutive three-second window. The throwaway rounds have also gone, meaning each completed round counts towards the total average and one bad round can heavily affect your overall score.

RECORDS, RECORDS AND MORE RECORDS

This year, the competition had two different categories: the BPA UK Nationals and the BPA Open. Shane Turner from Australia had an excellent competition, setting a new Australian Record (499.66km/h) and winning the Open competition with an average speed of 484.25km/h. Shane was followed closely by me, and I set a new British Record of 494.19km/h and gained an average score of 479.90km/h. Third place went to Mikey Lovemore after an interesting battle with Fabian Wernli from Switzerland, who also set a new Swiss Record!

In the BPA UK Nationals, silver and gold were taken by Mikey and me and the bronze was up for grabs! After a very close battle between Matthew Byrne and Iain Grant, Iain snatched the podium spot from Matthew on the last round. He ended with an average speed

of 418.71km/h over Matthew's 418.52km/h, and that's just 0.19km/h difference between the speeders after seven rounds! Keira Chapman was the only female entrant, but she did not disappoint and set a new British Female Record of 320.38km/h!

THANK YOU

A big shout out goes to the event organiser, Mikey Lovemore, for running an incredible event and to Jason and the team at Skydive Buzz for having an outstanding dropzone – your customer service skills and facilities are hard to beat! Also, huge thanks to the BPA Judges – Tash Higman, Liz Turner, Chantal Warren and Connor O'Brien – for a quick turnaround on the results and for dealing with the teething issues of a new judging system. WHAT A COMP!

Jimmy McCarthy, British Speed Champion 2019



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ARTISTICS

Ten teams descended on Dunkeswell for the BPA Artistics Nationals 2019. Half of those were competing in Freestyle A, which continues to grow in popularity. After a close match last time around, last year's bronze medallists NOVA (Ed Cracknell and Chris Mayhew) were looking forward to the rematch against father-and-daughter team FSU (Ali and Harry Shanker), who took silver in 2018. *Prism99*, Eve Mason and Greg Lucas, were also back and hoping to

improve their average. *Free Hugs*, who entered with just 2.5 days of training, and *RAFSPA Vulcan* were new this year.

It was high scores all round as *NOVA* kicked off Round 1 with an impressive 8.3. *FSU* and *Prism99* tied on 6.5, while *Free Hugs* scored 5.8 and *RAFSPA Vulcan* 4.3. *FSU* moved ahead of *Prism99* from Round 2 with a great compulsory round score of 7.5 but, as the competition developed, there was not a single shift in the placings on the scoreboard after that – how's that

for consistency? *NOVA* were delighted with a total of 56.0 and a gold medal, while *FSU* took silver again on 46.5, despite shenanigans such as "landed off", "lost a GoPro", "left the camera helmet at the B&B" and "kicked the ringsight off in freefall". *Prism99* made it onto the podium with 42.2 – a great improvement on last year's 33.9. *Free Hugs* were just out of the medals with 41.1 (maybe stretch to three days' training next year?) while *RAFSPA Vulcan* scored 27.8.

1 Parallel on exit, by Chris Cook

2 National Freefly Champions Parallel retained their title for a second year, by Chris Cook

3 Artistics competitors



In Freestyle B, gold went to *AGC Freestyle* and silver to Jonny Kilpatrick.

The British Freestyle Champions 2019 are *Parallel*, who have now made the podium for four consecutive years with a bronze in 2016, silver in 2017 and gold in 2018 and 2019. The silver medal in Freestyle A went to *BAFFT*, while *RAFSPA Venom* won gold in Freestyle B. All three of *Parallel* also competed in the British CP Nationals where Alan Foulkes-Williams won silver in Distance and came ninth overall,

Rich Madeley came seventh and Chris Cook came 14th despite food poisoning.

NOVA then ran a BPA Freestyle Coaching Roadshow at Black Knights on September 7-8, doing 39 jumps between them in just two days (including Ed's 1,000th jump) and giving out two FF2s and a TR2! They had organised small groups and did one-on-one coaching, with all freeflyers present benefiting from the free coaching and all coaching slots being paid for by the BPA.

FROM AFF STUDENT TO NATIONAL CHAMPION

It was my third day waiting for the clouds to clear during the summer of 2005. My mother had purchased a tandem skydive for my 16th birthday and I was both terribly nervous and excited to try something new. That jump got me hooked and, for the next two years, I spent an unhealthy amount of time watching skydiving videos on YouTube. Two years later, when I obtained a few thousand pounds through my first student loan payment, I booked myself onto an AFF course at Skydive Spain. Throughout that course, I instantly knew it was for me and I returned home to the UK, skint, having done all my levels plus nine consolidation jumps. Within two weeks of returning home, I had gone to Langar to do my final jump before I received my A Licence certificate. The path had been set; a path that would lead to me becoming the UK National Champion in Freestyle Skydiving.

FS1, a B Licence and FF1 soon followed. I found a job after graduating and moved to Manchester, where I still live today. The lure of the tunnel was too much and I started to fly a lot, gaining my FF2 along the way. I picked up VFS first as my discipline of choice for many reasons. I had a great bunch of friends at the tunnel who wanted to fly with me and splitting the cost four ways is considerably cheaper than flying solo. The idea of competing had not really crossed my mind at this point until a friend had an idea about entering the VFS Nationals in 2015. We secured a bronze medal and I think the competition bug took over. From there on in, I was focused on competing.

In 2016, my tunnel coach and good friend Liz Boniface asked me if I was interested in filming her as part of a new Freestyle team, *Ignite*. After a couple of training camps and a moderate amount of jumps, we competed in our first competition in 2016. I also filmed a VFS team that year where I picked up another bronze medal. Unfortunately, due to medical reasons, Liz could no longer skydive but, in 2017, I was approached by an up-and-coming skydiver called Ed Cracknell. He had just gained his FF2 and his flying was really starting to come together. We instantly became good friends over far too many beers and started to train together.

We competed in 2017 for the first time as *NOVA* and we secured another bronze medal. I also picked up a silver medal filming a new VFS team, *Excite 96*. The next year, Ed and I started to fly more together both indoors and 'outdoors' (I hate the use of that word...). We even lived with each other for a short period while Ed was doing his wind tunnel instructor training. After a disappointing 2018 result of yet another bronze medal, we knew we had to train more or we were not going to improve. We planned to put everything to one side and train as much as we could for the 2019 competition.

All our training came together for the 2019 UK Nationals, where we scored an average of 8.3 (out of 10). This was a significant jump in our previous scores and was up there with the highest scoring teams of the previous 10 years. All our training had just paid off.

After becoming a National Champion, it took a few days to really sink in. I had started a diary during my AFF and published it online on the UK Skydiver forum. Back in 2010, I posted on that thread that I would "enter a few competitions while I'm at it and win national gold at Freestyle" and "when I get that gold medal at Nationals, I'm sure this thread will make hilarious reading". I set the goal back in 2010 and, nine years later, I achieved it.

I plan to update my diary again when I am World Champion. It will be a long road, but those who know me understand that I am not stopping until I get there. For any aspiring new skydivers who would like to get into competing and to fulfil their dreams, you must start somewhere. Grab your rig and go jump.

"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark." – Michelangelo

Chris Mayhew, *NOVA*

ACCURACY

The BPA Accuracy Nationals were held at Dunkeswell on August 3-4, on the same weekend as the Nationals in both Speed Skydiving and Artistics. Twenty Accuracy competitors entered the competition: 15 in Senior, three in Intermediate and two Novices. Unfortunately, poor weather plagued the weekend and it showed in the Senior scoreboard with more maximum 16cm scores than usual in the gusty conditions.

Accuracy is measured from the 2cm 'dead centre' of an electronic pad that sits on an inflatable tuffet – hit this and you score 0.00m. Scores then read out from the dead centre in centimetre increments that go up to 16cm. You can score 16cm by hitting the edge of the pad or equally by landing off the dropzone entirely because 16cm is the highest score recorded at Senior level. Intermediates have a maximum score of 5.00m and Novices 25.00m, and the jumper with the lowest cumulative total at the end of the competition is the winner. Missing the pad altogether is known as zapping.

Wind limits for Accuracy are 7m/s (nearly 17mph), with a rule that competitors may rejump if the wind shifts more than 90° at



a strength of 3m/s or more. However, the direction was constant at the Nationals and it was the gustiness that was causing problems because the wind was doing anything between 1.5 and 6.8m/s – within limits, but tricky to set up for Accuracy! Several seasoned Accuracy jumpers and British Team members scored uncharacteristic 16s on various rounds, meaning it all came down to who could score consistently without zapping.

Esther Reynolds took an early lead on Round 1 with 1cm, while almost half the field scored 16cm. This included Pete Sizer, who found himself having to work his way

back up from the bottom of the leaderboard. Round 2 saw Esther zap, putting Dave Crowhurst in the lead with a lowest-score 1cm round. Round 3 then saw Dave Crowhurst zap, while Pete Sizer continued to climb back up the leaderboard with a dead centre and Steve Hastings, Janos Leszko and Dave Tylcoat all scoring 1cm. After Round 4, Dave Tylcoat and Steve Hastings were in joint-first place, but then on Round 5 Dave got caught downwind struggling to make progress towards the pad, making it back to the tuffet but scoring an uncharacteristic 16cm.

Although the competition was scheduled for 10 rounds, the weather delays took their toll and it looked like Round 6 would be the final round. So, with just one round left to jump, the championship was Steve Hastings' for the taking as long as he didn't zap... and he threw down a dead centre to take the gold in style. Steve's six-round total was 14cm while Pete Sizer's final five-round total was actually only 6cm but, with the 16cm on Round 1, Pete ended on 22cm for a silver medal. Bronze was tied between Janos Leszko and Les Carroll, both on 23cm. After applying the low scores tie-breaking rules, Janos' best two rounds of 1cm saw him take home the bronze.

The Intermediate competition completed three rounds and was won by Clive Bennett, with Lee Cogman taking silver and Clive Vardakis bronze. The Novice competitors managed just two rounds and this category was won by Andrew Garner, with silver going to KJ Kian.

The Club champions were Beccles, and this is fought between teams made up from a Senior, Intermediate and Novice competitors. Beccles was led by Richard Bisset, with Lee Cogman and Andrew Garner.

Overall National Champion Steve Hastings remarked "at last!" when we asked him how he felt about winning. Having started jumping in 1978, Steve's first Accuracy Nationals were in 1987 where he won Intermediate overall gold in "Style and Accuracy". We think this could make him the oldest British National Champion in any discipline at the age of 65, unless anyone reading this knows of an older one. Do get in touch if you know differently!

1 Accuracy competitors and judges

2 British National Accuracy Champion 2019, Steve Hastings



'The wind was doing anything between 1.5 and 6.8m/s – within limits, but tricky to set up for Accuracy!'

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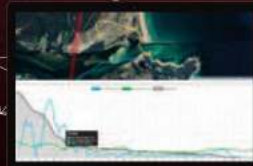
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1

CANOPY PILOTING

This season, I set myself the goal of competing in my first Canopy Piloting competition. I have been working on swooping for several seasons now and fitting in as much coaching as I could. This year, when I started jumping a Performance Designs Competition Velocity 90, I thought it was time to start competing.

Klatovy in the Czech Republic was to be the venue of the 2019 CP Nationals as part of a wider competition, The Pink Open, and the results of the British Nationals would be derived from this. More than 80 competitors from around the world registered for The Pink Open, 20 of them Brits also entering the BPA Nationals. In total, there were four countries running their Nationals alongside the event.

The atmosphere in Klatovy during the training days was electric. Counting at least five Skyvans on my way to the DZ told me there wouldn't be a problem getting as many jumps in as I could want during the official training days. Being among some of the best swoopers in the world, who were more than happy to help with advice, was a great environment which otherwise could have felt intimidating. From the condition of the sloop pond to the organisation of this large event and the entertainment laid on in the evenings, Klatovy turned out to be a smooth operation. There was plenty of jumping on the other side of the DZ too, without interference to the competition.

The training days were hugely beneficial to get used to the layout of the course, exiting in passes of five in canopy size order. It was easy to coordinate with the other jumpers even when the Accuracy course meant landing in the opposite direction to anyone running Speed or Distance! Being on my "massive" 90 sq ft Velo, I was usually at the back. Other than Jason Leighton, with his Velo 103, my 90 was one of the biggest canopies of the competition. The training days provided a stark reminder of the risks associated with swooping when seasoned swooper Chris Lynch suffered a hard landing which was serious enough for a trip to hospital and no longer taking part in the competition. We all wish Chris a speedy recovery.

The Chief Judge announced that the competition would begin with three rounds of Speed. This is common because the sensors can be temperamental and it is the discipline with the most re-jumps as a result. I was happy with that decision, as another common format is to begin with one round of each discipline. As a new competitor, focussing on one discipline for three jumps then forgetting it and switching focus on to the next was much more favourable. However, I know that I will have to work on that in the future. Doing one round of each is also a good idea if there is dodgy weather because the meet can then be determined from those three results alone.

Rule Britannia

The first round of Speed saw Lee Crudgington take an early lead with 2.791 seconds, while Wez Westley set the fastest time in Round 2 with a time of 2.746s. Lee answered back in the last round with the fastest time of the Brits, charging in at 2.700s! Brian Vacher, Lee and Wez were a class of their own as the only competitors to fly all their rounds in less than three seconds. With all their times within 0.2 seconds of each other, the medals for Speed were a close run thing but Brian's consistent times

1 British National Canopy Piloting Champion 2019, Martin Reynolds, by Emma Reynolds

2 Phil Webley at his first CP competition (beer!), by Emma Reynolds



placed him in the top spot of this event. Lee and Wez finished with the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Having not had the opportunity to fly a Speed course nearly as much as I wanted, I was looking forward to this event. After all, what's cooler than swooping in a straight line? Swooping with a turn, of course! In reality, Speed is about accuracy on the course first and foremost – go figure. So, armed with a couple of fresh tips from Wez from the training days, I managed to fly the course from start to finish with no vertical infringements, which meant I got a score on the board on my first round in competition. This was a far cry from my attempts at a Speed course earlier in the year where, on one of my better runs, I was so surprised to find myself in the course that, at the point of turning, I just carried on straight!

After some deliberation from the chief judges on whether to move on to Zone Accuracy or Distance next, we geared up. The winds were too high for Accuracy so Distance it was and, with a generally downwind orientation on the course, everyone was excited. In Round 1, Lee put the pressure on with a distance of 112.24m but Wez was hot on his heels with 105.25m. The second round shook the competition rankings up, with Martin Reynolds achieving the furthest distance of 102.60m. It was a costly round, with a few of the Brits who otherwise were getting solid runs scoring zeros. Alan Foulkes-Williams and Pete Allum came to the front and held onto the reins, avoiding the dreaded zeros in Round 2. Wez Westley flew a whopping 124.57m in the third round.

The zeros accumulated by some of the Brits meant that the medals went to the only jumpers who managed to score well on all three runs instead of two blistering runs and a zero. This was interesting and showed the importance of consistency when competing, and was an education to watch as a new competitor! The medals in Distance went to Martin Reynolds with gold, Alan Foulkes-Williams winning silver and Pete Allum taking bronze.

Keeping my balance

In the last few years, with the advent of the faster canopies such as the Peregrines and Petras we see today, there was a rule change to Distance. The new rules state that a jumper must touch water before the entry gate for the score to be valid. This is to ensure that the Distance rounds are safer on these canopies because it limits how much you can climb during the course. A sensible measure but, for a newer competitor on a Velo, it is quite challenging getting a touchdown at high speed and making it out of the water. It means the setup has to be pretty bang on and the flying very efficient, which of course is the name of the game – but not what always comes out in early competition! As a result, I wasn't too disappointed with a couple of zeros and a default score of three in the last round. The experience has been invaluable in highlighting what to work on for next season.

Finishing with Zone Accuracy was a

welcome gear change following six jumps of charging at the course under full power. Zone Acc, as the cool kids say it, calls for dialling back the power slightly and had more of the feeling of swooping on the DZ for fun. Martin Reynolds walked off the course with 84 points, the highest of the Brits in all three rounds. Round 2 saw a joint top score of 77 achieved by Martin again and Jase Hughes. The third round saw another joint top spot again of 77 points, but this time by Danny Kelly and Pete Allum.

Being in the habit of sliding in my landings from the other two disciplines meant I got a meagre nine points on my first round – losing points for not standing up. My poor setup in the second round meant that I realised very early on in the turn that not only would I score low, but I would also achieve a swooper's rite of passage of going in for a dip! Having achieved 3,000 jumps earlier in the week, I think I was going to get thrown in anyway so I saved everyone the hassle. I was also saved from finding out how a soaking wet canopy opens because the last jump was scheduled for the following day.

Following a good night's sleep and packing a damp canopy in the morning (which opened fine), I found myself over the course and wrestling with a terrible setup. I got control of it and ensured I got the entry gate. After what felt like forever, I got my foot in the water on one of the higher scoring water gates. As I flew over dry land, watching the horizontal tapes whizzing past, I finished off with a stand-up landing. With 43 points on my last jump, it was a great end to my first competition!

Martin Reynolds was crowned BPA National Champion for a second year. His steady start in Speed, consistent scoring in Distance and high points in Zone Acc secured his overall gold medal. His nickname of 'Dangerpants' might soon become 'Steadypants' – only joking, Martin! Lee Crudginton took the silver medal

overall. With some great runs throughout the competition, he'll be one to watch for many seasons to come. Seasoned competitor Brian Vacher secured the bronze medal, and it's great to see him back at the British Nationals.

Congratulations should be extended to the top eight placers who have qualified to represent the UK at the Worlds next year. They are Martin Reynolds, Lee Crudginton, Brian Vacher, Wez Westley, Daniel Kelly, Jase Hughes, Rich Madeley and Pete Allum.

Easy to learn, hard to master?

I knew that getting ready for the Nationals wouldn't be an easy undertaking when I decided to take part this year, but it felt like the right time because I was current and had a clear schedule ahead of me to train and get coaching. Swooping shouldn't be rushed; everyone is different and progresses at different speeds. The basics need to be mastered before thinking about the distraction of swooping through courses. On a coaching day in May, when Brian Vacher told me to revisit some basics only a short time before the Nationals, it felt counter-intuitive but was the right move. I was in a much better position for Klatovy.

The experience of a competition has highlighted to me my strengths and weaknesses in a way that training couldn't. I feel I have a much better idea of what to work on for next year and how to train. CP is easily the friendliest discipline I have been part of, with everyone at all levels happy to help out newcomers. I'm already looking forward to the Nationals next year, hopefully scheduling a couple of competitions beforehand as a warm-up.

Again, congratulations to all the medal winners and I hope to see everyone next season – better, faster and further.

Phil Webley is a BPA AFF Instructor, Tandem Instructor, CSI, FF Coach and former Red Devil

'Not only would I score low, but I would also achieve a swooper's rite of passage of going in for a dip!'

3 British competitors at the BPA Nationals, also part of the Pink Open in Klatovy, by Emma Reynolds



1



CANOPY FORMATION

Like most skydiving trips, ours started at 6am in Luton Airport with a beer. We were off to represent Team GB at the 10th FAI World Cup of Canopy Formation in Romania. The dropzone was in Ploesti, a decaying former oil city with a handy supply of equally decaying Soviet aircraft. The Antonov AN-2, the world's largest single engine bi-plane and a masterpiece of engineering with production running mostly unchanged from 1947-2001, was

being used for competition jumps and we saw three of them lined up in front of the hangar on arrival. We knew then that this trip would be a little bit different.

On the night of the opening ceremony, locals came out from the surrounding area to see the parade of competitors and an air show was put on by the Romanian Aero Club. Twenty-three teams representing 16 countries took over the hangar for a banquet of local food while schoolchildren

performed dances in traditional dress. Who says skydiving can't be cultural?

Come competition time, all minds were focused on the dive. The giant rotary roared into life and, with the occasional backfire, it seemed to be doubling as a bird scarer to keep the runways clear. Competitors tried to visualise the dive but, looking past the exposed fuel lines running through the cabin to the cockpit, there seemed to be an alarming number of people spilling out of it.

1 Team VelociWraptors – Simon Perry (top) and Wes Guest (bottom), filmed by Emily Sugars

COMPS ZONE

Two pilots held the controls while a flight mechanic stood between them monitoring an instrument cluster. A fourth mechanic peered over his shoulder, repeatedly turning round to assure us "Don't worry, I'm just here to make sure everything works". The cloud wasn't always kind, but what was more distracting was the pilot seemingly taking any opportunity to climb out of the cockpit and wander back down the cabin for a chat. Thirty minutes later, we arrived at 7,000ft – the height competition battle really begins.

Two teams were representing the UK in 2-way Sequential, which is a competition where a round of five formations is drawn out of a pool of 12. *VelociWraptors* are Wes Guest, Simon Perry and Emily Sugars on camera while *Double Trouble* are Mary Barratt, Tash Higman and Pete Lindstrand on camera. Sam Bemment also attended as Head of Delegation to keep the competitors out of jail...

Round 1 got off to a good start with *VelociWraptors* scoring eight, putting them into 11th. *Double Trouble* scored three, putting them into 15th in contention with four other teams. As the competition progressed, *VelociWraptors* closed in on Germany in 10th, getting within three points of them after Round 5. *Double Trouble* had a close battle with Romania and the Czech Republic before eventually finishing 16th.

Germany were still within reach of *VelociWraptors* going into the final round when, halfway through working time, *VelociWraptors* got into a major wrap – ending their chances of getting 10th but with enough points to remain 11th.



2 Team GB! – *VelociWraptors*, *Double Trouble* and Sam

3 "The dropzone was in Ploesti, a decaying former oil city with a handy supply of equally decaying Soviet aircraft". Photo by Pete Lindstrand

Fortunately, they were able to fight their way out of the wrap with no cutaways and were met by a massive cheer when all of the competitors witnessed the wrap during the live judging.

France continue to dominate the top of the leader board with a one-two finish, proving that the large investment the French Parachute Association places in Canopy Formation pays off.

Looking back, the event was an amazing opportunity for both teams not only to

compete at the highest level but to fly alongside the best and learn from them. With the World Cup over, all focus is now on the British Nationals and qualifying for a slot at the Mondial in Russia in 2020.

If you are interested in learning or competing in CF, we regularly run coaching events throughout the summer. Details can be found on the *VelociWraptors* Facebook page or from CFRep@bpa.org.uk.

Wes Guest, *VelociWraptors*



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WINGSUITING

As we stepped out of a busy terminal at Bologna Airport on a hot summer Thursday, the strong, acrid smell of cigarette smoke, the argumentative sound of otherwise casual conversations between bystanders and the incessant beeping of car horns left us with very little doubt: we had arrived in Italy!

A Team GB delegation of eight to the third FAI World Cup of Wingsuit Flying, headed by John Smyth, joined 53 other athletes from 19 different countries for one of the most exciting competitions in the world of human squirrels. Chris Berté, Dave Francis, John Gillett, Richard Holder, Colin Preece, Nigel Thurston, Mike Williams and I agreed to represent the UK at Skydive Pull Out in Ravenna, Italy.

The build-up

The event lasted for eight days while the actual competition was completed in just under four.

On the evening of August 23, it was time for the opening ceremony. A short coach trip from the DZ to a beach club by the seaside full of unsuspecting customers later and the parade was on. Representatives from all delegations, wearing their official attire and holding flags of all sizes, lined up along the path leading to the venue. Once inside, the parade was led to the adjacent sandy beach where the local skydiving team performed a number of parachute displays among a cheering audience.

The party then proceeded onto the rooftop area of the club where the event organisers, the FAI officials and a few representatives from the local city council read their inaugural speech and declared the competition officially open. A celebratory toast of champagne was followed by a rich buffet of local delicacies, with a resident DJ entertaining the crowd with some classic house tunes. Later on, as the departure of the first shuttle back to the DZ left the venue almost empty, it became clear how committed most of the athletes were to the event. No messing around ahead of the competition!

Saturday was the turn of administrative tasks like weighing and tagging the competitors' gear, but also that of official training jumps to allow all athletes the chance to familiarise themselves with the lanes (the regions of airspace allocated to each wingsuit flight). The quote of the day went to Chris Berté who, when describing his last wingsuit flight, pointed out how he "jumped out of the plane, spotted the DZ and started flying towards Italy!"

The competition

On Sunday, an early morning wake-up, a quick breakfast and then straight to the DZ to prep the gear and get ready for the competition jumps. As the

first competitors jumped out of the Cessna Caravan, the relevant scores started appearing in the unofficial web scoring system, providing valuable and easily accessible feedback over each individual performance.

On Monday, however, the competition started on the wrong foot and the first lift of the day only managed to reach 4,000ft before being directed back down with everyone on board. Unscheduled military operations required exclusive use of the airspace above the DZ, bringing the whole competition to a halt. I did not envy the Meet Director at that moment. Hours later, after several discussions between organisers, judges and the armed forces, the decision was made to resume the competition by reducing the drop altitude to 10,500ft from the planned 12,000ft.

While everyone was relieved to learn that the competition could carry on, I soon realised that, with my small Intermediate wingsuit, I would have no chance of making it back to the PLA from the drop point three miles downwind of it. After a chat with the Meet Director and the DZ Controller, I realised that changing any aspect of the jumps would be unfair to all given the circumstances. It became clear I had a decision to make: stand down from further competition jumps or accept the risk of landing off somewhere short of the PLA.

I don't know how many of you have managed to land off on almost all your jumps over a number of days, but I certainly have that box ticked now! On the positive side, I now have a lot more experience in picking a different landing spot and flaring my canopy in all directions. Please note that this was an exceptional circumstance in a relatively controlled environment. Trying to land off, unless it is absolutely necessary, will make your CI a very unhappy person. You have been warned!

By the end of Monday, the scoring table started taking shape and competitors began to realise how they were ranked.

Tuesday saw the most intense part of the competitions where the top players battled for a place on the podium and others tried their very best to (literally) go the extra mile in an attempt to gain a few places up the leader board. Jumps became very technical, also thanks to the rich set of data provided by the scoring systems. "Must dive steeper, must reduce the angle of attack in the window, must keep flying straight and don't go out of the lane" could be heard echoing across the field. It was make or break time.

With the last few jumps on the Wednesday, the competition finally ended. All of the results were up and every competitor queued up in front of the scoreboard like students waiting to discover their school results.



The end

The competition finished ahead of schedule, against all odds. Team GB's podium consisted of John Gillett ranking 35th in the overall World table, Colin Preece managing a solid 42nd and Richard Holder in 43rd. Great effort by all involved!

Thursday was a day off and we used it to enjoy a sunny and hot day at the



- 1 Chris Berte, by Hannah Cooper
- 2 Opening ceremony, by Hannah Cooper
- 3 Team GB, by Hannah Cooper
- 4 Giuseppe Damiano, by Hannah Cooper

'I soon realised that, with my small intermediate wingsuit, I would have no chance of making it back to the PLA from the drop point three miles downwind of it.'

nearby water park. Friday saw a few fun jumps courtesy of the nice weather and the available jump plane. The British delegation (including some non-competing partners) decided to engage in a fun, non-wingsuiting jump as a reminder of what skydiving is really all about – jumping out of a plane with mates and having lots of fun!

The arrival of catering staff later on

that day revealed the organisers' decision to hold the closing ceremony on the DZ grounds. The agenda saw the awards ceremony first, featuring more medals that you can shake a stick at, followed by the closing ceremony with the official passage of the FAI flag from Italy to Russia who will host the next Wingsuit World Championships in 2020.

A buffet with plenty of food and

drinks, more music rocking the dance floor and then the time came for some of us to say goodbye, as we had to catch the early flight back home on the morning after.

Overall, a great event with plenty of experience and great memories made. Now, when is the next one?

Giuseppe Damiano



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1

ROCK UP WITH YOUR HEAD UP

Aiming five planes and a load of skydivers at the Head Up World Record and seeing what happens? Well, that was the plan...

WORDS: DAVE BLOOMFIELD **PHOTOS:** GUSTAVO CABANA AND NORMAN KENT



This was my first appearance at a World Record event. I decided to approach the Head Up World Record event the same way as I did the European Record two years ago; obviously intending to give it my best shot, but also intending to enjoy the experience and to try and squeeze as much out of it as I could.

To be honest, I was stoked to have been invited out to Chicago in the first place. A week or so before the event, all of the participants received a message from the organisers, Sara Curtis and Amy Chmelecki, outlining the grand plan. This included a diagram of the formation with everyone's individual slot, the plane formation and our positions within the

aircraft. This was next-level organisation and sh*t had suddenly got real!

One of my primary concerns was the slot I'd been allocated – stinger on an outside pod. I was happy with that in itself but, studying the diagram, my slot (number 87 of 107) was the rear stinger on the left side of the outer pod and that, to my knowledge, meant a left-hand grip. Left hand is my weaker side but, in theory, you should be equally proficient with both hands if you're really good. Not benefiting my situation, I'd recently injured my left arm (snapped the outer tendon in my left bicep) during a jump on the UK Head Up Record weekend. It probably goes without saying that this was less than ideal, but all would be revealed in Chicago.

The weekend prior to the Head Up World Record was dedicated to warm-up jumps and it was all about the base.

The foundations of a big-way record begin with a strong base and this was a 12-way base – new territory on a Head Up record attempt. Many of the participants hadn't arrived yet, so now was a good time to build the base, fly it and test its strength by building pods on it. I'd been given a first stinger slot (right hand, thankfully), so this was a nice way to get started on slightly lower pressure jumps. I got to the formation, docked on and the pod quickly built behind me. You could soon tell the flying level out here was awesome.

The second warm-up day was weathered out as a thunderstorm rolled through. That wasn't ideal either, but at least it cleared the air and hot 'n' humid became fresh 'n' breezy.

Monday. Crunch time. This was when the record attempts started. I knew what I had to do, but could I do it? And did I have to take a grip with my dodgy left arm? I spoke to organiser Sara Curtis and she told me that I could use either hand,



as long as it was made clear to the judges which hand I was using to take the grip. Not a difficult decision! As long as I docked somewhere between the right shoulder of the second stinger and the left shoulder of the pod closer, it was all good. Easy, right?

And so the attempts started. The machine that is Skydive Chicago rolled into action. Four Twin Otters and one Skyvan went up and I was in the Right-Right Trail Twin Otter. Joining me were 21 other skydivers, including legendary cameraflyer Norman Kent and two of the other visiting Brits, Weed Stoodley and Paul Cooper. The plane ride was to just over 18,000ft with oxygen. I was the last diver, and it was a long dive...

The formation was building, but very slowly. At first, it looked like this could never work because there were so many people off the formation. Not all of the inner pods had built, never mind the outer pods. There were even a few times when the base broke, but the base is for badasses and it rebuilt pretty fast. I was doing my job, flying my slot and taking the dock as soon as the pod built. I could still see a lot of people off on the other side, so things were going to have to build faster and cleaner to get the record.

The process continued and the days moved on. Dirt-dive, jump, pack, debrief. It was getting closer, but there were still a dozen or so not on the formation. People were getting cut for mistakes and anything less than top performance. There was a lot of rotation through the bench group. There were occasions where there were about 100 people linked together but, if everyone isn't in their place, then it's not a record. The previous record was 72 and we were aiming for 107.

On day four of the record attempts, it was starting to shape up nicely. Our pod closed again. I docked on immediately, but it hadn't shaped out fully and my dock created some tension, the left-hand first

stinger let go and so the pod was broken. By this point in the proceedings, the hatchet was swinging wildly and I was cut. The jumps continued. Sometimes it was close, sometimes not so much. People were getting tired. Head Up is hard!

Friday morning came and with it the last day of the attempts – time was running out. For the first time since the thunderstorm, some serious clouds were appearing. Was there going to be no record at all? Drastic action was required by the organisers to increase their chance of getting a record. They decided to go for 84. This meant taking off all the outside stingers and leaving the outer pods unclosed. They also lowered the break-off altitude to buy a precious few more seconds. On the second 84-way attempt, the formation was looking really tight. I was watching from the ground and it looked good.

It was a record! It wasn't the record they wanted, but it was a World Record nonetheless. There was a final attempt to build a 107-way and it was pretty close, but not close enough and the new record stood at 84. It was party time!

As it turned out, I wouldn't have been on the record anyway had I not been cut because my slot was one of those trimmed off for the 84-way. Sadly, this trimming down meant that a lot of amazing flyers who didn't put a foot wrong all week weren't on the record either.

From my perspective, the event itself was an awesome experience. I was disappointed not to have been on the record, but super stoked to have been a part of it all. Big thanks go to the chief organisers, Amy Chmelecki, Sara Curtis and Mikey Carpenter, plus all the other organisers for co-ordinating this amazing event. Thanks also to Skydive Chicago, everyone I jumped with and everyone who made the 2019 Head Up World Record possible.

Dave Bloomfield

1 Dave Bloomfield waiting to be allowed to dock, by Norman Kent

2 Dirtdiving – note the planned level differences with the outer flyers higher than the inner pods and base. By Gustavo Cabana

3 The Brit who keyed it all – Ming Chu by Gustavo Cabana

WEED'S CHICAGO EXPERIENCE

My lasting memories of the Head Up World Record event include:

- The cubby hole of Right Right Trail Otter, usually sitting with the infamous Norman Kent.
- Going to Wal-Mart to purchase my own (very pretty) \$8 plus tax blanket, because my foot warmers, body warming pads and hand warmers didn't really cut it for me at 18K.
- Getting out and wondering where the other planes were.
- The speed changes of the formation and being some 20 feet above in stand.
- How what seemed like it would never work suddenly started to come together. Our pod had quite a few problems and, including the warm-up jump, I did nearly 20 jumps without the chance of a dock. There was the inner fear that, if my chance came with so little time, I'd be that one person off!
- Out of 20 attempts, I managed my grip the four times my sector completed (one was not so pretty!).
- That I managed to take my grip on the biggest Head Up formation built to date (a 102-way that was intended to be a 108-way, so not a record).
- Watching footage of the base – almost poetry in motion – and their emotion when they couldn't take the weight of nearly 100 people hanging on to them!
- Seeing that even the superstars are fallible! There was corking out, going flat, butt-flying... we saw it all (no names mentioned!). But, even better, instead of flyers complaining, the debriefs erupted into cheers and laughter.
- That Brits Ming Chu and Paul Cooper were part of the 84-way World Record



on the downsized attempt, but the mixed emotion of not being part of that.

- Sad that Jimmy Meen (who decided to break himself mountain flying before the record) couldn't make it. "JIMMY JIMMY JIMMY", as Nimmo would say.
- Understanding the need to downsize, but disappointment (and also a little relief!) that the outside stingers and therefore my slot would come off for the 84-way attempt.
- How great all the Brits flew, including Mikey Carpenter in the base and especially Dave on his first world big-way experience, showing what determination and focus can achieve.
- Those wonderful sponsors who paid for three extra jumps, allowing an 84-way record to happen and for me to have another shot. We nearly built the 103-way, but not quite.
- That I was lucky to be part of it. What felt like at least a 100-way of floating inflatable unicorn celebrations in the pond at Skydive Chicago – I may not have been part of the record-breaking line-up, but I held my own in keeping my place with drink in hand.

Having hit my sixties, this year was to be my 'retirement holiday jumping' phase. Then I had a message from Amy and Sara asking me to be a regional captain for Project 19. This is a sponsored attempt for all-female 100-way Head Down record attempts in Chicago 2020 (to commemorate 100 years of getting the right to vote for US women and the right to vote for women around the world). I really do feel that we have ladies in the UK who, with focus, can easily be part of this. Even if I can help get them on the path to being confident to jump with bigger groups and learn some of the basics or just have fun, that would be awesome.

BEST MEMORY OR MOMENT FROM IT ALL?

DB: There were a lot of good ones, but probably a couple of jumps where our pod was one of the first to build and we were all on it and flying it nicely. I was looking across the formation at more than 100 skydivers getting into their slots. That was pretty amazing.

Weed: My best (and worst) memory from Chicago was being on Right Right Trail Otter and the first jump as outside floater. Already knowing I would have some distance to travel, I was dropping off onto



my back and trying to find the other four planes. Either it was an over-cautious pilot or too few RPM, I'm not sure, but it felt like we were not on the same formation load or even lift cycle. As I searched frantically for the lead plane, the enormity of the task of getting to the formation (if I could find it!) let a moment of panic set in (despite my no-stress mantra!). However, gathering my wits to arrive in time for the carnage that is often the first jump was epic.

Coops: The 21 jumpers on an inflatable unicorn at the pond party was pretty good, but getting the record and flying it for so long has to take the number one slot! I was also happy to be given a slot first stinging on the base (a 'world record' first for me) and to have kept that slot for

the entire 21 jumps of the event! I was already a current World, Euro and UK Record holder in both Head Up and Head Down disciplines and wanted to maintain that status. I am pleased to say I achieved this and am now the only skydiver that can claim this status.

Ming: It is so easy to say that the most memorable moment was the moment we realised that we got a record, but I think the most memorable moment(s) was when I realised the generosity of the skydiving community. We were only "supposed" to do 18 attempts/jumps. However, when we had completed the allotted 18 jumps, SSK (one of the sponsors) paid for another go and, after that, an anonymous individual paid for two further attempts!

4 The view from inside the formation, by Melissa Payne

5 World Record 84-way, by Gustavo Cabana

6 Probably a world record unicorn-way, on the lake at Skydive Chicago

'There was corking out, going flat, butt-flying... we saw it all (no names mentioned!)



WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN CHICAGO? WHAT TOP TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR ANYONE WHO IS INSPIRED AND WANTS TO PROGRESS?

Weed: I learned that it is not necessarily about how good you are. I saw many people who were infinitely more qualified than me sitting it out either due to a small mistake or sometimes the luck of the draw on sector/pods/plane timings etc. You just have to arrive ready to do your best. That may or may not be good enough, but that's all you can do. However, you can improve your performance – listen, learn, practice. Big-way skills have to be learned in the sky; tunnel time alone may not cut it.

Coops: Big-way practice is hard to find and doesn't come to you; you need to get out there and find it. This means putting a lot of travel and time into your training. Don't rely on the tunnel – this will only give you a part of the picture. You need to put in the jumps and practise all slots and approaches. Even if you know your starting slot, you don't know what slot you will end up in. Finally, expect to be on the bench for at least some of the event. The past few World Records have seen world-class

full-time skydivers with five-figure jump numbers on the bench. It is a part of the game and the bench is needed to make the record a success. Even if you aren't on the final jump, you were a part of the team that made it possible! I have been in that situation and I will certainly be there again if I carry on with record attempts.

Ming: I started skydiving seven years ago with some friends. Two-and-a-half thousand jumps later, I still feel that there is so much more to learn and to do – time and my bank balance are the only limiting factors. Paul Cooper and Ally Milne run regular weekend events in the UK and I would strongly advise anyone keen on getting into Freely big-way to attend. Both Paul and Ally give great tips and advice on getting better and more comfortable with flying with others. Earlier this year, they were both heavily involved in breaking the UK Record twice! Step one would be to have a chat with them to see what attributes are necessary to start attending events and getting involved. The Freely big-way scene has been very welcoming to newcomers.

DB: Some people tell me they tried freely and they sucked at it, so they gave up. Most people suck at freely when they first try it, especially if they start doing it later in life like myself. If you're learning to freely, don't expect immediate ninja results. It's a long journey, so be patient and enjoy the process. If you want to do vertical big-way, go to the camps. Contact Paul Cooper or Ally Milne and start with smaller groups while you get proficient at safely getting to your slot, docking and breaking off.



SHOWING ASSEMBLY OF ODY-HARNESS WITH ODY-CONTAINER

REF: ODY-HARNESS-0013 FOR
DETAIL OF MAIN RING
JUNCTION STITCH PATTERN,
TO DIAGONAL WEBBING OF
ODY-HARNESS-0025

RING COVERS

RISER COVER
REF ODY-0061

RESERVE PIN
COVER
REF ODY-0012

RESERVE PILOT
CHUTE
REF
ODY-RESERVE-0022

RESERVE
CONTAINER
REF ODY-RESERVE

MAIN CONTAINER
REF ODY-MAIN

REF: ODY-HARNESS

REF: ODY0064
FOR DETAIL OF HIP
JUNCTION STITCH
PATTERN, REF
ODY-HARNESS TO
LATERAL WEBBING OF
THE ODY-HARNESS-34

REF: ODY-HARNESS-34
FOR
LATERAL/DIAGONAL

LEG STRAP DETAIL, REFERENCE ODY-0543



Sun Path

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

WHY COACH?

I have been coaching at Skydive Hibaldstow for a few years now and I'm often asked why I coach. It can be hard work, but it is so rewarding to me. I have had a lot of my own coaches invest a lot of time into my progression and I want to pass that learning on. When a student sees progression in themselves and goes home happy, it gives

me a great sense of achievement.

I started skydiving back in 2013 and immediately fell in love with bellyflying. A BPA FS Roadshow came to the dropzone when I had around 100 jumps and I was instantly inspired by the standard of flying and coaching. From that day, I became friends with Kate Lindsley – who became my coach.

Her passion for the sport, attention to detail and her talent were truly inspiring to me. The more time I spent flying with and learning from Kate, the more I wanted to become a coach like her.

I spent three long months working towards my coach's rating and Stu Ferguson really put me through my paces. I'm pretty

sure I cursed him in mid-air! Since achieving my coach's rating, I have been determined to keep improving. In my work, I coach and develop people and I try to bring those skills to my skydiving too. As I got more into 4-way, I received coaching from the likes of John McIver and Joey Jones. I started to take bits from each coach and



Cath Leather,
by Rob Lloyd





Multi-plane PUPS formation load at Klatovy, by Martin Škrbel. How do we know it's multi-plane? Check out the cross referencing as all the jumpers exit and look across to the lead plane out of the left of the shot!

PROGRESSION ZONE



listened to their coaching styles to help me develop my own.

In 2017, I began to fly with Dennis Praet from *Hayabusa* and he has remained my main coach. Not only does he coach me on my flying, but he has helped me massively by coaching my coaching skills. I spend a lot of time listening to and learning from him while he coaches others. He has helped me learn how to communicate efficiently in the sky, which I feel is one of the most important things a coach can learn to do. I have been truly lucky to be able to fly with, learn from and be inspired by some of the best bellyflyers in the UK and the world.

Beginning at the beginning

I always remind myself how I felt during my early days of skydiving – being petrified of falling to Earth, trying to take on board all the information I was given and then having to save my own life. It can be a lot for students to take in so, when I'm with my students, I always try to have a few things in mind.

Firstly, I make sure I am clear about what they want out of the jump or day. What are their motivations? Is it to get the okay to jump with their friends, is it to learn about 4-way or is it to win a medal at the Nationals? I need to be clear of that so that I can tailor the aims of the lesson/session.

Secondly, I find out if they have any worries or routines that they feel they must do. For example, some FS1 students want to do a practice touch after exit. If this makes them comfortable, then I know it needs to be built into the lesson. If a student takes a long time to get ready for a jump, then I know how to plan.

Then we come to the lesson. It must be clear what the aim is and why, what they need to do to make it successful and also what to do if it doesn't go to plan.

The lesson itself sometimes needs to be adapted depending on the student. Some people need



PUPS warm-ups at Hibaldstow. Cath is bottom left, being 'target practice' for all the divers! By Martin Škrbel

time to think about the jump and to visualise, some need to understand the mechanics of how something works and others need to spend a lot of time on creepers. Everyone has their own learning style and it is important that a coach is able to adapt to their student's style in order to get the most out of the coaching.

I have had a lot of fun coaching FS1 students and I feel so proud of my students, especially when I see them go on to do well in load organised (LO) groups.

4-way and more-way

I have learnt that just because someone can fly 4-way does not mean that they can coach it well – 4-way coaching is another skill in itself. I have been coaching 4-way for a couple of years now and I try to have a few versions of each move saved up in my head. Like I said earlier, some people learn differently so the way you explain something can be the key to the message sinking in. There are so many ways to do the moves and the blocks that I try to pick up

as much as I can from my own coaches. What works for one team may not work for another, so it is important to me to have options to share. I think this is the best way to get the most out of a team.

When I started coaching 4-way, I quickly discovered that it is not just about coaching the skydive. The coach also has to manage the people in the team and 4-way training can be stressful – especially during a competition. That's why I try my best to learn about the people I coach so that I am able to get the best out of the team.

I have also spent a lot of time load organising FS jumps, which can be lots of fun. This summer, I was fortunate enough to be one of the plane captains for the PUPS (Parachutists Under Phorty Society) along with Ciaran McCartney and Ian Pedowitz. It is not often that I get to organise three-plane formations and what a week it was!

The vision for PUPS came from Ronny Holen (Norway) and Brian Cumming (UK). Their aim was to bring a new generation of skydivers into big-way flying and ultimately

be a feeder group into POPS. That's why 120 skydivers from 20 nations descended onto Klatovy in the Czech Republic in August and, after a weekend of warm-up jumps, we started the record attempts. We initially planned a 39-way, because of course we wanted to keep the theme of less than 40. On the second attempt, we did it and held a 39-way for nine seconds!

Next, we went for a sequential. We used the FAI large formation sequential rules of having at least 35% of persons in the first formation release their grips and have all the grips on them released. None of the released grips included in this 35% may be retaken in the next formation. We set a two-point 45-way formation sequential record with 73% of the jumpers changing grips – what an achievement! Back to increasing our size, we then set the largest formation of skydivers aged less than 40 with a 48-way formation.

To finish off the event, we went for a full-break large formation sequential. For this type of sequential, 100% of the persons

in the first formation must release all of their grips and all grips on them must also be released. We set a 23-way two-point formation sequential with a 100% break and we did this twice! This meant that 46 PUPS got the record and there were lots of happy puppies!

It is worth mentioning that, on the first jump the following morning, we were only a few slots away from upping the PUPS largest formation to 60. All the records we set are unofficial records because PUPS is not an official FAI category, but all the FAI rules were followed when the records were set. The week also saw us host a Hawaiian pool and pizza party, balloon jumps and an Inhopp.

We had some fantastic sponsors who made the event possible, including Sun Path, Cypres, Symbi Suits, XDream, PD and MadridFly – massive thanks! Are you a skydiver aged less than 40? Well, PUPS 2020 planning is already in progress and is set to be even bigger and better!

Cath Leather

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
Alex Leslie, Headcorn

Josh Clark, Weston
Andrew Heighton, Wild Geese

BASIC TRACKING COACH
Arran Tilley, Weston
Chris Duffy, Weston
Chad Smith, Headcorn
Darren Graham, Cyprus
Orion Modebe, Weston

FS COACH
Ellie Marshall, Langar
Ioannis Papadopoulos, Cyprus
Sian Evans

Michael Ellis
James Kinniburgh
Ricky Davies
Danniella Hurt
Chris Duffy, Weston
James Hodgson, Weston
Oliver Loak, Weston
Josh Clark, Weston
James Colley, Sibson
Peter Leach, Sibson
Dean Smith, Sibson
Darren Graham, Cyprus
Karl Thackeray, Beccles
Carl Hobbs, Headcorn

Fabrizio Colonna, Sibson
George Baines
Paul Templeman, Sibson
Benjamin Simpson, Skydive Buzz
Russell Horne, Sibson

FF COACH
Simon Houston, Wild Geese

TRACKING COACH
Ady King, Weston

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Matt G, deep in the Southwest.
Photo by Keith Forsyth



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USE YOUR HEAD

At the July meeting of the BPA's Safety and Training Committee (STC), the Chair reported that it had been a busy two-month period with a lot of incident reports. The summaries of these bi-monthly reports to STC can be found on the BPA website under the Members section and are periodically summarised in this Mag. Why not get in the habit of reading them so that you can learn from the mistakes of others? The previous two-month period included:

Eighteen student injuries

One student strained his neck during PLF training. Another experienced neck and ear pain in the aircraft climbing to altitude and landed with the plane. One static line student sprained his neck exiting the aircraft; his head was blown back by the slipstream. Another static line student caught his leg in the rigging lines on deployment, bruising his knee. A freefall student deployed while turning and caught his arm on the risers, causing pain in his arm and shoulder. One student on a 15-second delay possibly had an uneven deployment, resulting in a hard opening, and fractured his C2 vertebra.

Two of the injuries involved students hitting buildings. The first was a first-time static line student who got disorientated and landed on the roof of a house, where she remained until the fire brigade got her down. It was thought at first that she had injured her wrists, but she was released from hospital without injury. The second was a 51-year-old AFF student with 15 jumps on a consolidation jump who did not react to radio instructions towards the lower portion of his jump. He went too far downwind and landed off the airfield, hitting the side of a house. His canopy caught on a TV antenna, suspending him above the ground. He was eventually released by the emergency services and taken to hospital. He was severely injured, with multiple broken bones. All the other injuries occurred on landing.

Seven injuries to A Licence parachutists or above

Five males and two females, all landing injuries. The most serious injury involved an experienced jumper with 1,175 jumps who was injured following a low turn. He was jumping a JFX-89 with a wing loading of 2.25. He had been filming a Tandem pair from 10,000ft and the freefall and most of the canopy descent went without incident. Prior to landing he initiated a 360° right front riser turn. However, he was too low to complete it successfully and let up on the riser before completing the turn. It appeared that he then stabbed down on both brakes to try to plane the canopy out. However, his descent rate was still too fast. Just prior to hitting the ground, his canopy was seen to turn left. This may have happened because he may have raised both hands, one faster than the other, causing the turn. He then impacted the ground at high speed. At the time of the STC meeting, he was still recovering in hospital and could not recall having ever skydived.

Another jumper with almost 1,000 jumps, jumping a Crossfire 113, made an uneventful

*Use your head and avoid an incident.
By Joe Mann*



skydive and deployed his main with no issues. However, he then lost awareness of his altitude and where his location was regarding the PLA. He focused on trying to release a detachable slider, but was unable to do so due to the slider being almost out of reach. He then released his brakes, which caused the slider to come down and resulted in him being able to release the slider. Next, he released both steering toggles to stow the slider away, which resulted in the left-hand steering toggle becoming entangled with itself without the jumper noticing. Upon flaring for landing, he could only flare with his right hand because the left toggle was stuck, causing the canopy to dive to the right. On landing, he broke his femur and both wrists. Video footage of this incident was shown to the meeting.

Another jumper with 2,430 jumps had a malfunction of his main, cut away and caught his leg in the lines of the reserve canopy. He remained like that until impact, causing concussion and severe bruising, although luckily no broken bones.

Eleven student malfunctions or deployment problems

Eight males and three females. One student caught her main handle on the door of the aircraft. The container opened. The door was closed, and the jumper landed with her instructor in the aircraft. One student who was carrying out a DRCP jump got his arm and leg caught in the riser and lines. He managed to release his arm, but still had a foot caught. He went through his reserve drills and landed safely. The other nine were either malfunctions or students who thought they had a malfunction.

A report was received of a near-miss incident involving a coach who went past a deployed canopy by a couple of feet. The coach was coaching on a TR2 jump. The student tracker did not maintain a solid heading. The coach followed the student in an effort to correct the direction. Just as the coach was about to deploy his main, he saw a fully deployed main canopy. He pitched his pilot chute and made an aggressive back-slide manoeuvre. However, both canopies nearly touched. The CI of the

PTO concerned provided further details and he stressed the importance of coaches having a 'stop, get out of the way' signal. Video footage of this incident was also shown to the meeting.

Thirty-nine malfunctions or deployment problems for A Licence parachutists or above

Thirty-one males and eight females. These included five wingsuit jumps. Three of the 37 jumpers had less than 100 jumps, 11 had between 100 and 500 jumps, seven had between 500 and 1,000 jumps and 17 had more than 1,000 jumps. There was one jumper with more than 5,000 jumps.

One AAD firing

A jumper with 383 jumps deployed his main canopy at 2,900ft, had a slow opening and his Vigil fired at 2,300ft. He had two canopies out and landed safely. It is understood that the AAD had been set in the Tandem mode. It was a rented AAD and this jump was its first after a repack. Both the jumper and especially the packer have been reminded to ensure that the AAD is set for the type of equipment to be used.

Twenty-one off landings

These included six students and three tandem pairs, with the remainder being experienced jumpers. An AFF Level 1 Student landed two miles away from the PLA in a tree in a quarry. She said that she didn't like the look of the PLA and wanted to find somewhere better! One wingsuit jumper exited the aircraft 1.5 miles from the centre of the DZ and continued to fly in the direction of flight beyond the DZ boundary. He landed about five miles from the PTO. Jumpers must be reminded that they must not stray outside the DZ three-mile diameter and of the possible dangers.

Fourteen reports of items coming off jumpers

These incidents all happened either on exit, in freefall or on deployment. Eight cameras, two helmets, a tandem student's leather helmet, two shoes and a pair of sunglasses.

GEAR ZONE

Wingsuit Legstrap Bungee 2 – Overdose Industries

If you fly wingsuits but also love a bit of freefly, you'll be well aware of the pain of taking off or reattaching your legstrap bungee to accommodate your wingsuit.

Overdose Industries came up with a great solution to this problem with their original Wingsuit Legstrap Bungee,

which used a two-part bungee that easily connected and disconnected to make attaching your wingsuit easy. It was a great product, but they've decided it could be better.

Enter the Wingsuit Legstrap Bungee 2, the latest version of their legstrap retention system. This new version uses an aluminium clasp that's been lab-tested to 70kg, which is stronger, lighter and easier to use.

Instead of a twist connector, the Wingsuit Legstrap Bungee 2 uses a small hook to hold your legstraps securely in place. In the countless

test jumps, it was found this was easier to use, more comfortable to sit on and lasted longer.

In the bag, you'll get the Wingsuit Legstrap Bungee 2, a fitting kit and a link to the instructions. It's super simple to fit and, once it's on your rig, you can easily remove it in a totally non-destructive way should you need to.

If you wingsuit, this is one of those no-brainer things you really need to buy. Want to get involved? Head over to their site at overdoseindustries.com where you can pick one up for just £15.



NZA Kraken

Readers of Gear Zone will remember that, some time back, NZA Aerosports announced that they were working on something special for wingsuiters. Well, fast forward to right about now and they're finally ready to let you hook one up.

Named the Kraken, NZA claim it's a canopy full of cool features and ideas that makes it very different from any other wingsuit canopy. In response to why it's taken them so damn long, the Kiwis have said they normally work more on performance, so developing something designed to open in the wake of a wingsuit deployment took them a bit longer.

Typically, canopies with a lower aspect ratio and ellipticity (think big fat seven-cells) have better heading and stability in flight.

They also tend to be the least exciting canopies to fly. With the Kraken, NZA thinks they've managed to develop something that takes the best of both worlds and puts everything together to build a new kind of wing.

It's been designed with the latest CAD software and tested with computational fluid dynamics. There's a new rib shape and a new crossport design, which reduces distortion, and a powerband on the leading edge taken from the Petra.

Then, there are the holes. Yup – holes. They've put a vent on the lower surface to help promote faster inflation and give you more on-heading openings which then seals after full inflation. You'll also find a channel in the slider for the air to go through, which helps reduce the oscillation during opening.

The lines are shorter for improved flight stability and, instead of using F-111, they've tracked down a low-bulk ZP, treated it with silicon and put it together with regular ZP for the powerband. Not enough innovation? How about mini-ribs in the tail, inwardly rotated end cells, new line trims and a new stabiliser shape too?

All of this together should make for a canopy that gives you great openings with a wingsuit, is fun to fly and has a powerful flare at the bottom end.

Want one? You can order right now through the usual dealers in any custom size from 119 up to 189 and in the colours of your choice. Prices start at \$2,250.

nzaerosports.com

UPT Gear Store

Along with their new website, UPT have launched a new online gear store. Not only can you get a range of spare parts for your rig, you can also now get a great selection of cool-looking apparel.

A range of stylish things is available in the store, including T-shirts, hats, yoga mats and even a dog collar. No, seriously. Sure, there's your usual choice of straight branded gear, but there's also some cool designs. In particular, there are a number featuring the legendary – and, surely, iconic – beard of one Bill Booth in graphical form.

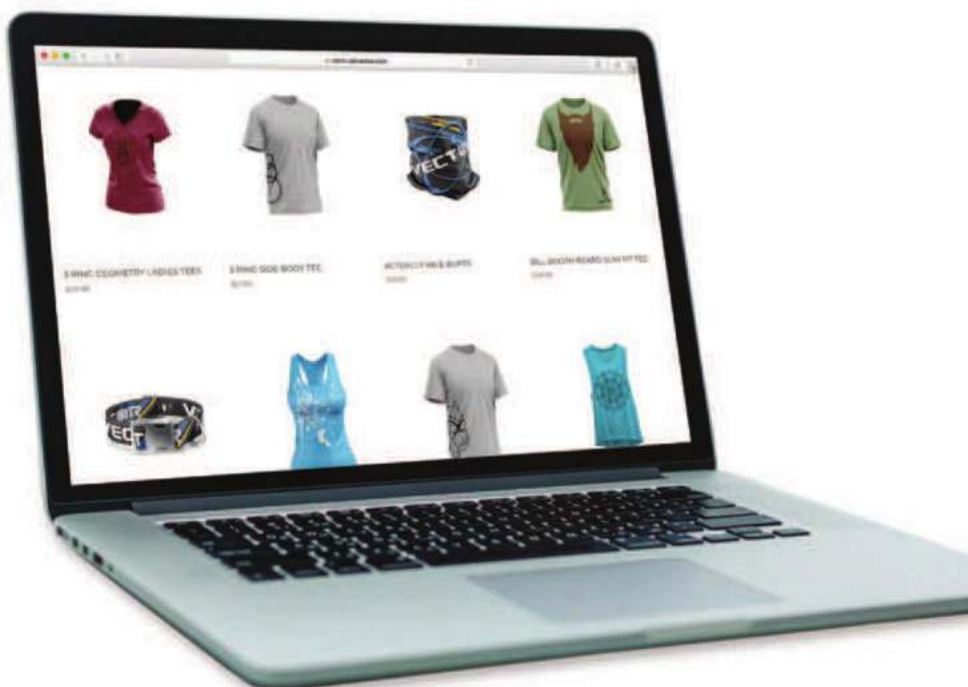
Prices start from \$5 and you can check it out at their website.

uptvector.com



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

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bkpc.co.uk
Blackhawk Caravan
- PAGE 62** **2 Bridlington**
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Mob: 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
GA8 Airvan
- PAGE 62** **3 Cark**
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T: 01229 889516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL
- PAGE 64** **4 Chatteris**
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T: 0871 664 0113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad
- 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 64** **6 Dunkeswell**
Skydive.buzz Ltd
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T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
office@skydive.buzz
skydive.buzz
Two Beech 99s
- PAGE 67** **7 Haverfordwest**
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jump@theskydivecentre.com
theskydivecentre.com
Airvan
- PAGE 67** **8 Headcorn**
Skydive Headcorn
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T: 01622 891670
jump@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan
- PAGE 67** **9 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
- 10 Hinton**
Hinton Skydiving Centre
Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 5NS
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skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

- PAGE 68** **11 Jersey**
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Cessna 206, guest turbines
- PAGE 68** **12 Langar**
British Parachute Schools
Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY
T: 01949 860878
info@skydivelangar.co.uk
skydivelangar.co.uk
Cessna Grand Caravan, Blackhawk Cessna Caravan, guest aircraft
- PAGE 68** **13 Netheravon**
Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
T: 01980 628250
coursesmanager@netheravon.com
netheravon.com
Two BlackHawk Caravans, guest aircraft
- 14 Paragon**
Paragon Skydiving
Erral Airfield, Grange, Erral, Perthshire PH2 7TB
T: 01821 642454
billy.golan@btinternet.com
paragonskydiving.co.uk
Cessna 182
- PAGE 71** **15 Peterlee**
Peterlee Parachute Club
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH
T: 01915 171234
info@SkydiveAcademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182, Supervan 900 Cessna Caravan
- PAGE 72** **16 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
- 17 Salisbury**
Go Skydive Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield, Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6BZ
T: 01722 567536
info@goskydive.com
goskydive.com
Supervan 900 Cessna Caravan

- 18 St Andrews**
Skydive St Andrews
Osprey Road, Fife Airport, Glenrothes KY6 2SL
T: 01592 882400
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206
- 19 Strathallan**
Skydive Strathallan
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA
DZ: 01764 662572
T: 07836 201953
kkbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestathallan.co.uk
Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine
- PAGE 75** **20 Swansea**
Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea SA2 7JU
T: 07779 019655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
skydiveswansea.co.uk
Cessna Caravan
- PAGE 75** **21 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** **22 Tilstock**
Skydive Tilstock Freefall Club
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA
T: 01948 841111
skydive@skydivetilstock.co.uk
skydivetilstock.co.uk
Airvan
- PAGE 61** **23 Beccles Skydivers**
UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
T: 01502 476131
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
ukparachuting.co.uk
Blackhawk Cessna Caravan
- PAGE 72** **24 Sibson Skydivers**
UK Parachuting
Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
T: 01832 280490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Two Cessna Caravans

- 25 Weston**
RAF Weston on the Green, Bicester, Oxford OX25 3TQ
Currently military only
- 26 Wild Geese**
Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvagh, Coleraine, Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
T: 028 2955 8609
jump@wildgeesekydiver.com
wildgeesekydiver.com
Cessna 206

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs (PTOs)

- Cyprus**
Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus
T: +357 2474 4114
info@skydivecyprus.org
skydivecyprus.org
Cessna Grand Caravan
- Parachuting Societies**
- PAGE 61** **BCPA**
British Collegiate Parachute Association
mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
A community for university skydivers
- PAGE 71** **POPS and S0S**
Parachutists Over Phorty and Skydivers Over Sixty
Polly Chandler, Top POP
parachutistsoverphortyUK@gmail.com
pops.org.uk





1 Michael Stocks,
by Nigel O'Brien

2 Single A British National
Champions Volt4ge – Sgt
Sei Hughes, Cpl Gemma
Perkins, Cpl Stacey Briggs
and LCpl Will Ross. Photo
by Soupy Campbell

3 Jim Bradwell load
organising at Langar,
by Martin Škrbel

4 Mike Hughes over the
Algarve, by Anton Brown

5 Wingsuit Rodeo for Jan's
800th, by Max Fuller







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HALLOWEEN AND
BONFIRE NIGHT**



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CHRISTMAS PARTY**



 /skydivelangar

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

NEWS

BCPA

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Although the summer months are the peak of the season, they tend to be the quietest ones for the BCPA. University students are left to their own devices, while the new committee learns what happens behind the scenes and attempts to make it work for another year. We have been busy organising the next few events, the first of which is going to take place at Skydive Hibaldstow on the weekend of November 23-24. We hope to see many of our members there! As always, there will be FS, FF and TR coaching and organising, as well as planned weather hold activities in case the weather gods are not working in our favour. Head to our website to register and see more information about the event!

Summer also saw some of our members taking advantage of our FS Monthly Draw competitions, and congratulations to James Goodley, Hemant Hari, Catherine Diffey and Matt Woodford for winning the August 4-way competition. The July competition was won by Alice Gomm, Logan Read, Jacob Verlander and Chris Chittock, who also took part in the BPA FS Nationals in August. It's always great to see BCPA members taking part in national (and international) competitions!

Karolina Zatorska

BECCLES

STORMING AREA 51

Another month, another article bringing you the latest news, achievements and highlights at Beccles. I hope every reader is also as shocked as me that the year is nearly over, but you know what they say – time flies when you're having fun! No pun intended!

First things first, the home-grown Beccles 4-way team *Area 51* flew the nest to show everyone at the Nationals, hosted by Hibaldstow, exactly what we're about! Huge congratulations on coming in sixth in the single A category, doubling their average from last year.

“Andy Parker broke a record doing a total of one fun jump this year”

BECCLES
Jordan Bate at PD Bullseye



It won't be long until you're bringing home the gold! *Area 51* consists of Mark Walker, Mark King, Ian Whayman and Jordan Bate.

Also representing us, *Volare* consisted of Lucy Abbey, Lee Jenkins, James Leather and Ashley Bunn and they competed in the Rookie category, achieving fifth place. *Ottimo lavoro ragazzi* – you're slowly putting Beccles on the map!

Moving up the ladder to some amazing individuals bringing home gold, Andrew Garner is now the National Accuracy Novice Champion of the UK and Lee Cogman achieved silver in the Intermediate category along with Richard Bissett who also won gold for the UK Parachuting Beccles Club. That was an awesome job representing your dropzone, bringing back five golds and two silver (at least).

Talking of landing on 50 pence pieces, Jordan Bate participated at the PD Bullseye event at Netheravon, coming in second and being invited to the finals in Deland! Get the beers in!

While everybody is away participating in competitions and events, we have been extremely busy back home breaking back-to-back records and our astonishing AFF school has been hitting A Licences like there's no tomorrow. Two names I would like to pull out of the hat (which is filled to the brim with brilliant new flyers) are Ed and Paula Mellor, mother and son, who both smashed through their levels with flying colours and both achieved their A Licences ON THE SAME LOAD! This is a family affair I'd like to be a part of!

And now, some honourable mentions. Lisa Lungley landed in the right place. Andy Parker broke a record doing a total of one fun jump this year. James Page did his first fun jump in two years, one month and 22 days at the time of writing this article and didn't cut away! Barry – yes! Barry Woollard – did his first (live) camera jump. Oh yeah, and Danny French has a Velo 84 (not important, just thought I'd let you know).

Over and out – Charlie Alpha Lima

Callum Kennedy

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 George Adams, Darryl Ahmed, Alan Ashby, Adam Barkham, Ahmet Cestepe, Paul Dixon, Lewis Eccleshall, Archie Glazebrook, Alex Green, Graeme Kerr, Simon Kumar, Ed Mellor, Paula Mellor, Chris Morrison, Max Olive, Matt Rees, Tristan Spencer, Joshua Wisbey FS1 Martin O'Neill FF1 Rhian 'Beans' Hogg TR1 Lee Jenkins **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Lee Jenkins, Barry Woollard 1,000 Rhian 'Beans' Hogg, Sam Warburton

BLACK KNIGHTS

GREAT MINDS JUMP ALIKE

The weather gods have definitely not been on our side over the summer, but we battled hard and have managed to achieve a few good things during this time.

Well done to all of those who attended Mark Lord's FS event. It was a great day and, for once, the sunshine was with us.

Huge congratulations to Pud Waterhouse, who worked hard at arranging a charity event in memory of his daughter Sian for the charity MIND. The weather almost stopped play but, with a bit of patience, we got there in the end. Thanks to all that took part.

Congratulations to Levi on completing his AFF qualification. He has already taken to the skies working with the students and we look forward to having him on the AFF team.

Congratulations to Mike Woodhead, Hatham Rahman and Mike Bradshaw on achieving their A Licences. We have a few others that are nearly there, but the current weather conditions have slowed down their progress. Keep going, though – we will get there eventually.

Well done to all of the static line students who have also completed their one-day course and have jumped. We look forward to seeing you for the next jump.

We have a few events left for the season, so please keep an eye on the Facebook page for further details.

The Christmas party this year will be held on site and more information will be provided nearer the time. If you wish to book

a room, please call the office ASAP – they are going fast.

Steve Broadbent has completed his WS2, so congratulations on this achievement. Matt Crolla also achieved his FS1. Keep up the good work guys.

Let's hope for better weather in the Autumn.

Felix

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Mike Bradshaw, Hatham Rahman, Mike Woodhead CH2/JM1 Rob Whiteoak
 FS1 Matt Crolla WS2 Steve Broadbent **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Rob Whiteoak
 600 Brad Needham 700 Geoff Akien 3,000 Elliot Mitchell

BRIDLINGTON

A SUMMER OF SUCCESS

The last few months have been somewhat above average and Skydive GB has been a hive of activity. Over the past two months, we have completed a phenomenal amount of tandem skydives in comparison to previous years.

We have seen a lot of progression among the fun jumpers and have trialled opening for the 'Jump Yorkshire' week at the end of August. This proved to be a success and we will be doing this again in the future – hopefully on a bigger scale. The lovely folk at Hibaldstow very kindly lent us their Caravan and pilot for one of the days, and with it came a lot of fun jumpers who did exactly that – had fun. It was fantastic to see a 14-way, tracking jumps, speed stars and a two-aircraft operation. Despite the increased volume of canopies flying over the airfield, it proved to be a safe and happy day.

Bill Rule set up his almighty Accuracy pad, which is apparently the biggest in Europe at seven metres. It was awesome to see both Bill and Brian Shaw doing Accuracy and this has fuelled the fire in a few people to give it a go. Bill is keeping the Accuracy equipment at Skydive GB and is keen to encourage others to learn so, if you fancy a go, please get in touch.

George McGuinness and Dave McMinn came over to teach some of our regulars the art of Canopy Formation, which they totally enjoyed. This is another discipline that we intend to do more of at Skydive GB if we can gain enough interest to bring a coach in.

Jamie Heselden and Michael Butterfield have completed their Category System courses and are now qualified skydivers. This deserves a mention because they are two of the funniest people we have ever taught. Well done guys – every jump has been a giggle.

Louise Aveyard and David Ruston have both recently passed their



CARK
 Pete Spedding turns 63, by Duncan

BRIDLINGTON
 Paul Gibbs, by Jon at Braking Point Images



Sara Orton

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Michael Butterfield, Jamie Heselden
 CF1/CF2 Sara Orton, Ralph Weatherburn

CSBI on a course at Headcorn and must be congratulated. Both worked really hard on the learning process and their motivation and drive paid off. The next six months will be a steep learning curve prior to completing the CSI course.

We are very sad to say goodbye to Colin Stevenson, who has returned to Ireland for the rest of the year. Colin is a highly valued member of our staff team and his cheery face and Irish banter will be missed by everyone. Hopefully he will be back with us in 2020.

CARK

A BIRTHDAY, A RETIREMENT AND A CARK WEEK TO REMEMBER

After some 30-plus years, Brian Shaw is hanging up his student tandem harness and retiring as a TI after more than 5,500 tandems. Brian has been a stalwart in the tandem fraternity and a hardworking member of our crew here at Skydive North West. His service to the sport has been impeccable and his trusted relationship with our students outstanding. Brian, all at SNW thank you for your very hard work, effort and consistency over the years and we trust you will enjoy your retirement.

Cark Week was blessed with some kind weather, which enriched the week's participants. Taf and Speds organised and coached our regulars along with Kate Lindsley at weekends. Speds hit 63 over Cark Week and a team of SNW divers, led by Taf, formed the numerals 6 and 3 to wish him many happy returns. Part of the Carlisle Lads, Speds has been jumping at Cark for as long as we can remember along with Lenny, son Stevey D, Lex Nixon John Rooke and the now-retired John Gilmour. Thanks for your continued support, boys, and many happy returns to Speds.

Taf, Ian, Kieron and Clair have been busy with our AFF programme, with Sharron and Andrea achieving their AFF qualifications. Both have since completed all their consolidation jumps and both are now qualified A licence jumpers. Well done, ladies.

Al and Pixie stayed for all of Cark Week to demo their Vector rigs and Cookie helmets. It all got giddy on Thursday when the very first new G4s arrived, causing plenty of interest among our club members. Alpha Yankee drew on our fuel reserves, with Mike and Duncan swapping at the helm throughout the week's jumping to ensure that we maximised our weather windows. Steve, Ed, Nicky and Peter kept the tandems running throughout the week, although the last weekend's forecast caused us to make a number of cancellations. Thanks to all for the hard work.

Jumping late into the evening, most of us would frequent our soup

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kitchen for a late meal. To all those that help feed, purchase, supply and do the washing up, thanks for your assistance and long may this draw us all together in an evening. Dave, don't get any ideas for winter – we may need to apply for building regs permissions! Thanks to all for your support over Cark Week.

Please keep sending me your pictures, otherwise it's the Duncan picture show, and remember to write up your achievements on the blue clipboard in the rec room.

Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Andrea Bellamy, Sharron Ho
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Ben Fisher
 200 Ed Corcoran, Helen Shaw 800 Laura Jones

CHATTERIS

THE TASTE OF SUCCESS

We had a packed bank holiday weekend in August with plenty of jumps and fantastic weather! We were rudely awoken by an AFF student at 06:30, who now has enemies. We enjoyed a lovely barbecue which Graham chopped 5kg of onions for, with some help. We also had a movie night, a swarm of mosquitoes feasting on us and lots of loads which were greatly appreciated after two weeks of bad weather. Sian's suit broke, which meant she missed a load, but luckily Andrew was there to save the day with a suit loan. Alex Kean couldn't join us, but he jumped the Eiger. Beer fines are being highly regulated by Graham so, if you achieve anything at Chatteris, come prepared!

Alison Peock had this to say about Nationals: "Our FS team *Funtastic 5* attended the Nationals and lived up to our name by having lots and lots of fun. Although we came fifth, we had a few other things to celebrate on the sunny bank holiday weekend. Our OC Blanaid got married on the previous Wednesday and dragged herself away from Justin to spend her honeymoon weekend with us. Our Point Jill Owens celebrated her 600th jump on our best round and Dave and Tony celebrated being the last ones standing in the bar two nights in a row (they'd been training for months!). We were also delighted to share not one but two flavours of flapjack made by Tanya Burton, to fill the cake void left by a travelling Jill. The flapjacks went down very well with judges, competitors and packers alike, so thanks to Tanya for keeping our energy levels up. It's not about the medals – it's all about the cake and having fun with good friends!"

During the Nationals weekend at Hibaldstow, James Moran's team *2 Ways for Days* won gold in 2-way VFS and he then went on to complete a UK Head Down Sequential Record.

Unfortunately, Graham hurt his ribs recently in an in-air collision and hasn't been able to jump. On the positive side, I've been able to coach more FS without him stealing my students. Marian completed his 1,000th jump and we celebrated by throwing squirty cream in his face.

We had a successful FF Load Organising weekend, which everyone who took part benefited from and enjoyed. Jan's 800th jump fell on that weekend, so check out the video on his Facebook page. The landing was especially good!

Our regular jumpers are on £12 jump tickets now, which will last until the end of the year. There's still a few months left to get your cheap tickets too.

Sophie Barnwell

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 300 Bejay Cutmore 400
 Max Fuller, Anna Kulak 500 Avi Gidar 800
 Jan Zackl 1,000 Marian Tohanean

DUNKESWELL

OMG! WHERE DO I START?

How can so many great and exciting things happen on a dropzone since the last *Skydive the Mag* landed on the doorstep? It has to be

“Marian completed his 1,000th jump and we celebrated by throwing squirty cream in his face”

said that Dunkeswell – regardless of the British weather making it challenging – has managed to deliver.

Smiles and laughter make a dropzone and there were plenty from the club members. Many will have acquired new stories to tell. The British Artistics Nationals took place, and our congratulations go to all the competitors and medal winners. Freefly A gold went to *Parallel Freefly*, Freefly B gold went to *RAFSPA Venom*, Freestyle A gold went to *Nova* and Freestyle B gold went to *AGC Freestyle*.

The British Accuracy Nationals returned to Dunkeswell for the first time since 1976. In tricky conditions, it was all about consistency. Congratulations to Steve Hastings for winning gold and to Clive Bennett for winning gold in the Intermediate. Our thanks go to all the Accuracy competitors for showing our club members just how accurate you can be on a parachute. Anyone interested in improving their Accuracy or who wants to know how to go about competing in this discipline, just ask our regular Accuracy guys on the dropzone.

As we're the only UK centre with a swoop pond, it would be remiss of us not to hold a CP competition in 2019. It's always an impressive event to watch and I swear the CI's eyes tend to go large just before the canopies come out of their dive. A great performance from Lee Crudgington clinched gold.

If you feel the need for speed, the people at the Open British Speed Skydiving Nationals are the ones to hang out with. Congratulation to Jimmy McCarthy on becoming the British National Speed Champion with 479.90km/h and to Shane Turner for winning gold in the open event with 484.25km/h.

It was a very busy period of jumping with tandem students, with each one now having a better understanding of why we love our sport. You should always remember that a percentage of these tandem students will become skydivers and join our family. Congratulations to all the other students who qualified for their A Licences and to those that continue to achieve more things in their progression in the sport. A big thank you to all instructors and coaches for their enthusiasm in helping others to achieve their aims and for not forgetting they were once student themselves.

Dunkeswell had the honour of hosting the fourth FAI World Cup and third FAI European Speed Championship. It's always an interesting thing to observe individuals preparing themselves mentally and physically as they go about their task. The noise they make when decelerating is something else – like jets passing through.

Our congratulations go to those whose efforts brought rewards. World Cup and European Speed Male gold went to Luc Maisin, while World Cup and European Speed Female gold went to Lucy Lippold. Fantastic achievements by Max Hurd saw a new World Speed Record of 500.17km/h set, while Jessica Johnston set the Female Australian Record of 400.26km/h and by Kiera Chapman on setting the Female British Record of 320.38km/h. The efforts and drive by Mikey Lovemore in the organisation and success of the Speed competition should be recognised, so congratulations to Mikey for a successful competition. Mikey would also like to pass on his thanks to all the staff at the centre whose hard work made the event a success.

Congratulations to *Omni99* on retaining their VFS British National title and setting a new British Record of scoring 20 points in a round. Congratulations also go to our own Dan Guest on winning his tenth British National title.

Dunkeswell would like to pass on our thanks as well as those of the competitors to all the judges who came down to judge the competitions run at Dunkeswell and helped to make it a success. Without you guys, there is no competition.

With so much fun going on and with so many memories and smiles, we generated even more smiles when we ran our helicopter skydive day again. So what will the next two months bring? Watch this space – it's going to be busy. Even better, check out our Facebook page and join us in the fun.

Andy Guest

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Harry Caim, Umar Khan, Viktoria Kovacs
 CH2/JM1 Isabel Espinosa, Dom Hirst, Natalie Livesy
 FS1 Matt Falloon, Hemant Hari, Mateusz Korbanec CF1 Catherine Pearl
 CF1/CF2 Ed Moss CF2 Logan Read FF1 Scott Bevan, Jessica Walsh
 TR1 Jon Hancox, Andrew Macdonald JUMP NUMBERS 50 Isabel Espinosa, Dom Hirst, Natalie Livesy 200 Emma Blackmore 400 Ricardo Harrison
 700 Malcolm Cowton 800 Jon Wilson 1,000 Elliot Fry, Joseph Powell
 2,000 Joby Chad



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HAVERFORDWEST

BACK IN THE AIR

The British weather has not been kind to us recently. However, when the weather broke, we took to the skies over Haverfordwest and enjoyed the Pembrokeshire coastline views even better when in freefall. Our thanks to Ally Milne and to Luke Cole, who joined us to ensure that our tandem students had a skydive to remember. It's always nice having visiting jumpers drop in to see us. Here's hoping the weather gives all of us a better run.

Andy Guest

HEADCORN

'LEFTOVER' BEER? NEVER HEARD OF THAT BEFORE...

Summer continues to be busy here at Skydive Headcorn and we hosted a variety of events. Brian Cumming returned for Scrambles and his big-way event, and the weather granted enough respite for six jumps on the Saturday. That left plenty of time for exit briefs, jumpsuit discussions and debriefs on why pushing people off the plane may not be the best exit strategy. A Freefly event was organised too and that was run by our locals Mike Morton, Diggers and Luke Clayden. It was enjoyed by all who attended, and especially by Sopey who enjoyed the leftover beer.

Club members have also undertaken various forays to various Nationals with varying degrees of success. Six broken ribs and a bruised liver may not count as success, however, so mend soon, Chris!

Mary got a bronze in the Dutch 2-way CF Nationals, Pete and Janos achieved silver and bronze at the Accuracy Nationals and Bejay and Ross went up to the 4-way Nationals with a winning team name of *Ice Bank Mice Elf 2*.

Achievements have also been made closer to home with Hayley (finally) obtaining her C Licence after four years, nine months and 27 days. Her FS Coach rating followed shortly afterwards. August 29 was

“ Club members have also undertaken various forays to various Nationals with varying degrees of success ”

HEADCORN
Brian Cumming
big-way organising,
by Paul Rimmington

a day for comebacks, with several club members reappearing after absences, and Bim (one year), Kristina (one year) and Craig Colgan (eight years) all came jumping and enjoyed the late summer sun!

Hayley Jones

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Bart Judge, Alex Mills, Paddy Reynolds CH2/JM1 James Ferguson, Ben Smith FS1 Lucy Smith TR1 Tom Garvin **JUMP NUMBERS 50** James Ferguson, Kasia Grela, Ben Smith **200** Hayley Jones **1,100** Tony Lloyd

HIBALDSTOW

THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER... IT IS NOW!

As I write this club news, we have literally just finished the presentation for the 8-way FS Nationals.

Starting last weekend with the 4-way FS competition attended by 40 teams and the VFS Nationals with six teams, we were lucky enough to have a visit by Mr Sunshine and completed by the Sunday afternoon after having done 130 lifts over two days. Well done to everyone that competed and all the winners, and especially our very own sponsored *NFTO*, who not only won the AAA category for the second year in a row but also the prestigious Queen's Cup from the Royal Aero Club too.

After the presentations, the party started and continued well into the night. On the Monday, despite a long night of celebration and thinking we would be relatively quiet, we had a great day of jumping and even managed a 24-way formation load organised by Mr Jack Davies. On top of this, Paul Cooper took a group of Freeflyers – some fresh from the VFS competition – and broke the HD UK Vertical 'Clean Break' Sequential Record with a 12-way and held the second point for 13 seconds. Well done guys.

The following weekend saw the start of the 8-way FS competition and five teams attended – four in Senior and one in Intermediate. Mr Sunshine decided not to be so sociable and brought along Mr Wind, meaning the event didn't complete until first thing Monday morning. Again, well done to everyone that took part and congratulations to the medal winners.

So, going into the last quarter of the year, we still have plenty to look forward to and, after these words are printed, we have Lesley, Milko



and Siân here with their Euro Big-way camp. We're hoping to achieve three-plane formations. Then, the following weekend, we will have the wingsuiters to hopefully break their record. In October, the SOS gang will try again for their record which was sadly postponed in July due to the weather and Mr Jim Bradwell is here load organising.

Next year, we will be hosting three Flight-1 courses. These dates are on the websites already so, if you are interested, please book as soon as you can.

All our other events, including load organising and coaching can be found on our Facebook Experienced Jumpers page.

Ash Kemp

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Anthony Hughes, Joe Lancaster, Jonathan Rasch, Lukasz Sochacki, Sara Stoppard-Pickering
FF1 Kevin Ainley, Kat Konstanti, Christian Tuerk **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Stephen Kay, Melissa Porter **300** Apolo **400** Christian Tuerk **900** Rob Johns

JERSEY

MOVING UP, DOWN AND ON

The action has been fast and fantastic over the last couple of months and there's plenty to report, with two boogies happening when our friends from Le Havre in France brought their Caravan over for a week in July and then again in August. The first week was blessed with the mini heatwave, seeing the thermometer hit 30+ degrees and blazing sunshine each day, and the loads were turning for all the available hours when the tide was out. A few jumpers joined us from Guernsey to enjoy the special jumpship and most disciplines – speed, wingsuiting, speedstars, freeflying – were getting some action along with a demo jump into St Brelade's Bay.

Early August saw the flying circus bounce over to our sister island for one of the annual pilgrimages attempting to convert the locals to the magic of skydiving. It was another successful event, with many donkeys (as the locals are affectionately known) taking the opportunity to jump into the L'Eree landing area on the west coast.

Boogie II in August involved the French Caravan again and had some good weather to keep everyone happy. A cutaway caused a bit of excitement on the ground and, as is the way these days, a lot of exaggerated drama set the rumour mill alight. Thanks to some calm words from the CI in the local media, the drama mill was taken back down to DEFCON 2.

Michael Stocks is getting a regular mention at the moment and he's earned some kudos again by achieving another first. After months of planning and anticipation, he became the first person to cross Jersey from north to south in a wingsuit. It was hoped that we'd get the right conditions on one of the weeks the French Caravan was here for the boogies and they could drop us from 15k over the north coast and fly back to the landing zone to deploy. Maximum respect, Mike – I hope to join you on the next challenge!

There's a big change for Skydive Jersey in that the lease has run

“Thanks to some calm words from the CI in the local media, the drama mill was taken back down to DEFCON 2”

JERSEY
 Nigel O'Brien and Michael Stocks, by Nigel O'Brien



out on our premises for the last few years at the Jersey Aero Club without an option to renew. The room downstairs at the club has been vacated and a new, more permanent setup is being searched for. Operations will continue this year and into 2020 with somewhere new to call home hopefully being arranged soon.

Thanks to everyone who's been giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to make all the recent events a great success, and a big thanks to Mal for organising the boogies and high times.

Nigel O'Brien

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Matt Falloon **JUMP NUMBERS 300** Oliver Hutcheon **1,000** Elliott Fry, Simon Griffiths **1,600** Peter Dolbel

LANGAR

SENDING IT IN STYLE

The last month finally gave us the weekend weather we'd been waiting for and we all did our best to make the most of it! It started off with an extremely well-attended coaching weekend, doling out plenty of those all-important stickers to our progressing jumpers. The rest of August was filled with FS organising, CP coaching, masses of fun jumps and, of course, teams training for Nationals.

Huge congratulations to everybody for their achievements! The wonderful *Parallel Freely* became national Freely A champions for the second year in a row, *Chimera* ended an epically close battle in AAA FS with a well-earned silver medal, *Nebula* achieved bronze in AA, *Winged Hussars* won gold in Rookie and *Horizon* took silver in 4-way VFS. It was great to see numerous regular jumpers competing across all disciplines and categories.

By the time this is in print, we will have had Boogie 2! I'm sure this will have been an epic nine days of sunshine, skydiving and "sending it" (as Tom Shorten would say). We've organised FF, FS and TR load organising, Angry Birds Big Suit wingsuiting, Rookie Rumble FS scrambles and a UPT Zion Flight camp, not to mention vendors and entertainment all boogie long. The space-themed hangar party will no doubt have been out of this world (ha ha ha...).

As for what we've got planned as summer draws to a close, we're starting to plan our annual bonfire and Halloween party. It's historically been one of the best nights of the Langar calendar, and this year will be no different! And remember, we are open every single day of the year apart from Christmas Day itself, so get your woolly gloves and bobble hats out because a bit of cold won't be stopping us from jumping!

Amy Harrison, Manifest Extraordinaire

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8 Mia Callens, Daniel Staples FS1 Dave Allsopp, Jack Bishop, David Craig, Sophie Fretwell, Matt Malarkey, Jasmine Manders FF1 Hannah Broadbent, Katie Robinson WS1 Daniel Watson WS2 Dylan Morris-Roberts **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Thomas Dent **200** Amber Padfield **400** Ania Kulak, Paul Milburn, Jason Mountford **500** Catherine Brown **1,000** Simon Perry, Emily Sugars **1,100** Ben Mitchell **2,500** Fiona Meybim **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Nick Heywood **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Pete Harries

NETHERAVON

SEVEN DISCIPLINES AT THE ARMIES

The sun shone, aircraft flew and more than 130 competitors took to the skies during the 2019 Armed Forces Parachute Championships here at Netheravon.

The Championships are now in their 20th year as a tri-service competition. The competition has grown from its original two disciplines (Formation Skydiving and Accuracy) to seven as of the present day. Competition now incorporates all three services with an average attendance of 140 service personnel taking part and an overall ethos of something for everyone, regardless of experience.

The competition was, for the first time in at least the last 10 years,



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blessed with fabulous weather and we managed to complete the whole competition with time to spare! As always, the competition was extremely well attended and, all in all, 47 teams competed over seven disciplines, with 85 aircraft loads and 1,300 jumps.

The culmination of the week was a parachute demonstration that included a representative from every corps/service that entered, all jumping with their respective flags. The overall corps winners were the Royal Engineers and a great spirit of good-humoured rivalry ensured throughout the whole week, making it a real anniversary celebration for everyone.

Julie Cooper

PETERLEE

BIG-WAY BRIAN VENTURES UP NORTH

Well, the weather has certainly been a major factor in what has been achieved at the Peterlee dropzone these past two months. There have been periods of no jumping and periods when hundreds of jumps have been undertaken.

We have tried to make the best of the bad weather periods by running safety presentations, staff briefings and bringing in coaches to pass on their knowledge. Indeed, it's been great to have both Paul Dorward back with us for a second time this year to present on Canopy Flying and Brian Cumming back for a second time to coach and organise Formation Skydiving loads. Brian losing his regular cameraflyer Paul Rimmington to the Nationals meant we were on the lookout for a cameraflyer to film Brian's big-way formation skydives and Steve Burdon stepped up to do a great job producing some great 9-way footage.

Unfortunately, the Great Northern Speed 10 had to be postponed by a few weeks to September 7. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to some great northern teams competing against one another with Cark returning to defend their title from 2018.

It's been great to see some notable sons and daughters skydiving with us these past two months, with Theo Dyas making his first tandem and AFF jumps with father Brian proudly jumping with him and Kerry Noble's daughter Megan coming in to make a tandem with us. Sadly, Megan's jump has had to be postponed to September 28, but Paul Moore was able to get Kerry up in the aircraft to illustrate the differences between Kerry's former Cessna 207 and our Cessna 208 Supercub 900. Needless to say,



“Other notable news is proof of Chris Gilmore seen smiling and enjoying himself in freefall”

POPS
The British Nationals team

PETERLEE
Chris Gilmore smiling, by Chris Gilmore

Kerry (as a Task Specialist for the day) was suitably impressed.

There have certainly been some highs and lows this past two months, with more than 700 jumps being completed over the August Bank Holiday period when we also averaged 40 tandem skydives per day over Friday through Monday as well as AFF, static line and solo freefall jumps. On the down side, we have seen two serious landing injuries sustained at the dropzone to Darren Crumpler and Darren Strafford. Both are making progress recovering in hospital and we wish them both well.

Also of note within this issue is the sale – now virtually completed – of G-PLÉE. We will be sad to see G-PLÉE go, and hopefully the aircraft will fly its last North Wings display on September 7 and perhaps a load or two at the Peterlee DZ in early September as well before departing to a new home lifting skydivers at a club in mainland Europe.

We have also said a bye for now to Connor Johnstone, at least for the short term, as he returns to the USA to complete some more jumps towards his tandem rating conversion. As one Connor departs, we welcome back another as Connor O'Brien, who has left the Army, returns to Co Durham to take on a role of packing of parachutes.

Other notable news is proof of Chris Gilmore seen smiling and enjoying himself in freefall. Big shout out for Jared and Karen Morris and their Shotton Aero Sports Club hosting representatives from Peterlee and their twin town in Germany, some of whom clearly want to make skydives with us. Looking ahead, a mention for the Club Annual End of Season Awards and Christmas Party on November 23, which is also being organised by Jared and after which we will be closed until February 2020.

Ian Rosenvinge

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Omar Kamal AFF GRADUATE Darren Crumpler, Mark Younger JUMP NUMBERS 100 Alice Mitchell 500 Mary Sunter



POPS

THUNDERBIRDS ARE... OKAY, THEY ALREADY WENT

Liz Hurry has taken up the role of Top SOS and JOS, so please contact her with any queries about membership and future events. Contact details will be available soon.

We had two teams at the British Nationals this year: *Shadow* competing in Rookie and *Thunderbirds* competing in A. Both teams did well and *Shadow* brought home a medal, demonstrating that it's never too late to start a new discipline, come back to the sport after a break or push yourself towards a more challenging category.

The SOS Record will be held on the October 5-6 weekend at Hibaldstow. Due to weather conditions, the original planned date was moved. Contact Ron Wands if you are not already involved.

Plans are afoot to provide more detail on the next World POPS in August 2020 at Dunkeswell. Keep an eye out in Club Zone and on the website and Facebook page.

Polly Chandler



READING

DON'T MENTION THE WEATHER

The only thing we are going to mention about the weather and the amount of weekends that we have lost as a result of the recent poor weather is that we're not going to mention it. That's all there is to say on that.

Michael Hughes passed his FF1 and TR1 and also notched up 200 jumps over the bank holiday weekend to achieve his C Licence, but his greatest achievement, apart from being dad to his skydiving son Terence, was becoming a 'grand dude' to the beautiful Artemis. Many congratulations from all of the team to Nicky Parasyri and Terence Hughes on the birth of their new daughter, who already has around seven tandem jumps (in utero) in her baby log book. And well done to Nikki for getting back into the sky and allowing everyone on the ground to have maximum time cuddling the baby!

Michael (grand dude) also headed to the Algarve for a weekend break during the bad weather for his birthday and enjoyed many jumps there.

The completely lovely Sharron Floyd got her AFF Instructor rating. Will she go for TI next? Well done Shazza. It's great having you on the team.

Hannah Ritchie has already notched up 50 jumps and shiny B Licence. Well done Hannah, and well done to Max Pinter who finally has his FS1 too.

There's not much left to say in this round-up except for the news that the DZ ends its season on October 26-27 and will reopen in March of 2020 – hopefully with a better weather forecast than

READING
Mike Hughes tracking, by Ahmad Ismail

SIBSON
Heli jumps are more fun when you can feel the wind in your eyes! Paul Garwood, by Kyle Skoyles

the previous year. Damn, we mentioned it again...

A special mention for Tim Lawson, to whom the whole dropzone and extended skydive family send their special love and thoughts to you and your family during this difficult time.

Annie Lewis

SIBSON

A SUMMER OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Summer – always with its ups and downs, obviously mostly regarding the weather. But, when it comes to the achievements of students here at Sibson, the last few months have seen a fantastic upward trend of new, buzzing and freshly licensed skydivers.

Some great work from all the students and Instructors saw an 80+ record set for the number of AFF jumps in a single weekend.

There has been lots of progression and learning all round, including Lee Robinson smashing through all AFF Levels and most of his consols during Boogie 2 week in July.

Other highlights of Boogie 2 were some awesome heli jumps, which were enjoyed by many, and the fact that it was kind of a bit hot at times.

There are lots of new students about and new FS coaches too, thanks to the expert guidance from Gee, Chris McCann and some very helpful Instructors. The new FS coaches include Fab Colonna, Paul Templeman, Deano Smith, Pete Leech, AJ Hale and myself.

There's been some action from Sibson clubbies taking part in competitions in August too. Congratulations to Giuseppe for putting in a great effort at the Wingsuit World Cup in Italy.

Nationals at Hibaldstow saw some clubbies competing in 4-way single A. *Jumping Jesters* put in some good rounds and *Algorhythm* put in a great performance, resulting in them taking the silver medal. Well done all! Derek couldn't get enough, competing in 4-way AAA as well as heading back for more the following weekend to compete in the 8-way Nationals comp.

The Sibson Speed 6 comp happens in mid-September so, as long as it doesn't rain and turn into a 'best team T-shirt competition' (maybe that's more important, though?), we should have a fun



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Oh, apparently Wes has 1,500 jumps. I haven't checked his log book, though.

Russ Horne

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Aysha Bhimoi, Steven Carr, Mark Formby, Tom Griffins, Emily Hetfield, Kian Jafari, Julian Kaye, Debra Kelsall, Ahmed Mahmoud, Will Nicholis, Iain Page, Lee Robinson, Samuel Turner, Eugenijus Venskevicus, Enrico Ventola, Mark Walker **CH2/JM1** Mark Formby, Ryan Wells **FS1** Jonathan Buffong, Tony Welbourn **FF2** Tony Ellis **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Mark Formby, Tony Welbourn, Ryan Wells **200** Yashar Alinejad **350** Fab Colonna **450** Deano Smith **500** Katie Wilkinson **600** Andreas Michli **800** Kyle Skoyles **1,000** Lukas Baluczynski **1,400** Giuseppe Damiano **1,500** Wes Lawes



SWANSEA

WHEN IN DOUBT, ADD A YAK

We've had a busy few months over the Gower recently with sunshine galore!

Our best weekend by far was over the bank holiday in August, which saw four perfect jumping days. Fortunately, we'd booked a three-place Yak in on the Friday along with a Jet Ranger, which had to cancel the day before due to parts not arriving from the States. Sara and Becky organised a great barbecue for everyone on the Friday while a lot of happy faces reappeared having jumped the Yak! The bank holiday itself brought a record amount of tandems booked in with AFF which kept the Instructors happy and it ended on the Monday with the Jet Ranger doing 11 lifts. There were a lot of firsts on the beer board that weekend...

Goodbye to Sam Mousley, who has left to work for McLaren (we're all waiting for those F1 tickets, mate) and good luck with your motorbike racing too. We welcome Alun and Anton, who immediately filled the gap in the packing team, and we welcome Ffion Davies who's now part of the desk/drink-lots-of-tea-all-day team too!

The list of achievements is long, but a big well done has to go to Danniella Hurt who got her FS Coach rating and has moved onto the camera team.

Finally, my personal thanks go out to Reg Green, Ricky Davies and Grayson Summers for the behind the scenes assistance with helping me jump my local golf club in order to present a cup. That was a memorable one for the logbook, for sure!

We look forward to seeing you all sometime over the winter period because we're open all year round, weather permitting.

SWANSEA
The Jet Ranger led to a lot of firsts on the beer board

SWINDON
The Apocalypse is near

Our end of year bash is now confirmed at the Mumbles Pier on November 30. The dress code theme is Christmas Fancy Dress, so put it in your diary as it'll be a good night!

Carl Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Anton Deli-Bovi **CH2/JM1** Wayne Barnes, Amanda Evans, Peter Thewless **FS1** Sam Mousley, Sally Anne Watts **TR1** James Lewton **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Wayne Barnes, Amanda Evans, Peter Thewless **200** Andrew Evans, Jack Mountfield **300** Daniella Hurt **500** Sophie Rees **1,000** Sara Heath **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Kris Wojciechowski **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Michael Phillips

SWINDON

A SAD END TO A GREAT ERA

Despite Brucie's excitement, it is starting to feel a bit emotional here at Redlands as we reach the beginning of the end. Due to bad weather and the Airvan grounding, we have found ourselves not in the relaxed state of rolling on to the end that we had planned, but rather a head-on, all-hands-on-deck race to the finish. Proving that the team is working just as well as ever, the tandems have been prolific and the progression astounding – amazing what a deadline will do to focus the mind! Bit like writing this...

While it is impossible to mention everybody, there are egos that require a mention. Brucie wants you all to know that he was the best CI ever, Crazy says he is awesome and Dylan, well, he is a maybe but, alongside Luke, the legend of team *Sexual Chocolate* will live on.

By the time you are reading this, the last lift will have flown, the last descents landed and the final beers drunk. A sad day indeed, but we're looking forward to seeing the Redlands folk from students through to Instructors at DZs across the country. The question is, are they ready for us?!

It is a shame that we aren't able to tell you how the party went, so I am going to pinch the words of the magnificent Doog who has looked into his crystal ball and predicted the most likely outcome.

The End of the End party was amazing, right up to the point Doog filled the DZ car with fireworks and, after a bottle of whisky, took Ross, Aaron, Coxy and Babs and chased the drunk TIs round the field while pulling handbrake turns and screaming "You'll never take me alive!"



The problem started when Ross lit a doobie, forgetting he was sitting on a petrol can and next to the fireworks. A screaming Brucie was heard saying the car had already been sold for some bitcoin and XRP.

Meanwhile, Darrell was playing a superhero again. Unfortunately, he and Jonny spent the night arguing who was going to be Super TI and who was Super Cameraflyer. Jonny rightly told him that, with his blue rinse, all he was good for was SuperGran. This started a fight between Chrissy and Jenny about who would be Super Packer, but they quickly decided they didn't care as long as there was cake. Brucie, realising his Chuff Chart was down to zero, was found muttering in the corner that it was his train set and they can't take it away from him. Night jumps seemed like a good idea at that point, but we couldn't find the plane keys.

While the remainder of the DZ was burning, Arthur still tried to claim it was all his and the gate would be locked at 9pm.

It was a little bit emotional and a little bit scary, but this bunch of skydiving weirdoes have now been released back into the community and may turn up at a DZ near you.

Jenny Bouquet and Doog McDougall

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Fero Bolek, Paul Davies, Daphne Lubert-Perquel, Paul Jones, Adam Rigby, Lou Rigby, Steven Sanders CH2/JM1 Ben Coulton, Medhi Zinetti FS1 Griggy, Lewis Reddie, Matt Williams, Medhi Zinetti IS1 Pat Holmes **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Ben Coulton, Richard Sharkey, Medhi Zinetti 200 John Guy, Lewis Reddie 400 Claire Briggs 500 Dermot McCrystal, Max Nicolaides 900 Martin Rhodes 1,000 John Eeles 1,700 Jenny Bouquet 22 MINUTES IN FREEFALL Hamish Robertson **EIGHT HOURS IN FREEFALL** Ross Walker **10 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Dave Pickersgill **2,000 STUPID QUESTIONS ANSWERED** Babs **24,999 PACK JOBS** Chrissy Downer

TILSTOCK

CHOP AND CHANGE

My word, this year is turning into a year of wonderfully weird weather for us all! One day we roast, the next day we sit and look at the grey skies and tipping rain. Such is the joy of skydiving!

We made the most of the sun and had a rare old time over the last few months. We even managed to get some pleasant socialising in at the end of one seriously hot day's jumping recently when Buzz and Kat laid on an extremely tasty barbecue evening, catering for all food preferences – which was very impressive.

One of the highlights has been one of our CSIs, Conrad Allen, being able to put his son Jo through his static line course on his 16th

“The problem started when Ross lit a doobie, forgetting he was sitting on a petrol can and next to the fireworks”

birthday and then taking him up for his first jump the next day. It has to be said that Conrad was in two minds over this. On the one hand, he really wanted Jo to enjoy the experience. On the other, he realised that, if Jo did, it could become very expensive for him. Jo loved it – never mind Conrad, it's only money.

Young Dave Gordon is making the most of his (very) early retirement and managed to get himself on the Botswana Boogie earlier this year. It sounded like seriously good fun – a Casa and a Hercules! Apart from the jumping the scenery and hospitality were much appreciated. As he started the year with a trip to Florida, we're looking forward to the next instalment of his adventures to see how he can top this.

Talking of the young, the properly young TI Laura had a birthday. Guess what she gave herself? A new rig, of course! And isn't she pleased with it? Glad you like it Laura, but dancing around a restaurant when you first lay your hands on it is a bit over the top. She was a little sadder a few weeks later when her parents visited the DZ. She has been hoping for a while to persuade her mother to jump with her to no avail and she's even less likely to now when our newest TI Andy (welcome to you) had to chop and Laura's mother saw it. Sad for Andy, but I think it's even sadder for Laura as it definitely put an end to any chance of her mother being willing to jump.

Our ever-youthful TI team continue to excel as Tony clocked his 7,000th jump. That's some serious going and his Accuracy landings continue to impress.

Students continue to get serious about progressing with some good efforts being put in. Keep it up, people, you're doing well! On top of that, our newly qualified skydivers have been putting in some sterling efforts to gain their B Licences. Marta got hers just in time to jump in Hungary and Julie put some serious work in to getting her packing certificate too.

We had a particularly busy August Bank Holiday when the Tilstock Tumbling Turkeys went a-wandering to Hibaldstow. This was a great trip to the Nationals by the team who put in a very competent performance and achieved a respectable mid-table result which we are all very pleased with. The only problem was the poor swine left at the DZ to run it without two of our CSIs! Try to compete at quieter times in future, please.

All in all, a good couple of months in the face of all the weather sent our way. Here's to a great end to the season.

Gary Windon

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM1 Marta Hovan, Julie Murray **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Marta Hovan, Julie Murray 400 Steve Pugh 500 Ellie Southworth 700 Dave Titcombe 1,100 Steve Hughes 7,000 Tony Lightfoot

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OCTOBER

October 1

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

October 7-12

A **FS** 13th FAI World Cup of Artistic Events and 22nd FAI World Cup of Formation SkydivingLocation: **Eloy, Arizona, USA**

NOVEMBER

November 11-15

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 14

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA HQ, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

November 18-22

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 20-24

CP 10th FAI World Cup of Canopy PilotingLocation: **Pretoria, South Africa**

November 26

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

2020

January 24-25

BPA BPA AGM and Skydive the ExpoLocation: **EMCC, Nottingham** •

skydivetheexpo.co.uk

February 3-7

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Netheravon** • bpa.org.uk

February 10-14

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Netheravon** • bpa.org.uk

March 16-20

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Skydive Langar** • bpa.org.uk

UK skydiver Simon Whittle, the first person to skysurf over the Palm DZ in Dubai. The World Islands archipelago can be seen behind him. By Mark Norman



April 10-13

T Indoor Skydiving World Cup and European ChampionshipsLocation: **Charleroi, Belgium**

April 20-24

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Skydive Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

May 4-8

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Skydive Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 11-15

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Skydive Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 19

BPA Royal Aero Club AwardsLocation: **RAF Club, Piccadilly**

June 8-12

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem, AFF and Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell** • bpa.org.uk

July 6-10

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem, AFF and Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Skydive Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

August 3-7

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Skydive Langar** • bpa.org.uk

August 10-14

BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Tandem, AFF and Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Skydive Langar** • bpa.org.uk

August 11-21

CP **FS** **CF** **S&A** **A** **WS** **S**

World Parachuting Championships - Mondial

Location: **Tanay, Russia**

September 14-18

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv/Observers)Location: **Skydive Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 9-13

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Peterlee** • bpa.org.uk

November 16-20

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Peterlee** • bpa.org.uk

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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