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# SPORT PARACHUTIST



THE JOURNAL OF THE  
BRITISH PARACHUTE  
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## BPA JOURNAL

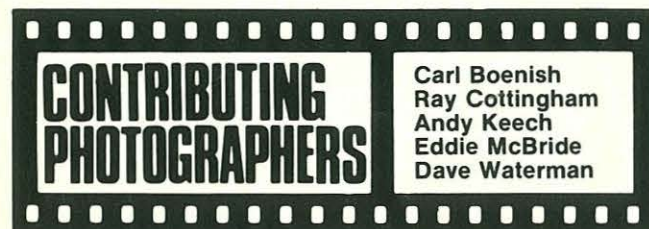
Charles Shea-Simonds *Editor*

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## Editor's Note

The views of contributors to "Sport Parachutist" are not necessarily those of the Editor, or of the British Parachute Association, and no liability is accepted for same.



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Vol. 14 No. 4  
AUGUST 1977

## EDITORIAL

This issue is almost a Competitions Results bulletin in which Symbiosis feature heavily. This is no accident and their excellent results reflect a singular dedication — even if they don't wear hard helmets. Congratulations to them anyway.

They naturally couldn't win the Army Meet for which I have still to receive a write up and photos, but well done Dicky Bird on being the 1977 Army Champion.

Next issue features the activities of the newly formed, and highly exclusive, Hyde Park Parachute Club!

Until then,

Blue skies and soft landings,

*Charlie*

Cover: The French display jump at the start of the IIIrd World Cup in RW.  
photo — Jean Pierre Bolle

# THE DROP DOWN

## Calendar of Events

- 26-29 August '77 England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland Sequential RW Meet, Farranfore, Eire.
- 24-25 Sept. '77 7th Annual Duck End Farm Meet.
- 1-2 October '77 Collegiate Parachute Championships, Sibson.
- 31st October - 4th November '77 BPA Instructors Course/Exam 4/77 Sibson.

## Calendar of Events — 1978

As decided at the last BPA Council Meeting, Bickmarsh Aerodrome will be used from 1st January-31st December 1978 on a trial basis for the year as the BPA National Centre.

The following is the Calendar of Events all of which will be held at Bickmarsh.

- 20-24 February BPA PI/Exam Course 1/78
- 3- 7 April Relative Work Seminar
- 17-21 April Classic Seminar
- 1- 5 May BPA PI/Exam Course 2/78
- 17-25 June BPA Classic National Championships
- 8-16 July BPA RW National Championships
- 7-11 August BPA/PI/Exam Course 3/78
- 14-18 August Student Progression Course 1/78
- 19-20 August British Collegiate Championships
- 11-15 September Student Progression Course 2/78
- 6-10 November BPA PI/Exam Course 4/78

Bank Holiday Dates are as follows:

- Easter 26 March
- Spring 29 May
- Summer 28 August

Please could clubs let the NCSO know dates for their own competitions as soon as possible to avoid confliction, and to arrange allocation of the BPA Competitions Caravan.



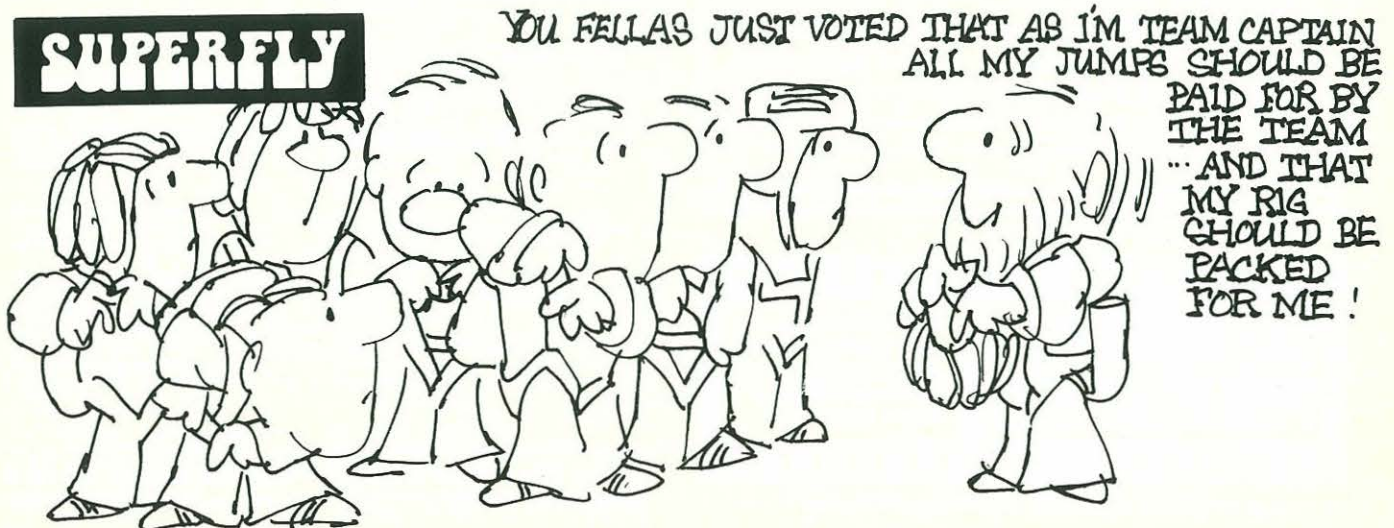
Above — the photo originally taken by Dave Waterman.  
Below — as it appeared in the Daily Mirror with Geoff Saunders carefully deleted!



**TOP OF THE MORNING,  
YOUR MAJESTY!**

Paul, 19, left, for a health and the happy. On behalf of our twelve million readers, the Daily Mirror wishes to wish the Queen a happy Jubilee. And thanks to three East London parachutists and their leader, Geoff Waterman—who took the picture in mid-air—we can now reveal the name of our highest citizen. Top of the morning, sir.

## SUPERFLY



YOU FELLAS JUST VOTED THAT AS I'M TEAM CAPTAIN ALL MY JUMPS SHOULD BE PAID FOR BY THE TEAM ... AND THAT MY RIG SHOULD BE PACKED FOR ME!



Congratulations to Ilma Spence on trapping elusive jump pilot Captain Mike (Curly Wee) Watts, and finally marrying him. They are seen here on their wedding day (when else would Mike wear a suit?) and we wish them lots of happiness.

□ □ □

There follows three student parachutist stories — all true:

1. Student encounters a malfunction, fails to deploy the reserve and, mercifully, lands safely.

*Instructor:* "Why didn't you use your reserve?"

*Student:* "Was there something wrong with the main?"

*Instructor:* "Didn't you check?"

*Student:* "I really couldn't bring myself to look at it!"

2. *Instructor:* (to student after first jump) "Where's your rig?"

*Student:* "I left it in the field"

*Instructor:* "For Crissake— why?"

*Student:* "It's field packed!"

3. Student lands on his first jump just outside the packing shed, falls forward spreadeagled into the gravel and lays still.

*Instructor:* (suspecting he's not hurt); "You can bloody get up now. It's all over."

*Student:* "Oh . . . great" and he gets up and shambles off!



Shall we call it eight metres then or shake him down and take another measurement?

□ □ □



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

22nd June, 1977

*Dear Mr Sea-Simonds*

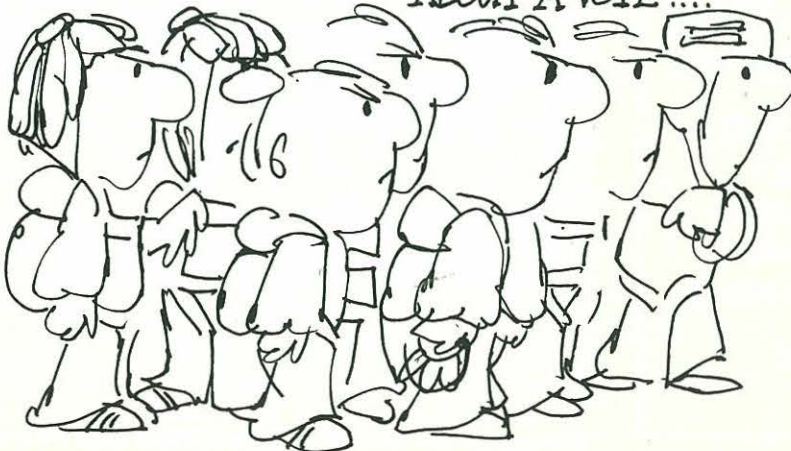
Thank you for your letter of 21st June with which you enclosed four copies of the Jubilee issue of the British Parachute Association Journal "Sport Parachutist".

I will show these to The Queen on her return from her Silver Jubilee visits to Merseyside and Wales and I know that she would wish me to send you her sincere thanks for them.

Thank you also for your kind and loyal message of greetings which you have sent on behalf of the British Parachute Association and which I know Her Majesty will much appreciate.

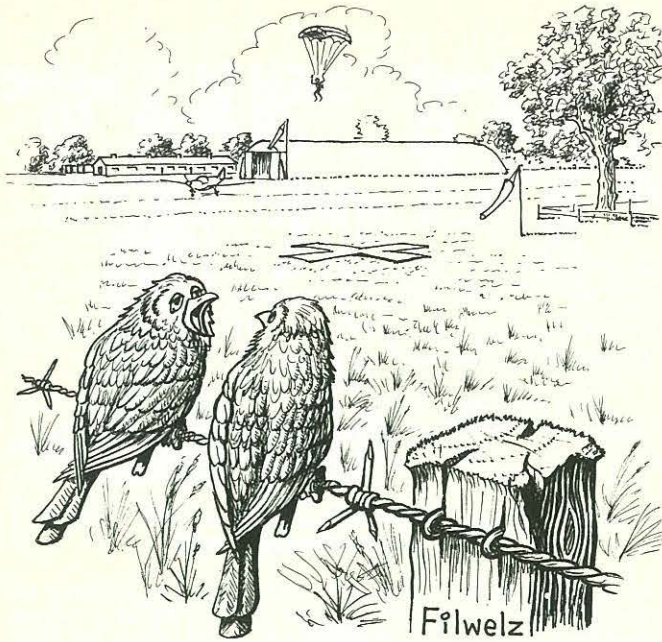
*Yours sincerely*  
*Martin Lantieri*

WHEN! ... HOW COME! ... WE DIDNT HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT A VOTE ....



IT WAS A SECRET BALLOT!





"As far as I can make out the square and fancy-coloured ones are tame and settle over by the canteen — the plain round variety roost in the trees or down by the river — and if any of them try to land near that cross, a bloke dashes over and scares them off with two bloody-great red and green bats."

□ □ □

#### Man is ever the hunter!!

John D. Prince, uzz C.C.I.,  
A hunter with an eagle eye,  
Would take a walk the other day,  
To simply pass the time away.

"Holty, Harrison, come 'ere quick  
and bring me that big scrawpin' stick.  
There's a rabbit under't training 'ut  
So creep up quiet and keep 'it' shut.

So they poked around for quite a bit,  
And tried and tried to score a hit,  
With sticks and stones and other ruses  
But clever bunny still refuses.  
He thinks, "With this lot, like as not,  
I'll never reach the cooking pot.  
But he hadn't reckoned with our hero,  
His chances now were down to zero.  
"Now what we'll do," they raise a shout,  
"We'll have to smoke the bugger out!!"

In't packing shed, the word's relayed,  
Just dig us out a smoke grenade.  
Now poor old bunnies asphyxiation  
And the training hut in conflagration  
Has really raised old Pringey's ire,  
"The bloody training 'uts on fire!!"

Christ Almighty, the decision's made,  
We'll have to ring the fire brigade.  
But Holty, not to miss a trick out  
Is proudly standing with his dikk out . . .

Taking aim and kidneys flushing,  
Upon the flames, his wee wee gushing  
The fire is out, he's used his 'brains',  
But sad to say, the stench remains.  
Meanwhile, the cause of this affray,  
Just quietly turned and hopped away.

This is absolutely true.

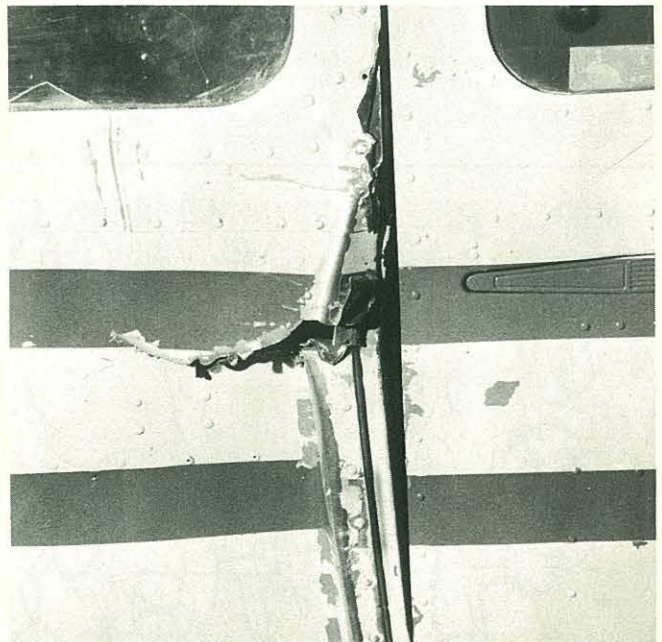
Cookey.



BPA P1/Exam Course 2/77 at Netheravon.

A big two-week New Year's "Party in Paradise" fun meet is being planned for December 31, 1977 — January 14, 1978 at the Dillingham Drop Zone in Hawaii. The whole world has been invited, and so are *you*. There will be three Cessnas, a Twin Beech, and a DC-3, and lots of partying, sightseeing and JUMPING. There are probably lots of jumpers who don't even know there is any skydiving in Hawaii ("How can you spot for a tiny island in the middle of the ocean?"). Well, here's your chance to see Hawaii and find out what it's like to jump into scenery you've only seen on a post card. A package deal is planned for those interested in it that will include a charter flight from New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and accommodations at a modern beach camp a couple miles from the Drop Zone, with all meals, all for one low price. For more information and/or reservation forms for the package deal, write as soon as possible to:

Jim "Whitey" Whiting, SCS #20  
P.O. Box 609  
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712  
U.S.A.



An unintentional reserve deployment at Cark did this damage to the Geelan/Hughes Cessna 182. PROTECT YOUR HANDLES IN THE AIRCRAFT.





**Jim Crocker presents Curt Curtis with the BPA Certificate of Merit recently awarded to the Pope Valley Parachute Ranch, California.**

□ □ □

Congratulations to Andrew, Ken and Peter Guest who recently pulled off the first three brother three-man over Dunkeswell.



**Exit by Norwegian Finn Ove Gaasoy.**



**Stairsteps by the Venezuelan 4-Man Team.**



**An interesting exit photo submitted by Willy Grut — nobody's yet confessed to being the guy on his back!**

□ □ □

He's tall, he's dark, he's rather cool,  
This guy who makes the ladies drool.  
This John, whose nickname rhymes with 'planks',  
This Godhead of the other ranks.

He's been in dock, our hero bold,  
His odd complaint, of which I'm told  
Not broken bones, nor gravel rash,  
No victim he, of mid air crash,  
Not harness burns, nor spotters eye,  
Then what?, then what?, the ladies cry,  
'tis none of this, the truth remains,  
He's been laid low with varicose veins. URRGHH!!

Cookey

## **7th ANNUAL CHARLES WELLS ACCURACY MEET DUCK END FARM**

**WILSTEAD, BEDS.**



**(3 MAN TEAMS & INDIVIDUAL)**

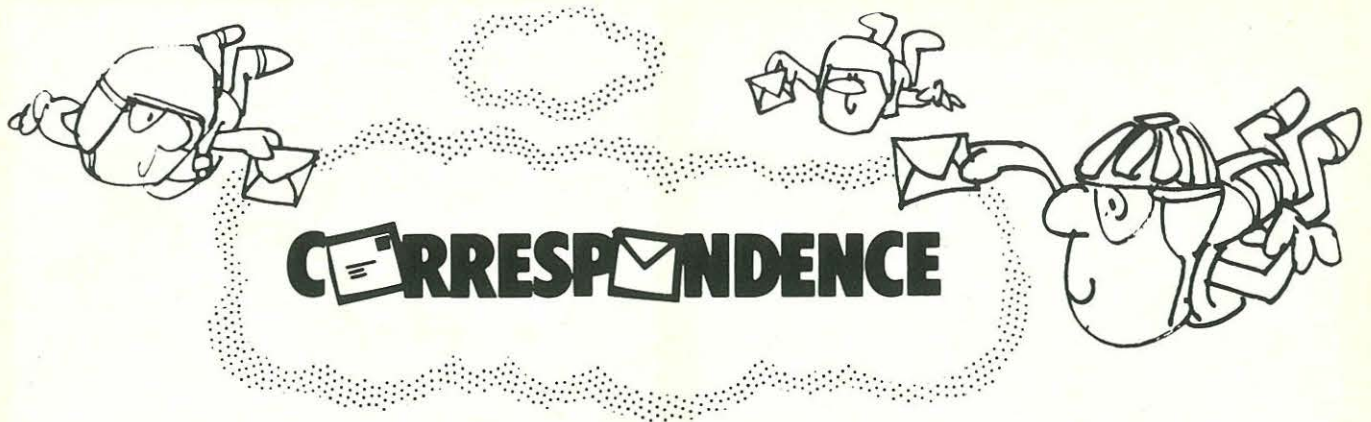
**SATURDAY/SUNDAY  
24th/25th SEPTEMBER, 1977  
(practice 23rd September, 1977)**

*All details and entry forms from:*

**The Hon. Sec., Les Leader**

Daytime: 01-629 8867 Ext. 410

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## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Charlie,

Please find attached a xerox copy of a new equipment feature being run in Parachutist magazine. With the vast proliferation of equipment in the last few years, isn't it time you offered a similar service to your readers?

I have been amazed at the "bullshit" some "local sky gods" talk about the relative merits of different equipment. Unfortunately for us, most innovations in equipment are being made in the US, and often the first one sees of it is, when some returning member proudly displays his new R2's, 3 ring circus whatever. No quarrel with this at all, except that two things then often happen:

- a) people who have insufficient knowledge rush out and buy the equipment
- b) the local "establishment" says "Oh, xyz is really not such a good idea, or is inferior to abc..." often making these statements on nothing more than hearsay.

This is certainly my major "hobby horse" at the moment, because I believe we have an obligation to inform our members about innovations. Certainly many accidents have been caused by poor equipment design, e.g. capewells which were originally designed for airmen and others to use *after* reaching the ground to prevent being dragged and were never intended for aerial use; poor understanding of equipment limitations: ever tried cutting away from an unmodified or "old" design SST and getting the reserve ripcord pin through the acute angle on the housing? ; poor imitations of other people's ideas by riggers who either cannot or have not the competence, interest or time to fully test *their* version of a slider, dual slider, Raeper or whatever.

As the "organ" of BPA, which obviously means being concerned with reducing accidents and disseminating knowledge, surely the above is something that can no longer be left to glossy advertisements by PI etc.?

If all the above leaves you unmoved, then one question:

Does BPA still recommend the use of capewells, when R2's are now available? Or are 3 ring circuses to be preferred?

Please reply through the magazine, and don't tell me you have not had time to test it yet, because several members are already walking around your BPA drop zones, wearing and using them!

Best regards,

TONY PERRY

Dear Tony,

*This equipment thing certainly is your hobby horse at the moment. Even if we did do what U.S.P.A. are currently*

Dusseldorf

*doing in "Parachutist", it still wouldn't solve your problem. As U.S.P.A. say in the introduction... "a call was given for manufacturers to send information on their products" so all you're being given is all the manufacturers sales information — U.S.P.A. goes on... "Parachutist cannot be responsible for the accuracy of the information as printed in this article." All they're doing, and I'm NOT knocking them for it, is presenting information to all those who can't afford the latest Para-Gear catalogue!*

*I believe our Safety and Training Committee does monitor shoddy or unsafe equipment as recent minutes of STC meetings will evidence. Even Capewell substitutes have been discussed to answer your last batch of questions. Our STC is an organ for the collation and dissemination of information, and, whilst it is dependent on voluntary input, I believe it is a better medium than one or two individuals doing an inadequate number of test jumps on new items of equipment to produce a worthless report. Equipment can only be evaluated over hundreds of jumps under all types of conditions. The problem is that the manufacturers use fare paying unsuspecting sport parachutists as guinea pigs. Look at the difference between the original Strato Star we saw in 1974, and those being produced now — it's a totally different parachute — thanks to the ordinary club jumper. I'm afraid it's a fact of life that if a piece of equipment is new and revolutionary jumpers will buy it, in many cases irrespective of its worth or safety. If every prospective purchaser of new and untried equipment carefully read Roger Hull's excellent article "The Human Factor" (Vol. 14 No. 2 April 77), he probably wouldn't part with his well earned bread in such a hurry. Your first paragraph suggestion is unlikely to alleviate the problem — it'd probably make it worse as by the time we got it into print, some other fly-by-night rigger will have produced another major innovation, horror or untried masterpiece. I jump my slidered Strato Star in a sleeve, but I don't go round telling everyone they should do likewise; and the legal implications of BPA Stamp of Approval for equipment is awe inspiring.*

*Basically it comes down to trying to persuade sport parachutists to be discerning and err on the side of caution when purchasing new equipment or if in doubt — don't!*

*I'm sure this won't satisfy you, but it'll have to do!*

Best Wishes,

CHARLIE

Leeds

Dear Charles,

The Leeds/Bradford FFC has moved lock stock and C206 and taken up new residence with The Sheffield

*continued on page 11*



# COLLEGIATE NEWS



At the BPA Council meeting of 30th June, the B.C.P.A. was accepted as an affiliated body to the B.P.A., and given the opportunity of representation at Council level with one student being invited to sit as a co-opted member. At our meeting the weekend before at Sibson we had made this one of our aims, the others being set out in a constitution drawn up from a policy plan produced by Raziel. The first is to provide cheaper jumping, we all felt that it would be unwise to throw away the precious little money we have in subsidising basic one jump courses, but instead use these courses as a source of income by cutting course costs, but maintaining initial prices, if the student shows enthusiasm after his first couple of jumps then he should be encouraged and subsidised. Some Collegiate Clubs may be in the same position as my club at the moment having to pay high course fees to weekend clubs because they haven't got an instructor, or can't come to a financial arrangement with the club, so it is hoped that the establishment of Collegiate D.Z.'s can help these clubs. Already two D.Z.'s are in operation offering special facilities to collegiate parachutists, one at Sunderland using a brand new Cessna 182, and the other being run by Arthur Grierson at the little known University town of Cambridge. Arthur who is a post-graduate student is at present operating a Cessna 206 at Waterbeach Airfield, though I know he has his eyes on another D.Z. close by. A third student D.Z. is to be opened at Paull Airfield in Yorkshire with Richard O'Leary in charge.

The second aim is to promote Competition amongst Collegiate Students, not only at an Inter-Collegiate and National level, but at an International level as well. If students from French Universities can travel to Poland to compete against Polish Students, I'm sure that somehow we can get a British team to the next Competition!! The

*CORRESPONDENCE — continued from previous page*

School of Parachuting at Elvington Sport Parachute Centre. (RAF Elvington, 6SE of York)

We provide probably the biggest D.Z. in the Country, the runway alone is 10,000ft. long, a massive area of grass for students, plus a select "experienced only" D.Z.

Although we have only been operational for six weeks, the facilities so far include, indoor packing shed, eating facilities all day long, lots of kit, camping and accommodation, plus a rigger on site 7 days a week.

The Club's CCI is John Hitchen and has at his disposal at least six full instructors.

Everyone is welcome, student courses cost £25.50 which includes BPA Membership, first jump training and Club Weekend Membership. Rates for e.g., student from 2500ft. £3.10, from 7200ft. £3.25. Team jumping, five out one pass 7200ft. £2.75, 10000ft. £3.25.

We can provide a fast aeroplane and good facilities, sorry we can't provide the fine weather.

Look forward to seeing you,

ANDY RACKHAM

teams to represent the B.C.P.A. in 1978 will be chosen at the Championships re-run 1/2 October, the team for the Classics to be selected by John Carter, and for the R.W. Nationals by Richard O'Leary. Team training will be organised at Collegiate D.Z.'s and at the new National Centre at Bickmarsh.

The third and final aim is to promote liaison between the B.C.P.A. and certain other bodies, such as industry — in search of sponsorship, with whom we have established a strong link.

Other points to be raised at the meeting included the structure and organisation of the B.C.P.A. It was decided to hold an A.G.M. every year at the Inter-Collegiate Championships at which one member from every college club would be invited to attend, but at this point we were forced into a long debate on the subject of representation to the B.C.P.A. Committee. One faction thought that we should go through a long complicated election procedure to decide who should sit as a voting member of the Committee, and another thought that a member from every club be allowed to sit and vote. Raziel pointed out the shambles that occurred last time we tried this (49 people in the BPA Caravan!! ??), and offered a solution that seemed to please everyone. If any club representative wishes to speak he must place his item on the Agenda at least two weeks in advance by writing to the Secretary. The six Collegiate areas will be reorganised into seven for next year, and the colleges in those areas must get together before the next meeting at the championships and elect their area representative for the coming year. A Committee will then be formed from the area representatives, members holding office, and any co-opted members that the Committee think fit.

It was also pointed out that like all other organisations the B.C.P.A. is incurring administration expenses, and up to now these have been covered by the individuals involved, but this was felt to be an unfair burden and so the decision was made to ask all College to pay a £10 annual subscription at the beginning of the autumn term to register as a Collegiate Club. For his they will be allowed to take advantage of any special jumping facilities at Collegiate D.Z.'s, to enter into Collegiate Competitions, and allowed to benefit from any direct and indirect financial assistance we may receive.

Again I'll wind up with a few more thankyou's, firstly to Raziel Zisman who has returned to Canada, I'm sure everyone who knows him would like to wish him every success in the future. To Paul Hick for his hard work in establishing the D.Z. at Sunderland, Paul has now moved to Bristol, but will stay on as a co-opted member of the B.C.P.A. Committee. To Jul and Julia for their work down at Sussex organising the Championship re-run, and last but by no means least to the beautiful Jane Sumner without whom none of my typing would get done (even if she does send the letters off before I sign them — apologies to any recipients).

See you in October.

DAVE TURNER, D. 2190

# RW NATIONAL NATIONAL

It was the first time a Relative Work Nationals has been finished and it was the first time that there was no competition in the big team event as only one 8-Man Team entered. The venue was Leicester, for the second time in succession, and the Leicestershire Aero Club were once again perfect hosts—all our thanks to them. Sharing the airfield for the first weekend were the British Aerobatic Association who were also running their Nationals; their activities providing considerable interest from us when we got winded out which was for most of the week! (Neil Williams became British Aerobatic Champion for the thirteenth time!)

Symbiosis were the solo turn in the 8-Man Event whilst there was a fair competition in the 4-Man Event with seven teams entered. Symbiosis, who had trained for a couple of weeks at Pope Valley, produced two 4-man teams; the 'A' Team of Willy Grut, Geoff Saunders, Bob Colpus and Tony Uragallo jumped well throughout and deservedly won first place. Their 'B' team Dane Kenny, Jackie Smith, Robin Mills and Bob Hiatt enjoyed their canopy RW as much as their free fall RW.



**The RAF Team.**

The RAF Team, who've been together longer than any other RW Team in the country, were those stalwarts, Ray Willis, Bob Souter, Ty Barraclough and Joe France. They were undoubtedly the smartest team on the DZ — (this is for the benefit of any senior RAF Officer who might read this). They had trained hard, unfortunately had a couple of disastrous jumps and finished runners up 7 points behind Symbiosis 'A'.

Endrust, an old name with some new faces, was Jim Crocker again with newcomers to the Nationals Jim and Fred Keery and Colin Smith. They had also benefitted from a trip to Pope Valley, but only managed to take the bronze medal after a tie breaker jump off with the Williams Family.

John and Sally Williams supported by Steve Newton and Colin Bruce were the survivors of last years Niblocks 8-Man Team. They were another team that had trained abroad — this time in France — and were narrowly beaten by Endrust.



**Endrust with Pedro Gonzales from Venezuela.**



**The Williams Family.**

# CHAMPIONSHIPS



**The Army Team.**

The Army were represented for the first time in a RW Nationals by Wally Wallace, Mike Smith, Dave Tylcoat and Mike Berry. They tried hard and certainly learnt a lot about RW Competition, which is a good reason for entering.

Midas Touch were basically last years novices, Aces High, with Neville Jackson, Colin Kendrick, Dave Parker and Mike Boys who were still not enjoying getting up in the morning and whose opening altitudes varied from 900 to 9000 feet! It would be totally wrong to make a joke about their score at least being consistent so I won't!



**Midas Touch.**

The judges team of Biff, Thommo, George Long led by Jim Petherbridge did a magnificent job assisted by John Hitchin, John Boxall, Alan Brooke, Roger Flinn, Kerry Noble, Del, Mary, Wandas and Uncle Tom Cobley and all! The video was used, and it showed that the jumpers had received fair judgement and where they had made their mistakes. Lynne Toohey, assisted by Stu Charlton, provided the necessary sustenance whilst Pam Wallace chased the teams onto their respective aircraft. The



**The Judges and Officials.**

Northern Executive Islander was flown by Ian Faulkner and Mike Merryweather, neither of whom enjoyed their stay in the Holiday Inn — they were repeatedly heard saying they'd much rather have been in a caravan on the airfield. Richard Bardsley survived his second Nationals flying Steve Swallow's 206 whilst Charlie flew the odd load in Mich Geelan's 182.



**Freddie de Frias presents the Meet Director's prize to Pam Wallace.**

The whole thing came to a halt on the final Saturday and at the prizegiving John Meacock, our Chairman, did a good cabaret whilst Freddie de Frias from the General Aviation Branch of the CAA presented the well earned trophies and medals. It remains to say thank you to all who made it possible, and let's hope for an 8-Man Competition next year.

*Story and photos— C.S-S.*



**RESULTS**

	ROUND										Total	Place	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
R.A.F.	4	4	2	5	3	3	1	4	4	2	1	29	2nd
SYMBIOSIS 'A'	4	5	3	2	3	5	3	5	4	3	3	36	1st
SYMBIOSIS 'B'	4	3	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	20	5th
WILLIAMS FAMILY	4	3	2	3	1	3	2	4	3	1	1	23	4th
ARMY	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	11	6th
MIDAS TOUCH	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7th
ENDRUST	4	4	2	3	1	5	2	3	1	1	1	23	3rd
SYMBIOSIS	8	1	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	14	1st

**Tie Jumps for 3rd Place**

WILLIAMS FAMILY	2
ENDRUST	3

**Congratulations to Symbiosis, winners of both events; seen here on the ground (less Jackie) and in the air.**



# RUSTLE

"Watch the women and don't eat too many locust sandwiches", Ronnie O'Brien said. John Meacock and I were on our way to Kenya for seven weeks. We didn't eat many locusts. But we might have helped to catch some cattle rustlers.

They've got this funny problem in Kenya, which is a great big slice of African bush with a mountain called Kilimanjaro at one end. The top man, President Kenyatta, belongs to the Kikuyu tribe and so do most of the police force.

The Masai, a tribe of warriors who cover 25 miles on foot like you and I would take the dog for a walk, knock off other people's cattle. They have this tribal belief, see, that all the cattle on the globe belong to them.

And instead of getting a first-jump certificate at Sibson to prove you're a red blooded man (or woman), the Masai only qualify as warriors when they've collected something on the hoof and steered it back to their secure bit of countryside in the Rift Valley. Trouble is, they often knock off herdsman (and herds-boys and girls) from the Kikuyu tribe at the same time.

There's a police inspector in those parts, a sort of African Wyatt Earp, called John Wangombe who's been trying to stop the Masai for years. By the time word's got back that more cattle have been nicked, and — literally — the bush telegraph has the police trekking across country, three days have past and the thieves, plus cattle, are long gone.

So Wangombe tried a spotter plane. It didn't help much because the police were on the ground and the plane couldn't hover over the scene for ever.

Being a persistent sort of bloke, Wangombe decided his police would have a better chance if they could parachute into the action, which is where Peterborough Parachute Centre comes in.

The Kenya Police Commissioner, Peter Mungie, called up the chief flying instructor at Nakuru flying club, a local Brit called Bill Porteous, who had done his instructor's course at Sibson a few years ago. So last November, Bill called John Meacock and by March of this year we were on our way to train 105 of Wangombe's quick-reaction force to jump.



John, Alan and some of their students.

The number should have been 106 but we had one refusal: surprisingly small in view of the fact that none of the jumpers had volunteered.

Our luggage consisted of 15 35ft T10 conical steerable mains and 12 24ft reserves. The bag-deployed mains had to be tested and this we did before leaving England. Lots were drawn between Ronnie O'Brien and R. O'Brien and Ronnie won. After he was successfully despatched from the Cessna 185 at Sibson we gave him his critique: Good exit; weak release; no count; hands on risers during deployment. (Oh well, Ronnie never was keen on stable exits anyway).

Once we arrived in Kenya, our base was in a remote spot on the edge of bandit territory known as Maralal. There we divided our students into four groups and spent about five days training each of them.

Ground training was the easiest part. True, we had an aircraft — a police Cessna 206 — and two African pilots. But they had never driven a jump ship before. Still, they rapidly cottoned on to the idea of a rate four turn and with a bit of experience we were getting lifts up in perfect weather with no trouble.

Then there was the altitude problem, the altitude of the DZ, that is, above sea level: an average 5,500 ft. High temperature and nil wind meant that the plane was struggling to lift off with three jump students and one jump master.

We consulted our BPA logbooks for a solution. "Always add 100 ft (jump altitude) for each 1,000 ft of field elevation", is what the book advises, to compensate for the thinner atmosphere up there.

Sure enough, when I made the first test jump there I lost five seconds on a 30 second delay on a jump from 7,000 ft above ground level.

We started student jumping. At the end of the runway, the native huts would empty and an audience gathered. They watched their first parachute display carefully and registered that these were *cops* coming out of the sky. The point wasn't lost and during the time the course lasted, the Masai's tribal sport came to a halt.

Over the next few weeks, the students made a total of 400 descents and got so keen that we had to keep an eye on the manifest board to prevent them from screwing the organisation by adding their own names out of turn.

That is, they were all keen except for one man who decided that parachuting wasn't for him. Fair enough, I thought, and drew my knife to cut through the main tie on his main pack. (A saved face, as they say, is worth any number of broken necks).

What this lad didn't understand was that my knife was friendly, like a surgeon's. His popped, thinking he had a choice between going off the step or dealing with a Mack-the-Knife who was going to carve him up and put him out of the aircraft bit by bit. (We only do that on a really bad day at Sibson).

Somehow, in the confined space of the 206, he got out of his kit and threw first the reserve, then the main at me, then sort of snuggled down under the dual control column on the starboard side.

I did my best to reassure him. ("What are you doing you crazy bastard?").

He calmed down. We let down. And that ended that episode, except for a small matter of a court-martial and a quick exit from the police force.

Where Kenya's cattle-rustling war goes from here I'm not sure. The Government has a DC3 and several police officers trained to despatch to say nothing of a country which — Mt. Kili apart — is like one great big DZ.

The Masai are sussing out the situation as well. They've worked out that the chances of knocking off a parachuting cop with a spear aren't all that good. When we left, they were offering an entire herd of (someone else's) cattle for a single self-loading rifle. . . .

Watch this space!

ALAN ASHTON, assisted by  
TONY GERAGHTY

# SHOBDON '77

## THIRD ANNUAL ACCURACY MEET



Shobdon '77 started on Friday 6th with competitors turning up for practice jumps. By late Friday night most competitors had booked in with the usual rigmarole of late entries, lost documents, team changes, and other hard luck stories. Practice jumping began late Friday in strong winds, but had to come to a halt at 8.00 due to the briefing and draw. After the briefing all competitors disappeared to the bar, as always, to lubricate all parts of the body ready for the competition.

Saturday morning dawned to the accompaniment of blue skies, nil winds, and 63 parachutists still asleep on the packing tables. The brilliance of C.C.I. Mac McCarthy and chief judge Jim Petherbridge in handling TU canopies was demonstrated on the streamer run — both would definitely have scored DC's but unfortunately some sneaky jumper moved the pit, and this set the standard for the rest of the meet.

Most of the jumpers were treating their newly acquired ram-air canopies like light aircraft, and to avoid paying landing fees were landing everywhere but in the pit. At one time the judges were considering going back to the early 60's method of scoring, using a landrover to measure the distances — if the landrover ran out of petrol, you zapped. Admittedly the conditions for the competition were not ideal, with a number of jumps being done on limits. Due to rapidly increasing winds causing more than one rejump (one team had a rejump on a rejump) we had to stop one lift, before the end of the first round.

The traditional party took place on Saturday night with a disco and buffet. Dave Howerski was presented with SCR, SCS, and a yard of ale, and enough mugs (sorry, volunteers) were rounded up for the usual silly games to be played. Much internal lubrication was used, and the floors were well washed in beer.

On Sunday we had to wait until the afternoon, when conditions settled down enough to allow three of the four rounds to be completed. As usual the winners showed that it wasn't the canopy that won, but the jumper. The winning team, Symbiosis, with a team score of 10.05, also had the top individual, Bob Hiatt, who dead-centred out, and the second individual, Robin Mills, with 00.05 — Tony



Chris McGuire won the Ladies Prize.



Uragallo was very unlucky with 10.00. Peterborough United came second with 11.34, and also had the ladies winner, Chris McGuire, with 4.35. More Symbiosis were third with 14.99, and the third individual was Brian Shaw with 00.21. 1st Novice was Dave Cooper with 09.10, who proved that if you bother to learn how to handle your canopy it pays dividends, and although he didn't hit discs at least he looked as if he knew what he was doing.

Highlights of the meet were — Boomerang trying to seduce every dog in sight — male or female... A superb crash and burn — downwind on a cloud!... Canopy RW from Symbiosis... and the manifester being cooled with a bucket of beer— over her head!

Thanks are due to — Pat McCarthy and Sue McCarthy for doing the nosh... Kevin McCarthy for acting as Pit Manager... Charlie as Meet Director... Jim Petherbridge as Chief Judge... Assistant judges Guy Davies, Tony Dallow, Dr. Roger Flinn, and Mary Dowling who came all the way from Ireland to help us... Barbie Reed as manifester... Sue Kunicki who did the stats... Candy Oquendo as Chief Gofer... and all the other people who helped out, not least our Host, Mac McCarthy, Shobdon's

CCI... and of course all the competitors who turned up to make the meet what it was.

To sum up— Total No. of competition jumps 197, Dead centres 17, Zaps 46, Two injuries, a broken arm and a sprained ankle, no malfunctions, three rounds completed.



Dave Cooper collects the Novice's Prize from Mary Dowling.



Andy Mann had to get two hands to it!



... and a good time was had by all.

photos— C. S-S.

# B-17!

When the idea of doing a display jump from a B-17 Flying Fortress was first put to me it would have been easy to regard the whole venture as the imaginative ramblings of a senile version of Biggles. Terry Crawley, whose brainchild it was, is certainly a man of many summers, but not yet senile, and his vocabulary certainly doesn't come from schoolboy classics. He is also a man with a superb talent for convincing people that it was all their idea in the first place, and if that fails he simply confuses all around him so much that they agree for the sake of peace; so if it could be pulled off then he was the one to do it.

The problems to be overcome were many and varied. Firstly, the owners had to be convinced that it was a good idea, and here we met Ted White and his crew who turned out to be the most enthusiastic and friendly bunch of lovable loonies that I've ever met outside parachuting, and it is hard to imagine what more they could have done for us.

The display was to be into Biggin Hill Air Fair on Saturday and Sunday the 14th and 15th May, so the next step was to get the jump slotted into the programme. Once more we met co-operation and enthusiasm, principally in the form of 'Jock' Maitland, whose timetables were tight, to say the least, but who promised to do his best for us. The C.A.A. went to the trouble of sending a representative to Biggin to inspect the aircraft to clear it for the jump, and everything seemed set fair.

The next stage was to take place on the Friday before the jump when we all met at Biggin for the pre-jump briefing. The exit was to be made through the bomb-bay and after a lot of discussion between Crawley and Terry Day a stick order was decided with those two going first followed by myself with Rick Watts and Keith Taylor bringing up the rear. The method of exit was to straddle one half of the bomb bay, the left foot on the framework of the open bay door, and the right on a girder which ran along the centre of the bomb bay itself, then to release feet and hands simultaneously and drop straight down.

Saturday dawned clear and fair and we all arrived at Biggin by 1.0pm only to be told, with great apologies, that despite all efforts the jump just couldn't get into the timetable for that day. We all suffered from varying degrees of depression, particularly Terry Crawley who had done all the spade work, in fact I'm not sure he didn't chain himself to the aircraft on occasions to stop them leaving without him.

A lot of crossed fingers and twenty four hours later saw us finally emplaning. We were to fly to White Waltham for a fly past at an air show there before returning to Biggin for the jump, and just to fly in the Fortress was an experience never to be forgotten. Remarkably quiet with just a steady, powerful vibration going through the whole airframe; and it was impossible not to think of the aircraft in a combat situation and when we were frequently passed by other second world war airplanes going between the two airshows the imagination was fed with pictures from John Wayne pictures. The fly past was incredibly low and the climbing turn at the end of the runway was one of the tightest and steepest I have ever experienced.

When we gathered in the bomb bay for the jump and the doors were slowly winched down, we experienced no more than a gentle up draught. Crawley spotted and suddenly it was on and we climbed down the ironwork and dropped out to experience a calm still fall for about a second, followed by the firm, positive lift from the prop wash of the four engines. My description of the sight of that aircraft flying away and seeing Rick Watts drop out



of the hole in the floor, is one I shall bore friends and enemies with for months to come. The day ended in true style in the bar with a lot of new found friends, with a few, I think, secretly relieved that the jump had actually been done, as it meant that they could look forward to a few days, at least, unblessed by Crawley's silver tongue.

There are too many people who deserve our thanks to be mentioned individually but to all involved, we extend our gratitude for an unforgettable experience.

GORDON LILLY, D.1611.

*southern skydiver*

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# BUZZ'S CANADIAN COLUMN

At the Board of Directors' Meeting held after the Annual General Meeting in March the following was decided in respect to National Team Performance criteria.

"In order to be automatically selected as a member of the Canadian Parachute Team an individual competitor in the classical events or a team in the relative work events must achieve a score (overall standing in the case of individual events) equal to or better than a certain standard at the National Championships in the year in which the team is chosen. If an individual or team does not achieve this standard score, the BoD, in consultation with the Competition Committee, may choose at its discretion a particular competitor or team to be members of the National Parachute Team."

The basic intent is to (i) encourage competitive excellence and (ii) make best use of the financial resources at CSPA's disposal. Competitors should be aware of the fact that a berth on the Canadian team is not automatic, depending only on the standing relative to other competitions, but rather a certain high level of performance must be achieved in order for selection to be assured.

As an example, take the men's style and accuracy: if only three men achieved the standard the BoD has the option to choose one or two other men to make up the team. The BoD does not necessarily have to choose the men placing 4th and 5th, if another competitor lower in the order shows greater potential. If five or more achieve the standard, then obviously the top five make the team and no selection procedure is necessary.

The standards for the 1977 Relative Work teams are:  
4-Man. An average score of 6 points per round  
8-Man. An average score of 4 points per round.

An event of major importance and concern to the Canadian Team is taking place on June 18/19 and is called "The Great Canadian Chute Out". As you may remember, the federal government no longer provides any funding for the team to attend the World Championships, and so the GCCO is intended as a fund raising effort to replace the lost grant revenue. The idea is for each drop zone to contribute to the team fund one dollar for each jump made during Chute out day. T-Shirts will be sold, and awards are to be given to the jumper who makes the most jumps in the day and to the drop zone which makes the most jumps per capita. It is hoped in this way to raise at least \$10,000 for the team, and also to make GCCO an annual event. Many drop zones are utilising the event to generate much needed publicity and media coverage. My own drop zone is organising an accuracy meet, with a full delegation of cameramen from a local TV station in attendance.

With reference to our National Championships, we are hoping to have the Cuban National Team compete. The request came through one of our travelling members who recently spent a few weeks in Cuba. Should be an interesting experience for us, if the usual administrative tangles can be solved. I shall believe it when it actually happens, but Pierre Trudeau is supposedly good buddies with Fidel Castro, so who knows.

The long and tortuous saga of the proposed changes to the Basic Safety Regulations is finally at an end. The final revised version of the revised revised version was accepted by the membership at the AGM in March. The only major change from the version presented in this column last year was the omission of the requirement for a medical certificate before the first jump. This was

done at the request of the commercial centres as being wholly impractical from their point of view. It may be impractical to expect them to turn away a potential customer for the lack of a medical certificate, but I would suggest it is equally unwise for any club or commercial centre to undertake to train anybody without some assurance that they are reasonably fit and medically and physically capable of accomplishing what is required of them. I suspect, therefore, that particular item will be self-regulatory.

In any event the new regulations come into effect on July 1 1977 and probably their arrival will have all the impact of a moth flying into a window. Someone might take momentary notice, but there being no real change in the established order of things, jumping will carry on as before.

BUZZ.

## FLIGHT SAFETY BULLETIN



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# NATIONAL (CLASSIC)

The fastest Nationals on record; it was all over bar the presentation in three days! Thanks to someone upstairs liking us for a change — the weather was perfect.

Unable to believe the weather and with a poor Met. forecast, Charlie and Doug Peacock (Chief Judge) decided to start the meet on Saturday, and after a 17.00 hrs. briefing we commenced the first round of style at 18.00hrs. By dark we had completed the first round of style and gone into the second. Scotty showed us the worth of a States trip with his first set in the low 7's.

No early starts this year, thanks to local protest from last year (I personally do mean thanks!) so 08.00 start Sunday and on with the second round of style. We only had two aircraft over the weekend, both from Hereford, the 182 flown by Graham Cross and the 172 flown by "Mac" MacCarthy. Unfortunately the man with the key to the petrol pumps does not start until late on Sunday — Graham Cross found out he did not have as much fuel as he had thought and Dave Howerski and Alan Layton got free jumps when they had to bail out at altitude. Graham did not appreciate Charlie asking him to overshoot as he brought the plane down! Round 2 of Style was completed by 10.35 and round 3 by 14.05. Streamer run for Team Accuracy at 14.30 and the first team showed the way when Symbiosis disced out on their jump — never to be caught. We ended the third round of team accuracy by 21.00hrs. All were stood down then until 06.30 for 07.00 start Monday. Sunday evening was a magic night with the other aircraft flying in to give us the full meet compliment, the Leeds 206 with Richard Bardsley, Bickmarsh 182 and John Sudbury (who else — it's his annual holiday) and the Cark 182 with "Ben" Benyon.



Scotty scoring one of his 11 discs.

Streamer at 07.00 and first aircraft airborne at 07.25 and off we went on individual accuracy, by noon we had completed 4 rounds. Scotty at this stage discing out but with Tony Uragallo only 2 centimetres behind. Myra Sudbury (a proper air traffic controller) ran the RT for us and jumpers were arriving in the pit at 1 to 1½ minute intervals. We then had a 1 hour standown. At 13.05 we started last round of style, but the judging was made very difficult by the haze and difficulty in picking up the aircraft, despite the judging area being full of volunteer spotters! The heat haze won and half way through the round jumping was suspended for a while. On then to the



Steve McBrine having failed to demolish the B.P.A. Caravan.

last round of team accuracy, memorable for the joy of NWPC 'B' when they realised they had beaten Duck End for 3rd place. At 16.30 the last round of style was completed with Scotty's overall times breaking new boundaries. Although Charlie asked the competitors if they wished to go on, most felt that 6 competitive jumps and the heat were enough — and that it is within the rules. So Leominster Baths were invaded.



Sandy Murray shows good form . . .

# CHAMPIONSHIPS



... so does Jackie Smith!

Tuesday morning and unbelievably — cloud! But base was 3+ so on with individual accuracy, despite the rain that followed. However as the morning progressed the weather improved, both sun and bikinis came out, and by mid day that was it — the end of the 1977 Nationals. Charlie called a competitors meeting for 14.00 when he announced the winners and took the group photo.



Symbiosis had an excellent meet.



The Pernod Girls enjoyed the sun.

The weather obviously enabled the meet to finish quickly, but so did the small number of competitors. The standard was very high, but a lot of people enjoyed themselves very much. Dave Prince was awarded the Meet Director's award (a tankard — is Charlie's book out of print?) the contingent from his club made up a quarter of the competitors — his aircraft was loaned with alacrity even arriving with fuel on board to help with our one major disaster (there has to be one else the Meet Director would think he had been cheated) when the airfield ran out of fuel mid Sunday afternoon. Other incidents; Bulmers forgot the helmet stickers and the presentation discs did not arrive until Monday. Jane Spence broke her leg (hope it mends soon) and we had three malfunctions — the spectators on Sunday contributed £17 to the Team Fund.



The Freds represented the Army.



**Bob Hiatt was overall runner-up.**



**Paddy Byrne took the style bronze.**

Thanks to the pilots and the aircraft owners, thanks to the judges Doug Peacock, Biff Burns, Geordie Lang and Roger Flynn — to the Stats and recorders, Sue Lear [I corrected this omission! — Ed], Dee Robins, Pam Wallace, Dorothy Coulthead and Dave Prince who helped the judges on Style and Barbara Reed for the thankless job of manifestor. Huge thanks to Sue MacCarthy and Candy for providing a plentiful supply of

good cheap food and to the MacCarthy's as a family for the magnificent bar-b-que Tuesday night to end the meet.

Those who stayed for the prizegiving enjoyed a highly amusing speech by Lord George Brown and an even funnier situation when Scotty kissed him — at least it stopped Lord George Brown kissing Sandy.

Thanks to everyone, most of all the competitors for such a hassle free meet, I had a marvellous week and I hope everyone else did.

SUE LEAR, D. 1485

**RESULTS**

<b>OVERALL MEN'S CHAMPION</b>	R. A. Milne
2nd	R. Hiatt
3rd	A. Uragallo
<b>OVERALL LADIES' CHAMPION</b>	S. Murray
2nd	J. Smith
3rd	S. Smith
<b>OVERALL TEAM WINNERS</b>	Symbiosis
2nd	Army
3rd	Duck End
<b>MEN'S STYLE CHAMPION</b>	R. A. Milne
2nd	R. Hiatt
3rd	P. Byrne
<b>LADIES' STYLE CHAMPION</b>	S. Smith
2nd	S. Murray
3rd	C. McGuire
<b>MEN'S ACCURACY CHAMPION</b>	A. Uragallo
2nd	R. Hiatt
3rd	P. DeFelice
<b>TEAM ACCURACY WINNERS</b>	Symbiosis
2nd	Army
3rd	NWPC
<b>FIRST YEAR STYLE</b>	D. Young
<b>NOVICES</b>	A. Redfern
<b>MEET DIRECTOR'S PRIZE</b>	D. Prince



**The Ark Team check their score . . .**



**. . . which confirms their 3rd place in Team Accuracy.**



Scotty receives the National Champion's Trophy from Lord George Brown.



Sandy receives something else from Lord George Brown — Scotty's face says it all!



Tuesday lunchtime and it's all over — happiness all round!

photos by Dave Waterman and C. S-S

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# THE 2nd SUNDAY TIMES ACCURACY MEET

As Dane Kenny and Tony Uragallo were on the run-in, they shook hands and wished each other good luck. The reason was not that they'd suddenly got religion. Both men were on the Symbiosis team — along with Jackie Smith and Robin Mills in the Times Newspapers Accuracy meet at Sibson on June 18/19 — and this was the jump-off for the individual title. What's more, Symbiosis solidarity was running particularly strong following a spectacular if unlucky turn of events for the four in the team event (of which more later).

But to return to the individual title. Last year, Uragallo missed victory in the same competition by a few cm in a jump-off against Martin Bird of the Freds. This year, the way Tony's luck was running, it seemed that the pattern might repeat itself.

Ex-Fred Kenny, now a North Sea diver wearing a non-military haircut, and Uragallo had already scored three DC's each. The weather was worsening and the day nearly over, a tight, last-lift situation which inspired Charlie Shea-Simonds to suggest, wryly, that if the two finalists scored equally yet again, then the judges might have to rely on applause around the pit for the most stylish landing. (A rose between the teeth, perhaps? Or a rendering of 'Bless This House' on final approach?).

Uragallo, jumping a Stratostar (?) went first and crunched his boot unerringly onto the disc. Now we waited for Kenny. His Stratocloud (?) rigid above him as he rode into a fresh nor-easter, it looked as if he was on an invisible escalator with another DC as its inevitable destination.

Thirty feet away, Kenny roars: "What did you get, Tony?"

An unrepeatable remark from Uragallo at the edge of the pit.

Kenny, now 15ft away, repeats the question, even louder. "What did you get?"

In the second that followed Kenny was down, his boot overstepping the DC by a mere 11 cm.

There were some who half-suspected that Kenny did not miss the disc by accident, a belief which Kenny himself cheerfully put to rest afterwards. He might have distracted himself, he grinned, as a result of trying to exchange wisecracks with Uragallo on that final approach.

By now it didn't matter. By now we wanted Uragallo to win if only because his flawless performance in the individual jump-off followed a tricky malfunction earlier in the competition which had robbed Symbiosis of an apparently impregnable lead in the team event.

What happened was this. With the first round completed towards the end of a weekend of unjumpable weather, Symbiosis had collected a total penalty of only 0.02cm among the four on the team. Uragallo, Jackie Smith and Kenny — celebrating his 25th birthday — all hit the disc and Robin Mills had a near miss.

The nearest competition was from the Peterborough United team comprising Chris and Ray McGuire, Colin Bruce and Ollie Prin, with 1.07 metres overall (including a DC from Ray).

Peterborough jumped before Symbiosis on round two, scoring 2.93 (including a DC from Ollie).

The Symbiosis team jump went wrong on the second round when Uragallo's Strat. failed to inflate properly. He was still trying to sort it out as he dropped past his team-mate, Mills.



Jackie won the Ladies Prize.

By the time Uragallo had decided that the main wasn't going to perform he was too close to the ground to do anything but pull his reserve. It deployed normally but Sod's Law (more politely, the Law of Opposites) now took over and the main also started flying.

Mills, like the rest of us, could see that this situation was tailor-made for an interesting canopy tangle. Throwing away all ideas of competitive accuracy he followed Uragallo and landed near him, well away from the pit.

Mills reasoned that he'd stuck with a team-mate who might have required instant help on the ground and that he was entitled to a rejump. Dave Waugh ('Woof') on behalf of the judges took the view that however praiseworthy on moral grounds, Robin's jump was a Zap because the competition was one of accuracy, not ethics. No rejump.

In spite of the 10m penalty that resulted, Symbiosis' final tally after three rounds was a mere 10.19 and the team finished as runners-up to Peterborough United, who'd scored a creditable 6.65.

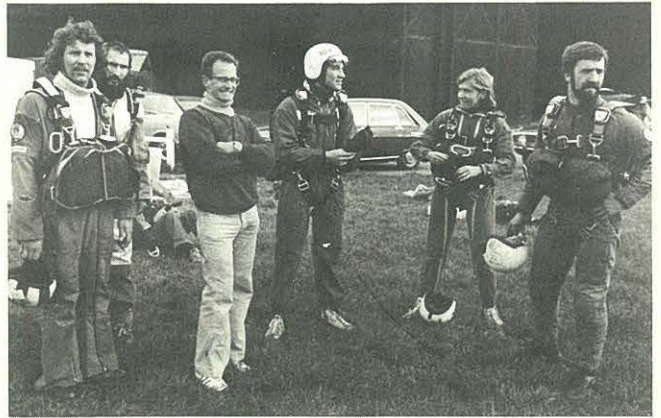
It was after this catastrophe that Uragallo went on to win the individual award . . . and in the bar afterward, when the trophies were being handed out, that host and Meet organiser, John Meacock, delighted everyone by producing a magic cheque as a special award to Robin Mills.

Other distinguished performances included that of Peter Fox from Cark. Having scored 1.60 on the first round, he had a malfunction on the second from which he made a text-book cutaway before sailing safely and confidently under his reserve to the edge of the DZ. His team finished third.





Tony Uragallo was individual winner.



Ready to go . . .



. . . while John Carter did some personal advertising!



Robin Mills thought he got a DC. The judges didn't agree — what do you think?

**Full team results:**

1. Peterborough United . . . . . 6.65 m
2. Symbiosis . . . . . 10.19 m
3. NW Para Centre . . . . . 12.24 m
4. Flying Machine . . . . . 16.69 m
5. High Hopes . . . . . 19.56 m
6. Duck End Farm . . . . . 36.58 m
7. Sibson Sewerage Rats . . . . . 45.35 m
8. Chesterfield Fall-in Wrestlers . . . . . 55.98 m
9. Pipe It . . . . . 58.36 m
10. Scotch Missed . . . . . 90.95 m

**Individual results:**

1. Dave Kenny
2. Tony Uragallo
3. Jackie Smith

**Meet Director's Prize:**

Paula Douglas

Words — Tony Geraghty

Photos — C. S-S

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 30th MARCH, 1977**  
**held at B.P.A. Offices, Kimberley House, Leicester**

**PRESENT**

J. T. Crocker ( <i>Chairman</i> )	J. Sharples
W/O D. Peacock	J. Norris
J. N. Petherbridge	R. H. Swainson
J. L. Thomas	P. G. Mitchell
P. A. Howell	M. Chapman
D. D. Orton	Col. P. I. Chiswell ( <i>Co-opted</i> )
W/O J. Laing	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Sqn. Ldr. W. Paul—*Sec-Gen BPA*  
G. C. P. Shea-Simonds—*NC/SO BPA*  
S. W. Talbot—(*Observing*)  
I. Howell (Mrs.)—(*Observing*)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

W. J. Meacock ( <i>Chairman BPA</i> )	D. I. Waugh ( <i>Vice-Chairman BPA</i> )
P. J. Prior	W/O E. Lewington
Wg. Cdr. White ( <i>Co-opted</i> )	A. Geraghty ( <i>Co-opted</i> )
I. B. Wright ( <i>Co-opted</i> )	D. Howerski
D. Waterman	

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the meeting agreed to Mr. J. T. Crocker taking the chair.

Item 16/77

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **Safety and Training.** The minutes of the STC Meeting of 15.3.77 as previously distributed were received by Council. The following points arose:

(a) **Instructor Qualifications.** Mr. Waterman had submitted a letter in which he claimed that the STC Meeting had misinterpreted his original submission which questioned the rule that *only* an instructor could jump-master a display with 'C' Certificate holders in the team. It was not his intention that the rule be changed, rather that "a facility be allowed whereby certain individuals, because of their experience and standing in the sport, could on application to the STC, be granted an exemption to the rule.

It was agreed that Mr. Waterman's submission has been misinterpreted and that he should seek an exemption through the STC.

B. **Competitions.** The minutes of the Competitions Committees Meeting of 9.3.77 as previously distributed were received by Council, the following points arose:

(1) **World Championships R.W. 1977**

(a) **Appointment of Chief Judge.** The committee recommended that the appointment of the NC/SO as Chief Judge at the World Championship R.W. 1977 be accepted. Unanimously approved by the Council.

(b) **Appointment of Head of Delegation.** It was agreed that Council members wishing to bid for the appointment as Head of Delegation should bid to the Sec-Gen. Council would select from such bids.

(c) **Sports Council Grant Aid.** The Sec-Gen referred to the Committee's minutes that he put forward a special case for additional grant aid towards travel to Australia. The Sec-Gen pointed out that there was a standard scale laid down irrespective of the venue. The necessary application forms were now due from the Sports Council but the Sec-Gen would advise the Sports Council of the venue in advance of submitting the application and point out that the balance of the cost could be a drain on the Association's finances.

C. **Forward Planning.** Mr. Howell pointed out that the Forward Planning Committee still consists of himself only. Information was still awaited from clubs regarding aircraft and D.Z. Most of his time had been taken up with the subject of the National Centre. This matter would be presented later in the meeting.

Item 17/77

**APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION**

A. **Wales and West of England Parachute Club**

Proposed by J. Sharples

Seconded by D. Orton

*Carried unanimously.*

B. **York University Parachute Club.** This application was not presented by the Sec-Gen on the grounds that it failed to meet the basic requirements of memberships i.e. out of some 132 members listed only one was a BPA member. Also a copy of the club's constitution or rules was not attached. A letter had been sent to the club pointing out the defects in the application—a reply was awaited.

Item 18/77

**PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

A. Previous minutes 10.2.77.

Proposed: D. Orton

Seconded: J. Petherbridge.

*Carried unanimously.*

B. **Matters Arising**

(a) **British Collegiate Parachute Association** (arising from Item 3/77 (1a)). The Sec-Gen whilst emphasising that Council and himself had always encouraged any venture which was beneficial to the clubs formed at the various colleges, he felt that instead of Council being presented with the title of this newly formed Association as more or less a *fait accompli* it would, in his view, have been courteous of the affiliated clubs concerned to have recognised the BPA Council by seeking its approval of the title. The Sec-Gen considered the title to be inappropriate and unnecessarily close to that of the British Parachute Association.

*Council did not support this view.*

(b) **Sports Aid Foundation** (Item 3/77 (2b)). The Sec-Gen reported that the 14 Applications from Mr. D. Waterman were with the Foundation. He pointed out that the package containing these had been damaged and delayed in the post with the result that it would probably be the next meeting of the Foundation before these were considered.

(c) **Trust Fund** (Item 4/77). Mr. Crocker reported and apologised that he had not progressed the matter and on reflection, felt that he was probably not the right person to advise Council since his personal view was against the formation of a Trust Fund. There was general lack of enthusiasm for the matter and the only two submissions, one by the Treasurer and the other by Mr. Prior were against the idea. The Sec-Gen suggested the matter be deferred till after he had an opportunity to look more closely into the new Betting and Gaming Law which allowed the organisation of Lotteries with increased financial margins of profit—it may be that a Lottery could be arranged to provide a reasonable sum of money with which a Trust could be started. He was well aware that Council's hesitancy was based not so much on finding the money but rather on the matter of how the fund would be monitored. It was agreed to leave the matter with the Sec-Gen to bring forward at a more convenient time.

(d) **Video/Telemeter System** (Item 5/77 a). The Sec-Gen reported that the new telemeters from Paris had arrived and that the video linked system was now being prepared by Optical and Textile Ltd. The Sports Council's grant of 50% (£1817) had been paid to us.

The NC/SO reported that he had heard of a source in Harrogate which had two sets of telemeters for sale. It was agreed that Mr. Crocker and the NC/SO should pursue the matter and try to track down the source.

(f) **Outstanding Loans** (Item 5/77 F(1)).

(1) **Sport Para Centre.** The outstanding debt had now been paid to Messrs. Southall & Co. and Mr. Crocker would be arranging for the transfer of the Funds to BPA.

(2) **Wessex Para. Club.** The Sec-Gen reported that he had spoken with Mr. Donovan who had confirmed that his aircraft was now on the market at a price of £9,000 and in event of a sale he should be in a position to make pay-

ment to the BPA within the next two months. Mr. Swainson reported he had knowledge of the aircraft which had been advertised in "Flight International" as shortly available for hire for parachuting — he had been to Castle Donnington and the aircraft was still in a "heap of bits" and is expected to be serviceable in about a month — at present it is in the same condition as when it was flown into Castle Donnington in November 1975.

The Chairman was concerned that in the two month period as quoted by Mr. Donovan, we could find ourselves no nearer to a settlement of this loan and that perhaps the time had now been reached when we should consider Council's obligation to the membership. Mr. Howell pointed out there were assets in the form of the aircraft. Mr. Crocker suggested that in an effort which may assist Mr. Donovan, we give him an extension of time subject to him consenting to judgement being entered against him and us taking a charging order on the aircraft with he being responsible for any costs incurred by BPA. This would help him and give us some small measure of security. An alternative would be for him to pay an interest on the loan and providing he can satisfy us that the aircraft is unincumbered, give us an aircraft mortgage. The rate of interest agreed was 13½% as from today's date. An immediate answer was required from Mr. Donovan.

(g) *RAFSPA Policy — Civilian Members* (Item 7/77). W/O Peacock reported that there still seemed to be some confusion as to RAFSPA policy with regard to civilian membership. The RAFSPA Annual General Meeting is due on 19th April and probably the question of civilian membership would be resolved then. The Sec-Gen would seek clarification.

(h) *Co-opted Membership — Mr. A. Geraghty* (Item 8/77 a.). Mr. Geraghty had accepted Council's invitation to be a co-opted member of Council. His apology for not being able to attend the present meeting had been telexed from the U.S.A.

(j) *Public Relations* (Item 11/77). A letter from Mr. Waterman was read in his absence. He referred to the proposed letter from the Chairman to Industries seeking support for the British Team. He had given further thought to this and now felt that such a letter may be better received if something was offered in return for support. With the World Championships now being held later i.e. November, we have a long summer during which the Team could train — he was not suggesting that the BPA could afford to pay for all the jumping a 4-Man and 8-Man Team could do in seven months but suggested that the British Team could be available for displays for Companies at say £250 for a 4-Man display, £450 for an 8-Man display. This would not interrupt training too drastically but could be a useful source of additional team funds. There was agreement that the letter from the Chairman should take account of Mr. Waterman's suggestion but should also appeal for contributions.

The matter of the Press Kit for issue to clubs was raised — Mr. Waterman to be asked to provide the material which is understood to be ready.

(k) *Application for 'Approved Club' Award* (Item 14/77). Mr. W. J. Meacock (Chairman BPA) had addressed a letter to all Council Members in which he referred to the approved Club Grant. He agreed clubs should be encouraged to reach a minimum standard but felt this encouragement should fall short of making a cash payment which could cost the Association a great deal of money. It was his belief that payment should not be made to a club for doing what was a duty — if you are in the student training business you should be expected to provide adequate facilities for the training and control of all parachutists.

Apart from the cost to BPA, regulating and controlling the standards could be difficult. Club Secretaries and CCI's are changing all the time. Whilst we know the majority do a first class job, it could be argued that a change in club management could easily be accompanied by a fall in standards that would take a long time to be recognised by the Head Office.

Again, the withdrawal of BPA Approval and the subsequent loss of grant could be just the excuse for a club to stop supporting BPA with memberships. We would then lose on two counts; the money cost on the grant to clubs and the loss of subscription income.

The basic idea is excellent but we should discuss the implications again.

The meeting was reminded that the financial commitment involved is £150 per year to each approved club, reviewed each two years with subsequent payments being dependent on the minimum standard being maintained.

After considerable discussion it was proposed by W/O Peacock, seconded by J. L. Thomas that the present financial grant remain in force but that the amount of grant may be reduced at any time depending on BPA's financial position. The proposition was carried by 9 votes to 2.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Item 20/77

**Instructor and Pilot Badges.** The NC/SO reported that a discussion held after the last Instructors Course indicated there was a demand for Instructor and Pilot Badges for use on 'Jump/Flying Suits'. It was agreed that the Sec-Gen investigate the cost of the suggested badges.

### Item 21/77

**Training Aids — Suspended Harness.** The NC/SO reported on the varying standards of suspended harnesses, some of which were at best frightfully uncomfortable and certainly not liked by students. There was an ideal suspended harness in use at the Leeds/Bradford F.F. Club. The two main sections of this, the metal frame and the harness, had been made up at two different sources and quotes were to hand for the manufacture of these sections. It was agreed that the quote for the metal work was extremely good but so far as the harness was concerned there could be competition within the Association and therefore quotations should be asked for from other interested parties (obviously BPA Riggers).

Speaking as Chairman of the STC, Mr. Crocker expressed the view that the equipment in question was certainly desirable and was compatible with STC's aims to standardise equipment. The Sec-Gen suggested that this was probably an area where BPA could assist clubs and suggested that this assistance could take the form of meeting the cost of the metal frame work — each frame would cost £19 and if all 56 BPA Clubs were to be supplied the total bill would be £1,064. This would at least be something tangible indicating BPA's support for the grass roots of the sport. Mr. Talbot informed the meeting he had a contact who may wish to quote for the frames. The Sec-Gen would liaise with Mr. Talbot. It was agreed that riggers be advised of the requirement for the harness, specification available from Mr. J. L. Thomas, and they contact the Sec-Gen with quotes.

It was proposed by J. Petherbridge seconded by D. Orton that each club purchasing a harness be provided with an approved frame paid for by the BPA — the resolution was carried by 11 votes to nil with one abstention (Mr. J. L. Thomas).

### Item 22/77

**Insurance Renewal — 1977/78.** The Sec-Gen reported on his negotiations for the renewal of the BPA Third Party Public Liability Insurance which embodied members, display teams, instructors and riggers (Products Liability). He gave comparative figures from the present insurers Norwich Union through Messrs. Hogg Robinson and Gardner Mountain International Ltd and from Messrs. Gladwell Greenhill. The Sec-Gen have an account of the background to our insurance and presented details of the current quotations.

A proposal by the Treasurer Mr. P. G. Mitchell seconded by Mr. D. Orton that the BPA Insurance for 1977/78 be placed with Messrs. Hogg Robinson and Gardner Mountain International Ltd was carried unanimously.

### Item 23/77

**Purchase of Australian Film.** A letter from Mr. D. Waugh to the Chairman informing him of an Australian Film (believed cost \$295 including postage). Only the NC/SO had seen the film and he felt that it had little of advantage for the British scene. It was agreed not to pursue the matter.

### Item 24/77

**The Gaming Board for Great Britain.** The Sec-Gen informed the meeting of correspondence from the Gaming Board for Great Britain which outlined details of the Lotteries and Amusements Acts 1976 operative from 1st May 1977 and which enables

Societies and Local Authorities to promote Lotteries subject to the limitations and requirements of the Act and of the Lotteries Regulations 1977 (S1 1977—No. 256).

In general terms, this allows the Association to promote short-term, medium-term and any other lottery with the following provisions:

(a) *Short-term Lottery* — at least seven days between the dates of any lotteries with value of tickets sold not to exceed £10,000 and the value of the single largest prize in any one lottery not to exceed £1,000.

(b) *Medium-term Lottery* — at least one month between lotteries, maximum value of tickets sold £20,000 with value of single largest prize being £1,500.

(c) *Any other Lottery* — at least three months between lotteries, maximum value of tickets sold £40,000 with value of single largest prize being £2,000.

The proportion of the whole proceeds of any lottery which may be appropriated for prizes in that Lottery shall not exceed 50%.

There would be a registration fee payable to the Gaming Board for Great Britain at a rate for each lottery of:

(a) Where total value of tickets sold does not exceed £5,000 — £5.

(b) Where total value of tickets sold exceeds £5,000 but not £10,000 — £15.

(c) £20 in any other case.

In the light of this new act it was possible for the Association to organise a lottery on a bigger scale than our present annual raffle.

It may be we could look on a lottery as a source for the combined purpose of the National Team Fund and setting up a Trust Fund. The Sec-Gen had been considering the possibility of organising a Summer Raffle so that when budgeting for World Championships we would have a known income instead of having to work on an estimated income from a raffle to be held six months later. If we could have a summer and winter lottery, the income from the summer lottery could be allocated to the National Championships of that year and that of the winter lottery to a Trust Fund. It was appreciated that the subject was not one for the present meeting but the idea was being discussed only as a matter of information at this time. The Sec-Gen would in due course submit ideas for consideration by Council.

Item 25/77

**F.A.I. Subscription.** The Sec-Gen informed the meeting that the Royal Aero Club, as the National Affiliate to the FAI, had paid the FAI Subscription for 1977 and had drawn up a pro-rata scale showing the amount to be recovered from the member aviation disciplines — this showed the BPA amount as £750. The Sec-Gen gave details of the amounts due by the various disciplines. The NC/SO questioned why BPA should be paying more than AOPA (previously known as BLAC). The Sec-Gen replied that so far as he knew the amounts payable were based on the uses each discipline made of the FAI — he was not acquainted with what changes had occurred in the organisation of BLAC when it became AOPA but, since members seemed to be concerned and were using AOPA's element as a yard stick, he would refer the matter back to the Royal Aero Club for clarification.

Item 27/77

**Purchase of Office Equipment.** The Sec-Gen sought Council's approval to introduce a new filing system with a view to improving the efficiency of the office. The system he suggested was the Twinlock which would entail the purchase of two cabinets with the appropriate lateral files and wallets. The cabinets currently in the Sec-Gen's office would not be surplus but would be effectively put to use for the storage of records and stock. Mr. P. G. Mitchell (Treasurer) proposed and Mr. J. L. Thomas seconded that the Sec-Gen be authorised to introduce the system he considered most appropriate to our needs and that a cost of £400 be approved.

*Carried unanimously.*

### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A RAM-AIR MALFUNCTION?

*If so please assist BPA STC in collating information. Please write to the NCSO for the necessary proforma to complete.*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

B.P.A. does not guarantee equipment bought and sold through the medium of this journal. Purchasers are advised to use the services of approved riggers.

### FOR SALE

**Strato-Star, sliderised & container — £295**

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0734-594691 (home)

**I24, modified, complete — £50**

Contact: K. Abrahams 0274-683236 (work)  
0274-662896 (home)

**B12 pack, harness and reserve container — £25**

Contact: S. Scott 02405-6083

**Mk I PC with 4 pin pack and harness — £250 o.n.o.**

Contact: J. Boxall 0432-67465

**Mk I PC with sleeve, risers and MA1's — £145 o.n.o.**

Contact: K. Nelson 0207-505354 (home)  
0207-3411 Ext. 272 (work)

**Tricon Reserve — £160**

Contact: N. Perks 0384-65386 (home)  
021-704-2111 (work)

**Mk I PC with pack and harness — £220 o.n.o.**

Contact: J. Owen 0222-65628 (evenings)

**Talisman Reserve — £200**

Contact: B. Tyrell 079370-2994

**Mk I PC with risers and MAI — £100**

Contact: D. Tylecoat 0734-760421 Ext. 451

**French Pap — £150 B4 pack and harness — £30**

Contact: M. Johnson 0203-343523

**American Pap in complete Mini System — £250**

Contact: S. Newby 0262-78212

**R. & J. Wedge System and reserve tray — £100**

Contact: Cherry Collins 0622-890226

**American Pap, I24 in Mini System complete plus Altimaster II — £360**

Contact: M. Humphrey 09064-21311 (work)  
0903-66221 (home)

**Irvin Lo Po complete with pack and harness — £120**

**Jumpsuit — £10 Boots size 5 — £10**  
Contact: S. Robinson 09334-2942

**Mk I PC in 3 pin pack and harness — £240 o.n.o.**

**Reserve tray — £30 o.n.o.**  
Contact: S. Spedding 09654-3166

**French Pap in Mini-System — £300**

Contact: C. Pearce 0273-67073

**French Pap — £120**

Contact: N. Waterhouse, 49 Twyning Road, Stirchley, Birmingham

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION**  
**COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, 19th MAY, 1977**  
**Drayton Manor West**

**PRESENT**

W. J. Meacock—*Chairman BPA*  
W/O J. Laing  
J. L. Thomas  
R. H. Swainson  
J. Norris  
P. G. Mitchell  
D. Orton  
W/O D. Peacock  
D. L. Howerski  
Major T. H. Ridgway (*representing*)  
Bdr. P. I. Chiswell (*Co-opted*)  
I. B. Wright (*Co-opted*)  
Wg. Cdr. W. B. White (*Co-opted*)

W/O E. Lewington  
P. A. Howell  
J. Petherbridge  
D. Waterman  
D. I. Waugh  
J. Sharples  
J. T. Crocker

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Sqn. Ldr. W. Paul—*Sec-Gen BPA*  
G. C. P. Shea-Simonds—*NC/SO BPA*  
S. W. Talbot

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

P. J. Prior  
M. Chapman

Item 28/77

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. **Safety and Training.** The minutes of the STC Meeting of 19th April 1977 as previously distributed were received by Council. The following points arose:

1. *Training Aid Slides.* It was agreed that sets of training aid slides be purchased as outlined by the STC and quoted by Eclipse Cine Enterprises at a cost of 13p per mounted slide. In reply to the Chairman, Mr. Waterman confirmed his intention to produce sets of his general interest slides (36 per set). He would advertise these in 'Sport Parachutist' when the sets were ready for purchase.

2. *Loss of Instructor Rating — Mr. A. Keoghan.* The meeting heard from the NC/SO the reasons for the STC decision to withdraw Mr. Keoghan's instructor rating for one year and that should he wish to requalify he would be required to go through the full BPA Instructor Qualification system. It was emphasised that the STC Meeting was adamant in its decision and that the whole matter had been very thoroughly considered. The Chairman referred to criticisms of the severity of the decision and admitted this had been his own first reaction. However, on now hearing the full background he accepted STC's ruling. The meeting ratified the decision. A letter from a BPA member in support of Mr. Keoghan had previously been distributed to Council Members and the Sec-Gen would reply by conveying Council's decision.

3. *Pre-Training Physical Test.* It was noted that this matter was under consideration and would be further discussed at the next STC Meeting.

- b. **Competitions.** The minutes of the Competitions Committee Meeting of 20th April 1977 were received by Council and the following points arose:

1. *Stop Watches.* Two digital stop watches had been purchased and evaluated and found to be extremely satisfactory. In consequence it was proposed by D. Howerski and seconded by D. Waugh that a further two stop watches of the same design be purchased.

*Carried unanimously.*

2. *Adriatic Cup.* A request that teams from Duck End Farm be permitted to enter for the Adriatic Cup was approved.

3. *Telemeter/Video System.* This BPA system had been used at the Army Championships and it was agreed that its purchase had been money very well spent. It was agreed that for the current year it would be used purely for evaluation and not as a judging back-up. Once the operating system had been proved it would be used in a wider role. The Sec-Gen confirmed that Video Equipment was covered by insurance.

4. *Sports Aid Foundation. — (Symbiosis Team).* A letter from the S.A.F. was read by W/O Peacock. The letter was interpreted as meaning that members of the Symbiosis Team should re-apply on the new forms which had been supplied, providing they qualify through the criteria as quoted. W/O Peacock pointed out that the Competitions Committee had considered the original applications in the light of the quoted criteria i.e.

"The governing body should restrict applications to those competitors of proven ability and potential to compete with distinction in Olympic Games and World, European or equivalent Championships".

The new forms would be passed to Mr. Waterman for completion and return to BPA for forwarding to the S.A.F. Forms had been supplied to Mr. J. Williams and their return was awaited.

5. *Head of Delegation — 1977 World Championships.* There were two applicants for the post of Head of Delegation:

J. Petherbridge  
J. T. Crocker

After deliberation it was unanimously agreed that Mr. J. T. Crocker be appointed Head of Delegation for the 1977 World RW Championships to be held in Australia in November.

6. *Team Travel to World Championships.* The Sec. Gen reported on his enquiries as to the cost of travel. An Advance Purchase Fare (booked 90 days in advance and for a minimum stay of 21 days) was £540 or £450 if the team left Australia not later than 30th November. Since 30th November was the last day of the Championships it was unlikely the team would leave before 1st December. There had been no bulletins from the Australian Organisers and the only figure available was that quoted by the Australian Delegate at the CIP Meeting in February '77 i.e. \$800 (approx. £467.80) under a possible arrangement with Lufthansa Airline. Mr. Crocker recently returned from America, advised that there seemed to be possible problems over the proposed accommodation in Australia and that a telex received in USA indicated that Qantas claimed to have been appointed as agents for the World Championships. W/O Peacock reported that the West Germans having first contacted Lufthansa now had a quote from an East German Airline which was 50% less than Lufthansa. In view of the lack of information from Australia it was agreed the NC/SO write to Australia to obtain as much information as possible.

On the matter of team training Mr. Crocker suggested that consideration should be given to the matter of travelling to Australia via the U.S.A. where team training could be done — providing of course that the cost of travelling via U.S.A. proved to be competitive. W/O Peacock gave notice that the next Competitions Committee Meeting would possibly be giving consideration to whether in fact we do send an 8-Man Team.

- c. **Forward Planning.** The only matter to hand was that of Southern Counties PC which was on the Agenda as a separate item. It was agreed to bring the item forward.

Mr. Swainson outlined the background leading to the club's present position which was that having found a new drop zone at Worthing in March, the farmer insisted that the club get planning permission but allowed operation under the 28 day rule. Application to Worthing Borough Council had been successful but approval was turned down by Sussex County Council on environmental considerations. The club was now considering an appeal which may or may not take the form of a public enquiry. There are of course financial considerations but it was not his intention to seek BPA support at this stage. He was hoping to get a Letter of Intent from the landowner giving a five year term of usage. Such a term could make the financial outlay for an appeal worthwhile. A verbal agreement has been given by the landowner but obviously written agreement was required. Mr. Swainson was in touch with Mr. Howell who had given guidance and recommended that operation under the 28 day ruling be closely monitored so that facts can be gathered to counter any arguments put forward. The question of whether or not planning permission was in fact required was raised. Mr. Swainson would keep in

touch with Mr. Howell who would advise and action as required.

- d. **B.P.A. Scholarship Scheme.** This matter was being considered and would be reported on when a plan had been formulated.

Item 29/77

#### **AFFILIATION: FREE FALL PARACHUTE CLUB (LANGAR)**

The Sec-Gen outlined the present situation at the club. It now operates under a three months trial basis Exemption issued by the C.A.A. and has been requiring its students to join the BPA.

There was also an application by Mr. Sawyer for membership of the BPA, attached to which was a 'petition' signed by 17 BPA Members. It was agreed to consider this in conjunction with the application for affiliation. Previous application in respect of affiliation and membership had been refused by Council at its extraordinary meeting of 23rd February, 1977.

The Chairman read a letter submitted by Mr. Sawyer in support of his application for BPA Membership.

**Application for BPA Membership.** Mr. Waugh considered that so far as Mr. Sawyer's personal application for BPA Membership was concerned, nothing had changed and therefore proposed that the application be refused at this time. This was seconded by Mr. Crocker and unanimously carried.

**Application for Affiliation.** The meeting discussed this at length taking account of the fact that BPA Members do jump at the club and their interest had to be considered. However, there was strong support for the view that with Mr. Sawyer as Chairman of the Club would still have considerable influence and until such time as there was positive evidence of this influence being correctly used, affiliation should be deferred. A proposal by D. Howerski seconded by J. L. Thomas that the affiliation be approved was *defeated by 12 votes to 4*.

Item 30/77

#### **PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a. Previous Minutes**

1. *Item 16/77A (a) Instructor Qualification Exemption.* The Sec-Gen pointed out that Mr. Waterman's previous enquiry was not for himself but rather to establish a principle under which others may apply to STC for an exemption to the rule that "only an instructor could jumpmaster a display when there were 'C' Certificate holders in the team".

3. *Item 18/77B (f): Outstanding Loans*

(a) *Sport Para Centre.* The outstanding loan repayment had now been paid over to BPA and the matter was now closed.

(b) *Wessex Para Club.* The Sec-Gen reported that he had written to Mr. Donovan (recorded delivery). The text of the letter sent had been communicated to Mr. Crocker. This pointed out that the reported recent sale of Mr. Donovan's aircraft and other equipment had precluded offering the alternative suggestions by Council and in view of this, settlement with interest was requested by the date of the present meeting. No reply had been received. It was agreed that Mr. Crocker act for BPA — in the meantime Mr. Waugh undertook to inform Mr. Crocker as to the present position in respect of the purchase of and payment for the Wessex aircraft by Old Warden.

4. *Item 18/77 — RAFSPA Policy — Civilians.* The Chairman welcomed and introduced Wg. Cdr. W. B. White, OC No. 1 PTS RAF Brize Norton who outlined the service policy and its effect on civilian membership of RAFSPA. Guest civilian membership is permitted at an undefined level. This undefined level is to BPA's advantage — he would not wish to see the 5% limit which had been imposed on some sports associations being applied to RAFSPA. The present level of civilian membership of RAFSPA was around 20% of the Service Membership and he emphasised that there was no plan to impose further restriction. He did hope that an increase in the number of Service Memberships might be achieved.

In answer to questions he regretted that because of constraints RAFSPA could not provide for the ad hoc civilian visitor.

On the matter of expanding Service participation in the sport, J. Norris felt that perhaps more could be done to encourage those who underwent parachute training under the adventurous training scheme to continue in sport parachuting.

5. *Item 18/77 B(j) — Public Relations.* Mr. Waterman under-

took to provide the Chairman with a copy of the letter drawn up for signature by the previous Chairman together with details of the suggested amendments referring to offering displays by the British Team.

On the matter of the Press Kit, Mr. Waterman apologised that due to the loss of his secretarial assistance provision of the material had been delayed.

6. *Item 19/77 — HM Customs & Excise/Midland Para Centre.* The text of this item is issued under separate cover.

7. *Item 21/77 — Training Aids — Suspended Harness.* The order had been placed with Mr. T. Patton for 20 Frames. Quotations for manufacture of harnesses had been called for and two quotes were to hand:

S. W. Talbot: £44.50 per harness for orders of at least 20 harnesses.

J. L. Thomas: £45.00 per harness for orders of 10 harnesses, £44.00 per harness for orders of 10-20 harnesses, £43.00 per harness for orders of 20-30 harnesses, £42.00 per harness for orders of 30-40 harnesses.

Council agreed that orders for suspended harnesses be split equally between both the bidders who undertook to provide their half of the initial order (10 harnesses each) in 2/3 weeks. The Sec-Gen would progress subsequent orders to the bidders.

8. *Item 27/77 — Purchase of Office Equipment.* The new filing cabinets and filing system had been purchased and was being introduced. The cost was under the £400 approved.

9. *Previous Minutes (30th March).* Having been proposed by P. G. Mitchell and seconded by J. T. Crocker were approved and signed.

Item 31/77

#### **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Mr. Petherbridge stated he would like to see the Minutes of Council Meetings distributed within one or two days of the meeting and not towards the end of the month. Mr. Waugh in support suggested that the Sec-Gen be charged to progress the minutes as his first job after this and subsequent meetings and to have the minutes out within a deadline of one week after any meeting. The Sec-Gen was not prepared to accept that minutes must be distributed within a week of any council meeting and felt that the suggestion of one or two days was just unrealistic. Members probably didn't appreciate what was involved in transcribing in long hand from tapes which a running time of 3 to 3½ hours — the minutes of the previous meeting (11 pages of type) represented 25 pages of longhand written out over three evenings at home. Mr. Waugh suggested employing a shorthand writer for Council Meetings but W/O Laing didn't accept that the expense was warranted and felt that if minutes were out in about two weeks this was acceptable.

The Sec-Gen pointed out that members should be making their personal notes of what actions they had undertaken to progress and should not be waiting for the minutes to remind them. The previous minutes together with the Agenda and supporting papers had gone two weeks in advance of the meeting. The Sec-Gen noted the observations and would continue to do his best to meet the wishes of Council but emphasised he could not accept the suggested change to have minutes within one week of any Council meeting.

#### **ADDENDUM Item 30 (Previous Minutes and Matters Arising).**

**FAI Annual Subscription — (Item 25/77).** The Sec-Gen reported on the breakdown of the FAI Subscription between the various member Disciplines within the Royal Aero Club. AOPA (previously BLAC) whose payment was £600, as against BPA's £750., had been radically changed in structure and if payments made by the other Disciplines now separate from AOPA were taken into account (BAA — £100 and FARA — £100) BLAC as it was would in fact be paying £50 more than BPA.

It was proposed by D. Orton and seconded by D. Howerski that the outstanding subscription be paid.

*Carried Unanimously.*

Mr. Crocker was concerned as to the voting rights afforded the various Disciplines. The Sec-Gen would obtain and provide the precise information.

**BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION  
SAFETY & TRAINING COMMITTEE, THURSDAY, 2nd JUNE, 1977  
held at BPA Office, Kimberley House, Leicester**

**PRESENT**

J. Crocker	<i>Chairman</i>
C. Shea-Simonds	<i>NC/SO</i>
J. Laing	<i>APA</i>
E. Strawson	<i>RGJ</i>
M. Winwood	<i>LIFFT</i>
J. Sharples	<i>MPC</i>
D. Orton	<i>AP</i>
D. Hickling	<i>Halfpenny Green</i>
E. Finney	<i>MFFC</i>
A. Linley	<i>BPC</i>
P. Young	<i>RSA</i>
R. Swainson	<i>SC</i>
J. Meacock	<i>PPC</i>
R. Willis	<i>RAFSPA</i>
L. Thomas	<i>Riggers</i>
J. Nickolls	<i>Langar</i>
J. Hitchin	<i>SFFP</i>
D. McCarthy	<i>HPC</i>
J. Barnes	<i>NUPC</i>
K. Allen	<i>REME</i>

**OBSERVERS**

S. Tabot	I. Curtis
J. Hiley	R. Atherton
P. Fisher	A. Young
T. Sawyer	B. Reed
D. Gays	K. Toyer
J. Boxall	

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

N. Addistn	B. Jones
P. Padley	DQ. Prince
D. Peacock	M. Berry
G. Shone	

Item 1

**Steerable Reserves**

The last meeting had called for input on the use of steerable reserves by student parachutists. As there had been none it was agreed that the recommendation, that students do *not* use steerable reserves, remains valid.

Item 2

**INCIDENT AT LANGAR**

J. Nickolls, CCI, reported that a student had landed on an adjacent factory roof in winds in excess of 20 knots. D. Scofield, the PI who was dispatching, did not see the ground signal ordering the a/c to land. The student was reported still in hospital. It was agreed that the NC/SO write to D. Scofield reminding him of his responsibilities.

Item 3

**CANOPY RW**

Whilst it was agreed that it was too early to make rules on canopy RW it was recommended that if a canopy hook up had not been achieved by 1000ft AGL further attempts should not be made. All are encouraged to read the comprehensive article on canopy RW that is in the June issue of 'Sport Parachutist'.

Item 4

**PRE-STUDENT COURSE FITNESS TESTS**

The NC/SO explained the system that was in use in Holland for a simple physical test that is a pre-requisite to undergo sport parachute training. It was agreed that clubs try these tests, and that the matter be reviewed in 6 months.

Item 5

**RIGGERS**

The Chairman informed the meeting of a number of complaints he had received about the workmanship of riggers. These fell into two categories: *a.* Purely shoddy work and *b.* Dangerous equipment. Recent examples had included ripcord nipples

coming off with little tension and dangerous harness construction. It was agreed that the shoddy workmanship category was a matter between customer and rigger, but that dangerous equipment was a matter for STC who could revoke a riggers rating if necessary and riggers were reminded of their responsibilities in this area. It was also agreed that any BPA member selling sport parachute equipment was responsible for ensuring it was safe. Finally it was agreed that all riggers identify the equipment they manufacture and that all BPA Riggers be on the distribution list for STC Minutes and Safety Notices.

Item 6

**EXEMPTIONS**

*a.* Tony Savage. Recommended by R. Swainson he be given an exemption to the minimum requirement of 150 jumps to go on a PI Course — he had 130. This was rejected by 10 votes to 5.

*b.* Bdr E. Royle. Recommended PI Qualification by T. Oxley who had run PI Course without prior approval from STC. This was agreed providing E. Royle was given written exam and final approval by J. Laing. It was agreed that any planned non-BPA organised Instructors Course must have prior approval from STC (see PBA Regulations).

*c.* Sgt. A. Cotterill. Recommended by A. McQueen that because Sgt. Cotterill is stationed in Canada his Instructor qualification be granted on the signature of one examiner only supported by T. Oxley (a non BPA Examiner). This was agreed.

Item 7

**RATINGS**

*a.* M. Windwood — Advanced — Recommended by Lewington and McCarthy — Approved.

*b.* J. Coffey — Advanced — Recommended by Mapplebeck and McQueen — Approved.

*c.* J. Fowler — Advanced — Recommended by Mapplebeck and McQueen — Approved.

*d.* T. Oxley — Advanced — Recommended by Mapplebeck and McQueen — Approved.

*e.* T. Oxley — Examiners — Recommended by Mapplebeck and McQueen — Rejected on the grounds he has not been an Advanced Instructor for one year.

Item 8

**PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

These were approved with the following items arising:

*a.* **Side Pulls and AOD's** (Item 2). Peter Fisher produced for interest an AOD he had modified for top pull use. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea but that further work was required on it.

*b.* **A. Keoghan** (Item 6). A letter from CO 4 Para requesting Instructors assistance was discussed. The following action had already been taken which was considered sufficient:

*a.* Chairman STC had written to the Leeds Club asking if they could help.

*b.* NC/SO had written to CO 4 Para and had given a couple of contact names and addresses.

*c.* Clubs had been circularised about Instructional assistance at Elvington.

As far as Keoghan was concerned the Chairman reminded the meeting that STC would always be ready to review the matter if there was good reason.

Item 9

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*a.* The meeting was informed of a stalling Strato Star incident at RAPA, which had left the parachutist concerned paralysed. Although it had been the result of poor canopy handling, clubs were once again warned of the dangers of mishandling Ram Air Canopies.

*b.* J. Nickolls asked if any BPA Instructor operating at Langar would be "black-listed". The Chairman officially informed J. Nickolls that, of course, this would not happen.



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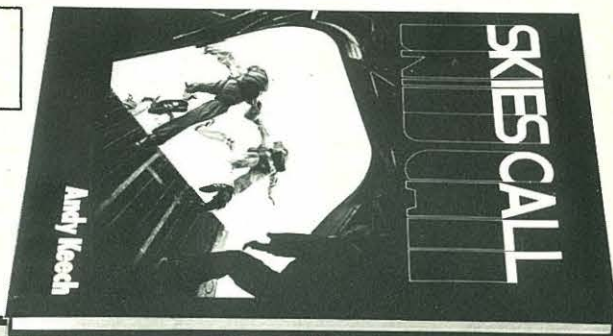
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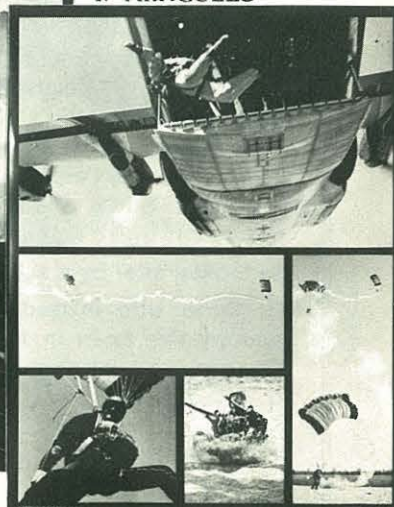
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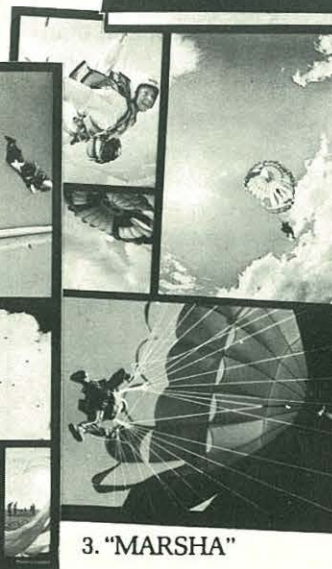
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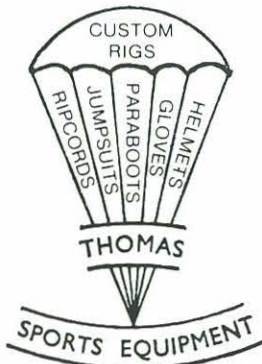
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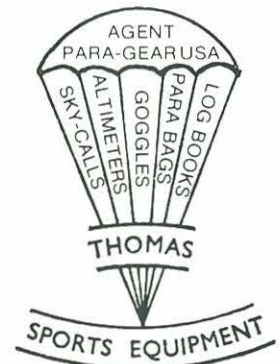
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