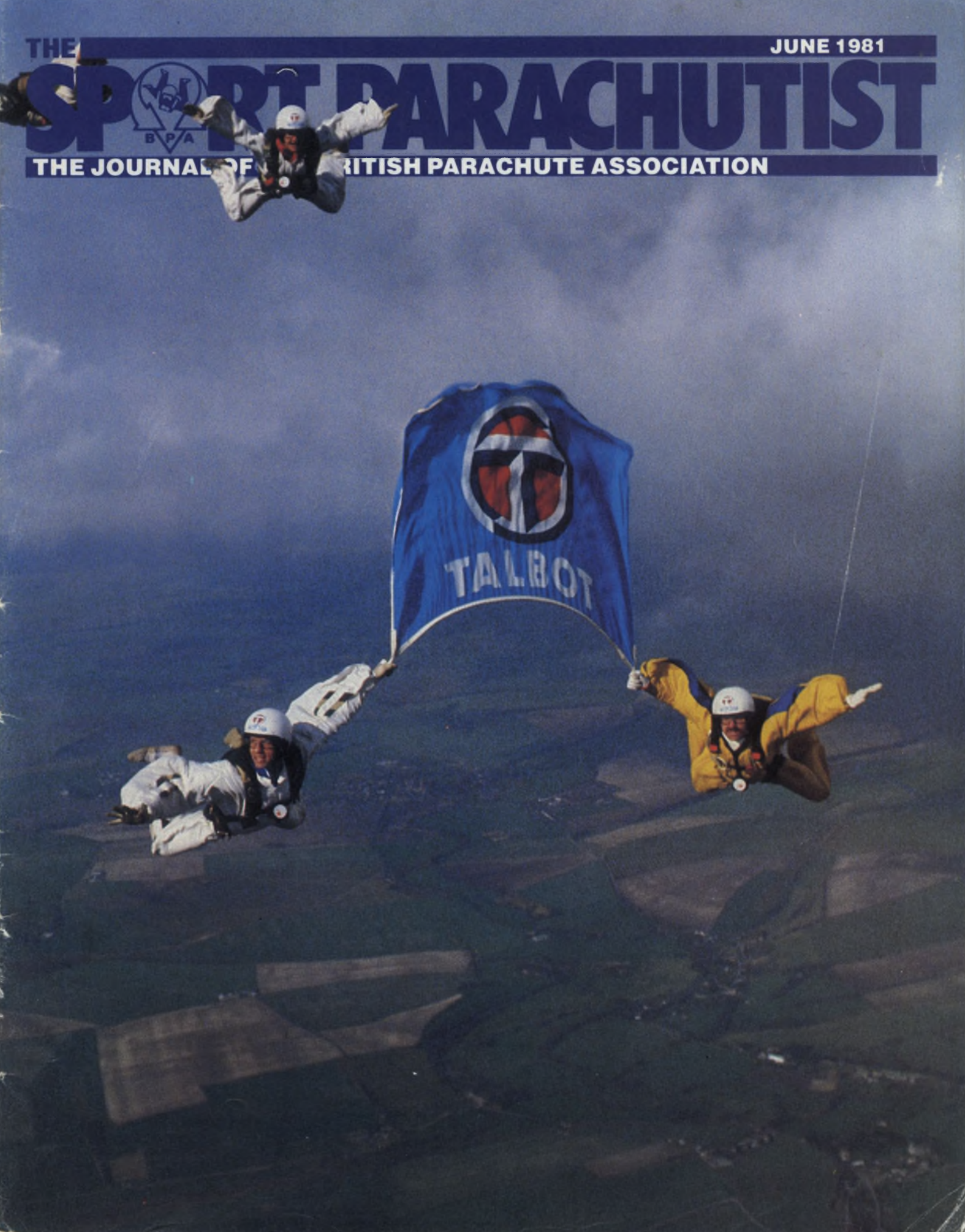


THE

JUNE 1981

SPORT PARACHUTIST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION



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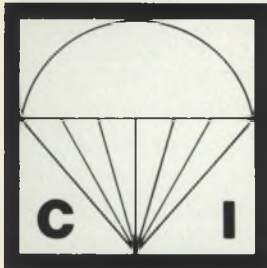
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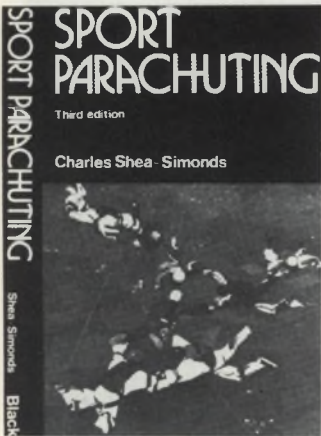
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REVIEW

The Best of Sport Parachutist

Edited & Published by John Meacock and Charles Shea-Simonds
price — **£8.50**

Anthology (n.) — a choice collection of passages from literature. Late GK. (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*).

Who better, indeed, to choose a collection of passages from the literature of British parachuting than John Meacock and Charles Shea-Simonds. Not only have they, in succession, edited the journal for the past nine years but have also made a massive personal contribution to the history of the Sport in this country during the lifetime of the journal. As friends and as sporting adversaries I have watched the progress of these two gentlemen over the years with, as they say, considerable interest.

I have no hesitation in recommending to all jumpers this their latest contribution to the parachuting scene. I confidently predict it will be a sell out with the generation who were in at the beginning and will prove equally popular with the newcomers to the sport by virtue of the premise that history is the key to the understanding of the present. The compilation provides a balanced assortment of technical information, history and humour over the period. Contributors range from Vladimir Gurnij on Style to Roger Hull on the philosophy of Sequential RW training. Humour abounds — anecdotes, from the early Rapide days to the more improbable activities of Big Jake being prime examples; whilst personalities spanning the time from Dumbo Willans to Jackie Smith are featured. This book mirrors the British parachuting scene over the last sixteen years — the expeditions, competitions, demos, triumphs and near misses. Above all, it reflects the humour and camaraderie of the British jumper. Being one of those jumpers you will no doubt try to beg, steal or borrow this book. I suggest you buy it, even if it hurts.

DOUG PEACOCK

National Coach & Safety Officer

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DIARY OF EVENTS

JUNE 22-25 — Collegiate Progression, Sibson
 JUNE 26-28 — BCPA Championships, Sibson
 JULY 4-12 — National Championships, Netheravon
 JULY 18-25 — RAPA Championships, Bad Lippspringe
 JULY 27-31 — RW Seminar, Shobdon
 AUGUST 10-14 — PI Course 3/81, Sibson
 AUGUST 17-21 — Exam Course 3/81, Sibson
 AUGUST 29-31 — 8 Man Speed Meet, Sibson
 AUGUST 29-31 — Round Canopy Meet, Shobdon
 SEPTEMBER 19-20 — 10th Duck End Meet, Abbotsley
 OCTOBER 9-18 — World RW Championships, Zephyrhills, USA

10th ANNUAL CHARLES WELLS ACCURACY MEET DUCK END

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(practice day 18th September 1981)

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Tel: Rushlake Green 610

SIBSON 8 MAN SPEED MEET



29th-31st AUGUST 1981

For details and entry form ring
Peterborough Parachute Centre
Elton 490

SPORT PARACHUTIST

Vol. 18 No. 3
JUNE 1981

The Journal of the
BRITISH PARACHUTE
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47 Vaughan Way
Leicester LE1 3SG
Tel. (0533) 59778/59635

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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.

EDITORIAL

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

As the man said, "It's going to be a hard act to follow."

In this first issue under my editorship, ably assisted by Andy Meysner, I hope to establish an editorial policy to **INFORM**, **MOTIVATE** and **ENTERTAIN**.

We will **INFORM** you of items of interest from the sport parachuting scene around the world, as well as our own DZs and clubs. We hope to **MOTIVATE** you with "State of Art" articles on equipment and techniques in all the disciplines of the sport, from student training to advanced RW and CRW.

JPS and Filwelz will continue to **ENTERTAIN** you with their excellent cartoons and with many more members now jumping cameras, we aim to get the best of their material for publication.

However, remember the magazine is not mine, it belongs to you, the membership of the BPA. So, we have no intention of losing contact with the grass roots but under the same token we implore you — please do not lose touch with us!

We desperately need information from clubs. How about appointing a *Sport Parachutist* reporter at your club? Ask him to keep in touch with us — we'll do the rest.

In another article in this issue, we hope to motivate the budding photographers in the BPA.

Remember, this is your magazine. We want it to reflect what you the members wish to read and see in it.

So — Let's Hear From You!

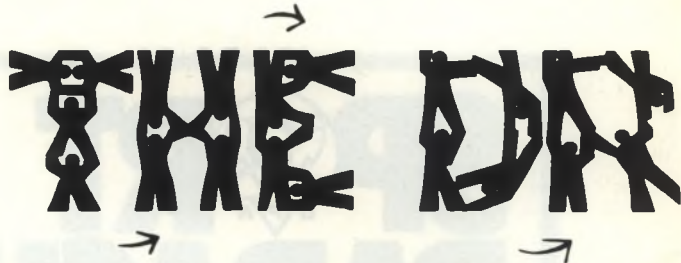
DAVE WATERMAN

Cover photo: Jackie Smith, Dane Kenny and Dave Tylcoat do a bit of PR for Talbot over Netheravon — photograph Dave Waterman

FIRST NIGHT 8 WAY

Nigel Slee, Richard Neal, Andrew Ring, Frank Donnelan, Mac McLaughlin, Vic Logan, Mike Johnson and Matt Morbloch completed the first night 8 way in the UK over Easter at Netheravon.

The exit height was 10,000 ft, and the star built by 6,000 ft.



CHINESE PUZZLE?

Announcement made over the Z. Hills PA System:

Jim Hooper: "We've just received news that the Chinese have won the four-way event turning 16 manoeuvres in time, wearing conventional front and back gear!"

Jerry Bird: "This is Gerry Bird — anyone want to buy my old gear?"

10th ANNUAL POPS MEET

John Hitchen, Pete Best and Peter Barlow made up the British contingent to Eustis Florida, for the 10th POPS Meet. The total age of the competitors was 1,500 years. J.H. was 13th in the Accuracy with 2.28, P.B. 20th with 5.48, and Pete Best 31st with 11.13. Hitch got a bronze in the 'Hit and Rock' event with a 7.5 sec dash. J.H. 'waved the flag' again as a member of the 2nd place RW team.

Hello I'm your liberal
~~equal~~ candidate, will i have
your vote on
thurs



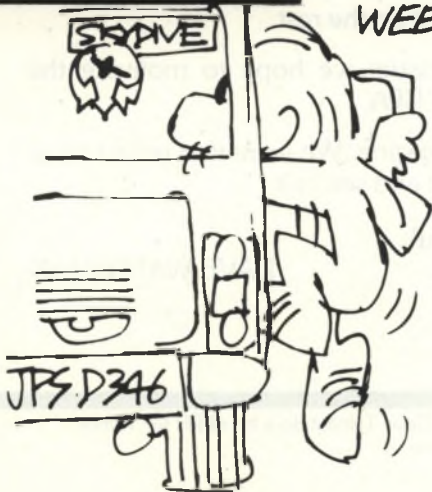
Found in my 13 year old son Sean's school book. JPS and Filwelz watch out!

Ed

SUPERFLY

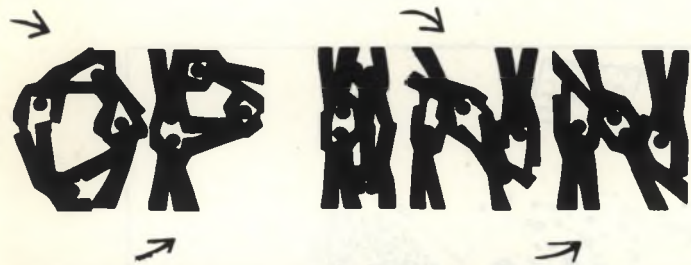
WOW! THAT WAS
A GREAT JUMP
WEEKEND!!

... BUT I'LL BE
GLAD TO GET
HOME...



-AFTER
BREAKFAST AT
THE WIMPY BAR -
LUNCH AT THE
HAMBURGER BAR,
EVENING MEAL
AT McDONALDS
- FOLLOWED BY
BREAKFAST AT
THE WIMPY BAR,
LUNCH AT THE
HAMBURGER BAR

... I'M LOOKING
FORWARD TO SOME
DECENT GRUB!!



BRIDGE JUMP LEGAL

For those turned on by jumps from static objects, the **Royal George Bridge** in Southern Colorado is now legal.

The 1,053ft high bridge has been jumped 14 times, and requests for permission should be addressed to The City Council of Canon City, Colorado 81212.

But he warned — jumping without permission is punishable by a fine of \$300 and/or 15-90 days in clink.



Felwelz

“Crikey! That new five-centimetre disc looks like a smartie from here. Sod it! It is a smartie!”

CHAIRMEN OLD AND NEW

Ex BPA Chairman, **Lawrie St. John**, has recently taken up hang gliding.

We are told he finds it more “knackered” than parachuting (due to carrying the glider up the hill after each flight) and just as frustrating with the weather.

We are told that **Chairman Charles** had a recent letter from the Sports Aid Foundation addressed to **Sir Charles Shea-Simonds** — and we all thought he was only after an OBE!

BOY BLUNDER

Symbiosis tell us that **Robin Mills** is harder to contact in Devon than **Tony Uragallo** is in Florida.

Anyway, welcome back Robin things were much too quiet on the RW scene.

ISLANDER FOR HIRE

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FIRST ALL GIRL LIFT AT CARK



L-R: **Chris Lee, Maggie Pinfold, Sharon Taylor, Penny Davison and Julie Hanwell.**

Our picture shows **Cark's** first female quintet. Cark has often had three or four female parachutists in a lift, but only after **Penny Davison** qualified as a jump pilot did they have an aircraft load of females.



JPS.



"Corporal Atkins! Forget about your army training while we're on these demos. Just get that hallowed turf back before the smoke clears!"

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NEW LOOK FOR MAGAZINE

Sport Parachutist's Editor, Dave Waterman, gave a presentation to the Council meeting on 12th May, outlining proposed changes to the magazine.

These changes all fell into the visual presentation of the journal and were:

1. An increase in size to A4.
2. A change of typeface and columns.
3. Change of title and style to *The Sport Parachutist*.
4. Use of four colour inside.

All the changes were unanimously endorsed by Council.

Looking ahead, Dave Waterman thought we should give consideration to payment of publication, particularly for colour covers and inside colour spreads. This he hoped would encourage more photographers to contribute material. He added that he would exempt his own photographs from this payment.

He suggested that no better publicity value could be obtained than if we managed to get SP for sale on bookstalls and was given Council permission to pursue this further.

ONE YEAR ONLY CCI STATUS

Because it was felt that too many non-advanced instructors operate as CCIs (approx. 14 to date), the Council meeting of 12th May decided that, in future non-advanced instructors applying for exemption to the STC to act as CCIs would be given that exemption for ONE YEAR ONLY. Once the year has expired the exemption **will not** be renewable.

See page 19

TEAM LEADER'S JOB AT THE WORLD MEET

BPA members should note that in principle any member has the right to put their name forward for the job of Team Leader at the World Meet in America this year.

However it was agreed at the Council meeting of 12th May that as the relationship between Teams and Team Leader is extremely important, priority would be given to the choice of the Team themselves, subject to agreement by Council.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS

At the **Australian Nationals** held at Corowa, on the New South Wales/Victoria border, 24 4-way teams, 10 8-way teams and 14 10-man speed star teams took part.

The winning 8-man team — **Prometheus** — were awarded 62 points over 10 rounds, an average of 6.2, a score which would have won the Gold at the last World Meet.

The winning 4-way team, called **9-2-5**, scored 93 points over 10 rounds.

The **9-2-5** team all gave up their regular jobs, found night jobs around Corowa, and jumped from nine to five every day for three months, preparing for the championships.

Prometheus showed their dedication and financed the team by selling all their convertible assets, such as cars etc., and pooling the funds for team training.

Fifty three accuracy jumpers, and eight style jumpers also competed. All first six places in the accuracy event used 252s which were more stable in the gusty thermal conditions at Corowa.

The accuracy event was won by **Graeme Windsor**, with a score of 0.06 (9 DCs). He also won the style event.

Two **DC3s** and seven **Cessna 180/185s** were used for the competition which was completed with two days to spare.

MEMBERSHIP

BPA memberships now run for a year from the date of joining, and no longer necessarily terminate on 31st March each year. Remember, your insurance is not valid if you are not a current member, so make sure you have renewed.

BRITISH PARACHUTISTS WIN AERO CLUB AWARDS

For the second year running British Parachutists feature in the Royal Aero Club Annual Awards.

Scotty Milne has been awarded the FAI TISSADIER DIPLOMA for his "dedicated and unselfish involvement and consistent success in individual sport parachuting competition".

The **Mounting Men** from the **Joint Services Canopy Relative Work Team** have been awarded The Prince of Wales Cup for the "best sporting aviation team of the year". Presentation will be made by HRH The Prince of Wales in December.



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Cambridge CB4 1RY
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Cornwall. Tel: Port Isaac 214
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Rawdon, Leeds 19. Tel: (0532) 506930
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London Fire Brigade

Sport Parachute Club
Headcorn Parachute Club, Headcorn,
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M. Tullett, 117 Totland Close,
Farnborough, Hants.
Tel: Farnborough 518887
* no more details

Manchester Free Fall Club

Tilstock DZ, Twenlows Hall Farm,
Whitchurch, Shropshire
N. Law, 9 St. Andrews Road, Stretford,
Manchester M32 9JE
* no more details

Manchester Skydivers

(see British Skysports)
S. Card, 7 Hampson Road, Stretford,
Manchester. Tel: 061-865 7557
*

Martlesham Heath Para Club

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* no more details

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Tel: Preston 720848
* no more details

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* no more details

Scottish Parachute Club

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* no more details

The School of Free Fall Parachuting
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J. Hitchin, 46 Newlands Drive,
Sheffield S12 2FS
* no more details

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W. J. Barnes (at club address)
Tel: Boldon 367530
* < < < BS RW CRW KHS KHFF ○ ×
© WC NM △ = BB

TPA Parachute Centre
Elvington Airfield, Nr. York
G. Evans, Springbank Overhouses,
Greens Arms Road, Turton, Nr. Bolton.
Tel: Bolton 852295
* < BS RW KHS KHFF △ BB © WC NM

Wales & West of England Para Club
L. Melhuish, 55 Cowslip Drive, Penarth,
S. Wales
no more details

Spread Eagles Parachute Club
N. Melcombe Bingham, Dorset
Sally Corr, 24 Southlea Avenue, Tuckton,
Bournemouth. Tel: (0202) 421108
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COLLEGIATE CLUBS

British Collegiate Parachute Association

Aston University
Birmingham University
Bristol University
Brunel University
Cambridge University
Chelsea Coll., London
Dundee University
Durham University
Edinburgh University
Exeter University
Harper Adams Agric. Coll.
Hull University
King's College, London

Lanchester Polytechnic
Leeds Polytechnic
Leicester Polytechnic
Liverpool University
London Coll. of Printing
Manchester University
Newcastle Polytechnic
Newcastle University
Oxford University
Portsmouth Polytechnic
Queen Mary Coll., London
RMCS, Shrivenham
St. Andrew's University

C. J. Pomery, 4 Edith, Road, Oxford OX1 4QA.
Tel: (0865) 41271

Southampton University
Stirling University
Strathclyde University
Sunderland Polytechnic
Sussex University
Trent Polytechnic
University Coll., Cardiff
University Coll., N. Wales
Warwick University
Westfield College, London
Wolverhampton Polytechnic
York University

SERVICE ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS

Army Parachute Association
Chief Instructor, JSPC Airfield Camp,
Netheravon, Wiltshire
no more details

Rhine Army Parachute Association
The Commandant, RAPA Centre, STC
Sennelager, BFPO 16
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× WC NM

**Cyprus Joint Service Adventurous
Training Camp (CJSATC)**
Chief Instructor (CCSPC), CJSATC
Pergamos Camp, BFPO 58
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NM

RAF Sport Parachute Association
Hon. Sec., RAFSPA,
RAF Brize Norton, Oxon.
DZ, Weston on the Green.
Tel: Middleton Storey 343
≡ < RW CRW KHS KHFF ○ × △ ©
WC

**Royal Navy and Royal Marines Sport
Parachute Association**
The Secretary, RN & RMSPA Commando
Training Centre RM, Lympstone,
Exmouth, Devon EX8 5AR.
Tel: Topsham 3781. Ext. 491
or at Club, Luppit 697
no more details

Hong Kong Parachute Club
CCI, JSPC (HK), Borneo Lines,
Sek Kong, BFPO 1
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The unfortunate loss of the Pilatus Porter in February did not prevent this year's Sibson TRAC Meet from going ahead. Indeed, any doubt about the affair was only with regard to the number of teams that could be catered for by the Islander and 206.

In the event, 17 teams from around the country turned up, most of whom stayed till late Monday night to ensure we completed a Meet.

Symbiosis brought back last year's RW Trophy. **Harry Morgan** came down from over the border with his team Fourplay. **Lenny Melville** and **Steve Treble** came with their Army Teams, **Royal Artillery** and **Firebirds**. Duck End made sure that, like at most competitions, they were there. Sibson home teams included **Peterborough United**, **Pigs in Space**, **More Cunning Stunts** and **Funnel and Dump**. Other familiar faces on the DZ put together **It Ain't (Thomas brothers)** Sinergy, and **Kaleidoscope**. The full complement was made up by **Come Dancing**, **2 Squared**, **Deep Depression**, **Pangalactic Gargle Blasters** and **No Vices**.

BRIGHT BUT WINDY

Saturday morning turned out bright but windy. Chief Judge **Dougie** and Meet Director, **Chef du Centre Mr. Meacock**, opted for RW only.

Round 1 had been drawn Star, Y, Donut Flake, Zipper. Firebirds, No Vices and Fourplay each showed 4. Kaleidoscope lay second with 8, hot on Symbiosis' tail with 9. It Ain't thought they had 4, but only scored 2, while Deep Depression also only scored 2 from a believed 6.

CHICKEN FARM LANDING

What turned out to be happening was that teams were not being given the benefit of showing a complete break between formations. It was of course windy and the judges who were at the pit consequently had a very steep angle of view of jumpers exiting over an opening point some distance away. The irony of it was that we were not scoring accuracy on this round anyway.

Saturday continued with round 2 of RW only, there still being around a 20 knot wind. The sequence on this round, Star, Donut, Star, Donut, is usually one where experienced teams particularly show their advantage. This proved to be the case, **Symbiosis** scoring 12 and **Kaleidoscope** 7. Time and weather



'Deep Depression' in transition, by Fred Ryland

prevented the round being completed on Saturday, leaving 3 teams still to jump.

The only other incident of note during the day, involved **Paul Smith** of **Pigs in Space**. He landed in a lucky spot in the Chicken Farm with a not too stable main canopy. He is believed to have immediately bought a new reserve pilot chute!

BUFFET DISCO

Sunday started without much altitude and with wind just about within accuracy limits. Accuracy got under way after **Terry Lawford** decided to give his reserve an airing on the 'widdy run'. Winds were, according to the BPA anemometer, inside limits; but Boy, was it difficult! Up to a 45° dog leg was evident above 2,000 and most found their final approach somewhat hot and bumpy. Symbiosis took the Islander round twice finding difficulty in getting a decent run-in with the upper wind dog leg. Peterborough United nearly had mutiny during their run-in, when 3 of the team had different ideas about the spot than the delegated spotter.

Eventually, the round was stopped with 8 teams jumped and 2 to jump. The Thomas team **It Ain't** led with 0.75 total. **Fred Ryland** and **Bib Higgins** shared the only discs. The remainder of the day became somewhat wet and miserable, save for the evening Disco and Buffet.

SCORED ON RESERVE

Monday continued as Sunday had left off. Determined to complete enough jumping to make it all worthwhile however, Meet Director, John Meacock, remained optimistic that the met., as forecast, would improve. Those teams with a long way to travel had no choice but to call it a day and drifted home during the afternoon. Unbelievably, around 6.30pm we had conditions suitable for both RW and Accuracy. We had to put up 2 lifts of RW and about 4 of Accuracy to gain enough scores for a prizewinning. Those 6 lifts were completed with the last canopy landing at 8.40pm. **Robin Jones**, would you believe it, had a mal. on one of the accuracy lifts but thankfully accepted 5 metres rather than rejump. Not that he would have got the rejump.

Then the dilemma, with only 2 rounds of RW and 1 of Accuracy completed, we inevitably had lots of ties. Kaleidoscope and Firebirds had tied for overall first place, each having a 2nd position and 3rd position in the respective events. To save the day, Firebirds gracefully gave first place to Kaleidoscope, the latter having 15 points to Firebirds 8 in the RW. So Vic Logan's team of Neville Howarth, Mike Johnson and Matt Mortlock left late on Monday the Victors. Watch out in the Nationals Symbiosis, they won't be beaten easily!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DUCK END?

Good question; what is happening at Duck End Parachute Group? Like most DZs we've been dogged with weekend after weekend of bad weather, but, for those of us who have braved the elements each week, an average of about 40 jumps each has been achieved so far this year. Now it's all down to some training to take part in the National Championships in July.

RW COMPETITION

1981 is the first year that the group has become involved in competition RW, our 4 man sequential team having recently taken part in the Peterborough Trac Meet. For those of you who were present at this event, you may recall that ours was not the most outstanding performance of the weekend, with two disastrous exits

and a consequent loss of dignity. All this aside though, it was a very worthwhile weekend for us, particularly as we had the opportunity to chat to some of the experienced RW jumpers, which made it very educational and we're glad we attended. It was also a good fun three days socially with a friendly competitive atmosphere in which, of course, the mandatory consumption of large quantities of beer was strictly complied with in the evenings. We would strongly advocate inexperienced teams, like ours, to attend competitions and not to be put off with fears of "Everybody else is too good" and "We'll only make idiots of ourselves". It doesn't matter. If you watch and listen to others you'll learn something and, anyway, why should we be the only ones to suffer!

power, reduces the noise of the engine by an incredible amount. For those of you who have visited our DZ, our method of climbing out and away for a substantial time and losing sight of the airfield may seem a little unnerving, but, if the pilot does it correctly, then it's no problem and just as fast as circling overhead to reach altitude and it certainly does eliminate the 'constant drone' over the offended area. Most of the complainants have agreed that matters are much improved and are now fairly happy. Of course we'll never please 'em all, but those who are still complaining are very much in the minority and should pose no real threat in the future. It's up to us now to ensure we don't lapse back into our old habits and, when any of you do come and pay us a visit, we appreciate it if you bear in mind the close proximity of the village and help us to keep the problem down to a minimum.

RESULTS — SIBSON MEET

Overall:

1st: Kaleidoscope — Vic Logan, Neville Howarth, Mike Johnson, Matt Mortlock.

2nd: Firebirds — Steve Treble, Dave Spencer, Paddy Platt, Charlie Charrings.

3rd: It Ain't — Dereck Thomas, Chris Thomas, Phil Ledwards, Jon Williams.

RW:

1st: Symbiosis (21) — Fred Keery, Jim Keery, Bob Colpus, Geoff Sanders.

2nd: Kaleidoscope (15).

3rd: Firebirds (8) and No Vices (8) — Sarah Brearley, Ric Houghton, Steve Hart, Nigel Slee.

Team Accuracy:

1st: It Ain't (0.75).

2nd: Firebirds (0.93).

3rd: Kaleidoscope (1.26).

Individual Accuracy:

Bob Higgins (0.00)

Fred Ryland (0.00)

Neville Howarth (0.00)

Steve Treble (0.00)

Dave Spencer (0.00).

PARISH COUNCIL COMPLAINTS

Back home at our own DZ we're having to divert a great deal of energy into reducing the noise level of our aircraft, which, unfortunately, seems to be upsetting a few of the residents in the village. Since we've been at Abbotsley it's fair to say that most of the locals have been very friendly and extended a great deal of hospitality towards us. We have reciprocated by being mindful that we are only weekend visitors and helping out with some fund raising by doing local free demos. However, this alone was not enough and after one busy weekend last year we received a number of complaints through the Village Parish Council. Positive action was needed and it was up to us to get results or we could have found ourselves drop zoneless again. One of our pilots, who lives in the village, drew up a flying plan showing climb out and down corridors and marking 'no go areas' for the other pilots to use. He also suggested reducing the rpm of the aircraft, which, for a small reduction in

JUMP PRICES

We're still managing to keep our jump prices down at the moment but these are having to be heavily subsidised by our display team. After the last budget we find ourselves having to pay £2.50 per gallon for Avgas. The added problems of availability and no delivery facilities are not exactly helping to make our lives or our jumping easy. We would be very pleased to hear from other clubs who suffer from fuel supply difficulties and would be interested to know what measures they are taking to try and combat what seems to be a deliberate attempt by oil companies to stamp out all small flying activities completely. We think that this subject is well worth discussing amongst clubs and the BPA and would be interested to hear your comments.

JANE WATTS, D1557



LETTERS on any parachuting topic are welcome and should be sent to:

The Editor, *Sport Parachutist*, c/o BPA,
Kimberley House, Vaughan Way, Leicester,
LE1 4SG.

ZEPHYRHILLS PARACHUTE CENTER INC.

Every once in a great while there is a moment of true gratification in this business of running a Drop Zone. And one of those moments occurred in December last year when you presented this center with the BPA Certificate of Merit. I cannot adequately explain how much the phrase 'Service to the Sport of Parachuting' means to me, personally. And that it should be only the second time this has been awarded to a US Drop Zone is a great honor indeed.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Council for its support, and to all those members of the British Parachute Association for helping to make Zephyrhills Parachute Center what it is today.

Very truly yours,
JAMES A. HOOPER
President

CLUB LIST

Herewith enclosed the completed form recently sent to me from the BPA. I think your idea of such a list to be published in *Sport Parachutist* praiseworthy, but it would appear to lack some very important questions such as:

Prices. There is a big difference in the cost of jumping around the country. Shouldn't your list include student jump prices and prices for Cat. 8 and above?

RW. Will the club supply RW tuition free?

Efficiency. How many jumps did the club make in 1980? When do they parachute? What staff is

there? If full time, how many full and part time instructors?

Accommodation. If they have accommodation what does it cost and what is its quality?

Membership. What membership charges are made. Can a visitor escape the charges?

I really do think that only by including the above can a really comprehensive list be prepared. I would recommend that you compare the completed lists and the club claims with Doug Peacock. Some clubs have people running them with vivid imaginations.

I wish you every success with 'SP'.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MEACOCK

Of course we would love to include all the information you outlined. Space and time preclude us from doing this. The present exercise is an effort to give more details of what clubs have to offer in the way of amenities. I take your point about the validity of the information supplied to us, but I am sure Doug Peacock's got more pressing responsibilities during the busy summer season. I would prefer to rely on the membership of the BPA to monitor this club information. I am certain they would not be slow to let us know if a club is suffering from 'delusions of grandeur', and we will amend the list accordingly.

Ed

GRAHAM HOLGATE

I would like to convey the following message to you, and all your members and members of other parachuting clubs, which my late husband frequented.

I would like to take this opportunity of personally giving my warmest heartfelt thanks to each and every one who knew or was acquainted with my late husband Graham Holgate, for their wonderful support which they gave me in my time of sorrow.

No words could ever describe my feelings of thanks to you all, for all you have done to help lift this terrible burden from me. Your very kind thoughts and tributes have been marvellous, and it has shown me what tremendous comradeship you have in all your parachuting clubs throughout the country.

Graham's death has been a terrible shock to both myself and family, and I know that he will be sadly missed by many of your members, especially the members of the Manchester Freefall Club, which Graham was a member himself. I do hope that Graham's death will not deter any of your members from continuing to enjoy their favourite sport, Graham loved his sport and would not have changed it for the world. He would be terribly upset and disappointed if his death caused

mixed feelings on any members, so much was his love for parachuting.

Again I would just like to reiterate my deepest and warmest thanks to you all, for everything you have done in easing the burden in my time of sorrow.

Forever grateful,
MAIR HOLGATE

CONFUSED

Having joined the civilian sport of parachuting this year and becoming a member of the BPA I looked forward to receiving my first *Sport Parachutist*, only to find to my dismay that like all good organisations it had fallen into that dreadful habit of jargon that no one understands, i.e. BPA, FXC 1200 AOD, SST, 252 LITE, TSE, LOPO, GQ, CIP, AGM, POP, ZAPS, SCR, RW, Z'HILLS, XL, STC, PLs, PI, not counting the, WHUFFOS, Pins, That's a cut, no suit dive, 8 way event, GQ unit with Kewlar lines, plus all the in-jokes of 'The Great China Caper' etc., and the middle floater, rear floater, 7th point, Toxic shock on six points, and Turkey Meets and so on and so on.

I think I speak for a lot of newcomers to the sport, when I say, let's have a glossary at the back, or let us in to the jokes — or explain what the hell you're all talking about.

ALF AVISON, JP, MBIM,
AlnstTA, BPA No. 85862
C.O.N.F.U.S.E.D.

STUDENT TRAINING COSTS

Sir,

Your correspondent 'Malcolm', whose letter, published in the last issue of *Sport Parachutist*, invites readers to pass criticism of his club policy of a low training course fee allied to high jump rates.

He suggests that critics consider the expression "Balls, he doesn't know what he's talking about", as a suitable rejoinder.

I agree totally. Balls, you don't know what you're talking about.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MEACOCK

Well, 'Malcolm', you did ask for it! I would have thought the biggest problem facing the sport is not more students, but retaining the students we have already trained, and turning them into Sport Parachutists.

Ed

THANKS

I am leaving this country on 13th June to go to Australia. I would like this opportunity to say a big thankyou to all the staff, instructors, pilots and members at British Skysports and a special thanks to Eric and Pam Finney for everything they have done for me while jumping at Brid.

I would also like to thank all other instructors, pilots and the BPA Council and staff for making this a safe and most enjoyable sport.

Best wishes,
ALAN WHEATLEY, C3280

APATHY

On the subject of **APATHY**, perhaps more could be done through the magazine for Cat. 2 to 8. The potential 'senior members' for instance, the NCSO's column could run a series of short articles on common progression problems and possible remedies (spotting), dive exits, first alti jump, first terminal velocity experience etc.

Yours sincerely,
T. E. JOHNSON, C4144

We intend to do just such articles. See our editorial this issue. Just give us time to get settled in.

Ed.

MORE KIT ARTICLES REQUIRED

I was very impressed with the article *Surviving the Move to New Gear* — especially as I have just started to jump my PC — it caused me to think more about the PC, and also about the varieties of 'squares' generally. With reference to the article, I found it very interesting and valuable.

This article asked all the questions — how about an article (or series of articles) from an experienced objective jumper (the NCSO) giving the inexperienced jumpers more details and facts about the differences between all the squares. Advice from skygods on the DZ, seems to be rather subjective and coloured, either by the second hand rig "they just happen to have in the boot of their car, at a snip, which is just right for beginners", or "Squares, the only one I would ever consider is the one I have, the xyz — I would never jump any other rig"!!

Please start any article with the very basics, I get very perplexed with all the types and varieties — 'three ringed release and wonderhogs, piggy backs and tandems'!! Even worse are all the different types of squares. Which is fast and which slow and why? How can some be only 180sq.ft and others 250sqft; some 8lb and others 11lb, some £200+ and some £400+? Why do some jumpers go up armed to the teeth with big daggers strapped to their chests and some not?

May we have an 'idiot's introductory guide', like a 'Which?' report on squares — including what the novice should look for when buying, new or second hand, the type, quality and pitfalls!

Finally let me wish all the very best of luck and good fortune to Tony Knight, the CCI, and Andy and John at the new Ipswich Parachute Centre.

Hope to see lots of jumpers at Ipswich this summer.

NICK PINEGER

PARACHUTING MANUAL

As I have only been a member of the BPA for a short time, it is perhaps a little early to criticise, but I find it very surprising indeed that an organisation of this type and size does not have an instruction manual which could be used, by learner and experienced parachutist alike, to extend or consolidate his theoretical and background knowledge of the sport. No doubt you can list a number of books that every interested member of the BPA should read, but there is still no one *Manual of Parachuting* which could be used as a reference book and encyclopedia.

Surely, one or more of the many parachuting dons will be more than willing to put his talents and name to such a useful project.

As a start to this, the editorship just having changed, perhaps it would be possible to begin a new era of *Sport Parachutist* by running a serialised 'Students Compendium' which would build up into the first part of the afore-mentioned encyclopedia. I, personally, feel that this would give a great service to the parachuting world, even if it meant making room in the magazine by leaving out some of the IN-jokes and stories of the old-pals routines. What do others think?

G. BOWSKILL, BPA 87981

I don't believe you can learn how to sport parachute from a book. There is no substitute for good instruction and motivation at club level.

*There are of course a number of books on RW or Body Flying. The sport has progressed so fast in both equipment and technique that any general **Manual of Parachuting** would soon be out of date. However, perhaps you might like to read the article on 'Dirt Diving' in this issue. This is the first of a number written by experienced parachutists. SP general policy is contained in our current editorial.*

Editor

SUBSIDISED TEAMS

The following story appeared on page 24, Feb. 81 issue of the *Parachutist*.

"The 8 way team Mounting Men had some 25 jumps together. All the jumpers were members of either the British Army, Airforce or Marines and their expenses were heavily subsidised by both the British Military and the BPA."

Under a picture the following caption appeared:

"The British 8 way team came well prepared for the CRW Meet in the form of financial backing from their Government."

Willy Grut wrote the following letter to the Editor of *Parachutist* on behalf of the Competitions Sub Committee.

The Editor
Parachutist
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir,

It was with great interest that we read Tom Courbats article on the first World Cup of CRW and congratulate him on its informative content. What we are particularly eager to now find out is the mysterious source of the 'heavy subsidies' the British Teams were, according to him, endowed with. How useful it would be in this age of ever increasing prices to find such an outflow. Having been given one British team tracksuit each plus £1000 (approx \$2400) to divide among the whole contingent, to assist with the air fare (standby return London-Miami approx \$500 per person) the British teams were more or less left to get on with it unaided, without even a beer company to their name.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM N. GRUT
(on behalf of Competitions
Sub-Committee, BPA)



THE FINE ART OF DIRT DIVING

THE FINE ART OF DIRT DIVING

It could be said that the phrase 'Fine Art' is hardly suited to the subject of Dirt Diving or Ground Practise.

I will therefore try in this article to explain the relevance of its title.

I'm sure it's fair to say that the majority of Relative Workers do partake in some form of ground practise before an intended RW jump, but usually the method of Dirt Diving leaves a lot to be desired.

"WHY DIRT DIVE AT ALL?"

Before I get into details, the question — "Why bother to Dirt Dive at all?" must be asked.

I would answer with the following points.

1. So as we may be able to remember the sequence of events during a dive.
2. So as we can work out the best possible method of performing that sequence.
3. So as to establish a rhythm for the dive.
4. To check and remember fine details, such as the colour of people's suits or signals and keys etc.
5. Most important of all — to establish a mutual level of awareness between all jumpers on the dive.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Now I'd like to talk about how we can put the above points into action.

It is the tendency for most Relative Workers to rush through their Dirt Dives, therefore not paying sufficient attention to detail.

A good Dirt Dive should be carried out very slowly, at least as slow as you intend to do it in the air, usually slower.

A rushed Dirt Dive allows no time for remembering the sequence adequately, or for working out new transitions or moves. We must remember that if we rush on the ground we will also tend to rush in the air, which usually results in a rough skydive ending in a funnel.

BEND AT WAIST

When walking through the dive, each jumper should bend over at the waist so as to present as accurate a picture as possible. If we stand upright it is impossible to see the shape of the formation we are trying to build, or the actual size of the slots available for people to dock in.

We must try to present a picture as close as possible to actual Freefall and most of us do not Freefall in a vertical position . . . I hope.

A BALLET

All transitions on the ground must be practised smoothly. If done correctly the Dirt Dive should almost resemble a ballet. Smoothness is definitely the most important aspect of successful RW dives and precise ground practise is the key to smoothness in the air.

When performing a Dirt Dive each jumper's mind must be 100% on the mechanics of the dive and not off wondering about "What time the bar opens" or "How much your jump bill is going to be" etc., etc.

The details that must be looked for are numerous. ie: "Where will I take the grip on a leg?" or "When shall I make my move forward to close up a slot?" or "Where should I look to keep the correct level when facing out on the bipole?" etc.

MENTALLY RECORD

Every single second of your jump from Exit to Track off, must be studied in detail during the Dirt Dive. It makes the actual skydive much easier because most of your actions will be mentally recorded from your ground practise and automatically executed in the air.

During Dirt Diving lots of details can be worked out from input by all participants, perhaps a better transition can be seen after a couple of run-throughs, or maybe a traffic problem exists which wouldn't have been apparent without sufficient Dirt Dives.

COMMUNICATION

Communication for the skydive as a whole, must be decided during ground practise.

Who will give the signal to break? Or who is keying the next move? etc.

Eye to eye contact on the ground with the signal person is important. Too often signals are missed in the air because jumpers had not practised on the ground, actually looking at the key person after they have docked or completed a move.

A lot of jumpers find it difficult to remain in close with the action after they have released their grip on the formation. How many of them however, have you seen actually practising staying in close on the Dirt Dive? — Not many.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Rob Colpus started jumping at Thruxton in 1972, and was a founder member of 'Symbiosis'. He has been in the van of British relative work since 1975, and was in Symbiosis, the National Champions with 4-way and 8-way sequential in 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1980.

In 79 and 80 he captained Symbiosis 8-way team.

He entered his first international competition in 1976 at the third World Cup of RW in South Africa.

He was a member of the British 8 man team at the World Meet in Australia 1977 and France 1978.

Rob won a silver medal at the World Meet in France in 1979 in the four man event and in the same year, was awarded the Prince of Wales Cup by HRH at the Royal Aero

Club, for the best aviation team of 1979.

He currently manufactures jumpsuits.

DO IT IN THE AIR

If each individual were to practise a no movement release of grips on the ground, going through the actions they intend to take to stay in close, they would find it easier to actually do in the air.

Remember, what you do on the ground, you will do in the air.

There is no substitute for lots and lots of Dirt Dives. It's almost impossible to do too many. The more you do, the more a rhythm will emerge, which becomes an aid to remembering the sequence easily.

DE-BRIEF

Dirt Diving should not be limited only as a pre-jump activity. It should also be used as a De-briefing method after every jump.

It will enable each jumper to recall parts of the dive that may have been forgotten or overlooked in a verbal de-brief.

In conclusion, I think it is worth considering that in this day and age where skydiving is fast becoming a very expensive activity — Dirt Diving is still Very Cheap.

ROB COLPUS

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Fullerton, Calif. 92635



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

BY

**CHARLES
SHEA-SIMONDS**

Delivery of Avgas (100 LL) to weekend clubs has become a major problem. The oil companies concerned demand either a minimum 4,500 gallons or 20 barrels (at £2.80 per gallon!) — this is a monumental rip-off particularly when 100 LL is clearly not the ideal fuel for most general aviation piston-engined aircraft. The British Gliding Association have recently completed 100 hours flying on 180hp Lycoming (compression ratio 8.5:1) running on 4 star Mogas (Motor fuel). Copies of the initial BGA Report compiled by their Chief Technical Officer, Dick Stratton, are available from the BPA Office. The report indicates that Mogas is suitable for the majority of aircraft used in our clubs. BPA are investing in another 100 hours flying on the BGA aircraft so if there is any particular information you require please contact Doug Peacock at the BPA Office. If you do intend to use Mogas please inform your insurance company.

On the same subject it is also worth noting that Carless Petroleum Limited, Clarendon House, 169-171 North Station Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1YN, are able to supply 80/87 Octane Avgas at .3397p per litre as opposed to .4232p per litre from Shell.

By the time this appears in print we will have had a meeting with the CAA who are concerned at the way we operate our aircraft. Lack of maintenance and poor operational procedures by a tiny minority of our Clubs have jeopardised our entire sport as far as CAA are concerned. Whilst I believe we will have convinced them of our responsible standing and that these are isolated incidents, we must ensure our aircraft operations are faultless; the consequences of our having to operate in accordance with an Air Operator's Certificate and with Commercial Pilots would be crippling.

On a very different note I was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Eric Smith of the Airworthiness Division of CAA. Eric gave considerable help to this Association over a number of years on all manner of problems concerning the airworthiness of our aeroplanes. We will miss his cheerful and willing cooperation and he will surely be a hard act to follow.

I was at the Sibson Trac Meet over the May Day Bank Holiday Weekend where bad weather dominated the three days — but nonetheless it was an excellently organised competition and a credit to all involved.

Council and its various committees are working hard on your behalf but as always we need ideas, input and constructive criticisms if the Association is to benefit you, the membership. Please drop me a line at the BPA Office if you think Council can assist in any way for the safe promotion of our Sport.

And finally please support the BPA Photographic Competition. I know there's photographic talent around the DZs — you've got nothing to lose and you might even win.

Go safely now,
Charles Shea-Simonds, Chairman

DO YOU KNOW?



WHO'S TEETH?

For years now the most famous teeth in British Sport Parachuting.

Clue: a past British National Champion.

If you know the answers to these picture questions, you are older than you think! No prizes for correct solutions, except perhaps a bottle of Philosan.

For answers turn to page 26.

WHAT RIG?

Clue: the forerunner of the modern sport canopy. It could not be taken into freefall for more than 2-3 secs, without the risk of serious back injury to the jumper on opening.



NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION

At the Council Meeting on 9th March 1981, the following was passed with 9 votes for, 3 votes against and 1 abstention:

"This committee recommended that in principle the Competition Committee should be authorised to formulate a provision to allow any jumper failing to qualify by results at the Nationals to be selected to attend the training camps."

This 'recommendation' has come about after many years of political hassle over National Team selection. In 1976, **Bobby Hull** won the Accuracy Championships with a total of 2cm. He failed to go to the World Meet because his Style did not place him high enough in the overall result. Subsequently, the selection rules were rewritten to allow the winner of the Style or Accuracy to be selected for the training camps, irrespective of their score in the other event.

In 1980, **Dougie Young** only qualified to go to the World Meet because he won the Style, his overall placing being too low for selection (he unfortunately missed a round of accuracy). At the World Meet he finished 4th in Accuracy

and 7th overall. Also in 1980, a move to take **Martin 'Dickie' Bird** (who did not compete in the Nationals) to the training camp, was defeated at an Extraordinary Council Meeting.

Whatever the eventual wording of the "provisions to allow any jumper failing to qualify by results to be selected", many people will say it gives the **Competition Committee** the power of subjective selection. Many regard this as a very practical way of doing things, others regard it as grossly unfair.

Bob Hull's reaction is quoted: "At least there is now a provision for selection without qualifying by result, that competitors will be aware of when they attend the Nationals. It's better than individuals busting a gut to try and qualify only to find a committee selecting people for training camp without having a mandate to do so."

Bob Hiatt who voted against the proposal at Council, said: "I believe that selection carried out in this manner is totally wrong. We should pick teams on laid down criteria and not by subjective means. If a competitor doesn't make it by performance at the Nationals, then tough luck!"

Council member **Dave Waterman** who voted against, said: "Although I am

in sympathy with certain aspects of the motion, on balance, it turns the Competition Committee into a Selection Committee which in principle is undesirable. What is more important, it devalues our National Championships which I feel should be the sole criteria for picking our National Teams."

John Laing who first brought the matter up at a Competitions Sub-committee, said: "It is more important that the Selection Rules are flexible enough to allow a competitor of proven ability to go to training camp if, because of unforeseen circumstances, that competitor is unable to make the team by performance at the Nationals. We may only pick a team member this way once in a 'blue moon', but the rules should recognise that such unforeseen circumstances may occur."

ANDY MEYSNER

APPROVED INSTRUCTORS ACTING AS CCIs

Due to the discussion generated by the 'No Exemption' clause Council decision at the STC, a new proposal was put to the Council meeting of 9th June.

This now reads:

"In an emergency situation the club may operate with a CCI who is not an advanced instructor subject to approval by STC. But that exemption will only last for a period of one year. This gives the club one year to qualify someone as a CCI."

A NEW FULL TIME PARACHUTE CENTRE

IPSWICH PARACHUTE CENTRE (CCI Tony Knight) is now open for full time parachuting and student training

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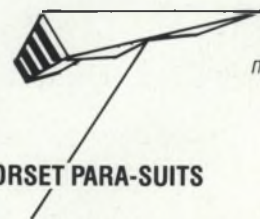
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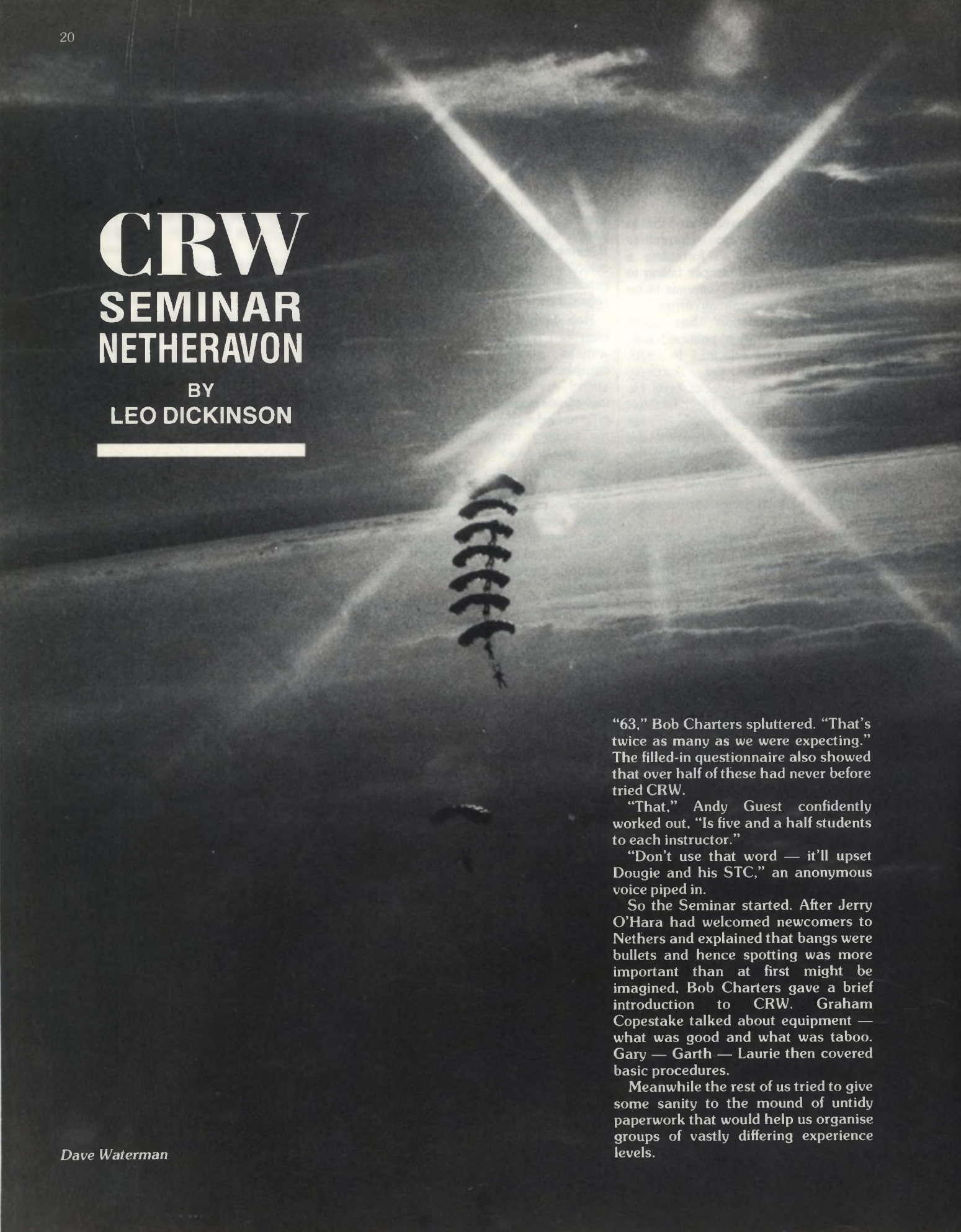
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CRW SEMINAR NETHERAVON

BY
LEO DICKINSON



“63,” Bob Charters spluttered. “That’s twice as many as we were expecting.” The filled-in questionnaire also showed that over half of these had never before tried CRW.

“That,” Andy Guest confidently worked out. “Is five and a half students to each instructor.”

“Don’t use that word — it’ll upset Dougie and his STC,” an anonymous voice piped in.

So the Seminar started. After Jerry O’Hara had welcomed newcomers to Nethers and explained that bangs were bullets and hence spotting was more important than at first might be imagined, Bob Charters gave a brief introduction to CRW. Graham Copestake talked about equipment — what was good and what was taboo. Gary — Garth — Laurie then covered basic procedures.

Meanwhile the rest of us tried to give some sanity to the mound of untidy paperwork that would help us organise groups of vastly differing experience levels.

MALFUNCTION

Most interest was centred around the person who turned up without a canopy. Just because last summer we put a nanoplane together using only eight parachutes doesn't mean anyone can just rush into this sort of thing. Garth did use his canopy for the initial docking even if he did dispense with it once the stack was built.

For several people on the course, doing a hop and pop at eleven grand was new. Apple's first eight man attempt was impressive. Seven squares and one round dotted high against the blue sky.

Someone's parachute objected to sub-terminal opening and it malfunctioned. Still probably thinking he was doing 'old fashioned' RW, he immediately cut away and opened his reserve.

Mounting Men turn style in this event or at least ride it down to a 'sensible' altitude before chopping it. You never know it might still open; or if you are lucky someone will play catch with your Mal, saving an unnecessary search and rescue operation and leaving you more time to fill in Geordie's accident report sheet. However it was a nice day and as Apple had spotted, it meant the poor guy only had a two mile walk back, which perhaps left time to reflect on the old adage — round is sound but square gets you there.

Graham had given such a good lecture on correct equipment that two guys wondered if it was all so necessary. With long bridle lines and pilot chutes still copulating they split up a bi-plane at eight hundred feet.

The cutaways were classic and expressions on their faces gave voyeurism altogether a new meaning. There was something for everyone: My lot, after being briefed so many times not to drop a collapsed canopy into the bloke below, wanted to find out why.

PARALLEL FORMATION

It took us twelve months to learn some of these mistakes that this crowd managed to condense into five jumps. Such is progress.

Everyone had a hook up of sorts although Garth had three students who hadn't bargained on having actually to crash canopies together to perform CRW. This was easily altered on their next jump as he cunningly briefed them not to link up but to fly in parallel formation next to each other. Garth then pinned each in turn rather

like a virgin being taken from behind on pain killers. The squeals of delight were heard from the ground.

SLIDE SHOW

Later in the evening Ray Ellis gave a slide show of Zee Hills CRW and the resulting revelries. Dave Waterman showed the definitive CRW photos anywhere even if he has fallen in love with his star burst fliter. I put together a 20 minute video programme mainly on how not to do it with our thirteen plane News at Ten record to finish. On Sunday afternoon just for all our amusements we dirt dived an 18 plane. It was so realistic some of us even kitted up. The Mounting Men would like to thank all those who came — it gave us all a lot of fun and particularly a thanks to Jerry O'Hara and Geordie Laing who said yes when really they meant no. Also to Pauline who had a lovely job manifesting our CRW so that no RW got in our way and finally to John Meacock for lending us his plane. CRW info for that weekend.

	Day 1	Day 2	Total
No. of jumpers	59	51	110
Descents	109	81	190
<i>+ instructors.</i>			

Total Hook ups

Size of stack	How many
8	x2
6	x2
5	x3
4	x7
3	x10
2	x21

Also from doing no CRW three managed a three time rotation, there were three Bi-Hands and lots of non contact.

The instructors were as follows:

Bob Charters, Andy Guest, Mike McCarthy, Jim Mitchel, Gary Laurie, Ray Ellis, Bryan Dyas, Leo Dickinson, Graham Copestake, Tony Butler, Paul Applegate.

CONSISTENCY

Feedback came a week later from various sources. Consistency was used to describe the instruction, fun was described by all and our condolences go out to the various secretaries of the European Canopy Club who might wonder why there are up to 27 new applicants for five man patches, to the USPA who will find there are 7 new Brits in Octoplanes and our own BPA girls who might be inundated with up to 35 four man patches to dish out.

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For further details contact:

Organiser: **Barry Blore**. Tel: Abingdon 834033

For parachuting rules contact:

BPA Office



Above: This entry by Rob Colpus emphasises how an ordinary canopy shot can be turned into something special by a dramatic sky. Olympus, 200 mm lens.

Below: Chairman Charles Shea-Simonds shot of Jackie Smith leaping from a Stampe, is unusual because of the point of view. Motorised Nikon 1/500 sec at f8 with camera mounted on wing strut, and fired by a remote lead into the cockpit.



Here are the fi
BPA/FUJI FILM P
6 rolls of Fuji film,
November, with
photographic equi
For entry deta
Parachutist.

Below
'Mr D
the fo
50 mm
backg
camer



: John Ward's picture of Dick Sanders exiting Douglas' over Z/Hills, shows how a bold image in foreground gives the picture impact. Using a lens instead of a wide angle results in the ground detail being slightly out of focus. Yashica a.



First prize-winning entries to the PHOTO COMPETITION. Each wins and will go on to the final judging in a chance to win £2,000 of equipment.

Details see April issue of the Sport



**Take a shot
at winning
a camera...**



A CONVERSATION



WITH JOHN MEACOCK



BY

ANDY MEYSNER



To most people who have taken up Sport Parachuting in the last 18 months, the name John Meacock may not mean much. He now spends most of his time running the Peterborough Parachute Centre, which he founded in 1971. He is both Proprietor and CCI. His contribution to the Sport in Britain however, is unsurpassed.

To his credit are: Overall National Champion 1969, 1972, 1973 and 1975; British Team member 1972 and 1974; Council member 1968 to 1979; Chairman BPA 1977 to 1979; CCI Thrupton 1966 to 1968; Founder Old Warden Flying and Parachute Group (Duck End) 1969; Editor *Sport Parachutist* 1971 to 1973. In 1980 he was awarded the Royal Aero Club Silver Medal for '17 years of continued, selfless and inspired involvement in the promotion of Sport Parachuting.'

Sport Parachutist: The Peterborough Parachute Centre has now been running for ten years and many would regard it as the most successful Civilian Centre in the country. To what in particular would you contribute its success?

John Meacock: Well really I suppose there is no substitute for basic hard work — and a certain element of luck.

SP: Do you think the balance you have between students and experienced jumpers has helped?

JM: We do try and maintain a balance.

SP: Let us talk about the student situation. You see a larger throughput at Peterborough than nearly anywhere else in the country, is the type of person joining a parachute course these days any different to his counterpart 10 years ago?

JM: It's very difficult to make a judgement because we have kept no records. Certainly there are more people coming on to courses now than there were ten years ago. I'm relying on memory now but I think basically the type of person taking up parachuting these days is much the same. We are less inclined to meet people now who have done military parachute courses and in that respect it is much more grey. There is less evidence of 'Airborne Forces' among Sport Parachutists these days.

SP: Given a choice in the type of person you have on a course at Peterborough, would you be more selective with your students?

JM: Yes.

SP: Would you care to expand on that?

JM: Well let us assume a situation where we are totally free of debt. What I would plan to do is have fewer first time courses, if any at all, and to concentrate on a course where the student undergoes some form of simple selection. This would involve a little bit of running around to make sure they were fit and would also be aimed at seeing that they are motivated towards Sport Parachuting. The course would be over a week rather than two days and be somewhat deeper than present courses.

SP: *Would this 'selection' be aimed at the type of person who is more likely to stay in the sport?*

JM: Yes.

SP: *The 'Charity jump' thing has become quite popular among first time jumpers lately. Do you feel this is the type of student the Sport needs, bearing in mind some of the adverse publicity they can sometimes bring (breaking legs etc?)*

JM: Yes, I know what you mean. I think it has been of great benefit to the sport generally because it has provided funds and it has of course benefited the charities involved enormously. With anybody coming onto a course you've got to try and encourage them, from the basic commercial standpoint, yet at the same time put over to them that it is different, they are not in for an easy time and they must be prepared to make an effort.

SP: *What about the number of students who come back after their first few jumps. Do you think it important that we try and reduce the drop-out rate — which has only marginally reduced in the last ten years?*

JM: I'm not sure that it has reduced at all. I think the drop-out rate will remain much the same. People take up parachuting for a variety of reasons, the vast majority quite likely not knowing what they are letting themselves in for. They find after one jump, which may be all they get on a two day course, that it is quite frightening, enormously exhilarating and exciting. After a couple of days they don't remember how exhilarated they were, but more how frightened they were. Perhaps this is one reason why we don't see them again.

SP: *Do you see any means of publicity which hasn't been tried before, which would help bring more people into the Sport and help us retain those students who drop out at an early stage?*

JM: I think the suggestion that *Sport Parachutist* be sold to the general public is an excellent idea and definitely worth a try. Coming back again to retaining people in the Sport; I think the only way we can do this is to give them as thorough a basic course as possible and then be as efficient as possible when they come back. Make sure there is an aircraft, pilot, instructors, sufficient equipment and that the organisation is geared up and ready to go. The student mustn't be put in a situation where he or she thinks; "My God, this is a total waste of time, not only is the weather against us but the organisation isn't efficient." This is where we should be concentrating our efforts, efficiency, making sure we are geared up for parachuting when the weather allows us to do so.

SP: *The Porter crash last February has now resulted in you taking a big financial gamble with the ordering of a brand new Porter. Has the Porter crash had an impact upon the viability of the Centre?*

JM: It has in that we went through a shortage of money, which I understand is called the cash flow problem, i.e. being skint for a short time. The decision to purchase a new Porter has meant, reluctantly, that we have had to increase the number of courses, particularly at weekends. This has meant taking on extra full time staff and asking the weekend staff to help out more. The latter has been forthcoming which is very gratifying.

SP: *Would you advise other commercial parachuting operators to take such financial risks in order to improve their lot? In many ways you've been quite bold in what you have set out to do.*

JM: Well it would be impertinent for me to say that everybody should do as I have. You must understand that I have no other means of income than from Sport Parachuting, so I've got to make it work. I have a responsibility, not only to the Parachutists but to the other permanent staff here who maintain their living from the Centre.

SP: *Do you ever feel that the commercial aspects of running a large Centre restrict the parachuting. For example, maintaining the student/experienced jumper balance, or favouring/restricting certain aspects of the Sport?*

JM: Well it's a question of efficiency really. Provided that we have adequate

facilities then I don't feel there is any restriction. It is when one doesn't have all the facilities that friction arises. You have probably noticed the amount of experienced jumpers who come here but weren't trained here.

SP: *The Porter of course attracted a lot of jumpers from elsewhere.*

JM: Yes, that's true. But even now, without the Porter, there are still a large number of jumpers here who I wouldn't call 'my own'.

SP: *CRW is currently not allowed on the Sibson DZ, although it has been on odd occasions. Many experienced jumpers regard this a particular drawback of the Centre as CRW is an activity which can often be practised in this country when weather conditions are less favourable to say, RW. CRW also offers excellent value for money when it comes to time in the air and is now an accepted activity to the extent of there being a World Cup. Would you care to elaborate on your attitude to CRW?*

JM: Well, as I'm sure you understand, having jumped here yourself for ten years, this DZ is on farmland and the area of the DZ itself is only 17 acres. On the number of occasions that CRW has been allowed we've found that it is not really compatible with landing on what is a relatively tight DZ. It has given rise in the past to areas of conflict between myself and the owners of the land. I don't think I can allow this to continue to be fair on my part. The farm owners will accept the odd bad spot or that students may at times land out. What they cannot understand and what I have not been able to successfully explain to them, is how an experienced jumper, with a perfectly good high performance ram-air canopy, can land in the crops. That really is why I do not allow CRW here. I'm not against CRW as such, from a commercial aspect that would be madness.

SP: *Do you feel that, as a many times British Champion, there ought to have been more success in competition from Peterborough's regular jumpers? Should there have been more of an impact generally from here on the competition both at home and internationally?*

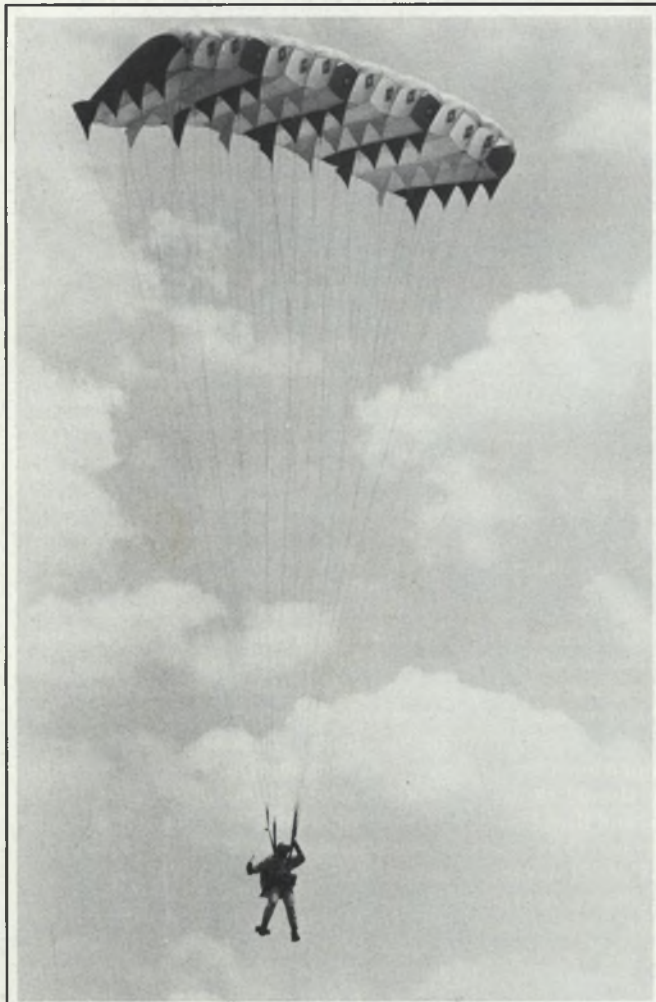
continued on page 32

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NOTRE DAME PARAFOIL

The canopy in the jumbo pack was the Notre Dame Parafoil. The photographs were taken at Fort Brag in 1966, where the Golden Knights were test jumping the rig.

The lines were about 30ft long and the canopy had no retarding device to slow down the opening.

PICTURE PUZZLE ANSWERS



PETE (THE TEETH) SHERMAN

This photograph was taken of Pete at the 1965 National Championships held on the Queen's Ave., Aldershot. Although Pete was National Accuracy Champion that year, the picture was never published in *Sport Parachutist*. Some sharp-eyed security minded individual thought that as Farnborough Royal Aircraft Establishment was in the background, it might endanger national security.

- *Our RW Training Camp?*
- *The Two DC-3's?*
- *The pool, the bar, the bunkhouse?*
- *Perhaps it's the international clientele . . .*

Whatever it is, it makes



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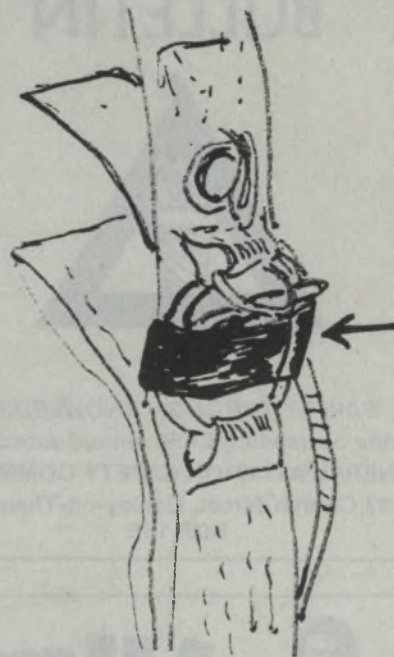
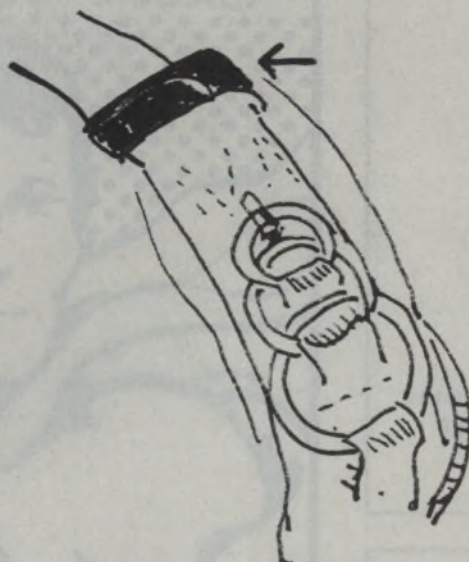
POTENTIAL MALFUNCTION ON EAGLE RIG

The riser tab came unstitched on opening but the velcro held. This meant that the loop of material stayed as such but was free to move up and down on the risers. In the event it slid down over the three ring circus just covering the rings. (See picture.)

Should a cutaway have been necessary (which it almost was — but due to another problem) only one side would have released leaving a streaming main that would not have released without further pulling of the velcroed tab. Possibly not an obvious procedure.

Lesson: Make sure all tabs are well sewn down...

L.D.



NEW RAM AIR MAINS

Three new canopies, the **Hobbitt**, **Spirit** and **Wizard**, have just come on to the market, to join the ever increasing choice offered to the sport parachutist.

Remember when there was just one — the **Stratostar**?

Designed by **Bill Garland**, who also designed the **Comet 228** and the **Comet 300**, the **Hobbitt**, **Spirit** and **Wizard** are made of F-1.11 fabric.

The **Hobbitt** is 172 square feet, and weighs 6.7lb with bag and risers.

The **Spirit** weighs 7.8lb and is 230 square feet, while the **Wizard** is 296 square feet and weighs 9.8lb.

NEW RESERVE FROM PIONEER

The **Pioneer Parachute Co.** of Manchester, Conn., USA, has brought out an ultra-light and ultra-small reserve, called the **Pioneer KXX**.

Made of F-1.11 fabric, it has 20 gores with diaper deployment and Kevlar reinforced skirt and apex bands.

It weighs 4.6lb and has a unique 'Cat's Eye' vent in the apex which stays open during deployment to soften opening shock but closes after complete inflation to reduce descent rate.

SWIFT SYSTEM

Para-Flite Inc. have brought out a new ultralight rig called **The Swift System**. It contains two 5 cell ram-air canopies of an entirely different design. Weighing only 16lb (ready to jump) the new product was developed in tight security.

The canopies are lighter and less bulky, due to the canopy panels running spanwise from wing-tip to wing-tip instead of from leading edge to trailing edge. As most canopy 'blow ups' run along the seams nose-to-tail, it follows that with the new design, any damage should be confined to the width of a single panel.

Both the canopies and hand-deploy are of F-1.11 material.

The harness system has several pieces of hardware eliminated and has a 3 ring system but uses smaller rings, saving several pounds in weight.

DEFLATABLE PILOT CHUTE

Comet International Air Inc., of California, now market a Pilot Chute that deflates after the main canopy has opened.

It is said to increase your canopy performance by 7%.

SILVER F-1.11 FABRIC

A unique metallic silver fabric is being offered by **National Parachute Supply** of Flemington N.J., USA.

Finely powdered pure silver is impregnated into the fibres of the nylon, giving the F-1.11 fabric a sparkle and sheen.

The F-1.11 fabric is built into **Para-Flite** ram air main canopies at no extra charge.

SST FACE LIFT

The **SST Racer** has been given a face lift, with the addition of accent strips down each side of the rig.

The upper half of the strip serves as riser covers and are secured with Velcro.

The bottom half of the strip is purely cosmetic.

NEW FROM SWEDEN

A new hook knife from Sweden is being marketed by **PAP Parachuting Supplies**, PO Box 54, Ramsgate, Kent for £5.50 + 50p p&p.

Safe and easy to use, a must for you CRW enthusiasts.

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SPORT BRIT!

RUN UP TO THE NATIONALS

1981 NATIONAL PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Championships this year are to be held at the **Joint Services Parachute Centre, Netheravon**, from **4th-14th July**.

The competition for National titles is open to all BPA members from Cat5 upwards and although some teams are already training, many jumpers plan to turn up purely to enjoy the event and catch up on the latest in gear, technique and events.

For the third year the Classic and RW will be held together along with a new Intermediate event. Priority though will be given to the RW events to coincide with the World Championships held in Florida this autumn.

Netheravon is a vast grass DZ and home of the APA and JSPC. The DZ is used for training service men and women in sport parachuting weekdays and is open to civilians on weekends.

For the Nationals the APA Islander and 206 will be used plus a MOD Islander and advantage will also be taken of the APA video which is to be a primary judging aid in the RW and a back up in the Classics.

Besides six monitors and booths for the judges it's planned to have a video viewing room for people to review dives at the end of the day. This facility should be a great help to Novice competitors.

Detailed information should be obtained from the BPA on food and accommodation but briefly accommodation is available in billets (competitors only) as well as a caravan and camp site and besides the mess (competitors only) the canteen will be open throughout the Meet for snack meals.

Besides these Netheravon has an excellent new bar which will be open at the close of jumping each day. Billiards, table tennis, television rooms and a squash court are also available to competitors and non-competitors alike.

BPA members may also wish to take this opportunity to see the BPA Council in action as a meeting is planned for the evening of the 12th after the awards ceremony.

Detailed information as well as rules

and entry forms are available free of charge to members from the BPA.

NATIONAL TEAMS AND GRANTS

For the first time this year the winners of the 8 and 4 way RW events will represent the country even if they are drawn from the same group of 8 people. In the past it has been BPA policy to send a team in only one event should they win in both and send the second place team in the other event. The aim of preserving this rule was to prevent the creation of an unbeatable elite and spread Sports Council grants more evenly. However in an international level the standard of British teams was necessarily lower.

In order to benefit in both ways the BPA are adopting a policy of finding money to assist the runners-up. For example the 6th-10th as well as the 1st-5th placed individuals in the classic events will be assisted in entering European competitions later this year, and it has been proposed to help RW teams in a similar way.

CLASSIC EVENT

Although it is an 'off' year for the classics there is still keen interest, competition is open to jumpers from Cat5 upwards in Novice, Intermediate and Senior events. Apart from the regular **Red Devils** attendance, **Ester Reynolds** and **Dave Tylcoat** are both spending several weeks training in **Raeferd** and **Jackie Smith** who won the women's World Accuracy Championships in 1978, but has not competed in classics since then, is thinking of entering either on a **Symbiosis** team or as an individual, finances allowing. The **Duck End Farm** team and **Two²** are already training for the event.

INTERMEDIATE EVENT

This year a separate event has been introduced to the championships with the aim of providing better competition for the jumpers who have just started relative work and to help spread knowledge of RW techniques.

The qualification for the event is the combined jump total of three team members should not exceed 1,000 jumps and there is no limitation on the fourth member. This enables a team to learn from an expert jumper who would otherwise be competing with an experienced team. However having an experienced jumper on the team is not compulsory.

It's likely teams in this event will be formed at or near the event as they pick up experienced members, although there are already one or two training.

4 WAY CONTENDERS

In spite of last year's Nationals being a classics 'on' year about fifteen enthusiastic 4 way teams entered and it is hoped the same number will do so trained and untrained this year.

A prominent competition is likely to be between the reigning champions **Symbiosis** and the newly arisen **Kaleidoscope** (**Vic Logan, Neville Howarth, Mike Johnson, Mathew Mortlock**) who scored 7 and 8 points in time in two rounds of the **Sibson Trac Meet** recently.

The two **Symbiosis** teams are: **Rob Colpus, Dave Kenny, Geoff Saunders, Tony Uragello** and **Willy Grut** as alternate. Tony replaces Willy at the training camp, in the team who won a Silver at the last W/M in 1979.

And **Jackie Smith, Cath MacCormac, Fred and Jim Keery**, and **Robin Mills** as alternate.

Neither of these teams have jumped together this year but the Keerys, Geoff and Rob jumped in the Sibson Trac Meet scoring 9 and 12 points in the two rounds. They hope to be scoring 8-10 points by the Nationals, as do **Kaleidoscope**. All three teams are training in **Raeferd**, N. Carolina for about five weeks before the Nationals, a commitment of between £1,100 and £1,300 per head. So all three are obviously very serious about winning.

Cont.

NATIONALS — CONT.

Also training at Raeford are two Army 4 ways, the 'A' team is **Pete Heugh, Mike Smith, Tim Andrews and Tim Pape**, and the 'B' team **Brian Dyas, Mike MacCarthy, Les Carol and Bob Charters**. The teams combined are concentrating on 8 way so as 4s they've made few jumps together, but the 'B' team reports itself to be doing 7, 8 and 9 points and to be doing better than the 'A' team: who are without longstanding team member **Wally Wallace**, due to posting, although he will be alternate at the Nationals with **John Horn and Geordie Best**.

Another promising Army team are the Guards team called the **Firebirds, Steve Trebble, Dave Spencer, Paddy Platt and Charlie Channing**, who are training in **Lippspringe** from 24th May until the **Army Championships 16th-25th June**.

The team are turning around 4 points at the moment but have said they want to be doing 7-8 points by the Nationals.

For the UK trained teams the Scottish look like producing two good teams, although both were reliant on winning their own championships for funds. **Prospective (Billy Sommerville, Billy Forester, Tom Macky, Brian Willson)**, won scoring 4 and 6 points. **Fourplay (Harry Morgan, Mike Fleming, John Keith and Pat McLennan)** are the other team scoring erratically between 2 and 4 points.

Around 4 points in time appears to be the good competitive level for teams trained in the UK on weekends.

Pigs in Space (Dave Parsons, Mike Hutchinson, John Ward, Paul Smith), Two² (Barry Wright, Martin Simpson, Steve Crabtree, Mal Finch) and Deep Depression (Paul Blower, Tony O'Conner, Frank Colins, Geoff Cummings and Tony Cummings) are some of the teams in this group who have been training since about May. **Weston on the Green (RAFSPA)** will enter at least one 4 from their 8, although sadly there will be no RAF team as last year's team **Ray Willis, Micky Throwforth, Steve McBride and Jerry Kebble** have been split by posting.

It looks likely several good scratch teams may be formed as there are quite a few good and keen competitive jumpers not yet organised.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Kaleidoscope (Vic Logan, Mat Mortlock, Neville Howarth and Mike Johnson), are notable on the current competitive skydiving scene, because outside of **Symbiosis** and **Symbiosis** motivated teams they are the only civilian team to commit themselves to an extensive training camp and have the possibility of being competitive for the Gold, since **Symbiosis** first won it in 1976.

The team was formed before the Nationals last year by **Colin Bruce** and **Vic Logan**. Colin has now become a US citizen but hopes to be able to make some of the training camp and Nationals as alternate. Neville, Mike and Vic had known and jumped together around the north of England for several years but, says Neville: "It was Colin's influence that finally drew them together as a team."

The team is basically democratic although Neville is Captain on paper, he says his main job is keeping Mike and Vic apart, the two fiery personalities of the team.

After Colin left for the States early this year the three started a nationwide search for a fourth member willing and capable of making the considerable commitment.

Mathew became the fourth and joined the team in March. Nevil, Vic and Mike have all been jumping for about 8 years and have 670, 730 and 620 jumps respectively, they are all over 25. Mathew is the baby of the team at 23, and with only 3 years in the sport has 670 jumps, assisted perhaps by **Headcorn Parachute Club** where he has been instructing.

They have all trained for competition before but never as seriously.

Up until their US training camp they've only made around a dozen jumps together and are already scoring 7-8 points in time. They plan a four week training camp in Raeford from 23rd May. They'll start with simple exercises from 12,000 and gradually work down to competition altitude concentrating on their weak points, followed by a week's rest and then exit practice in the UK. They hope to make 150 jumps and to be doing 8-10 points by the Nationals.

On the subject of competition Vic (famous for being outspoken) says: "They hope at least to beat all those *@!!£*.....!! sponsored Army teams", and about **Symbiosis** he says: "They have the reputation of being unbeatable

but people forget the teams are never made up of exactly the same people, they take on new members all the time." (There have been about 19 **Symbiosis** members in National competitions since 1976.) The team has no plans farther than this year's Nationals and possibly World Championships, except to have a slack year in 1982, although it looks likely at the moment the team will stay together for '83.

"Do they think they will beat **Symbiosis** this year?"

"We certainly aim to give them some stiff competition!"

8 WAY CONTENDERS

The competition for the 8 appears to be between the **Symbiosis 8** who had not jumped together until their US training camp so their scores are open to speculation, the **Army 8** scoring about 4 points and a team from Weston on the Green called **Weston Union, Bob Hiatt, Steve Scott, Mick Geelan, John Parker, Brian Mason, Bob Lyttle, Pete Downing, Mickey Threlfall**, who are scoring about 3 points and taking a consistent 7 and sometimes 8 out of the Islander and grip changing to the first formation. Although the team contains mostly experienced jumpers most of them have not competed seriously before. The team is training at Weston on weekends and for a week before the Nationals.

It looks likely though that at least one competitive 8 will be formed from practised 4s and there is no doubt at **Sibson** that a **Peterborough 8** will be entering.

WOMEN'S SELECTION

The criteria for selecting Women are now less stringent.

A maximum of five can be selected who must either:

- A. Average a 11 sec or less in Style.
- B. Have been placed in the top 15 (Men and Women) in Accuracy.
- C. Have been placed in the top 15 (Men and Women) overall.
- D. Have been placed in the top 15 (Men and Women) in Style.

So come on all you budding Women Champions, let's see you at the Nationals and continue the high standard that Jackie Smith set for us in 1978.

SARAH BREARLEY

COACH'S COLUMN

BY

DOUG PEACOCK

COMPETITION SEASON

We are now rapidly approaching the competition season, which this year promises to be as lively as ever.

Three rounds of the excellent Sibson TRAC Meet were duly completed between showers and the event provided an ideal opportunity for both competitors (seventeen teams) and judges to shake off a few cobwebs. Despite the laughable Spring, teams and individuals are now well into their preparation training and we are expecting a record turnout at the Nationals. First prize of course, for the winning team, is a trip to Zephyrhills in October to represent Great Britain in the 4th RW World Parachute Championships. We shall be competing both in the four way and the eight way events and team selection will be purely on performance at the Nationals — the winning team in each event shall go, whether or not both teams are drawn from the same group.

The Army Parachute Association have recently extended the video facility to include six judging monitor screens and a permanent camera mount. All RW will be judged on video primarily and the rules allow for up to five replays if required. We now have seven FAI judges in the country, three of whom are actively involved in the World Meet. Charlie Shea is Chief Judge for the second time, John Hitchen is the UK judge and Biff Burn has been nominated to run the trainee judges seminar, a task which he performed with such dedication in Chateauroux two years ago.

All our judges are expected at the Nationals and we are also fortunate to have the assistance of Svend Brosted from Denmark who is currently living over here. Svend is an FAI judge of great experience, having been Chief Judge at two consecutive World Meets in 1976 and 1978. I am also greatly encouraged by the large numbers of National and trainee judges who are active throughout the country and my thanks are due to them for all the support I have received.

EUROPE TRIP

The Style and Accuracy squad have not been forgotten in the off year. First five placed overall at the Nationals will travel to Graz

(Austria) at the end of August for a six day Classic European Championships. Entries already received include the East German and Chinese teams and this will undoubtedly be a competition of the highest order. The trip to Europe this year is in line with the policy of keeping the Classic squad in trim in preparation for Czechoslovakia in 1982. A second trip is also scheduled to the International Strasbourg Meet in September. This team will consist of jumpers placed 6-10 in the overall classification. Note that to achieve an overall placing, competitors must have placed in both the Style and Accuracy events and we are hopeful that this overseas experience will benefit the up and coming young jumpers on the fringe of the National squad.

REGIONAL SPORTS AID GRANTS

Which brings me quite conveniently to the question of finance in the form of Grant Aid for training. Competition generally today is of such high level that a jumper must be prepared to make up to four hundred training jumps per year. You are prepared to give the time but do not have that kind of money. One answer could be a grant from the Sports Aid Foundation, which operates both at national and regional level. As far as our international jumpers are concerned, grants are made on the recommendation of the Governing Body to those competitors of proven international standing with potential to win medals in World competition. An as yet undetermined sum is earmarked for Symbiosis who took the silver in Chateauroux two years ago. All our international jumpers are well aware of this source of funds, so where does this leave the average Club member who wishes to catch up with the big boys? The answer lies with the regional branches of the SAF who are prepared to grant aid jumpers who show medal potential at National level.

Enquiries to the Office should be backed by a CCI's recommendation together with proof of performance. The applications are then forwarded to the appropriate regional branch on the candidate's behalf. Certain Local

Authorities also have funds available to assist sportsmen and women. Jumpers are advised to contact the Chief Recreation Officer in their own area for further information. One final word on this subject — the pursuit of excellence demands much personal sacrifice and all successful candidates will already have used up most of their cash in reaching a high enough standard to be considered for recommendation. There are no free rides to success either in our game or in any other. In conclusion, I would like to wish all competitors — Classic and RW, Senior, Intermediate and Novice the very best of good fortune at all the Meets this year.

SAFETY

On to matters of Safety. Most regrettably and sadly we have had two fatal parachuting accidents in the first four months of this year. Both accidents had certain similarities and STC are currently giving serious thought to the implications in that four of the last five fatalities have involved jumpers over the age of forty who had started parachuting comparatively recently and three of whom were using sophisticated high performance rigs. Most of what I have to say on the subject was said by Pat Works on page 20 of the April issue of *Sport Parachutist* and I strongly urge ALL jumpers of whatever experience level to re-read and implement the excellent advice contained in the article. I would like to emphasise that safety is essentially an attitude of mind. Freefall parachuting is as safe or as dangerous as you care to make it yourself. Remember that once you step out of the aircraft your hand deploy/pullout/ripcord is your sole remaining hold on life. Don't lose it.

DOUG

A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MEACOCK CONT.

JM: Well it's difficult to talk about 'Peterborough jumpers'. When I think of all the National team members who have jumped here over the years, it's difficult to give a succinct answer to that question. Obviously I would love to see Peterborough United, which has been quite successful in our TRAC Meet, being more successful. Let's hope in the future they will be.

SP: *It is now quite rare to see a jumper on an average DZ engaging in Style. Indeed, some newer jumpers who have not been to the Nationals would not even know what it involves! Do you regret this diminishing aspect of our Sport and do you see any clear way of revitalising it?*

JM: No I don't see any way of revitalising it and I don't necessarily regret it, it's historical. It's just one of those things.

SP: *Do you think it played an important part in what parachuting is about these days?*

JM: Well, if you have competent style jumper then you usually find they become a competent relative worker. That doesn't necessarily mean of course that to be a good relative worker you should have been a style parachutist. Style does teach you extremely good body control. It is unfortunate to see it dying out although by the same token, it is pleasing to see British Jackie Smith's Accuracy Gold medal and the extremely competent performance by our Classic team last year.

SP: *Do you think the social aspect of Relative Work compared to Style has*

anything to do with it? To be a style jumper you do have to be somewhat of a 'loner'.

JM: Yes. To add to that, relative work has developed rather belatedly as an international competitive event. It surprised me that it took so long for the CIP to take it up competitively. Good quality RW was going on for a long time in this country, France and the USA for many years before it became a World Championship event. There was a relative work event in the Adriatic Cup in 1963.

SP: *Do you feel the general principles and objectives behind our Sport have changed? For example, jumpers are now doing things which would have been unheard of 10-15 years ago — fixed object jumps for example. Is the Sport changing direction?*

JM: No, I don't think so. Parachuting is about jumping out of aircraft and I feel always will be. Jumping from cliffs and stuff like that is an interesting by-product. It's not significant to the development of Sport Parachuting.

SP: *We've seen a very rapid kit progression occur in recent years. What impact has this had on jumpers and the Sport in general?*

JM: The impact of the most significance is the square parachute which is now developed and perfected to a high degree. It means that we can now jump in quite strong winds which, when you consider the weather in this country, is very important. The departure from the traditional canopy releases is a most important safety development. Conventional Capewells, which are perfectly satisfactory for student equipment are not so satisfactory underneath a high speed malfunction.

SP: *Finally John, as a past Chairman of the BP, has the Association kept pace*

with Sport Parachuting in Britain?

JM: Yes, I think it has. I've found that Parachutists are the sort of people who will help each other provided that you explain to them what is wanted. The BPA will help where it is needed provided that you ask for it and explain to them what is wanted. The BPA will help where it is needed provided that you ask for it and explain the problem. I think too many clubs run themselves into difficulties and then complain that the BPA don't know they need help. If a club has a problem then I would say that the first priority is to make sure the BPA knows about it. When I was Chairman, I made sure that a principal point of our policy was to help the Clubs in the Association.

I'm sure the same applies to the Association now — making sure that we keep the Clubs open. The present Council, like most of them over the past few years, is a mixture of all sorts of experience and expertise. I think it works well.

One last comment. In all the years I have been in parachuting, the number of people that I've had major disagreements with I can count on one hand. I find that quite interesting.

SP: *Thank you for talking to us.*

JM: That's OK, that will be 2,000 guineas.

Editor's note: send the bill to the BPA, John!

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SCOTTISH PARACHUTE CLUB



THE SCOTTISH PARACHUTE CLUB'S 21st ANNIVERSARY

The Scottish Parachute Club was founded on 10th April 1960 by Charles 'Doc' Robertson who made the inaugural descent from Tiger Moth G-AHUV at Perth Aerodrome (Scone) piloted by the late Tom Blyth. On 10th April 1981 a group of SPC members gathered in glorious weather at the same airfield to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Club using the same aircraft piloted by Andrew Gordon from Blair Atholl.

The commemorative group consisted of: **Bob Thompson** a former military jumper who was on the second sport parachuting course at Scone in 1960. Some of Bob's military jumps took place in the days before the introduction of the reserve parachute, thought to be an unnecessary luxury at the time. Over the years Bob has kept in touch with the sport as a committee member of the Scottish Sport Parachute Association and has jumped occasionally when helping as a judge at the SSPA Championships. A gaggle of CCIs included **Bill Maclellan** of the Highland Parachute School, Inverness, founder of the Golden Lions Freefall Team. Bill did 50 jumps in a day in 1972 to raise funds for the Club; he also landed on top of Cairngorm (4084ft) on a C-9. **Tom Dickson** from **Glenrothes Parachute School** is a life member of SPC who qualified as an instructor at Kidlington in 1963. For him the venue brought back memories of a landing among fifteen bulls in a bull pen at the nearby animal breeding station. The audience of trainee pilots in 1963, from equatorial parts, appeared to be egging on the bulls to fight or fornicate with the stranger in their midst but happily the fence was not too far away so nothing came of it. **Tony** (Youse CRAWLS are on the bell) **Smith** is the present CCI of the SPC. Tony turned up at age 14 as a packer of parachutes, jumped when he was 17 which was the age limit in those days and stayed on to become an Advanced Instructor and Examiner. **Gordon Fernie** another Advanced Instructor who is leader of the **Red**



Martin Rennie presents the inscribed 'quich' to Tom Dickson (the longest serving member of SPC)

Barons Display Team had the privilege of jumping from the Tiger Moth. Gordon is a former CCI and former Chairman of the SPC. **Martin Rennie** a BPA Judge, current Chairman of the SSPA and **Trevor Newberry** CCI of Edinburgh University Parachute Club made up the group who were to use the Cessna 206.

The arrival of the Tiger Moth aroused great interest among the multi-national trainee pilots and engineers who are based at Airwork Services Training School at Scone. Grampian TV, Scottish TV, the *Daily Record*, *The Scotsman*, the *Strathern Herald* and other Press representatives were there along with some of the hard core SPC members.

Gordon Fernie took off first in the Moth to throw his set of drifters. The 206 followed, piloted by Bob Dickson and orbited while Gordon got into position at

4,000ft for his solo display. The group in the 206 saw him leave the wing then went in to drop Bob Thompson on static line from 2,500ft. Bob landed safely on the grass beside a runway. He was followed by **Bill Maclellan**, **Tom Dickson** and **Trevor Newberry** who flew a three way off the 206 at 5,000ft. Unfortunately the cameras did not see this until break off because it was directly into the sun. The jumpers were cheered by the sizeable audience as they landed in the target area. Finally Martin Rennie and Tony Smith hooked up into a CRW stack from 5,000ft

landing it impressively in front of the TV cameras to another round of applause.

The event was organised very ably by Martin Rennie. It went off in perfect weather to everybody's satisfaction. Charles Robertson has been conducting his medical practice in Nova Scotia since 1965. The Club which he founded in 1960 has survived the passage of time despite many vicissitudes. Had he been able to be present at the 21st Anniversary he would surely have concluded that the SPC is thriving and is set for many more years of achievement. The same spirit which motivated the 'Doc' in 1960 is alive in the Club today.

SCOTTISH PARACHUTE CLUB'S 21st BIRTHDAY TRAC MEET RESULTS

	RW				ACCURACY					Total of □	Overall Position
	Rd1	Rd2	Placing	□ of Place	Rd1	Rd2	Total	Place	□ of Place		
4 Play	4	4	1	1	24.13	33.01	57.14	5	25	26	4
No Chance	1	1	4	16	20.74	19.23	39.97	3	9	25	3
Polarvision	3	1	2	4	20.53	15.23	36.06	1	1	5	1
Pull Out	2	1	3	9	33.24	24.36	57.60	6	36	45	6
Altitude Inspection	1	1	4	16	23.25	28.67	51.92	4	16	32	5
Summertime Blues	2	2	2	4	19.18	20.00	39.18	2	4	8	2
Individual Accuracy:	1 Gordon McConnachie 2 Dinger Bell 3 Tony Smith										



COLLEGIATE 8-WAY ATTEMPT AT WESTON, APRIL 11-12th

By mid-morning on the Saturday about 18 people with some collegiate affiliation or other, had turned up at the DZ. This meant unfortunately that we had to pick the nine for the first attempt by going through logbooks to sort out experience levels.

The formation we decided on was a 4-way base with slot-flakes and the 9th man on one of the bases' legs. Since three of our 4-way team for the Collegiate Nationals were there, with no thought at all of exit training as an ulterior motive, we decided to go base, and **Alison Busfield** from Newcastle University stood in for the missing Dave.

Having finished the dirt-diving and watched a group of military jumpers do it the hard way from a Hercules at 800 ft, we were soon up ourselves.

The first attempt built to a disappointing seven since both the others were around their slot and got 'touches'. This proved to be the best dive, and on our second attempt we only managed six.

Low cloud for the rest of the day and Sunday morning meant two more 4-way exit practises and our last 8-way dive on the Sunday evening ended up as a 5-man star, followed by **Kevin Hardwick** and **Garry Gnapp** putting together their fourth canopy link of the weekend.

Although nothing spectacular in skydiving terms was achieved, the fact that so many people turned up augurs well for the BCPA. Sorry to those who were left off, but hopefully we'll have another go at the Nationals.

Finally our thanks to all the staff and regulars at Weston who put up with our influx, especially Micky, whose fine 'audio-spotting' techniques meant we didn't have to walk too far after the last dive.

FRANK SMITH



EXAMINATION COURSE BRIDLINGTON

This was conducted by **Bob Harman**, **Ken Mapplebeck** and **Len Melville**, with assistance from **John Hitchen**, **Eric Finney** and **Tony Butler**. There were eleven candidates, all of whom were assessed on three lectures/GT periods, static line despatching, practical parachuting ability and a written examination. Of the eleven candidates, six were successful and were awarded Approved Instructor ratings valid until 31 March 1983. Five candidates failed to reach the required standard and were recommended to resit in three months time. Detailed reports have been forwarded to the respective CCIs.

Successful candidates were:

Sean Hutchinson	<i>RAPA</i>
Alan Brooks	<i>PPC</i>
Lyn George	<i>Eagle</i>
Val Slattery	<i>East Coast</i>
Andy Phillip	<i>Cornwall</i>
Les Cooper	<i>Skysports</i>

STATIC DISPLAY

The BPA now has a large static display designed and produced by **Dave Waterman** which is available to promote the Sport at Exhibitions/Shows etc. For details contact the BPA office.

POTENTIAL INSTRUCTOR COURSE BRIDLINGTON

The successful candidates were:

Martin Wilshaw	<i>Montford Bridge</i>
Andy Page	<i>Ipswich</i>
John Gleave	<i>Ipswich</i>
Ged O'Reilly	<i>Skysports</i>
Jane Buckle	<i>Headcorn</i>
Pete Fenwick	<i>TAS</i>
Andy Houston	<i>Royal Marines</i>
Bob Scouler	<i>Royal Marines</i>
Ken Gregory	<i>Eagle</i>
Dave Goodwin	<i>TWPC</i>

COUNCIL MEETING, 9th MARCH 1981

Present:

G. C. P. Shea-Simonds Chairman BPA
 P. W. Ritchie Chairman Finance Committee
 J. Laing, MBE
 Chairman Safety and Training Committee
 J. R. H. Sharples Chairman Club Committee
 D. Kenny
 J. L. Thomas
 J. H. Hitchen
 D. Waterman
 R. Hiatt
 W. Grut
 J. T. Crocker
 E. T. Lewington
 P. J. Corr
 J. G. Starling, CBE, MC, ADC
 D. Tylcoat

Observers:

R. Colpus
 A. Meysner
 Miss C. Pyper
 Miss S. Brearley

Co-opted Members:

C. Pomery BCPA

In Attendance:

D. Peacock NCSO
 C. W. Port Secretary-General

Apologies:

R. O'Brien
 D. Hennessy RAFSPA

Item 15/81

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Proposed by J. G. Starling and seconded by J. T. Crocker that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously

Matters Arising

- The application of DISC for re-affiliation was agreed.
- The form of ballot paper for 1982 devised by the Secretary-General was approved. It was agreed that these would not be pre-paid.
- The Chairman reported on the last Royal Aero Club Meeting.
 - A letter had been received asking whether this Association could run a lottery for the Royal Aero Club. It was agreed that the Association would be unable to do this.
 - The Finance Committee agreed to look at the possibility of this Association selling some items (i.e. cuff links) for the Royal Aero Club via our present in house 'shop'.
 - The Chairman reported that subject to final approval from the RAeC Council the CRW team have been nominated for the Prince of Wales Cup, and that Scotty Milne has won an FAI award — the Tissandier Diploma.
 Congratulations were expressed to the above by the Council.

Item 16/81

Committee Reports

1. Safety and Training Committee

J. Laing presented the minutes of the above meeting.

It was agreed that the Association would fund 10 jumps for the Kicker Spring trials at those clubs carrying out the programme. It was further agreed that if the trials are successful the Association would buy in a further 450 of these springs.

The minutes of the meeting were ratified.

2. Finance Committee

P. W. Ritchie, Chairman of the Finance Committee presented the minutes.

- As the static display was rather larger than anticipated it was agreed that the Secretary-General purchase a roof rack in order to be able to transport the display. J. L. Thomas agreed to make a waterproof cover for protection in transit.
- It was agreed that the membership subscription be paid on the basis of the date from which an individual member joined the Association. D. Waterman agreed to include in the magazine a warning on the importance of ensuring that members had paid their renewal fee in order to ensure that their insurance was valid. He also agreed to have a large warning poster made which could be displayed prominently at Clubs.
- There was considerable discussion on the budget and available funds for the World Championships. It was agreed that a minimum sum of £11,672 be set aside at this time, but the whole budget was to be the subject of discussion at the next Finance Committee Meeting. Similarly the outlay for the European Competition at Graz and the Strasbourg Competition would be discussed in conjunction with the World Championship outlay. The Finance Committee will endeavour to see if they can improve on the finances at present available. The Chairman agreed to write to the Membership and Display Teams to ask for financial support for the National Team.
- It was agreed that the grant to clubs holding approved competitions be increased from £100 to £150.
- The new rates for FAI items were agreed, viz:

FAI Badges	£1.50
FAI Certificate Initial Issue	£2.00
FAI Certificate Endorsements	£1.00
Sporting Licence Initial Issue	£2.00
Sporting Licence Endorsements	£1.00

These rates had not been increased for some years.

The Finance Committee would discover how much income was derived from the sale of the above items.

f It was agreed to fund a further 100 hours flying time in the AVGAS/MOGAS trials at a cost around £2000. The NCSO was tasked with arranging with Mr. Stratton for any experienced jump pilot to be able to fly on these trials. The Chairman made the point that quite a number of glider tugs were now flying using MOGAS with the full approval of their insurance companies. He suggested that if anyone wanted to do the same they should obtain agreement/clearance from their own insurance companies.

g There was considerable discussion centred on the video situation. It was finally agreed that there was a need to replace the present system but it needed looking at in very great detail. D. Waterman agreed to head up a sub-committee on the whole matter and would report back to the Finance Committee and Council at a later date.

The sub-committee would consist of:

D. Waterman
 J. Laing
 D. Peacock
 Dr. R. Flinn

h D. Waterman asked everyone to request the aid of CCIs when people came along to take photographs in relation to the Photographic Competition.

i It was agreed that shelving to the amount of £100 be purchased to enable the NCSO to store bulky items in his garage. The shelving to remain the property of the Association.

j It was agreed that the motor mileage allowance rate be increased to 20p, and this amount to remain in force for the current financial year.

k There was considerable discussion on the subject of improvements and expenditure concerning *Sport Parachutist*. It was finally agreed that the Editor furnish the Finance Committee with detailed costings and budgets, because details were not available at the last Meeting.

The Minutes of the Finance Meeting were ratified.

3. Club Committee

J. R. H. Sharples was confirmed as Chairman of the Committee and presented the minutes:

- The discount scheme was under investigation.
- Bulk buying was considered not to be a good idea.
- Temporary membership of clubs was not thought to be viable.
- P. Corr had agreed to produce a paper on planning problems, information as to whom to contact if clubs had problems would be maintained in the BPA Office.

e The trip to the World Championships was under discussion and the Chairman hoped to have something concrete to report very soon.

f Various proposals for equipment insurance etc, had been received and the Secretary-General had distributed these to all clubs.

The Chairman of the Club Committee appealed to members to give the Committee as much input as possible.

The minutes of the above meeting were ratified.

4. Competitions Committee

In the absence of the Chairman L. Melville, the NCSO presented the minutes of the above meeting.

a The administration instructions for the National Championships were accepted.

b It was agreed that the Euroair Islander be hired in on a guaranteed minimum of 20 hours.

c After a secret ballot J. Laing was to be the Head of Delegation at the World Championships.

d The selection of Team Leader was deferred to the next meeting.

e Classic Squad Selection Criteria

A vote was taken on the following:

"This Committee recommend that in principle the Competition Committee should be authorised to formulate a provision to allow any jumper failing to qualify by results at the Nationals to be selected to attend the training camp."

For	9
Against	3
Abstention	1

f Women's Team Selection Criteria

Maximum of 5 to travel, five to jump who must have either:

- i Averaged 11 sec or less in the Style event
 - ii Have been placed in the top 15 (Men and Women) in Accuracy
 - iii Have been placed in the top 15 (Men and Women) in Style or
 - iv Have been placed in the top 15 (Men and Women) overall.
- The above was agreed.

A further proposition by Will Grut that the overall winner of the women's event at the Nationals should attend the training camp.

A vote was taken on this item:

For	3
Against	8
Abstentions	3

g The Sports Aid Foundation Grant applications were being re-submitted. Details of the results were expected shortly.

h It was agreed that K. Mapplebeck travel to Graz as a judge.

j It was agreed that the Association defray the cost of a reciprocal invitation for French jumpers to take part in the Nationals, for accommodation and food.

The minutes of the above meeting were ratified.

Item 17/81

Cornwall Parachute Club — Planning

The Chairman reported that he had attended their Planning Appeal and was hopeful of a successful outcome. However it could be some months before the final decision was announced.

Item 18/81

BSC Awards — Amendments

This item was passed to the Club Committee for their consideration.

Item 19/81

National Championships

It was agreed that the Chairman, NCSO and Secretary-General compile a guest list for the Nationals, and Council members were also asked for input. All Council members present agreed that they would be available for the last day of the Nationals.

The Meet Director has agreed that there will be marquees etc, for the prize giving.

Item 20/81

A.O.B.

a P. Corr requested some guidance on the training of a disabled person to carry out a parachute jump. This matter had to be a subject for discussion by the Safety and Training Committee.

b Aviation Pentathlon

D. Howerski was dealing with this on behalf of the Association. An announcement on this would appear in the magazine.

c A letter of thanks from Jim Hooper for receipt of his BPA Certificate of Merit was read out to Council by the Chairman.

d It was agreed in principle that all Insurance Brokers should be requested to keep the Association aware of any matters of litigation. The Secretary-General was to write to the people concerned.

e It was agreed that the Secretary-General would approach MEPC with the idea of putting the static display in the foyer of the building when it was not in use.

It was further agreed that a glass cabinet be purchased to adequately display the various cups and trophies.

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Present:

J. Laing, MBE
 D. Peacock
 W. J. Meacock
 T. Rose
 J. Hitchen
 A. Collingwood
 P. Cavanagh
 K. Toyer
 M. Snook
 E. Robertson
 A. G. Knight
 G. Evans
 I. Louttit
 Q. Rigby
 P. Walters
 D. Prince
 N. Law
 P. Slatery
 J. Walmsley
 J. Sharples
 J. L. Thomas

Chairman
 NCSO
 PPC
 RAPT
 SSFFP
 Headcorn
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 TAS
 RSA
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 TPA
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 Staffs
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 Manchester
 ECPC
 APA Netheravon
 MPC
 Riggers

Observers:

J. Curtis
 J. Peck
 D. Cox
 J. Davis
 Vera Davis
 A. Naude
 D. Turner
 D. Wilkinson

B. Joss
 J. Field
 R. Harrison
 R. Parry
 T. Butler
 J. K. Lines
 J. Fletcher
 D. McCullough

Apologies for Absence:

R. Willis
 R. Hick

D. Palmer
 D. P. McCarthy

Item 1**Tilstock Fatality Report**

The circumstances of the accident were related to the meeting and a summary of the Board's conclusions was given. The jumper had, for reasons unknown, failed to operate the hand deployed main parachute. At some subsequent stage he had operated the cutaway handle and finally operated his reserve at too low an altitude. All the equipment was in perfect working order. Questions were then invited from the meeting. There was no dissension from the conclusions

MINUTES OF SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE 6 MAY

reached. The recommendations of the Board were as follows:

1. It can only be re-emphasised that all jumpers make themselves totally familiar with emergency procedures.
2. Club Chief Instructors should pay particular attention to older, late-starting jumpers using sophisticated equipment.
3. The implications of this fatality be discussed in depth by the Safety and Training Committee.

The Chairman emphasised that the Board had no intention of imposing arbitrary restrictions on parachutists of a certain age group. He requested input from members to help combat the problem in that four of the last five fatalities have occurred to jumpers over the age of forty.

Information had been received of a low reserve opening at Weston to a jumper of similar background and an extended familiarisation programme had been initiated by RAFSPA as a result. Members were requested to come forward with constructive ideas and the matter was to receive priority on the next agenda.

Lofty Thomas, speaking on behalf of POPs, said that they recognised the fact that reaction times slowed down with age and felt that a

more comprehensive training system might be appropriate for late starters. He said the Society would welcome any guidance from STC for their members.

Item 2**Montford Bridge Incident**

This item was deferred to the end of the agenda to facilitate physical inspection of the equipment by members.

Item 3**Exemptions****1. BSRs 2.2. Roy Harrison**

A request had been received from Roy Harrison, Approved Instructor, to act as CCI St. Helen's Parachute Club who were setting up a new DZ near Burscough.

This request was supported by Phil Cavanagh and Dave Prince. Dave had been Ray's CCI from the beginning and had supervised him as an instructor for two years.

Tony Rose felt that it was a dangerous precedent in that the setting up of an entirely new DZ was involved. The NCSO expressed concern at the number of clubs operating under approved instructors who had been granted exemptions from BSRs 2.2. to do so — fourteen in all. Tony Knight felt that this was a separate matter which should not obtrude on the request to hand.

The proposal for an exemption, made by Phil Cavanagh and, seconded by Dave Prince was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

2. BSRs 2.2. Ian Louttit

Nothing had been reported back from DISC and Ian Louttit's exemption granted at the last meeting was renewed until the next meeting.

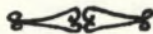
Item 4**Richard Peakin — locally manufactured**

Richard Peakin requested permission to jump a ram air canopy he had made himself. This was cleared, provided it was jumped in a cutaway rig. The jumper was to report back.

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Item 5

Pat Slattery — reinstatement as Advanced Instructor

Pat's Advanced and Examiner ratings had been suspended for an indefinite period in January 1980 as a result of a fatal accident at Clacton. He now made formal application for reinstatement for both ratings. The Chairman asked whether he would be willing to attend a PI/Exam Course in order to requalify. Pat said he was not willing to attend.

It was then proposed by John Meacock and seconded by John Hitchen that Pat Slattery be reinstated as an Advanced Instructor, without attending a Course for requalification. This proposal was carried by 10 votes to 6.

With regard to his Examiner rating, Pat stated that, in view of the apparent dissension, he withdrew his request for reinstatement as an Examiner.

Item 6

BN Islander — demonstration

A letter had been received from Pilatus Britten-Norman Ltd. regarding the provision of an Islander at short notice for Club use. Charges were £125 per hour (wet hire) plus a negotiable positioning fee. The aircraft was for free fall only. It was decided that the NCSO should circulate Clubs with the information and contact Britten-Norman regarding the possibility of a strongpoint being fitted.

Item 7

Stephen Hartley — grounding at Strathallan

A letter had been received from Tony Smith regarding this jumper who had alternated between S/L and free fall for 37 jumps. He had refused twice on 5 sec delays and had consequently been banned from jumping at Strathallan. His log book had been endorsed to this effect.

Item 8

Previous Minutes and Matters Arising*Item 1*

Phil Cavanagh explained his method of teaching reserve procedures and malfunction recognition. John Meacock replied that in the pressure of general discussion he had misunderstood what Phil had said and that he now apologised for the misunderstanding. The matter was deemed closed.

Item 2

The Kickersprings were produced by Dave Prince and distributed to the Clubs in question.

Item 4

The NCSO stated that a meeting had been arranged with the Department of Trade and the CAA to discuss this and allied questions. The meeting was scheduled for 27 May and would be attended by Chairman BPA, John Meacock and the NCSO.

It was proposed by Tony Rose and seconded by Lofty Thomas that the minutes be passed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9

Any Other Business

1. Letters from MATS.

The NCSO reminded Clubs that their authority to operate was contained in the exemption issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. Jumpers were free to operate in uncontrolled airspace under the terms of such exemptions, and any letters received from MATS attempting to restrict jumping activities had no validity. Recipients of such letters were advised to pass them on to BPA.

2. BPA Scholarship Course 1/81

This was to be held from 8-12 June at Thrupton. Any instructors or experienced relative workers who wished to assist were invited to contact the NCSO.

3. Exemptions

Allison Allen (MPC) aged 15½. BSRs 14.8.

The descent and training would take place at the MPC under the auspices of Jim Sharples.

Proposed by John Hitchen and seconded by Jim Walmsley that such exemption be granted.

Carried unanimously.

Nick Webb (RSA) aged 15 years 364 days.

An exemption from BSRs 14.8. for this jumper was requested by Malcolm Snook.

The request was unanimously endorsed.

Item 10

Montford Bridge Incident

A report submitted by Dave Turner concerning a PISA reserve which had suffered extensive damage in a terminal opening was read to the meeting. A Safety Notice, temporarily banning this type of parachute had already been issued.

A damage report had been compiled by Jim Walmsley (APA Netheravon) BPA Advanced Rigger/Examiner. This report was distributed and considered by the meeting. The canopy was inspected by members.

The manufacturers, Parachute Industries of South Africa, had been contacted and had traced the material batch number. No fault had been found with the batch. The manufacturers were of the opinion that this was a 'one off' and requested that the parachute be returned to them ASAP for investigation. They stated that 5,000 of these canopies were in service and also said they would be willing to bear the cost of an independent examination of the canopy.

After some discussion, the following decisions were made:

- a The canopy be delivered to IRVIN (GB) for a technical report.
- b The ban on this type of canopy remain in force pending consideration of this technical report.
- c The canopy be returned to PISA immediately it was returned from IRVIN's.

The question then arose regarding the alleged design fault in the hand deploy system (velcro released prematurely, toggle in tow behind jumpers).

The equipment had been manufactured by Jack Hiley and it was considered a matter of urgency that the fault be rectified. Jack Hiley was not present at the meeting and the NCSO was to write.

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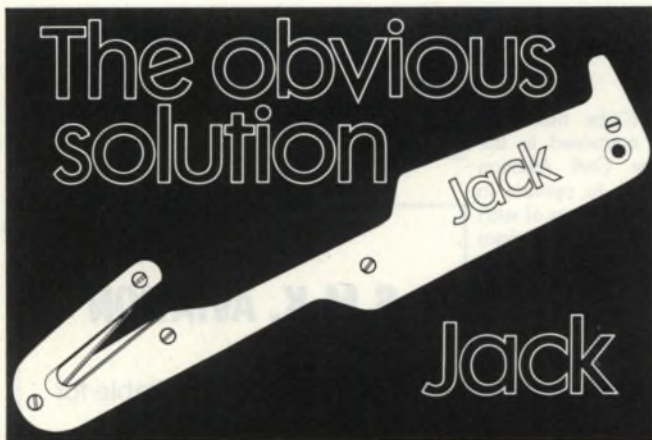
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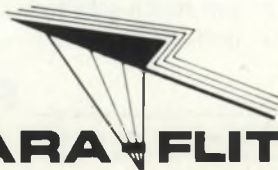
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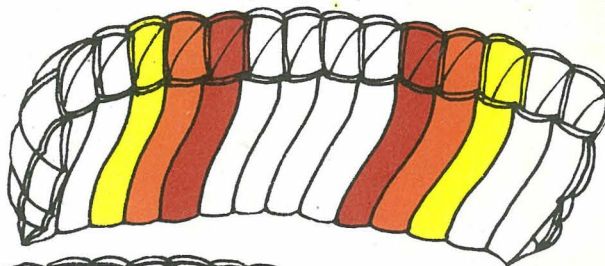
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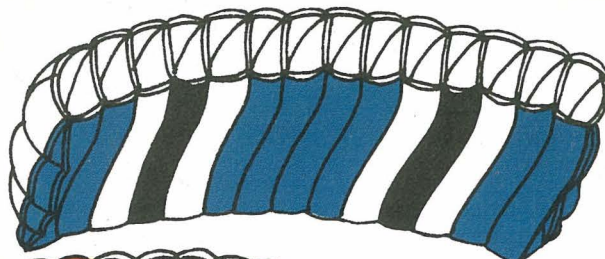
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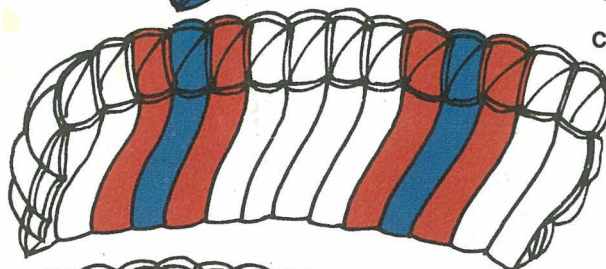
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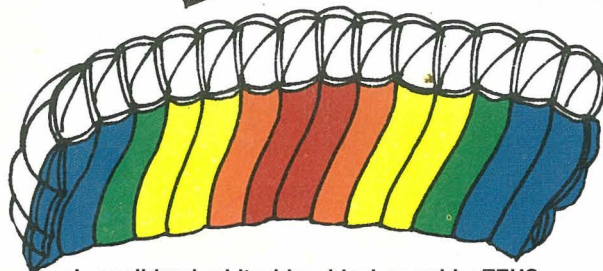
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