

THE

FEBRUARY 1987

# SPORT PARACHUTIST



THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION



# Mac's Loft.

Dear Reader,  
Mac McCarthy and Barry Wilton are delighted to announce an exciting move for 1987.

Mac's Loft and Thin Air Jumpsuits have combined to form **Traceair Ltd.**, and have moved to spacious and ultra-modern new premises at **17, Stapledon Road, Orton Southgate, nr. Peterborough PE2 0TD.**

We have 2,500 square feet more space than previously, that's five times the working area! There's in-house manufacture of a vast range of equipment from alti-pads to complete rigs, wallets to custom team sequential suits. We have more machinery, a ram-air inspection and packing area, reception and computer facilities. This is now truly a 'one-stop' skydiving shop!

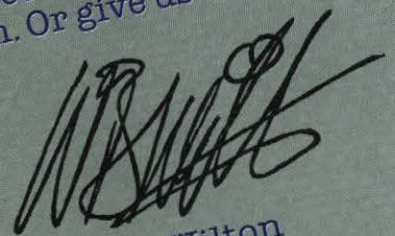
Mail order, Credit card sales and foreign gear are handled as before.

Our opening times are as follows:- Closed Mondays, Tuesday to Thursday 9.30 till 5pm, 10 till 8pm Fridays (late night shopping!), 10 till 3pm on Saturdays and 10 till 2pm on Sundays.

If you're in the area, come and see us, or drop us a line for a Price List and order form. Or give us a ring on **(0733) 239950.**



Mac McCarthy



Barry Wilton

# THOMAS

## Sports Equipment



Produced by Roger Groves

Mr. Walter Gubbins I.F.C. in this seasons 'Thomas Tropical Kit' gets his knees together and boogies through South American skies. The large, furry rodent sleeping under his hat was a gift from a grateful Brazilian 2 Way Sequential Team.

Suit by Symbiosis · Make-up by Mandy · Photo by Leo

### QUALITY AND RELIABILITY YOU CAN TRUST

It should come as no surprise to find out that we have supplied student freefall rigs (including AFF kit developed by TSE for use in this country), to the majority of British clubs. Of the largest military and civilian centres, APA at Netheravon, RAFSPA at Weston, Slipstream Adventures, Headcom P.C. and Peterborough P.C., all use equipment from TSE for advanced students. If you've just come through the Cat system, the chances are that TSE were helping you progress.

And it doesn't stop there...

At the top of the range, the TSE CHASER still maintains its position as the best-selling state of the art rig in the U.K., with over 1500 now in the possession of some of the country's finest skydivers.

### FOLLOW THE LEADERS

The British 4 and 8 way teams don't make decisions lightly concerning new equipment. Nor do the Royal Marines. Their decision is made based upon sound knowledge and experience. TSE were pleased to supply them with all their requirements.

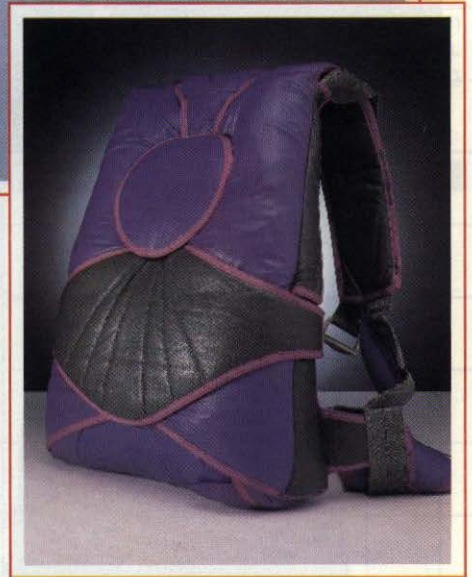


Zerex in Cordura with GQ SAC and Fury main.

### SERVICE FROM 'A' TO 'D'

Nineteen years in our sport has provided TSE with a wealth of experience in the development and manufacture of parachute equipment...an enthusiasm and commitment producing THE complete service. A service second to none. This in turn means that you can be confident in the knowledge that with TSE you are using the best available, from that initial PLF through to SCR and beyond...

Staff qualifications are more than impressive. 4 FAA Master Riggers (4 BPA Adv. Rigger/Examiners), with a collective total of over 6000 jumps oversee all aspects of the production, maintenance and repair operation at the loft. Every care is taken to ensure that each rig from TSE meets the highest possible standards, from basic S/L to the most advanced assemblies on today's market.



Leather Chaser with Firelite Reserve and Maverick Main

### THE FIGURES

Whilst our quality will never be sacrificed for bargain-basement prices, take a look at our list in this issue and you'll see just how competitive it is. GENUINE affiliation with major U.S. manufacturers together with comprehensive currency handling facilities, enable smooth, cost effective transactions to be made on either side of the Atlantic.

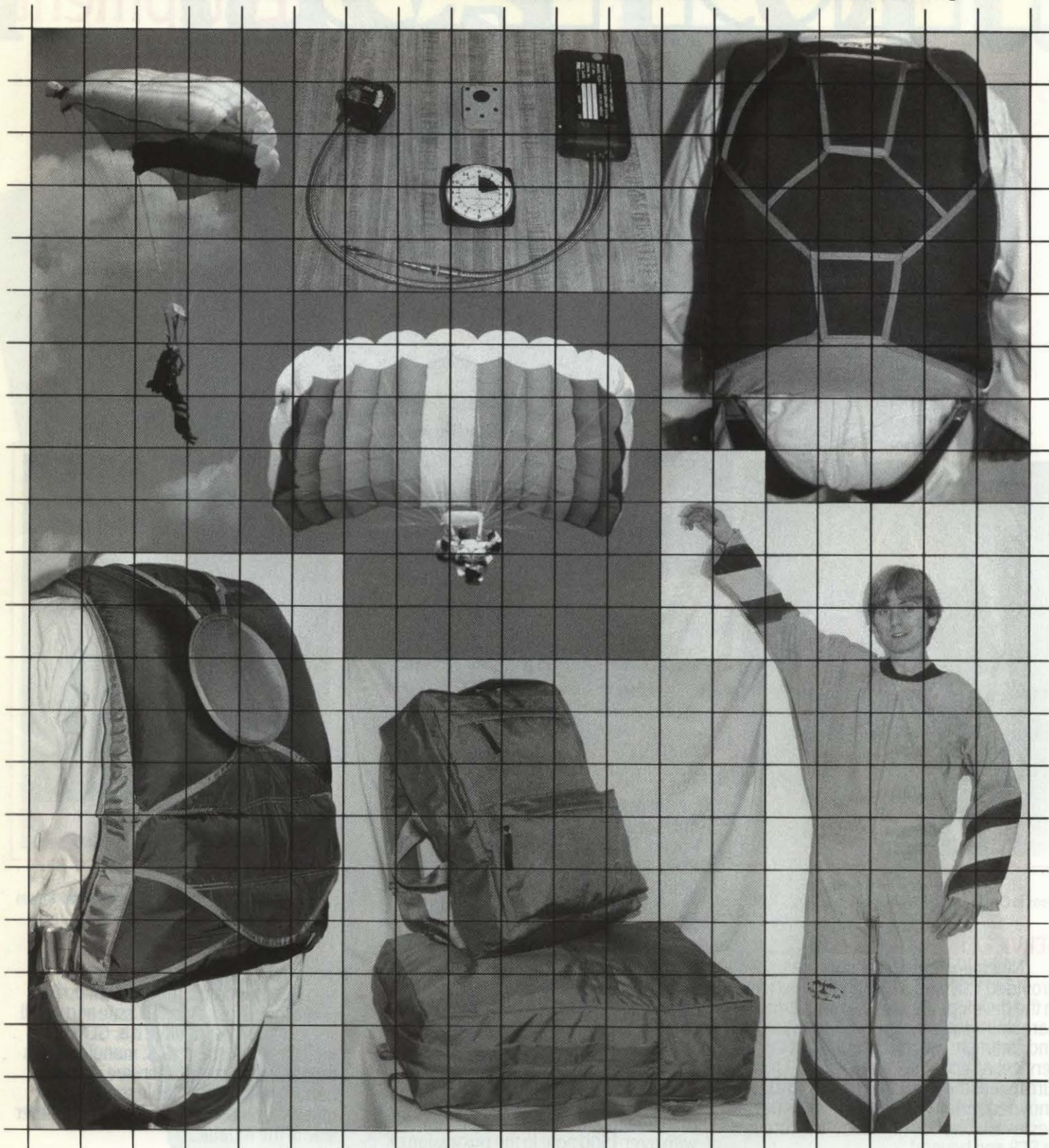
No matter if it's a purchase, repack or repair, TSE will come through with service, quality and a keen price...fast.

Give Chris or Derek a call on  
**0262 678299/602489**  
or write/drop in for details and information packs



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Affiliated to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale through the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom.



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

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# THE SPORT PARACHUTIST

JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION 47 VAUGHAN WAY LEICESTER LE1 4SG Tel. (0533) 519778/519635

VOLUME 24 No. 1

FEBRUARY 87

## EDITORIAL

Not since the BPA decided to break our links with the Parasenders in the early 70's, have we seen such a lively AGM. Certainly nobody could possibly disagree with the motion as tabled and argued (very eloquently I thought) by **Dave Parker**. The impression I got from those who spoke in favour of the proposal and the consequent response from the membership, was that a much stronger proposal would have had overwhelming support.

Let us hope that 1987 is a start of a renaissance towards the aims, which motivated the founder members of our association to form the BPA in the first place. It would be interesting to get the reactions of some of the original council as to how they see the sport now.

As part of that renaissance, welcome to **Chris Gilmore** our new development officer. I am sure we all wish him every success, the task he faces is by no means an easy one and he deserves all the support we can give him.

One suggestion with regard to future AGM's, how about divorcing the annual instructors convention from the arrangements of the AGM weekend.

With respect, I hardly think that two hours or so (to what some people is the morning after, the night before), is appropriate for such an important event and must be totally inadequate to any discussion in depth about problems, techniques etc. currently facing our sport.

Perhaps a separate weekend at a venue like the Sport Council's Bisham Abbey, during which a series of talks, seminars, discussions etc. on a wider range of topics could be on the agenda. A more appropriate venue and atmosphere which could include judges. Let's start taking ourselves seriously, what is it they call us - The Space Age Sport?

## DIARY OF EVENTS 86

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
18-19 April	Easter Bunny Boogie	Langar
17-20 April	APA Easter Meet	Netheravon
1-4 May	Skyfeet Boogie	Netheravon
2-4 May	8 Way Launch & Accuracy (LAC) Cash Prizes	Peterborough
23-25 May	Scottish Nationals	Strathallan
23-25 May	4 and 8 Way RW Competition	Weston on the Green
23-25 May	POPs Meet	Peterborough
23-25 May	FLOCK Boogie	Peterborough
5-14 June	10 Year Party	Langar
20 June - 5 July	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	Bridlington
11-12 July	POPs Meet	Doncaster
15-16 August	POPs Meet	Cranfield
15-27 August	Army Championships	Netheravon
29-31 August	18 Way Meet	Weston on the Green

## INTERNATIONAL

7-14 March	World Para-Ski Championships	Sarajevo, Yugoslavia
28-31 May	Tulip Trophy 4 way Accuracy	Teuge, Holland
28-31 May	5 Way Accuracy Competition	Saaroulous-Duren, Germany
12-14 June	International Artistic Para Jumping Festival	Paris, France
18-25 July	RAPA Championships	Bad Lippspringe, Germany
8-23 August	Open French National Championships	Vichy, France
Early September	RW World Cup for Women (4 & 8 Way)	Gap, France
28th Sept. - 7th Oct.	WORLD RW CHAMPIONSHIPS	Brazil

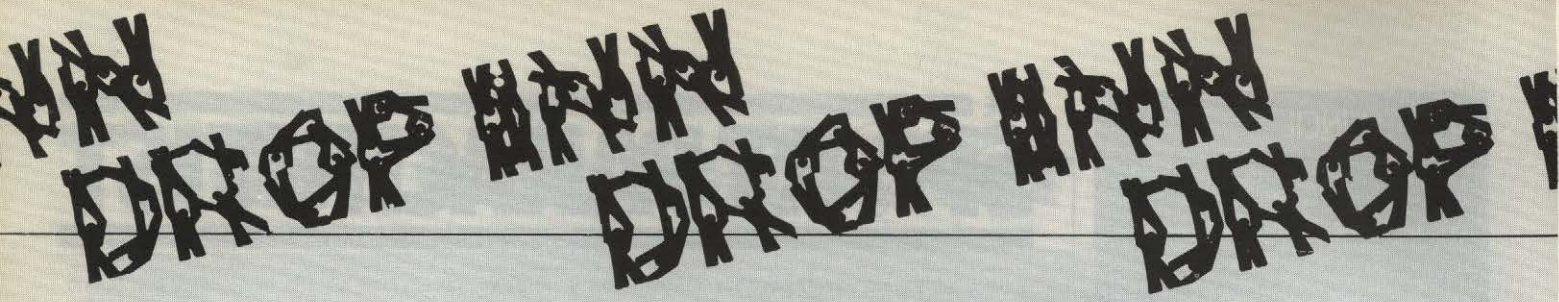
## SEMINARS & COURSES

11-15 May	PI/Advanced Instructor Course	Cranfield
9-15 May	RW Seminars and Progression Courses	Peterborough
18-22 May	Exam/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course	Cranfield
12-18 June	International Parachuting Congress (Seminar)	Paris, France
13-19 June	RW Seminar and Progression Course	Peterborough
18-24 July	RW Seminar and Progression Course	Peterborough
15-21 August	RW Seminar and Progression Course	Peterborough
3-7 August	PI/Advanced Instructor Course (Seminar)	Langar
10-14 August	Exam/Pre-Advanced Instructor Course	Langar
23-27 November	PI/Advanced Instructor Course	Swansea
30 Nov. - 4 December	Exam/Pre-Advanced Course	Swansea



Cassa exit in Spain.  
By **Leo Dickinson**

Last date for inclusion of articles, photographs and advertisements in 'Sport Parachutist' is the end of the second week of the month prior to the month of publication, i.e. 14th January for February issue. Material received after this deadline will be held over for possible inclusion in the next magazine, unless otherwise advised.



## RECORD 16-WAY AT IPSWICH

Please find enclosed a photo which I hope you may find space for in your February '87 issue of Sport Parachutist. The enclosed newspaper cutting from the Ipswich Evening Star tells the story.

The aircraft we used was a DC3 which has been permanently sat at Ipswich since participating in some film work in September. For a lot of people it was their first DC3 opportunity, and as you can see from some of the smiles was very enjoyable.

Many thanks to the American contingent, Jeff & Wayne and friends, to load organiser **Russell Alison**, to **Tony Knight** and the rest of the crowd at Ipswich who made it a successful Ipswich 16-way record. PETER HARLOW



## TRAILBLAZERS BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

On 27th November 1986 eleven members of the Trail Blazers Parachute Display Team dropped in on Her Majesty the Queen when she arrived at Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester to open the new Depot of the Light Division.

Although she was not scheduled to meet the Team, she was so enthralled by the Display that she took time to go over and introduce herself to those members of the Team who elected to land near her.

It is hoped that she will return at some stage to do a Tandem jump.



## Mal



"I WON'T MAKE THIS VIDEO CAMERA TOO PERMANENT. I'VE ONLY HIRED IT FROM RADIO RENTALS FOR TWO DAYS"

## OLDEST FREEFALLER?

**Tom Richardson** of the Montford Bridge Club is still learning at 71. Believed to be the oldest freefaller in the country Tom is on dive exits and turns. Tom started jumping in 1969 at Halfpenny Green and has now done 287, 50 last year.

## BELGIAN BOOGIE

The Belgians are holding a Herc Boogie on 10th-13th July at Moorseele Para Club.

Registration 1000 BF.  
Phone 31-56-500092  
weekends only for details.



(Picture by **Mick McCallum**)

WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA WAAAAA

## KENT CALENDAR

Norman Kent has produced one of the best skydiving calendars we have yet to see. Those of you who object to 'mammary glands' in print had better give this one a miss. Cost 25% of original price at £13.50 plus £1 p&p. From Mr. Dickinson, Kalos, Cotswold Lane, Old Sodbury, Bristol BS17 6NE.

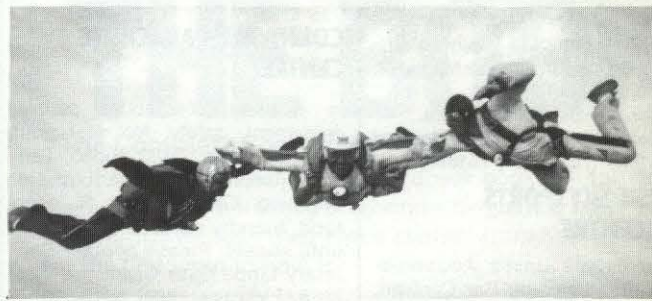


"KIT UP! YOU'RE ON OUR CRW LOAD AND THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLAN. WE'RE GOING FOR AN INTENTIONAL WRAP-UP AND YOU DREW ONE OF THE SHORT STRAWS!"

## GOLD DUST

An extensive collection of parachuting equipment and memorabilia is to be moved into a museum and library, in a building next door to the Wright Brothers cycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, USA. The collection was the life work of Dave Gold who was born in 1917 and started collecting parachuting equipment at an early age. Apparently the collection is in mint condition, and includes complete assemblies including Irvin S-S-1s, Hoffman Triangles and Russell Lobe parachutes.

Gold, who died in 1985 entered the parachuting industry in 1937, although he started his research much earlier and had assembled material on the parachute developments at McCook Field in Dayton where Leslie Irvin made his historic first manually operated (freefall) parachute jump.

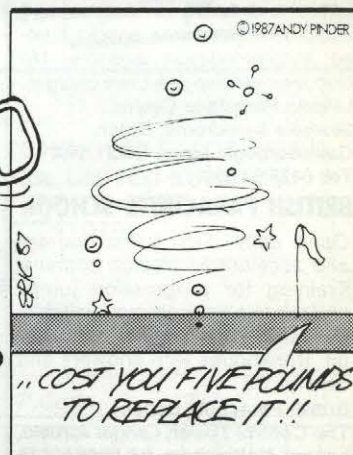


## THE PROFESSIONALS?

Barry Henderson and Steve MacBride pictured by Dave Stevens over Weston with AFF Student Martin Shaw who plays Doyle in the TV Series The Professionals.

## OSWALD S.G

## D.P's



# BPA

## Clubs & Centres

BPA Club Approval is granted to BPA Affiliated Clubs who have attained a high minimum standard of staff, facilities and equipment as laid down by BPA. They are subject to inspection by BPA every 2 years.

BPA Club Affiliation is granted to those clubs who have a minimum amount of equipment as laid down by BPA. All operations are strictly in accordance with BPA Regulations.

### FLYING TIGERS SKYDIVING CENTRE

Beginners courses, AFF, Tandem, RW, CRW instruction, kit hire. Restaurant, bar, camping available, accommodation nearby. 180, Islander and Gazelle always available. Open weekends and evenings. Flying Tigers Skydiving Centre, Goodwood Airfield, Nr Chichester, West Sussex. Tel. Kevin McIlwee (0243) 780333

### THE LONDON SKYDIVING CENTRE

1st jump courses, S/L AFF Tandem. Full time centre, Skyvan and Cessnas. New clubhouse with showers, accommodation, canteen, bar, kit hire, camping. Easily accessible from London and the Midlands, close M1 (J13/14).

The London Skydiving Centre, Cranfield Airport, Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0AP. Tel: (0234) 751866.

### BRITISH SKYSPOOTS PARACENTRE

Open 7 days, 3 Aircraft, Accommodation, Free Camping, Bar, Canteen. RW and CRW Coaching, Experienced Equipment, Tandem Rides and Evaluation Courses Available. Progressing Students very welcome. Bridlington Aerodrome, Bridlington, East Yorkshire. Tel: (0262) 877367

### LINCOLN PARACHUTE CENTRE

Full time Approved Centre - special student/group course rates. Helmet radios and AAD's on ALL student equipment. Hot drinks, snacks, limited accommodation available. No club membership or kit hire charges. Lincoln Parachute Centre, Slurgate Aerodrome, Upton, Gainsborough, Lincs. DN21 5PA Tel: 0427 83 620

### BRITISH PARACHUTE SCHOOL

Open daily. First jump courses and accelerated freefall courses. Training for progression jumps and relative work always available. Cessna 206 and Islander. Accuracy pit. Bunkhouse with showers and cafe on DZ.

British Parachute School, The Control Tower, Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham. tel: 0949 60878

### SWANSEA PARACHUTE CLUB

Open 7 days a week. Cafeteria and Licensed Bar. Sleeping bag accommodation available. April - Sept. camping and caravans. A.O.Ds, Net Skirts Radios. RW/WARP/AFF instruction, Accuracy Pit, C207. All jumpers welcome.

Swansea Parachute Club, Swansea Airport, Fairwood Common Swansea, West Glamorgan SA2 7JU. Tel: (0792) 296464

### FALCON PARACHUTE CLUB

Offers parachuting for all levels in the NE of Scotland. Facilities available include 1st jump courses, RW Instruction, Cessna 206 and a good club atmosphere.

Falcon Parachute Club, Fordoun Aerodrome, Fordoun, Kincardineshire. Tel: 0224 587096

### LONDON PARACHUTE SCHOOL CHARITY PARACHUTING

Weekend club for student parachutists. Farmland DZ, height restriction no accommodation. Not every weekend, advise telephone beforehand. GQ Aeroconicals, radios, boots, jumpsuits, helmets loaned free.

London Parachute School/Charity Parachuting, PO Box 30, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 1DX. Tel: Abingdon (0235) 24725 (24 hrs)

### CORNWALL PARACHUTE CENTRE

Is different, it's about people, enjoyment, safety. Not just your average centre. C182, Video, Tandem jumping, finest Equipment, Camping, Chalets, B & B, good food, friendly staff, daily 9.00 a.m. until sunset. Please contact Secretary Linda Ruth Grant.

Cornwall Parachute Centre, Frans Ranch, Old Naval Airfield, St. Merryn, Cornwall. Tel: 0841 540691

### THE HALFPENNY GREEN PARACHUTE CENTRE LTD.

The Midlands only full-time centre. Open 6 days, Islander, C182, Accuracy pit, SL/FF kit hire, (C)RW AFF instruction. Washing/toilet facilities, restaurant all day, camping available. 9 miles Wolverhampton.

Halfpenny Green Parachute Centre The Airfield, Bobbington, Nr Stourbridge, West Midlands. Tel: (038488) 293

### THRUXTON PARACHUTE CLUB

Open daily, everyone welcome. Full-time staff and rigging loft. Cessna 206 and Islanders. SL and FF kit hire, RW and CRW instruction, pit on DZ. Canteen, washing and toilet facilities.

Thrupton Parachute Club, Thrupton Airfield, Andover, Hants. SP11 8PW. Tel: 0264 77 2124

### HEADCORN PARACHUTE CLUB

Full time, 9 to dusk, very active midweek. All levels of instruction/progression, AFF, RW, Style, Accuracy, Experienced Staff, 2 Islanders, Video, Team Rates, Canteen, Free Accommodation, Everybody welcome.

Headcorn Parachute Club, The Airfield, Headcorn, Kent. Tel: 0622 890862

### WILD GEESE TRAINING CENTRE

Open 7 days a week, accommodation, full meals, student courses, training to Cat. 10 standard, RW and CRW Instruction, kit hire, Cessna 182 plus 206, night jumps, charity fund raising. Non members welcome

Wild Geese, Northern Ireland. contact: Dave Penny, 27 Drumeil Rd Aghadowey, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry. Tel: Head Office (026 585) 669 DZ (026 65) 58609

### BORDER PARACHUTE CENTRE

In beautiful Northumbrian countryside. 207, full equipment, free hire, RW/CRW Instruction, Tandem. Visitors welcome, no membership fees. Centre has superb accommodation (booking essential), Bar, Restaurant, Entertainments. Weekend and midweek (summer).

Border Parachute Centre, Dunstanburgh House, Embleton, Alnwick, Northumberland NE88 3XF Tel: (0665 78) 588 or 433

### EAST COAST PARACHUTE CENTRE

Single Engine Aircraft. Twin when necessary. Student and advanced parachute kit hire. Style, Accuracy and Relative work instruction. Weekend courses. (pre-para training available mid-week). Non-members welcome.

East Coast Parachute Centre, Oakington Airfield (Military), Longstanton, Cambridge. contact address: W.P. Slattery, 8 Burns Crescent, Chelmsford CM2 0TS, Essex. Tel: (0245) 268772

### DORSET PARACHUTE CENTRE

Cessna 182. RW and Student training. Friendly DZ, competitive rates, handy local B & B or camping with showers nearby, good pubs. Canteen on DZ open Wed/Fri, Sat/Sun, just ring.

Dorset Parachute Centre, Bere Farm, Bere Regis, Dorset. Tel: 0929 471939

### RN & RM SPA

S/L Progression, Free Fall Progression, AFF, Pit, CRW. Training by Europe's most experienced and successful jumpers, Air to Air Video, Kit Hire (round & square). Cessna 182 (in flight door), Bar, Canteen, Free Showers, Camping.

Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon. Tel: Luppitt (040 489) 697

### PETERBOROUGH PARACHUTE CENTRE

Full time centre. Shorts Skyvan, RW Instruction, Ground to Air & Air to Air Video, unrestricted altitude, accommodation, free camping, bar, food, AFF, Tandem. Fifteen years unrivalled experience.

Peterborough Parachute Centre, Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough Tel: Eiton (08324) 490

### IPSWICH PARACHUTE CENTRE

Open 6 days a week (closed Tuesday). Islander and Cherokee VI permanently available - Student, RW and CRW Instruction by full time staff, Pit, excellent Rigging Facility - Food - Accommodation - Camping and Bar on Drop Zone.

Ipswich Parachute Centre, Ipswich Airport, Nacton Road, Ipswich IP3 9QF. Tel: 0473 76547

### SCOTTISH PARACHUTE CLUB

Open weekends and most public holidays. C206 and C207, all types of training. Best of facilities including: Fan Trainer - Gravel Pit - 2 Training/Lecture Rooms - Air-to-Air Video - Electronic Pad - Canteen - Lounge Area - Packing Tables.

Scottish Parachute Club, Strathallan Airfield, Auchterader, Perthshire. Tel: 07646 2572 - Weekends.

### A1 SKYDIVING CENTRE

We have access to assault courses, a Ski slope and lots of fun things to do on wet and windy days, whilst still having unrestricted airspace for skydiving days.

A1 Skydiving Centre, Bassingbourne Barracks, Royston, Herts SG8 5LX Tel: Royston (0783) 48400

### NORTHERN PARACHUTE CENTRE

Open every weekend. 2 Aircraft, Accuracy Pit, Clubhouse, Cafe on camp. Friendly atmosphere, non-members made very welcome. CRW/RW Instruction, air video available, B & B and free camping off camp.

Northern Parachute Centre, Topcliffe Airfield, Nr. Thirsk. Tel: 0845 - 577371 ext. 387

### EAGLESCOTT SKYDIVERS

A weekend club which caters for all levels with a great club atmosphere. 1st jump, RW, CRW tuition. Cessna 182, camping, B & B, unbeatable pub and grub. Alternative adventure activities by the sea.

Eaglescott Skydivers, Gary Lawry, 48 Ashley Park, Dolton, Winkleigh, N Devon. Tel: 08054 - 293 DZ 07893 - 404



## CAPITAL SCHOOL OF PARACHUTING

London's closest centre. Islander aircraft and licensed bar. S/L courses. Progression and Tandem available. Split DZ has obvious disadvantages but why not pay a visit. Some consider us a friendly bunch - you may be pleasantly surprised.

**Capital City Parachuting,**  
Biggin Hill Airport, Biggin Hill,  
Kent, TN16 3BN.  
Tel: (0959) 74418

## SLIPSTREAM ADVENTURES

With 4 full time AFF Instructors (5 more on call) and 8 AFF Rigs at our disposal Slipstream offer you outstanding instruction. We operate full time with the use of all Headcorn's facilities.

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The Airfield, Headcorn,  
Kent TN27 9HX  
Tel: 0622 890641/890882  
also Thrupton Parachute Club  
Tel: 0284 - 772124

## BLACK KNIGHTS PARACHUTE CENTRE

Week-end centre, first jump SL courses, radios and aeronauticals, Tandem Courses, SL & FF progression to category 10. RW and CRW instruction. Cessna 185 (in-flight door). SL & FF kit hire. Accuracy pit, canteen, washing and toilet facilities. Camping and caravans on DZ. B & B local.  
**Contact: Bob Parry**  
Patty's Farm, Hillam Lane,  
Cockerham, Nr. Lancaster.  
Tel: weekend 0524-791820  
midweek 051-924 5580

## MIDLAND PARACHUTE CENTRE

Skydive MPC. Great weekend club. Islander, free kit hire, video and tandem plus S/L and progression/RW jumping. Bunkhouse and showers, bar and cafe on airfield. All welcome. Home DZ of the Slug Brothers!

**Midland Parachute Centre,**  
Long Marston Airfield,  
Stratford-on Avon, Warks.  
Tel: 0789 297959

**Rhine Army Parachute Association (RAPA) 4791 Sennelager,**  
Blefeldstrasse,  
Normadie Kaserne  
West Germany  
Tel: 01049 5254 82 2378  
or STC Sennelager  
Normany Barracks BFPO 16

### Affiliated Clubs:

Bath University  
Bristol University  
Brunel University  
Durham University  
Goldsmiths College  
 Keele University  
Lancashire Polytechnic  
Liverpool Polytechnic  
Liverpool University  
Newcastle Polytechnic  
Newcastle University  
Nottingham University  
Oxford University

Plymouth Polytechnic  
Portsmouth Polytechnic  
Sheffield Polytechnic  
Sheffield University  
Southampton University  
Surrey University  
Trent Polytechnic  
University of East Anglia  
UWIST  
Leicester Polytechnic  
Salford University  
South Bank Polytechnic  
Warwick University

**Shropshire School of Parachuting**  
CCI - D. Palmer  
Tel: 0743 723919

**Blackpool Parachute Centre,**  
Blackpool Airport, Blackpool, Lancs.  
Tel: 0253 41871

**Joint Service Parachute Centre Hong Kong**  
Borneo Lines, BFPO 1  
Tel: 0983 7221

**Manchester Freefall Club**  
contact: 9 St. Andrews Road,  
Stretford, Manchester M32 9JE.  
Tel: 061 865 3912 (24 hours)

**Merlin Parachute Club**  
Topcliffe Airfield, Alanbrooke Barracks,  
Topcliffe, Nr Thirsk, N. Yorks.  
contact: WO1 Bill Rule,  
HQ Nestid & HQ 2 Inf. Div. Imphal Bks,  
Fulford, York YO1 4AJ.  
Tel: Work 0904 59811 ext 2420  
Home: 0904 31597

**Silver Stars Para Team RCT Parachute Club**  
Azimghur Barracks, Coleme,  
Nr Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8QY.  
Tel: (0225) 743585, 743446, 743240

**Northwest Parachute Centre**  
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh,  
Nr Grange Over Sands, Cumbria.  
Tel: 044853 672  
contact: J.D. Pince, 21 The Coppice,  
Ingol, Preston, Lancs. Tel: 0772 720848

**North London Parachute Centre**  
Cranfield Airport,  
Bedford MK43 0AP  
Tel: Bedford (0234) 751866

**Oxon & Northants Parachute Centre**  
Hinton-in-the-Hedges Airfield, Steane,  
Nr Brackley, Northants.  
contact: M.E. Bolton, 85 Oak Park Rd,  
Wordsley, Stourbridge,  
West Midlands DY8 5YJ.  
Tel: (0384) 393373

**'The Pathfinders' Guards Freefall Parachute Team**  
Headcorn Parachute Club, Headcorn, Kent.  
Tel: 0622 890862  
contact: David Tucker, The Pathfinders,  
Guards Freefall Parachute Team, Guards  
Depot, Pirbright, Surrey GU14 0QQ.  
Tel: (04867) 4511 ext. 267

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contact: Club Cl

**Grampian Skydive Centre**  
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**Badminton Parachute Club**  
Badminton, Avon.  
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contact: John Davis,  
New Villas, Badminton, Avon.  
Tel: 045 421 249/379

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FFI Steve Whitehead (Secretary)  
Tel: 08405 538

**Leeds Bradford Freefall Club**  
Topcliffe Airfield, Nr. Thirsk,  
North Yorkshire. Tel: 0845 577371 ext 259  
contact: Secretary Ingrid Jones,  
201 Hall Lane, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5EG  
Tel: 0532 586256

**Doncaster Parachute Centre**  
Doncaster Airport,  
Bawtry Road, Doncaster.  
Tel: Doncaster 532636/537085

**Skybird Parachute School**  
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contact: The Lodge, Arborfield, Reading,  
Berks. RG2 9JS  
Tel: Arborfield Cross (0734) 760584

**Shrewsbury Skydiving Centre**  
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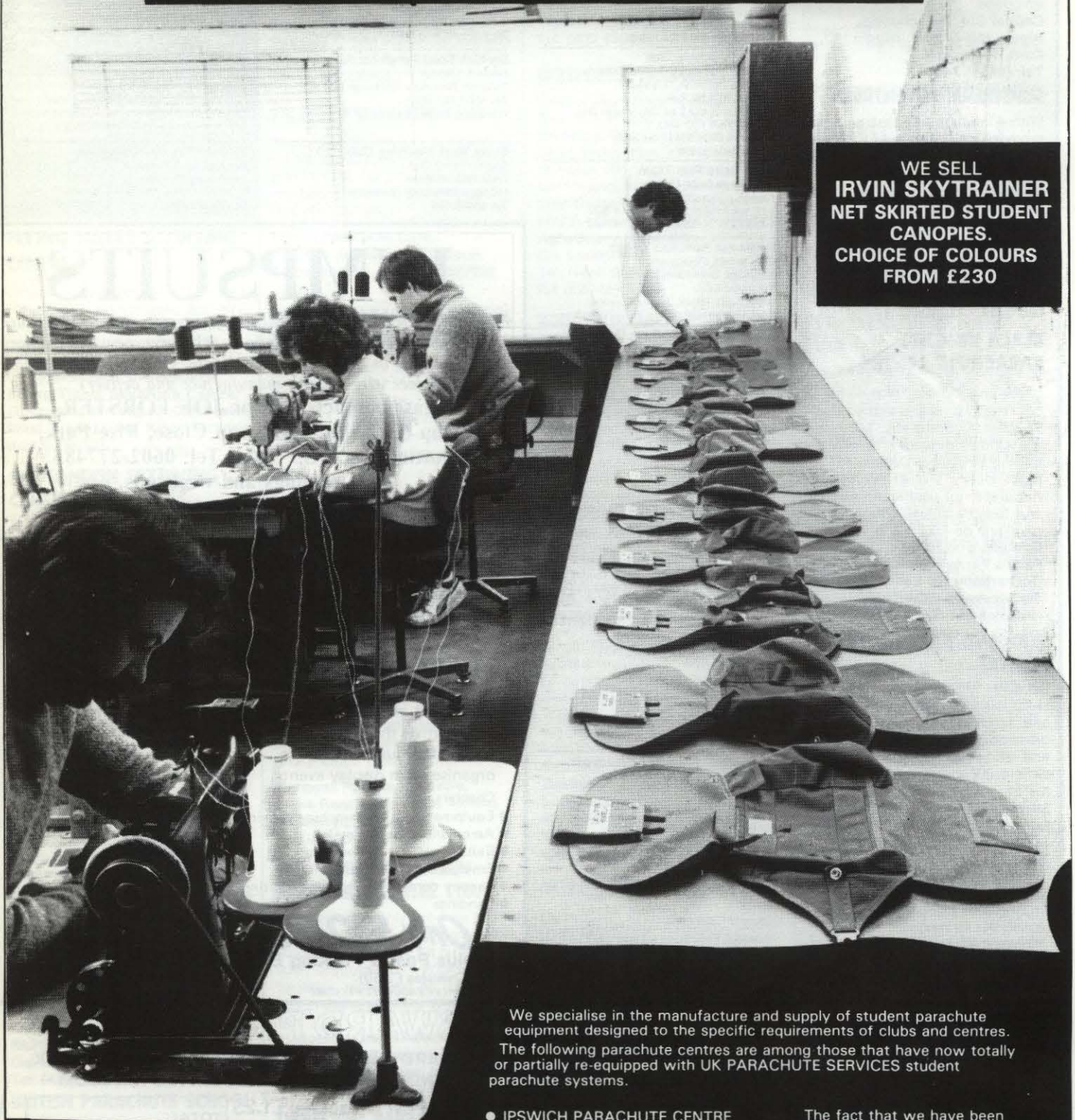




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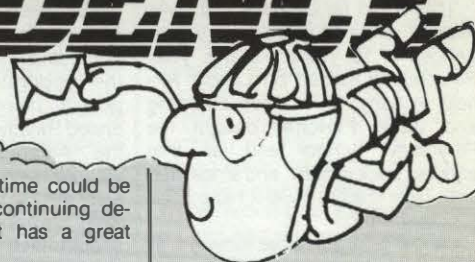
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# CORRESPONDENCE



## LINE BY LINES & ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

After reading the above letters it would appear that the answer to the problem is for all first timers to be trained at established centres, and retention be improved, is it? I do agree with **David Parker's** comments about short sighted and thoughtless profiteers, but unless the BPA council and all concerned accept that this problem is more wide spread than David says, the decline will continue.

It is alright for **John Lines** having no objections to a free market, you don't need to object to something that doesn't exist. Is it not possible that kit manufacturers, suppliers and drop zone operators by their almost fixed overpricing have lost thousands of potential members.

If costs in the AFF programme were more realistic I am sure a lot more students would participate and be retained. The standardised high priced AFF courses are suspect, I believe that some centres would like to charge less but have been dissuaded. I wonder why the Canadian ad. offering an AFF equivalent course of 5 skydives from 10,000ft. costing about £240 no longer appears in our mag. Perhaps the fact that one jump from 12,000ft. costs £240 at our centres has some bearing. I would like to see a cost analysis of AFF, Tandem and first time courses.

**Tony Knight** wrote about first time courses subsidising high lifts, this is another problem for retention. I ask you Tony, why should students jump fees be so disproportionate to the fees of higher categories? As a student I have jumped from 3,500ft. paying £10, on the same lift other jumpers of a higher category jumped from 5,000ft. paying £5. A few years ago the differential was nowhere near this amount.

**Simon Ward's** letter was very good, his point about the majority of council members having a vested interest is valid, it may be an advantage to have a council consisting of 50% with a vested interest and 50% without. Another part is so relevant it merits repeating. "Could the centres with a high retention rate not gain financially by BPA incentive schemes", this seems to me a splendid idea providing it is used correctly to benefit all concerned.

Finally I ask what happened to the Objectives of the Development Plan Report in the February mag. 1985? it is now January 1987, perhaps the stable door should have been bolted and the nettle grasped then.

MIKE RICHARDSON, BPA 64437

## FACELESS LIBEL

Once again, myself, and a whole host of other nice kind, hard working, really decent chaps have been libelled by two rogue publications, - I speak of 'The Super Snoopers DZ Guide', and would you believe it, a fake list of the honest, warm-hearted and unselfish people who wish to stand for next years BPA Council!! (By the way Dave your next set of Bosses).

Through the mages of the Mag, which I always think is super, I would like to defend myself. Firstly I had to pay for my AFF rating, along with the Tee shirt. (Just like we used to do years ago in the BPA). Alligators are nice, and anyway, what's wrong with a little snapping here and there. See enclosed photo of the Langar Instructors at feeding time. I did not buy my way on to the 'Finance', I just wanted a cut of the profits!

Now about my hair, it's always been that colour, however it is mine, and it is still growing, and I like the colour.

The faceless people who write and print such libellous statements should come out into the open, I am sure Uncle Mac and friends would just like to talk to them!!

Just a small note for Tony, still got the camel tied to your Wind Sock? and one for you Mark, does Daddy know just how much Willson Printers do for the BPA, and others?

Must rush off now, got to go and catch next weeks Course.

DAVE HICKLING, Langar

## DISTURBING TRENDS

I felt compelled to write to the Magazine/Membership following the Annual General Meeting at Leicester on the 10th January.

I was very disturbed by some statistics which were made plain in the Chairman's Report, statistics which show a severe and unhealthy disinterest for our sport. The number of renewals for 1985 were 3,638 which meant that 3,638 people made the decision that they wanted to continue in the sport, for 1986 that number was 2,231 a drop of 1,407 and almost half the figure of 1985.

In 1985 we introduced 38,809 people to the sport by one means or another and in 1986 we saw that number rise to 45,239, which clearly shows that although more people are being introduced to the sport a fewer number are making the decision to stay in it.

Of those 2,231 members in 1986 that actually made the effort to vote for their own BPA Council was 599.

That is an example of an attitude that must change. Apathy from any-

one involved at this time could be responsible for the continuing decline of a sport that has a great potential.

Parachute centres to date have been rough and ready places, where the jumper had to fight egos as well as the progression system. Finally things are changing with Tandem and AFF (RPS) playing a major role, but it will not happen by itself, and overnight.

We now have a Development Officer, **Mr. Chris Gilmore**, which is a step in the right direction, but his job is not an easy one and he will need all the help he can get, so give it!

Support your clubs, most of all let's support those that have made the effort to offer the best facilities, club atmosphere and aircraft. Take an interest in what is happening around you, because if the membership does not start to work together for a common goal, you might find it necessary to travel abroad to skydive.

If the same apathy and disinterest shown by the membership continues through 1987-88 then you might as well sell your rigs now, the choice is ours!

DAVE MORRIS  
Action Enterprise Ltd

## BPA GETS GOING

I am writing in response to **Simon Ward's** letter in the December issue of Sport Parachutist, concerning the promotion of the BPA and the marketing of the Sport as a whole.

By the time this issue goes to press, the membership will be aware that, after nearly four years of the drafting of the Development Plane, and negotiation with the Sports Council, at the December 1986 Council Meeting, the appointment of the new Development Officer, **Chris Gilmore** was approved.

This has been achieved with considerable help and extra funding from the Sports Council and his task is to do precisely what Simon Ward has suggested.

Hopefully a number of the members will have had the opportunity to meet Chris at the AGM but no doubt Council will be asking him to write a piece for the magazine to make the membership as a whole aware of his duties, responsibilities, and future plans.

P.W. RITCHIE, Vice Chairman  
British Parachut Association

## UNCARING BPA?

I would like to voice my disgust at the BPA's uncaring and ignorant attitude towards myself.

I have been a member and active skydiver for the past eight years and have never been responsible for any action which would bring the sport into disrepute. As most of the skydiving fraternity must surely be aware by now of a CRW accident (which I hasten to add was caused by someone else's mistake, not mine) in which I suffered very severe injuries and in fact nearly died, the BPA never once enquired after my health or had enough kindness to even send a 'Get Well Card'!

At the time of writing it is now 22 weeks since the accident, so the time for niceties are long since gone. I feel ashamed to belong to an Association which is so insular and self-centred that when a nasty skydiver has had a very nasty bang, no-one thinks to ask how he or she is progressing.

In comparison I have been a Clay Pigeon Shooting member for under a year and belong to a very small club, but the care and practicality of these people is far superior to anything I have ever seen from the BPA in my eight years membership.

This is the first time I felt I needed to use your Correspondence Page and it saddens me that I have to write about something so gravely negative in the sport I have loved.

MARGARET JACKSON, BWSR2

*I am very sorry to read how bitter you feel at the apparent uncaring attitude shown to you by the BPA. But with respect I do feel you are being a little unfair. Who are the BPA, in the final analysis it is all of us, it's members. The day to day running of the affairs is the responsibility of the secretariat in Leicester, who follow the policies as dictated by your elected council. The office has little or no contact on a personal basis with individual members and I would suspect be totally unaware of your progress unless kept informed by your club or centre.*

*You say that your Clay Pigeon Shooting Club 'a very small club', was much more caring. Being small it had a much closer relationship with you. How about your immediate fellow jumpers at your club or centre, if they were uncaring perhaps that is where your criticisms should be directed not to the 'BPA' in general. They perhaps should have made the office at Leicester aware of your condition. I hope my answer doesn't give you the impression that I do not care, nothing could be further from the truth and I sincerely hope you are now well and continuing in the sport, which you obviously enjoyed immensely.*

ED

## LANGAR NEWS LETTER

This could be Langar's first news letter in all its 10 years history. Yes, Langar is 10 years old this year. Parachuting started on Langar Airfield in early 1977. **Dave Hickling** and **John Fletcher** bought the Parachute School and all that entailed back in 1981, and since then both have tried to build a happy and successful DZ.

Langar is large - three runways, all over a mile long, about 3.5 sq. miles of open landing area, bit pit and no Airways overhead. The Airfield is only used by Parachutists! In the past we have had some good Accuracy Meets with big cash prizes. In '86, despite a report to the contrary in the December Mag we did try to run an accuracy meet at Easter.

Langar is truly a full-time Centre, open every day, however, to get our full 'Planning Permission', jumping does not start too early each morning and closes at 2000hrs or Sunset.

1986 was a hard year for Langar, in line with most other DZs - what with the poor weather and other things. However AFF was a bright spot, it is pumping some new blood into our small band of experienced skydivers. In '87 Langar is going to have at least two 4-way teams at the Nationals.

Let's hope lots of people help celebrate Langar's '10 Year Party' in June. What party? Well, a long one (5-14 June), with a larger aircraft than the Islander or 206, an aircraft not normally found on UK DZs. But, before that Langar is holding a small Easter Bunny Boogie including 4-Way L.A.C. and Rounds Accuracy. Perhaps the POPs will visit and any others who want a fun Easter. Just a word of warning - there is no P.A. system, also no Manifest Board and the CCI snaps at everyone. You don't really become a member of Langar until you have been bollocked, at least once!! The Chief Pilot is female - likes to change the decor of the aeroplanes each week. **John Fletcher** is a pilot and a jumper - if you fly with him you will understand. The cafe at Langar - well, they promise to improve it. Drop in to see all at Langar, including the world famous Funnel Sisters!, lead (or mislead) by 10-pint Ella.

D.O.A.

## HEADGEAR

Writing from my desk (seat 51B Flight BA292 Tampa - Heathrow) you can guess where I've been! Regarding your last editorial in SP concerning head gear and not publishing photos taken at British DZs. If anyone is not wearing the appropriate hat, surely it would be better to legalise the no-headwear rule than to boycott the photographs of some excellent skydives.

If someone wants to risk busting their head then surely that is up to them, whether student or any level of experience.

Whilst in the USA I noticed that the vast majority of skydivers that were not wearing any headwear (excluding the Jerry Bird-type bandanas) were Britis. I would imagine because they are not allowed at home and wait to take advantage of the opportunity, some of these people being relatively inexperienced Relative Workers. Where with the Americans very few were without head protection in the main, just the very experienced didn't wear anything on their heads (who should have enough wisdom of the sky to decide for themselves - and if they haven't well, they will only damage their own heads, which is their choice).

Which goes to show, let the people do as they please and they will be more sensible about what they do (those who need constant guidance may disagree with this). So BPA stop being so stuffy and let's have a bit of freedom concerning whether we think we need STC approved headwear.

ANDY CRAWFORD, D5915  
P.S. All my jumps were made with an approved frappe hat in the US.

*What a load of rubbish! I can't help thinking that what a person wears on his head and over ears, has a direct relationship to what he (or she) has between his ears.* ED.

## EDITOR SHOT! (IN FOOT)

Following your Logo Lecture, sorry, your very professional 'Logo Lecture' at the AGM, it has become quite clear to us here at MPC (who incidentally jump at the very best and friendliest BPA DZ) who live within listening distance of **Dave Turner's** very lavish and loud pool parties for the 'Nouveau Riche', that you are in the pay of Parachuting Promotions.

Could he have a finer PR agent - no we doubt it. He didn't rise to say one word all afternoon, but thanks to you Mr. Ed every parachutist in the UK instantly recognises the Parachuting Promotions Logo. It doesn't even have to have Parachuting Promotions written anywhere near it anymore.

DT really may be a boy wonder and not a boy blunder! His company has probably got the highest corporate profile, and best defined image of any company in the business - and that is just what he wanted.

Mr. Ed, fact the facts, you've shot yourself in the foot. Just like **John (Daddy to us all and more) Lines**, father figure of our Association, you get too easily rattled.

Latest rumour at the old Long M says that John DeLorean has already seen a copy of the last magazine. Now they say that fortune favours the brave, but old John B De L has just been acquitted yet again, and would probably welcome the extra cash - so you'd better get down the brokers quick and up the liable insurance cos you just might need it.

It may be okay to libel DT boy

chunter, or even risk it with his best mate Mattman, but your Wally should take up a new 'non de plume' - SILLY GUBBINS.

Talking about the 'Dynamic Duo' - watch out world they've been seen together quite alot lately. They'll probably own every DZ but MPC by the time this mag comes out, if they haven't bought the mag as well.

See you at snowy 'Long Marston' sometime, bring all your friends - everyone is welcom. Blue skies, red eyes,

THE SLUGG BROS.

*You must be joking! If I got as 'easily rattled' as you contend I would have packed this 'job' in six years ago. What you have written backs up the point I was trying to make at the AGM about the importance of a good corporate logo. Come to think about it you seem to be 'easily rattled' re our old friend Wally, you aren't into anonymous letter writing by any chance are you John!!*

Ed.

## AN UNLIKELY CONNECTION

A pilot drew my attention to an incident reported in the November issue of Pilots International. A 747 Captain was on his final by approaching Heathrow below 1000 feet. He suddenly pitched forward in pain and had to be restrained by the engineer while the First Officer took over the landing. The Captain's harness stopped him falling on the throttle controls and although the fully laden aircraft was landed without further problem, an emergency was called in.

Upon examination by his dentist it was discovered that tartar build up over a hole in one of his teeth had allowed air out during the ascent but had restricted airflow back in during the descent (the 747 is initially unpressurised below 1000ft.) A chunk of tartar was apparently suddenly forced into the hole in his tooth by the increasing pressure causing intense pain.

The fact that the pain was sudden and intense enough to cause this man to almost kill 400 people in his aircraft, not to mention any on the ground ought to prompt one to consider what would happen if the same thing happened in freefall? Could you find and pull your ripcord? Please therefore visit your dentist regularly. GWYNNE ROBERTS B.D.S., D5007

## SPORT PARACHUTING - T.V. FILMS

I watched the **Leo Dickinson** film 'Stacking in the Sky' at Christmas - it annoyed me, and (in my opinion) gave Sport Parachuting both barrels in the foot. The film was supposed to be about the Marines record stack, but by bad production it appeared to be as much of an ego trip for Leo to

show off his clever cameras, Mandy flying sideways etc. The inclusion in the film of deliberate canopy collapsing, Leo's near collision in the air and making a joke of being told off by Boswell was irresponsible and must have caused parent across the nation to tear up course applications in hundreds.

If the film had been half its length. Concentrated on the Marines and their stack record, shown only positive aspects of skydiving, it would have been good and done us some good because the photography was excellent, unfortunately the production and narrative were 'Mickey Mouse'.

December magazine announces more T.V. films under your direction. Can I make this request please? that the content of these films is positive. We don't have to project ourselves as having space for freefall between our ears. End of winge - all of this was written in friendship and intended to be constructive and helpful. Good luck and blue skies in 1987.

BOB McMILLAN, 311186

We live in an age when nobody seems to be content with their lot. Singers want to be actors, comics want to be singers, footballers want to be studs, and now, horror of horrors, skydiving cameramen (particularly the lesser hairy variety) want to be TV stars.

In football or entertainment the loss of one star to a particular ego trip hardly matters, but in our own sport opportunities come few and far between. With skydiving documentaries averaging one or two per annum on the box, we can hardly afford to miss a chance of promoting the sport or indeed providing an hour of good, watchable entertainment. Sadly, the last couple of years efforts have failed miserably.

'Right up the Zipper' was the first of the programmes featuring **Leo Dickinson** on the wrong side of the camera. Whilst I for one must praise the quality of the camera work, how can anybody come over as boring as 'Norm' Kent? Here we had the makings of a good half hour programme padded out to make fifty minutes of 'Leo loves Norm'. I know he's good, damn good. And damn boring.

So what do we get this year? Half an hour of the Marines (less HRH) padded out to make 'The Dickinsons go Sky-Diving'. Thank goodness he hasn't got five kids, two dogs and a budgie, or the sodding programme would be still running.

The best thing to come from the helmet of Leo was without doubt 'Pushing the Limits', half an hour long, filmed by him, but produced and edited by people who could see the material more objectively.

These are opportunities to show the pub'ic our sport, to promote it as entertaining, lively and safe. The responsibility falls on a few, Leo, Simon, even you Dave, so get behind your cameras, produce the goods, and keep your egos out of my living room.

JOHN HUGHES

We have in the past complained about the lack of coverage of our sport on TV.

There are those who sit back, do nothing about it and there are those who do something positive. Their motives may be financial, self esteem or whatever. I personally couldn't care a damn, very few people do things in life out of pure altruistic reasons. Leo has a living to earn the same as the rest of us. How he does it is up to him. All I know is, the sport is getting more exposure because of his efforts. After all this film is one of a series called, "Leo Dickinson's Adventures with a Camera".

P.S. I promise not to appear in front of the cameras on our Channel Four documentary about the sport.

Ed.

## TANDEM POTENTIAL

In the wake of the last year's largely poor, albeit misreported publicity for the sport of Skydiving, it has become apparent that its future, to a significant extent, can lie in the hands of the ill-educated reporter trying to do his job.

The advent of Tandem Skydiving has given us the perfect tool with which to introduce the complete novice to what must be one of the most exhilarating sports. With relatively little ground training and yet with complete safety, we are now able to take a person into our element and give them the previously inaccessible experience that we enjoy so much.

Its potential, as such a tool is undoubtedly excellent and whilst it could, if approached in the correct way, have major favourable and wide ranging implications on the sport of Skydiving, the Tandem Programme's major enemy has to be complacency.

There are very few activities where, as in the Tandem Skydive, the participant must put 100% faith and trust for their life in a complete stranger! There must be, therefore, no doubt that an incident in the UK, given the infancy of the Tandem Skydiving Programme and the media's present general attitude towards our sport, could be catastrophic.

It is with this in mind that a Tandem Masters rating, more so than any other, demands a high degree of professionalism, confidence and enthusiasm in its approach to every passenger taken up. In addition, an equally high degree of competence and experience is vital, not just for the normal situation where everything goes to plan, but for one where the Tandem Master is required to make decisions under pressure - decisions that could affect the life of not only

himself, but also that of the passenger and indeed the whole Tandem Programme itself!

The introduction of the Tandem and Rapid Progression Skydiving Programmes can represent an important part of the vehicle by which our move into a new era. Already this move is underway - the media's attitude in many quarters is becoming more favourable and could represent the start of an upwards spiral for the Sport of Skydiving - T.V. and printed coverage interest and attract the target market, the Tandem and Rapid Progression Programmes now enable the interested party to experience and learn the sport more easily than ever before, using from the outset, state-of-the-art techniques and of course equipment that is comfortable, appealing and safe.

This is its potential - Please let's respect it.

GARRY GNAPP  
Action Enterprise Limited

## STUDENT FATALITIES

The two first-timers who fell to their deaths in 1986 both activated their reserves, but too late for them to fully deploy.

The Board of Inquiry in both cases failed to find a definite reason as to why these two people died. In one it was 'probably' the break tie, in the other the capewells were operated but it is impossible to tell what was in the deceased's mind.

If they had been despatched 300ft. higher, or had AAD's, or ground to air radios they would both have lived.

How can an instructor honestly tell a class of students that 12 secs. is long enough to activate their reserve? What is the BPA going to do when a well paid and eloquently speaking lawyer questions the JNCISO's when one of their clubs is possibly sued for negligence?

Perhaps it would be a good idea to take such incidents out of the minutes at the back of the magazine and give them a bit more coverage in the rest of the magazine.

KEVIN HUGHES D478

## FROM THE DESK OF WALTER GUBBINS I.F.C.

Greetings followers,

Or should that be lambs of the BPA Flock, for rarely have I encountered a larger group of 'followers' as in the BPA Fraternity. Little over 10% of the members voted for our new and esteemed council members (599 to be exact). I could even understand the situation if we were electing a government, but this sport of ours is supposedly dear to our hearts. Yep, I guess it's true when Old Dave (the Ed) says he doesn't get any response to his bible.

But, Gubbins followers, I am not about to ruin your day with heavy messages, I am sure you would have rallied your support had yours truly been standing for the post of chairman (how you can ever STAND for CHAIRman I've never understood), no I'm here to pass on words of witicism and wisdom on the aspects of our sport that some may not have noticed.

For instance following my revelations on jumpsuit manufacturers' wily ways of extracting evermore of our hard earned cash, I noticed whilst perusing the pages of the American Comic SKYDIVER, that an advertisement states "The surgeon general has determined that prolonged exposure to (Span-dex) is a leading cause of homosexuality in white rats and California AFF-IES". Now I know that many of you will instantly rush out and buy Spandex suits just in the hope, but I must dissappoint you here, as Hopeless and Nearly of Thrombosis suits use a cheap imitation whilst Wilting and Bones use a tacky substitute.

Then there is the advert that starts.. "Scared of your Swift Reserve?" (personally I'm scared of any unpacked reserve)..well this group of pyromaniacs will burn it for you and sell you a Firelite (apltly named really) with \$400 off. Apparently it's all because two guys don't like each other - Yanks!

Continuing the above mentioned perusal takes me to page 10 of the same comic when we come across an article entitled 'Lone Star releases second 'Owner-Build' parachute'. Two things immediately spring to mind, how long did it take to build the first?! and is the company suitably named?, with a name such as Lone Star you are hardly likely to end up with your mates entangling for a bit of CReW. Anyway the second of their home-spun wonders is called the Sidewinder, pair this together with a CRUISlite, Laser or Spitfire and you could end up with a veritable armoury!

Now, one or two of Walters more perceptive fans and devotees will have noticed that Young Derek Thomas was totally left out of my last epistle, this had nothing to do with the fact that either he or Wally had fallen from Grace (his mother), more to do with the fact that he had as much to contribute as an Abo's armpit. However he did ask me to mention that the recent 70 way formation build at the School of Human Fright's Boogie in Espania only built to 68 as two slots were being held back for Young Derro. His quite delightful wife Carol has also managed to make it into the quote of the month column with the following statement.. "Derek is so boring when he's not talking about skydiving"... I won't ask the question....

A word now into the shell of Dave Waterman, who, incidentally, forgot to print the picture of Dave Howwas-she, (filthy but not so rich owner of Swansea Parrot Shoot Club) which was to accompany the caption competition in the last mag. Anyway

back to the Big D, I feel it should be formally proposed that he does have a sense of humour after all. Fair credit to the android he did raise the laught of the AGM, not to mention oneupmanship when he managed to work in a couple of slides of a certain very famous logo currently in dispute whilst doing a presentation on corporate image. Dee Tee instantly raised a fairy wand in humiliation before that too gave up on him and dropped sorrowfully to the floor.

WALLY GUBBINS

## WING WALKING TO STARDOM

We require a glamorous, steely nerved young person for our new air show, wing walking routine. Previous experienced desirable, but not necessary, sympathetic training will be provided for the successful applicant.

This exciting outdoor position will involve working Saturday and Sunday, as a member of our flying circus display, appearing before millions of people around the country.

Besides wing walking on the team's yellow Stearman bi-plane, the job will also entail giving public address commentaries and providing public relations back-up at special receptions and functions.

The wing walking routine will get star billing at up to 60 air shows during 1987, as well as national television coverage, turning the successful young person into a national figure.

It is possibly intended that an element of parachuting will be included in the wing walking act, so any large chested, attractive to men, experienced skydiving person may apply to:

Vic Norman, Hammerton House,  
North Cerney, Nr Cirencester, Glos.  
Tel: 0285 83237

## THANKS AMPURIA BRAVA

I have been elected by the A1 Skydiving intrepid bunch of explorers to put pen to paper and thank everyone at Ampuria Brava for giving us such a good time at Christmas. We blasted off from Luton in our club Cherokee 6 on the morning of the 13th December and arrived later that day, we were made very welcome by everyone there. Thanks are due to Maria, Roland and Mitch for showing us the finer points of partying and teaching us the 'song'. One complaint however, the lack of aircraft, only one Skyvan, one Otter, two Porters and a C185? that is only one turbine each, never mind I think we could just about manage.

Special thanks too, to Jaime and Martie in the bar for cleaning up after us every night. You will all be happy to know at Ampuria Brava that we are all saving hard for next years trip!

**Rob, Steve, Dave, Phil, Kirk and Mel** better know as Achmed Abu Achmed and his brother **Ben**. P.S. We all agree with **Kim Maxwell's** letter in the December issue of the mag, we found the picture of **Bob Harman's** bare mammary glands on page 45 highly displeasing.

## WIFE'S TANDEM

Please find enclosed one photo of my wife's first jump. I am led to believe that one had already been sent to you by the photographer some months ago, and since you tell us that input for the magazine is not exactly spilling out of your in-tray, I can only assume that it must have gone astray in the post. However, being I hope a fair minded person I thought the benefit of the doubt was in order, so I have resubmitted the photo for publication.

The jump took place at Sibson in July and after much humming and aahing, my wife Sallie finally decided to take the plunge and find out what life's really like above the land of the living. We believe this was one of the first 8-way tandem jumps in the country. We exited the Skyvan at 12,000ft. and the formation was built by 8,000ft. amid much yelping. The jumpers were, **Annie Issats, Liz Harlow, Bob Simmons, Martin Evans Bryan Davies** and myself. The tandem master was **Derk Boersma** (who even managed to keep his hands to himself) and the piccies were taken by **Pete Harlow** (sorry to all you Leo & Simon fans). Our thanks go to all at Sibson especially John and Ronnie for their help, also to Derk and to Pete for a wonderful set of prints. A good time was certainly had by all concerned.

RICK SIMPSON, D2686  
P.S. I thought you might use this to fill up some of **Dave Turner's** now vacant space in the magazine.

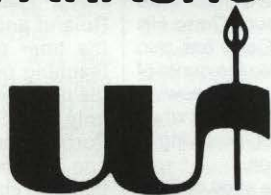


## THANKS LANGAR

Thanks to all at Langar, most of all Dave and Redy for all the help and effort they put into helping me get Cat VIII. after a brilliant week last August doing AFF, not forgetting **Tony Butler** who helped on Level III. Sorry about the cold hands on the first attempt, of level VII Redy!! All the very best.

IAN MITCHELL

## INSURANCE FOR PARACHUTISTS



**WEST MERCIA INSURANCE BROKERS**

High St., Wombourne, Nr. Wolverhampton WV5 9DN  
Tel. Wombourne 892661 (STD 0902)

# SAFETY NOTICE

An additional ten all white K-XX parachutes, assembled February through March 1982, have been identified as potentially containing suspected understrength fabric. In the interest of safety, these ten are also being recalled, bringing the K-XX recall total to forty all white parachutes.

These parachutes were originally TSO'ed as part of the SHADOW 20L-(1) ASSEMBLY. The Serial Number of your parachute may be found by examining the parachute packing record located in its pocket on the parachute pack.

## ALL FORTY OF THESE PARACHUTES ARE GROUNDED

598539	598553	598864	599561
598540	598554	598962	599562
598541	598555	598996	599563
598542	598556	598997	599613
598546	598579	598998	599614
598547	598842	598999	599640
598548	598843	599002	599701
598549	598844	599003	599702
598550	598845	599007	599703
598552	598858	599164	599711

Owners of these parachutes are urged to contact Pioneer Parachute Company, Inc. collect, at 203-644-1581 for return information.

Pioneer will reimburse the owner of each of the above listed parachutes for the 1982 retail price of \$370.00 plus shipping charges. Return parachutes to: Pioneer Parachute Co. Inc. Pioneer Industrial Park, Hale Road, Manchester, CT 06040.

## SAFETY NOTICE

It has been brought to the BPAs attention that a number of ripcord handles (mains and reserves) supplied to Thomas Sports Equipment by D. Gays have failed. Any ripcords purchased (separately or with containers) from Thomas Sports since September 1986 with the numbers, L8610, L8611 and L8612 must not be used and should be returned for replacement to: Thomas Sports Equipment, 102-104 St. John Street, Bridlington, North Humberside. Tel: (0262) 678299.

Tony Butler, JNC SO

## UNDERJUMPSUIT WARM WEAR

*Designed to replace the uncomfortable layers we squeeze under a jumpsuit in winter. Combines maximum warmth with minimal weight and bulk. For complete information call:-*



**Symbiosis Suits**  
THE AIRFIELD  
HEADCORN  
KENT  
T.N.27 9.H.X  
0622-890967



# KIT NEWS

By Rob Colpus



## CORRECTION

In the December issue of Kit News we reported that Parachutes de France were making changes to correspond to an official international standardisation. This, however, was a typographical error, and should have read 'unofficial' standardisation.

## DEFECTIVE K20's

In the December issue of Kit News we reported on a list of Pioneer Incorporated's K20 reserves which have been found to have panels of Defective fabric. Pioneer have since issued a bulletin which includes 10 additional canopies built in February and March 1982. The up-dated list is as follows:-

598539-42	598858	599007	599701-03
598546-50	598864	599164	599711
598552-56	598962	599561-63	
598579	598996-99	599613-14	
598842-45	599002-03	599640	

These canopies are likely to suffer 'catastrophic damage' during deployment, and should be grounded immediately. Owners are asked to contact Pioneer Inc. Pioneer Industrial Park, Hale Road, Manchester CT 06040, USA. Phone (203) 644-1581. The company will reimburse each owner \$370 which was the 1983 recommended retail price.

## JALBERT COMEBACK

Domina C. Jalbert, designer of the Para-Foil and the man credited as the inventor of the Ram-Air Parachute is back behind the drawing board. Apparently he has joined with George Galloway and Precision Aerodynamics Inc. in Tennessee, USA to test a prototype of his new design. According to Galloway the prototype is "a distinct departure from the ram-air canopies we have today, just as Jalbert's ram-air design was a departure from the round canopy", "The prototype embodies several newly patented features and its construction involves neither flares nor direct line attachment. At the time of going to print we had no information as to when the new canopy would be released onto the market.

## HOMEBUILT

Lone Star Parachutes of Texas, have added a second canopy to the home-built market. The company released the 9-cell Shrike in 1985, which turned out to be a success, with many jumpers excited by the challenge of building and then flying a canopy built by themselves.

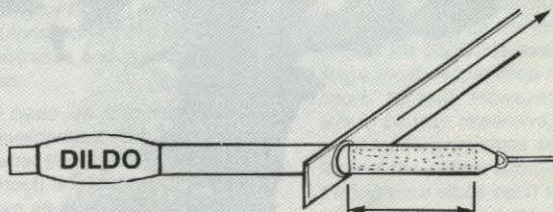
The new ram-air is named the 'Sidewinder' and is a mid-range 7-cell of 210 sq.ft. Its 480 cu in pack volume is similar to comparable ram-airs in mass production.

## PULL-OUT PROBLEM

Recently a number of pull-out pilot chute dildos equipped with the standard grommet safety-slide system have been found not to work as intended.

The reason for the safety-slide is to enable the pin to be pulled, even if the pilot chute is incorrectly packed into a corner or jammed under a flap. However, the faulty slides do not allow this to occur, because the double-back of 1' webbing through the pin is far too long, and will not pass through the grommet, therefore preventing the system from working as intended.

PILOT CHUTE



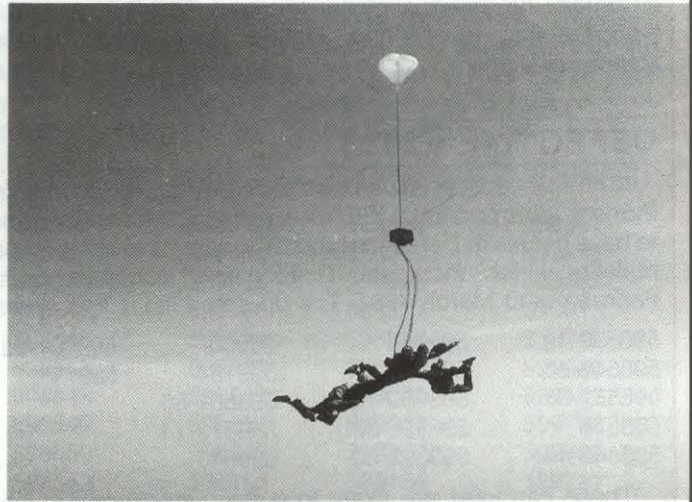
EXCESSIVE TURN-BACK

The pull-outs in question are the Racer/Tracer type Martildo handle, as manufactured by the Jump Shack and Mac's Loft. To cure this problem a much smaller turn-back is all that is required. It should be mentioned that any of these safety slide type systems or pull-out handles are only a back-up feature. If the pilot chute is packed correctly, i.e. loosely under the right-hand side flap of the container, then the slide is not necessary, as the pilot chute should pull from under the flap with ease.

## UPDATE TO CANOPY VOLUME STUDY PRINTED IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF SP

IFF ENTERPRISES	Volume air	Size	Weight lbs
Challenger 282	780	310	12.5
GLIDE PATH INTERNATIONAL			
Firelite Main	410	177	6.25
Firelite Reserve	353	176	6.25
Raider 1986 model	484	225	8.5
NORTH AMERICAN AERODYNAMICS			
26' Triconical	579	26'	8.75
200 Parafoil	547	190	8.25
282 Parafoil	776	285	11.6
PARAFILITE INC.			
Cruisite XL	554	241	8.9
260 XL Cloud	715	242	10.5
PERFORMANCE DESIGNS			
PD 150	375	144	5.7
PD 190	426	191	6.9
PD 260	545	257	8.75
PIONEER			
K26	426	26'	6.75
QUANTUM PARACHUTES			
Aquilron 240	551	250	8.5
Aquilron 260	599	266	9.25
Lepton	465	202	7.0
SPACE COAST PARACHUTES			
Gemini 260-9	537	269	8.25
Mercury 200-7	411	201	7.0

# SKYDIVE AT SWANSEA IN 1987



## R.A.P.S. A.F.F. W.A.R.P.

In 1987 all categories of BPA Students will be able to jump square canopies within the new Ram Air Progression System Accelerated Free Fall Courses are also available as well as conventional Round Canopy Static Line Courses. All our equipment incorporates Net Skirted Round Main Canopies, Automatic Activation Devices and Radios.



For further information telephone 0792 296464  
Swansea Parachute Club, Swansea Airport, Fairwood Common, Swansea SA2 7JU



# CHRIS GILMORE

## A PROFILE

by Jane White

From February 2nd, the BPA will increase its full-time staff by one and include its first ever Development Officer, **Chris Gilmore**.

With more than seven years experience in the fields of sales and marketing, plus some nine years of active sport parachuting behind him, Chris has been chosen by the BPA Development Committee to implement a Five Year Plan aimed at rescuing the sport from the grips of its present decline.

"His main task will be to develop the sport by retaining more people from the huge number who just do one jump", said **Peter Ritchie**, Chairman of the Development Committee which appointed Chris.

"That will mean looking at a number of aspects, including the attitudes of people to beginners, competitions and DZ facilities. But generally he will be applying a structured development plan to a sport which has grown in a very haphazard manner."

Four years ago the Sports Council told the BPA that to continue receiving a grant from them, the association would have to have an organised plan.

**Barry Hennessey** duly completed that Herculean task, coming up with a massive tome of a document which puts the Oxford English Dictionary to shame.

"Without a plan and officer to implement it, the grant would simply have fizzled out, so in effect the Sports Council is paying us to improve our sport," said Peter.

"We now have to sell the Development Plan to the membership and DZ operators, as well as selling the sport to the general public."

For 29-year old Chris the new job will also bring a few changes - starting with a move from home in Carshalton, Surrey, to a new base near the BPA head office in Leicester.

"I'm looking forward to it - especially the cheaper house prices," he admits, "I sold my last house some time ago and went parachuting in Perris on the profits!"

It will not be his first time away from the London area. He made his first parachute jump at Shobdon while studying for a BSc in Life Sciences (post name for Biology) at Aston University, Birmingham. Then his second job took him to Huntingdon, in the depths of Cambridgeshire.

Immediately after college he started work as a salesman for the pharmaceutical company Janssen in London.

"I had a look around the health care firm in Huntingdon where he spent over three years. And for the last eight months or so Chris has been working for the English arm of the largest health care company in the world.

It may seem a daunting step to move from selling intravenous drips within the health service to promoting the joys of jumping from aircraft to the general public, but Chris is confident that he can make the change.

"The basic marketing skills are the same, and I think I will be able to carry over my experience quite easily. Besides, according to a recent marketing survey, the whole of the leisure market is due to increase by about 25% over the next five years, so there should be more scope for growth."

The Development Plan outlines five basic areas of the sport which could be improved upon so as to increase the long-term membership of the BPA. These are:-

**access and development** - including the possibility of creating regions around the country; increasing and retaining membership; looking at DZ facilities; co-ordinating and co-operating with the CAA, and establishing the post of development officer.

**coaching and technical training** - looking at safety and training; coaching schemes; ways of improving levels of performance, including the possibility of introducing an awards scheme; and co-ordinating riggers' and pilots' training.

**competition** - both national and international; judging and co-ordinating with the FAI and CIP.

**public relations and marketing** - including ways of bringing various events to the notice of the media; income and sponsorship.

**membership services** - the possibility of buying our own HQ; computerisation of the BPA, and administrative and membership services.

"My basic job is to implement the Development Plan," said Chris, "But what that involves will depend very much on how much money we have in which areas people feel are most important."

"The first thing I am going to do is to go and see John Scott, the Sports Council liaison Officer, to set out a schedule of work."

"Not only do we need a good plan which has a lot of support at club level but we also need to generate income to put the plan into action. Apart from the Sports Council grant, we raise income through the BPA shop, membership and sponsorship. Membership was of course increased at the AGM, so I will now be looking for ways to broaden the market for BPA goods, and I will also be actively seeking sponsorship for the sport," he said.

"There has been a lot of talk about how much money some people make, but basically we need a financially strong BPA to allow all the activities that we want."

Because the plan is designed to cover the next five years, (Chris' contract is for three years!) Chris also has the task of monitoring its progress and, with the BPA Council, working out any changes that need to be made along the way.

"It is impossible to work out a set plan which can be rigidly enforced over a period as long as five years, so it is important that we stay flexible and keep the plan updated," he said.

Communication is a major part of Chris' role. Not only is he

expected to liaise with all the parachuting clubs, but all other sports bodies such as local councils, regional groups, and national organisations like the Sports Council. And while being answerable to the Chairman of the BPA Council, he is also responsible for the general co-ordination and management of all the BPA staff.

Another part of Chris' job is to sit on all the BPA committees and report his findings and actions back to them and to the full council. Together they will set priorities and agree on the best way of implementing the plan.

"It would be very useful to have some independent market research so that we could see the broad reasons, in order of importance, why people drop out of the sport. We can then set about adopting ourselves to their needs," he said.

"It would be very useful to have some independent market research so that we could see exactly which stage most people drop out of the sport," he said, "However, that would be very expensive, so we must take a very close and careful look at the people actually passing through our clubs each weekend. I am going to need a lot of support from members at club level if we are going to make any long-term changes. A lot of people in the sport are very PR-orientated, which we will need to win sponsorship. There is a lot of professionalism in parachuting, but we must build on that. We must also look at our attitudes to beginners, and treat students the way that we wanted to be treated when we were new."

Chris himself has just completed his PF's course, and organised the recent night record jump at Cranfield. Although he has not done any display jumping, he entered the Nationals Four-way in 1985, travelled to Teuge in Holland for the 16-way meet this year, and also went to France for this year's 10 and 20-way speed meet.

Since Pampisford closed, Cranfield has been his regular weekend base, but with his new job he expects to visit many more DZ's around the country.

"I hope to travel around the country quite a lot, partly to see how different DZ's work to see what I can learn, and also to talk to different people to find out how they see the sport progressing and what needs to be done."

"The Development Plan may lay out the broad objectives and plans of action for the future, but the tactics have yet to be worked out, and we can all help do that."

"There are a lot of different opinions in the sport, and I want to listen to all of them."

# THE WINNING EDGE

BY DAVE WATERMAN

*t could be argued that as a sport, Sport Parachuting is more stressful than most. Couple that with the added stress of competition, and you must have one of the most stressful situations an athlete would have to cope with.*

*In addition the situation a member of an eight-way or four-way team faces is unparalleled with the exception of perhaps, rowing eights, in that every member of the team must produce one hundred percent in order that the team be successful. Peer pressure from within the team itself is immense.*

*The most stressful situation that I have personally ever been in with regards to Sport Parachuting was in a Huey helicopter, ten thousand feet over Warrendoft in Germany awaiting the standby command in the first round of the 1975 World Ten Man Speed Star Meet. History shows that the British team blew the second round after a floater came under the base taking it out and the team subsequently only managed to build an eight-way.*

*This was a bitter disappointment because the team had shown great potential, having beaten the current World Record for a ten-way speed star with a time of 12.8 at Bergerac whilst in training, only a week before the World meet. I believe that stress was a contributory factor to the teams' bad performance, after the initial mistake on exit.*

*We as an association spend considerable amounts of time, money and effort in getting our competition teams into good physical shape for World meets and little or no consideration to the mental attitude of our competitors in order to give them what is described by Tony Byrne of the National Coaching Federation (a Sports Council offshoot) as the 'Winning Edge'.*

*He writes, "Athletes in general are finding high level competition more stressful than ever before. It is because of these inter-related factors that more and more coaches and athletes are turning to sports psychologists for help.*

*The following article is I hope, the first of a number to be published in the near future aimed at helping competitors to be better informed, about what is without doubt an extremely important aspect of training to win. It is no coincidence that certain countries, teams and individuals always seem to have that "Winning Edge".*

## Dr Lew Hardy is Lecturer in Sport Psychology and Research Methodology in the Department of Physical Education, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

Few people who are seriously involved in British sport would deny the importance of having the right psychological approach to competition or performance, and yet the psychological preparation of our sportsmen and women is probably the least understood and most poorly implemented aspect of training in virtually every sport. Some performers get it right by luck or intuition, but I wonder how many unexplained failures we must observe before we will actually do something to help our performers to prepare mentally for major events. What did happen to Tony Jacklin and John Lloyd during the "wilderness years"? How did Conrad Bartelski come second, just once? Why do some football teams lose all their away matches but win all their home ones? It is easy to think of dozens of examples like these, and all of them point to the same thing: the importance of factors other than the purely physical.

Looking at the preparation of the few world-class performers that Britain has produced helps to establish what some of these psychological factors might be. By linking this evidence to the research into the psychological phenomena of peak performance, we can make some educated guesses about what the factors are that we need to bring under control. These include goal-setting, self-confidence, persistence, concentration, relaxation, activation and anxiety.

### MENTAL TRAINING

Nowadays, there are several courses of mental training available which attempt to enable athletes (or coaches for that matter) to learn how to control these factors. For example, an American sport psychologist, E.F. Gauron, has written an excellent book called *Mental Training for Peak Performance*, a Norwegian called Willi Railo has produced a cassette tape and book package, *Willing to Win*, and in the UK the Sporting Body Mind run two-day mental-training courses fairly regularly. Of course, the self-regulation skills which mental training provides will not mean that you become some sort of robot who no longer experiences such emotions as fear of failure or joy at success. Rather, they will enable you to contain the effects of such emotions so that they do not influence your immediate performance, or threaten your future well-being.

So, that's the good news. Now for the bad news!

The bad news is that, like physical skills, mental skills take quite a long time to learn. Also like physical skills, you need to train regularly in order to acquire and maintain these mental skills. For example, if you were using a self-teaching package, I would recommend that you allow approximately 15-20 minutes a day for mental training, six days a week, during the first six weeks of your programme. After this initial period, most people find that they are able to cut down the amount of mental training that they do, although you still need to do some training in order to maintain the skills which you have just acquired. With practice it becomes much easier to fit mental training into your normal physical-training time, since it doesn't necessarily have to take an extra 15-20 minutes - it can fill some of the gaps that naturally occur during physical training. Because of the amount of time needed in the first couple of months of mental training, I would recommend starting during the off-season. This has two advantages. First, when the new season starts, your performers will already have acquired a certain level of improvement in their performances right from the start. And second, by this time they should also be able to

manage at a slightly lower intensity of mental training than they will need at the beginning of their programme.

Most good mental training courses will contain work on the following mental skills:

- Goal-setting
- Confidence-building
- Physical relaxation
- Mental relaxation
- Controlled activation
- Mental rehearsal
- Concentration

### GOAL-SETTING

The ability to set appropriate goals at an appropriate difficulty level is perhaps the most fundamental of all mental skills. Good goals should be specific short-term objectives which are both realistic and worthwhile. Ideally, they should set measurable targets for the next (rather than some future) training session or competition, and should be difficult for other people to influence.

The 1976 Olympic gold medallist John Naber provides a very good example of the process of breaking down a long-term aim into a set of short-term goals. In 1972, he decided that he wanted to win a gold medal in the 100m backstroke in the 1976 Olympics. He calculated from previous times what time could win the gold, and determined that he had to drop four seconds in four years. Now, four seconds is a lot of time to cut from any sprint event, but he didn't stop there. He broke the goal down further into one second per year, one tenth of a second per month (swimmers train for 10-11 months of the year as a rule), one three-hundredth of a second per day, and one twelve-hundredth of a second per hour of training. Finally, he made this goal one twelve-hundredth of a second per hour a little easier to grasp by working out that from the time he began to blink his eyes to the time his eyelids touched was five twelve-hundredths of a second. Now he could believe that he could improve that much in the next hour, and so he set about doing just that. His plan worked and he won a gold medal to prove it. I realise that not everybody is a John Naber, but we can all set short-term aims.

### CONFIDENCE-BUILDING

The easiest and most effective way to build self-confidence is to set appropriate goals. If your goals are appropriate, then most of the time you will achieve them. If you set lots of them, this will amount to a lot of success! Success breeds confidence; the one must follow from the other and cannot exist without it. Every goal achieved is another "little tick" and you should give yourself another "pat on the back".

Goal-setting can also be used to change negative attitudes into positive ones. Suppose, for example, that a basketball player is having a bad time with her set shots. With low self-confidence and a negative attitude, all that she can say is "I can't score set shots". That is to say, she is a failure; and she's on the slippery downward spiral to "doom and despondency". However, if she can re-phrase this statement in a positive way, it could become the long-term aim for a whole set of structured goals which would improve her game. For example, she could set herself the long-term aim of being able to score 7 out of 10 set shots in six months' time. An intermediate goal might then be an improvement of 1 set shot per month, and the first week's goal might be to score 3 set shots out of every 10 from 2 metres in front of the free shot line. Already she is on the way to solving her problem.

Self-confidence can also be improved by imagining yourself performing something successfully (see *Mental Rehearsal*), or by giving yourself positive self-statements. For example, "You can do this", or "You must have done this a thousand times in training. Today is no different". Alternatively, the self-statements can be repeated commands like "Drive, Drive, ... Drive, Drive, Drive" for running up hills. With a bit of imagination you

can tailor-make these for yourself, to motivate yourself most effectively.

## RELAXATION

"Relax, don't do it...". You can use relaxation skills in all sorts of situations! Seriously though, the ability to relax and not to "tighten up" when performing in big competitions is crucial to efficiency and effectiveness. There are lots of different types of relaxation technique, and these different methods work by asking you to focus on different things: for example, your breathing pattern, alternate contraction and relaxation of muscles, repetition of some keyword (mantra), or imagining yourself in a safe and relaxing place.

There are also big individual differences in the way people prefer to relax, and these are thought to relate to the different ways in which our brains function. The two hemispheres of the brain (left and right) are thought to control different types of behaviour. When your left hemisphere is dominant, you will tend to be analytical, logical and verbal. However, when your right hemisphere is dominant, you will tend to be artistic, intuitive and spatial (able to see where things belong in relation to each other). Clearly, both these sorts of ability are important in different activities, or at different times in the same activity. Most of us are also reasonably flexible at shifting from one mode to another. However, in spite of this flexibility, you still have a preferred mode, so that you will find some relaxation techniques easier to perform than others. If at first you don't succeed... try something different!

## ACTIVATION

This is one of the most dangerous areas of a performer's preparation. In my experience, most coach's attempts to "psych performers up" usually result in "psyching them out". There are even some sport psychologists who do not really understand arousal and activation. Control is the most important ingredient, and in my opinion coaches without a fairly good understanding of mental training, and a thorough knowledge of their performers, should not attempt to motivate them by increasing their levels of activation. Most good mental training programmes will incorporate ways of increasing controlled activation and aggression using mental rehearsal.

## MENTAL REHEARSAL

This is the key to many of the psychological problems which performers have, and an ability to produce clear images of yourself performing is essential for anyone with any real aspiration in sport. These images usually take one of three forms: visual, kinesthetic (feeling the movements) or aural. Combinations of these are even more effective. As with relaxation, some performers find certain forms of mental rehearsal more difficult to attain than others. Moreover, some forms are more relevant to certain sports than others. For example, aural imagery is thought to be very important in rhythmical activities.

Mental rehearsal can be used as practice between attempts, to establish the goal, to warm-up for an event, to improve self-confidence (see yourself do it), to overcome previous disasters, or simply to relax. It is very powerful. Start now!

## CONCENTRATION

Concentration refers to your ability to focus all your attention on one thing, here and now. Total concentration is much more difficult than most people realise; however, it is an essential element of peak performance. It is fairly easy to learn how to concentrate provided your training is structured to present all sorts of different distractions which gradually increase in intensity. Most mental training programmes contain a variety of exercises to improve concentration.

In conclusion, although psychology does not have all the answers, it can definitely help to increase the performers' chance of achieving their ultimate potential - provided that they (and you) are prepared to set time aside for mental training. Furthermore, the skills which they will learn are not just for sport, they are skills which will serve them well throughout their entire lives.

### Recommended reading

Gauron, E.F., *Mental Training for Peak Performance*,

New York: Sport Science Associates, 1984.

Orlick, T., *In Pursuit of Excellence*, Champaign Ill: Human Kinetics, 1980.

Railo, W., *Willing to Win*, Huddersfield: Springfield Books, 1986

## STUDENT'S LAMENT

**You wonder why students quit the sport, I'll tell you why in this report. We get apprehensive and confused at the DZ jargon commonly used.**

**Take a friend of mine who though freefall meant she didn't pay at all.**

**The same young lass - she ain't a toff - She thought debrief meant 'Get them off!'**

**Wanting to stay so good and pure, she looked at me to reassure; if a bum spot on a jump would leave her with a diseased rump?**

**The poor young thing was really caught in two minds when she was taught; that chin on chest was how it's done, and answered back, "My God, which one?"**

**Well is that wasn't bad enough, The next advice seemed really tough, "Knees together, keep them bended". Her husband thinks the world has ended.**

**So I propose we must be seen to state more clearly what we mean. And for highlighting this before your eyes, I claim my Wally Gubbins prize.**

**DEREK AUSTIN B 7662**

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VENUE: J.S.P.C. NETHERAVON, WILTS

TIME: 9.00 A.M. START

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If so, this is the weekend for you.

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To all current and not so current Notional and F.A.I. Judges - look forward to seeing you there.

It would help with accommodation etc. if you could let the BPA Office know if you wish to attend.

SUE DIXON

ANYBODY ORGANISING A COMPETITION THIS YEAR, PLEASE CONTACT ROGER FLYNN ON 021 472 1311 EXT: 4572 FOR JUDGES SUPPORT.

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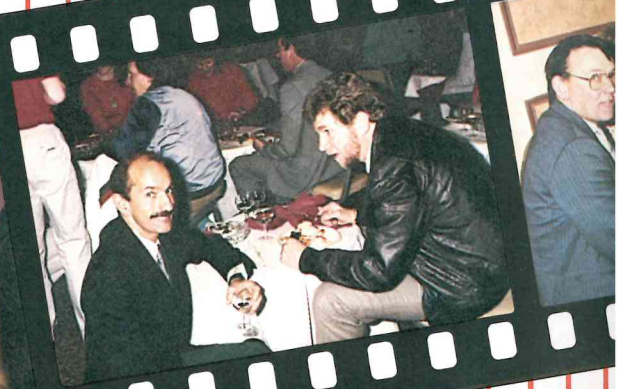
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THANKING YOU FOR YOUR HELP.



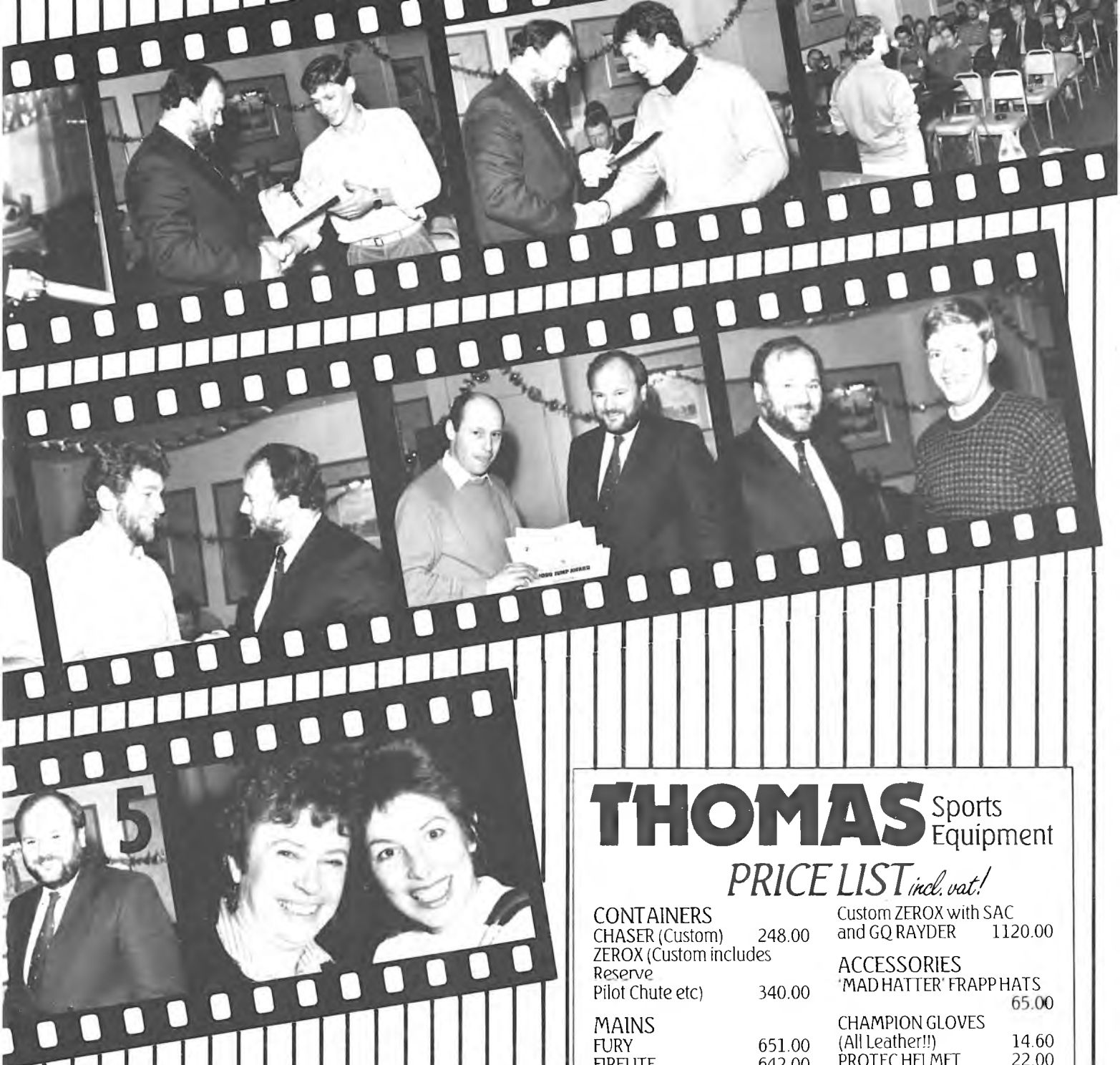
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**PICTURES BY JULIE HANKS.**





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3. *Dave Prince pictured leaving the wrong toilet.*
4. *Scots made a big splash and spent £1,500 on booze.*
5. *Danny Hennessy receives his well deserved Life Membership for work on the Development Plan.*
6. *We're in the money - Sue Dixon and Fay Boxell winners of the big prizes in the raffle.*
- 7-8-9. *Peter Ritchie rises to the occasion.*

# BRITTS ABROAD







RED FREDS, JULIAN SPENCER AND EDDY CARROLL WALKING ON AIR AFTER THE CHRISTMAS STAR. THE REST BOOGIE OFF!



ALL BRIT CHRISTMAS STAR ORGANISED BY BOB HARMAN AT THE Z-HILLS BOOGIE.

# Z-HILLS/USA

PICTURES DAVE FLOYD

# BRITS ABROAD

**Z**ephyrhills Christmas Boogie rang from the 13th December to 5th January. Getting to jump is easy, you register, sign your waiver, have your kit checked, pay you money and get on a load. Each lift had at least one usually two or three organisers where you could try anything from a four to forty way. Larger one formation dives were quite good considering most people hadn't jumped with each other.



RED FRED'S - EDDIE CARROLL VIDEO'S THE TEAM DURING THEIR PRACTICE.

It was an International Boogie, with people from 22 nations. Of the 500 registered the British were the largest foreign contingent. On Christmas Day we did an all British 21-way Christmas Star. Skydivers were: **Pete Bath, Tony Butler, Eddie Carroll, Greg Cox, Brian Davies, Steve Franklin, Stu Gedge, Chris Gilmore, Bob Harman, Dave Helmer, Brian Hucker, Anthea Lea, Phil Richmond, Jed O'Reilly, Graham Robertson, Jim Scarrett, Julian Spencer, Clive Ure, Richard Welles, Mandy Wilson and Mark Wilson.**

Our confidence high we attempted a 31-way British Record, which built to 29. Well done to **Tony Modebe** who showed how C Licence skydivers can successfully close on large formations.

Clive organised a 19-way Christmas Tree dive which when completed tracked itself across the DZ. The locals performed their traditional Christmas Star dive on Christmas Day. **Bob Harman** put together a 41-way attempt using boogie jumpers of medium ability, which built to a comfortable 34.

The 10-way scrambles took place on the 27th December with 22 teams drawn on the evening before. It is a good fun meet as everyone gets a prize, if you win you get first pick. Team captains were chosen and it was their job to keep everyone happy and ready to fun. The three scramble dives were a speed 10-way, a formation and an imagination dive in which high points were awarded for creativity. The winning team which included **Fizz Davies, Stu Gedge, Debbie Randall** and **Denis James**, built a Starship Enterprise which was fired on by a Klingon Ship and destroyed.

All rounds were completed in 6 hours using Mr. Douglas and Southern Cross. The ground turnaround averaged six minutes, with 23 loads flown.

Prize giving for the 220 competitors was that evening, local people and businesses generously donated the prizes. **Tony Uragello** made a series of silly hats, **Joanne Murphy** gave casual skydivers jackets, **Dave Rickerby** his special T-shirts to name only a few. **Bill Older** received his double diamond award during prize giving.

While I was there, 17 out of 18 days were jumpable, averaging a dozen DC-3 loads a day. The weather was warm with high cloud, which didn't restrict altitude (only the tan). During the occasional weather hold, the load organisers held seminars on a variety of subjects including body position, DC-3 line-ups, dive organisation and DC-3 launch practice (from 2-way to the 8-way tarantula). Load organisers were **Bill Older, Doug Allard, Miles Hubbard, P.B., Chris Milligan** with **Bob Harman** as Chief Organiser.

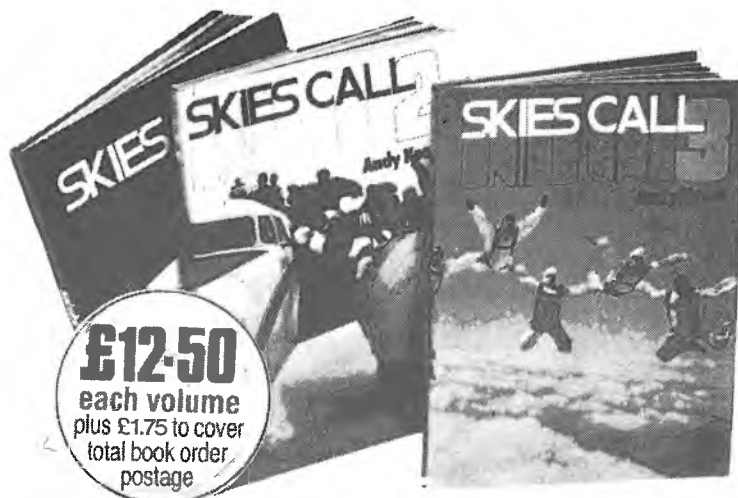
During the boogie the Red Devils were training hard at 4-way, using their air to air video to debrief after each dive.

**George Kabeller** who with his wife Betty own and manage the drop zone, worked hard to give a good boogie. George demonstrated his desk top computer system which he uses for drop zone management. He was able to print out a day by day account of the meet. It listed number of loads that day, total boogie loads, weather, registration, special dives or awards and even the kegs of beer drank. George keeps his financial records on a similar system. During the boogie **Jack Gregory** ran the static line square and AFF student programmes. **Dave Floyd** operated a professional free fall photography service (you only pay if you want to keep the photo).

Some notable British jump numbers were **Tony Modebe** 200th, **Karen Rogers** 200th and SCS, **Helen Harber** 400th.

**Dave Sickler** was Chief Pilot and plans a night 60-way on 12th April (start lurking now), at the Easter Boogie 10th to 20th April.

BY CHRIS GILMORE



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# CIP MEETING 1987

## A REPORT BY ROB COLPUS, BRITISH DELEGATE

The 38th annual meeting of the International Parachute Committee (CIP) of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) was hosted by the Parachute Association of Ireland, at the Sports Hotel, Dublin, from the 24th-27th January this year.

Delegates from 31 member Nations were present and a further 5 were represented by Proxy.

The British Delegation consisted of myself as Delegate with **John Hitchen** as Alternate. BPA Judges, **Doc Flynn**, **Sue Dixon** and **Martin Rennie** attended as observers and technical assistants. Also present were **Lofly & Grace Thomas**.

The Meeting was once again very ably chaired by **Uwe Beckmann** of West Germany, and for the first time in FAI history, the President of FAI, **Mr. Peter Lloyd** of Australia was present and addressed CIP.

Mr. Lloyd expressed his positive attitude for the future of the FAI and its member sports. He pointed out that over 30 million people world-wide come under the umbrella of the FAI.

The CIP is in fact, now the largest member sport within FAI, and when the newly proposed Nations of Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Morocco, Ethiopia, Dominican Republic and Uruguay are accepted will number over 50 member Nations. Mozambique is the most recent recruit.

### New Rule Changes

Among CIP's responsibilities is the drawing up of rules for all our competitive disciplines. The following changes were introduced:

#### Style and Accuracy

A major revolution took place as far as Style and Accuracy is concerned. Under pressure from Uwe Beckmann and others, the Style and Accuracy sub-committee were tasked with producing a new, easier to judge and understand system for both of the Classic events. This is in order to produce instant results for the score board and therefore make the events more attractive to the public and media with the forthcoming Olympic involvement in mind.

In fact, the Chairman of the Style and Accuracy sub-committee, **Jean Polls** from Belgium, hoped that the term 'Classics' would no longer be used to describe these disciplines.

A separate article by Martin Rennie, explains the details of these changes. **RW** - There were few changes to the RW rules this year. The relatively untried and untested leg-lock formations were removed and replaced by a new random and block. The leg-locks were only introduced last year as an experiment, and it was felt that it was unwise to test these at a World Championships without first being sure if they are in fact judgeable.

The only other change from last year was the addition of a clause in the 'Definition of Symbols' section of the rules, to prevent Teams from cheating on certain blocks where pieces are built separately from one another.

This rule reads: "No Grips other than those illustrated are allowed during the performance of the Inter" and applies to 4-way Blocks, numbers 1, 9, 22. The only other addition was a 360° arrow added to the 3-way piece in block no. 4 of the 4-way. There were no changes to the 8-way dives.

Looking to the future the CIP's RW committee plans to produce a host of proposed new ideas and formats to be discussed with competitors, judges and

officials at the 1987 World Championships in Brazil. Among the new ideas will be a sheet of experimental dives, which nations will be asked to evaluate, a new rule for possibly eliminating accessory grips, a proposal for taking the 'Exit' out of competition, a new clearer format for the written rules and ideas for instant judging and production of results.

**CRW** - Following the World Championships in Australia last year, there were several suggestions for change to the format of this discipline. The following were introduced:-

1. The order of jumping will be changed after each round if possible, to allow a seeding system to work so that contentious teams will jump in the same weather conditions.

2. Primary Judging will now be by video.

3. The Speed 8-way event, after much discussion was changed to a Speed Formation event. There are now 4 different formations, one of which is the stack, and each formation will be performed twice over the 8 rounds.

This change was strongly proposed by the French, who claim that, contrary to doubts expressed, these formations are in fact, easier to build and result in less 'wraps' than stacks, and will have greater public and media appeal.

5. The format of scoring the 4-way Rotation event was changed from the maximum number of stacks built in a given working time, to a set number of 10 stacks being built to the stop watch, all within a maximum working time of two minutes.

6. The 4-way Sequential was changed to a 'Block' system, similar to the RW Events, the working time was shortened to 3 minutes, and a penalty system of 2 lost points, similar to that used in RW was introduced.

Copies of all the new rules for all disciplines are available from the BPA Office.

#### Future Events

Another important job of CIP is to set venues and dates for forth-coming World Championships (WPC's) and World Cups (WC's). The following were announced for the future.

#### World Championships

1987 1st WPC in Para-Ski,

Venue: Sarajevo, Yugoslavia

Date: 7-14 March

Aircraft: M18 Helicopters

1987 - 6th WPC in RW

Venue: Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Date: 1st-12th October

Aircraft: C115 Buffalos (tail-gate exit)

Chief Judge: Jean Charles Portier of Switzerland

1988 - 19th WPC in Style and Accuracy

Venue: Nykoping, Sweden

Date: 25th July - 8th August

A/C: Helicopters

1988 - 2nd WPC in CRW

Venue: Vichy-Charmeil-Lapalisse, France

Date: 10th - 20th August

This World Meet will run for the first time alongside a World Competition in all events - RW, Style and Accuracy.

1989 - 7th WPC in RW

The previously proposed bid from Japan had to be unfortunately withdrawn due to sponsorship problems. Two tentative bids were received from Australia and France to host this event.

1989 - 2nd WPC in Para-Ski

Venue: Damul, Austria.

1990 - 20th WPC in Style and Accuracy

Venue: Bled, Yugoslavia.

#### World Cups

In addition to World Championships the following World Cups were fixed for the future.

1987 - 4th World Cup of Champions

Venue: Seoul, Korea

Date: 23rd-29th September

Aircraft: UH1H Helicopters

Chief Judge: Dieter Struber of East Germany

This competition is to be a very prestigious event, as it is being used as a testing ground for the parachuting demonstrations planned for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

Each nation will be sending their two Accuracy Champions, one male, one female, who will compete over 10 rounds in Individual and Team Accuracy. All jumps will take place into the Seoul Olympic Stadium in front of an audience of many thousands, plus the World's Media. A huge electronic score board will instantly display each competitor's score as their foot strikes the pad. An instant computer listing for each round will be constantly updated and displayed as each competitor scores. An announcer in the stadium will introduce each competitor to the public and media, while they are in the air on each round. The individual male and female accuracy winners from this year's Nationals will represent the BPA at this event.

1989 - 5th World Cup of Champions

Venue: China

1991 - 6th World Cup of Champions

Tentative Venue: Argentina

A long list of other International Events in all disciplines was announced by the delegates. Details of these will be found in the Calendar of Events, or from Tony Butler at the BPA Office.

#### Judges

The following British judges were selected for the World Competitions in 1987:-

6th WPC in RW, Brazil - John Laing,

Event Judge. Tracy Rixon, Judge.

4th WC of Champions, Korea - Doc Flynn, Assistant Chief Judge.

1st WPC in Para-Ski in Austria - Martin Rennie, Judge.

#### Safety Committee

Introduced only last year, this sub-committee chaired by **Bill Ottley** of the

USA was tasked with collecting and disseminating knowledge and experiences between all nations in the interests of safety in our sport.

In connection with this, the French Federation are hosting an International Technical Congress in Paris from the 22nd-24th June this year. On the agenda will be discussions on the equipment and techniques in Parachute Instruction, International Standardisation of Equipment and recognition of qualifications. Hotel accommodation is generously offered free of charge to attending representatives.

Other projects being carried out by the CIP's Safety Committee are:- An appraisal of AAD's A Statistical Analysis of Worldwide Fatalities over the last 7 year period. Input by all Nations on standardisation of procedures and equipment. Suggestion for bi-yearly International Safety Meetings.

#### Awards

This year only one of the CIP's coveted awards were presented. This was the Leonardo da Vinci Diploma, which was awarded unanimously to **Bern Wlesner**, the several times World Champion in Style from East Germany.

#### Chairman - Sub Committees

The following were elected as Chairmen of the CIP's sub committees for 1987:-

RW - Bert Wijnands from Holland

S & A - Buzz Bennett from Canada

CRW - Claude Gillard from Australia

Para-Ski - Gilbert Van Dam from

Switzerland

Safety - Bill Ottley from the USA.

#### Executive Posts

The following were elected for 1987:-

President - Uwe Beckmann from West

Germany

1st Vice President - Eilif Ness from

Norway

2nd Vice President - Zlatko Beric from

Yugoslavia

Secretary - B.J. Worth from USA.

#### Future CIP Meetings

The 1988 meeting of CIP will take place in Stockholm, Sweden from 23rd-26th January.

To close the meeting the Delegates gave a standing ovation to the Parachute Association of Ireland for organising an excellent and successful Meeting.

ROB COLPUS

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# BRITTS ABROAD





**GERONA/SPAIN**  
PICTURES STUART MEACOCK.

# BRITISH ABROAD

This year's Spanish Xmas Boogie promised to be a more successful affair than its predecessor. By Christmas each year those European skydivers who leave it too late to book flights to Florida are sick of our weather, are just dying to get their knees in the breeze. When over 500 parachutists turned up to use the facilities last year it caught out the organisers. This year they did not repeat their error. Just in case a similar number returned, Roland, Mitch and Maria organised a clutch of the best jumpships to be found outside the USA and in reliability terms even surpassing the US; a Cassa climbed comfortably to a ramp exit in ten or fifteen minutes, a 'Pink Skyvan' that probably needs no introduction, a Twin Otter and two Porters.



BRITISH EIGHT WAY IN TRANSITION.

Contrary to rumours thoughtfully spread by certain people in the UK, Roland is most definitely NOT going bankrupt! He's a SWISS remember - they don't! Apart from buying their own Porter, their new DZ wagon is hardly cheap which just goes to show that you don't need to sell your DZ to buy a Roller! Apparently Mitch is now scouring Europe for a second-hand Skyliner as well. (Snap enclosed of Maria, Mitch and Roland on their new DZ wagon!)

The Boogie started a week before Xmas, but the better half was afterwards when they moved lock, stock and barrel to Gerona airport. Protected by mountains a few miles inland it is hidden from the cold winds that came whistling down the coast. There was a full range of facilities at the airport which sits virtually dormant at this time of year. Food was supplied at the manifest area by their 'Faulty Towers' version of Manuel or Hymie to give him his correct name! Hymie was also responsible for a massive barbeque on New Years Eve, whereby he arranged one fire for six hundred ravenous skydivers. First to keep warm then cook frozen pork chops and chick over. Not surprisingly it was a rather tepid affair in more ways than one.

This was the major criticism of the otherwise excellent Boogie - anyway people came to Skyo've not to eat!

621 registered and made 12,500 jumps which is going some when you consider that is twice as many jumps as in the whole year at Nethers! It was a novelty to have such a large airport at the complete disposal of a bunch of skydivers and as long as jumpers observed a few basic precautions like not crossing live runways or base jumping the control tower then air traffic control were quite helpful. When a jet did land they ordered the Skyvan to keep circling. They remembered it some time later, now at 17,000ft. and told the jumpers to exit! Marcel's four-way team managed 25 points!

Mornings were very cold but with clear almost windless skies from the 26th onwards the loads started to fill up and even the Twin Otter without inflight door became popular. It was a fine spectacle to see five turbine aircraft continually belting off down the runway accompanied by the sound of batches of canopies steadily opening directly above our heads. Naturally we had our share of bad spotting but this was often caused by three planes being on jump run together.

Maybe due to 'That Rumour' or maybe people just wanted a change, but only about 30 British jumpers made an appearance.

A multi-lingual character named Alexis who originated from Chicago but now lives in France was a master at organising loads for the less experienced. He was doing for Europe what Jerry Bird was so good at in America, extracting the best from the mixed talent available to him and frequent yahoos drifting down from another completed 'Alexis load' was a testimonial to his patience. There was also a British group who had a high profile at the boogie named the 'Bendecos'. This bunch of reprobates from Sibson divided their time between winching up bar profits all over Gerona, doing fun jumps and serious four way training more often with three or five depending upon whether Stuart Meacock was



ROLAND, MITCH AND MARIE WITH THEIR DZ WAGON.



LUCAS KNUTTS



MANDY DICKINSON FINDS TIME TO READ SP.

BY SIMON TURNER  
WITH BORING ADDITIONS  
BY LEO AND MANDY DICKINSON



playing or videoing. They might not have used this friendly term had they taken the time to read a Spanish dictionary which clearly states - 'Bendecos', a Mexican term of abuse literally those who bend over! Apparently one of the team was called this as he landed in a local Spanish garden and thought it sounded quaint.

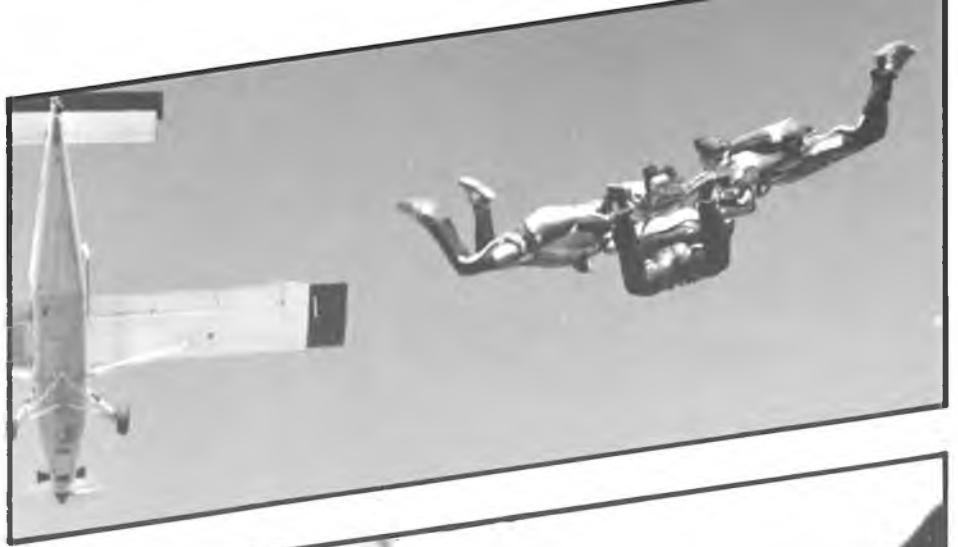
A thread that ran through the boogie throughout the second week was the gradual building up of the Big One. Marcel Aeby, a member of the 1983 World Champion four way team Blue Magic, collected 20 rather large people who had obviously eaten a good amount of Turkey whose sole aim was to build a fast falling base.

Next came a forty way that was completed by 6,000ft. onto this he grafted another 20 jumpers to have a 60 way bash. Unfortunately on the first attempt the three turbine aircraft flying in perfect formation disgorged their jumpers in the wrong order, consequently the third and fourth rows saw a perfect 20 way cluster build 500 feet above their heads. An indication of the rapidity with which the base was falling is that by breakoff the majority of the outer rings were level and some even docked, Reddy Redfern doing a half series for Leo's video in the process.

After this, not to be deterred, Marcel added 10 more jumpers and went for a 70 way, which to the delight of the whole boogie built to a clean 68 way with two slots being thoughtfully reserved for Derro who unfortunately didn't make the boogie! There was talk in bars at night of doing a 100 way, we had the planes and the jumpers, but perhaps it ties up just too many people for too long, anyway it would have been grossly unfair if Derro had missed another 100 way so we didn't.

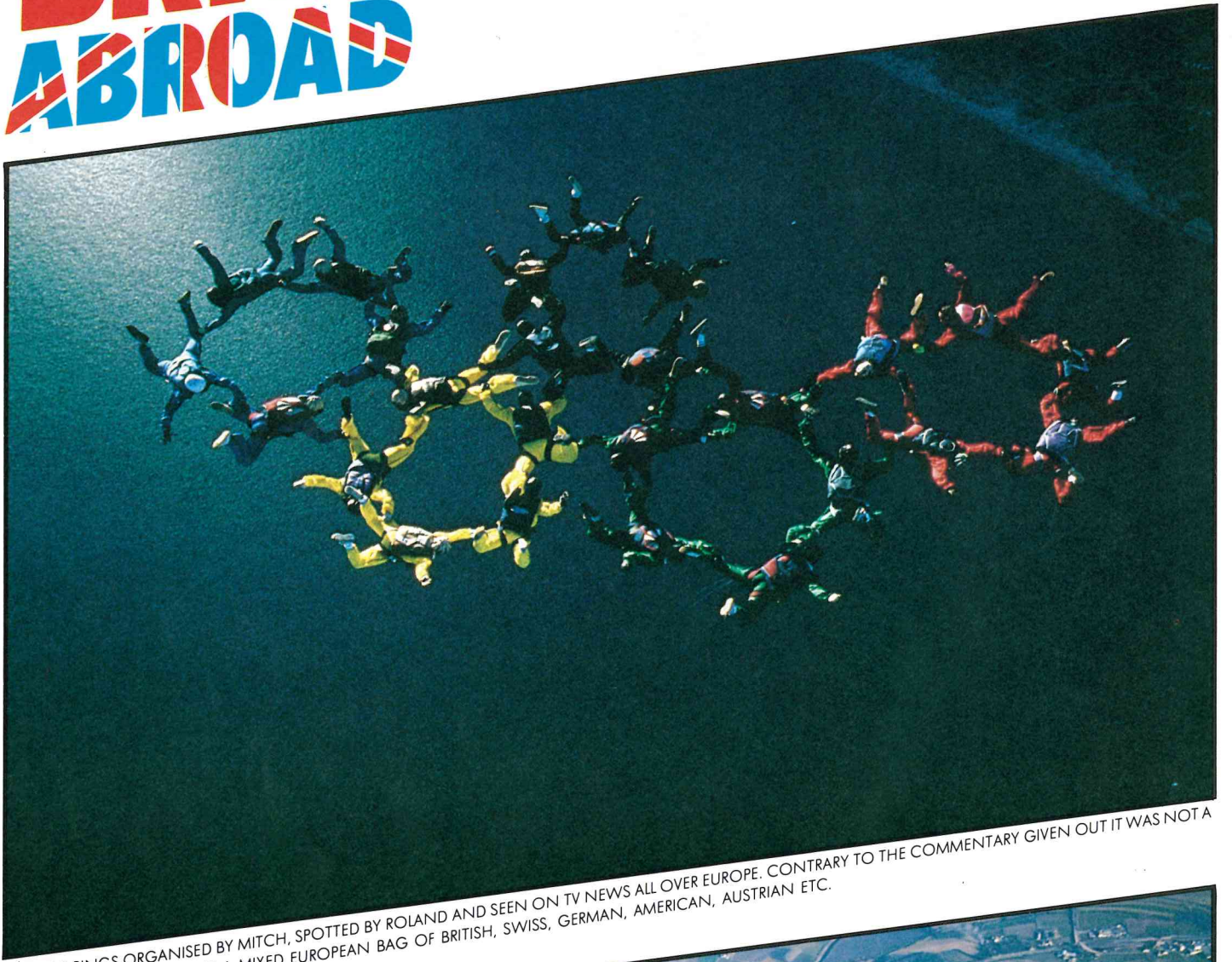
Another highlight on the skydiving front was an idea Mitch had been wanting to try for quite a while. With the 1992 Olympic Games being held in nearby Barcelona he wanted to build the Olympic rings logo consisting of five brightly coloured linked doughnuts. The colour coded suits needed variously adjusting before the formation would fly and after two abortive practice dives the Cassa took off. The good news was that the formation built and very pretty it looked too! The bad news was that Roland spotted it two kilometers out to sea! He wanted the backdrop against the Med. It certainly added a buzz to the skydive sitting in your allocated donut watching the angle between you and the beach get narrower and narrower... everyone made it back to the beach much to the disappointment of the Spanish patrol boat whose crew don't get much action at this time of year.

A most successful Boogie, far better than the previous year, if only because there were more aeroplanes and there was no point in double manifesting; if you wanted (and could afford) to make 4-6 jumps a day there was no problem with reasonable waiting periods between manifesting and boarding. If you really wanted to pack them in, and some continental teams did, the Twin Otter was rarely backed up and a Porter was often immediately available. Witness a German by the name of 'Single Fighter' recently discharged from the military, still sporting a crewcut, camouflaged trousers and heavy boots which it is rumoured never came off. The whole drop zone stopped to cheer him after his seventh jump on one of the busiest days of the meet. Next Xmas Mitch and Roland want a Hercy Bird - don't we all!



THE BENDECCOS, STEVE HOCKER, ANDY MCGORAN, GEORGE PICKINGTON, MARTYN CROOK. IN ACTION. PICTURES BY STUART MEACOCK.

# BRITTS ABROAD



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PICTURES LEO DICKINSON.

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# ACCURACY & STYLE

## COMPETITION RULES - DRASTIC CHANGES

Along with **Roger Flinn** and **Sue Dixon**, I was very pleased to be able to observe proceedings at the recent C.I.P. World Conference 1987 in Dublin which is where the regulations and rules for sport parachuting are decided. Our initial aim was for each of us to attend different sub committee meetings with the aim of collecting as much information as possible and then reporting back to each other and updating ourselves on any changes to the rules. The way meetings worked out, Roger and I were able to sit in on the sub committee meeting on which **John Hitchen** is a member, where changes to the style and accuracy event were being discussed. The reason change was considered, was to provide faster results to the competitors, spectators and the media with the aim of encouraging media coverage and hence easier sponsorship, etc. It was also hoped to reduce costs by speeding up competition, etc. The changes were drastic and the concept of these aspects of the sport altered.

**Let Us Look At Accuracy First**

The concept has previously been the winner would be the person with the lowest total distance from the edge of the disc to the first point of landing over the prescribed number of rounds.

The new rules which have been accepted put the emphasis on consistency as the deciding factor with distance only being a deciding factor in the event of a tie. The event will now be a team event with individual scores being used for individual classification. A team in international competition will normally consist of five members with the four best scores counting for the team.

### The Scoring System

The first point of body contact with the ground or automatic measuring point (A.M.D.) will determine the landing point. If the landing is on the A.M.D. one point will be scored. A measurement in centimetres will be made for landings where the first point of

contact is on the A.M.D. Any landing off the A.M.D. will be scored zero points.

The competitor or team with the highest number of total points from completed rounds shall be the winner.

If two or more competitors or teams have an equal number of points, the winner shall be that competitor or team with the lowest total distance for all completed rounds.

There are many changes to the rules which include exit altitude, (higher) re-jumps, judges, etc. Using the results from the Malibu British National Parachute Championships 1986 Senior Accuracy, there would have been no difference in placings until position 16. The intermediates event would have changed considerably.

### Now Let Us Look At Style

The concept here has previously been with speed as the critical factor with penalties being equated to extra time. The new idea is for precision being the main factor with time being used as a tie breaker.

### The Scoring System

A style series consists of 6 manoeuvres with one point being awarded for each correct manoeuvre performed in the prescribed order. An incorrect manoeuvre will be scored zero points. A manoeuvre shall be considered correct if it is performed within the following tolerances:-

	Tolerances
Undershoot	Nil
Overshoot	90 Degrees
Deviation in the Turn or Loop	30 Degrees (5 mins on a clock face)
Off Heading into First/Third Turn	Nil
2nd Loop Off Heading on Completion	30 Degrees
Completion of 2nd Loop before reaching Horizontal Level	Nil
Continuation of 2nd Loop past the Horizontal Level	30 Degrees
(deviation is considered to occur when the body or part thereof is tilted or banked (pitch or roll) ).	

### Determination of Winner

The competitor with the highest number of points for the completed rounds shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the final placing shall be determined by the lowest aggregate time for the rounds completed. Timing will now be to 1/100 of a second.

As I do not have access, at present, to last years score sheets to re-evaluate the style jumps using the new system, I am unable to comment on whether placings would have altered.

It is hoped we may be able to run the 1987 British National Parachuting Championships using the new rules as the last international competition to be held using the 'old rules' would appear to be the first World Championship for Para-ski to be held in April '87.

The foregoing covers the main points in the changes to style and accuracy but a list of all the changes to the sporting code for these events will be sent to you if you send me a stamped addressed envelope c/o 5 Bonnington Road Lane, Edinburgh, EH6 5BP.

MARTIN RENNIE

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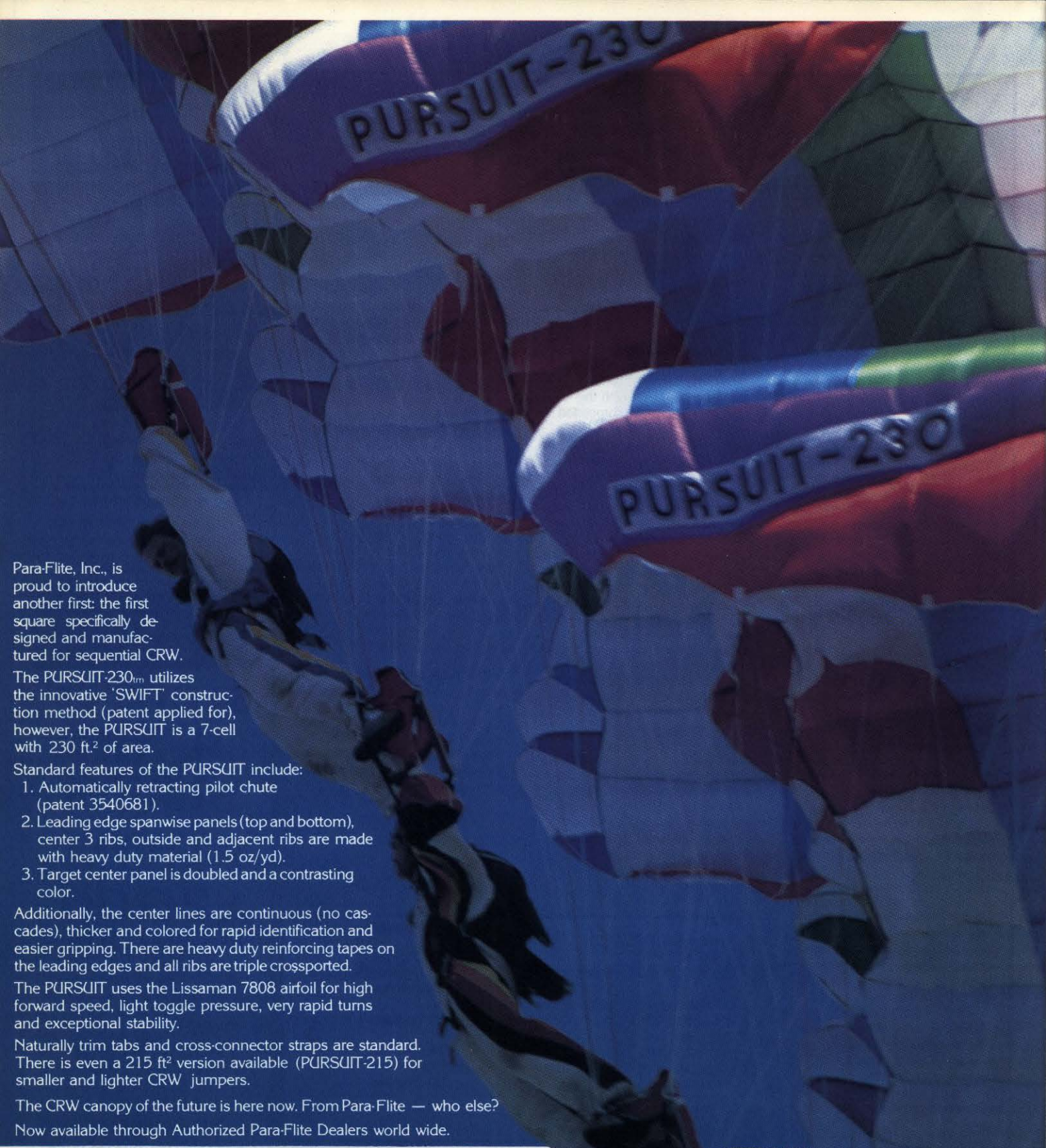


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Photo of Jump Street CRW Team by Mike McNamara

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### NOTE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertising Rates are at present a subject discussion at Council and will be increased as from the June issue: "Details in April issue."

Have you ever heard a student parachutist say, "I shouldn't be in this category, I'm not that proficient yet." No of course you haven't, because most students progression is well monitored and controlled.

This article is aimed at those of you progressing through the system, in other words, the majority of BPA Members, sadly neglected in the Sport Parachutist Magazine, they didn't used to be (take note Dave).

I am also hoping that through this article we will redress this imbalance and get more articles in the magazine from that overwhelming majority, and a lot less from the Super Swoopers.

In the BPA Instructors Manual you will find a lot of rules and regulations governing our sport ending with the words, "at the CCI's discretion", consequently your progress as a student is governed by the CCI on his personal observation and comments taken from his instructional staff. When you look closely at the category system it is a little bit like a Bible, follow it meticulously and you will definitely finish up being a very competent skydiver. God may have issued His Commandments in one night - the innovation of the category system has taken years, due to the handwork and dedication of the best skydivers past and present in this country.

It is the envy of several other countries and has been adapted by many, we can innovate changes but basically we have got it right.

A lot of students question why they must do turns, loops, unstable exits, when all you ever wanted to do was join hands with your friends in the sky.

To join hands in the sky you need exceptional control, in the category system you are learning the BASICS of body control, you can learn more about this body control by reading the Dave Howerski Book on Body Flying and Pete Reynolds Warp System.

# CATEGORICALLY SPEAKING

## OR SOME ANSWERS AND ADVICE TO STUDENTS.

BY DEREK THORNE, CCI  
SHREWSBURY SKYDIVING CENTRE

It is my opinion (as are all the comments in this article) that students generally progress through the category system too quickly for their own good. I can prove this point by telling you that I have jumped with Cat. 10 jumpers who are not able to close second and with no fault in the base mans position, so the question arises, "how in hells name were you cleared to Cat. 10?" "Did the three way fly into you?" The probable answer is yes, it was three experienced relative workers who flew to you, but you are not going to admit it.

If for any reason an accident occurs because you were progressing too quickly remember the buck stops with the CCI, not with you. He is the one who has to answer for letting you progress to a category you obviously are not

ready to. So, the next time you ask to be upgraded in the system, honestly ask yourself, am I proficient in the category I am presently in?

Please remember, when you get your Cat. 10 and you go to another drop zone and can't close second, don't be surprised when fellow jumpers come up with excuses not to jump with you. You are only alienating yourself if you are not capable of the performance your category states you are capable of.

The manual of the BPA also states that an instructor should be approachable (true), but try not to approach your CCI when he's up to his neck in students, because their safety and training is his priority and don't ask him when he's doing pre-jump checks or debriefing, there is a time and a

place even if that means waiting and more waiting (join the parachute fraternity) it is the sign of a maturing skydiver (patience).

When you are getting near to the time of your first square jump read thoroughly the square handbook by Strato Cloud or a very similar manual, ask question, leave nothing to chance. If you have ever (and most people have) mis-handled your round parachute on a landing approach you will know that it hurts, mishandle a square in the same situation and you could end up in a wheelchair or six feet under, it's a big step, so step carefully.

I would welcome any comments from students coming through the normal category system, if you disagree with any comments I have made, or any ideas you have for improving the category system, if you disagree with any comments I have made, or any ideas you have for improving the category system. But make your comments constructive, don't just air personal grievances. We can all learn from each other even if you have three or three thousand jumps. I have several points about the progressive category system which hopefully will be published. The last point I would like to make is this, I have noticed over the years an increasing use of foul language on many drop zones. Most of our drop zones are family ones where some members of the family come purely to watch and join in the excitement of people making their first parachute descent, they certainly don't want to hear foul language, which is usually due to a lack of vocabulary, or a way of making that person feel big time, we can manage without it. So let's try a little harder to keep our drop zones verbally cleaner, for the families sake.

NOTE: Anyone who knows me is aware that I don't go about with a Bible in my hand!

DEREK THORNE

## HEREFORD PARACHUTE CLUB SHOBDON ANNUAL DINNER DANCE 6th DECEMBER 1986

There are two events in the HPC calendar that every club member makes a special attempt to attend. The Round Canopy Meet and the Christmas Dinner Dance. The Dinner Dance is always a happy occasion when you meet up with old friends, forgive all those who all year have refused to jump with you or you with them, and a good excuse for a booze up. It is a much looked forward to, fun evening and this year's was no exception.

This year's Dinner was held at Shobdon's new Village Hall and started at 8.00 p.m. The local bars had opened hours earlier which mean that, as usual, most arrived merry to say the least. Before the formalities had even begun, **John Boxall**, who a few days earlier had become eligible for POPs, did his usual party trick of mooning. Talking of POPs, **Archle Macfarlane** was there doing his usual party trick, he got drunk!

The after dinner speeches and presentations started with a short speech by Mac our CCI who started the same as last year with what must be

written down in the CCI manual "We've had a bad year this year". This year's most improved student award was won by **Tanya Ashburn**.

For the past few years a special award has been made for 'The Most Improved Poser'. Recognising that everyone in this sport is a poser, this award is not won by blatant showing off, but for this award one can try too hard. It's for that unguarded moment when an action or statement is made in the hope that nobody who knows has seen or overheard you. Nominations for this award are made by so called 'friends'. An instance is the parachutist who was reported standing at a bus stop in Birmingham wearing his jump suit!

The club's chief poser is undisputably **John Charlton**. John unfortunately moved north last year and, as he explained in his letter to the club, was too busy making personal appearances, opening fetes and kissing babies to attend the dinner. **Roy Harvey**, winner of the first poser award deputised admirably. Roy is also the team captain of the Lichfield Loonies (am I boring anyone?).

Roy started by commenting on the lack of reported poses earlier in the year but continued that as soon as the sun came out, the nominations rushed in. Below are just a few of the nominations received during the year.

Vicki Bell our now non-jumping manifestor and veteran of 10 sec delays was nominated twice. For managing to get her name in the October issue of the Mag and for her outburst to an awestruck group of first time jumpers admiring the skills of an experienced jumper "Skygod, he's rubbish!"

Mac McCarthy, who on a recent demo was seen to sidle up to a press photographer and was overheard to say, "The last one down is my son, Kevin McCarthy, you could do worse than photograph him, he always makes the centre of the cross."

Phil Shuttleworth, who recently broke a small bone in his foot tripping down a kerb(!) but could not resist telling the hospital nursing staff of his parachuting skills.

John Parry, nominated for bragging about jumping with the Marines. John, HPC's answer to Westlands was treated to a few AFF jumps to try to solve his problems. What he forgot to add was that after one week he was back on 10 sec delays! Back on the rope if he had stayed longer?

Justin Barron, holder of the unofficial high dive record after jumping off Clifton Bridge and landing in the river below when his parachute refused to leave its bag. Who can ever forget those endearing headlines in the National Press, Stupid Stunt, Daft Parachutist and Splat! The nomination was not for his fearless feat but for his superb statement from his hospital bed, later quoted on local radio, "This is only the start of bigger and better base jumps leading up to El Capitan in Colorado!" Unfortunately, his nomination was quashed when a not uncaring and sympathetic CCI on hearing of his member's plight announced to the world's press, "He's banned." However, a special presentation was made to Justin, two books, 'The Little Book of Knots' which, it was thought, might help him when next he ties his parachute to a bridge, and '50 Things to See on the River Bank', to give him something to pass the time whilst waiting for the emergency services!

**Shaun McGulre** was this year's winner. Shaun has been constant this year in posing wherever and whenever. Shaun (Fly by Wire) McGuire, his own motto(!) is a Welshman and the Red Dragon Flag is always very much in evidence when he's around (yawn). Anybody who was in any doubt as to whether he should have won needed only to have watched. On hearing his name read out, Shaun reached down to his portable recorder and was accompanied to receive his award by a Welsh choir singing their National Anthem. Following Shaun's acceptance speech we were treated to a short pantomime. Two of Shaun's colleagues came in dressed as the Red Dragon and St. George and fought a mock battle. However, the legend had got somewhat twisted in its translation to Welsh, for just as St. George with sword held high, was about to slay the dragon, it (the dragon) pulled out a revolver and shot St. George! No, unfortunately, it was just a starting pistol.

The formalities ended when a flying trifle aimed at Roy cancelled any further attempts at speeches, the tables were cleared, dancing and serious drinking started.

I am sure everyone who attended would wish to join me in thanking Brenda our hard working club secretary and members of the staff and committee for all their efforts ensuring that, a great time was had by all. See you all next year.

ANDY JOHNSON, 107537

# POPS NEWS

For 1987 we welcome back **RAF Sgt Geordie Tait**. Geordie, POP15, has recently completed a three year tour of duty in Berlin and hopes to be back in action with POPS this season.

We also hope to see POP173 **Major Peter Barlow**, now recovered from injury sustained during a military display jump last Autumn.

**Peter & Laurel Carey** will be visiting England in April, and will be pleased to see any POPS at Headcorn during the Easter Weekend or the following weekend.

Several of our members attended the BPA AGM in January, after which our programme for 1987 was arranged as follows.

For the late Spring Holiday, May 23-25, we return to Peterborough, and hope to enjoy our jumps from **John Meacock's Skyvan**.

July 11-12 will see us at Doncaster. This will be our second visit here, by which time the club hopes to have moved into their new buildings. If you fancy becoming the second winner of the POPS Doncaster Trophy, **John Dumble** took it last year, make a date in your diary.

August 15-16 will be our first visit to Cranfield. **John Eaton**, the new owner, and an experienced jumper himself, invites you to jump from the Turbine Islander and Skyliner on to this fine big DZ near to Milton Keynes.

Also in August, the **Pat Keeley Round Canopy Meet** takes place at Shobdon near Hereford. Last year POPS put up two teams, let's try for more this year.

We hear whispers of a Big Bird week at Langar. Keep your eyes on the calendar of events in the magazine, some of the more experienced POPS might try for a new POPS record here.

1986 was a good year for POPS UK. Let's go for it in a big way in 1987.

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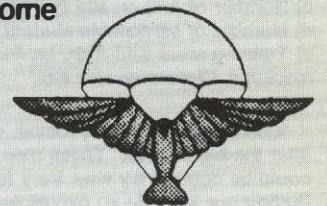
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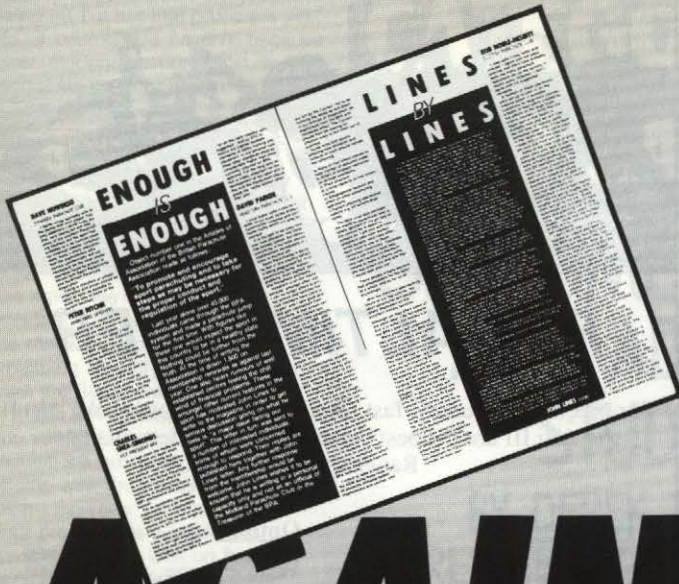
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# AGAIN

By Dave Hickling

From my safe house here at Langar, head down, and powder dry I've had time to read and reflect on John Lines' letter, which I agree with in the main. I have also had the time to consider the contents of the other letters pertaining to his. These letters, with a couple of exceptions, seem to me to say, "Well, let's leave it to sort itself out, it's not really my problem, and anyway I think I am okay."

Have I got any ideas? Well yes, and here they are, with the aim of not restricting the Sport for either Student or Experienced Skydiver.

1. Centres and Clubs that wish to open new DZ's may do so, providing that they are within the current "Rules & Regs", however,
2. As from NOW any new DZ be it Club or Centre will not be allowed to train ab initio students (S/L or AFF), or permit students Cat 4 and below to jump at the DZ. This restriction to be in force for at least 12 months, and will only be lifted after an on site inspection by at least one NCSO and two BPA Examiners, one of which may be selected by the Club or Centre.
3. No DZ shall operate unless it has a CCI who MUST be an Advanced Instructor and that instructor must accept that he is totally responsible for running that DZ within the current "Rules & Regs". That includes such things as Records of Training, BPA memberships etc., and not just the day to day parachuting operations.
4. No CCI may be the CCI of more than one DZ.
5. Student parachuting may only take place when the CCI or a fully rated Advanced Instructor is present on the DZ.
6. No Student parachuting may take place on "Split DZs". (I define a Split DZ as one where the Flight Line, Manifest and Emplaning point is not in clear line of sight with the centre of the Student landing area; further more the distance between the two areas must not exceed 2,000 meters.
7. All DZ's that train first time Students, be they S/L round, square or AFF will be given max quotas of Student numbers that they may train in any one year. My ideas for the quotas would be based on the resources and commitment of that Club or Centre, for example:-

- a) Full Time/Part Time/Weekend.
- b) Staff.
- c) Number of A/C on site and usable for Student parachuting.
- d) Number of serviceable student parachutes.
- e) Training areas and Aids, i.e. PLF/Fan trainers, indoor areas, A/C mockups, Classroom size etc..

"Can't be done, off his rocker, who does he think he is, he's just looking after the big centres." These may be some of the kind of remarks that could be coming my way. Very few things that are worth doing are easy. Putting our Sport in an overall healthier position is certainly worth doing, so let's set about it.

I've worked out a few ideas on giving points for the attainment for items that are in 7 above:-

- a) Full Time 8-14, Part Time 2 per day open, Weekend 4.
  - b) Instructors In addition to the CCI, Approved = 4, Advanced = 8.
  - c) Number of Student places in A/C In use = 4 points per place.
  - d) S/L mains = 1, Student reserves = 2, if with AAD = 6, Student F/F = 4.
  - e) PLF/Fan trainer = 10. Indoor training area = 5, A/C mock-ups = 5, Classroom seating = 1 point per place.
- Now, if we say less than 50 points NO Students may be trained at that DZ

51 to 100 points up to 750 students per year.  
 101 to 150 points can train up to 1250 students per year.  
 151 to 200 points can train up to 1750 students per year.  
 201 to 250 points can train up to 2500 students per year.  
 250 to 300 points can train up to 3000 students per year.

I have tried to structure a balance between material and human resources, with the aim of providing the 'First Timer' with a committed and well equipped Club/Centre that has the back-up to allow progression within that Club/Centre. I am well aware that an abundance of equipment in itself does not necessarily make for a 'good' set-up, but it does imply a commitment to the job at hand.

Few of any of the established, and well run DZs would have any problems in meeting the above points scale. Of course, the ideas of others will include additional items and strike out some of mine.

Who is going to make the Sport change? It's not just the DZ Operators (Club or Centre), it's not just the BPA Council, and it's certainly not the newcomers, it's YOU, the main body of the membership, so to you 2500 Skydivers/Jumpers/Parachutists, if you want our Sport to grow AND improve give it your help, your ideas, your suggestions, and most of all backing. How I hear some of you ask?

Well try your new Council member, write to him, (copy to the Mag if you want). Tell your own DZ what you would like to see done, and do not be afraid to do a little yourself.

D.T. HICKLING

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May I extend a warm welcome to our members who are present today and offer my best wishes for 1987 to those who are unable to attend this our 20th Annual General Meeting.

Although we have again been subjected to a bad weather year, which has slowed down many drop zones, there has, nonetheless, been much movement on the Administrative side of the Association.

During the year we saw the final acceptance by Sports Council of our 5 year Development Plan.

The initial approval given by the Sports Council would have resulted in a substantial shortfall in our grant over previous years. Accordingly, your Council decided to renegotiate with the Sports Council with the result that a new offer of grant aid was made and accepted which will result in an additional £79,000 odd being funded to the Association over the first 3 years of the plan. On your behalf I would like to thank **John Scott**, our Liaison Officer, at the Sports Council, for the work and advice carried out and given on our behalf over the past year.

I know that in some quarters concern has been expressed over the amount of time, effort and money devoted to the Development Plan. It is therefore, perhaps sensible that I repeat what I said 2 years ago, which is that we, as an Association were not given a choice. We were simply told that we either prepared a development plan for submission to the Sports Council or our grant aid would be reduced and eventually extinguished altogether. The National Governing bodies of other Sporting Associations were placed in exactly the same position as us.

In those circumstances, we had no option but to embark upon the preparation and implementation of the Development Plan.

In the same way, we were obliged to undertake the employment of a Development Officer. This is not a job for one of the boys. It will become a most important post within the Association. The Sports Council are funding the cost of the Development Officer who will be expected to implement the Development Plan and hopefully enable the Association to become

# REPORT OF THE 86 COUNCIL

self funding whilst at the same time being less of a financial burden upon its members.

A substantial response was received to the advertising for the post of Development Officer. From a large number of applicants **Mr. Chris Gilmore** was appointed.

He is very enthusiastic about the not insubstantial task facing him. I hope that wherever possible you will assist him in making a success of his post.

Whilst referring to Development, it is necessary that I thank your Vice Chairman, **Peter Ritchie** and his Development Committee for the hard work carried out on the plan and in connection with the appointment of the Development Officer.

I regret to have to report a downward trend in membership renewals, full new members and conversions from student to full membership. A detailed analysis is given at the end of this report. Needless to say, this will be one of the main areas that **Chris Gilmore** will be tasked, as a matter of urgency, with improving.

Our links with the Civil Aviation Authority remain firmly established. The Authority through its Officers continues to assist and advise whenever required. The Authority have proved particularly supportive in the past year over several difficult matters. Our thanks go to the authority but in particular, **Trevor Campbell, Harry McMaster, Al Smith** (now retired) and **Frank Cattle**.

Time does not permit me to dwell on the work of the Sub-Committees. Such work is both substantial and varied.

I would however, take this opportunity of thanking on your behalf all those Council and other members who have given up much of their own valuable time to work on the Association's behalf.

In particular, I would like to thank the respective Chairman of the various Committees upon whom a much greater workload falls. I would like again to thank the Headquarters staff for their valuable contribution.

We are well represented on the Council of the Royal Aero Club. In addition to our nominated representative, our own Vice President, **Charles Shea-Simonds** is the Club's Chairman and our Vice Chairman **Peter Ritchie**, is its Treasurer.

During the year, Royal Aero Club Awards were made to the Royal Marines Freefall Team and posthumously to **Nigel Dacre** and **Steve Scott**.

At the FAI Annual General Meeting in Madrid, **Charles Shea-Simonds** was awarded the FAI

## Membership Statistics

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Renewal	3,581	3,395	3,633	3,638	2,231
New Full	885	839	680	362	431
P4	394	465	379	601	462
P6	20413	23797	44987	38809	45239
Conversions	—	—	—	—	576
Scottish	183	161	—	—	—
Associate	99	83	73	53	38
Overseas	!	!	!	!	128
Magazine Subscribers	175	170	208	133	22
	25730	28910	49960	43596	49127

## Monthly Figures 1986

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
January	10	7	1	1453	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1471
February	3	7	—	3688	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3700
March	—	1	—	3486	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3487
April	1573	81	111	3469	54	22	9	4	—	—	—	—	1770
May	262	33	58	5020	48	6	37	—	—	—	—	—	5374
June	147	75	80	4920	43	5	34	1	—	—	—	—	5205
July	94	55	2	5725	93	3	7	3	—	—	—	—	5974
August	48	29	8	4334	76	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	4492
September	49	46	68	4727	98	—	14	2	—	—	—	—	4936
October	27	67	134	4543	98	1	22	3	—	—	—	—	4895
November	12	23	—	2024	43	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	2108
December	6	7	—	1850	23	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1889
	2231	431	462	45239	576	38	12822	(49,127)					

Parachuting Gold Medal in recognition of his services to sport parachuting.

The Association continues to be well represented at the Sports Council, CCPR, The Royal Aero Club Parliamentary Committee and Gasco.

It is with very deep regret that I report 3 fatalities during the year.

As a result of the recommendation made by the Jury at the Montford Bridge Inquest, your Council have resolved, albeit, with the greatest reluctance to seek to quash the recommendation in the High Court. Those proceedings should be heard in the near future and will be reported on fully in Council Minutes.

After many years with Fishers, a decision has been taken to move the printing of Sport Parachutist to a more central location in Warwick. It is anticipated that apart from being more accessible to the Editorial and Advertising staff, the new arrangements will prove more cost effective for the Association.

Our thanks must go to the Editor and his staff for continuing to produce the journal on our behalf.

On the competition scene, we had a well attended National Championship at Bridlington. Our thanks go to **Dave Johnston**, the proprietor of the Centre and of course to the Sponsors Malibu.

We were well represented by our competitors at the Classic World Championships in Turkey and the Canopy Relative Work World Championships in Australia.

In the latter event the team gained a silver medal in the 8 way, whilst at the same time improving on their own record. Our congratulations go to all the winners of our domestic competitions and those representing us internationally. Our head of delegation at both International competitions was **Lofty Thomas**. In the case of the CRW Championships in Australia,

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Renewal	3,581	3,395	3,633	3,638	2,231
New Full	885	839	680	362	431
P4	394	465	379	601	462
P6	20413	23797	44987	38809	45239
Conversions	—	—	—	—	576
Scottish	183	161	—	—	—
Associate	99	83	73	53	38
Overseas	!	!	!	!	128
Magazine Subscribers	175	170	208	133	22
	25730	28910	49960	43596	49127

Lofty financed, in its entirety, his own travel, accommodation and entry costs. Our thanks must certainly go to Lofty for such a generous gesture. I would like to conclude by thanking all of you for your support throughout the year. I know that your new Council will be able to rely on your continued support throughout the ensuing year.

JIM CROCKER  
Chairman

Proposed by **J.T. Crocker** and seconded by **D. Johnston** that the Chairman's report be received.  
Unanimous

# TREASURERS ADDRESS



## Item 2 - To Fix The Ensuing Years Subscriptions

The BPA Treasurer, J.K. Lines, explained that the Annual Audited Accounts had been adopted at the EGM on 30th October 1986 at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

He, however, gave a short presentation on the Associations Income, Expenditure, Cash in Hand situation etc. the report follows as under:

Those of you who have been devotees of the previous Treasurers Addresses to this meeting are I am afraid in for something of a shock. I favour a more Down to Earth approach, and consequently have decided to dispense with the use of graphs, charts and almost all statistics to explain our position! In any event my primary role this afternoon is to propose the suggested subscription rate for 1987-88, as the accounts for our financial year ended 31 March 86 have previously been approved at our E.G.M. in October, and subsequently presented to you all in Sport Parachutist. However, I shall do my best to answer any questions on these accounts, should you have any, a little later.

Before I discuss the subscription, I would like to speak briefly about the manner in which the Association is financed, and the implications for the future.

You have already heard from **Jim Crocker** about our funding from the Sports Council, and as major contributors they will be increasingly interested in our financial performance in future years. Within five years it is expected that we shall need to become substantially self funding, and of course to achieve this will be but one of the development officer's, and future Council's tasks.

Because of the removal of Sports Council Grants for Administrative Costs, your council has resolved that in future, where appropriate, the Association will make charges by way of a contribution towards such costs. Such items as Display Team Registrations, Inspection of new drop zones etc. are examples of occasions where in future charges

will be made. It is hoped that you will understand and accept the need to make these charges in order to maintain the services you rightly expect from us.

One major change for the future again as a result of the acceptance of our Development Plan, will be the implementation of formal budgets for each of our five major areas of expenditure, that is Coaching, Development, Competitions, Public Relations and membership services.

This should be beneficial in allowing those responsible for the various matters to forward plans to a greater degree than has been possible in the past. It may well result in a heavier responsibility on the respective sub-committees, but is an integral part of our Agreement with the Sports Council for additional funding; and accounting for that money more fully.

Turning to our Proposed subscription rate of £23.00, a 4.5% increase over the present figure, I am aware that there will be those that feel that when we make a large surplus in our Accounts there should be no need to propose increases I would defend such surpluses as being prudent and necessary to finance future expansion of members services, possible purchase of Headquarters etc. In any event, for the few among you who enjoy statistics, I offer you two.

The net worth of the Association to each of its full members at 31.3.86 was £17.25, and the surplus for that year came to £5.33 per member! So perhaps when viewed in this way the figures in the accounts are not so impressive or the values excessive, as they may at first appear.

I will now attempt to answer any questions of a financial nature that you may have - I would now like to formally propose the subscription rate for full members for 1987-88 be £23.00.

**D. Howerski** stated that in his opinion the PR and Marketing side of the budgets must be taken as a very important part of the overall development of the Association.

The Treasurer agreed on this point but pointed out the annual budgeting for 1987/88 had not yet been formalised but was one of the first items which would be dealt with in the new year.

**P. Howell** asked what proportion of funds had been set aside for HQ purchase.

The Treasurer replied that at present no fixed sum had been finally allocated. The main problem was the extreme difficulty in disposing of the lease on the present property. As and when this could be achieved the situation was that the Sports Council had promised a 1/3 Capital Grant of the total cost, the Association to put in 1/3 of the total cost and the remaining 1/3 to be taken out in the shape of a mortgage.

At the conclusion he explained that the ensuing years P/Student fee had been set at the Extraordinary General Meeting in October 1986. He thus proposed that the General Renewal Fee for

1987 (April 1st onwards) be set at £23.00, all other types of membership fee would be set on the usual pro-rata system. Seconded by **D. Turner**.

Carried Unanimously



## Item 3 - Special Business

The Secretary General, **C.W. Port**, reported that only one item of Special Business had been received.

The proposal put to the Meeting by **P.D.N. Parker**, was that:

"The membership of the Association wish Council to carefully consider the implications of further unrestricted growth of apparant overt commercialisation of Sport Parachuting and to consider ways of assisting centres being seen, in Council's opinion, to encourage real activity combined with permanent participation in the sport.

P.D.N. Parker addressed the membership as follows:-

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Much has been said and written over the years but never more so than in recent months concerning the commercialisation of sport parachuting. This indelicate and often emotive subject is therefore nothing new. However, an opinion that I share with many people is that the static line one jump course market has reached or even passed saturation point.

I have chosen to propose this motion today to evoke general discussion with a view to allowing the membership at large the opportunity to express views and opinions so that the 1987 Council can gauge the strength and depth of opinion and consider objectively how much needs to be done and perhaps with input from you all, some ideas as to how the situation could be dealt with.

The situation as I see it is this. It became very apparent during 1986 that many centres were finding the demand for their student courses down. This I believe to be because there are simply too many centres offering and competing for static line students. Proof of this lies in BPA figures to the end of August 1986. I know to a greater or lesser extent all established centres were down on throughput, whilst BPA figures actually rose by some 4000!

An increase of approaching 20% on statistics for the same period in 1985, thus proving too much supply of courses for not enough demand by students, despite the increase in numbers.

It is (military aside) a well known fact that without the basic student static line course there is not one parachute centre in the United Kingdom that would be able to survive in its current state for more than just a few months. It stands to reason that any reduction in the high profit turnover created by the static line market will be directly reflected by a reduction in the facilities at clubs and centres.

The bottom line definition, at least in my opinion, of facilities must be directly related to the number of descents made in any one year at any club or centre, other than those made by first time jumpers. If the current tendency for more clubs and training establishments continues, all centres are going to find it harder and harder to attract their bread and butter. Less profit means higher jump prices, less lifting power and capacity allied with a reduction in the number and calibre of staff. The irony of the situation is that the older, better established and larger a centre, the harder will be the effects of the competition. True, there are some advantages to those operating turbine aircraft, but even so I suspect that there have been and will be some very substantial financial commitments made that will need to be serviced. In any event, the long term economic advantages of turbine are still something of an unknown quantity and certainly come nowhere near making up for any serious reduction in profit revenue from the static line classroom.

A major factor in the root cause of this situation has been the steady increase in the popularity of mass charity parachuting. Whilst I have only a few misgivings concerning the general concept or principle of actually making a sponsored descent, I have no such indifference for the obvious commercialisation of this simple concept into a money spinner that I blame for the root cause of the impending situation.

The enormous demand created by these artificially high numbers has created a false market - false because it will not be maintained indefinitely. This has allowed and encouraged the opening of too many new centres and operations - and also, I accept, existing centres to reinvest and expand.

So with the saturation of the static line market, clubs will need to compete more and more to survive. This competition has already over reached the point of being healthy. As the charity demand drops, and it surely will as the novelty wears thin and the fashion changes, the competition for the students will become more and more cut-throat, with the

# NATIONALS

## 87

**DATES:** RW — 20th-28th JUNE  
STYLE/ACCURACY/CRW  
27th JUNE - 5th JULY


**VENUE:** British Skysports DZ, Bridlington,  
North Humberside.

**EVENTS:** RW  - 4 Way Sequential -  
- Senior/Intermediate  
- 8 Way Sequential  
- 8 Speed Star

Style - Senior/Intermediate

Accuracy - Senior/Novice



CRW  - 4 Way Rotations  
- 8 Way Speed Stack  
- 4 Way Sequential

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Accuracy - FAI B Licence

Style - Category 8

RW/CRW - Category 10

Contact BPA Office for Information and Entry Forms.

consequent reduction in already depleted profits by excessive expenditure on advertising and recruitment, and from this, the reduction of available cash for injection back into the sport.

Again it is the predominantly student orientated operation who can most afford the expense of this competition because their overheads are substantially lower. Sadly for me I have no practical solutions to offer and do accept, as was (all things considered), so politely put by my good friend David Turner in recent correspondence that some previously written suggestions of mine were over the top.

However, I do urge Council to look very closely indeed at new affiliations and ways of assisting centres who are proven to be acting in sport parachuting's best interests and beg you all to enthusiastically support this motion.

There are two other areas that I feel are part and parcel of the current scenario. Retention has always, and will always, be a subject of great importance to those responsible for and caring for the future of sport parachuting. Retention is now at its worst level ever!! With the mass charity approach, and some centres only geared to cater for the one jump courses, it is hardly surprising that an increasing proportion of the public simply are not seeing, or even considering, their one jump course as anything other than exactly that.

And what of the Sports Council? I can't help feeling that sooner or later they will begin to apply pressure financially if we are not seen to be doing something to discourage over-commercialisation.

And for that matter, the CAA. In the light of recent tragic events - with the publicity and pressure, from the courts and Parliament, they may decide to accelerate and tighten their programme of legislation towards what we call sport parachuting. They may decide to call it hire and reward in the truest commercial sense.

To sum up, I believe there are now too many people taking money out of the sport and not enough putting it back in.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am here today looking for protection. Protection for my business. Protection for the future of sport parachuting. Sport parachuting is my business.

Thank you.

Following the address, which was very well received by the floor the following points were made.

**S.D. Lambe** said that, "did the proposer seriously suggest that the Sport should exist in 12 major centres under the same DZ operators for the foreseeable future so that you would end up in 10 or 15 years time with the average age of the proprietors in their 50's or 60's and is it really a good idea for



the Sport, in my opinion it is not, younger people must be allowed to come into the Sport, set up their own operations, and if that provides competition it is a good thing, as the worst thing for any industry is to have no competition, then you have a monopoly and the members will suffer."

**John Lines** said, "some of you will have read the magazine in October will be aware that this is a subject which is near my heart. I would attempt to partially answer Sean's question by saying this, what I would like to see is not a total restriction on any new Centres opening, though my personal opinion is that we have more than enough Centres operating in this country already and that the vast number of Centres we have is one reason why there is a very poor grass roots parachuting situation in many areas of the country. What I would do, would be to put up proposals which would suggest that, certainly have new Centres, provided that they meet a much more stringent criteria than presently exist because Sean's comment on competition is perfectly reasonable, competition is healthy if it is fair competition, but how can you say it is fair when one Centre runs 2 A/C, full time staff, modern equipment etc. and another operates with second hand equipment and out of a tiny Portacabin with one rented A/C and has an airfield with no obvious facilities for people to progress in the sport. If we are not careful, I believe that we will look back in 5 years time and say we were extremely short sighted to see all this money coming into our sport and not retain some of it for the growth of the sport and the future benefit of the sport. We are allowing too much money to come into it and go straight out again without a reasonable proportion being ploughed back in. I would suggest more stringent criteria, and a phased programme of improved facilities at existing centres with the end result that if in a period of time these can't be met then they will have to be closed down or disaffiliated."



**P. Ritchie** said that, "the proposal as it is worded supports entirely the existing aims and objects of the Association and the Development Plan which we are about to put into effect. I don't think anyone can argue with that."

**P. Howell** said that, "he felt the proposal did not go far enough, should we not also be discouraging those people who ought not to be in this Association."



**G. Gnapp** felt that, "the situation we find ourselves in now is that we are at the bottom of what can only be an upward spiral for the Sport, which starts with good PR, and finishes with more people coming

into the Sport and actively staying there. No-one can argue with the proposal, I fully agree with it and fully agree with J. Lines. The problem is how we go about it. My own opinion is that there is nothing against the charity side which raises money for good causes, it is what one sees when one arrives for the sport. People have gone to drop zones and have been merely marketed for a one jump course and were shown nothing of the sport, or its future, this was because the clubs concerned were unable to offer any form of continuation in the Sport.

In my opinion that is inexcusable, speaking for the Sport which I think is fantastic, and should compete with other leisure activities. The point I make is that the damage has been done, we have to do something about it from inside which means marketing our sport and not allowing those people to carry on in the way they have been in marketing one jump courses, it does us no good. We must have good PR, professionalism, accessibility, all being used to their maximum benefit."

Anon, "would we ever have a legal basis for stopping someone opening a drop zone. moral perhaps but not on a legal basis."

**J.T. Crocker**, "I feel that this is a situation which would have to be explored if a decision was taken by a future Council that such a need existed."

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**Jane White**, "how are different clubs supposed to be encouraged and what encouragement will be given to the clubs, and who will be the judge."

**P.D.N. Parker**, "there are a number of ways of doing this but basically at the end of the day it would have to be brought down to the number of descents by that club, what sort of A/C, staff, equipment, the track record of the proposed proprietor or CCI."

I don't have any answer as to how we can encourage the clubs and that is the job of Council to find ways to encourage the clubs to participate in the continuation of the Sport."

**C. Gilmore** (Development Officer Designate). "Part of the Development Officers job would be to help Council to formulate ideas as to how we can help clubs in the way we have talked about. So perhaps one of my first tasks will be to talk to Council (if that was policy) to do that."

**J.T. Crocker**, "could I remind everyone that the proposal before you is that Council consider these matters. Not that they implement draconian steps that will cause massive rifts in the Association. But these should be considered, and that any request from a member must be considered reasonable. I would most certainly support the motion."

**A. Knight**, "surely if a proposal is made then that must be the membership instructing Council to do that."

**P.D.N. Parker** re-read the second paragraph to the membership. "I have chosen to propose this motion today to involve general discussion with a view to allowing the membership at large the opportunity to express its views and opinions so that the 1987 Council can gauge the strength and depths of opinion and consider objectively how much needs to be done and perhaps with input from you all some idea as to how the situation can be dealt with."

**D. Howerski**, "much as I sympathise with the proposal itself what must be understood is that this is a legal and commercial minefield, and everyone should be aware of this and not expect immediate action."

**N. Tannon**, "I would like to make the point that I jump at a weekend club and this all seems to be based round full time centres, my worry is that weekend clubs

would not get a look in if these sort of proposals were taken by Council. In the matter of A/C, we jump out of a 182, which to lots of other centres is a small plane, and we might not put through as many people as a bit centre, but we have a very good retention rate and a good attitude towards parachuting, but it is a weekend centre and I wanted to make the point that hopefully they will also be taken into consideration."

**P.D.N. Parker**, "I take the point and if I have given the impression that big is beautiful that is not always the case, and not the message I was trying to convey. Let's say a club was using, say a 172, training less than 500 a year and making an excess of 5000 descents it should be welcomed and given all the assistance possible."



**S. Ward**, "it has been very interesting and one thing David has asked for has been some firm proposal, firm input."

I would like to suggest that the Council arrange a sub-committee on Marketing Advertising and Public Relations. There are many companies in this field. The whole BPA must get its marketing right. How does the proposer see Tandem in the sport, is it a way to get people into the Sport."

**P.D.N. Parker**, "I don't have a tandem rating but am the M.D. of a company which specialises in Tandem and AFF. I think tandem is there a a money maker and is overated as an introduction to the sport, nonetheless they should be looked at and pursued."

**D. Morris**, "I would say I agree with the proposals, but tandem if done in the right way is a prime way of introducing people to the sport."

One way I see of vetting operations we don't want is to say that if an operation does not offer a person the chance to progress through to the experience stages then that club should not be allowed to operate."

The proposal had been put, was then seconded by Simon Ward.

The proposal was passed by an overwhelming majority with only one vote against.

#### Item 4 - Council Elections

The Secretary General of the BPA, **C.W. Port**, reported to the membership that:-

1. There were 22 nominations for the 1987 Council of the BPA.
2. A total of 599 ballot papers were received.
3. The voting was as under:

<b>T. Andrewes</b>	<b>J. Lines</b>
<b>R. Colpus</b>	<b>D. Prince</b>
<b>J. Crocker</b>	<b>M. Rennie</b>
<b>J. Curtls</b>	<b>P. Ritchie</b>
<b>S. Dixon</b>	<b>I. Rosenvinge</b>
<b>S. Eversfield</b>	<b>J. Sharples</b>
<b>D. Hickling</b>	<b>J. Steele</b>
<b>D. Johnston</b>	<b>J. Temlett</b>
<b>N. Johnston</b>	<b>D. Thomas</b>
<b>T. Knight</b>	<b>J. Thomas</b>
<b>G. Lilly</b>	<b>M. Willson</b>

4. The Council for the ensuing year would therefore comprise:

<b>T. Andrewes</b>	<b>J. Lines</b>
<b>R. Colpus</b>	<b>D. Prince</b>
<b>J. Crocker</b>	<b>M. Rennie</b>
<b>J. Curtls</b>	<b>P. Ritchie</b>
<b>S. Dixon</b>	<b>I. Rosenvinge</b>
<b>S. Eversfield</b>	<b>J. Sharples</b>
<b>D. Hickling</b>	<b>J. Steele</b>
<b>D. Johnston</b>	<b>J. Thomas</b>
<b>T. Knight</b>	<b>M. Willson</b>

Prize	Amount
1st	£500
2nd	£250
3rd	£100
4th	£50
5th	£40
6th	£30
7th	£20
8th	£10

#### 4. Special Prize £500

Tickets No:	Name
158749	<b>Fay Boxall</b>
91771	<b>Sue Dixon</b>
84039	<b>Pete Bath</b>
133905	<b>M. Coxley</b>
171575	<b>Capt. Sheldrick</b>
19062	<b>Martin Rennie</b>
157371	<b>Mandy Dickinson</b>
136067	<b>M. Roberts</b>

#### 3. Annual Lottery Draw

**Mrs Angela Hickling** kindly agreed to draw the winning tickets for the above:

#### Other Matters

**1. D. Waterman** gave a short visual presentation of the different types of logo in use in various areas, and then showed slides of the proposals to date for a possible change of the BPA Logo which Council were considering at present.

**D. Waterman** was thanked for his presentation and, on a show of hands, the membership present were equally divided as to whether to change the logo or retain the present logo.

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BRITISH PARACHUTE  
ASSOCIATION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
30th OCTOBER 1986  
THE POST HOUSE  
BRAUNSTONE LANE, LEICESTER

**Present:**

J.T. Crocker Chairman BPA  
P.W. Ritchie Vice Chairman BPA  
J.R.H. Sharples Chairman STC  
R. Colpus Chairman Comp. Cttee.  
J.K. Lines Treasure/Chairman Finance Cttee.  
M. Rennie  
S. Eversfield  
J. Curtis  
D.T.C. Hickling  
P.D.N. Parker  
J.L. Thomas  
D. Prince  
**Co-opted:**  
M. Ramsey Chairman SSPA

**Apologies:**

T. Andrewes, S.D. Lambe, G. Lilly

**Item 57/86 - Minutes of Previous Meeting**

In response to a remark from **R. Colpus**, it was agreed that the reasons for moving the BPA magazine be amplified. The Secretary General would prepare a draft letter for the Chairman on the subject and this would be included in the next issue of the Sport Parachutist.

Proposed by **R. Colpus** and seconded by **S. Eversfield** that the minutes of the meeting of 18th September, 1986 be accepted as a true record.

Unanimous

**Matters Arising**

**1. Mr. C. Austins**

Further correspondence had been received and circulated to Council. Due to a heavy agenda it had not been possible to discuss the above at this time, but Mr. Austins has been invited to attend the Council Meeting of the 10th December when the matter will be a main agenda item.

**2. Prize Giving - National Championships 1987**

**P.W. Ritchie** stated that he was awaiting information on the availability of the President of the Royal Aero Club before proceeding further. He would also be discussing the details with **Mr. D. Johnston** and would keep Council informed of the situation as it developed.

**3. Development**

**P.W. Ritchie** reported that the Committee had met twice to consider applications. Unfortunately the response from the 'in house' advertising had not produced very many applicants. On the advice of the Sports Council, the Committee had advertised nationally for a Development Officer, in the Times, the Telegraph and the Leisure and Amenity Management Newsletter. To date 84 applications had been received, these would be considered at meetings and those shortlisted would be informed. Meetings were scheduled for 7th and 27th November.

**J. Curtis** was rather perturbed that Council had not been informed of the cost of advertising nationally before it had been undertaken. Although he was not against the expenditure he did feel that Council members should, at least, have been informed.

It was agreed by members of the Committee that with hindsight, they agreed that Council should have been informed but the time scale was very tight indeed and it was also felt that it would have been unfair on the applicants if matters had been held over any longer than necessary. Additionally the Committee did have the benefit of the advice of the Sports Council liaison officer. The Treasurer stated that he reluctantly agreed to the outlay but did feel that, again with hindsight, Council should have been kept informed. It was also pointed out that the Committee itself contained not only Council members but also members of the Finance committee. Finally the Committee felt that from the applications seen to date, although Council should have been informed, the money had been very well spent. Council would be kept up to date with developments.

**4. Insurance**

In response to a question from **J. Curtis** the Secretary General explained that the idea of an

accident insurance had been put to the DZ operators by **T. Andrewes**, and it was felt, by them, that the additional cost of £1 per person was too high. **T. Andrewes** was thanked for his work on this.

**5. Computer**

The Secretary General reported that **Mr. Ian MacFarlane** had visited the offices and would be returning to carry out some work on the computer at a later date. Additionally to his report, **Mr. MacFarlane** thought that rather than access the computer every time information was needed it would be more advantageous to run off lists of information on a monthly updating basis.

**6. AGM Dinner Dance**

The Secretary General reported that the full information on the above was in the October issue of the Sport Parachutist and matters were progressing.

**Item 58/86 - Committee Minutes**

**1. Safety and Training**

**J.R.H. Sharples** presented the minutes of the meeting of 16th October and invited comments.

**Item 3 Approval of Riggers Minutes**

There was considerable in depth discussion on this matter, with comments, thoughts and ideas freely expressed. As there was such a divergence of ideas on this it was agreed that **John Curtis** would contact the Chairperson of the Riggers Committee and that the item would be re-discussed in the light of submissions to be made.

**R. Colpus** agreed to discover the cost of subscribing to the PIA magazine.

**ITEM 6.3**

**J. Curtis** thought that the way in which the minute was written gave the impression that too many people were being given extensions. **J.R.H. Sharples** pointed out that each application was judged on its merits and that the main reason for extensions was that the people concerned found it very difficult to take time off work. The minutes were ratified subject to the exclusion and re-discussion of item 3.

**2. Competitions Committee**

**R. Colpus** presented the minutes of the meeting of 23rd September.

**Item 2**

Considerable discussion and argument ensued on this item. The major contention seemed to be the apparent criticism of the meet director and the way that the meet director for 1987 would be appointed.

It was finally agreed that the matter would be discussed between the Competitions Committee and host DZ in order to arrive at a mutually acceptable understanding, on the basis of the administration director and technical director being two separate though complimentary posts.

**Item 4**

The Secretary General had written to **G. Van-Damm** but he had not reply to date. He agreed to try to contact the aforementioned and also would write to elicit the help of **Uwe Beckman**.

**Item 5**

It was agreed that **S. Eversfield** would discuss this with the Head of Delegation and inform the Secretary General of what expense claims to pay and which to with-hold.

**Item 8.0**

The Secretary General stated that he had in fact actioned all the points made, and that he now had the names of the two accredited video operators.

A unanimous vote of congratulations was moved on behalf of the British CRW 8-Way Team who achieved a very well deserved Silver Medal at the World Championships in Australia.

**3. Royal Aero Club**

**P.W. Ritchie** had attended the last meeting as Treasurer and also on behalf of the BPA as the Chairman **J.T. Crocker** had been attending an important STC Meeting the same evening.

(1) An increase in fees payable had been passed by the R.Ae.C. which represented a 23% increase on last years fees.

**(2) Medal and Awards Ceremony**

(a) The above will take place at Hendon probably on 1st May 1987.

(b) Nominations for any of the awards to be made to BPA members must be submitted to the R.Ae.C. via

the BPA. A list of these had been distributed and Council Members were asked to make their recommendations at the Council Meeting of 10th December 1986.

(c) NATMAC - It is probable that lower altitudes may be available for parachuting in airways as some airways may have their lower levels raised.

(d) **G.C.P. Shea-Simonds** reported on the meeting with **Tom Keely** in connection with the Parliamentary Committee on the question of Hire and Reward. Congratulations were offered by Council to **G.C.P. Shea-Simonds** who had been presented with the FAI Gold Medal for Parachuting in Madrid.

**Item 59/86 - Falcon Parachute Club**

Letters of complaint had been received at the BPA in connection with the operations of the above club in Northern Ireland and Scotland, including a complaint from **D. Penny** proprietor of Wild Geese Club.

**Mr. Bias** had been sent copies of these and had been invited to attend this meeting to discuss the situation. On being asked for his comments, **Mr. Bias** stated:-

(1) The DZ in N.I. had been opened 18 months ago. Planning permission has been refused so he had no choice but to close down.

(2) The Club in Scotland was running and he was about to move up to Scotland to act as CCI and to run the club. Initially it would be open 2 days per week with the intention being to extend this in the new year to 7 days a week.

(3) Those people from Scotland who had complained would be invited to do a re-course, at no cost, and would be jumped.

(4) In answer to a question, **Mr. Bias** stated that he would refund the course fees of those people in N.I. who had not been jumped.

(5) He said that on a couple of week-ends per year the Isle of Man operation would be re-opened but during this time the Scottish Operation would be closed.

(6) He agreed to supply **J.H. Hitchen** with copies of his manifests so that a check could be made of who had in fact jumped and who had not.

(7) The Secretary General would write to all complainants informing them of the situation and asking that they let him know the outcome.

(8) In relation to the letter from **Mr. D. Penny**, **Mr. Bias** refuted the allegations in their entirety.

**D.T. Hickling** said that "he felt that things were not as well as they seem and that **Mr Bias** had a lot of work to do."

In relation to the whole matter Council were asked to think about a proposal that a CCI could only be CCI of one club at one DZ.

**Item 60/86 - Fife**

It was agreed to affiliate the Fife operation. In addition the whole situation concerning affiliations etc. was to be a major item for discussion in the new year. In respect of the foregoing **J.K. Lines** paper on this subject had been sent to the Editor for inclusion in the magazine and thus it was hoped would provide information and ideas.

**Item 61/86 - A.O.B.**

**1. Mr. D. Palmer**

A letter had been received from the above and circulated to all Council Members. After some discussion it was proposed by **P.W. Ritchie** and seconded by **J.R.H. Sharples** that no exemption be granted.

Unanimous

**2. Inquest at Shrewsbury**

The Chairman had had circulated a copy of all the correspondence relating to the above together with an opinion by Counsel concerning the possibility of an application to be made to the Divisional Court for Judicial Review of the Jury's recommendation, and the opinion was that the behaviour of the coroner was 'something which should be brought to the attention of the Divisional Court'.

The Chairman pointed out that it would entail a fairly high cost factor but that for the good name of the Association and the integrity of the Safety and Training Committee the action should be brought.

There was considerable, in depth and constructive discussion on the subject with input from all members.

It was understood from **Mr. J. Scott** that it might be possible to obtain some form of financial help from the Sports Council to defray the costs of the action. A special application would have to be made but there was precedent for this where the result of a judgement could lead to problems in a sport being able to continue to function properly.

The general feeling was, aired by **J. Curtis**, that

despite the expense involved the Association must pursue the action for Judicial Review in order to preserve the integrity of the Association and correct the most serious allegations and misunderstandings which had arisen as a result of the Coroners handling of the inquest and the subsequent press statements attributed to the Coroner. These press statements were themselves highly damaging to the Association.

Proposed by **J. Curtis** and seconded by **S. Eversfield** that an application for Judicial Review pursuant to RSC Order 53 be made.

Carried Unanimously

### 3. SSPA Annual General Meeting

**M. Ramsey**, Chairman of the SSPA, invited all Council Members to the above to be held on 22nd November. The SSPA were thanked for its kind invitation.

Date of next meeting is Thursday 10th December. Kimberley House, Leicester at 6.30 p.m.

## BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING THE POST HOUSE THURS 27th NOVEMBER 1986 7.00 P.M.

### Present:

J.R.H. Sharples	Chairman	STC
G. McLaughlin		Dorset
S. McBrine		RAFSPA
D.L. Howerski		Swansea
D. Ruffell		British Skyports
J. Ball		Pilots
K. McIlwee		Flying Tigers
P. Lambson		JSPC (N)
M. Cooch		Capital School
T. Dobson		Merlin/LBFFC
J. Wright		Riggers
L. George		London Skydiving
P. Walters		Halfpenny Green
M. Skeet		Fife
J. Meacock		PPC
K. Noble		Border
R. Noble-Nesbitt		SPC
J.D. Prince		NWPC
J.K. Lines		MPC
J. Fletcher		BPS

### Apologies for Absence:

D. Tucker, J. Fisher, J. Chandler, S. Lambe, M. Beynon, D. Parker, T. Knight, I. Louttit, B. Bias, D. Thorne.

### In Attendance:

D. Palmer	Shropshire
J. Hitchen	JNC SO
T. Butler	JNC SO

### Observers:

P. Bedigan, M. Graham, S. Meacock, R. Colpus, D. Thomas, S. Ruffell, J. Davis, V. Davis, A. Palmer, A. Ellams, S. Brewster, N. Drennan, M. Townsend, L. Cooper, J. Stoddart, B. Crudson, J. Farr, K. Adkins, P. Applegate, M. Thurman, D. McCullough, T. Cook, G. Jones, S. Shaw, J. Peck, D. Gays, J. Curtis.

The Chairman apologises to the Committee for starting the Meeting a few minutes late, but explained that he had just come from a Disciplinary Panel Meeting that had only just finished.

### Item 1 - Minutes of STC Meeting of 16th October 1986

The Chairman informed the meeting that **D. Morris** had been misquoted in the minutes, item 4 (Incidents). It had been stated that the 'locking pins' on the Tandem Vector could foul the 3 ring releases. Mr. Morris had in fact stated that the 'locking pins' could interfere with the 'reserve' or 'cutaway' pads.

It was proposed by **M. Cooch** and seconded by **D. Howerski** that the Minutes of the Meeting of 16th October 1986 be accepted as a true record.

Carried Unanimously  
All CCIs

### Item 2 -

The Chairman informed those present that **S. Lambe** had requested that the proformas he had sent out with regard to AADs be completed and returned to him as soon as possible.

All CCIs

The Chairman also informed the meeting that at the last Council Meeting, Council had ratified the STC Minutes except the section with regard to Reserve Seal Thread and they had requested that that item be put back to the Riggers Committee to be discussed again, this had been done at this evening's meeting and would be dealt with under item 3.

### Item 3 - Approval of Riggers Minutes of Meeting of 18th October 1986

**J. Wright** stated that a meeting is to be held on the 17th December at Netheravon with regard to the standardisation of Rigging Courses. Miss Wright also stated that Reserve Seal Thread was discussed by the Riggers and their opinion was the same as before; that it should not be used, but because of the small number of Advanced Riggers present and the fact that **L. Thomas** was not present and he wished this discussed again, they would put this item back for discussion until the first meeting of 1987.

L. Thomas/Riggers Cttee

The minutes of the Riggers Meeting of the 16th October 1986 was approved by STC.

### Item 4 - Pilots Meeting of 16th October 1986

The minutes of the Pilots Meeting of 16th October were distributed to STC. **J. Ball** stated that he had given details of the last STC Meeting, the main item had been the flying incident at Strathallan and details of this had also been sent to the CAA.

All CCIs

### Item 5 - Fatality - Cyprus

**J. Hitchen** gave details of the Fatality in Cyprus. **Alex Woodhouse** (the deceased) was taking part in a 4 way team RW competition from 9,500ft. The jump went without incident until after break-off, which according to other jumpers was quite high, for some reason either during tracking or on an intentional approach Alex collided with Beryl (his wife) as her parachute deployed. He then operated his reserve, but no more movement was observed and it is believed the brakes were still in place on his reserve on landing.

Beryl received serious injuries to her spine in the area of the neck, and was unable to lift her hands to control her canopy or release the brakes and landed unable to control the canopy.

**J. Hitchen** stated that he wished to bring to the attention of STC the commendable way in which **Major Jim Steele**, **Dr. John Carter** and **Dr. Frank Smith** conducted themselves throughout this tragedy. They gave all medical assistance possible to Alex for approximately one hour and in the ambulance on the journey to hospital.

In the case of Beryl, the Doctors advised not moving her until a thorough examination had been made, which almost certainly kept her injuries to a minimum as more damage could easily have occurred possibly causing Beryl to be paralysed or even worse.

The JNC SO stated he did not examine the equipment or documents. These were taken away by the Military who convened the Board of Inquiry, and it is believed this will be made available to the BPA.

### Item 6 - Incident Reports - resume

1) **J. Hitchen** gave the meeting details of an incident at RAPA concerning a S/L 6 1/2 metre Aeroconical hitting the 'picket point' at the base of the tail of their Turbine Islander. RAPA had done a number of trails since and they believe by increasing the apex tie from 75lbs to 100lbs should prevent this happening again. A good deal of discussion took place concerning this item. It was felt a guard around the 'picket point' may help, it was also pointed out that many thousands of descents had been made with this equipment and that it may be a 'one off' incident.

2) The Chairman gave details of a 'Blown Peripherie' type malfunction on a 'Skytrainer' canopy at A1 Skydiving. **P. Sullivan** stated in his report that he had a report from Irwins GB Ltd. which stated they had not known of a problem of this type before. Some discussion took place, as it was felt that this type of malfunction was unusual on a net skirted canopy.

3) **P. Lambson** gave the meeting details of a premature firing of an AAD in Hong Kong at 3000ft. The parachutist landed safely.

4) **R. Noble-Nesbitt** gave details of the Safety Information Sheet that had been sent to all clubs concerning the Fury Canopy and stated that damage had also been found on a Pegasus Canopy.

### Item 7 - Ram Air Progression System

**D. Howerski** gave details of a proposed Pilot Scheme

to run a Ram Air Progression System that the proposals for the guidelines for the Scheme were drawn up at a meeting with the JNC SOs and a number of CCIs interested in the Scheme. Mr. Howerski first showed the meeting the type of equipment to be used and then went through the proposed guidelines point by point. The operating guidelines are as follows:-

### Equipment

1. All equipment to be used must be approved by STC to include:
2. Direct integral static line bag with apex tie of recommended 40-60lbs breaking strain.
3. AADs.
4. Stevens Lanyard
5. Standard 3 ring release with 2 handle system (Not SOS).
6. Radios for all static line students and then for continuation students until they have proven canopy control ability.
7. Altimeters for all students.
8. Suspended training harnesses identical to the equipment in use.
9. A large docile square main canopy.

### Instructor Qualifications

1. The person in charge of the programme will be:
  - a. A CCI who is an Advanced Instructor
  - b. A minimum of 1,000 jumps
  - c. The person must have EITHER:
    - i) 2 years as a CCI or
    - ii) in the case of a military centre, be approved by APA, STC or RAFSPA Military Executive.
2. The Instructor (teaching and despatching) qualification will be:
  - a) BPA Approved Instructor
  - b. Minimum of 500 jumps
  - c. With at least 2 years as an Approved Instructor
  - d. CCI nominated

### Student Qualifications

1. Must be over 18 years old and not over 40 years old on the first day of the course.

### Training Limitations

1. Maximum number of students per course - 6.
2. Minimum of 1 suspended harness per 2 students
3. Students must complete training up to Category 8 at the same centre.
4. Students changing progression systems must be completely retrained.
5. At each progression brief within the Category System, review and discussion on all emergency procedures must take place.

### Parachuting Limitations

1. Surface winds restricted to a maximum of 15 mph.
2. Only 1 static line student per pass.
3. Free fall students may do 2 on a pass, provided they have proven canopy handling ability.
4. The static exit altitude will be a minimum of 3,500ft. AGL.
5. The free fall opening altitude will require full canopy deployment by 3,000ft. AGL up to Category 8.

### Operational Restrictions

1. The Drop Zone Controller must be at least a potential instructor, trained in the use of Radios and Drop Zone Control.
2. Packing - All packing checks must be signed by a qualified instructor.

A number of questions were asked and some discussion took place. It was felt by the meeting that the guidelines were sufficient for a Pilot Scheme, but the type of Drop Zone which the scheme could be operated should be looked into and it was decided that Mr. Howerski's 'Committee' should meet again and come back to STC with their proposals with regard to suitability of Drop Zones. Mr. Howerski stated that he would be happy to do this, but in the meantime he would like his proposals agreed for the operational guidelines. It was proposed by D. Howerski and seconded by L. George that the above guidelines for the operation of a Pilot Scheme for a Ram Air Progression System be approved by STC, but no system to be started until STC agrees on the Drop Zones to be used.

Carried Unanimously

### Item 8 - Permissions

- 1) A letter had been received from **M. Munn** requesting permission for **WO2 M. Swan** to attend the next PI Course, being short of the required number of

descents, details were given to STC by the Chairman as no one from the Red Devils was available to give information at the meeting. It was proposed by S. McBrine that this be permitted. This proposal failed to find a seconder.

M. Munn

2) A letter had been received from B. Blas requesting a 6 month extension to the PI rating of J. McConnell. R. Noble-Nesbitt stated that he knew Mr. McConnell and felt that he should not attend for final examination before May of next year. The JNCISO stated that the next two Instructor Courses were full and that there were no vacancies until the May Course. It was proposed by R. Noble-Nesbitt and seconded by M. Skeet that J. McConnell's PI rating be extended by 6 months. For 14, Against 0, Abstention 1. Carried. B. Blas

3) S. McBrine gave the meeting details as to the reasons for his request for a 6 month extension to the PI rating of R. Williams stating that he was unable to attend the next Examination Course. It was proposed by S. McBrine and seconded by D. Howeski that this be permitted.

S. McBrine

For 14, Against 0, Abstentions 1. Carried.

4) S. McBrine also requested permission for T. Rolfe to attend the next Rigging Course (providing there is a place available). The reason for this request is that T. Rolfe has not held a BPA Packing Certificate for the required time, but is involved with Rigging with the RAF. It was proposed by S. McBrine and seconded by J. Meacock that this be permitted. For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 4. Carried.

#### Item 9 - A.O.B.

The Chairman stated that K. Noble had sent in a report on the operation of his Strong Tandem System as had been requested and this report had been sent out with the Agenda.

The Chairman informed the meeting that as a result of the Disciplinary Panel Meeting that had taken place that evening a number of items concerning STC had come up. First was that the Panel would like put on the Agenda for the next STC Meeting for discussion the subject of Split Drop Zones. The Panel would like input from CCI's as to what if any requirement should be imposed with regard to this and the qualifications of DZ Controllers to run this type of Operation. The Panel also requested that when instructors are despatching S/L students they do not wear or operate cameras. A good deal of discussion took place concerning this.

P. Lambson felt strongly that the Instructor should be permitted to wear a video helmet. The Panel disagreed and it was proposed by R. Noble-Nesbitt and seconded by K. Noble that their recommendation be accepted.

For 12, Against 2, Abstentions 2. Carried

The Chairman reminded those present of the Instructor Convention on 10th January and asked if there was anything anyone wished discussed to contact him or the JNCISO's.

Date of the next meeting 22nd January 1987 at the Post House, Leicester, time 7.00 p.m.

## BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTOR COURSE 4-86 BORDER PARACHUTE CENTRE EMBELTON/BRUNTON 1st - 11th DECEMBER 1986 REPORT

### 1. Introduction

The excellent facilities of the Border Parachute Centre, Dunstanburgh House, Embleton, Alnwick Northumberland, were generously put at the disposal of the BPA for the two weeks of the Course. Accommodation and all meals were provided at the Centre. The Centre provided full use of their lecture rooms and a ground training area was also provided. The Centre's Cessna 207 was used for only 3 lifts on the first week, because of bad weather, but 16 lifts were completed on the second week.

### 2. Potential Instructor Course

This Course was conducted by Kerry Noble, Ray Ellis, Rob Noble-Nesbitt, John Hiltchen and Tony Butler, with assistance from Dave Morris who was working towards his Examiner Rating. There were

16 candidates applying for Potential Instructor Status.

The candidates completed the syllabus and were coached on lessons/lectures from the Instructors Manual, they were also assessed on some aspects of their personal parachuting, but because of poor weather only two were coached on static line despatching in the air, though all were coached on the ground. The candidates were also given a written examination at the end of the week.

Fourteen candidates were successful and two were advised to re-apply. Results and individual reports on all candidates have been sent to their CCI's. The successful candidates were:-

<b>Mike Raltery</b>	<b>RAFSPA</b>
<b>Geoff Wood</b>	<b>RAFSPA</b>
<b>Tom Mackle</b>	<b>Border/Golden Lions</b>
<b>John Keen</b>	<b>Halfpenny Green</b>
<b>Jack Hawkins</b>	<b>Silver Stars</b>
<b>Taff Williams</b>	<b>Silver Stars</b>
<b>John Armstrong</b>	<b>Red Devils</b>
<b>Phil Richmond</b>	<b>Red Devils</b>
<b>Alan Wright</b>	<b>Merlin/Leeds Bradford</b>
<b>Dave Major</b>	<b>Staffordshire Sport Skydivers</b>
<b>Judy Travers</b>	<b>London Skydiving</b>
<b>Chris Gilmore</b>	<b>London Skydiving</b>
<b>Anna Goulding</b>	<b>London Skydiving</b>
<b>Pat Smith</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>

### 3. The Advanced Course

Five candidates, Dave Ruffell from British Skysports Keith Skelley from the Trailblazers, John Gleave from Ipswich, Matt Patrick from RAPA and Chris Donaldson from Peterborough, attended for upgrading to Advanced Instructor. They were assessed on various tasks throughout the week and gave a number of lectures, they were also assessed on practical ability and the running of an active Drop Zone. All five candidates were successful and were awarded Advanced Instructor Status.

### 4. The Pre-Advanced Instructor Assessment Course

The Course was conducted by Ray Ellis, John Hiltchen and Tony Butler. There were two candidates applying for the phase of the Course, they were given a number of lessons, lectures and briefs to complete as well as present their specialist lecture to the Examination Course. One candidate was recommended to attend for final examination in twelve months and the other candidate was advised to re-apply to attend another Pre-Advanced Assessment Course in not less than 12 months. Both candidates were fully de-briefed at the end of the Course and reports have been sent to their Centres.

### 5. The Examination Course

This Course was held during the second week and was conducted by Kerry Noble, Rob Noble-Nesbitt, John Meacock, Ronnie O'Brian, Ray Ellis, John Hiltchen and Tony Butler. There were fifteen candidates. All were given a written examination on the first day. They were examined on their own practical parachuting, most were examined on static line despatching and some were also examined on Aerial Critiquing. They were assessed on lectures/lessons and briefing from the Instructors Manual and on flight line checks. Twelve candidates were successful and three were advised to re-apply. Results and reports on all candidates have been sent to their CCI's. The successful candidates were:-

<b>Jimmy Frith</b>	<b>RAPA</b>
<b>Steve Apps</b>	<b>RAPA</b>
<b>Reddy Redfern</b>	<b>BPS</b>
<b>Rod Bartholomew</b>	<b>Headcorn</b>
<b>Terry Inch</b>	<b>Headcorn</b>
<b>Gill Arundel</b>	<b>London Skydiving</b>
<b>Bob Scouter</b>	<b>London Skydiving</b>
<b>Andy House</b>	<b>RAFSPA</b>
<b>Steve Webb</b>	<b>Trailblazers</b>
<b>Terry Lambert</b>	<b>Trailblazers</b>
<b>Gwynne Roberts</b>	<b>Border</b>
<b>Kavin McCarlyhy</b>	<b>Hereford</b>

### 6. Conclusions

1) Once again, an Approved Instructor acting as CCI has failed to achieve a satisfactory standard. The Examiners therefore recommend that STC give VERY careful consideration to the advisability of granting such permissions.

2) Standards in general on both PI and Exam Courses were high and candidates were well prepared. There were however a number of exceptions and CCI's should make a careful and realistic assessment of Potential Candidates before recommending them to attend a Course.

### 7. Recommendations

1) That the following be given 6 month extensions to their Potential Instructor Rating: **Andy Guest, Nick Mascall and Ian Cessford.**

TONY BUTLER, JNCISO

## BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING 10th DECEMBER 1986 KIMBERLEY HOUSE 47 VAUGHAN WAY, LEICESTER

### Present:

P.W. Ritchie	Vice Chairman BPA
J.K. Lines	Treasurer BPA
J.R.H. Sharples	Chairman STC
R. Colpus	Chairman Comp. Cttee.
D.T. Hickling	
S. Eversfield	
J.L. Thomas	
S.D. Lambe	
J. Curtis	

### In Attendance:

A.K. Butler	JNCISO BPA
C.W. Port	Sec Gen BPA

### Apologies:

J.T. Crocker, M. Rennie, M. Ramsay, P. Buchan, B. Dyas, P.D.N. Parker, D. Prince, G. Lily.

### Invited:

Mr. C. Austins

Item 62/86 - Minutes of EGM 30th October 1986  
It was proposed by J.K. Lines and seconded by D.T. Hickling that the above be accepted as a true record.  
Unanimous

Item 63/86 - Minutes of Council Meeting 30th October 1986  
It was proposed by J.L. Thomas and seconded by S. Eversfield that the minutes of the above be accepted as a true record.  
Unanimous

### Matters Arising

#### 1. BPA Magazine change of Printers

A draft article on the above had been sent to the Chairman by C.W. Port. This was being actioned and would be included in the February issue of Sport Parachutist.

#### 2. Computer Situation

The Secretary General reported that Mr. MacFarlane had been sent the information and quotations for the purchase of an additional work station.

It was Mr. MacFarlane's recommendation that rather than purchase an additional workstation, hard copies, on a monthly updated basis, be used.

Following the Finance Committee Meeting of 12th November the Secretary General had unsuccessfully tried to contact Mr. M. MacFarlane to ascertain whether he would be visiting the HQ Offices to carry out some work on the computer. S. Eversfield agreed to leave a message for Mr. MacFarlane and C.W. Port would attempt to contact him on 15th. Should any problems arise C.W. Port, Secretary General, would liaise with the Treasurer.

#### 3. R.Aa.C. Medals and Awards

Council had agreed to consider and submit names for the above. In consequence the Council recommended the Royal Marines Free Fall Team for an award. The Secretary General would contact the Chairman for his advice on which was considered to be the most appropriate award.

Additionally, if any Council member wished to submit a name for an award they were asked to contact the Chairman direct.

#### 4. Falcon P.C.

As directed the Secretary General had written to the people who had considered on the above, requesting those people to let him know the outcome, as Mr. Bias had agreed to rectify the problems.

#### 5. Judicial Review

In the absence of the Chairman it was reported that the application for the above had been sent to the London Agents.

In the meantime the Secretary General was directed to write to the Chairman requesting that he contact the Sports Council with regard to Grant Aid



being provided to defray the cost of the Judicial Review. This was a matter of some urgency as the Sports Council had stated that they could not process retrospective applications.

#### Item 64/86 - Committee Reports

##### A. Safety and Training

**J.R.H. Sharples** asked for comments or questions on the previously distributed minutes of the 27th November 1986.

##### (1) Reserve Seal Thread

This was discussed at some length. The meeting concerning the above had commenced at 5 p.m. but some people has not arrived until 6.15.

In view of the problems this matter is still open and will be discussed at the first Riggers Committee Meeting of 1987.

The item has still to be ratified by Council.

##### (2) Fatality - Cyprus

**S.D. Lambe** offered to find out when the kit from Cyprus could be returned to the UK.

##### (3) Weering of Video Helmets by Instructors

The item was put forward during STC following recommendations from the Disciplinary Committee.

**S.D. Lambe** expressed reservations concerning the ad-hoc nature of the Disciplinary Panel.

There was some discussion on this matter and various views were put forward as to the formation and powers of the panel.

There appeared to be some confusion as to whether the panel was a sub-committee of Council or a sub-committee of STC. Additionally this meant that there was confusion as to whether STC should approve the recommendations thence ratified by Council or whether the panels recommendations come directly to Council thus by-passing STC.

**D.T. Hickling** stated that his original request for the panel to be formed was designed for the recommendations to go via STC.

It was stated that the panel, per-se, was not permanent and that those invited to serve on the panel would change dependant upon the expertise needed to consider a particular case.

**J.R.H. Sharples** said that the items in question were not a direct result of the panels recommendation, they were items which had been put forward following the results of the panels findings.

**D.T. Hickling** explained that the copy of the panels report to Council had not yet been circulated. This decision had been taken under instruction as it was felt that it would be inappropriate to publish it prior to the inquest. That was also the reason there was a time delay between the incident and the meeting of the panel. It was felt that the panel had acted correctly and that as usual the recommendations of the panel and/or STC would be for Council to ratify.

**S.D. Lambe** felt that something which could affect the entire membership should be published in advance.

**P.W. Ritchie** felt that the terms of reference were unclear and asked Chairman of STC to let him have recommendations as to whether the panel was to report to STC or Council. Additionally, he felt that if a decision was to be challenged then prior notice should be given, and then taken up with STC.

The Minutes were Ratified

##### Mr. C. Austins

The Council met in closed session to discuss the latest correspondence on the above. A statement was agreed and Mr. Austins recalled.

Following their deliberations the Chairman, pro-tem, **P.W. Ritchie** made the following statement to Mr. Austins.

"It was not felt that there was any further information to be brought out following the decisions which Council had made in the past.

The Council's final decision on the matter is that in order to put an end to this long running matter. The Council is prepared to accept your offer of the amount which you accept you owe the Association, £972.40. If that amount is paid plus your pro-rata membership subscription, then your membership can be renewed. The question of your ratings has to be discussed with STC. We do not feel they will unreasonably withhold it. That is the final decision of Council."

Mr. Austins stated that he was at a loss to understand that as Council removed it can Council not consider it finally.

**P.W. Ritchie** stated that Council had made the decision to leave it to STC.

Mr. Austins said that that was more or less what the Chairman had stated in his letter except that you now accept the evidence of the course records.

**J.K. Lines** stated that Council were not accepting anything.

**P.W. Ritchie** stated that Council were saying that there are no implications of anything, in order to put the matter at an end the sum that you have accepted that you owe us will be accepted by us.

**D.T. Hickling** stated that the rating is being treated like any other instructors ratings which had lapsed.

**J.R.H. Sharples** said that the normal situation now was that he get a CCI to propose that he get his rating back.

It was felt that as the rating had lapsed since March then it might mean a re-sit of the examination course. But was a decision which would have to be made by STC.

Mr. Austins stated that his renewal application had been signed by two examiners and a CCI, and had been lodged in the office at the end of March this year. The only thing which prevented its renewal was the membership thing.

**D.T. Hickling** said that he accepted this but that as for any other instructor whose rating had lapsed for whatever reason, Mr. Austins had not been parachuting since March, not involved in instruction since March and thus the rating had lapsed, and thus the renewal of rating had to be dealt with in the recognised and under the well established system.

Mr. Austins stated that this was the 'catch 22' situation, it is a problem which you have introduced.

**J.K. Lines** said that you (Mr Austins) introduced it because you have been prolonging this by refusing to accept various olive branches that Council has held out, as it has backed off from the original £2,000 odd ever on downwards. We have now reduced it yet again. But it is you who have prolonged this.

Mr. Austins said that he had asked about the sum owing, 'let's talk about it' but if we can't agree then let's go to court about it.

Mr. Austins said he had sent a cheque in for £1,200 in March.

**S. Eversfield** agreed but said that it had been offered with conditions.

Mr. Austins agreed, renewal of membership and ratings.

**P.W. Ritchie** re-iterated that Council did not wish to go back over the whole matter yet again. There was a clear cut offer and suggested that Mr. Austins discuss it with Chairman of STC.

Mr. Austins asked, if I pay the money now and my membership is re-instated there is nothing at all that I can do if STC, or anybody else then say, presumably anything that STC say has to be ratified by Council. (Verbatim)

**J.R.H. Sharples** said that the route Mr. Austins had to take to get his ratings back was to get a Chief Instructor to take him on and recommend that he get his rating back, and to put forward a proposal as to how the rating be renewed, whether he needed to be a PI and attend the next exam course, or whatever.

Mr. Austins was asked if he needed any further clarification on the offer made to him by Council.

Mr Austins asked - there would be no reason to suppose that Council would not ratify whatever STC decided?

It was stated that Council delegated the matter of the ratings to STC and thus it is clear that Council will accept whatever recommendations STC make.

Mr. Austins asked for the matter to be confirmed to him in writing.

Mr. Austins asked, may I now apply to STC and I must be a member before I apply. If I get a Chief Instructor to back me can I then apply to STC to see what they are going to say because there is no point in paying the money if STC are going to say no.

No, that is not so. You must pay the sum outstanding and become a member before applying.

Mr. Austins asked for that to be put in writing as it was as he thought it would have been, a waste of time my coming here.

**P.W. Ritchie** requested the Sec-Gen to write to Mr. Austins with the terms of the offer made, with the rider that the offer expires in 14 days and that the money owing must also be paid in 14 days, failing which it will lapse and not be repeated.

#### Committee Minutes Continued

##### 2. Competitions

**R. Colpus** presented the minutes of the meeting of 4th and 30th November.

(a) 4th November

##### (1) Olympic Event

The details of the Accuracy event as a show piece at the Seoul Olympics will be available following the CIP Meeting in January 1987. It was re-iterated that any involvement would depend upon budget requirements.

(2) Head of Delegation at World Meet 1987

As the Competitions Committee had requested that R. Colpus be H of D for the above they felt that Council should discuss this and make their own recommendation.

It was proposed by **T. Andrewes** and seconded by **J.L. Thomas** that R. Colpus be appointed as H of D for the 1987 World Meet.

Unanimous

It was felt by Competitions Committee and agreed by Council that the posts of H of D and Coach should be co-jointed.

(b) 30th November

##### (1) Paraski

It was agreed that **J.K. Lines** be confirmed as H of D for the Paraski (skiing section) Meet.

##### (2) CIP Proposals

Council agreed to read the proposals which had been put forward and they will be discussed at the first Council Meeting of 1987.

##### (3) Trainee Judges

The Finance Committee of 1987 would be asked the possibility of making loans to individuals such as Trainee Judges when attending qualifying World Meets.

##### (4) Prize Giving - Nationals 1987

**J. Curllis** asked for clarification as to who would be paying the above.

**P.W. Ritchie** agreed to find out and report back to Council as soon as possible.

Proposed by **T. Andrewes** and seconded by **J.K. Lines** that the Minutes be ratified.

Unanimous

#### 3. Finance

**J.K. Lines** presented the Minutes of the meeting of 12th November 1986.

##### (1) Memberships

There was considerable discussion on this subject. From the figures it is apparent that the membership had increased but that income is down. This confirms the feelings previously expressed that the pro-rata membership payments, and the extension of the P/Student membership (1 year or to free fall) had resulted in a fall in income.

The figures also highlight the fact that retention is a major factor to which the Association must address itself.

It was agreed, though, that a comparison would have to be made when the renewal period 1987/88 came round before final discussions could take place.

##### (2) Development Officer - Costings

The Secretary General had distributed a paper, as requested on Car Leasing. However **J.K. Lines** stated that he would contact major leasing companies to obtain figures, and agreed to have these figures available for the first Council Meeting of 1987.

It was agreed that Council would make a final decision at the first 1987 Meeting rather than ask the Finance Committee to look at the figures first.

##### (3) Insurance

All the relevant paperwork had been compiled and distributed to Council by the Secretary General.

It was agreed that the Association would accept the proposal of 65p per member of £500,000 for any one incident and that Display Teams needing an excess of cover would contact the brokers to make their own arrangements.

Due to the insurance problems experienced in the USA/Canada and pressure from the insurers, cover for the membership would with effect from 1st April 1987 exclude the USA/Canada. Any member wishing for insurance cover in USA/Canada would have to take out insurance locally.

The Secretary General had contacted the insurers with regard to his acting as Associations Brokers. A paper on this had been submitted by the Secretary General the outcome being that he would not be able to carry out this function.

##### (4) Subscription Renewals 1987/88

The paper on the above had been compiled and distributed. Council agreed to the recommendations made by the Finance Committee, for recommendation to the membership at the AGM.

The renewal fee for 1987/88 would be at a recommended rate of £23.00, being BPA subscription £13.26, VAT £1.99, Insurance £0.55, Magazine Subscription (6 issues) £7.10. The remaining fees on a pro-rata basis as usual.

##### (5) World Championships 1988

A final income/expenditure account had been prepared and distributed by the Secretary General. This was accepted.

Proposed by **J.K. Lines** and seconded by **T. Andrewes** that the above be ratified. Unanimous

#### 4. Development

P.W. Ritchie had had correspondence on the appointment of the Development Officer distributed to Council. Members felt that the appointment, by the Committee, of the Development Officer should not have been made until the full Council had ratified the appointment.

It had been stated by the Chairman at the meeting of 18th September that the Development Panel would conduct the final interviews but that their final choice of appointee would be submitted to full Council for ratification prior to the final appointment being made.

Council re-iterated that Committees and/or sub-committees must not overreach their delegated authority.

The Committee agreed that they had in this instance exceeded their delegated authority and apologised to Council.

However members of the Committee re-stated the fact that time had been of the essence in order to obtain the services of the most appropriate candidate who had had to be in post at the earliest possible opportunity.

P.W. Ritchie explained that the successful applicant was basically in marketing, project management and product development. The employment will be on probationary terms.

The Development Officer, once appointed, would be responsible to either the Development Committee or an Executive Committee of the Association. The appointment was ratified.

#### Item 65/86 - Nomination Forms

S. Everfield queried the fact that nomination papers had been sent out incomplete, in respect of the area set aside for business involvement in parachuting.

The Secretary General pointed out that some three years previously he had been instructed to send out the 'write ups' etc. exactly as they came into the office. He was not delegated to change or add to them.

After some discussion it was agreed that in future the Secretary General be delegated to contact anyone whose nomination paper appeared to be incorrectly completed.

#### Item 66/88 - A.O.B.

##### (1) Sport Parachutist Advertisement

A letter had been received from Major R. Card on the above subject with a suggestion that the advertisement in question be removed from the magazine.

R. Colpus explained that it was too late to remove it from this issue of the magazine but that it had been withdrawn thereafter.

##### (2) R. Buckle - Letter

A letter from the above had been received consequent to a meeting of, appearance at, and recommendations of the Disciplinary Panel.

J.R.H. Sharples read the report and recommendations of the Committee (attached).

After considerable discussion, on the above subject and that of the Disciplinary Panel itself, it was proposed by S.D. Lambe and seconded by R. Colpus that the Disciplinary Committee be the BPA Disciplinary Committee, and that it operate via the Safety and Training Committee.

For 7, Against 1, Abstention 1.

##### (3) S.S.P.A. A.G.M.

J. Curtis was perturbed at the expenses incurred by the Vice Chairman when attending the above.

Both he and other members stated that it had been an open invitation to all Council members to attend.

The Vice Chairman explained that he had also had an official invitation and as he had attended in an official capacity last year naturally assumed that this year would be the same. He apologised for the mistake. Council accepted this but stated that when in future potentially large expenses were to be incurred then the Council should be asked for agreement on those before they were incurred.

Additionally J. Curtis was concerned at the expense incurred by the Vice Chairman when staying overnight at the Post House prior to the Development Officer selection board.

The Vice Chairman explained that he had cleared the stop-over with the Treasurer but had not realised that the cost of staying at the Post House was as large as had transpired, and apologised for this.

#### Date of Next Meeting:

1. DZ Operators Buffet Lunch. The Ladbroke International Hotel Saturday 10th January 1987 12.30 p.m.

2. A.G.M. The Ladbroke International Hotel, Saturday 10th January 1987, 3.00 p.m.

3. Inaugural Council Meeting (for newly elected Council) Ladbroke International Hotel. Saturday 10th January 1987 Approximately 4.30 p.m.

# CALLING ALL STUDENTS!!

It is intended to devote a large portion of the April issue of Sport Parachutist to the seed corn of our association - Students. We would appreciate input from anybody who went through the BPA system last year, static line or AFF. Including those who started but decided that Sport Parachuting was not for them. To this end we are asking clubs and centres to let us have about thirty names and addresses of individuals who came through their club in 1986. We shall be sending them a questionnaire from which to base an article.

No student or jump centre will be named unless it has first been cleared by the centre and student.

So student and student instructors this is your chance to contribute to an area of the Sport, that I as editor, have been told many times is neglected in the magazine. Your chance to praise or bitch:-

- Standard of instruction
- Instruction student ratio
- Amenities at your centre
- Help in progression
- The BPA in general

Why you decided to stop parachuting, or hopefully, Why you are still with us.

Send any contribution you may care to make to:- The Editor, Sport Parachutist, Parish Room Studios, Fairview Street, Cheltenham, Glos. GL52 2JH.

No anonymous contributions please. They will not be used. Copy date no later than the 14th March.

**DAVE WATERMAN**  
Editor of Sport Parachutist

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Red  | <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Blue                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Black       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   | £2.50                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gloves, thermal lined (all leather with cuff)                                      |   |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Navy Blue  | <input type="checkbox"/> Red                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Black       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   | Send size reqd. £14.95               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aircrew Gloves (all leather unlined) send size reqd.                               |   |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Navy Blue  | <input type="checkbox"/> Red                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Black       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   | £14.95                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MEN S(7½)  | <input type="checkbox"/> M(8)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> L(9)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> XL(9½)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LADIES S(6½)   | <input type="checkbox"/> M(6)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> L(7½)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Packing Mat with pockets, bright colours   |   | £8.95                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rigbag with pockets  |   |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Navy Blue/Burgundy   | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/Silver                   | £34.50                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Wallets £4.99  | <input type="checkbox"/> Organiser (large wallet/purse) | £6.99                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Frapp Hats (new lightweight British)   |   | phone for price                      |

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