



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com August 2019

skyDIVE

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the mag



INSIDE: WINGSUIT NATIONALS 2019 UKSL ROUND-UP BREAKING THE UK HEAD UP RECORD
THE JOURNEY OF AN A LICENCE JUMPER THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT FIRST RAINBOW BOOGIE
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Cover: Martin Roberson and Greg Lucas of National Champion VFS team Omni99 over Bovec in Slovenia, by Roy Wimmer-Jaglom

Welcome: Valkyrie selfie by Rich Madeley of National Champion freefly team Parallel

WELCOME



I really enjoyed putting this Mag together. There are so many stories from people at all different stages of their skydiving career. It was great to share Isabel's excitement at gaining her A Licence (page 36) and her anticipation of what is to come. If you're close to Isabel's experience level, I hope you are as eager about the next steps as she is. Alternatively, if you are more experienced and find yourself wanting to offer advice on her plans as you read them, then why not volunteer as a Rise Up mentor or start working towards a BPA Coach qualification?

Those of us who have stayed in the sport know that it is truly life-changing, but sometimes beginners just need some friendly encouragement. I smiled when I put together Comps Zone (page 19) and reported on the *Pajama Pumas* coaching at the Dunkeswell UKSL, because this team first made it into the Mag in 2016 after meeting in the bar the night before the Langar UKSL. They scored five zeroes followed by a single point on the final round of the competition, to rapturous applause from the entire dropzone who were all willing them on. Just three years later and the team will be representing us at this year's World Cup in Eloy – brilliant.

If people feel welcome and included, they will stay in the sport and, on that note, I take my hat off to Buzz and his team at Skydive Tilstock for hosting the first Rainbow Boogie in the UK and for making it an outrageous success. Check out page 41 for real-life proof of the phrase "if you build it, they will come".

Liz Ashley



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Milko in the mountains,
by Gary Wainwright



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

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

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APPS

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE THE MAG APP:

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

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

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
October 2019	September 2	October 2
December 2019	October 28	November 27

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BIG DIAMONDS



Congratulations to BPA members Mary Barratt and Jason Hobbs, who were part of the new European Record 36-way CF diamond that was built over Teuge in the Netherlands in June. This beats the previous record 30-way from September 2018, which itself beat a 28-way set in August 2018! Fifteen different nationalities came together to build this latest beauty.

European records are being broken as fast as the FAI can ratify them, and now we would like to work towards doing the same for our own national record. The largest CF diamond ever photographed over the UK was a 17-way in 1990, with the cameraman then docking 18th after taking the photo. You have to go all the way back to 2006 to find the last 16-way diamond built over British skies, and the all-time big-way CF National – and World – record is still the Royal Marines 24-plane from 1986!

BPA CF Rep Mary Barratt and her crowd of CRW compatriots are keen to get more people involved and help to build the skills that will be needed. CF Coach Simon Soper said: "There are lots of CF jumpers out there (you know who you are) who may not have been to one of our big-way events before, but please do come and get involved. We're having a great time building fun, challenging and exciting formations on the way to smashing the record. There are plenty of roadshows in 2019 so, whether you've done CF before or just want to try it out, get in touch with your local coaches and have a go. We're not going to be breaking the record imminently, so there's plenty of time to get involved even if you've never been canopy bashing before. Follow the Canopy Formation Coaching Facebook page for news and announcements about the big-way events."

The next event is September 21-22 at Dunkseswell. Coach Marcus Muir-Smith says that the plan is to go up to 16-ways to build people's experience, then maybe something bigger at a subsequent event if the skills are there. So now is the time to join in!



Ellie with the Angry Birds winning the 2019 Wingsuit Acrobatic Nationals, by Ben Curwen



Bursary winner Rhian Pocock

BURSARIES

Thirty-five bursaries have been awarded by the Royal Aero Club Trust to enable young air sport enthusiasts to advance their existing air sport qualifications. The Trust awards more bursaries to young people involved in air sports than any other organisation and, this year, 13 of the 35 awards were made to young skydivers.

The significant increases in the number of awards which have been made in recent years follow a 2014 decision by the Trust to widen the age range for eligibility and to introduce follow-on awards to enable previous award winners to continue to make progress in their chosen air sport. A new bursary, named the Jim Crocker Bursary, has also been awarded for the first time in 2019 to acknowledge the enormous contribution of the late Jim Crocker, who served as the Chairman of the Royal Aero Club Trust and who was also a past Chairman of the BPA.

The Jim Crocker Award is one of eight named awards, of which three went to skydivers in 2019. Congratulations to Ellie Marshall who has been awarded the Peter Cruddas Foundation Scholarship,

Michael Bayada who will receive the Brownsword Award and Callum Fowler-Wright who is the first recipient of the Jim Crocker Award.

The Advanced Bursary is for exceptionally talented previous bursary winners, up to the age of 24 years, wishing to seek the highest level of attainment. Previous recipients of bursaries have gone on to represent Great Britain internationally and become air sport world champions. Others have qualified as Instructors and Coaches. Advanced Bursaries have been awarded in 2019 to skydivers Emma Reynolds, Laura Sidhom and Ellie Marshall.

Finally, congratulations to the eight skydivers who will receive bursaries under the Trust's Flying For Youth scheme. All are aged 16-21 and plan to use the money for progression such as FS1, FF1 and C Licences. They are Charles Thacker, Finlay Holden, Rhian Pocock (pictured), Olivia Youlton, Matthew Craig, Jean-Pierre Viljoen, Oliver Stocks and Eoin Black.

The 2020 bursary scheme will open soon and has a deadline of March 31 2020. If you are between the ages of 16 and 21 (24 for a follow-on bursary), more details can be found on the Royal Aero Club Trust website at royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries.



By Fabrice Bertrand

JUMPERS OVER SEVENTY

Congratulations to BPA member Pete Stone, who was on two new World Records set at Skydive Dädalus in Eisenach, Germany on July 4-5. The Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS) World Record is now a five-point 8-way, while the Jumpers Over Seventy (JOS) World Record is now a three-point 9-way.

These records were set almost exactly 20 years after the Brit 100, which is still the British National Record – and Pete was on that, too! He joked: "The older I get, the smaller the records become. I am particularly happy to be on the JOS World Record. There's life in the old dog yet!"

FIGHTING FAILURE

Have you ever heard of Alport Syndrome? Sam Clarke is currently cycling 6,000 miles around Europe, and aiming to do five skydives in each country he passes through, in order to raise money and awareness for Alport's. He is currently in Germany and headed towards Prague, having set off in May 2019, and he hopes to be finished by November. But what is Alport Syndrome? Over to Sam:

"I'm 31 years old and I'm a filmmaker from Reading. I was born with a rare genetic kidney disease called Alport Syndrome. It causes hearing loss, eye abnormalities and kidney failure. In December 2018, I was told that my kidneys are likely to fail by the end of 2019, which will result in dialysis to keep me going while I wait for a transplant. Instead of sitting around and waiting for that to happen... I've decided to go for an adventure!

"It's been an incredible journey so far, with extreme highs and some unavoidable lows as well. I've met some great people to leap out of various planes with and my skydiving has progressed so much since the start of

the trip. The cycling has been tough at times but, every time I start to struggle, I think about the donations and the sense of achievement every time I get to a new town or city.

"Extreme sports have always been my saviour. Without them, I tend to implode and the reality of my kidney disease takes over my life. I got my BPA licence back in 2016 and was able to jump here and there for a while. I've managed to stay current, although it was difficult with my job as a filmmaker, often working long hours and travelling a lot. I've always known my kidneys were going to fail, but never knew when, so when I was given at least a rough timescale, it was enough reason for me to turn it into an opportunity and start this adventure. It seemed to be a good excuse to skydive more! Either way, I'm having a great time jumping with other people out here and I've learnt so much already.

"I've raised £8,600 so far through my Virgin Money Giving campaign. I aim to use the money to create a grant, alongside Alport UK, for young adults and children with Alport Syndrome. I want to help them break free from the negativity that comes with Alport's, by encouraging them to discover sports and adventures of their own."

To find out more and sponsor Sam, visit fightingfailurechallenge.com.



TAFF DAVIES



As this Mag was about to go to press, we heard the terrible news that Andrew 'Taff' Davies had died suddenly. Maggie Penny has sent these memories of Taff:

"I first met Taff Davies in his capacity as Chief Instructor of Ballykelly Parachute

Centre in the late '90s, although he spent more time at Wild Geese than he did there – never missing his Sunday morning breakfast. He regularly helped out in his roles as AI, CSI, AFFI and TI and became a member of staff when he retired from service. He took on the role of CI of Wild Geese for a couple of years, but realised he no longer enjoyed the responsibility that entailed and stood down, though he willingly filled in for me on numerous occasions.

"He was hard-working and diligent and, having finished his regular day's work, he could be found in the hangar late in the evening packing parachutes or frightening the life out of me when I found him there in the early hours of a morning.

"He loved his dogs and his motorbikes. He suffered and overcame a serious illness through his fortitude and resilience, to the point where he made it the butt of his many jokes. He remained a valued and much-loved member of staff and friend. The devastation and grief at his passing are a testament to the esteem in which he was held at Wild Geese. Taff Davies was talented, witty, funny and one of the kindest people I ever knew.

"The day before he died, I was helping at Wild Geese and will be forever glad that I did, as I got the chance to see him and be introduced, as usual, to his tandem students as 'Auntie Margaret' or 'my mum'.

"Taff – you will forever remain in our thoughts and we will miss 'havin' a laugh!."

Maggie Penny MBE, Wild Geese

Photo: Luciano Baque



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EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

This summer, Council launched our equality and diversity policy. BPA Article 2.2 states: "In carrying out its objects, the Association shall promote equality of opportunity and oppose any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or religion." The new policy recognises that some individuals, groups and communities are more likely to face discrimination, harassment and exclusion in society and reinforces the BPA's commitment to

promoting equality and diversity within the skydiving community, particularly in the areas of competition, training, employment and recruitment. It also sets out the BPA's aims to safeguard those who may face inequality or harassment due to one or more of the nine protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010). The policy is downloadable from the BPA website as 'Form 319 – Equality and diversity policy' – enter the form number or name into the forms search box.



*BPA Instructor Examiner
Bryn Chaffe plays the
part of an unstable
student on Emily Aucutt's
AFF Instructor course,
by Chris Judd*

BPA AGM AND BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO 2020



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

January 24 (Friday) will be an Industry Day consisting of a number of seminars, including CPD sessions, and exhibition space where DZ operators, CIs, Instructors and Riggers can meet and network with manufacturers.

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

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

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR:

BPA Taz Causer Experienced Skydiver of the Year Award 2019

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



Safety Innovation Award

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

Closing date: November 1 2019.



BPA Stars

Nominations for the BPA Star Awards 2019 are now open. Tell us about great service, over-and-above the norm, from other BPA members – Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition.

For details and to download the nomination form, visit bpa.org.uk/star.

Closing date: November 1 2019.

*James Round on his way to
a new Tandem Instructor
rating, by Pete Harries*





NEW RATINGS

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Olga Hatcher
Phil Webley

TANDEM INSTRUCTOR

Stefan Campbell
Nathan Evans
Gary Jones

Augustin Mera
James Round
Russell Scott
Sam Warburton

ADVANCED PACKER

Alex Dale (S)
Justinas Kubilinskas (T)
Jonathan Charles (T)
Dylan Morris-Roberts (T)



COMMS UPDATE WITH ANGEL FERNANDEZ

My first few months as Communications Manager have been fantastic and the warm welcome from members at dropzones I have visited has been wonderful. My remit on joining the BPA staff team included expanding our social media presence, promoting the sport and its successes to a wider audience and taking an active role in the rebranding to British Skydiving – more on that later.

Some of you will have seen me on my travels at Peterlee, Hibaldstow, Dunkswell, Langar, Sibson and Beccles. Covering events on social media as they happen has been well-received, and the response from competitors and the DZs has been positive. The improvement in social engagement is also backed up by some encouraging analytics that show that we are increasing our reach.

Much has also been happening behind the scenes with the rebrand to British Skydiving. Our brand partners, Creative Sponge, were at Beccles for a dropzone visit to speak with jumpers, Instructors, tandems and their families as part of their 'discovery' phase. We are certainly looking forward to seeing the initial concepts and learning how they are going to take them forward to create our new, exciting and dynamic brand.

The development of our brand is an important step on our journey to blossom as a fresh and exciting membership organisation to represent our wonderful sport. It will be built on our proud traditions and firm foundations and will remain, as ever, focused on you, our members. We are a vibrant community with a collective passion, so having a brand personality and a visual identity that identifies who we are, what we do and that captures the quintessence of our sport will drive further engagement, increase participation and align us with other elite sports in the public eye.

The new brand, however, is not just about a name change and a logo. It encompasses the development of our new websites and PIMS – Personal Information Management System or, in simple terms, the membership database. Both are progressing very well and are on target to be unveiled before the year is out. PIMS will allow members to service their membership online, provide increased functionality for dropzones and streamline the enormous workload that is carried out by Sue and Karey in Membership Services.

The development of the British Skydiving, *Skydive the Mag* and Expo websites is progressing alongside PIMS. With increased functionality and dynamic content delivery, we'll be able to upload more news, photos and videos as well as enable you to access forms, manuals and educational material with a much better thought-out navigation. We'll keep you posted on developments of the rebrand, so be sure to follow us on social media.

On a personal note, I recently purchased my first rig and obtained my FS1. This has opened up a new world of possibilities and is one of the stepping stones to learning the new skills that will take me forward in the sport. I feel honoured that my qualification jump was with *NFTO* at Hibaldstow on a BPA Roadshow. If you have not had the chance to attend a Roadshow, I highly recommend it. The free coaching, in all disciplines and for all levels, is provided by our elite sponsored athletes so the only thing you pay for is your own jump tickets. It's a great way to gain more knowledge and experience! Details of all our Roadshows can be found on the BPA Facebook page.

As the summer moves on, I'll be visiting more dropzones and competitions so please say hello and introduce yourselves. If you have any questions, comments or would like to see your content and videos featured on our social media, then please get in touch at angel@bpa.org.uk.

Angel at a BPA FS coaching roadshow, receiving free coaching from Anna Hicks (also filming)



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
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COMPS GALORE

It's been a busy summer and it isn't over yet, so here are the highlights and what we still have to look forward to

SPEED

The final stage of preparations has begun for the BPA Speed Nationals on August 3-4 and then the Speed Skydiving World Cup and European Championships at Dunkeswell on August 12-16.

Around 30 of the world's best Speed Skydivers will gather to compete over eight rounds. The competition is run as one open field, with all competitors also placed in sub-categories. There are enough competitors registered for Male, Female and National Team sub-categories in both the World Cup and the European

Championships, so we will see many battles for different podiums. Altogether, 36 medals are up for grabs.

Any BPA members would be warmly welcomed at the opening or closing ceremonies or if they simply want to come and visit the event at any point. There will be food available all week in the onsite Aviator restaurant and tickets will be available for both the opening and closing ceremonies. The closing ceremony will include the medal presentations, speeches from FAI, RAeC and BPA representatives and a banquet and entertainment afterwards.

If you're a manufacturer, rep, 'gear store' or individual keen to be involved

in any capacity, email the organiser Mikey Lovemore on michael@speedworldcup2019.com.

We are very grateful for the support so far from the BPA and our main sponsors – Infamous Team, Cookie Helmets, Larsen and Brusgaard, NZ Aerosports, Flysight and Sky Gear UK – all of which have played integral roles in Speed Skydiving history and are part of the development of the discipline in the UK or internationally.

Jason Farrant and Skydive Buzz are excited about the opportunity to be hosting such a prestigious competition and are improving the facilities at Dunkeswell Airfield for this and many other future big events.

I Volt4ge have won gold at all three UKSLs in the popular Single A category, by Soupy Campbell

FS

All three UKSL 4-way events have now taken place at Peterlee, Sibson and Dunkeswell. The June Mag described the exciting competition at Peterlee in which *Funtastic 5* topped the AA leaderboard followed by *Nebula*, while *Volt4ge* and then *RAFSPA Tornado* got ahead in Single A. We spoke to Catherine Brown of *Nebula* for an update after UKSL2 at Sibson:

"Sibson started in a similar fashion to UKSL1: Friday was a wash-out, preventing any training jumps, so all of the teams diverted their efforts to Met Roulette. The sore-headed competitors were greeted at the competition briefing on Saturday morning before being released until late afternoon due to the ominous clouds and rain – a common theme so far for 2019 UKSLs! By the evening, Chief Instructor Can Can was convinced the skies would break and, sure enough, everyone kitted up in their milkshake- and food-induced comas for the first round. All teams managed one jump before the shutdown and the scoreboard indicated that this UKSL would have some exciting competition across multiple categories. Three A teams opened up with top marks of six points and, in AA, 22 *Weston* and *Nebula* opened with just one point of





difference thanks to an 'ass grab' (a.k.a. 'high grip') on the close of block 22.

"Thankfully, the weather drastically improved on Sunday and all teams were able to complete the remaining five rounds. With Roy Little (*Eros*) and Rebecca Bradley offering up their coaching and packing services to teams and *Chimera's* Matt Wilson supporting the cameraflyers, some great scores were put on the scoreboard by all. In Rookie, *Random Precision* took an early lead, leaving *Tilstock Tumbling Turkeys* trailing and unable to close the gap. *RAFSPA Tempest* didn't have much luck either and a solid four points in Round 6 ensured an overall one-point average. Single A had the most competitors; after the close start, *Volt4ge* made a break for gold with some fantastic random work in Rounds 3 (FKL) and 4 (BJM). Round 5 sealed the silver for *RAFSPA Tornado* and, by the close of Round 6, there was still a tense battle to be fought for bronze. As most teams were packing up, two teams were preparing to jump-off: neither team had a clean round, but ultimately *Area 51's* five points beat *Algorhythm's* three for the bronze medals.

"Cheered on by their colourful mascot *Nebullama*, *Nebula* pipped 22 *Weston* in Round 2 to equalise the scores in AA and the competition remained tight from here, with both teams flying at a similar pace. Learning from their mistake of R1 at Peterlee of launching riskier exits, *Nebula* played it safe with their standard H launch and this, combined with cleaner, less busy flying, stole the gold from 22 *Weston*. Despite struggling to fly more than a page and finishing in bronze, *Funtastic 5*

continued to live up to their name with their cameraman's menagerie of cuddly toys geeking all the exits and Jill sharing her delicious lemon and lime drizzle cake. They're a great example of keeping 4-way fun, no matter the seriousness of the category or scores.

"AAA was initially rumoured to have three teams competing; Roy Little of *Eros* was putting together a scratch team and the disbanded *Phoenix* were to return from the ashes to challenge the *Pajama Pumas*. Potter was to be reunited with his old team for this UKSL and, as such, ACM's Marc Fletcher was to fly Inside Centre for *Pumas*. The bad weather put off all but the *Pumas*, who used this competition as an opportunity to launch exits from their new slots in preparation for the 2019 World Cup. They finished with a respectable 12.2 average after a couple of funnels."

The next UKSL was held at Dunkeswell on July 6-7, where the *Pajama Pumas* were on hand to provide tips and coaching to competitors. In AA, *Funtastic 5* were rewarded for their persistence and positivity with a gold medal – you've got to be in it to win it! Single A was the busiest category with six competitors and Round 1 was a good indicator of what was to come, with *Volt4ge* gaining an early lead. They won with a full two-point average lead over the second-placed team, giving them a clean sweep of the 2019 UKSLs – well done and good luck at Nationals!

Round 1 also saw three teams tie and then spend the rest of the competition fighting it out for the remaining medals. *Algorhythm* pulled ahead to take the silver,

leaving the bronze to go to one of *Four-Gy*, *RAFSPA Tornado* or *Jail*. All flew consistently and rarely had more than a point difference in their scores, so it was always going to be tight. It was gutting for *RAFSPA Tornado* that, especially after two silvers from two previous UKSLs, they were prevented from making it three for three by a broken ankle that stopped them from even jumping Round 6. A landing injury on Round 5, you might expect? No – a dirtdiving injury while exiting the mock-up before Round 6. It's true what they say about skydiving being the safe part! *Four-Gy* moved up into third, *RAFSPA Tornado* had to settle for fourth while *Jail* took fifth and *Thunderbirds* came sixth.

Three teams in Rookie meant medals for all, but the order was all to play for. The *Tilstock Tumbling Turkeys* had both the best Round 3 (scoring 11) and the worst Round 6 (scoring just one) but had built up enough of a lead overall to cling onto the gold regardless. Just 4-play took the silver two points behind and *RAFSPA Tempest* found their groove just too late, winning the final two rounds but being unable to recover from their bronze medal starting position.

Although the three UKSL meets are now complete, the BPA Nationals on August 24-27 count as the fourth and final round in this league. Expect dozens more teams, eight or 10 rounds rather than six and busy skies over Hibaldstow as the Nationals machine gears up. See you there!

2 UKSL3 at Dunkeswell, by Rob Lloyd

3 Performance competitors at the BPA Wingsuit Nationals

4 Wingsuit Acrobatics National Champions Angry Birds, by Ellie Marshall

5 BPA Artistics Reps Harry Shanker and Rai Ahmed



ARTISTICS

Hello from your super-friendly, highly approachable Artisticals Reps! The Artisticals Nationals are fast approaching at Skydive Buzz (Dunkeswell) on August 3-4.

As a heads up, we have a new rule for Freestyle and Freefly: working time is now 42 seconds! For all of those teams new to competing that are looking forward to showing off their skills, don't forget to look up the Artisticals Rules on the BPA website at bpa.org.uk/competition/bpa-nationals. Take note of the updated judging section; this will give you some useful pointers on what the judges will be

looking for from the compulsory rounds.

This year, the judges would like to have drama sheets and footage for free routines for Freestyle and Freefly available for viewing at last 48 hours ahead of the competition, preferably sooner, to ensure that there is sufficient time give to assign the difficulty level for all teams. Please contact us at artsrep@bpa.org.uk and we will give you details of where to upload your hard work and super awesome videos!

Rai and Harry



WINGSUIT

On July 1, 36 wingsuiters and one tracking suiter assembled at Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell, to compete in the BPA Wingsuit Nationals 2019. A grand total of 242 jumps were made from a Cessna Caravan flown by the awesome Matt Cunningham and there were entrants from the UK, Cyprus, France, Norway and Ukraine.

Monday was registration and practice day, with Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday being the competition days. Tuesday and Wednesday started off slowly due to cloud, but quickened up on Wednesday evening and Thursday. The event finished off with a lunch-time medal presentation meal at the dropzone's own restaurant, the Aviator.

Thanks to brilliant flying from Matt, all jumps runs were crosswind run-ins from between two-and-a-half and four miles

away from Dunkeswell Aerodrome. Big thanks to all staff at Skydive Buzz and the Aviator and especially to CI and DZO Jason Farrant, who acted as Meet Director for his first wingsuit competition.

In the Open category, Tasos Polykarpou of Cyprus won with 295.83, Max Diebold of France took the silver on 291.61 and the UK's Angelo Grubisic won the bronze with 259.82. Angelo also won the gold in the BPA UK Nationals Advanced category, with the silver going to Jo Bieszczad on 236.95 and the bronze to Charlie Hutchinson with 231.06.

The Intermediate winner was Michael Kassabian (280.53), followed

by Dave Green (276.99) and Chris Judd (272.02), while the gold in the Novice category went to Liam Byrne (293.82), the silver went to John Duthie (253.34) and the bronze went to Martin Cole (250.32).

The Acrobatics Nationals were won by *Angry Birds* in the Advanced category and *Spider Trumpets* in Intermediate. The inaugural Tracking Suit Nationals were won by Alex Liburn.

After years of competing, I have often heard the words: "Have you actually read the rules?" This year proves that, yes, they do read the rules...

Mike Williams, BPA Wingsuit Rep





VFS

Calling all freeflyers! The VFS Nationals is coming up on August 24-27 and, if you have never competed before, there is no better time to have your first go! There is both a 4-way and 2-way category aimed at new teams, which is perfect for flyers

who have recently got their FF2 or are interested in giving VFS a try. With free coaching from *Omni99*, bring some friends up to take part or contact BPA VFS Rep Tim Gaines if you want help finding a scratch team!



CP

As this Mag went to press, Dunkswell were gearing up for a BPA Canopy Piloting Roadshow, run by National Champion Martin Reynolds and ending with a mini competition. Next up are the BPA CP Nationals, to be held in Klatovy in the Czech Republic on August 14-18. These will determine invites for next year's World Championships, but first there is the 2019 World Cup being held in Pretoria in South Africa in November. The BPA delegation is a large one at 12 competitors, so good luck to Martin Reynolds, Sooty Sutcliffe, Steve Doran, Logan Donovan, Jase Hughes, Jason Leighton, Wez Westley, Chris Good, Lee Crudgington, Keiron Hayes, Brian Vacher and Joe Mann.

6 If you've got your FF2, come and turn some points in August! Photo by Greg Lucas

7 Lee Crudgington competing at the FLCPA, by Alex Inglis



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CF

It has been a busy UK summer already, with two Grand Prix events and two BPA Coaching Roadshows behind us and the BPA Nationals still to come on September 8-10!

The first Grand Prix of Canopy Formation at Cark saw *Team CRWSADERS* win the Senior 4-way Rotations category with a total of 33 points. They then repeated this feat at the second Grand Prix at Langar, this time with 35 points – nice one, *CRWSADERS*! The Langar event also saw two rounds of 4-way Sequential complete before turbulence stopped play, leaving the *Airspace*

Invaders with a gold medal.

In Senior 2-way Sequential, the placings were identical at both Cark and Langar. *Snakes on a Down Plane* won both events, scoring 56 at Cark and improving to 67 at Langar. *VelociWraptors* now have two silvers with 42 and then 54 points, while *Double Trouble* scored 19 at Cark and 20 at Langar for a pair of bronzes. Both *VelociWraptors* (Simon Perry, Wes Guest and Emily Sugars) and *Double Trouble* (Mary Barratt, Tash Higman and Peter Lindstrand) will be representing Team GB as the BPA delegation to the FAI World Cup and European Championships of Canopy Formation in Romania from August 17-20. Good luck to all.

Intermediate 2-way Sequential also saw the same team win twice, with *Cark Corner* improving from 10 points on home turf to 16 at Langar. The Rookie category was the only event that saw different placings at the different Grand Prix. At Cark, *Lazy Arse* smashed the gold medal with 15 points, followed by *Kark Kandy* on three and *Crazy CRW* on one. Langar champions were *Fire and Ice* on 29, while silver went to *Kark Kandy* who tripled their Cark score to nine.

Thank you to Judges Frank Mallabone, Amanda Kenny, Jimmy Frith and trainee Andy Pervin, as well as to all the staff at Skydive Northwest and Skydive Langar for a fantastic pair of Grand Prix events.

9



8 Double Grand Prix champions CRWSADERS, by Peter Hughes

9 Cark Grand Prix, by Rob Lloyd

10 Les Carroll (on the right) competing with the PD Factory Accuracy Team in Croatia



ACCURACY

The three big UK competitions this year are the two Grand Prix events and then the British Nationals on August 3-4. The first BPA Accuracy Grand Prix was held at Peterlee, as you may have seen in the June Mag, and since then there has been another one at Headcorn. In the Senior Accuracy event, the gold went to Esther Reynolds with a total score of just 20cm, the silver went to Janos Leszko on 23cm and the bronze to Richard Bissett with 29cm. The Intermediate champion was Nathan Lewington (16.57m), second was Stuart Turner (26.44m) and third went to Chris Oli (27.09m). Congratulations to all the winners and special thanks to Judges

Bob King, Jimmy Frith, Ruth Cooper and trainee Andy Pervin. Thank you also to Andy Houston at Texair Equipment and everyone at Skydive Headcorn.

Congratulations also go to Les Carroll, who scored a total of just 20cm in eight rounds at the first World Cup Series at Rijeka in Croatia. Les had been invited to jump for the newly formed PD Factory Accuracy Team as the only Brit alongside three Italians and an American jumper. This was the team's first competition and they placed a creditable second place overall in an extremely well-attended meet with some highly competitive scores. Well done, Les! ●

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HARNESsing YOUR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

4-way team *Chimera* share their advice for competitive teams

PHOTOS: CHRIS COOK



Competition is really fun. It's also absolutely awful. Especially if you're a trained team. It's the ultimate culmination of everything you've put in, and you want to give it your all to get as much as possible out.

And, no matter how much you've trained, the competitive environment is

unlike anything else you'll face during your season. For some teams, competition is awesome; it gets them fired up, it pushes them to do better than they've ever done in training and they thrive. For others, it adds so much pressure that things almost (and, sometimes, actually do) break down.

The reality is that competition affects

teams, and individuals, in unique ways. The other reality is that, as a competitive team, it's something we have to face. Here are our tips, from our experiences, on how best to prepare for competition.

It all starts at the beginning

If you think you don't need to prepare for competition until you arrive for Round 1,

1 *Training can be many things – fun, beautiful, hard work – but it's not the same as competition*

you're very much mistaken. Preparation for competition begins right at the start of your season and, in fact, at the start of your team.

If you intend to train together and therefore spend a lot of time together, it's really valuable to give some time early on to getting to know each other better. Even if you're amazing friends before you decide to make a team, there are little nuances about each individual that are well worth knowing. Here are some example questions to ask of your teammates:

- How do you respond to stress?
- How do you want us to respond to your response to stress?
- How do you respond to success?
- How do you want us to respond to your response to success?
- How do you like to prepare for stress?
- How can we support your preparation for stress?

It might sound a bit fluffy, but this exercise has underpinned a lot of our success as a team. Knowing that one person likes to be alone just before facing stress means the rest can leave that person to it without any questions like "Are they OK?" and "They're not talking to me, why?". It removes undue stress for everyone. Equally, knowing that another person appreciates a hug if things don't go to plan means that everyone can give them that and then move on, so that person gets the support they need, when they need it.

Get the practice in

There are multiple competitions that happen throughout the British season, thanks to the UK Skydiving League meets put on by the BPA. If you're lacking in competition experience, it's well worth trying to get to as many of these UKSL events as possible because that's where you'll get to face the competitive environment head on.

There are also competitions to consider in other countries too. You can compete indoors at international competitions like Wind Games, or even consider attending the outdoor national competitions of other countries where you will compete as a guest team (do double-check the rules for each individual comp). There's no better preparation for competition than competing.

That said, it's not always possible to attend lots of competitions, so you might want to do more to emulate that environment as you prepare your team for Nationals. For example, something our coach Niklas suggested to us was that we post the first jump of every day of our training camp on our Facebook page, knowing that our peers – and our

competitors – would see it. That approach can add pressure to your jump and doing it on the first jump of the day is a great way to practise getting into competition mode for Round 1.

Other ways to emulate competition might be to repeat the jumps of a completed competition, where you can then count up your points and compare to the other teams. It's less pressure than a real comp, but can at least give an element of that feeling.

Agree your team process in advance

When the time finally comes for you to head to your competition, it's worth agreeing a process in advance. That means knowing what time everyone will meet, what you'll do on arrival at the DZ, where you'll be keeping your stuff, how soon before the jumps you intend to gather on flight line, and so on.

It's also important to have a clear process for what happens in-between jumps: what will you do immediately on landing (wait for your teammates, get on the bus without them?), how will you respond to the jump in that moment (debrief on the landing area or quick high five and move on?), will you be looking at the scoreboard or not, when will you prep your next jump, are you packing for yourselves, and so on.

Having that clarity around process just eliminates any confusion and the unnecessary stress of finding the person who's just wandered off to their tent or gone to the loo, leaving the rest of you looking lost on the creeper pad.

This is competition, not training

Finally, remember that, once you're at your competition, you're no longer training. This isn't about going out and doing better than you've done before, nor is it about trying new things or adjusting your technique. What you have put in up to now is what you have to do in your competition jumps – no more, no less.

That means making peace with the fact that your training up to this point is enough. What's great about our sport is that the performance of others doesn't have a direct bearing on what we as a team can achieve. It's up to us – to you – to give it your best and then the scores will show you how that compares. Maybe it'll be enough to win, maybe it won't, but it'll be the foundation for the next season, when it all begins again.

At the end of the day, we're skydiving and it's fun. Enjoy it!

If you'd like any help preparing your team for competition or if you want to follow more on how we do it this season, check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/chimeraskydiver ●

2 Launching block 21

3 Random L on the hill

4 Closing block 16

5 "At the end of the day, we're skydiving and it's fun. Enjoy it!"





Botswana boogie

The Makgadikgadi Epic is hosted by the Botswana Tourism Organisation in conjunction with the Parachute Association of Botswana. This was the fifth year that the Makgadikgadi Epic was presented and it was a huge success!

The event is designed to promote tourism and is filled with exciting activities to entertain the community, such as horse riding and quad-biking. However, where there is a plane and a landing area, sport skydivers will find it and will make sure nothing is forgotten. Eugene 'Pottie' Potgieter, the skydiving event organiser and Chairman of Johannesburg Skydiving Club, made sure that jumpers in all disciplines were entertained.

Registration included tented accommodation, three divine buffet meals a day and 13 jump tickets.

The event was spread over four days of jumping from amazing military aircraft with awesome load organising and fantastic skydives. The event was finished off by an African music festival

that ran late into the night with an unforgettable party!

The most memorable part of the event was the African wildlife and, on the night of their arrival, some skydivers were welcomed by three rhinos and blue wildebeest driving in. Some visitors planned to arrive earlier or leave later and spent two nights in Kasane, situated next to the Chobe River (the boundary with Namibia) and the Chobe

National Game Park. This, without a doubt, was a highlight! Sunset booze cruises on the Chobe River were overflowing with sightings of crocodiles, hippos, elephant, buffalo and more magnificent wildlife. The Chobe Game Drive was rewarded with a leopard sighting too.

With a CASA 235 and a Hercules C-130, combined with sought-after international load organisers such as Milko Hodgkinson, Sian Stokes (FS), Alethia J Austen and Andre du Preez (Freefly) and Dougs McDougal (Wingsuit) in the heart of the awesome splendour of Botswana, it could only be a success. These organisers did a phenomenal job and there was some excellent footage generated from their creativity!

The most beautiful sunsets were followed up with wine by the bonfire and there were some extra special treats such as helicopter jumps, but the highlight of the event was the personal and friendly visit by His Excellency President Mokgweetsi Masisi, the head of state of the Republic of Botswana, who shook many hands of overwhelmed skydivers!

Discover more at makgadikgadiepic.com





RUNNING UP THE SCORE

The UK Head Up Record fell twice in one weekend, going from 14 to 18 and then to 21. How did we do it, and what's next?

WORDS: ALLY MILNE

UK HEAD UP RECORD

The current UK Record was a 14-way set in May 2017, but the planning for this record weekend used a different approach. Rather than a two-day September weekend after the Nationals, a four-day bank holiday weekend in May was chosen. This was to increase the number of jumping days and give the participants going to the World Record some final training. The plan was to start in an easier-to-achieve formation and then, when this was completed, increase the number of participants by steadily adding to each sector. Even though the record was earlier in the year, there were many training camps held at Hibaldstow and Langar with people practicing a variety of slots. Training camps were run by Ally Milne and Paul Cooper, both of whom are experienced world record breakers, former teammates and National Champions.

Building it up

The core of any good record is the base, and each flyer in the base was selected well ahead of practising their exact slot. The core four (Ally Milne, Paul Cooper, James Moran and Jan Zackl) launched successfully on every one of the nine jumps that were completed. Since the base was a 6-way, two flyers had to break in. This is a vital slot because, if you don't get there quickly, the entire formation is waiting. Pete Hutchinson (*Horizon*) and Matty Mitchell performed excellently in this role and all of *Horizon* and many members of former team *QFX* attended too, so they were flying the key slots required for the record. The more support we have from our top teams, the further we can push the boundaries of Freefly records.

Another key aspect of the formation is a strong, current and positive bench support group. Initially, the support group were filling the extra slots on the trail plane – and hats off to Jakub Langowski for flying in from Poland, getting full BPA membership, leading this group and forgoing being part of the initial record. Once we upped the numbers on the record, he used two rigs to run the support group and fly his slot in the big group. Unlike many previous records, there were many changes in and out of the support group to ensure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to show they could fly. When people were moved to the smaller group, they took it gracefully and many then refocused and made it back in time for the record. At its biggest, the support group was 13 flyers. When we debriefed the record, both groups took part and worked together. They shared the variety of comedy moments and good spirits when the jumps went well too.

Capturing the footage of the record is one for the most important roles, and Chris Cook of *Parallel* did an excellent job of filming the jumps and downloading the footage.

1 Perfecting a tight exit on a warm-up weekend, by Ming Chu

2 29 of the UK's best freeflyers, on track to break a record. By Martin Martinez

3 Dirtdiving to visualise the different levels within the formation, by Martin Martinez

4 The new UK Head Up Record 21-way, by Chris Cook







Chris has an excellent camera pedigree, having more than 6,000 camera jumps, and he's an experienced 4-way flyer, national champion cameraflyer for 8-way and Freestyle videographer too.

Knocking it down

We achieved a completed 18-way after four attempts on the Friday, but we didn't linger too long to celebrate. Instead, we worked out the plan to add extra people and keep pushing the record frontier forwards. The 18-way record held for one second, which is pretty standard for record-breaking – the 14-way record that we were trying to beat held for 0.5 seconds. With one 21-way attempt on Friday, the team knew we were close to another record.

Saturday was a busy day of jumping, with Hibaldstow managing to keep us in the air during a busy weekend jump programme and some excellent formation flying. On our fourth attempt at a 21-way, we completed it and not only for a second or two, but for six seconds. Everyone on the jump was watching one of the participants take the scenic route to their slot! We knew we were on a roll and had two full days of jumping ahead of us.

However, the British weather did not co-operate. After a quick shuffle to add some more support team flyers, we only managed one attempt at 24-way which was fingertips away from closing the only shot we had at it. This was to be our last attempt because there was no further jumping on Sunday or Monday.

What is the future of UK records?

We as a country are progressing and growing in skills, experience and discipline in all areas of the sport – not just freeflying. But, as the size of records increases, so too does the difficulty in organisation. That means it's even more important to have training camps, the right aircraft availability and, of course, the essential logistics and planning. Currently, we have been running Head Up and Head Down Records on alternate years, but this means we will be out of kilter with the World Record which is due to be Head Down next in 2021. Also, to set a record that can beat the current 37-way, we will need either three aircraft or two large tailgate aircraft and we might possibly need to go to a higher altitude as

well. Perhaps next year would be a great year to start the ball rolling with Head Down Sequential Records, using this as a spring board to break the Head Down Record?

One thing is for certain: getting out of your comfort zone at your home DZ and jumping at a variety of load-organised events is the way to progress. One of the most difficult jobs for an organiser is picking people if they haven't flown with them before, so getting to know organisers is a great idea and you'll know what to work on to get to the next level. Our role as organisers is not just how to find the next generation of record breakers, but how to build them! ●

5 Allllmost a 24-way, by Chris Cook

6 The core four launched successfully on every one of the nine jumps that were completed, by Chris Cook

Ally Milne is a full-time professional Instructor and Coach who is available to run skills camps worldwide and who has broken world records in FS, Head Down and Head Up. He would like to thank his sponsors, Performance Designs, United Parachute Technologies, Airtec, Cookie Composites, Larsen and Brusgaard and Vertex Suits, and you can contact him at allymilne@live.co.uk.



By Rob Lloyd



6
 7 Support group
 organiser Jakub
 Langowski and
 record organiser
 Ally Milne, by
 Martin Martinez

8 An essential part
 of a good record
 camp is great
 canopy control
 and safe landings.
 By Martin Martinez



UK Head Up Record history

- Sep 2013: 8-way
- Oct 2014: 12-way
- May 2017: 14-way
- May 2019: 18-way
- May 2019: 21-way

European Head Up Record history

- Sep 2015: 21-way (30% British)
- Jun 2017: 43-way (30% British)



THE JOURNEY OF AN A LICENCE JUMPER

It's good to remember the journey we made in becoming skydivers, so what better way to remind ourselves than to hear the experiences of a recent A Licence skydiver? Andy Guest spoke to Isabel Espinosa

PHOTOS: BEN CURWEN

1



My uncle is a skydiver and, as I have always looked up to him, I wanted to jump as well. I was at Bristol University when I saw on the internet that the university had a skydiving club. It was quite useful to join them because it makes skydiving more affordable, so I chose to do the Accelerated Free Fall course.

Before leaving Bristol for the skydiving ground school, I texted my uncle that I was going to skydive and he replied: "I know you won't be afraid." That gave me a lot of confidence which made it easier when the time came to jump.

The AFF course and having to learn new levels was so much fun and it was very rewarding when you passed a level. I think my confidence grew most on my sixth jump; I found the back somersault less challenging than I expected. The fact that I was no longer flying belly to earth the entire skydive proved to be more fun than any previous jumps, making me feel more comfortable in the sky. I had watched and admired the tunnel rats before I started skydiving and now I knew I wanted to get into freeflying as soon as I can. I also admired my uncle because he has done a lot of HALO jumps. It's something I would love to do in the future so I can experience what he did – it's on my wish list.

The other skydivers are really friendly and supportive. They always ask me about my progression and wave goodbye as I exit the plane. I found it very easy to approach other skydivers with questions. It never really feels silly to ask and we are always encouraged to ask.

I am considering attending a canopy handling course because it will make me more competent under canopy. Once I have consistently good landings and accuracy under the same canopy in different weather conditions, I will consult an Instructor who is familiar with my canopy control as well as the Chief Instructor about downsizing. Most skydivers have advised me to wait a little bit before buying my own kit because, as I progress, the equipment is going to be constantly changing. I do feel it's useful to buy the basic items: helmet, goggles, altimeter, jumpsuit and audio alarm.

The most fun I have had recently was on my 31st jump doing an FS coaching jump with Pete Guest, even though it was belly to earth! I have had really good experiences with the BPA progression system so far because I find that it encourages skydivers to progress, yet at a safe rate.

It is my long-term goal to compete in freeflying competitions, although I have to be honest and admit that I don't quite know how to go about it yet and it's probably too early to think about that for the moment. I want to get FF coaching and work towards my FF1 as soon as possible, then from there I hope to progress my skills further. However, before that, I have to balance a few things first like getting my FS1 and doing more



1 'Consol buddies'
Dom Hirst, Isabel Espinosa and James Goodley

2 Dirtdiving the freefall part of the next jump

"I have no doubt that most skydivers will be able to relate to Isabel's journey and also know how much fun is ahead of her. Mentally, everyone is different and some will cope better in situations than others, but the passion and drive in becoming a skydiver is the same. We can all remember how nice it was when someone stepped up to jump with us to help with our learning curve, at the same time saying they would pay for their own jump and so enable us to do an extra jump. So how about stepping up and returning that same kindness that was given to us by finding an A or B Licence jumper and asking them to jump with you? Just clear it with the CI first!"

Andy Guest

"I decided to start skydiving on a whim because I was kind of bored of uni and, not to be cheesy, it has changed my life. Chris Chittock gave me the advice to commit fully to the sport and convinced me (in a nightclub!) to go to BCPA Indoors. After that, I was hooked and was at the DZ every time the weather was even remotely jumpable. That's the best piece of advice I would give anyone: you get out of skydiving

what you put in. Having this advice from the start is what allowed me to do almost my entire AFF in five days. It also hugely helped to have people like Isabel nagging me to come to the DZ every available day. The support system in skydiving is incredible and so supportive and it has helped me progress so much in the sport."

James Goodley

"I started on static line but, on an early freefall jump, I became unstable and had a small entanglement which freaked me out a bit. I decided to switch to AFF, which was a great decision for me. I progressed really well through the course and got onto consols quickly. The best advice I had was just to relax and enjoy the freefall. Sometimes the levels can be stressful, but being more relaxed helped me to keep a stable position and enjoy the jump more. It was nice to be on consols with Isabel and James; we had more fun as a small group and could push each other. I'm now B Licence and working towards my FS1, but I'd love to get onto tracking after that."

Dom Hirst



Rise Up

Rise Up is the BPA's mentoring programme, providing a structured skills-sharing

and support network. Don't be mistaken: this is not just for 'baby skydivers'. Rise Up offers advice and assistance on a wide range of topics such as progression, competition, sponsorship, safety, careers and much more.

For most of us, being brave enough to jump out of an aeroplane is not enough of a reason on its own to keep doing it. We continue to jump because we have fun when we jump together. It is our commitment to the team or the group we jump with that motivates us to set goals and turn up every time to perform our best.

Without our advisors and friends, none of us would have the drive to go to the dropzone every weekend, get through idle weather holds and spend thousands of pounds to jump again and again.

But not all of us can pluck up the courage to speak to a stranger, set up a team or find the right people to ask for advice. This is particularly difficult for tandem students, newly qualified skydivers and those who have joined us from overseas. Some are lucky enough to be invited to join a team and some are grouped together by coaches, but others simply slip through the net and don't show up at a dropzone anymore.

Through Rise Up, we ensure that everyone, including experienced jumpers, has a chance to receive tailored advice and assistance from another skilful skydiver. You can find out more, and sign up as either a mentor or mentee, at bpa.org.uk/training-and-progression/rise-up.

3 Emplaning for another skydive that will take Isabel one jump closer to her B Licence

jumps to get my B Licence. I have already blitzed all the B Licence stuff because I saw no point wasting time; it's now just jump numbers that are keeping that B Licence out of my hand.

It is definitely worth staying at the DZ on bad weather days because it has enabled me to finish all the B Licence briefs. Also, and as we all know, the weather can be unpredictable and I have been able to jump when it improves unexpectedly thanks to still being on the DZ. There are a lot of things to learn about on the ground e.g. the kit and other skydiving-related things which are often neglected if there is jumping going on. Besides, you only have a chance to jump if you are at the DZ.

I've been told by several people that BPA Skydive the Expo and the AGM are supposed to be very educational, so I'd like to attend next time.

On the skydiving side, it's only natural that there's always the thought about

having to deal with a malfunction. To be honest, it wasn't much of an excitement when it did happen to me. It went as we had practised it in AFF so it didn't put me off in any way. If anything, it encouraged my confidence.

To help make skydiving more affordable – I am a university student, after all – I took my packing test and I now pack to be able to purchase more jump tickets. I am very ambitious, which I suppose is a good thing because it means I am driven to achieve my objectives, but at the same time it can be quite stressful because I put myself under a lot of pressure. Then again, I like a challenge. In time, I would like to become an AFF Instructor because I think it's a fast and fun way of getting more people into our sport.

People sometimes ask me what skydiving is like and 'is it scary?'. It's hard to give an accurate account, so I normally reply: 'Just do it. It's fun and not scary at all.' ●



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FALL OUT

This is the spectacularly glitter-covered tale of the UK's first-ever Rainbow Boogie at Skydive Tilstock and, perhaps more crucially, why it happened too

WORDS: ALEX 'BUZZ' BUSBY-HICKS, SKYDIVE TILSTOCK CI AND DZO **PHOTOS:** ROB LLOYD



RAINBOW BOOGIE

Why

I was in the Army for 22 years and, at the risk of offending those readers who are ex/serving service personnel, the environment I worked in for most of those 22 years was, to varying degrees, racist, misogynistic and homophobic. Unfortunately, this is also a view shared by many non-military people.

Some years ago, while I was fortunate enough to be posted to RAPA as an Instructor, I received a call from my sister who wanted to speak to me about my eldest nephew. The tone in her voice led me to believe something serious had happened to him, so I was relieved to hear that all she wanted to tell me was that he had come out. I was more concerned that she was scared to tell me as she was worried what my reaction would be and that she would ever think that I would judge someone on their sexuality – especially my nephew.

Fast forward a few years to when I had become a Chief Instructor, and I was saddened when a student approached me to say that they felt their sexuality was an issue with one of my Instructors.

Fast forward once again to 2018, when the BPA's decision to support the LGBTQ+ community by applying a rainbow filter to the logo on Facebook was met with a disappointing and offensive response

from a number of members.

The Rainbow Boogie has been an annual event in the USA since 2006. I had been thinking of running a Rainbow Boogie in the UK for a few years and the debacle around the BPA logo finally spurred me on to make it happen.

Where

Skydive Tilstock (Tilly) is a small dropzone nestled on the Welsh border between Wrexham and Crewe. It has a long and interesting history, being the oldest skydiving operation in the UK. Parachuting has taken place at the airfield continuously since 1964, initially with the Manchester Skydivers and then through several incarnations to the present with Skydive Tilstock Freefall Club. It is also reputed to have hosted the two biggest boogies ever held in the UK.

I have never organised a boogie and, being a small DZ with a planning permission arrangement that doesn't allow aircraft movements on Sundays, I decided to keep it small and do limited promotion. I also decided to charge a registration fee, in part to encourage participation (jumpers are more likely to attend an event they have paid for it even if the forecast is iffy) but also to help provide entertainment for the Saturday night. I was concerned that

the registration fee would put people off, but I needn't have been. The response to the boogie was great and we had more than 70 people pre-register with more turning up each day during the boogie.

We were super-impressed that Jack, Cara and Hayley from XDream and Symbi Suits wanted to come on board and support the boogie – and not only with load organising and coaching, but also providing the awesome boogie T-shirts. We had Al and Pixie come along with their Cookie/UPT goodies, Ali Woodhouse representing Cypres, and many more manufacturers providing prizes for the raffle too.

The Caravan was booked from UK Para (thanks for all your help, Grant) and a helicopter scheduled in for the Sunday, emplaning off-site to circumvent the restriction of aircraft movements. Once the other niff-naff and trivia – showers, food, booze, entertainment etc – was sorted, the only thing we needed that couldn't be booked was the weather.

Sunshine Funshine

The first day of the boogie came along and we had great weather. It was a slow but smooth start to the event but, considering that it was a Thursday, it was great to see so many people arrive at the DZ on what was essentially a working day in the real world.



Friday saw more glorious weather and more glorious jumpers arriving, with more of the same on Saturday. It wasn't until 5pm when God realised what we were doing and sent the clouds along, and we finished jumping for what turned out to be the rest of the weekend.

Over the three days, there was a steady turnaround and groups were available for most interests and ability levels. Load Organising and coaching was available for FS, FF, and TR. FS was provided by Jack and Cara from XDream, Rich Cotton, Ali Woodhouse, Chris Mayhew and Al Hodgson, with great progress being seen across the disciplines.

On more than one occasion, I heard jumpers say how surprised they were to be able to turn up at a DZ jump on an 8- or 10-way and turn multiple points. Everyone had turned up with no preconceived ideas of what to expect and that lack of expectation and pressure resulted in people achieving some great skydives.

Saturday saw us running two planes, with our resident Airvan taking care of the tandems and static line students and the Caravan being used by the fun jumpers. Considering this was the first time we had ever run multiple aircraft, my staff did an outstanding job of keeping the whole operation running super smoothly.

Rainbows, Rainbows, Rainbows

The whole point of the event was for LGBTQ+ skydivers to be able to jump with other LGBTQ+ jumpers and celebrate the diversity and inclusivity that we pride ourselves on in the sport, which had been thrown into sharp relief during the logo saga.

For three glorious days, Tilly was a fabulous and amazing place to jump – it was (and, yes, I am biased) the coolest DZ in the world. Many boogie attendees wore colourful, patterned and just simply fabulous leggings and there was more glitter than I have ever seen in one place (we're still finding it at the DZ two months later). Another sight to behold, and be eaten, was the fantastic rainbow cake baked by Owen Burbidge and enjoyed by all (that's the way to get in the CI's good books!). It was also great to see so many people bringing along their fines for the beer fridge, contributing to what seemed like an endless supply of free beer.

A boogie isn't a boogie without a party and Saturday's was huge. It wasn't just to celebrate the boogie, but also to celebrate Kat's (DZO and my awesome wife) birthday. Kicking off with free food and booze, live music, then a disco until the small hours, the night

was danced away and, making the most of the poor Sunday forecast, many played and won Met Roulette!

Sunday saw many sore heads and all the hallmarks of a great night were on display. Many left the DZ once they were fit to drive, others disappeared to see the sights of north Shropshire and have Sunday lunch, with a few people stopping over and leaving on Monday.

We really didn't expect too much from the Rainbow Boogie. We knew it would be a special event, but we were surprised at just how well it was attended and supported. It was a fantastic event, with a great atmosphere that was in no small part due to my staff and the wonderful jumpers that came along to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ skydiving community.

Onwards and upwards!

We wanted the first Rainbow Boogie to be a small event and to grow year on year. Even though we had a great time and everyone enjoyed themselves, we do realise there are a number of areas where we can improve. That said, such was the success of this year's event that the second UK Rainbow Boogie is already in the diary and will be held on May 21-25 2020. See you there. ●



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

With the BPA Nationals just weeks away, what are the best FS apps to download?

WORDS: MATT CUMMING

This article was originally planned as a review of all of the skydiving apps out there, but the amazing quantity means that, for now, this is just a review of some of the FS apps available on Android and iOS. Rather than rating or ranking each one, I've chosen to focus on comparing functionality and leave it to you to choose which you fancy downloading.

FS Ninja (Android)

Learning the many different random formations and blocks can feel overwhelming when you first enter the world of 4-way. FS Ninja is a great way to help you visualise where you need to be and what grips you need to be taking, with a fully animated visualisation of all the moves you need for Rookie and Single A 4-way. Simply choose the

formations you want and you can scroll through an animated version of the dive at a speed of your choosing.

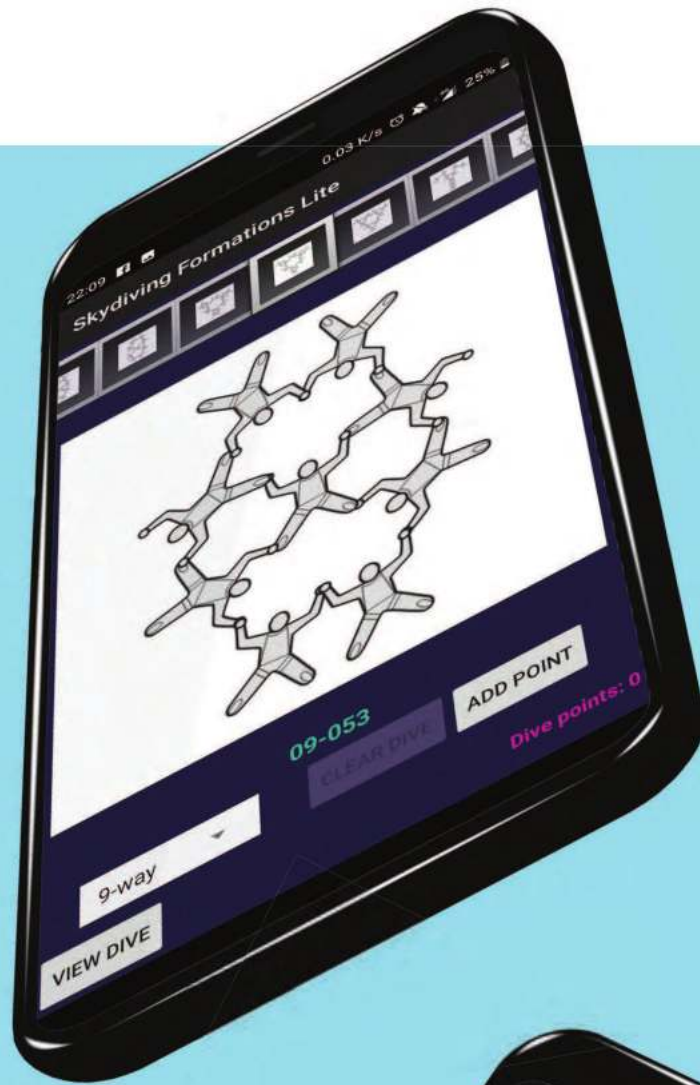
FS Ninja also provides a random dive generator; dives can be saved for later and shared with your friends online. It also offers flash cards to help you really do your homework. The app is completely free and great overall but, unfortunately, it's still missing the AA and AAA blocks... for now!





Skydiving Formations (Lite) (Android)

Based on the original book by Mike Truffer, *The Book of Skydiving Formations*, this app is packed with a huge variety of big-way formations to try. You get some nice functionality to create and save dives and some of the formations are really creative and quirky! The Lite version comes with 80+ 9-way formations and you can pay £4.69 for the full version to unlock more than the five free examples for other formation sizes. This app is ideal for Load Organisers or for anyone looking to plan some group skydiving. The original book (now available in eBook format and on iPad) includes a chapter on organising formation skydives and provides an extensive list of more than 1,000 different formations of varying difficulty.



Skydiving Draw (Android)

Skydiving Draw is great app in the 'dive pool' category. It's straightforward, very easy to use and has a lot of information and tools. It has a much broader selection of dive pools to choose from, with 2-, 4-, 8-, 10- and 16-way as well as VFS 2- and 4-way, CF 2- and 4-way and more.

It features a dive timer to score your dives (including a bust counter) and has a 'Learn' section with quizzes to help you learn formations, as well as a dive generator/random draw function.

While this app doesn't animate any of the blocks, it has very clear images showing the start, inter and close of each move. The formatting and images are quite different across the disciplines and, in some cases, the basic black and white can be a slight drawback because it's harder to immediately tell who's who. However, most of the images are very clear and it's nice to see an app including the 16-way dive pool.

All of these dive pools can be yours for £2.99 from the Google Play Store.





Rhythm Skydiving 401 (Android and iOS)

This is the ultimate app for 4-way enthusiasts and it's packed full of everything you could possibly want to know about 4-way skydiving.

I'm going to skip over the Rhythm 101 app, mostly because 401 offers a lot more detailed FS coaching. However, as a quick aside, Rhythm 101 also offers a huge amount of information on the basics of skydiving, beginner FS1-level skills and 2-way/3-way dive ideas plus a whole lot more great stuff. It's free and definitely worth a download.

Rhythm 401 starts from the beginning and fully explains everything you could possibly want to know about 4-way through detailed notes and short videos covering all the finer details of how 4-way skydiving works. There's a vast range of material, from tips for finding and putting together a team to explaining all the different slots.

The in-app videos are perfect for learning blocks and randoms. Once downloaded, you can change the playback speed and easily navigate through the videos, keeping track of who's who with the handy colour-coded helmets.

The videos have axes overlaid on top of blocks as an excellent tool for not only seeing what the moves should look like,

but really understanding the pictures and angles too. As with a lot of the apps covered here, Rhythm 401 also comes with some nice flash cards.

The Basics section extensively covers everything you might want to know about 4-way including advice and tips on how to get the most out of training plans, budgets and schedules for training camps. The dive timer from Rhythm keeps track of exactly how long each transition and block takes as well as just scoring the dive,

which is very useful for prioritising blocks to work on. The dive generator is flexible and can produce draws in any format you desire too.

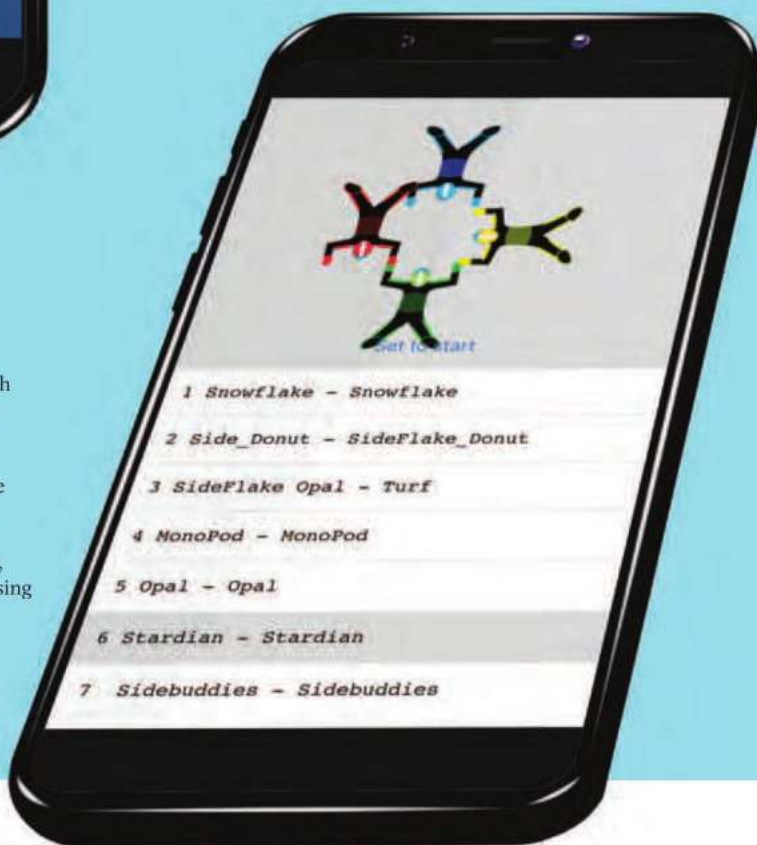
On top of the formation flying, the app contains exit videos demonstrating how to launch all the randoms and blocks from both the mock-up and the plane. Rhythm add 10 new training jumps per month as part of the subscription and there are regular updates from the team about upcoming events as well.

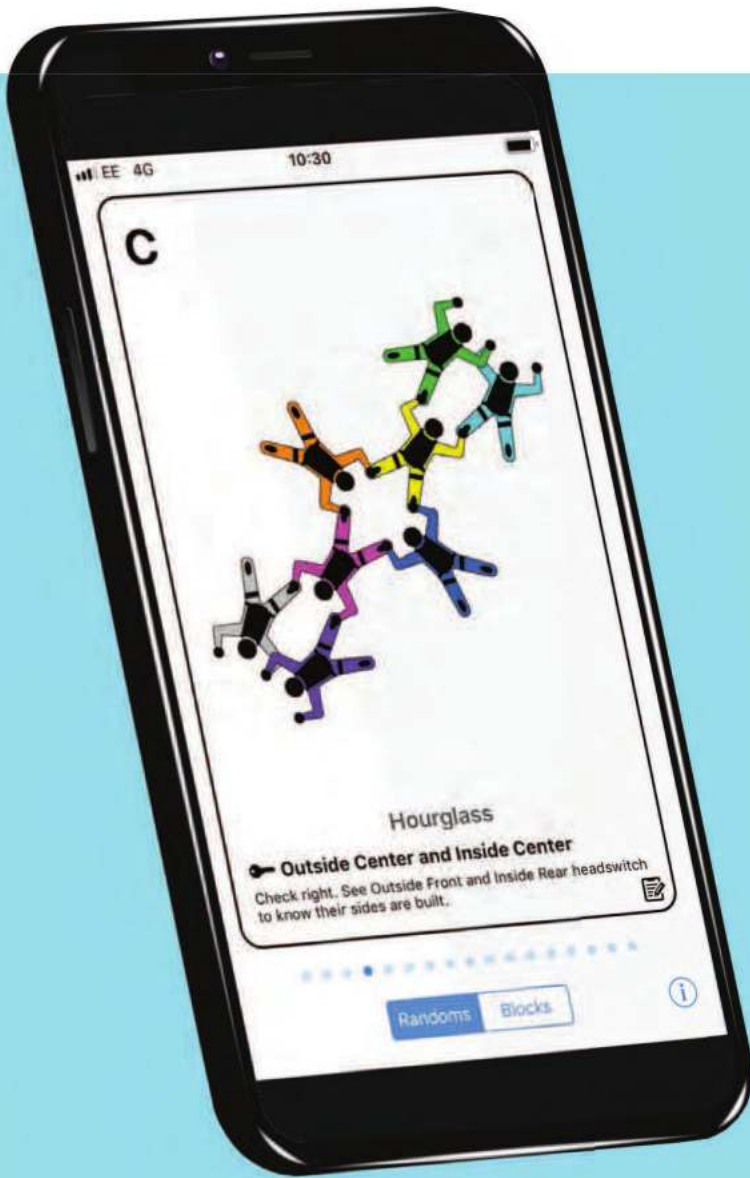
A lot of information in this app is free, but the full app is by far the most expensive on our list; at around £90, the annual subscription is similar in cost to that of a 4-way team training jump. However, with so many useful resources, it's likely that the improvements you'll see will be worth it – even if it only saves you from funnelling one exit!



Move Four (iOS)

Move Four is a nice simple app with all the 4-way blocks colour-coded and animated to show you how to fly the moves. The blocks are all flown technically correct, but some of the moves look a little different to how they would normally be flown in practice. Having said that, it's a very good free tool for visualising all the blocks.





SkyPlan

A drawing board for your formation skydives! Choose the number of skydivers you want and create your formations by dragging, dropping and rotating the skydivers around the screen.

With functionality to save and load formations, this could be a handy tool for a load organiser. It's a little fiddly moving and rotating the skydivers at first until you get used to it and, generally, I found this app works best on a bigger screen. It's a handy app for noting down formations you've thought up and saving them for later once you get used to drawing them up quickly.

RSE08 (iOS)

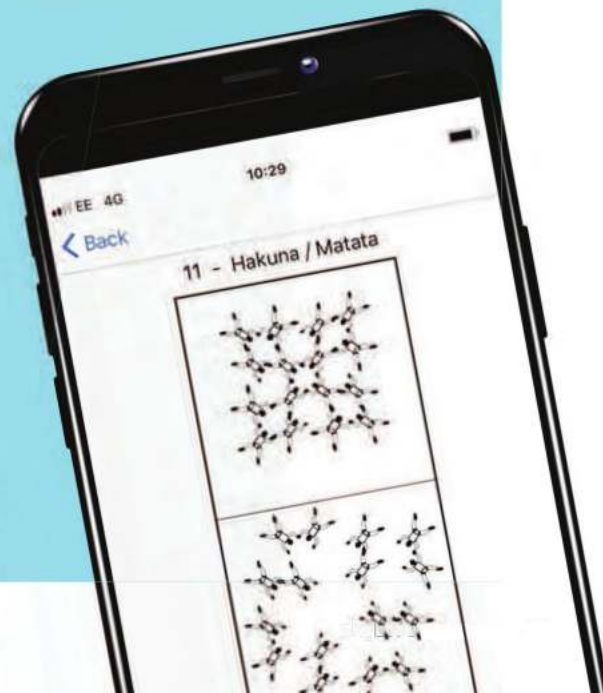
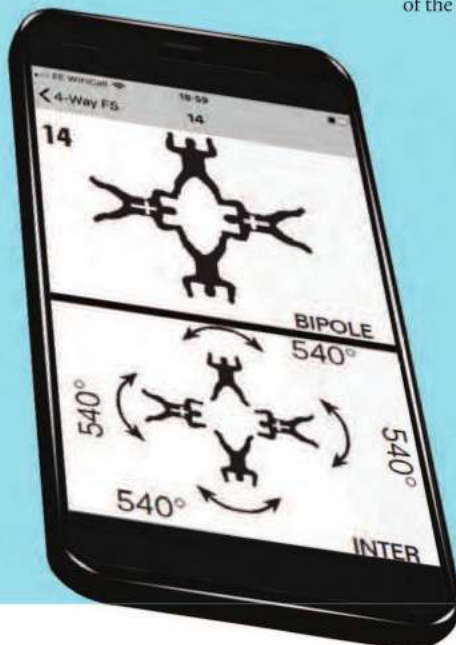
Having reviewed all the apps above, there aren't many new features to describe now. RSE08 is free on the App Store and contains the 4-way, 8-way and 16-way dive pools. It's great to see the 16-way dive pool in all its glory – the figures below show the 16-way formations in black and white, but it's worth noting the 4- and 8-way dive pools are nicely colour-coded. The images clearly show the randoms and start, inter and close of all blocks. Like most of the apps described, there is also a quiz feature to test your knowledge of the dive pools.

Octomino

Octomino is a brilliant app for learning the 8-way dive pool, not just in terms of the shapes, but also with tips on how to build and fly all the formations and blocks. My review for this app will be short and sweet because the concept is very simple. It is very detailed and an excellent app for a new 8-way flier. All the cards are colour-coded for each formation with information on the keys. Tap to turn over for comprehensive information on how to build and fly the formations and blocks. And all of this for free!

DivePool (iOS)

Another free app which allows you to generate draws and choose any formation to view as a simple diagram. Settings allow you to choose between various dive pools (Rookie, Intermediate, Advance, Pro) for 4-way FS and 2- and 4-way VFS. DivePool is fairly useful as a reference app or for a quick draw, but the lack of colour-coding means it's not ideal for beginners learning the dive pool.



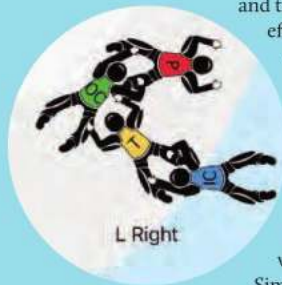
4way Coach (iOS)

4way Coach is an impressive app for £2.99 from the App Store. It provides a place to save your team contacts, a good dive timer to score your dives (allowing you to view through the camera so you can still see the video as you score it) and essentially all the standard features we've seen so far.

All the basics are great, with clear colour-coded formations and so on. The animation of the dives is excellent and works very well, showing all block moves and transitions between points efficiently. There are various settings you can tweak such as the speed of the dive and the colours/labels of the animated figures. However, what really sets this app apart is the range of alternate blocks and randoms it includes to help with your dive engineering.

Simply tap a formation to switch it from 'left-handed' to 'right-handed' or to an alternate random. You can also set the default preferences in settings based on what you're used to.

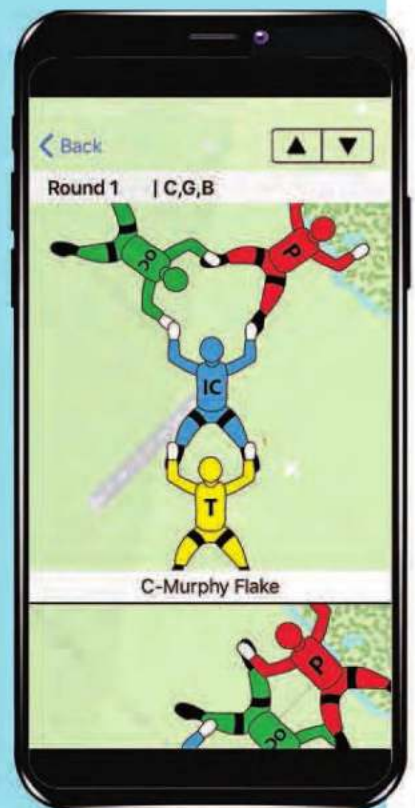
The app is clearly updated regularly because it has the new blocks 1 and 13 (and an option to use the old blocks). There is an in-app purchase for £1.99 to unlock the 3-way dive pool too. In the category of animated FS apps, this app really stands out. The nice, smooth animations are good enough for dive engineering and a huge variety of settings to customise the app make it ideal whether you're a beginner or a pro.



Skydive Planner (iOS)

Skydive Planner is another app with a lot of choice of dive pools, coming in at £3.99 in the App Store – the choice of 8-way dive pools alone shows that! The app covers 4-way and 8-way FS as well as 2- and 4-way CF.

This app is nice and straightforward with a score keeper, a planner and simple pictures of all the formations. As many of the others do, it also comes with a dive timer to save your scores and a planner to plan your day's jumps.



4way Dives (iOS)

For 99p in the App Store, this is a nice basic app which shows all the 4-way randoms and blocks in a clear, labelled and colour-coded format. You can generate competition draws or build your own (and save them for later), and there is also a good flash card feature too.

A little confusingly, this app has an option to "turn on the new blocks 1 and 13" but this refers to the previous block updates. As such, we don't have the latest block 1 and 13 here but we do have the options to have a look at the previous two incarnations of the blocks.



Conclusion

Thanks to all the developers who provided free access to the apps to allow for a review. It turns out there are loads of great apps out there for learning and planning formation skydives! I absolutely recommend browsing the app store(s) for these FS apps, and the many other skydiving apps out there. ●

Boogie Tour

ChutingStar's Laura Bates takes the stop on the road with demos, new gear, expert advice and hydration central! Next stop:

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MAKING AN EXIT

Launching a linked 4-way head up exit doesn't have to be impossible. Here's what you need to know

WORDS: ALLY MILNE

Base training on a warm-up weekend ahead of the UK Head Up Record. The record weekend saw the base four launch successfully on all nine jumps. By Ming Chu



Setting up on the float rail



The view from the inside of the aircraft



Press the grips down level with the shoulders and lean back



Monkey grip. All ground shots by Chris Cook



Pick the best people

Launching a linked head up exit is one of the most challenging types of exit in the sport. More people have launched 4-way belly or head down exits than sit fly, but what head up lacks in beauty, it makes up for in challenge! Pick your best team because everyone has to fly their asses off – you can't carry anyone on a head up exit like in other orientations.

Set up in the door correctly

There are several ways to set this exit up. The top tip for launching a head up exit is to use a tailgate aircraft. However, since we don't have any in the UK, we are going to look at three floaters and one diver using a left-hand door on a Dornier 28 G92. Caravan exits are similar but more challenging due to a shorter door.

Front Floater

Left hand holding onto the inside bar. Right hand holding onto centre float by either the wrist or sleeve grip. Shoulders perpendicular to the door, facing the back of the aircraft. Left foot only on the floor, right foot already presented to the airflow.

Centre (sideways) Floater

Left hand holding onto the inside bar. Right hand monkey grip with rear floater. Shoulders parallel to the door, right shoulder lower and left higher. Try to just have your right foot on the door – this should look similar to a dog peeing against a lamp post.

Rear Floater

Left hand monkey grip with centre floater. Right hand holding onto the inside bar at full arm extension while leaning back. Shoulders perpendicular to the door. Right foot only on the floor at the back of the door, left leg already presented.

Inside Diver (A.K.A. 'Cannonball')

Left hand taking the wrist or sleeve grip on rear floater. Right hand taking the wrist or sleeve grip on front floater. Left foot on the edge of the door frame. If there is space to get the ball of your foot on the edge, even better!

Timing

The inside flyer begins the key once everyone is still and they have made eye contact with each of them. The inside flyer rocks their whole body out, then in, then go using the momentum to launch out of the door.

Go!

On the exit, the outside flyers need to hop up and out – this buys the inside flyer half a second to cannonball out of the door. Practice the exit on the ground using a mock-up several times first. The key to the Go phase is that everyone's feet should hit the ground at the same time when launching from the mock-up. If they don't, that means the outside flyers aren't hopping up enough. In the air, this launches the inside flyer over the top of the group and this is one of the most common reasons for head up exit failure.

Presentation

Once the flyers have hopped, the next step is presenting the thighs/bum/feet to the relative airflow. If the exit piece rotates, then you'll have to make some changes in your body to ensure the air is hitting you in the correct place. It's important to keep the correct presentation or you will cork out of the formation.

Front Floater

After the hop, lean forwards and push your bum back.

Centre (sideways) Floater

After the hop, left side high and the right side low.

Rear Floater

After the hop, lean back and try to look at the aircraft as a heading.

Inside diver (A.K.A. 'Cannonball')

Initially, keep your knees close to your chest and your chest level with the horizon.

Fly hard

In the early stages of trying these exits, it's normal for one or more flyers to have made an error. If the grips are strong enough, you can use them to correct yourself. Giving up and dropping the grips is a sure way for the exit to explode, so sometimes a bit of extra effort is required to hold and use the grips to orientate your body to the correct angle. If you end up too high and the grips are pulling you so air hits your belly, resist the temptation to go into stand because it will make the situation worse by increasing the air on the belly. Pull your knees close to your shoulders to drop back down using the grips to get some leverage to lean back.

Transfer the grips

The next thing to focus on is to transfer the grips so everyone has a monkey grip. This grip is the strongest way to keep hold because, if one person is struggling to hold on, the other can help. If you jump without gloves, make sure your nails are trimmed! It's important you aren't backsliding when the grip transfer happens otherwise, despite all your hard work, the exit can blow apart. Once you have the grips, concentrate on pressing the grips down level with the shoulders so that the fall rate does not speed up too much. Base grips in head up require a lot of strength and there should be a high tension that is equal on both sides. A good drill for practising how the grips should feel is everyone leaning back and using the grips to support yourself on the ground. This is about the correct feeling of tension to make it work.

NEW COACHES

The DZs given are the ones where the coach achieved their rating, but they may be available to coach at other DZs. Congratulations to all.

BASIC FREEFLY COACH

Karen Nielsen, Tilstock
Simon Houston,
Wild Geese

BASIC TRACKING COACH

Nicolas Pavlou, Cyprus
Antonios Loizou, Cyprus
Alexandros Krasias,
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Iain Grant, APA
Michael Bayada, APA

CF COACH

Wes Guest, Welsh Air
Adventures
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James Rose, APA
Jordan Dickinson,
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Rupert Peters, Langar
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PLANE SPEAKING

By Martin Škrbel



Since the last Mag, there have tragically been two skydiving plane crashes in less than two months, killing 20 people. All 10 skydivers aboard and the pilot were killed on June 21 in Hawaii when a Beech 65-A90 (King Air) collided with terrain after take-off. Then, on July 14, a Gippsland G8 (Airvan) crashed in Sweden, killing all eight skydivers aboard and the pilot – the deadliest Swedish plane crash in three decades.

Early indications are that the Airvan in Sweden suffered structural failure at 13,000ft and, at the time of writing, there is an Emergency Airworthiness Directive in place. Issued by EASA, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency, this currently prohibits all Airvan flights in EU member states as an interim measure. Authorities in other non-European countries have taken similar action until more is known about the cause of the structural failure, which may have involved a wing detaching from the aircraft.

The King Air in Hawaii had

the final second of its accident sequence captured in the top left frame of a surveillance video camera located at the southeast corner of the airport. Preliminary review of the video data revealed that, just before impact, the plane was in an inverted 45° nose-down attitude. A fireball then erupted after impact and the cabin, tail section and inboard wings were largely consumed by fire.

Accident investigations rightly take many months or even years to complete fully. There is usually an initial report that states 'what' happened quite quickly, but then the 'why' takes much longer. So what can we as skydivers do in the meantime? Well, it wouldn't hurt to remind ourselves of lessons that have already been learned from previous crashes by checking that we can answer the following questions before we get on board any aircraft:

1) Do I know the maximum permitted number of skydivers that this aircraft may take?

Is it different after a refuel? If I am not the JM, do I still count how many people are on board and would I be confident to speak up if there has been a mistake and the plane is overloaded?

2) Do I know the location of all restraints on board and the rules about wearing them? This is different to just grabbing the nearest restraint and making sure that I personally am wearing one because I might have just taken the only one that reaches somebody else. I need to make sure that I play my part in ensuring that everybody is correctly restrained.

3) Am I mentally prepared throughout the whole flight, or do I see it as time to switch off and just wait to reach jump altitude? If my reaction to an aircraft emergency depends on the altitude I am at, do I mentally tick those off on the way up? A common plan is 'high – main; low – reserve; really low – brace'. But how low is 'low' and

how much time would be wasted checking altitude and making a decision under pressure?

4) Do I know the relevant weight and balance rules in flight? This is particularly relevant on run-in – how many people can safely climb into or out of the door on exit before the pilot is at risk of stalling the aircraft? Teamwork from the rest of the lift can play a big part if the first group to exit is a large one, as the later groups can keep their weight closer to the pilot and not move towards the door too early.

5) Am I confident that I am not going to cause a premature deployment in the door of the aircraft? Are my closing loops in perfect condition and am I able to get into my exit position without scraping my rig against the edge of the door, catching my hackey or reserve handle on anything, hooking my camera through someone else's reserve handle or taking a grip on something silly?

GEAR ZONE



Insta360 - One X

Unless you happen to spend your life under a rock and off the internet, you can't help but notice the growing shift to using 360° cameras in skydiving. They offer a huge range of new, creative angles for your shots, as well as being really versatile for all aspects of our jumps.

I've used the Insta360 One for a while and love the simplicity of the camera and what it can offer. However, the quality was acceptable, but not exactly up there. Well, Insta360 have heard people's calls for better and released their new action cam – the One X.

Featuring a similar form with a 200° field of view lens on each side, the One X looks like they've ironed a One. It's a bit bigger overall, but flatter and thinner at just 28mm.

Shooting at a total of 5.7K

and taking 18MP photos on the 1/2.3" Sony CMOS sensor at f2.0, the One X works with the H264 codec at up to 120Mbps and can output in .insv, .mp4 and LOG for the more advanced users. It uses MicroSD cards of up to 128GB and has all the usual connectivity such as Bluetooth and WiFi to connect to your mobile devices, or you can just plug in a USB cable to work with your computer.

The battery is removable for hot-swapping during the day and offers 60 minutes of non-stop shooting from the 1200mAh powerpack.

Particularly useful for us is the HDR which helps balance the light and dark in scenes, as well as the FlowState image stabilisation which uses a built-in six-axis gyroscopic stabiliser. This produces some truly smooth cinematic-style video, which looks awesome.

Along with the camera, Insta360 have released a range of accessories including different types of protective and waterproof cases, as well as a GPS smart remote which not only helps operate the camera on your head, but also lets you overlay location and speed data on your videos – particularly cool for wingsuiters, trackers and canopy pilots.

With your footage shot, Insta360 offer a great bit of software for editing on your computer or an app for your phone, both of which are free and work really well. Want to be even more creative? You can take the files from the camera and work with them natively in Adobe Premier.

The One X is available from all the usual retailers, with a retail price of around £379 depending on where you get it. Find out more at insta360.com.



Cookie – Flight Bag

Helmet legends Cookie have just announced a new accessory to keep your helmet safe. Called the Flight Bag, this puppy not only has plenty of room for your helmet (you know, perhaps like a G4), but the main section has space for a jumpsuit and all your other skydiving bits and bobs, like an alti, spare bungees, pull ups etc.

It's not quite the definition of a gear bag because you obviously can't fit a rig in there, but you could certainly carry everything else you need for a day's jumping or a tunnel trip. The main section of the bag is nicely padded to keep your helmet and other gear safe, and it also features a number of vents around the bag to let a bit of air in and the sweaty stink of your gear out. Along the sides, there are a couple of other pockets giving you even more storage for things like water bottles, keys, wallets and phones. If you like to travel, this would also make a great hand luggage-sized bag to take your gear with you because there's enough space for your passport and other travel essentials.

There's no firm launch date at time of going to press, but hopefully you'll be able to find out more on flycookie.com by the time you read this.

Ultimate Ear – SoundEar

If you caught last month's Gear Zone, you'll remember I was talking about ear plugs and how important I think they are for jumping with. The repeated noise from being in our aircraft and freefall will damage your hearing over time, so wearing some protection really does make sense. As more and more of us are using things like FlySights for wingsuiting and canopy piloting, however, there's also a need to be able to hear audio in our helmets in freefall and under canopy.

To tick the boxes of hearing protection and of being able to hear devices and gizmos, enter the SoundEar monitors from Ultimate Ear. These are a pair of earplugs that also have a headphone capability built in. You know when you see a musician on stage with those in-ear headphones in? Well, these are pretty much those.

Not only do they offer 31dB of noise reduction, with a certified SNR and a CE rating, they also provide crystal clear audio in your lugholes. What's more, with the noise reduction, you can have the audio much quieter and still hear it. SoundEars offer the ultimate in

comfort because they are made from a physical mould of your ear. If you already have a pair of their awesome ear plugs, they can just make these from those moulds without seeing you again. If not, they attend plenty of shows each year, including BPA Skydive the Expo, or you can visit any of their dealers to get them done.

Made from a soft medical-grade silicone and in a range of colours, the SoundEars cleverly pack all the audio gear into such a small space that they don't protrude from your ears – making them super comfortable to wear under a helmet. Simply plug the cable into your FlySight or other gizmo, tuck the excess in and away you go. They can even make custom cable lengths to suit your helmet!

Available for £180, you can find out more on ultimateear.com.



By James
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1 By Mikey Lovemore

2 Hybrid weekend, by Tom Shorten

3 Mike Whyborn exits the Air France DC3 over St Laurent-sur-mer, by Paul French

4 Peter Angell riding Simon Soper on his 100th jump, by Sam Laming

5 Selfies from altitude can include an entire island! Nigel O'Brien wingsuiting over Jersey





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NEWS



BCPA

ENDING ON A HIGH

The academic year has drawn to an end, giving us all a much-deserved break. Students from nine different universities came together to celebrate in style at our biggest event of the year, the BCPA Boogie, which was held over five days at Dunkeswell.

Despite the weather being against us at the beginning of the event, all attendees had an amazing time – going trampolining, bouldering and photo scavenger hunting around the DZ! When the weather finally cleared, everyone was ready to do some real jumping and the load organisers did not disappoint. There were a couple of FS big-way groups completing jumps on Friday and Saturday and, thanks to our committed cameraflyers, we even have some photo evidence!

The big highlight of the event was the Saturday night, which started off with celebrating our achievements, followed by the AGM and finally finishing with the famous raffle and party.

A massive congratulations goes out to the University of Southampton for winning the Overall Universities League and the Indoor Championship, and to the University of Nottingham for winning the Achievements League. Finally, the University of Portsmouth was awarded Most Improved Club.

We would like to say thank you to all of our sponsors who have supported the raffle this year: Flight-1, XDream, iFly, Vertical Suits, Alti-2, Aerodyne, Bev Suits, AON(2), Cookie and Symbiosis Suits.

Finally, we would like to say welcome and good luck to our new committee for the year 2019/2020. This year, we have Catherine Diffey as Chair, Amber Padfield as Vice Chair, Karolina Zatorska as Events Coordinator, Chris Chittock as Clubs Liaison and Jack Bradford as Tour Organiser. If you need to get hold of any of us, we can be reached at mail@bcpa.org.uk and welcome any comments or queries.

Although the university year had ended, we are looking forward to the (hopefully) sunny summer and to organising more events for all students and alumni next academic year, starting with BCPA Freshers in November!

Have a great summer, everyone.

Karolina Zatorska

BECCLES

ZERO TO HERO

We're back again with another issue of our favourite magazine and, this time round, I'd like to talk a bit about progression and achievements.

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Sam Warburton for finally gaining his

BCPA

*Lizzie Attwood's
Load Organised
group, by
Alex Potter*

BECCLES

*David Narey and
Michael Wemyss,
by Callum Kennedy*

tandem rating. After being on standby on three weeks of different BPA tandem courses due to the weather, he finally passed with flying colours. You are a great cameraflyer and I'm sure you will be an even better Tandem Instructor, buddy!

Next, I would like to congratulate *Area 51*, a Beccles 4-way team consisting of Mark Walker, Mark King, Ian Whayman and Jordan Bates as well as cameraflyer Jon Wilson, who competed at the second UKSL meet at Sibson and won bronze in the Single A category. Huge congratulations to all of you guys for being awesome and representing us as a dropzone in competitions. It's great to hear that you are still training hard in the tunnel and preparing for the Nationals. I raise a glass to you all.

From someone who finds themselves on the dropzone most of the week and sees new students coming through the works daily, club jumpers turning into cameraflyers, cameraflyers turning into Tandem Instructors and Tandem Instructors turning into AFF Instructors, it warms my heart to see people doing what they love: jumping. I hope to continue to see the same enthusiasm.

Callum Kennedy

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Martin O'Neill FS1 Antoine Salzgeber
FF2 Josh Jamieson CP1 Matt Bannon, Dave Narey,
Dave Tee, Karl Thackeray, Sam Warburton WS1 Paul Flemans **JUMP NUMBERS**
800 Rhian Hogg 1,000 Sam Warburton 1,200 Mark Walker 2,000 Max Meridius



BLACK KNIGHTS

WEATHER DOESN'T ALWAYS STOP PLAY

What a fun-packed couple of months we have had! June did not start out great because the weather kept us well and truly grounded in true Great British Summer style. Although we have had to reschedule the wingsuit event and the big-way event, these will hopefully have been completed by the time this goes to print.

We would like to welcome Elliott Mees to the tandem team, although we may need to put a lock on the vending machine!

Elliot Mitchell and Levi Hamill have been out in Spain with Scotty Milne for AFF tuition and a big thank you goes to Scotty for all of his help and support.

A big thank you also goes to Will Cooke for his FS big-way event. As always, it was well-attended and lots of tuition was given.

Mark has been busy, as usual, with the FS big-way load organising and his continued FS coaching. Thanks for all of your continued support for the club and its members. A big thank you goes to Taff for the July advanced FS event – there was a great turn-out and some good progress. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

The BK tunnel nights are always well-attended and, if you would like more information, please call or message Mark for further details.

Matty Mitchell had his dynamic angles event here at the centre,

“It warms my heart to see people doing what they love: jumping”



BLACK KNIGHTS
Hybrid dive, by
Karen Whitehouse

although the weather stopped play on one of the days. He stated that he had an awesome group and was able to fly some tight lines.

The Black Knights display team completed a demo into the local Cockerham sports ground in July for their yearly fête. It was well-attended, and the guys had great fun.

It is going to be a busy summer and we look forward to welcoming all of our regulars and new skydivers to the centre. Remember to be safe in the sky and, if you need any further training or assistance, please speak to one of the many Instructors who will be happy to help.

Felix

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Sam Kelly, James Taylor CH2/JM1 Jess Critchlow, Nate Williams FS1 Sam Kelly, Ben Mensah, Rob Whiteoak, Nate Williams FF2 Matt Denton TR1 Craig Oliver Walsh JUMP NUMBERS 2,900 Elliot Mitchell SEVEN HOURS IN FREEFALL Phil Murray

BRIDLINGTON

NODDY FLIES AGAIN?

We have been busy working with charities lately and the first Yorkshire Air Ambulance day of the year was a huge success, raising more than £18,000 for the charity. We met some amazing and inspirational people over the day, each with their own story and reason for participating. The volunteers and staff did an outstanding job and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance have agreed that we can wear their logo on our staff hoodies. They are our leading charity partner and their next skydiving event, which will take place in September, is almost sold out.

We recently had the pleasure of the maiden jump flight of Dave Lewis's YAK 12M. This aircraft is an absolute pleasure; even the red and yellow colours of it make you happy. Dave just needs a blue hat with a bell and he will look just like Noddy. The YAK will be returning on August 18 for some more fun and there are slots available.

It was lovely to have Mike Williams coaching wingsuiting in June. Despite jumping many times over the coast, flying a wingsuit while watching the views is a whole new level of awesome. Flocking is definitely the way forward and it would be amazing to see more of this at Skydive GB, so dig out your wingsuits! Congratulations to Ralph Weatherburn on his WS2.

We are taking a leap of faith at the end of August and opening for a week. The aim is to promote some progression, provide coaching,



CARK
Foot dock with
Cal Flemming,
by Kev Coffey



CARK

THAT CRW THAT YOU DO

CRW fever hit Skydive North West as the regional competition got underway. With great weather and conditions being good, we had two 4-way teams and seven 2-way teams enter – five of them from the home DZ. Starting with the 4-way, the favourites from the start were *Team CRWsaders* and they romped home to victory with some consistent scoring that totalled 33 points over the six rounds. *Judas and the Saints*, Cark's 4-way team, took second place.

The 2-way Senior category was a much closer affair. With *Velociraptors* and *Snakes on a Plane* dicing for gold, *Double Trouble* scored consistently and took the bronze. With only two points separating both teams after Round 3, *Snakes on a Plane* stepped up a gear in Rounds 4, 5 and 6 – scoring 10, 11 and a massive 13. Suffering busts on the next three rounds, *Velociraptors'* grasp on the gold medal dwindled away and they had to settle for silver.

Totally dominating the Intermediate and Rookie categories, Cark's CRW teams enjoyed the inter-club challenge. Only one inter-team gold was awarded to *Cark Corner* (Dave and Becky). The Rookie category was won by team *Lazy A**e* (Mike and Becky) with *Kark Kandy* (A.K.A. the Grange Hiking Club, Kev and Andy) taking silver and *Crazy CRW* (Brooke and Laura) took bronze. Thanks to all the teams that entered and big thanks to our BPA Judges (Frank, Amanda and Jim).

BRIDLINGTON
Jumping the Yak,
by David Ruston

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Missing out on the FS regional comp this year, SNW would host the next best thing with a BPA FS Roadshow. Representing the FS discipline on behalf of the BPA were infamous coaches Sarah Ashworth, James Wood and Chris Reeves. After a couple of announcements from Stu, club members hurried to manifest and soon a long list of candidates appeared for the coaches to dissect the skill level and learning requirements.

One-on-ones, FS1 and 3-ways with relevant exit, fall rate and referencing tips were discussed throughout the day. There was lots of learning and information-packed jumps. It was non-stop for the coaches all day on Saturday. James needed some cold remedy on Sunday morning as he had developed a common cold from the northern weather and would sit on the ground co-ordinating the students for Chris and Sarah. Even our more senior experienced club members were picking the coaches' brains on the new block formations.

Without a doubt, the weekend was a huge success with all of the students learning loads and benefiting from some world-class coaching. Thanks to Georgie Vacher for setting this up, our three coaches Sarah, James and Chris, and, of course, our club members for supporting the event.

Team Ospreys have been busy, preparing for the display season, and there has been plenty of canopy flocking with Kieran, Chicky, Stevey, Ming, Steve S, Taff and Alec. It's great to see and the smoke makes all the difference.

Ian, Kieran and now Clair Armstrong (well done on your AFF Instructor rating!) have ramped up the AFF programme, with Andrea and Sharron both completing their ground school and Level 1s. Sharron is now on Level 3 and Andrea is on Level 4 after a great weekend of weather. Well done to both.

Tommy Hodgson, a local war veteran, completed his tandem skydive on his 100th birthday – complete with his telegram from HRH The Queen, press and TV coverage. Cheers to Nicky for the skydive and Tommy states he will be back next year.

Well done to all our achievers below.

Stuart Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Paul McCabe CH2/JM1 Georgina Morris FS1 Fergus Baird, Ethan Clarke Gauld, Elliot Mavers, Jes Mears TR2 Dan Schrieber TR3 Dan Schrieber **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Georgina Morris 200 Nathan Pope, Gregor Rawson 400 Laura Sidhom 600 Dez Blyth, George Neate 800 Gary Yello 1,000 Alec Hennis 1,400 Clair Armstrong, Dan Gauld

CHATTERIS

BRITISH INVASION

A group of us flew out to Florida in May for our usual skydiving holiday. We did a DZ tour of Zephyr Hills, Sebastian and Deland, got feasted on by mosquitoes, had a controversial debate around whether weeing in the pool was socially acceptable and some of the guys decided to see how long they could hold their breaths in said pool. Many epic jumps were had, including wingsuit rodeo and a hybrid

“Of course, as it's America, we went to a shooting range where I nearly shot my friends (these things happen)”

CHATTERIS
Florida Train!
By Max Fuller



where Sian lost the visor to her brand-new helmet (sorry Sian!). Unfortunately, we missed out on jumping a Skyvan and some people landed off when the Americans got scared of clouds.

However, we made up for it by jumping over the coast and landing on Disappearing Island (clue is in the name), being applauded by the people partying there, and having a barbecue and beer while enjoying the gorgeous weather. We feasted on gigantic portions or, in my case, threw it on the floor and all over Graham.

Then, of course, as it's America, we went to a shooting range where I nearly shot my friends (these things happen). On bad weather days, we went to theme parks, NASA, and some people waited three nights in a row for a rocket launch that never happened.

In other news, Sean has been trying to steal my role of social secretary after a very successful barbecue on June 29 which more than made up for the last one – Graham was able to eat the food this time! Gary Johnson has managed to not crash his car, Sebastian landed in the correct postcode four times in a row, Lloyd did three whole fun jumps and some of the group went to the Balaton Boogie to jump out of a Mi-8.

Alison and *Funtastic Five* won a bronze medal at the second UKSL – congratulations team! She had this to say: "Our local 4-way FS team recently visited sunny Dunkswell to take part in the UKSL competition and brought home a second gold medal. Unfortunately, team captain Dave Wickes couldn't attend, so alternate Peter Leach stood in. Peter was quickly introduced to one of the benefits of being in *Funtastic Five*, which were the delicious cakes made by Jill Owens. With five jumps done on Saturday and the one remaining jump completed on Sunday, the team had time for an 8-way fun jump and enjoyed the lovely views of Devon. The team would like to thank everyone who helped and the BPA coaches for their advice and suggestions. They decided the E exit is not for them, but are still considering the challenge of a no-hands geek. Can't wait for Nationals!"

Our regular jumpers are now starting to get their £12 jump tickets, which will last until the end of the year!

Sophie Barnwell

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Oliver Darroch CH2/JM1 Svata Danek FS1 Laurence Freeman FF1 Anton Brown WS1 Sophie Barnwell, Dave Edmondson, Avi Gidar, Alison Peock TR2 Max Fuller **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Svata Danek 200 Anton Brown 300 Dave Edmondson

DUNKESWELL

THERE'S ALWAYS TIME TO PARTY

Where do you start when a skydiving club is so proactive and there are so many people having fun?

We held the day-long Skyfest, completing 576 descents in one day, and there was still time to party afterwards. Mike Williams finally saw all his hard work in organising the Wingsuit Nationals kick off too, so full credit goes to him for taking on this task and making it a success. The white fluffy clouds against a blue background may have looked pretty, but not to these wingsuit competitors who had no choice but to go on a hold. The weather gods finally took pity and things got into a full swing with a successful competition completed. See P21 for more.

There was a good turnout for the 4-way UKSL competition. As people dirt-dived, inexperienced teams had an opportunity to observe, learn and ask questions. This is what competition is all about: testing each individual's flying skills at the same time as working in unison with their teammates. There would be stories to tell in the bar, that's for sure. Five rounds happened on the first day and the last round happened on the following morning, so another successful competition was wrapped up. We would like to say a huge thank you to the judges who came down and helped to make the competitions a success – without them, there is no competition.

As people left for home, I do wonder how many were aware that Dunkswell Airfield still holds two CF World Records and a British FS Record and that it's been a skydiving dropzone for more than 50 years. The BPCA held their BCPA Boogie, and these guys know how to party. The CF Roadshow guys arrived, coaching and introducing new people

to CF – that’s showing another fun side to our exciting sport. These guys have a love for their discipline which was clear to see. Some jumpers were able to polish their CF skills for the big CF attempt coming up in September. Our thanks to world-class CP skydivers Curt and Jeannie Bartholomew for returning and running another course – you guys are amazing.

The Accuracy guys who train at Dunkeswell went off and competed abroad, and our congratulations go to those who came back with medals. Congratulations to Fraser Corsan and Dan Guest for completing the XRW link-up.

We must not forget our club members who help to extend a friendly hand to all our extended family of skydivers who visit us – you guys make Dunkeswell a fun place to skydive. Many of you have achieved things in the last two months, so congratulations and may your learning curves never stop.

The new toilets and shower block is now up and running, which is a welcome addition. There’s no reason to not bring a tent and make a weekend of it, and we also have a restaurant on site. Table tennis has also arrived for weather holds, but there is only one champion who shall remain nameless. Rigging facilities are on site, overseen by Andy Shaw, should you require work to be done. Sadly, the Beech aircraft have departed, but they have now replaced with two Caravans – the stretch and short version – so we’re still able to bang in the loads.

Check out the Facebook page ‘Skydive Dunkeswell’ for plenty of stuff that’s both going on and being planned, including helicopter jumps, night jumps, balloon jumps and organised events. You snooze, you lose.

Andy Guest

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Harry Cairn, Umar Khan, Victoria Kovacs CH2/JM1 Ben Curwen, Dom Hirst, Steven Thompson, Natalie FS1 Andrew Brieley, Helmant Hari, Mateusz Korbaner, Tom Newberry FF1 Scott Bevan CF1 Ed Moss CF2 Ed Moss, Logan Read WS2 Jozef Bieszczad, David Nelson, Vicky Webster TR1 Andrew McDonald **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Ben Curwen, Dom Hirst, Steven Thompson, Natalie 200 Emma Blackmore, Mona Nasser 1,000 Joseph Powell

HAVERFORDWEST

MAKING AN ENTRANCE

The birth of a new dropzone is always good news to hear, and there has already been positive feedback from tandem students and charities. Those who have been lucky enough to jump over Haverfordwest have been able to enjoy the views of the extremely scenic Pembrokeshire coastline. Mathew Gregory, the owner, had the pleasure of completing the first skydive for Air Adventure Wales Ltd – his smile said it all. There are bigger plans but, like all things, it takes time to get there. Visiting jumpers have enjoyed not only skydiving over a new dropzone, but some have been able to qualify for awards too. We’re happy to open up extra days to cater for experienced skydivers if there is a demand for it.

Rosa Chester and Kevin Johnson completed and filmed an awesome rodeo skydive that was what skydiving is all about – fun.

Andy Guest

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Craig Carless, Si Evans **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Craig Carless 200 Jack Munsford 900 Craig Shuttleworth 6,500 Andy Guest



HEADCORN
Jemma Westing,
Chris Olatunji and
Peter Angell, by
Paul Green

HEADCORN

PARENTAL ADVISORY: EXPLICIT CONTENT

Steve Joyce is getting featured again, this time by making his 300th jump on the anniversary of his first jump on July 4. He celebrated in style by chucking his mum out on a tandem and then doing a jump in Kim’s thong – which, somewhere along the line, became detached from him. It wasn’t a pretty sight. Our only surprise is that Charlie Wakeham and Simon Soper were not involved as they also like getting naked.

We have a new girl in the office, Kasia, who is doing a splendid job of keeping everyone in order – especially Chad Smith, who is very difficult to control at the best of times. He was last seen swooping through the gate (yes, a real gate) onto the landing area and rather more successfully than his attempt to run through the gate on the concrete area.

The Accuracy Grand Prix managed all six rounds on the Sunday, with eight Seniors on the tuffet and four Intermediates in the circles, and everyone scored at least one round. Esther Reynolds, fresh from Argentina, beat all the boys in the Seniors, while Nathan Lewington won the Intermediates.

Jane and Pete

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Stephen Dunne, Tom Ellis, Ben Smith CH2/JM1 Adam Reeks, Andy Saunders, Shaun Stacey FS1 Ben Akande, Peter Angell, Adam Reeks, Andy Saunders, Shaun Stacey WS1 Bejay Cutmore, Steve Joyce TR1 Peter Angell **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Adam Reeks, Andy Saunders, Shaun Stacey 100 Peter Angell, Reece Horton, Ricardo Salerno 300 Steve Joyce 400 Jason Burgoyne, Stuart Turner 500 Jason Langridge, James Farrell 700 Mike Morton 800 Nadine Hall 1,000 Steve Powell

HIBALDSTOW

THE LONG HOT SUMMER AND THE FIRST RECORD BROKEN...

Let’s start with the first record in what we hope will be a series of three this season at Skydive Hibaldstow.

Ally Milne’s head-up tryouts truly paid off, with the record attempt starting on Friday through to Monday. They didn’t need all four days to break the record – just the one! The weather was good and, with the first formation load being so close, the next attempts slowly but surely achieved the record of 18 on the fourth try. Amazing. But, not wanting to stop there, the guys decided they needed to go further and eventually set another record of 21. It was a great weekend, and well done to all involved.

The next record attempt was in July for the SOS gang. Hopefully,

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when we go to press for the next Mag, we can report on their new record. They have also had a try-out weekend, which went really well.

The third record attempt will be over the second weekend of September when the Wingsuit Record will be attempted.

Away from record attempts, it was good to have the charismatic Joe Laming here for some angle flying, Tom Shorten and Ally Milne Freely organising, Mike Williams was here for a BPA Wingsuit Coaching Roadshow and the ever-brilliant *NFTO* were on hand to give advice for the BPA FS Coaching Roadshow along with all our other regular coaches from *Team Groomed* with a great 8-way coaching day, and Cath, Corrie, Kat, Jack, Godders and *Team Nova* were available for FS and Freely coaching.

With the Nationals approaching fast, more and more teams are coming to train. By the time these words are printed, we should be almost at the start of them. Don't forget to get your registrations in for the early bird deal by downloading the registration form at skydiving.co.uk.

Events in September include Lesley's, Siân's and Milko's European Big-way Camp, Ally Milne Organising, the Wingsuit Record attempt and, in October, Jim Bradwell will be here big-way organising too. Have a good summer.

Ash Kemp

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Frenchy Grisewood **CAT8/CH1** Gemma Britton, Ryan Lovett, Charlotte Stokes **FS1** Nigel Bailey, Melissa Porter, Dean Savage **FF1** Apolo, Ben Fenwick **TR1** Steve Shipp **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Katie Balmer **200** Oksana Goubtsova, Mike Leatham, Anna Lucas **300** Vera De Ruiter **400** David Cunningham **700** Chris Everitt, Eloy Fisher, Rob Johns **1,500** Ally Tebbutt **11,000** Bryn Chaffe

JERSEY

SOGGY BOTTOMS

'Demo' was the word of the month in May, with two big Jersey events for the team to wow the local crowds. The first was the boat show that was jumped into for the second year running. The crowds keep growing in number each year and an estimated 30,000-plus visitors attended over the weekend. Conditions were very favourable, so the demo team smoked up the sky and made a big splash into the harbour with soggy bottoms all round.

Second up was a first for the team – jumping into the rugby club which is right next door to the airport. The Siam Cup is the local derby held annually between Jersey and Guernsey rugby clubs, and Mal and his two wingmen, Drew and Hans, got the privilege of delivering the match ball for the start of the game. Pilot Brian got to hold up all the commercial air traffic for a change (they usually take priority over us) while he ran in across the airport too.

“Conditions were very favourable, so the demo team smoked up the sky and made a big splash into the harbour with soggy bottoms all round”

JERSEY
Peter Dolbel, by Nigel O'Brien



Both events were fantastic exposure for the sport and the club, so well done to all of the team in the air and those keeping the show running smoothly on the ground.

Jersey was represented in UK competition again with Michael Stocks taking his wingsuit skills over to the UK Wingsuit Nationals at Dunkeswell. This was his first foray into competitive WS, and he came away with a good result and lots of learning experiences to make him even more competitive next time. Well done Mike for flying the Jersey flag with the big suits!

Boogie time is fast approaching. The first one was on July 22-25 and the second will be on August 19-22 so, with a fair wind, it'll be an action-packed summer!

Nigel O'Brien

ACHIEVEMENTS **WS2** Michael Stocks
JUMP NUMBERS 700 Michael Stocks

LANGAR

GET READY TO BOOGIE

With summer now in full swing and lots of newly qualified skydivers ready to take advantage of the blue skies (and, perhaps most importantly, our bar back and open every day – woohoo!), Skydive Langar's having a great season. Congratulations to the new AFF and Tandem Instructors who completed their course at Langar with us in July just in time to make the most of the good weather.

As always, we've had lots of fun events going on for our experienced jumpers, with Tom and Chris running their hybrid weekend back in June and plenty of progression weekends over the season with loads of shiny new stickers being handed out.

Langar's played host to lots of different disciplines over the summer so, whatever you enjoy, we've had the event for you! We've had the BPA FS, Speed and CF Roadshows all going on, Flight 101 and 102 courses and wingsuit weekends. Langar's also full of experienced coaches from all areas of the sport and, with our dropzone open every day of the year apart from Christmas Day, you can come down any time to make the most of all the wisdom they have to offer.

We've been kept busy over the summer by teams training for various competitions across the UK. With the Nationals approaching fast, we would like to wish all our Langar teams and competitors the best of luck.

As for what we've got coming up at Skydive Langar, the answer is (as ever!) more jumping. We're gearing up for a big Boogie 2 in September, featuring loads of coaching, lots of organisers and a truly out-of-this-world hangar party. Get your glowsticks out and start sorting out your fancy dress, because Langar's going intergalactic with our space-themed boogie – make sure not to miss this one!

Felicity Boss

ACHIEVEMENTS **CH2/JM1** Phil Taylor **FS1** Amit Patel, Ersan Yolcu **FF1** Chris Edwards, Sonia Holland, Laura Marsh **WS1** Jake John, Ian Rayner **WS2** Jake John **TR1** Shaun Dyer, Dave Eyre, Ben Fenwick, Katie Robinson **TR2** Dave Berger, Dan Watson, Ben Willis **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Katie Robinson, Phil Taylor **200** Shaun Dyer, Ben Willis **300** Jake John **400** Jodie-Leigh Foster **1,000** Emily Aucutt, Ben Mitchell **1,200** Matt Cumming, Paul Rimmington **1,300** Pete Harries **1,500** Ryan Garner **4,000** Dan Williams **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Dave Allsop **180 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Phil Curtis

NETHERAVON

THREE PLANES, 68 LIFTS, 1,007 JUMPS

One of the most successful Boogies to date took place at Netheravon at the end of June, for once taking place in some lovely early summer sunshine! The busy DZ flew 68 lifts over the weekend, spread over three aircraft, one of which was a visiting Skyvan which proved extremely popular with everyone. In all, 1,007 jumps were made.

The weekend competition saw wingsuit flocking, FS big-way, Freely



organising and coaching, Speed 8 and seven teams for the FS Scrambles. *Team Jail Break* took the top spot in this, so a big shout out goes to Ashley Burns, Tobias Zukowskyj, Stuart Hall, Darren Street and cameraman Trev Evans for picking up gold! Special thanks also go to BPA Judge Liz Warner for judging all the competitions.

Combined with the Boogie, students were getting their first jumps in and, for all those with an A Licence, we hosted a small Accuracy competition to give them a taste of competitive skydiving.

We were also honoured to support the various skydiving teams jumping for the D-Day Commemorations on June 6-7 in Normandy and for Armed Forces Day on June 29 in and around the UK. All in all, a busy and enjoyable few weeks and many thanks go to all those involved with organising, both on the ground and in the air.

Julie Cooper

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Paul Flood, Sophie Milligan, Eoin Sharkey, Mark Stephenson CH2/JM1 Barrington Butler, Stuart Hillson FS1 Stuart Hillson, Harriet Viney FF1 Anton Brown, Mark Lindsey-Smith, Kelly-Ann O'Donnell, Michael Veevers CH1 Dan Lovegrove WS1 Sean Sapsford TR1 Alex Clark TR2 Anthony Gillham JUMP NUMBERS 50 Barrington Butler, Stuart Hillson, Rachael Hutchinson 100 Anthony Gillham 200 Anton Brown, Andrew Newby, Luke Osborne, Janine Qasim 700 Emma Reynolds 1,000 Si D Goodman

PETERLEE

BLUE SKIES

The last two months have seen some much-improved weather and significantly more jumps being undertaken at the Peterlee DZ. A couple of full course revision sessions were run for our University Club members, with all attending jumping – some getting in two or three jumps. In parallel, some of the more active solo students – Tsz Min Foo, Jamie Heron, Szymon Jackiewicz and Max Taylor – have made significant progression through the Category System, with Szymon achieving Category 8 and Max getting his A Licence.



NETHERAVON

Wingsuit Flockers:

Spike Harper, Andy Wright, Philip Lowery, Eric Dangoor, George Andrews, Margarita Shatalina, John Parker, Chris Mizzi, Gary McGuinness, Sian Wright, Robin Dolton and Jackie Harper. By Julie Cooper

The North Wings Display Team of Jared Morris, David Knox, Nigel Peacock, Ralph Weatherburn, Dan Place and Geordie Batey have been undertaking their pre-display season training, culminating in a practice display followed by a jump into Peterlee Cricket Ground. A notable mention goes to Jared Morris for putting the team through their paces.

Thanks must go to Paul Moore and Storm Smith for ferrying our Supervan N208UP back and forth to Cranfield for servicing, and especially for those early return trips to get the aircraft back in time for parachuting the same day. Thanks must go to Sandy Barnett at Skydive St Andrews too for supplying us with a parachute aircraft, his 206 G-OSSA, while N208UP was away for servicing.

Thanks are also due to Mike Williams and Chris Berte for laying on a Wingsuit Roadshow for us at the Peterlee DZ and Mike for his very informative presentation on wingsuit flying. We very much appreciate these BPA Roadshow opportunities and look forward to hosting a BPA VFS Roadshow on September 14-15.

The following weekend saw the Caitlin Jade Smith Memorial Speed 8 Meet. Sadly, this was hampered by the weather. However, at least one round was completed and this will give those who competed some practice for the forthcoming Great Northern Speed 10 Competition on July 27-28.

It was great to have Brian Cumming back with us on June 29-30 to organise some big-way formation skydives and Paul Rimmington was with him to film the jumps. All who participated very much valued Brian's organising and coaching, and we hope to have him back with us for more big-way organising on August 23-25.

Congratulations to Geordie Batey on successfully completing his BPA Pre-Advanced Instructor Course, Robbie Matteric his BPA AFFBI Course and Mike Daniels his Supervan Type Rating and BPA Jump Pilot Rating.

We have some sad news to report in the tragic loss of Daley Mathison, son of former jumper and Bridlington, Topcliffe and Peterlee Instructor and Rigger Darren Mathison, while competing in the Isle of Man TT.

On the brighter side, Darren Strafford appears to making a steady albeit slow recovery from a hard landing. All at the Peterlee DZ wish him, his partner Amanda and their family the very best.

Simon and Lisa are to retire as our club reps, having taken another significant family commitment, and hopefully we will still be seeing them around the Centre. However, we do admire them for the commitment that they have taken on, and thank them for all their efforts as our club reps these past few years.

Ian Rosenvinge

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Max Taylor CAT8 Szymon Jackiewicz JUMP NUMBERS 500 Mary Sunter

POPS/SOS

JUMPING INTO HISTORY

Four British skydivers – Paul French, Mike Whyborn, Wayne Collier and John Boxall – travelled to Normandy to take part in the D-Day 75th Anniversary celebration.



PETERLEE

Durham University Free Fall Club members (front to back, left to right): David Picton, Tsz Ming Foo (Owen) Max Taylor, Alice Mitchell and Instructor Geordie Batey

POPS

Wayne Collier, John Boxall, Paul French and Mike Whyborn on the beach at Arromanche, by Di Boxall

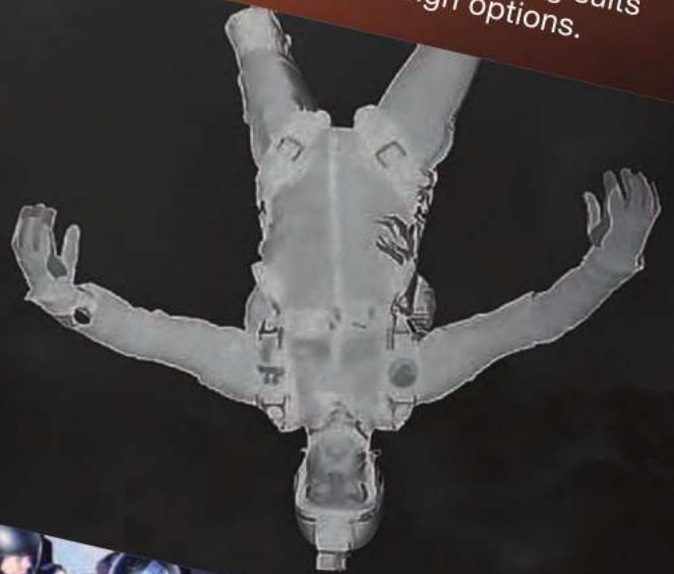


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There were two freefall jumps onto the invasion beaches at St Laurent-sur-mer (Omaha Beach) and Arromanches (Gold Beach) which were used in the invasion of Europe in June 1944.

The Omaha Beach jump took place on June 5 using the Air France DC3 passenger aircraft. The jumpers exited at cloud base – 6,000ft – in light winds.

The Gold Beach jump took place on June 8 using the Scandinavian Air Services DC3 passenger aircraft which began life as a military troop transport and dropped American paratroops on D-Day. The exit height was 6000ft in strong winds.

Most of the jumpers were French, with four from the UK and three from the USA.

Paul French

SIBSON

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

Quite a few clubbies and staff went to Skydive Balaton in Hungary in June to jump out of a big chopper. It looks like everyone had an amazing time, with some great weather and lots of jumping. Congratulations to Cassandra and Rachel for finally getting up there in the big blue and loving the experience.

Radek is awesome, obviously. Only went and got his AFFI rating – nice one mate... skyyydiviiiiinggg! Oh, he's very popular. The freeflyers, 4-way teams, trackers, wingsuiters, CRW guys, swoopers, instructors – they all adore him. They think he's a righteous dude.

I do have a test this month that wasn't bull****. It's on FS coaching. I mean, really – what's the point? I'm not an FS Coach. I don't plan on being an FS Coach. So who cares if they're socialists? They could be fascist anarchists. It still doesn't change the fact that I don't own a Sabre 2 150.

Not that I condone fascism, or any -ism for that matter. -isms in my opinion are not good. A skydiver should not believe in an -ism, a skydiver should believe in him or herself.

The key to faking out the instructors is the clammy hands. It's a good non-specific symptom; I'm a big believer in it. A lot of people will tell you that a good phony fever is a dead lock, but, uh... you get a nervous instructor, you could wind up in a doctor's office. That's worse than ground school.

I am not going to sit on my ass as the events that affect my DZ unfold to determine the course of life on my DZ. I'm going to take a stand. I'm going to defend it. Right or wrong, I'm going to defend it.



SWINDON
4-way exit, by
Jon Moulder

How can I possibly be expected to handle work on a day like this? If you're not over here, kitted up, in 15 minutes, you can find a new best friend. Anything is peaceful from 1,353ft. Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

Russ Horne (and John Hughes)

ACHIEVEMENTS WS1 Mark Fleming WS2 Mark Fleming
JUMP NUMBERS 200 Debi Debs, Lukasz Gawlik,
Luke Morrison, Niall Power 400 Deano Smith 600 Martin Ball, Chris Holland
800 Hannah Cooper

SWINDON

ACCURACY, IRONICALLY

As we continue to make the most of what we have while we have it, the Redlands jumpers have been filling the skies with all sorts of shenanigans. Starting with the tandems, Darrell has been challenging Jonny's camera skills with some interesting exit keys while Flanners, Chas and Mark are getting in on the action as they hone their handcam skills. Our students, both AFF and static line, are making excellent progress and they are determined to get licences earned and awarded before our closure in September. Congratulations to our most recent graduates, James Jordan, Caolan Orchard, Hanna Rose, Will Hicklin, Adam Rigby and Paul Davies.

Our club jumpers have welcomed the summer with barbecues, beer – oh, and some jumping! Some decided it is simply too hot for shoes and threw them away in freefall... perhaps shoelace tying is to be added to our B Licence briefs! Alongside some 'traditional Redlands' 4-way exits, there has been some rather impressive formation, freeflying and even some wingsuiting going on in our skies and the local demo teams have been backing up the loads with lots of practice smoke, flag flying and Accuracy. There was one exception: when your demo Accuracy expert gets lost and lands two miles away from the airfield. Thanks for the beer!

We are very happy that it seems our beloved aircraft has found a new home where she can continue to enjoy the company of skydivers on a weekly basis, so look out for HTFU next season. Brucie has moved into Bitcoin investments, which I can neither confirm nor deny is funding his new venture that is Brucie's Bongo Bar, a drag club in Brighton.

In other news, Crazy would like me to tell you of his awesomeness, Dylan would like it mentioned that he turned up and, while we are at it, let's just say a big well done to Chrissy on her shiny new fire job.

Jenny Bouquet

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Fero Bolek CAT8/CH1
Paul Davies, William Hicklin, James Jordan,
Caolan Orchard, Adam Rigby Hanna Rose CH2/JM1 Richie Tull
JUMP NUMBERS 50 Richie Tull 400 Chris Wall 24 HOURS IN FREEFALL
Jenny Bouquet 60 HOURS IN FREEFALL Brucie Johnson



TILSTOCK

WHEN IN DOUBT, USE PANACHE AND ÉLAN

What a hoot holding the country's first Rainbow Boogie was! We had folk from exotic and mysterious locations, like Leeds (welcome to the Leeds Uni Skydiving Club), and others who made a real effort, like our friend Rich Scott back for a visit from Canada.

We had a whale of a time, with plenty of visitors who had never been to Tilly before and some who were keen to jump dear VANX – having never jumped an Airvan before. Our visiting Grand Caravan was put to good use too, with the load organising going very well and people were learning a lot as well as enjoying themselves enormously. The Airvan was kept busy with students and a few visitors.

Buzz had ordered some beautiful bright pink staff T-shirts, which set off against my orange lizard trousers with panache! Henna put her craft skills to good use and made a stunning DZ Controller hat, which we managed to save at the end of the weekend. The various purveyors of their wares bounced between enjoying the sunshine and joining in the jumping themselves. It would be invidious to name individuals, but a huge thank you goes to all the sellers for coming – it was really good to get our hands on some wonderful stuff. I had the joy of jumping my reserve as a main and I can thoroughly recommend flying your reserve before you have to use it. You get a lot of confidence!

The weather decided to let us down on the Sunday and the proposed helicopter jump had to be postponed (good news – the rearranged date is August 17, so come and play with it). It may be just as well that we couldn't jump on Sunday because Saturday night's party was a belter! It started with the raffle prize draw and people got some cracking goodies, so thank you to all those who donated goods and services. Some were skydiving-related and some not (like a gin evening) and all proceeds went to support the Kaleidoscope Trust, which works to uphold the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people.

The final word on the boogie comes from a visitor who left a note on Facebook which ended: "I think I speak for us all when I say you guys are awesome, and boy, do you know how to party!" In fact, it was so good, we're doing it again next year – see you next May.

Normal service was resumed and we carried on having fun in the sun with our trusty Airvan. Our monthly static line course is doing good business and some of the students really get their teeth into it – like Tommy Pinnington, who went from first jump to CAT8 in a flash! I wonder what the record (time-wise) is for getting through the static line progression system? I'd put Tommy in as having a good chance of being in the top 10. At the other end of the scale was Jason Roberts, who very steadily took his time and gently approached the whole task, taking a leisurely five years to get his licence – it'll be odd to see the lad in something other than a blue boiler suit. It just goes to show that it doesn't matter if you throw yourself at it like a whirling Dervish or take it at a snail's pace, if you want to learn to skydive, you can!

TILSTOCK
Team photo from the Rainbow Boogie, by Rob Lloyd

A big apology goes to another of our students, Zoltan Borbas, who should have got a mention for meeting his A Licence requirements for the last Mag but I dropped his name off the list – sorry Zoltan! Having got his licence, he now joins his wife Marta Hovan in licenced joy. They only have one rig between them, but not for much longer because Marta is eagerly awaiting the delivery of her new rig. If they get a move on with FS1, they could be jumping together very shortly.

Finally, a shock to all of us – this year's winners of the gold medal at the UKSL in the Rookie class is... the Tilstock Tumbling Turkeys! Huge congratulations to Dave Titcombe for managing to accomplish the equivalent of herding cats, to Dan Griffiths, Lauren Mann and Steve Pugh for a stunning performance and to Craig Anderson who stood in after a bit of a disaster in getting Charlie to Dunkeswell – and thank you to the other teams for being generous enough to allow the substitution. Here's looking forward to the Nationals.

Gary Windon

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Dave Gorman, Charlie Johnson, Tommy Pinnington **CAT8/CH1** Zoltan Borbas, Jason Roberts, Tommy Pinnington **CH2/JM1** Lisa Ball, Suzie Whitehurst **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Lisa Ball, Suzie Whitehurst **300** Lauren Mann **600** Dave Titcombe **1,000** Steve Parton **3,000** Steve Smith

WILD GEESE

ONWARDS, UPWARDS, ETC

We've been making use of some of the summer weather and there have been many happy first-timers and even a few regular fun jumpers...

The two Aarons, Klewchuk and Cosbey, managed some freely fun before Klewchuk got himself injured playing American football (last game of the season, wouldn't you know it?). Wendy dusted off her gear and strapped her cameras on for the first time in ages. Not to mention, the infamous Paul 'PD' Dornan donned a parachute and jumped for the first time in... quite a while. Welcome back, PD.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the world, Neal took himself off to Balaton to jump out of the massive Mi-8 helicopter while Orla and Rod headed to Slovakia to The Hurricane Factory to fly in the tunnel for a week.

A quick note of congratulations to our long-standing pilot Alex, who recently took ownership of his Piper PA-28R Arrow. Now he has no real excuses for not flying over more often. I hear Glasgow to Wild Geese is only about 50 minutes, and most of us have to drive for longer than that to get to the centre. Safe flights and soft landings... or maybe fly fast and take chances?

Another note of congratulations goes to Martin Skrbel, our newest cameraflyer, who is already providing us with many quality pictures and videos – keep up the good work.

And finally, with their first couple of displays under their belts, the *Wild Geese Display Team* is successfully picking up the mantle from the team of old after a number of years of inactivity. Great work, folks! Pilots, jumpers and ground crew... onwards and upwards.

The Rep Team



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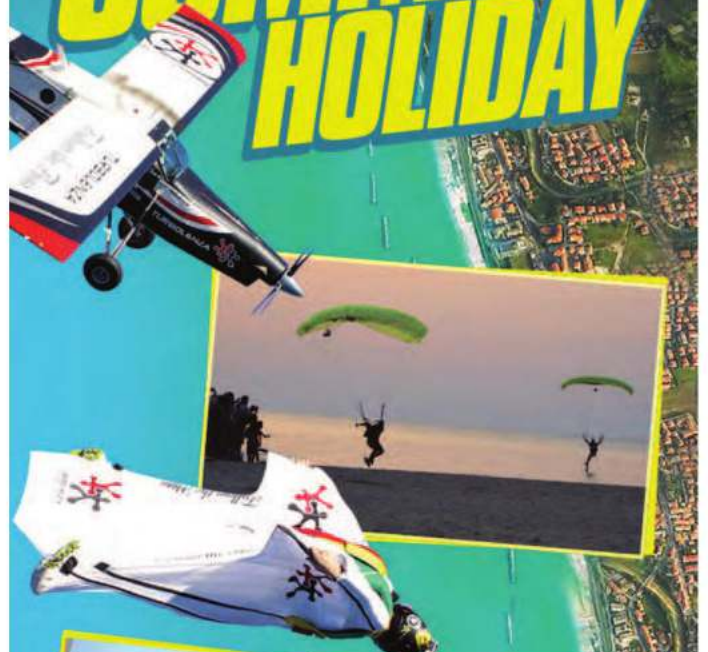
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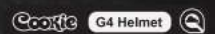


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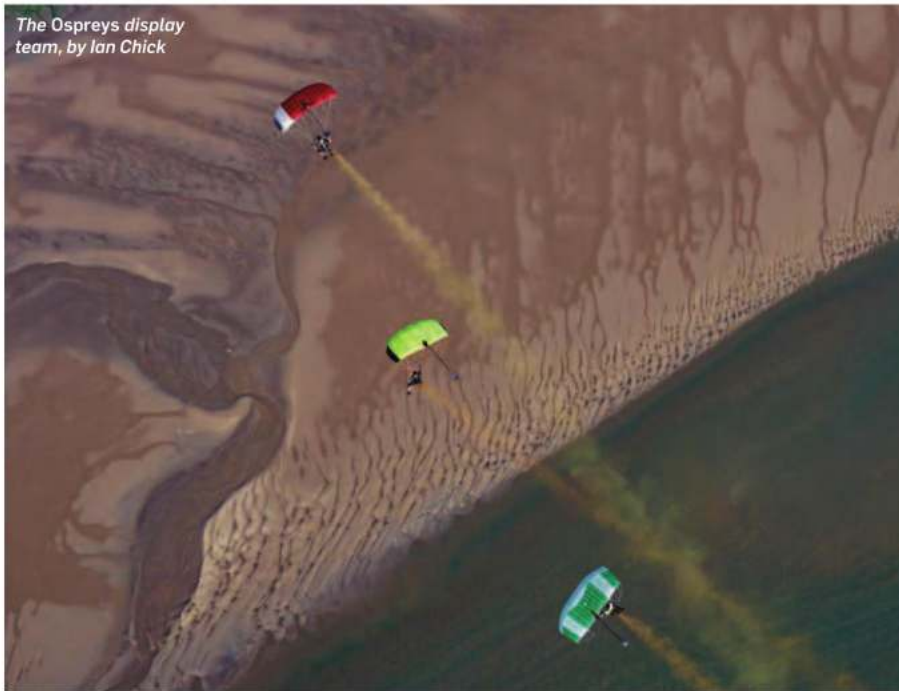


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The Ospreys display team, by Ian Chick



AUGUST

August 3-4

A S S&A BPA National Championships in Artistics, Speed and Accuracy

Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 5-9

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

Location: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 6

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

August 13-15

S Speed Skydiving World Cup and European Championships

Location: **Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell**

August 14-18

CP BPA National Championship in Canopy Piloting

Location: **Klatovy, Czech Republic**

August 17-20

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

Location: **Strejnic, Romania**

August 23-30

WS World Cup of Wingsuit Flying

Location: **Ravenna, Italy**

August 24-27

FS BPA National Championships in FS 4-way and VFS

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

August 31-September 2

FS BPA National Championships in FS 8-way

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

SEPTEMBER

September 2-6

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

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

September 8-10

CF BPA National Championship in Canopy Formation

Location: **Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell**

September 14-15

FS BPA VFS Roadshow with *Omni*

Location: **Peterlee**

September 19

BPA STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

September 19-21

FS ESL

Location: **Skydive Spa, Belgium**

OCTOBER

October 1

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

October 7-12

A FS 13th FAI World Cup of Artistic Events and 22nd FAI World Cup of Formation Skydiving

Location: **Eloy, Arizona, USA**

NOVEMBER

November 11-15

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

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 14

BPA STC and Riggers' Meetings

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

November 18-22

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

Location: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

November 20-24

CP 10th FAI World Cup of Canopy Piloting

Location: **Pretoria, South Africa**

November 26

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

2020

January 24-25

BPA BPA AGM and Skydive the Expo

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skydivetheexpo.co.uk

Dates correct at time of going to print.

KEY

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CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING

CF CANOPY FORMATION
S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY
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A ARTISTICS
WS WINGSUIT
S SPEED




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