

SKYDIVE

THE MAG



August 2011
skydivethemag.com

The British Parachute Association Magazine

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The Freefall University is an independent skydiving school based in Ocaña 20 minutes south of Madrid. We are located minutes away from the modern city of Aranjuez which has all the nightlife you can handle. We have our own equipment, qualified rigger, British Instructors, facilities and professional ethic.

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SKYDIVE THE MAG



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It's been another nostalgia-filled Mag – I've been in touch with jumpers from the seventies to bring you the second article in the 'BPA through the decades' series, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the BPA. What a decade for developments in kit and success at competitions – we made the move from round to square and saw World Meet medals brought home by Jackie Smith and Symbiosis. Just like for the 1960s article, I could fill the whole Mag with 1970s news and memories, so heartfelt thanks to all contributors and apologies for not being able to print everything.

Next year's Film Fest, being held at the 2012 AGM, may seem a long way off but double winners Simpsons Productions explain that now is the time to get storyboarding as they give us an insight into their top tips.

Here in the UK the season is now in full swing and we have a new female head-down record as well as the first of the competition reports for you – Classics Nationals and the first three UKSL FS meets. Next issue will feature Nationals in FS, Artistics and CP, and World Cups too – good luck to all our teams. SonicNutz round off their series of articles with a special on competitions to get you in the mood.

Liz Ashley

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British Parachute Association Ltd.
A company limited by guarantee
Registered in London No 875429
Registered office as above



*Fancy contributing to the Mag?
The dates you need to know for 2011*

Issue	To readers	Copy deadline
October	6 October	23 August
December	1 December	25 October

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

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 CCI.

SUPPORTED BY



Cover photo 45-way tracing groups at Vector Fest 2011, Prostějov, Czech Republic. Photo by Rolf 'Kuri' Kuratle, Babylon

SKYDIVE 3



Babylon team training over Empuriabrava, Spain. They will play host to the next European head-down record attempt, 21-25 September. The plan is to build a 75-way from four aircraft at 17,500 feet using oxygen. Good luck to all involved. Photo by Kuri

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Classics Nationals

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1970s skydiving

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For the latest news, visit the News Zone at skydivethemag.com



Arizona Challenge



Juan Mayer www.JuanMayer.com

The Challenge has become famous for being a high-quality event that aims to build a ridiculously hard formation each year. This year was no exception, with a network of compressed accordions providing participants with floods of floaty fun. Remarkably, the challenge was met on just the second attempt, and so a harder version of the same dive was designed. After one jump that only just missed completion by the arrival of break-off, the second attempt was again the winning one, leaving participants with not one but two cool dives for their logbooks.

skydiveaz.com

Photos by Rolf 'Kuri' Kuratle, Babylon



Vector Festival 2011

The Vector Festival moved to Prostejov in the Czech Republic this year for another week of boogie fun.

Predominantly attended by freeflyers, some of the dives pushed the boundaries of coolness and innovation.

See this month's cover shot, featuring a 45-way made up of two distinct tracing groups, who then crossed paths, Red Arrows style! One participant commented that they'd never seen such a high-experience group looking so apprehensive beforehand!

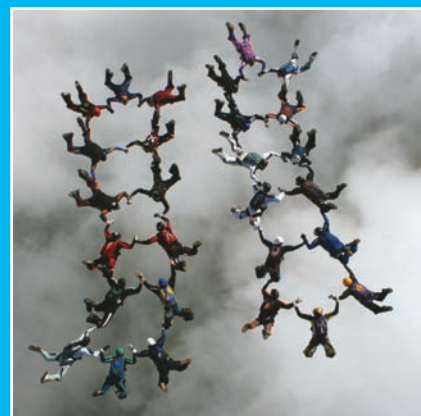
vectorfestival.com

28-way competition



Competition winners *Chasing Tails*, by Matt Black

Hibaldstow saw the return of teams *Herding Cats*, *Chasing Tails* and *Hibnosis* for some formation fun on 25-26 June. Now into its seventh year, the popular sequential event features bold block moves with funky names - round 1 this year was 'hacky - whacky', based around a central 8-way bipole.



Herding Cats, by Sam Bemment

Other highlights included two 14-ways spinning 360 degrees relative to each other, which was approached in different ways by different teams. Cool, though scary, video was achieved by turning the block vertically, but more points went to the teams who took the safer 2-D option.



Herding Cats ready to go, by Sam Bemment

Chasing Tails kept up their winning streak to take the trophy again, and Simon Cathrine's winner's speech went back in his pocket for next year...

BPA big-way roadshow

The BPA big-way roadshow at Sibson proved a great success. There were approximately 20 people in attendance, ranging from jumpers with less than 100 jumps to those with more than 4,000. Skydive Choreography organisers Billy Payn and Brian Cumming managed to organise around nine jumps for everyone. Luckily, the weather was on side for almost the entire weekend.

Saturday was all about 12- to 13-ways and Brian did some one-on-one and 4-way FS coaching. Sunday saw a bigger group so Brian looked after the 12-way jumpers, while Billy picked up the small group of less experienced skydivers.

Some of the best jumps with the biggest learning curve were:

- 7-way diving practice with just the load organiser and cameraman on the rail. Everyone else stayed inside the plane to practise dive exits and diving. This jump built into a whacker before leaving in small tracking teams.
- 12-way float practice with four floaters on the rail (plus video), two inside the door and two behind the COG line, then the load organiser as base and three divers. By the second attempt everyone docked and they started building the second point.
- 11-way radials and stadium practice. The group built a big open accordion, which enforced good approaches from everyone.

The event went down well and saw a massive leap in everyone's skill level.

Thanks to Grant and team at UK Parachuting Sibson, the camera guys Dorian, Mark and Rob, the BPA (for the ideal) and to all the participants for showing up.

Brian Cumming skydivechoreography.com

If you would like to gain some big-way know how, then get to one of these UK big-way skills camps:

- **Big-way beginners VIII**
17-18 September, Langar, with Skydive Choreography. See skydivechoreography.com to register
- **First time formation loads**
24-25 September, Hibaldstow, with Simon Cathrine. See skydiving.co.uk for details

New wingsuit world records

Shinichi Ito from Japan has broken the world record for the fastest speed reached in a wingsuit – 363 km/h – and the greatest distance flown in a wingsuit (a horizontal, straight-line distance of 23.1 km). On 28 May, Shin exited at 32,000ft in Yolo County, California, USA, and flew for five minutes and 22 seconds. These achievements by the Japanese wingsuiter have been recorded in the current *Guinness Book of World Records*.



60-way attempt...



Gary Wainwright

Come back next year!

Organised by Dave Lewis of Strollerweb, with help from Caroline 'good cop' Allen and Doug 'bad cop' McLelland, Netheravon hosted a weekend of 60-way attempts at its Solstice Boogie on 18-19 June. Unfortunately, bad weather meant only three attempts at what would have been a new Nethers record, although all three jumps built consistently well into the 50s.

2012 marks the Queen's 60th year on the throne, and Dave has earmarked the Diamond Jubilee bank holiday weekend as a weekend to tie up some unfinished 60-way business. The Skyvan is booked for 2-5 June, and what better way to celebrate 60 years of Her Majesty's reign than with a new 60-way record?

strollerweb.co.uk

Come and help us celebrate the **BPA's 50th birthday** at the **BPA 50th Boogie**

9-11 September
at Skydive Langar



There will be two Grand Caravans, Twin Otter, Beech 99, AN28, Jackaroo and a LongRanger helicopter (on call)

Free load organising and coaching in FS, FF, Accuracy and wingsuiting. With a special focus on A-certificate progression, all from Nationals and World Meet medal winners

Free food on Saturday night

Live music and themed disco on Friday and Saturday with music from all the decades

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Seminars and talks

Free FS1 coaching – £20 for two slots. Limited to 25 people, pre-registration essential

Free registration with goodie bag and t-shirt for first 250 people

All members welcome, come and join the fun!

*speciality aircraft will cost more

Photos by Tony Danbury, Mark Harris and Chris Cook



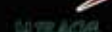
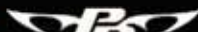
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Martin Shuttleworth >>

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AGM 2012 update



AGM 2011

Venue & date

The BPA AGM will be held in the Premier Suite at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton, Greater Manchester, on Saturday 28 January 2012 at 10.30am. During the afternoon, a choice of seminars, presentations and meetings aims to offer something for everyone. The biggest problem will be to choose which you wish to attend!

The venue has a free car park and is easily accessible from Junction 6 of the M61. By rail, it is within easy walking distance of Horwich Parkway station.

50th anniversary dinner

The BPA 50th anniversary dinner will be held in the Lion of Vienna Suite in the evening. Dinner tickets will be available for sale from the BPA office later in the year – look out for details in the October Mag and on the BPA website. There will also be entertainment open to all members.

Accommodation

Overnight accommodation is available at BPA rate at De Vere Whites Hotel BL6 6SF, which is built into the stadium. Bedroom bookings at the De Vere Whites are now open – telephone 01204 667788 and quote the BPA AGM code DE 008 244 03. The cost is £80 per night for a double/twin, or £70 per night for single occupancy, both of which include breakfast.

Other accommodation is available nearby, including the Premier Inn (Reebok Stadium), which can be booked online at www.premierinn.com.

Exhibition

There will be a concurrent exhibition of kit and services for the enjoyment of our sport in the UK.

Exhibitors are invited to register their interest with the BPA office now, and bookings for exhibition space will open in the autumn.

Good luck to all UK participants

As of 12 July, the teams heading to European and World Cup events are:

Freestyle
Airkix Freestyle

Freely
Airkix Army Euphoria
Kinetic

Women's FS 4-way
Bodyflight Aerodyne

FS 4-way open
Escondido
Unagi
SonicNutz

8-way open
Brit Chicks

CP competitors
Martin Reynolds
Wez Westley
Matt Sweeney
Spencer Hogg

The BPA wishes all the teams and competitors at European and World Cup events the best of luck.

News in brief

BPA calendar - send your photos



Fancy seeing one of your images in the 2012 calendar? Then send us some of your best photos for consideration.

We want impressive, high-resolution and original shots – if you've captured a special moment you think is worthy of the 2012 calendar, then send it to us. Remember, it is the BPA calendar, so the focus will be on British skydivers, usually in British locations and in a range of disciplines. Send your contributions to: editor@skydivethemag.com

BPA Boogie

To celebrate the BPA's 50th year, the BPA 50 Boogie at Langar will run from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September. There will be five aircraft with a helicopter on call, free registration (with goodie bag and t-shirt for the first 250 people), £20 jumps, seminars and talks, as well as load organisers for all levels and disciplines, with a special focus on A-cert progression. Enjoy live music on Friday and Saturday night, free food on the Saturday and a prize draw for free jumps every day. Keep an eye on bpa.org.uk and mark your diary!

New BPA website

You may have noticed that a new BPA website, bpa.org.uk, went live early in July. Built by the BPA's publishing partner Archant Dialogue, it has a fresh new design, and behind it is a platform from which we hope to develop online renewals in future. So watch this space!

New ratings

Tandem instructor
Derek Hopkins
Brendan Devine
Frank Millerick
Tim Hanlon
Guy Reynolds
Matt Thomas
Chaz Sagar-Goldsmith

AFFI
Ashley Booth

Advanced Packer
Shane Hind (S)

Girls' H-D record

In May, the small contingent of British female head-down flyers attempted a British record - and achieved it. A number of these ladies had only just attained their FF2; so if you think you aren't qualified for the next attempt, think again. Participant Jane Henderson reviews the event and organiser Cat Adam outlines basic tips for big-way head-down flying



Photo by Darren Birkin



Preparation

On the morning of 21 May, a group of ladies gathered at Hibaldstow and, with a definite buzz of excitement, nerves and anticipation, Cat Adam and Anna Howerski outlined their plans for the weekend.

A few of us had already flown together at Airkix Manchester and had attended some of the warm-up weekends that Cat had run. We were organised into 4- and 5-ways, with the help of the lovely Moxy from *Skywalkers* and a few lads happy to support with filming. To say the experience level of half the group was low would be no exaggeration; a couple of us had only attained our FF2 a few weeks beforehand and, two jumps in, I began to think the bench beckoned. Instead, Cat and Anna cheerfully announced that we had the necessary skills and the groups were being brought together!

A couple more jumps and some slot switching later, I could feel the dives becoming calmer. The learning curve had been steep and the winds were picking up but we were ready to try for an 8-way.

Record attempt

We'd been launching a 4-way base but it had been flying so well, the decision was made to launch the 4-way round but with the first two stingers already attached, in theory making it quicker and easier for the second stingers to

build. The 6-way popped out of the door really well, with just a slight turn, and settled out, but before long I could feel something going on behind me. There was definite movement but I didn't know if this was something building or breaking apart. I could see Kaz Bain, one of the second stingers, coming smoothly in. I had no way of knowing if the whole thing had built as, a few seconds later, the formation pulled down from behind me and broke up, then it was time to track off. On landing Kaz seemed fairly certain that the whole thing had been in place when she'd docked on, but had Oilly managed to catch all the grips on camera? Success - we'd done it! It was a British record and the eight of us were later awarded BPA Certificates of Merit for our achievement.

For me, the real success of the event was in the positive, supportive and fun way the whole weekend was run. At no point was anyone made to feel they had failed. (I was later to find out I wasn't the only one thinking I was soon going to be sitting it out!) Every jump was met with "awesome", "great work, guys" and followed by excitement as the next jump was planned and walked through. There was a real party atmosphere; some of the guys have already asked if they can be involved in filming the next attempt - even bigger and better than the last!

Jane Henderson



““ A good formation should be umbrella shaped with the base as the highest point

The British record completes



Big-way basics

The base

The base is the most important role in the formation; it needs to set a point of reference for all approaching skydivers. For this reason it needs to stay on heading and avoid turning on exit. People in the base need to be able to fly nice and strong (with a good 'arms' presentation) to give a good platform for approaching skydivers to dock on to. If the base does turn, the people in the base should be able to come back on heading, so the approaching skydivers don't need to chase it around and create chances of impact.

The floating exit

This is where the skydiver is on the outside of the plane and leaves before the base. Floating is a skill that can take a bit of practice (a little like when trying sloop to pin the first time) and judging the speed and approach can take a lot of time to master. Floaters leave before the base in the formation and use a slow fall back-fly position to wait until the base has left the plane. They then need to judge the correct time to transition to head-down to move towards and match the fall rate of the approaching base, without over-shooting. Over-shooting can be dangerous, as a floater becoming a diver means collisions become possible with divers approaching from above. It is important to remember that the base is gaining in speed and the floater is in a slow fall position, so the floater will need to transition to their head and increase their speed quickly so as not to over-shoot.

The diving exit

This is where the skydiver leaves after the base and uses a fast diving position until they have matched the level of the base. It is important to be on-level first, before approaching the base.

Approach

Approaching the base should always be done on-level to avoid a stair-step action. Once on-level, you can move to your slot. It is best to avoid carving around the formation; find your slot, then move towards it in a controlled manner to avoid unnecessary traffic with approaching skydivers.

Slot

Once you have reached your slot, don't be in a rush to take a grip. Breathe, then remember: level, slot and dock before doing anything. You should aim to be at least a head's distance lower than the person in front of you in the formation.

Remember you should never reach up to take a grip; if you are, then you are too high in the formation and need to lower yourself down first. When you take your dock, remember to speed up, as a good formation should be umbrella shaped with the base as the highest point. Don't relax once you have docked on the formation - you should keep flying your slot at all times.

Break-off

Don't be in a rush to break off; take your time and make sure you have turned 180 degrees from the centre of the formation. Stop to check your path is clear and then move forward and track. It is always good to know which person should be tracking either side of you on the break-off to keep good separation.

Once you have moved off on your back you should track the remaining distance on your belly before pull time. Break-off is the most important part of the skydive and should be perfected in a smaller group before going on to big-way.

Cat Adam



Tiziana plays with fire, by Darren Birkin

*Kaz Bain coming in to dock.
All freefall photos by Olly Burgin*





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“ The jumps were constructed with the aim of pushing the boundaries of sequential group flying



Eurosequentials

This year's Eurosequentials invitational event was announced early in the year, and saw the introduction of a new venue: The Zoo in Rome. All participants were excited to see that, in May 2011, they would get to perform in an arena 15,000 feet above the Colosseum



One of the track dives saw the two organisers lead two separate groups of flyers so that the two formations crossed over and under each other



All photos by Max Haim



9-way head-down (half out-facing), with a 3-way in the centre, which then eagled out to a head-up round

The Eurosequentials has now become a well-established invitational event bringing together some of the world's best flyers from the tunnels and skies of Europe with the aim of performing 25 jumps over three days.

The jumps had been constructed and thought out in advance by two of the world's leading flyers and organisers (Mikey Carpenter and Fabian Raidel), with the aim of pushing the boundaries of sequential group flying. These skydives, planned and performed, encompassed launching an 8-way base from a Cessna Caravan; launching two 4-way round bases simultaneously; building a 9-way head-down round with half the flyers out-facing and then constructing a 3-way round in the centre (which then eagled out to a head-up round as the 9-way round reconstructed around it again with half the performers out-facing); a 12-way sequential jump with five points where pieces rotated around and culminated in a 12-way head-up round; constructing a head-up line crossed by a head-down line of flyers (the head-down flyers moved up and rotated the line 180 degrees above the head-up flyers before coming back down to re-form a cross and moving into an infinity-shaped formation with all flyers out-facing); an 8-way rotating base with four flyers stinging and then releasing simultaneously to half eagle the

rotating base and re-sting on the opposite flyer (guess you have to see the video for this one); and a couple of tracking dives with a twist. Phew! One of the track dives saw the two organisers lead two separate groups of flyers so that the two formations crossed over and under each other. Obviously, the jumps were the highlight of this event, but one other amusing and noteworthy item from my log book was this:

"First jump Sequentials 2011. Cessna Caravan ran in at 14,500 feet, two rear floaters and one front floater climbed out. 8-way base began to climb out, and from my position in the base outside the door, I felt the plane becoming unstable, and watched as the horizon went from where it should be, to 45 degrees. I realised we were stalling, and just had time to reflect on how happy I was to be already outside of the plane, before the words GO...GO...GO... cut through the background noise of wind blast and shuffling in the door. The exit resembled seeds scattered from a poppy in the breeze, and thankfully all were unharmed. Obviously the pilot had been briefed on our planned exit prior to take off, but had not realised how much speed he really needed to run in with, to allow for about eight skydivers to hang off the side of his plane."

Moral: try and predict safety issues whenever you can, but always be prepared for the unexpected; stuff sometimes just jumps up and bites you! The pilot did an excellent job in the situation, and for the rest of the jumps, exit involved climbing out, no flaps at MACH 1!

Big thanks to all the sponsors of this event: Bottrop (wind tunnel), Sonic (suit manufacturers), 90 Percent (magazine) and Vector (rig manufacturer).

Finally, speaking on behalf of all the participants, a big thank you to Andy Lovemore, who spent a lot of time and effort organising this event (sponsors, location, flyers, excellent evening entertainment etc...). We all realise these events don't just happen, so thanks for stepping up to the plate and organising another successful event. Andy has also had the foresight to organise very successful training events prior to the Eurosequentials, with the aim of training up and bringing in new talent to the group in the future, and anyone interested in this kind of flying should keep an eye out for future warm-up events.

Martin Reynolds
The Bad Lieutenants

Contact: andrewlovemore@yahoo.co.uk
www.andrewlovemore.com



Participating at this event: Andy Lovemore (event organiser and flyer), Mikey Carpenter (jump organiser), Fabian Raidel (jump organiser), Max Haim (video), Markus Schwarz, Frazer Smith, Haavard Flaot, Kristian Moxnes, Gregor Vandeneynnden (Sonic), Peter Nilsson, Andrea Fast Scarramuzza, Adrian Wild, Martin Reynolds, Matt O'Riordan, Dan Parker



Skills camp

Sunshine, breathtaking scenery, spectacular thunderstorms, mozzarella and awesome skydives were the ingredients for this year's Eurosequentials skills camp at The Zoo dropzone in Italy

It was great to catch up with old friends and to see so many faces from last year's event. This year's camp was attended by 25 jumpers from Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland and the UK, and ran from 19-22 May.

The Zoo is a relatively new dropzone and most of us had not jumped there at all before. We were generally impressed with the DZ facilities and organisation, but perhaps mostly with the mountainous scenery, which made such a great backdrop for this event! I am sure that The Zoo is going to become a regular feature on the European skydiving calendar.

This year's event benefited once again from the excellent load organising provided by Fabian Raidel and Mikey Carpenter of

Volare as per last year. We were also privileged to have Jim Harris of the *Bad Lieutenants* as an additional load organiser. The format was based around a 10-way group organised by Fabian, an 8-way organised by Mikey, a 6-way organised by Jim and a smaller group doing their own thing or being organised by Andrew Lovemore when he wasn't buzzing the other groups on outside camera.

We didn't have use of the Skyvan on day one, so we made use of the dropzone's Cessna Caravan, which made for some 'challenging' exits. However, the Skyvan arrived on day two, which made the larger group exits much easier - although someone did manage to let go of the 'floater bar' as they rolled out and ended up doing a solo for most of the jump!



Skyvan exit



The skills camp group and organisers

““ Once again, this was a fantastic event for progressing group flying skills and getting involved in some different and challenging jumps

All groups made some awesome jumps, which included some regular head-down points such as flowers, lines and rounds, along with classic sequentials such as pods, alley-oops and lineovers.

The 10-way group threw some head-up slots into the equation and were even attempting some of the more advanced sequentials that have been seen at the main Eurosequentials event throughout the last couple of years.

It was great to see that the standard of this year's event was a definite step up from the previous one. I wouldn't be surprised to see one or two of the better flyers at this skills camp in next year's main Eurosequentials event!

On the final day, we started in our original groups for some sequential jumps and then brought the groups together for a 21-way formation; this built very quickly and there was good potential for a second point - had we briefed one! By this time, people were drifting off to catch flights and the event wound down with some chill-out tracking dives.

Once again, this was a fantastic event for progressing group flying skills and getting involved in some different and challenging jumps. I would like to extend a big thanks to Andrew Lovemore and all the sponsors.

Paul Cooper



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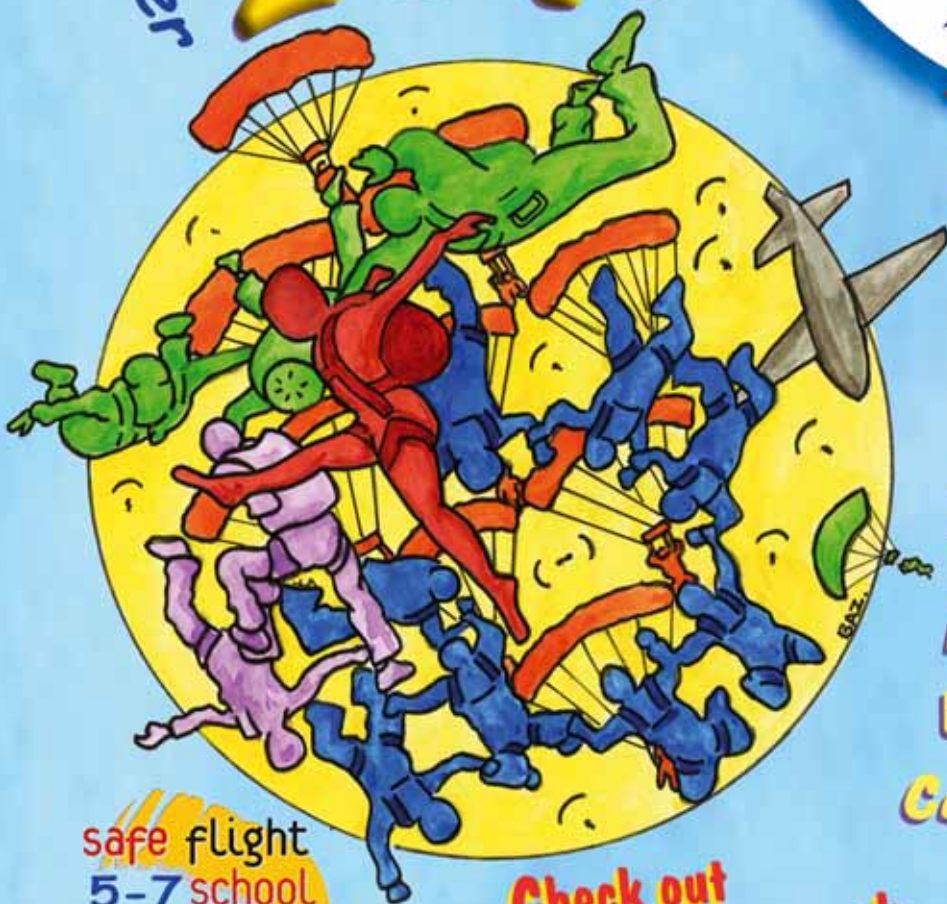
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THE FINAL INSTALMENT OF TEAM SONICNUTZ'S TRAINING ADVICE

With competitions looming we take a look at how best to optimise your scoring. Have you given a thought to the emphasis placed on actually showing your grips to the judges?

Photo by Dave Butterell

Judging the competition

We've all been there when we think we've done a good jump only to find out that we've been bust two points on the exit. Here are a few reminders all teams should consider when preparing for a competition in terms of what the judges need to see. We have considered this from the judges' angle, the camera person's angle and the team themselves.

A word from the judge

Kate Charters, the BPA Judges Co-ordinator talked to *SonicNutz* to outline key elements for teams to discuss as part of their training.

"One of the most important parts of the competition skydive is the exit; some teams can do two points or more in the slipstream and, if the cameraflyer is not in the correct place, it is very difficult to see all grips. At no time would we say they are not there but they have to be clearly visible to be scored.

"Also, if a team launches something that isn't the first point, and is making the transition to point with as little movement as possible, it can sometimes be scored as an NV (no video) because the grip changing may be a little out of sync. When a team loses a point in the dive after exit it can be

frustrating as they know they have made grips, but it's just that the presentation is not clear or formation is not stable.

"In the situation of either one person or a sub-group going off-screen, the rules state that you have to give a penalty. This, again, can be very frustrating for a team, as they know they have not done anything wrong."

Kate mentions that she always tries to tell the judges to use common sense when one person goes off-screen and to try and remember that, if it is a 360 they have to do, it is relative to the other sub-group.

The rules

In summary, the judges need to see all grips in the formation on exit, the transitions to the next points during the dive, good clean keys and clear shots of hands off.

This means nice stable formations (which does not necessarily mean hold it for a long time) that are clear enough to see.

Remember that the cameraflyer has a dual job - working for the team and the judges - so their presentation is vital for a good score.

We have experienced first-hand the judges' advice: they suggest that if there

is a problem with the camera or the jump itself, the sooner they speak to the Chief Judge the better.

Camera malfunctions are not grounds for a re-jump, although the judging panel always tries to go with the spirit of the competition and the idea that all teams do not always have their own camera.

In the end, if a re-jump is not awarded, it is very difficult to find a rule that will help overturn that decision, as two rules cover the judges:

- 1. You cannot protest your score**
- 2. You cannot protest a judge's assessment of your dive**

Busts from exits, as a result of not presenting grips so the judges can see them, can often feel very unfair. However, it is critical that you as a team should train to eliminate or reduce this problem by looking at footage and reviewing the jumps as if you were the judge. Ask yourselves - is the grip clear and presented to the judging panel?

The cameraflyer's role in a team becomes vital when you discuss and consider the issues above.

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COMPETITIONS

Here the cameraflyer is maybe a little too far away, although the next part of the block can sometimes separate



“ The cameraflyer must train just as much as the team in order to learn the timing of exits, and how a team moves

Cameraflyer's perspective

A cameraflyer's job at a competition is to present footage that is easy to watch and easy to judge. They must show each grip of every formation, from exit to break-off, while allowing the judges to focus on the team. This means filling the screen with a clear, smooth image while keeping every grip in frame.

As a member of the team, a cameraflyer's preparation begins on the ground. Successful FS teams will dirt-dive to learn and remember the skydive; the same is true of a successful cameraflyer. Watch the team dirt-dive, know the formations that are to come and how the team moves between them. Think how formations look through a lens and how best to position yourself.

The exit

The exit is a key element of the skydive for a cameraflyer; timing is everything. Go to the mock-up with the team, know their key and practise your timing. Cameraflyers often have a preference over exits: leading (going slightly before a team) or peeling (going slightly after the team). Either can work well, but choose which one you're going to use. Either use one

all the time or for particular formations, but stick to the plan and practise your timings. If your team visualises their skydives, do the same. Think through a jump from exit to break-off and picture the perfect skydive. It's good practice, helps you concentrate on the jump and focus on your role within the team.

In order to show a clear view of the grips, the best position for a cameraflyer to be in during freefall is steep above the formation. This helps prevent grips being hidden behind rigs and booties. This does put you in the burble of the team so be aware of the formation moving under you. A shallow angle, off the burble, is fine but try and be close and fill the frame as best you can.

Staying aware

Be aware of grips moving out of frame, particularly on block moves. If you fly close

C exit: if this was tighter, some of the grips would be more hidden - approach with caution!



to a team it is particularly important that you know the formations. Long formations are best placed corner-to-corner; some block formations may split apart, requiring you to gain distance, others fall away from you. You must be prepared to react in order to keep the grips close and in frame.

A good cameraflyer will present the judges with a smooth and easy-to-watch video with few distractions, allowing them to concentrate on the team. Try not to orbit around a team during the skydive and keep your head still to avoid camera shake. Use forward and backward movements and side-slides rather than orbiting, and focus on the formations in front of you to keep your head still.

The team and the cameraflyer must work together to be successful. The cameraflyer must train just as much as the team in order to learn the timing of exits, how a team moves between formations and where to position themselves. Good cameraflyers often go unnoticed due to their uneventful footage that allows you to focus on the team. Although a cameraflyer can never add to a team's score, training and preparation can ensure they don't miss points.

All photos by Rob Frost



Left: This H exit has gone a little flat at the front and the cameraflyer is very close to Tail - on this exit consider trying to get above the formation or peeling. This will totally depend on the team's way of exiting; the cameraflyer should know what this is and apply the best method of capturing the random exit picture with all grips

COMPETITIONS

Team preparation

Know what your exits look like and how they present - this can mean having an exits DVD that is shared by all the team. You may wish to go through and evaluate, then confirm which exit the cameraflyer will use.

Some teams can blast away from the plane and others drop off and down. You and your cameraflyer must know this so you can understand the best way to see these grips on screen. Knowing what your exits look like will allow you to properly visualise what your improvements can be.

We have previously found that one of our K exits had gone a little flat and the cameraflyer had not managed to get above us enough to show the judges the grips. It's something like this that highlights the need to have already had these conversations about exits before a competition!

Judges advise that you should not make them have to 'look again' to see grips. Where possible, formations and keys should be clearly presented with good flashing. Building in a rhythm helps, but all the team must stick to this; if you are flashing at different times it can draw the eye of the judge.

Things to consider

- Long formations and blocks such as a G or a 1 need to be practised and evidence shown as to which is the best method of capturing all the grips on camera.
- Watch out for exits that are often taken for granted but can go flat or quickly drop off, such as H, C and K.
- Remember exits where the grips are often masked by rigs, such as O and P.
- Think about flashing on quickly-keyed random exits - for example, getting L-15 out the door. This has an E exit grip

switched to an L and then a slight move to a 15 between IC and point. The cameraflyer must be above and capture clear separation. Rhythmical flashing will help.

In summary, this is a reminder to be aware of the issues all teams can face during a competition and to seek the advice of the

judges throughout the season and not just at a competition event. Best of luck to all willing competitors at the forthcoming Nationals!

Helen Arnold
Dave Butterell



“ Know what your exits look like and how they present - this can mean having an exits DVD that is shared by all the team

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FILMFEST

Fancy making a film for the 2012 BPA Film Fest? If so, it's time to start planning now. Simpsons Productions, winners of the 2010 and 2011 BPA Film Festival, share their tips for success

This article is a pit stop tour of how we put together our films, *Wake Me Up Before You Go Go* (2010 BPA Film Fest winner) and *The Holy Grail* (2011 BPA Film Fest winner). You can watch them both on YouTube by searching for them by name followed by 'BPA movie fest'. Hopefully, you will find some inspiration.

When making a film, you need to remember the purpose. If you want to show the good times you had with friends, show off skills and achievements then you would naturally make a bar tape:

- Record jumps and select the best parts (or the worst/funniest)
- Use film-editing software to place each sequence in whichever order suits you best, adding music and effects
- Export the movie on a DVD
- Show on your dropzone screens or post on the internet

This type of film is by far the most common and most popular!

However, the objective of the BPA Film Fest is to make a film that will entertain a large audience. Consequently, you will need to connect with that audience and, for this, the story is the key. So, instead of building a film from existing skydive sequences, you need to first build a story, and only then should you start producing sequences.

Steps to making a successful film:

1. Original idea, story writing and storyboard design
2. Preparation
3. Shooting
4. Post-production and editing

1. Original idea, story writing and storyboard design

This is the most important part of film-making so allow yourself plenty of time for it. We came up with our idea for *The Holy Grail* on a trip to Empuriabrava and spent five days in between skydives discussing the ways it could be developed. On the return journey it still wasn't completely finalised. Remember that the hook or the concept needs to be interesting and exciting, or funny! If you get excited about it then hopefully the audience will too. If you can, get a few friends involved and brainstorm together, as it's sometimes difficult to get creative on your own.

Generate ALL the ideas you can think of for your chosen theme. Select the best ideas that work and discard the others. The film can be no more than six minutes long, so you won't be able to fit everything in. Elaborate on the ideas that have potential and then start building a story. If it gets too complicated, get rid of anything that's not essential. We went through this process quite a few times until we had a sequence of events that would a) tell the story b) be funny - we were making comedy c) were practical to film and d) wouldn't make the film too long. Repeat as much as you can until you produce a winning scenario!

“Elaborate on the ideas that have potential and then start building a story



The Holy Grail, by Simpsons Productions, Sibson



When your scenario is complete, you need to split it into sequences that will be shot individually (the storyboard). This will lead to the preparation for the actual shooting.

2. Preparation

Analyse each sequence. Think about what you will need to shoot them:

- Actors should be informed of the work involved. You may want people to appear in several scenes that will be shot on different days. Try to plan days/weekends dedicated to shooting and only retain people who can commit to missing jumps for shooting, as you need continuity. This is the hardest part as, when the plane's going up, you might want people to stay on the ground for the film!
- Props may be required for your film. Get them ready as early in the season as

possible, as they can take a long time to organise. Al's fake legs were tan coloured drainpipes (sourced from a builder) with holes drilled through the bottom to allow a pair of trainers to be tied on. Then a pair of old jeans were scrounged from a friend (thanks Paul C!), cut up and taped over the drainpipes. Don't hesitate to ask for help with props; people who aren't in your film are often ready to help!

- Locations can be as varied as you need. Highlight which shots can be done outside the dropzone.

It helps if these preparation notes are all written on the storyboard.

3. Shooting

At this stage, one person should be appointed director and not be afraid of bossing people around!



Have fun while shooting as it shows on screen! Don't be afraid to shoot the same take several times

The 2011 Film Fest was held at the BPA AGM back in January. Gerard and Anthea took home first prize for *The Holy Grail*, as well as the GoPro humour award



Before each scene, check that all actors and props are available. Check continuity: actors may need to wear the same gear that they wore for a previous scene. If possible, communicate the lines in advance so that your actors can rehearse.

A HD video camera is ideal, as the image quality will be so much better.

Shoot the scenes that take place outside the dropzone as soon as possible in the season so that you don't miss too many jumping days for shooting.

Have fun while shooting your sequence as it shows on screen! Don't be afraid to shoot the same take several times. The flying rabbit was basically the cameraman lying on his back on the ground and me standing on a picnic table throwing the rabbit towards the cameraman. We tried lots of other ways of throwing the rabbit prior to this so, by the end, most people on the dropzone thought we were barmy and

the poor rabbit was a bit worse for wear having had a few trips off the top of the control tower!

Don't be too worried about surrounding noise. We found that wind noise can be a real problem and means that sometimes you can't hear people speak, so we dubbed all the vocals in post-production.

4. Post-production and editing

We asked each actor to record his or her lines on a computer with a microphone that can generate music files. If you want to do this, you need a silent environment. Closed rooms can often cause an undesired echo so we ended up doing some recording outside in a really sheltered corner.

There are several film-editing software packages on the market. Select one that you feel comfortable with. They should allow you to do, at the very least, the following tasks:

- Place sequences in order
- Trim sequences (removing the beginning or end)
- Add effects to the sequence (changing speed, colour scheme and zooming)
- Add several sound files (music and voice-over files)
- Sequence transitions (fade-to-black or other)
- Titles (fixed or scrolling texts)

Do not hesitate to make several versions and run them by your friends. It's worth showing the film to non-jumpers too as, if they enjoy your movie, then you may have a winner.

We had never made a film before our first Film Fest attempt. Everything recorded here has just been learnt from making the two BPA films, so go for it!

**Gerard Casale and Anthea Harrison
Simpsons Productions, Sibson**

TOP TIPS

Simon Ward, Airkix CEO, and one of the most successful British cameraflyers of the 1980s and 1990s, reveals his tips for film-making success

Judging criteria

The BPA Film Festival is looking for all budding film-makers to entertain their fellow skydivers. Films can be any length up to six minutes and must be submitted in accordance with the instructions below. Each film will be entered into the main competition and the judges will use the following criteria to evaluate films:

- The story
- Creativity
- Intelligence - storyboarding, flow of storyline and so on.
- Camera work/editing
- Enjoyment and excitement



It is unlikely that a bar tape, however slick, will win a film festival. It would still need a story to make it a film

The best five films (in the view of the judges) will all be played at the BPA AGM. The audience will vote for the final winner who will win the coveted Airkix perpetual trophy. The other four will all win a runner-up prize.

Airkix has also got together with GoPro (HD mini video cameras) and will award a special prize of a GoPro camera to the entrant that best uses humour within the film. It will be judged separately and may or may not be one of the five films played initially at the AGM.

Considerations

In addition to the judging criteria, here are a few tips for success:

- Your film should be just that; a film. Most films will have a beginning, middle and an end, and will typically engage the viewer in a story.
- Use some basic film techniques, such as filming an establishing shot before using

close-ups. Some of the best examples in skydiving are the good tandem videos where they use shots of the DZ followed by the surroundings, before filming the tandem passenger getting kitted up and taken to the plane, followed by the actual jump. Point-of-view (POV) shots are often used to show planes taking off, as well as the view that the passenger has from the canopy etc. These then get edited into the final sequence.

- Your film does not need to be six minutes - consider TV or cinema adverts that tell some amazing stories in 30-60 seconds. Far better to be too short and leave the audience wishing for more than too long and send them to sleep. Just because a scene took you hours to film or edit doesn't necessarily mean it is worthy of the final cut.
- Use audio to enhance your movie; simply adding a track of music is often not enough, even if edited well. Always try to use a decent microphone and don't rely on the average video recorder's mic. Use sound effects (SFX) and background noise where appropriate.
- Keep editing simple. Just because your editing software has 500 wipes, fades, transitions, cuts etc, it doesn't mean you have to use them all. Next time you look at film, look at the editing and how few types of effect are used.
- Consider basic camera techniques, like (over) use of the zoom lens, and know when you want to follow the action or let it to go through the frame.
- Keep shots to an appropriate length. Again, when watching an advert or film, count out loud between each edit and you may be surprised at the short length of each shot.
- Titles and credits can be integral to the end product, so be creative.
- Remember this is a film festival. It is unlikely that a bar tape, however slick, will win a film festival. It would still need a story to make it a film.
- A film should generally be understood by a wide audience and engage them. Again, a bar tape is relevant only to a closed group.
- Plan your film. This normally means having a basic

storyboard. You may also use a script to work to (whether it is actually spoken or not).

- Research filming, film making and editing techniques on the web, via websites such as: ehow.com/videos-on_6915_film-making-beginners or discoverahobby.com/learnfilmmaking
- Get feedback from people you trust before submitting the final edit.

Simon Ward



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-Missy School-Keough

Guys you're perfect!
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-Natalia Grigorovskaya

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-Geoffrey Allen

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-Fabian Reddig

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-Elise Cohen

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-Mike Miller

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I got the new rig today!! thanks guys!!
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It's a classic

The Classics Nationals returned to the north east of England in June this year, welcomed by Peterlee Parachute Centre



Men's Accuracy winners: Pete Sizer took gold, Jeff Chandler silver and Glen Stephenson bronze

Competition

The jumpers began to arrive on Thursday 16 June. Most set up a mini encampment to the north of the new hangar - a stone's throw from BPA Competitions Committee member Steve Saunders' caravan.

Andy 'Tex' Houston (of TexAir Accuracy Scoring System) and the judges - Bob King, Doug Peacock and Davie McMinn - were not far behind. In the meantime, DZ Operator Ian Rosvinge was heading in the opposite direction on a return trip to collect the Style Video Judging System from the BPA offices in Leicester. By the time Ian returned, Tex had suitably adorned the accuracy landing area with a multitude of wind indicators, masts, gazebo, tuffet, etc. and a few practice jumps were under way.

Day one

Given the forecast, Meet Director Tim Andrewes went for an early start on the Friday morning but low cloud thwarted some of the sorties, and some re-jumps in the Style event resulted. Indeed, to assist with the Style event, the centre put out

a few drifters so Bob King could try his steady hand at guiding the ground-to-air video system, expertly assembled and managed by Tony Makepeace.

The Accuracy event suffered a similar fate with the cloud. The jumpers were Jeff Chandler, Pete Sizer, Esther Reynolds, Janos Leszko, Glen Stephenson and Richard Bissett. In two sticks of three, they applied their skills in some demanding conditions. After Round 1, Pete took the lead, with last year's overall champion Janos Leszko taking a 16 landing off the scoring area.

Day two and three

Saturday saw the competitors continue to battle against the low-cloud conditions and again on Sunday morning, but later on Sunday, after consulting the Met and Aviation forecasts, it was decided to call it a day at 1.45pm. A friendly atmosphere could be found among the competitors, judges, hosts and those regular jumpers that braved the rain to stay the course, at the prizegiving. This was one of those meets where everyone got a medal but the key awards were:

Overall National Champ Jeff Chandler
Ladies' Accuracy Esther Reynolds
Men's Accuracy Pete Sizer
Men's Style Jeff Chandler

Regrettably, only six jumpers entered the competition with at least three falling foul of not meeting the meet registration criteria two weeks earlier. Two of these people turned up, including Katherine Andrewes, who had travelled with husband Tim from Spain.

Without the requirement for a centre to financially underwrite the competition at "no cost to the BPA" (hence the requirement for an entry cut off), the attendance may have been higher. Hopefully, the BPA can be persuaded to either meet basic judging and admin costs for all National events from 2012 (as it currently does for regional events) or to seriously look at other mechanisms for encouraging entries. Enabling entry until the start of the meet could involve a late entrance fee (which, in turn, would encourage earlier entries).

Ian Rosvinge



Low cloud thwarted some of the sorties, and some re-jumps in the Style event resulted

*Left: Meet Director Tim Andrewes and wife Katherine
Below: Overall National Champion Jeff Chandler*



Pete Sizer, Jeff Chandler and Janos Leszko



Ladies' Accuracy champion Esther Reynolds

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SonicNutz, AAA gold



Kaizen, AAA silver



Bodyflight Aerodyne, AAA bronze



Eclipse, AA gold



Gr4vity, AA silver



38 SKYDIVE

Satori Red, AA bronze

It's not too late for Nationals!

With the three UKSL competitions that mark the run-up to the Nationals now complete, you might think your chance to get involved with the UK competition scene has disappeared. But this isn't the case. Catch up with the current results and discover the fun you're missing out on here...

Three UKSL (UK Skydiving League) competitions have been completed so far this year, at Netheravon, Langar and Hibaldstow. Despite all three meets being affected by bad weather to some extent, the popularity of 4-way shone through with 19 teams at Nethers, 21 at Langar and a record-breaking 32 at Hib.

Categories
The FS dive pool is made up of 16 random formations, worth one point each, and 22 blocks worth two. AAA teams compete using all of the possible formations, whereas at the other end of the scale Rookies use just the randoms. A and AA use the randoms plus 8 and 16 of the blocks, respectively. Teams used to be put into categories based on their combined jump numbers, but the advent of the tunnels meant this was no longer a useful way of judging skill level, so now teams choose for themselves which category to enter. Four people doing their first team will probably start in Rookie, and move up a category each year.

How it works
Winning a UKSL meet gains a team 10 league points, while silver and bronze are worth eight and six. Teams from fourth place down to eighth get 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 league points respectively. The scores are combined from the completed competitions at Netheravon, Langar and Hibaldstow, and the upcoming British Nationals counts as the fourth UKSL meet in the series. The team with the most points in each category is crowned UKSL champion at the BPA AGM in January 2012.

How it stands
Things are tightest in AAA, with four teams tied at the top on 10 points each. The title will go to whichever of *Army Nemesis*, *Cookie Monsters*, *SonicNutz* and *Unagi* places highest at Nationals. They do not have to win Nationals to win the league overall, and in fact

AAA is shaping up to be interesting, as several teams have not yet competed this year - watch out for *Satori* and *Vision*.

Things are tightest in AAA, with four teams tied at the top on 10 points each

In AA, teams *Eclipse*, *Gr4vity* and *Kryos Airkix* are guaranteed the league medals overall, but the order of them could change at Nationals. Last year in A, *Gr4vity* beat *Eclipse* to the overall UKSL title, but having both moved up to AA *Eclipse* are just on top so far in 2011. However, both *Gr4vity* and *Kryos Airkix* have had changes to their team line-ups during the 2011 season, so anything could happen. They will also have to watch out for team *Full Stop*, winners of Nationals 2010 in A, who have not competed at a UKSL meet yet this year but who destroyed the competition at the Bodyflight World Challenge.

Last year's Rookie league silver medallists *Raykipo* have moved up to A and have secured their overall league title having won gold medals at all three UKSL meets so far - well done guys! Their points average is currently improving at about a point and a half per competition this year - can they keep it up? Silver and bronze are still up for grabs. Similarly, in Rookie, *RAFSPA Hurricane* have already won the overall league, but silver and bronze are all to play for.

Liz Ashley

Raykipo, A gold

High Altitude Heroes, A silver



Cookie Monsters exit. AAA gold medal winners at the Langar UKSL, by John Baggaley



Kaizen, AAA silver medal winners at the Hibaldstow UKSL, by Jim Stevenson

	Nethers	Langar	Hib	Total
AAA				
Army Nemesis	10	0	0	10
Cookie Monsters	0	10	0	10
SonicNutz	0	0	10	10
Unagi	8	0	2	10
Slot Machines Oddyssy	0	8	0	8
Kaizen	0	0	8	8
Bodyflight Aerodyne	0	0	6	6
Eureka	0	0	5	5
Escondido	0	0	5	5
Brit Chicks	0	0	3	3
Sirius	0	0	2	2
AA				
Eclipse	10	10	10	30
Gr4vity	8	8	8	24
Kryos Airkix	6	6	5	17
Satori Red	0	0	6	6
Sex Panther	5	0	0	5
Gnomad	0	5	0	5
Slutty Margheritas	0	0	4	4
A				
Raykipo	10	10	10	30
RAFSPA Phoenix	5	8	3	16
Enigma-Nom	4	6	5	15
High Altitude Heroes	0	3	8	11
Team Toshi/Satori Yellow	6	5	0	11
Army Apex	8	0	0	8
Enigma Pork Sword	0	2	6	8
RAFSPA Typhoon	3	4	0	7
Blitz Pigs	0	0	4	4
Mental Blocks	0	0	2	2
TB2A	0	1	0	1
Aurora	0	0	1	1
Rookie				
RAFSPA Hurricane	8	10	8	26
Fiasco	6	0	6	12
Team Gringo	5	4	2	11
Atmosfear	0	0	10	10
4mula	10	0	0	10
Azure 4	0	8	0	8
Wii Fly	0	6	0	6
Kamikazi Satsumas	3	3	0	6
Beech and her Boys	0	2	4	6
Will Cooke to Manifest	0	0	5	5
Better than Average	0	5	0	5
Jesters	4	0	0	4
LSOS	0	0	3	3
Airtight	2	0	0	2
Fox Fource	0	0	1	1

Aim Haya

Belgian team *Hayabusa* set a new world record as this Mag went to press. Competing at the World Military Games in Brazil, they took the title for the fourth year running with a whopping 36-point average. The draw is not a standard IPC draw - the first point is always an M, working time does not start until this point is keyed or five seconds after exit, and every round was made up of three randoms then a block. Nevertheless it is the highest eight-round average in history, and a full four points clear of the next-placed team's average. *Hayabusa's* next event will be the World Cup in Germany where they will be competing alongside UK teams *SonicNutz*, *Escondido* and *Unagi* (as well as *Bodyflight Aerodyne* in the women's event, who will do the same draw). Good luck to all involved!

Don't forget the **ESL finals** on **16-18 September** at **Texel, the Netherlands**. **The UK needs to win that sword back!**

Contact tricky@bpa.org.uk if you're tempted or just looking for a team

Hibaldstow medal pics by Shell Meakins and Craig Poxon



Fiasco, Rookie bronze



Enigma Pork Sword, A bronze



Atmosfear, Rookie gold



RAFSPA Hurricane, Rookie silver

Supporting every skill level

Satori Academy

I first became aware of the Satori project back in 2010 when I received an invite to try out to become part of a team. Needless to say I grabbed this opportunity with both hands. I've tried and failed for a number of years to put together a competitive 4-way team so I wasn't going to pass up this opportunity to be on a team with discounted world class coaching!

In January, I arrived at Airkix MK for my tryout. It was then when I realised the scale of the project that *Satori* were embarking on. Their goal was to create teams to compete in each of the 4-way categories, from Rookie through to AAA at this year's Nationals, and to create a solid foundation to enable teams to continue to compete, with an emphasis on progression and improving personal flying skills. In return, they were asking that we commit to around four hours tunnel, a four-day camp at Hibaldstow and a six-day camp in Seville. This was the biggest commitment I had made in my skydiving career, but was necessary in order to play my part in making the project succeed.

My tryout consisted of 20 minutes flying as IC with three guys who were equally as keen to make this project succeed. A week later I received an email from Julia Foxwell letting me know that she

was "impressed with my flying" and invited me to join a single A team.

No sooner than I had the invite, I received an email with the training schedule, the training began, and the reality that I would be living off beans on toast for the rest of the season sunk in!

The logistical nightmare of what the team was trying to achieve soon began. Jules had to manage constantly changing team line-ups due to people struggling to commit and teams breaking up due to personality clashes and injuries. But in the end, five new teams were created. *Satori* had managed to put together *Satori Blue*, *Green*, *Purple*, *Red* and - my team - *Satori Yellow*.

Training camp

The week beginning 21 May saw many months of hard work by Julia and the rest of the *Satori* team come to fruition, when five brand new *Satori* Academy teams arrived at Skydive Spain to begin a week long 4-way training camp.

Before we arrived in Seville my team had already completed nearly two hours of tunnel training and competed in the first Grand Prix of the season at Nethers. We came third in single A winning the Academy its first medal of the season.

The smile on Jules' face on the morning of 21 May said it all. All her hard work and planning had paid off.

Each day, the coaches - John McIver, Julia and Aaron Faith - prepared the teams with stretching and warm-up at 8am, before continuing the day with a high-intensity jump programme.

More than 1,000 skydives were made throughout the week, which saw



Satori Yellow, by Adam Pencharz.

many achievements, including milestones such as 100th jumps, 400th jumps, lots of firsts (including, for many, their first sunflower landing!) and, of course, John McIver's 50th(ish) birthday celebrations. I'm not sure that any of these photos would be suitable for a family publication such as this!

The progression everyone made was incredible and the vibe was amazing considering that we were all pretty much strangers to each other before the camp.

The week ended with a jump that I am still buzzing from as I write this - a four-point (well, three and a half) 14-way!

The camp might be over but this marks just the start of what is already shaping up to be an awesome season. Look out for the colours of *Satori* at this year's Nationals.

I want to thank everyone involved in making this project happen.

If you are not part of the project this year, and the opportunity comes your way next season, grab it with both hands!

Chris Kendall
Satori Yellow



14-way at the *Satori* Academy training camp



The *Satori* Academy group

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Skies of the

At the start of the 1970s, the BPA National Championships were dominated by men from the military and parachutes were square. The Championships were dominated by civilians, parachutes were square and a British woman was world champion. The BPA

The rise of the civilian

While the 1970s saw great leaps forward in Relative Work (now known as Formation Skydiving) and large groups of jumpers increasingly did amazing things in the sky, the major competitive events were still the Classic ones of freefall Style and Accuracy landing.

In the 1960s it was believed that no civilian jumper could ever compete with a jumper from the military. In recognition of this fact, the BPA commissioned a special trophy to be awarded for 'The Best Civilian Performance' at our National Championships.

John Meacock was the first to expose this as a myth by regularly becoming National Champion in this decade. Then, in 1973 at Weston on the Green, a team of civilians from Duck End Farm buried the myth forever by winning every trophy and every medal the BPA awarded at a National Championship.

Bob Hiatt, the new National Champion, found a baked bean can, hastily constructed a wooden pedestal and base and presented it as a trophy for 'The Best Military Performance' to Mike Deacon from the RAF. Mike went to live in Australia, and the last time I heard, still had the trophy. The BPA's 'Best Civilian Cup' was withdrawn and placed in permanent retirement.

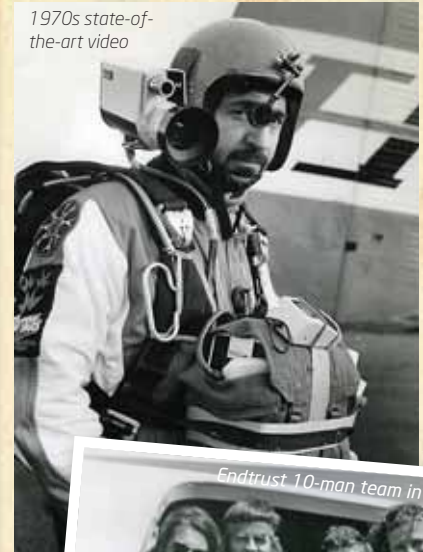
The rise of the female skydiver

The decade began with the 1970 World Parachuting Championships in Bled, Yugoslavia. The BPA sent a full male team but, as in all previous World Championships, no British women accompanied them. Then, in 1972 at Tahlequah, USA, a female British jumper (who lived in the USA) made her own way to Oklahoma and was allowed to take part, despite not having earned the right to represent Great Britain by competing in the BPA Nationals.

The BPA

There were a number of milestone events for the BPA in the '70s. Three facets of the sport came into being early in the decade. The first was the move to establishing formal instructors' courses, which remain as the foundation of what we have today. The second was kit changes (read about these on page 44). Thirdly, we saw a change from jumping out of Tiger Moths, Austers and Rapides to the utilisation of the Cessna 172/182/185/206 series, with the Islander coming into popular use for the bigger clubs.

It was in 1971 that a Skyvan from SW Aviation (based in Exeter) came on the scene and proved to be important in the development of large group Relative Work. Another significant milestone was the move from the BPA's original offices in London (Artillery Mansions in Victoria Street) to a more



Four years later, in 1976, the BPA sent a full female team to Rome, with all of the female competitors having earned the right to represent the UK by competing in the BPA Nationals.

The decade ended spectacularly when Britain's Jackie Smith became the 1978 women's World Accuracy Champion, having scored 10 consecutive dead centres in the competition. Jackie was the first person ever to achieve this remarkable score, beating all of the men as well as the women in days when more than 250 competitors could be expected to attend a World Parachuting Championships. Her wonderful performance was rightly recorded in *The Guinness Book of Records*.

Bob King D411

modern office block complex in Leicester. This was in Kimberley House on Vaughan Way, where we joined the British Gliding Association, which was already in residence. This move certainly influenced my decision to apply for the job as the Association's first National Coach and Safety Officer in 1975 - I certainly didn't wish to be based in London.

It was a great thrill to have landed the position and it was to prove a fantastic challenge, as there was much to do. In the three years I did the job before handing over to Doug Peacock in 1977, I was responsible for drafting the original BPA *Instructors' Manual* and the *Display Manual*. In addition, I took a number of people on their instructors' courses who are still active in the sport today - something that I'm very proud of.

Charlie Shea-Simonds D192



70s

ere round. When the decade closed, the A and its members had come a long way...



Brian Laithwaite on an early '70s demo



RAFSPA's DH Rapide



The first ever BPA instructor course



Demos

In the summer of 1970, the *Red Devils* were asked by a professional events organiser to put on a parachute display in the Principality of Monaco. We, among other British military display teams and bands, were to be the entertainment for several hundred millionaires who met every six months for seminars on the worldwide happenings in business and commerce. They were known as the YPO (the Young Presidents Organization).

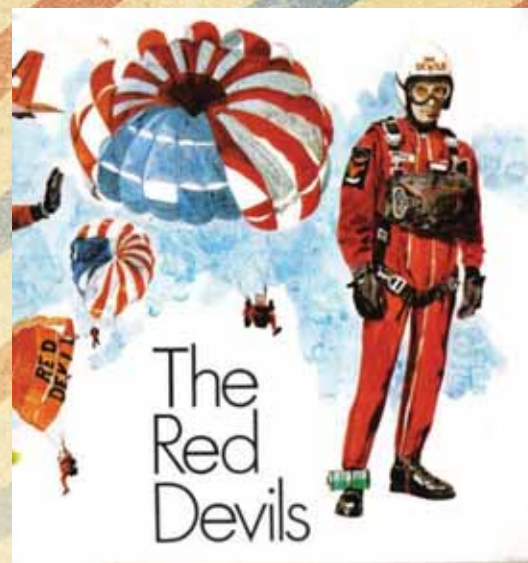
We landed at Nice airport. We had our own Islander then - state-of-the-art compared with the old De Havilland Rapide we first owned. In Monte Carlo we discovered that the team commander Pete Schofield and Bob Harman would have to put on a surprise show for Princess Grace, who was opening a newly built theatre. They would be jumping the new (at that time) squares. In fact, they were so new, the American manufacturer had left sorting out the small problem of it being malfunction-prone and unwise to go beyond terminal velocity before pulling the ripcord (yes, that was what we called it in those days) to us. After Pete and Bob had gone, the rest of us would fly a little further and put on another display for the Young Presidents.

Both jumps were scheduled for the evening. We were only allowed 4,000 feet, but that was no problem as the point of both jumps centred on the parachuting and not the freefall. At the DZ, Pete exited first followed by Bob.

Hollywood landing

The approach to the entrance of the theatre was over a car park with high goose-necked floodlights. Avoiding these, Pete did a stand up landing 10 feet in front of Princess Grace. She, having not been told of the parachutist, had just walked out of the theatre door to find someone in a helmet and red suit gliding towards her under what must have appeared to be a red mattress. Pete, instantly shedding his harness, took three steps forward before going down on one knee. He simultaneously pulled a bouquet of flowers from inside his jumpsuit, which, with bowed head, he held out for her acceptance. Princess Grace could only gasp in speechless amazement as the nylon square silently settled around them. Hollywood couldn't have done it.

Meanwhile, back in the aircraft the rest of us flew on to our DZ. This was a clay pigeon



shoot about 30 yards wide, built 50 feet or so above seashore rocks, only a few hundred yards along the coast from the harbour. Now, Monte Carlo is built on shoreline hillsides that rise to mountains. Our YPO spectators were above the pigeon shoot enjoying pre-dinner cocktails in a large terraced garden at the rear of the Monte Carlo casino.

After opening, we each lowered a banner with an inscription on it that flew 10 feet or so below us. Mine was 'Hi' while the others read: 'there', 'YPO' and '1970'. As we were approaching the casino from the sea, our hook to land on the pigeon shoot was above and just short of the gardens. This gave the spectators a clear view of the banners, which they all read with a huge roar of voices, followed by a tremendous cheer, as each banner swung into sight.

On completing the display we were taken up to the top terrace to be introduced to our hosts. In doing so, the compère let it be known that one of us - Al Young - was that day celebrating his 21st birthday. Subsequently, 500 millionaires and their wives broke into a spontaneous rendition of *Happy Birthday*, which has got to be a world first.

The next day, six of us did a water jump into Monte Carlo harbour. A jump that always had me pondering whether, because of it, my name was ever placed on a Greek mafia hit list - if there is such a thing. Why? Well, at the time I was titled the Team Chief Instructor. In that capacity, I and the Minister for Aviation (yes, Monte Carlo really did have one) were on a recce of the harbour when, gesturing at the boats, he asked: "Is all this suitable for your jumping." And I - Chief Instructor yes, but simpleton also - replied: "Well, some of those yachts look expensive and if one of us has a malfunction and crashes down on one while dangling under a reserve, we could damage some costly kit."

"No problem," he announced. "I will have them all removed."

And so he did. All the Texas millionaires, the Arab oil sheikhs and the Greek shipping multi-millionaire, Aristotle Onassis, had to take their yachts off and anchor them in the middle of the Mediterranean.

For the team, a short but most memorable visit to the renowned French Riviera...

Don MacNaughton BPA 417

70s kit

Craig Bulman's Red Devils Delta2 Parawing, by Tony Danbury



Parawing

The mid-1960s to the mid-1970s was a period of enormous development for parachute equipment. This was partly due to the development of parachutes for aerospace and military purposes. Space and military agencies were developing parachutes that could glide long, controllable distances allowing spacecraft to be brought back to Earth, and soldiers and equipment to be delivered with precision.

From these developments the ram-air parachute came into being, though it was to be the mid-1970s before the opening shock and reliability, pack volume and performance were good enough to garner proper interest from sport jumpers. At the same time as the ram-air was evolving, various other canopy designs were under experimentation as well as a continual advance of Para-Commander-type round canopies.

One of these canopy types was a Rogallo wing, aka a Parawing, which remained as a sport parachute for a considerable period of time. The Rogallo wing is still used in some designs of hang glider today. As a canopy it is a single-skin, triangular, gliding wing. The first of these to make any impact in the sport was the Irvin Delta2 Parawing. The US Army Team had been developing the canopy for some time and, in 1969, the British *Red Devils* team brought three of the first commercially produced Parawings to the UK. After a lot of wrangling with the BPA they even used them on displays. The canopy's reputation for weirdness and unreliability remains to this day; it was odd, with its coloured lines to help guide the sequence of packing and heavy reinforcements to absorb some occasionally immense opening shocks. It also sported a unique Opening Shock Inhibitor (OSI), which wrapped around the lines in a set sequence (again guided by the colours of the lines) to slow the opening down - the slider had yet to be invented.

I was gifted one of these canopies by Ian Robertson and, after a lot of packing practice, braved some jumps on it last year. Against



all expectations, it opened each time I used it. It was extremely interesting to fly and land. For its day it would have been a very fast turning and gliding canopy - forward speed being some 15mph, much faster and more responsive than a PC-type round. I found another one that belongs to Bill Miller at Langar that was in even better condition than mine, and got this one in the air too.

Best of all, one of the original Red Devils Delta2 Parawings came my way for restoration. This belongs to ex-*Red Devil* Craig Bulman, who had seen the canopies jumped by the team in the early '70s when he was a child. He eventually joined the team himself, and saved the last Parawing from the scrap bin. For more than 15 years Craig had wanted to have it restored and jump it himself. The restoration took me almost a year, including a full reline, a dozen patches, a new OSI and deployment bag made and a good amount of bottle to actually jump it. However, no problems were experienced and this has to be one of the most satisfying jumps I have made. Craig has since made a few jumps on the canopy, and we both managed to jump Parawings at Langar on a day when one of the original *Red Devils* Parawing jumpers, Joe Greig, came along to watch us.

The slider

David Hogg recalls some of his first experiences with the slider, a piece of kit that we take for granted today.

I took the plunge and replaced the Para Plane 'rings and rope deployment system' and installed the slider. However, courage to jump it somehow escaped me; probably because at that point I was well on my way to reaching 23 reserve rides.

While at South Cerney, I discussed the merits of the project with Bob Card and persuaded him to despatch it at 1,000 ft... attached to a Land Rover spare wheel. Sadly, it bounced and bounced... and bounced!

Desperate to see the canopy actually fly before I jumped it, late that day I donned the rig and tied 100 yards of 550 cord between the chest strap and my car. With the aid of some wing men, and Micky Berry driving, I was astonished to find myself on a very taut line, high above my car, which had ground to a sudden halt at the perimeter fence, facing the main road! Walking away from this madness perhaps had a little divine intervention.



Having 'para-sailed' it into the air, my confidence developed in using it, which produced some very mixed results. However, once flying, the canopy gave a very satisfying performance no matter which packing method I used. On the next six jumps, I logged that there were two twisted lines, one frightening rotation and three reserve rides. Nevertheless, this modified Para Plane complete with tail extension, stabilisers and very short lines flew perfectly. Although I didn't know why the new slider caused the malfunctions, I was sure a solution would soon come.

David Hogg D1203



The Parawing continued in the sport for quite a while, with the ParaDactyl available from the mid- to late 1970s. This featured a slider as well as performance and pack volume that rivalled a lot of ram-air canopies. To confirm the reliability of these canopies, there was a reserve version of this canopy known as the Safety Dactyl, as well as a Russian reserve Parawing canopy, known as the PZ81, that was still being made in the mid-1990s in Russia. The ram-air canopy eventually went on to dominate the sport, but even that continues to evolve as the demands of jumpers and the technologies available in material manufacture develop further all the time.

Ram-air

The ram-air canopy arrived in parachuting in the late 1960s but it was the mid-1970s before it became accepted in skydiving. The initial versions were extremely unreliable, very hard opening and very bulky. Years of experimentation and development allowed the perfection of packing and deployment, and advances in fabrics, lines, construction techniques and manufacturing designs continue to reduce the bulk to this day. Most importantly, much work was done on reducing the deployment speeds and opening shocks with various devices and systems such as 'ropes and rings', hydraulic reefing mechanisms, and what we now take for granted as the slider. The slider seems such a simple device and, without it, your canopy would destroy itself (or you) on opening. It took a lot of research and effort for this component to be where it is today in the sport.

Some pictures of the early ram-airs speak for themselves in showing how far this canopy has come since inception.

The first commercial success in ram-air terms was the Paraplane, which was first made in 1970. These were 200-230 square feet and had seven cells. They had the ropes and rings deployment retardation system, whereby the pilot chute was attached to long nylon lines that ran around the edge of the canopy, routed through a system of guide rings. As the canopy opened it had to fight against the drag of the pilot chute and the nylon 'rope', which attempted to restrict the canopy's size in a similar fashion to a drawstring on a bag. Once open, these canopies had considerable performance for their day, especially when compared with rounds.



StratoStar with reefing



Tim Morgan

As is normal in skydiving, ideas and designs were continually in evaluation. Other successful ram-airs were the five-cell StratoStar of 1974 and the seven-cell StratoCloud of 1975. The leading manufacturer of the day was ParaFlite, which continued manufacturing sport canopies until around the mid-1990s.

The introduction of the Stratoflyer in 1977 was part of a programme designed to gather data for the production of the first square reserve. After several thousand jumps in the field on the Stratoflyer, including detailed analysis of any malfunctions, the first ram-air reserve was introduced in 1978 as the Safety Flyer. This was a five-cell 160-square-foot canopy that utilised a slider and also introduced the free bag deployment system for reserves, which remains to this day.

The pioneer jumpers of ram-air canopies had to endure horrific opening shocks and malfunction rates for us to be where we are today. We should be very grateful that they persisted and produced such amazing canopies as we are privileged to be able to fly.

Andrew Hilton

Magic memories

On 3 December 1972, I made a solo video camera jump over Compton Abbas. It had a black and white camera that fed a 1/4" reel-to-reel recorder with a very low resolution. The recorder was held in an old rectangular-framed front-mount reserve pack. With this 4lb camera on my



Eddie's helmet-mounted camera

helmet, my stability suffered! On landing my PC, the recorder suffered damage and had to be repaired. As I had borrowed it, I didn't jump it again. Not long ago, I managed to get the recording transferred to VHS and then to DVD for interesting, nostalgic viewing. My next camcorder jump was not until June 2003.

1973 saw me obtain a D certificate and join the Spreadagles freefall team to carry out demo jumps all around the south of England. About this time I started taking photos using a helmet-mounted camera. As I couldn't afford a motor drive camera, I used clockwork wound cameras, first a 35mm square frame then a full frame 35mm Leningrad using black and white film that I could process and print. My first shots were pathetic but I did get some!



In 1974 I was in South Africa with a 4-way team. The Americans were mainly using a ram-air canopy called a StratoStar. It was rather small but seemed to have more reliable openings than some other 'squares' currently available at home. On returning to the UK, I ordered one. In the meantime I was able to jump a Sled and in my log book on 28 March 1975, I made a note: "Parachutes are square!" I jumped it for the first time in May. I loved it even though I did have some hard landings in low winds. At the time, it was my second rig and used as part of a 'standard' set up on the back with a front mount Irvin Talisman reserve. When packing the Strat after demos, the often heard comment was "You'll never get all that into the bag!". It was about this time that I changed my rig to a Crossbow piggy back.

On the darker side of jumping, in October 1975, I was on the ground shooting with a telephoto lens when I witnessed an aircraft hangup crash at Ashbourne. The first shot showed the student's reserve canopy flying behind the aircraft before the aircraft was flipped upside down. A series of shots followed as it then spiralled to the ground under an Irvin I-24 round canopy. The last few shots were continuous as it disappeared from view on the far side of the airfield. Luckily, the pilot, the student whose reserve canopy caused the crash, the jumpmaster and another student in the plane all survived but some with serious injuries. This incident showed the strength of canopies in those days!



Back row: Dik Sutton, Dave Hickling and Pete Anderson. Front row: Eddie McBride and Derrick Orton

Another 'must have' entry for one's log book is a night jump. This jump was planned for December 1976 at Halfpenny Green. As a 'normal' flash

gun takes a long time to recycle I made one from an ambulance flashing light. I made a night sight using an LED. I made my first night jump, then set off to record a 4-way relative jump. The result in freefall was a few very faint images too difficult to print then or scan now. It's just possible to see the orange lights we had on the top of our helmets to see our altimeters and to check our canopies.

Eddie McBride D1032



70s competitions



Hagen rode the choppers out of the Skyvan. I filmed from inside the aircraft and Alistair MacDonald of the *Daily Mirror* photographed from the marine helicopter piloted by Alan. The result? A double-page spread in the *Daily Mirror*, which made Raleigh Bikes very happy and put £4,000 into our training fund; we were off to the USA for the very first international Relative Work competition, a 10-man speed star event.

The rules at the time were a single-file, no-show (no floaters), no-holds exit. So you can imagine the problem our '70s kit (front reserve and large back packs) presented when trying to exit a Twin Beech (our training aircraft) as quickly as possible. Four seconds was considered quite fast. When it came to the competition, US Army Chinook helicopters were the jump aircraft. What a change from the cramped Rapide and Twin Beech we were used to - we could actually stand up in a Chinook!

The *Chuting Stars* went on to win National RW events and represent the UK in World Meets for the next five years, metamorphosing into *Symbiosis* on the way.

World Meets

The first three World Meets - 1973 Fort Bragg, USA, 1974 Pretoria, South Africa and 1975 Warendorf, Germany - were all speed star events. The first 8-way sequential World Meet was in 1977 Gatton Australia.

Media coverage

In the UK the first 10-man star had been made. I had photographed it and it made four pages in *The Daily Telegraph Magazine*. In 1973, the first 10-man star comp was held at Stoke Orchard near Cheltenham. There were only two teams in contention: the *Hard Ass team*, led by Jim Crocker, and the *Chuting Stars*, led by me. The *Chuting Stars* won, but the BPA didn't

have the funds for us to train and go to the first World Cup for Relative Work, at Fort Bragg in the USA.

One of my photographic clients was Raleigh Cycles in Nottingham and, to raise some cash, I arranged a sponsorship of £4,000. In return we would ride Raleigh Choppers out of a Shorts Skyvan over Dundee.

It was a terrific team effort. Team member Alan Skennerton, a chopper pilot in the marines, arranged for a marine helicopter to be used as a camera platform. Pete Sherman, who was then working for GQ parachutes, made up reserve parachutes with AODs that we fixed to the handlebars of the bicycles.

It all worked like a charm. Robin Mills, Mike O'Brien and Terry

Symbiosis

In 1975, *Symbiosis* were in training at Bergerac, France for the 1975 World Meet in Warendorf, West Germany after being British Champions that year. At the start of the training session our time for a 10-man star was just within the working time of 45 seconds. Hard to believe today.

It appeared to me that one of our problems was that we were much too cautious and scared of going flat out for fear of busting the star. I got the team together and explained that, on our training jumps that day, nobody would be castigated for busting the star by approaching too fast.

What a change in our times! On 31 August 1975 our time came down from about 30 seconds to a world-record-breaking 12.4sec. The instructors at Bergerac were so impressed that they gave the team an official FAI certificate signed by the Chief Instructor and others, recording a new world record for a 10-man star.

The team was made up of: the Morgan brothers Tim and Brian, John Pullen, Jeff Lancaster, Tony Uragallo, Mike Chapman, John Partington Smith, Robin Mills, David Waterman and Mark Miller.

Symbiosis is a legend in the history of the sport and many of its members are still active 40 years later. In addition to the team members listed above, Rob Colpus, Dane Kenny, Jackie Smith, Willy Grut, Bob Hiatt, Sandy Spence, Jim Crocker and Pete Allum are just some of the well-known names who have jumped within the *Symbiosis* family. I for one am extremely proud to have been their team leader for a number of National and World Meets.

Dave Waterman D309

Symbiosis at the 1977 Nationals



The first 10-man star

My National Championships

At a National Championships held at Netheravon, the BPA introduced a 'stand off' Accuracy competition where competitors were supposed to jump from 10,000 or 12,000 feet a long way away, open immediately and glide back to the airfield.

I remember a handful of competitors poring over maps and carefully plotting their opening points, then the aircraft took off and carried them



Jumping a Raleigh Chopper out of a Shorts Skyvan over Dundee, 1973





Jackie Smith makes an Accuracy landing in 1976



Symbiosis exit

Memories of a world champ

I started jumping in March 1971 while I was serving in the Army and, from the moment I stepped out on to the wing of that Rapide aircraft and watched it fly away as my static-line pulled the long-sleeved canopy off my back, my life changed forever. The same year I won the Novice event at the Army Championships and had the Team Commander of the *Red Devils* Parachute Team congratulate me. He told me I had a talent and could be World Champion. I was so dumbfounded that he even spoke to a little old 'no one' like me, let alone tell me I was good! I returned to my Army day job and most weekends I made my way to Netheravon to pursue another adrenaline dose.

My 32nd jump was into a demo at Southwood Barracks, where I jumped with Major Alex Black and his 9 Sqn Royal Engineers Team. I remember jumping a Scout helicopter for the first time on that demo. I was also wearing smoke for the first time and landed on the cross in the arena on a C9LL canopy. The audience was mainly military and their families, but I caused such a sensation by being a female, in what was considered to be a male environment, that everyone queued for my autograph - which made me giggle.

Joining a team

During that summer I continued jumping at Netheravon and out of the blue (excuse the pun) was asked to join the Parachute Regiment freefall team the *Red Devils* as a full-time member, becoming the first female not only on the *Red Devils* but the first female on a military team in the world. I was on the team full time for seven years. Jumping on the team gave me untapped confidence as I had the best available equipment and guidance I could possibly have and, at my first National Championships in 1973, we won the Team Accuracy. I was established in the competition world both in this country and abroad. As the *Red Devils* we trained in Fort Bragg every winter with the US *Golden Knights*, who passed on their expertise with not only skill and technique but also equipment.

In 1974 I was National Champion and took part in my first World Championships in what was the then Eastern Bloc country of Hungary. My canopy was a round Papillon and Accuracy was a downwind approach where I sported a permanently bruised coccyx. The venue was a

military DZ with such tight security that we were not allowed an aerial photograph but only a vague drawing. Spotting was a nightmare as the real view of the ground from the AN2 did not resemble the DZ 'drawing'.

I caused such a sensation by being a female, in what was considered to be a male environment, that everyone queued for my autograph!

In 1974, five of us military bods (Dane Kenny, Martin Togher, Wally Wallace, Steve Eversfield and I) went to the USA for a four-week Christmas Boogie. We couldn't believe the skydiving we witnessed; it was only in our dreams and in the pictures of the US *RW Underground* magazine and US *Spotter* magazine that we looked at in awe. There were more 10-way speed star teams competing in total than Britain had skydivers. We returned to the UK to Bill and Ted-type receptions and were classed as sky-gods, not because of what we had done, but because we had been to Casa Grande, hung out with all those people in the US skydiving magazines and even done Relative Work with them!

Four of us bought the first SSTs (early Racer) and brought them back to the UK where we endeavoured to modernise them from our 'personal' front and back equipment to 'piggybacks' (as they were called), but the BPA refused to let us jump them as they were classed as unsafe.

By 1976 most people in the world were converting to some sort of piggyback (with lots more options and colours to choose from) and square canopies that you could order in custom colours for the first time. In 1975 we were all converting to the slider. The old equipment of →

far, far away into the wide blue yonder. We never saw any of them again that day.

Bob Hiatt bought a Para Plane Cloud and was immediately successful. I waited a while and bought the much cheaper Para Sled, had three malfunctions in the first 11 jumps and went back to jumping round parachutes.

As we learnt more about square parachutes, Hilary and I cut the Sled in half, inserted an extra cell, changed the line

lengths and steering lines and put on a Cloud reefing system. The parachute became the best accuracy canopy I ever owned and, with it, I won both the National and RAPA Meets. I eventually sold it to a young up-and-coming jumper from Black Knights called Jeff Illidge.

The canopy was probably the only square ever to have an even number of cells (six) forcing the centre span to have rigging lines from both left and right risers.

Bob King D411



sleeved round canopies was being replaced by squares with bags, 'slack packing', and the old spring pilot chutes replaced with throwaways and foldable pilot chutes. Paracord lines were replaced with Kevlar, parachute nylon replaced with ripstop then ZP. We saw an enormous revolution in equipment in such a short space of time in the '70s. Jumpsuits in the mid-1970s were so big you could practically land them without opening your parachute! My biggest jumpsuit was an army mattress (honestly!) that was stitched to fit like a circus tent - it was the trend! Stitched all over my 'mattress' (which, incidentally, made me fly like a manifest board) were all my badges of achievement: my SCR, SCS, 16-way patch, 24-way patch, my first Army 8-man and my first All Fred 8-way.

A defining era

My memory of the '70s is one of a very 'hip' era for the RW scene, where the sport emerged from the old, heavy and bulky military surplus equipment to a new age where you could order a choice of jumpsuit, tailored to fit, custom-coloured rigs and canopies; jumpers wore soft hats, went bare footed and everything was either 'neat', 'far out', 'cool' or 'groovy man! In essence, for me, the '70s were the best times of my life. Training between the different events meant skydiving at Raeford in North Carolina on the even years for Style and Accuracy (1974, '76 and '78) and Pope Valley, Perris and Z-Hills on the odd years for the 8-way Brit team.

As a member of both the *Red Devils* and *Symbiosis* I had the opportunity to compete to the highest level in all areas of the sport and made the British team in all events: Style & Accuracy, 8-way and 4-way. I achieved many 'firsts', national and world records while on both teams. From my first National Championships in 1973 until 1985, I competed in all events, competing all over the world. I became absolute world champion in 1978 after scoring for the first time ever (for a male or female) 10 consecutive dead centres on an electronic pad. I also won a silver medal as alternate for the *Symbiosis* 4-way at the RW World Championships in 1979.

I have to admit, the best feeling in the world is to stand on a podium at the World Championships and watch the Union Flag being hoisted while everyone listens to the National Anthem. On 'my' individual occasion I cried my eyes out and still get a tear in my eye thinking about it (even typing this).

I have too many experiences and stories to put down here but I've identified just a few of the highlights in my life. I am so proud to have flown the flag for Britain and blaze a trail in the sport that I love and am honoured to still be a part of!

Jackie Smith D1113

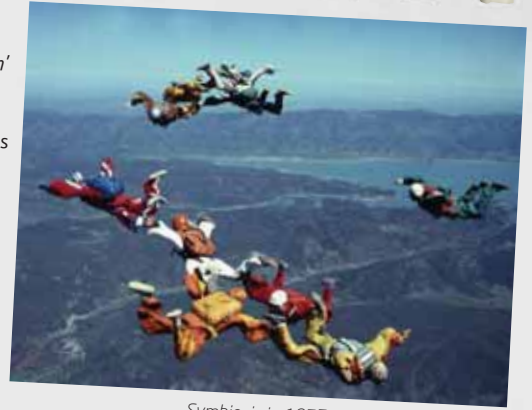


Jackie takes gold, 1978

Magic memories

It was at the end of 1975, just after coming third at the 10-way ('10-man' in those days) speed star Nationals from a DC3 at Dunkeswell, that Willy Grut came up with the name Symbiosis for our fledgling 4-way team.

Myself, Tony Uragallo and Geoff Sanders, being semi-educated, East End working-class jobs, had no idea what the word meant but we thought it sounded pretty good. So after Will explained the meaning and its relevance to a FS (RW as we used to say in those days) skydiving team, it was a done deal (as we never used to say in those days).



Symbiosis in 1977

The four of us had started jumping at the end of 1972 at Thrupton under the amusing and amazing Bob Acraman (ex-Army champion). He was a great instructor who instilled a competitive spirit into everybody who was lucky enough to come his way, starting with downwind accuracy on Para-Commanders and Papillons into the peas at Thrupton, through to taking groups of 4-way teams over to Germany for the annual RAPA meet.

By the end of 1975, us Thruptonites were chomping at the bit in the pursuit of silverware, and sequential RW was the new must-have thing!

So in 1976, masquerading under our new name, we entered the first ever UK Nationals in 4-way sequential and won gold.

Following this early success, we were well and truly hooked, and for the rest of the decade travelled all over the world pursuing our holy grail of RW excellence. This took us from Lockheed Lodestars at Casa Gulch in the Arizona desert, to DC3s in Australia, to Twin Beech 18s at Pope Valley in California.

RW really blossomed in the '70s, from humble beginnings to a record (which still stands) of 110 10-way teams at the Zephyrhills Turkey Meet in Florida in 1976.

So, by the end of the 1970s, after training all over the world, and with the addition of more Symbions for an 8-way team, including Dave Waterman, Robin Mills, Bob Hiatt, Jackie Smith, Dane Kenny, Mark Miller and others, Symbiosis had won gold at four UK Nationals and one Australian Nationals in 4-way and four UK Nationals in 8-way, competed at two World Cups and two World Meets, finishing with the silver medals in 4-way Open at the World Meet in France in 1979.

The '70s therefore turned out to be an incredibly

memorable decade for us - starting off with ex-US military cut down B4 packs, front mount reserves and round canopies, and ending the decade seven years later with modern piggyback systems, small(ish) square canopies and World Meet silver medals to boot.

Symbiosis went on until 1985, our last ever member being a 21-year-old guy called Pete Allum - but that's a story for the '80s!

Rob Colpus D1506



Symbiosis at Thrupton, 1974

Were you an '80s jumper?

We are gathering together pictures and stories from jumpers in the 1980s for next issue's look at skydiving through the decades. We can only print what gets sent, so email your memories and any accompanying images by 23 August to editor@skydivethemag.com

Contributors

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Brian Vacher

*British Canopy Piloting Champion 2007, 2008, 2011,
PD Factory Team Member, BPA CP Coach, BPA CF Coach,
BPA CH Coach*



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Foto: Sascha Wawro

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Rob Colpus >>



Go GoPro

Those innovative techies at GoPro cameras have once again come up with some must-have additions to their mini camera range.

First off is the LCD BacPac – a detachable LCD screen for the ever-popular GoPro HD mini camera.

Up until now, the footage shot on the GoPro was only viewable after plugging it into your laptop or PC. But now, with the BacPac playback, video and stills are available on the camera itself. Framing scenes accurately is now possible, which allows the GoPro to also be used as a conventional everyday video camera.

The LCD BacPac is, of course, a removable accessory, so the GoPro can still be jumped in its lightest weight-mode, with the screen added après jump to view results. Or, because the BacPac comes complete with a set of 'back doors' for the camera's clear plastic case, the camera may be jumped with the screen attached if you so wish.

Also now available is a 'battery BacPac' for the GoPro camera, which works as both a charger for your spare batteries and plugs into the back of the GoPro to nearly double the available recording time. Like the LCD BacPac, this accessory plugs into the back of the camera. The battery BacPac is charged via a USB source and a built-in LED indicates power status. A choice of 'back doors' and a USB cable are included.

Another innovative idea from those smart cookies at GoPro is the 3D HERO system, which allows you to combine two GoPro 1080p HD HERO cameras into a single housing, in order to record 3D video and photos while simultaneously recording in 2D. A synchronisation cable plugs into the rear port of both cameras to join them together, enabling both cameras to record video and photos in perfect sync. Supplied with the 3D system is 3D editing software – GoPro Cineform Studio – which makes it possible to convert your 3D footage into viewable 3D files that you can watch on a computer, online at sites such as YouTube or on your TV at home.



Cineform Studio

The BacPac playback



Left: The 3D HERO system combines two GoPro 1080p HD HERO cameras into a single housing, in order to record 3D video and photos as well as recording in 2D



Sunpath's Legacy

A collaboration between engineering and marketing is how the guys at Sunpath Inc are describing the new 'Legacy' version of their popular Javelin harness container system.

In fact, the Javelin Legacy is a combination of their original harness container – the Javelin – but with the addition of some of the updated features

found on the Odyssey, such as the riser covers, reserve pin cover and bridle protection. The most obvious difference between the Legacy and the Odyssey is that the lateral straps are not 'cut-in' but sewn in the conventional manner to the outer corners of the container.

In addition to the 'classic' lateral placement, the Legacy offers a left side Reserve Static Line (RSL) – the same style as offered on the company's pre-Skyhook harness container systems. The Legacy is not Skyhook compatible, which simplifies the reserve container. Sunpath said that, while the Skyhook is a great feature, it is plainly not to the taste of everybody.

The Legacy is only available in 1,000 denier Cordura; the speciality materials, such as 'Diamondback' and 'Hound's-tooth', are not an option.

The company is also offering a \$50 discount for skydivers who choose to order their new Javelin Legacy in one-colour Cordura and binding tape. This is because the company's new laser cutting table allows for maximum efficiency and a single colour rig can be cut in a fraction of the time it takes to cut a multi-colour rig.

Most of the extra cost options offered on the Odyssey, such as the spacer foam back pad and articulated harness, are also available on the Legacy. The Legacy retails at approximately £200 less than the Odyssey.

sunpath.com





Argus saga update

In the June issue of Kit Zone we reported on the grounding by several rig manufacturers - and, subsequently, some National organisations, including the BPA - of the Argus AAD system after an incident in Texas where an Argus fired but failed to fully sever the closing loop.

The post-inspection report by Aviacom stated that a foreign body (lead shot ball) had been found to have obstructed the cutter and damaged it.

Now, at the time of writing, Karel Goorts of Aviacom (the Belgian manufacturer of the Argus) tells us that the USPA is mediating with certain US manufacturers and that, although he sees no need for additional testing of their cutter, they are nevertheless - in order to try to get the grounding lifted - planning a comprehensive test programme for the month of August in an attempt to satisfy their doubters and get their product back in the air once again.

argus-aad.com

Iconic variant

US manufacturer Aerodyne has introduced a new variant to its Icon container system, which is intended for those jumpers who are looking to pay a little less and who are not concerned too much about all the extras that are currently available for the most popular containers on the market today.

Named the Icon Sport, the new variant comes standard with a regular RSL, collapsible pilot chute (black or white, in ZP or F111), black hacky handle or freefly handle and stainless hardware.

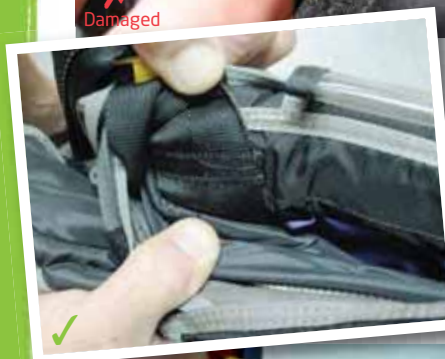
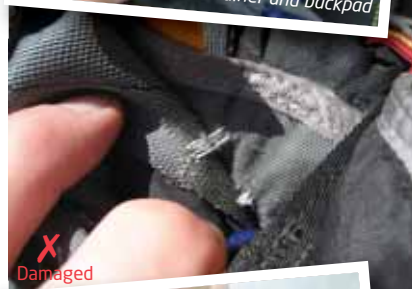
The rig is all black except for the arrow on the centre flap and it comes with the sport Icon logo on the sidewalls and the A logo on the ring cover.

The Icon Sport is not articulated, will not be Skyhook ready or retro-fittable and will not be available with spacer foam or custom embroidery.

The only other options available on the Icon Sport will be a wingsuit option and the soft reserve handle.

The Icon Sport variant retails at approximately £200 less than a full spec Icon Pro.

flyaerodyne.com



A stitch in time!

United Parachute Technologies (UPT) has issued a service bulletin, which calls for the inspection of the top diagonal harness webbing attachment point on all Vector 3 Sport and SE student harness/ container systems.

The background to this bulletin is a report of a student jumper who, after pulling, experienced a very hard opening, which broke the upper double zigzag stitching that holds the diagonal harness webbing in place on the harness and tore most of the ring cover off. This allowed the large ring riser attachment to be pulled away from its normal position, deforming the over-the-shoulder section of padding and, in turn, pulled the RSL lanyard, which released the reserve pilot chute.

UPT concludes that it is unlikely this stitch pattern failed completely on this one jump, but was probably damaged on previous jumps and completely failed on this one due to the hard opening. Further inspection of other Vector SE containers at the same DZ revealed other diagonals with various stages of stitch failure in need of repair, and inspection of 12 other Vector SE containers from another large dropzone revealed one student container in need of this repair. If not caught at the next reserve repack, it would most likely have continued to work its way apart and may not have continued to take the load required of it.

The service bulletin recommends that, before the next jump, this area should be inspected for broken stitching. The company claims that this can easily be done on packed rigs by opening the reserve pin cover and riser cover, then working your thumb up under the diagonal to expose the zigzag stitching. Only the top inside section of stitching needs to be inspected. The bulletin goes on to say that, if unsure, consult a rigger.

If the diagonals are in need of repair, riggers in the field are now authorised to do this job.

For anyone unable to have this repair done in their area, UPT will do the repair free of charge, but the owner will be responsible for all shipping charges.

The full bulletin is available on both the BPA and UPT websites. If the stitching is in need of repair, the rig must not be jumped until the repair has been carried out.

uptvector.com

Get in the know...

The inspection needed on Vectors is much easier to demonstrate than to explain on paper. There is a one-minute official UPT video on YouTube that shows exactly where to look. Head to the news section of skydivethemag.com where there is a direct link to the video.

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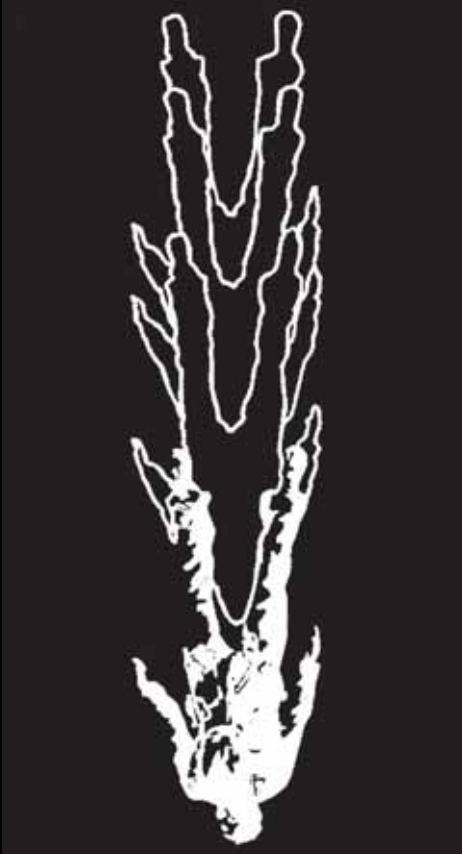
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Liz Ashley >>

Safety focus

Photo by Mick Thornley



'Crosswind gust'

This is an extreme example of a common misconception about landings... the 'crosswind gust'. Often seen on dropzones, the jumper will veer off to one side as they land, then pick themselves up while complaining about getting caught out by an unexpected gust. This is usually not what has happened! Ninety nine per cent of the time it starts with an uneven flare leading to a small turn in the canopy (to the right, in the photo). Because of the close proximity of the ground, the natural reaction is often to try to step down and land, meaning reaching with the right leg, which creates a harness turn in the same direction. Now the ground is really coming up, and we feel like we're falling off to the right, so we put a hand out to stop our fall... but that hand is holding the right

steering toggle so all we do is turn ourselves even harder in that direction.

If you ever find yourself justifying a bad landing with the 'crosswind gust' excuse, get someone to film your landings. Then watch the video back at least twice – once looking at your body position and whether you are symmetrical throughout the whole flare and landing, and once looking at the canopy and whether it is deformed. In the photo, the canopy should be directly above the jumper's head but is far from it! The BPA Canopy Handling Manual prioritises landing under a flat and level canopy above all other landing priorities, and your canopy will not stay flat and level throughout your landing unless you have a good body position and an even flare.

WHAT IF?

We ask the questions... you provide the answers. The aim of this section is to get people thinking about abnormal skydives and considering how they might react. There often isn't a 'right' answer, and the situations are deliberately vague to allow for maximum discussion around the DZ. After all, isn't it better to cover every angle whilst on the ground, with input from all your local hot-shots, than to have to work it out for yourself under pressure when it happens? Do not change any of your drills without first consulting a BPA instructor and/or your CCI.

What If...

- ...two people in your group collide in freefall and one appears to now be unconscious? You did their flightline check and personally saw that their AAD was turned on.
- ...you're on the second load after a wind hold and as you're waiting to emplane you watch several bumpy landings from the load before you?



Photo by Rick Boardman

Cutaway gone away

Modern 'phat pads' have made this problem less common, but on many containers it is still possible to pull your rig on in a hurry and snag one of your handles. Make sure you check your handles after putting your kit on and before leaving the aircraft, and look out for misplaced pads when flightline checking others.

REPORT IN CONFIDENCE

These kind of safety articles rely on people sending me their stories – so please do!

Liz Ashley

editor@skydivethemag.com

– in complete confidence



As a team with such tight affiliations with the British Army - two team members are currently serving and one is in Afghanistan at the moment - *Airkix Euphoria* felt it was only fitting that they give something back to the men and women who become injured while serving overseas



All photos by Pilgrims

Battling back

Last season we had great support from all our sponsors, leading us to take seventh place in the World Championships and second place in the Nationals. Consequently, we decided that we would make time during the off-season to give something back. After much thought, it was decided that it would be great to help get wounded military troops up in the sky.

Inspirational figures such as Al Hodgson (*Airkix Freestyle*) show how much can be achieved after being wounded while serving for your country and prove that the sky really is the limit.

By teaming up with *Airkix* and *Battle Back*, an organisation that provides a variety of activities for wounded soldiers as part of their rehabilitation, we put together a plan to get injured military personnel into the sky. *Airkix* and *Airkix Euphoria* of the British Army both donated tunnel time and instruction to ensure this happened.

As with many first-time flyers, step one was the tunnel. We took seven servicemen who are currently in rehabilitation to *Airkix* in Milton Keynes. Within a couple of minutes all nervousness went out the window and the guys were flying on their own!

A double amputee soldier, who was injured in an IED blast in Afghanistan, said:

"It was an amazing feeling... it's a great way to test yourself while having a laugh in the process. These events break up the routine and give you an outlet, as focusing on your walking every day can get monotonous."

This event was so successful that we have now arranged to make it a regular date in the diary. It will enable hundreds of wounded soldiers to experience an activity where there is no divide between the able-bodied and amputees.

Step two in the plan to get the guys flying was to take the group to APA Netheravon for a tandem skydive. Needless to say, the event was a huge success and every member of

It will enable hundreds of wounded soldiers to experience an activity where there is no divide between the able-bodied and amputees

the group enjoyed what they'd previously considered to be unachievable.

However, the best is yet to come! We would now like to get seven servicemen completing their AFF and becoming solo skydivers, allowing them to join us all in the skies in the future. Watch this space...

A massive thank you to *Airkix*, APA Netheravon and *Battle Back* for supporting us to make their dreams come true.

Matt Goth *Airkix Euphoria*
freeflyeuphoria.co.uk

Duncan Bannatyne of Dragon's Den fame took part in the tandems





« To understand risk
can have consequence,
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Alistair Hodgson



Photo: Gary Wainwright



www.vigil.aero

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Progression Open Week
26 August-4 September

ACHIEVEMENTS Graduated AFF Mani Puthuran, Bill Beynon **CF1** Ben Henshall, Richard Lowe
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Mike Dodd 300 Pete Williams

Firstly, huge congratulations to Jeff Illidge and Philip Cavanagh, who have achieved 40 and 50 years in the sport this year, respectively. Here's hoping for many more years before retirement! Also, a big congratulations to Paul Yeoman for completing his Advanced Instructor rating.

We have welcomed old and new jumpers, who took part in both the BPA FF and FS roadshows. A huge thank you to all the coaches who spent the weekends with us, a lot was learnt. For the numbers that attended we could have done with twice the number of coaches. This is something we hope to address next year to deal with the enthusiasm shown this time.

Our upcoming Progression Open Week is 26 August to 4 September. Don't forget this is a perfect opportunity for all you students to come and progress, whether you are on the RAPS or AFF course, as well as all the experienced jumpers. Don't forget tickets are £2 cheaper for everyone from Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays. As always, Danny and Liz are also available on the dropzone for FS coaching, so come and see us for any of your skydiving needs.

Paul Yeoman has been busy with CF coaching and a few people have even managed to obtain CF1. More and more jumpers are looking to have a go at this aspect of our sport, which, over the years, has been in decline because of the need for specialised CF equipment. Paul is in the process of building up his equipment again so that more people can have a go. Coaching will be available during open weeks, so if anyone wishes to progress further or have a go at something new, see Paul for further information.

Sharon Beeson & Megan Bee

Accuracy action

Sarah, by Dennis McTaggart



Headcorn hosted the Accuracy Grand Prix in May. Check out the pictures from the event. Del did his first CF jump, followed by a tandem, in preparation for his Tandem Instructor course.

Headcorn Airfield hosted the GoGo festival, which got the boys very excited as it is the largest female festival in Europe.

Ruth Cooper and Jane Buckle

HEADCORN

headcorn.com

ACHIEVEMENTS Graduated AFF Charlie Hole, Lee Osborn **Cat 8 & CH1** Shaun Crockford, James Williams, Charlie Wakeham **CH2 & JM1** Gareth Corfield, Simon Beech, Peri Rocha, Henry Van Halewyn **FS1** Gareth Corfield, Adam Smith, Charlie Wakeham, Simon Soper
1 hour freefall Mindaugas Palaima
84 hours freefall Clem Quinn



Accuracy Grand Prix medallists, by Richard Bissett



Esther Reynolds, by Richard Bissett



Tim, Jan and Ben,
by Phil Symons

Beach jumps underway

We have been working hard around the inclement windy weather, managing to get lots done at Perranporth, along with a few nice days at Bodmin. Well done to Mark and Chris on your AFF level 1 (thanks for waiting).

A massive congrats to Tim for achieving your B Certificate and thanks for all your help at the DZ - it's been hard watching everyone else jumping, at least now you can join in the fun at Perranporth. Phil is another one who has been forced to watch recently; DZ control has never been so happy. Speedy recovery! Same to Tam.

The monthly beach jumps are now underway and we're looking forward to our favourite yearly displays at Constantine for old friends Anne and Jamie Fowler (looking forward to our free beer) and the beach-side golf club here at Perranporth. Friendly thoughts from all at CPC for Andy. Hope you get better soon, mate; we can't drink all this Doom on our own!

Please call for info on beach jumps and the Cessna Caravan weekend, which will be 26-28 August.

Ben Wood



Tim Bennett's
50th jump,
by Ben Wood

Well-stocked beer fridge

The beer fridge is well stocked! We've been running both planes when the weather has been good, which has meant our new 206 has been in use taking our experienced jumpers to 12k! We have a new CSI, Woof. He's a great guy and has settled into the DZ really quickly. We've had a lot of first-time static-line students, who returned after the bad weather to complete their first jump. Well done guys.

The monthly Tilly tunnel trips have been continuing and everyone has seen a vast improvement. I have managed to stop looking at my alti hand in the tunnel! Nicky Marr, after a very quick brief, executed perfect slow fall / fast fall and side slides without even hitting the wall once. There were also some spectacular exits from the tunnel, which resulted in some lovely bruises, and a tunnel virgin, Andy Pritchard! Beer? Johnny Galbraith also has yet another fancy wingsuit to add to his ever-growing collection.

The next Tilly on tour trip to Empuriabrava is planned for 17 September for two weeks. If you fancy joining everyone for some fun filled and occasionally messy times in the sun, call the DZ for details! Buzz is in the process of



Nicky Marr
after her
50th jump,
by Simon
Wilkinson

organising another canopy course after the success of the last one, details to follow. We are also taking names for the next packing course, which will be run on a Sunday. If you are interested in a place, call the DZ for details. If you haven't been to Tilly for a while, or ever, come over and pay us a visit; we'd love to see you!

Ann Furmedge

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Adam Smith, Roger Hughes **Cat 8** Aga Kropiwnicka **JM1&CH2** Caroline Vaughan, Ann Furmedge **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Nicky Marr

Adam Smith and Roger
Hughes after their first
freefall, by Simon Wilkinson



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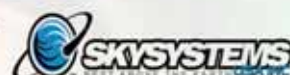
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Rusty Stars, by Alex Murphy

Great time for Cerney

We must be doing something right! Cerney is seeing a steady stream of AFF students, consols getting smashed out and newly qualified Cat 8s getting on with fun jumps and FS coaching. Our hardcore Yorkshire massive of RAPS students continues to grace our little piece of Gloucestershire to attend courses, with many returning and making steady progress through the system.

SOUTH CERNEY

silverstars.me.uk

Our resident 'Biggles' (Luke Roberts) is off on his travels for a few months. He will return in time for the end of the season; meanwhile, we welcome Andreas, who will be piloting our fine aircraft while Luke is away.

Mid-June saw a large group of charity jumpers take part in a tandem day, raising a huge wad of cash for the Army Benevolent Fund. A fine day was had by all, with everyone jumping in great weather followed by a ground party afterwards. BBQ remnants and red balloons littered the DZ the following morning so it must have been messy!

Chas McNeil has made a welcome return to Cerney, albeit as DZ control for the next few months while waiting for his leg to return to jump status.

With new blood coming through and some of the old faces returning, it's a great time to be at Cerney. So here's looking forward to good times and some great jumping. Come and visit us and have some fun! Check out our website, www.silverstars.me.uk or our Facebook group page, Silver Stars-South Cerney.

Paul Gibbs



New jumpsuits, by Paul Gibbs



Ann Lewis - the new way to announce the 'kit-on' call - by Paul Gibbs

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Jenson Mathers
Graduated AFF Joe Newrick, Reece Long, Lewis Miller
Cat 8 Dave Jelly
JUMP NUMBERS
 50 Ian Adam, 1,000 Jay Morris

HIBALDSTOW skydiving.co.uk

Obscene progression!

It's been quite a start to the jumping season for us. Say hi to our newest Dornier - HA-HIB - which is now flying jumpers to 15k as part of our huge fleet. Jumpers seem to like the paint job and its dizzy climb rate, so congratulations to Garry and the hangar team.

AFF progression has been bordering on obscene during our Skysaver weeks - a record 76 levels were passed in only one week.

Cat Adam and Anna Howerski successfully organised the first female head-down record - now set at an 8-way. See page 12. Congratulations girls. Our men's health drive was a lot of fun too. The men's record 40-way almost built but proved a difficult formation to fly. Backed with a lingerie party, the DZ came alive like never before - a catwalk with hot divas modelling lingerie, all for charity of course. Thanks to all the brave girls who gave their time to entertain. The following weekend the girls took revenge, however, as the guys mounted the plane in just boxers to jump for charity. It turned out to be minus 18 degrees at 15,000 feet!

It feels like we've had a huge season already but it never ends here... we've got a jam-packed summer of events and, of course, the always-special BPA Nationals (register now!). Keep an eye on skydiving.co.uk for everything news and events related from Hib.

Stubert Ferglstein

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 & CH1 Jordan Simcoe, Oliver Tether, Hin Hin Wong, Henry Whittaker
FS1 Richard Cotton, Ben Gingold, Owen Tomkins
FF1 Oli Clark, Craig Hicks
CP1 Simon Brentford
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Karl Peart, Kerry Foster, Holly Heathfield, James Leason
 200 Jennie Hewitt
 800 Peter Mather, Steve Rossall
 1,000 Pete Dennet, Ben Cornick, Stubert Ferglstein
 1,200 Rai Ahmed
 1,300 Gary Crisp
 1,500 Jo Burns, Helen Arnold, Jo Hawley
 1,700 Shell Meakins, Mike McNulty
 2,000 Karen Bain
 2,600 Simon Brentford
1 hour freefall Guri Melcher
24 hours freefall Mike McNulty



Photo by Beckie Coulson

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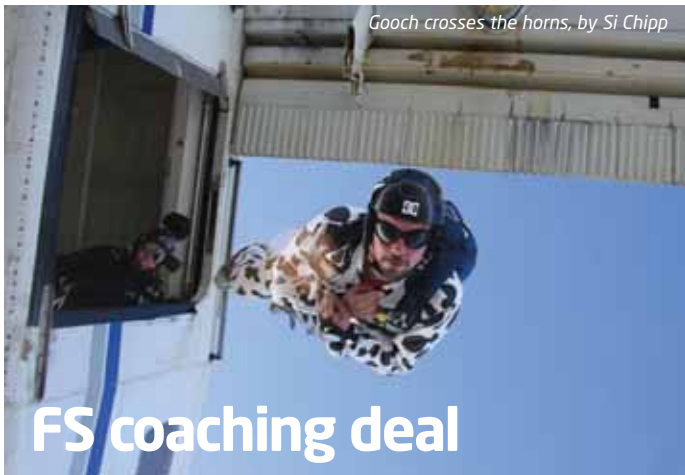
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CHATTERIS

ukskydiving.com

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 James Brown, Martin Thacker **JM1 & CH2** Stewart Ewing **FS1** Stewart Ewing, Alison Peock, Darrell Briggs **FF1** Graham Ablett, Gregg Munday **FF2** Yo Lee, Nick Chipp **CP1** Tim Hanlon **WS2** Russell Jones **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Jason Fox 1,000 Si Chipp 4,000 Lorraine Dixcey 10,000 Gary Small **48 hours freefall** Lorraine Dixcey



Gooch crosses the horns, by Si Chipp

FS coaching deal

Even though the weather only allowed one round for our 4-way Scrambles in May, it was still a great success. First of all, congratulations to Connor O'Brien, Jason Hobbs, Jo Hawley and Nicola Crissell for taking gold. During the long weather hold, Jo held a big-way seminar and the hovercrafts came out. Right at the end of the day we were all teased with the prospect of getting another round in, but the wind gusted over just as we had our rigs on and both planes were about to start up. Chris and Bryn's evening entertainment was, as always, very amusing; they got dolled up for the occasion and presented us with a great 'in your face' quiz. Thank you Jo Hawley for your superb organisation and effort.

Gary Small has reached 10,000 jumps, and Yo Lee participated in the British women's 8-way head-down record. We now have a great FS coaching deal for non-FS1 jumpers, which is being subsidised by the dropzone to help new jumpers progress in the sport; we are offering them at £13 per slot plus £5 for the coach's pack job, so basically £31 per coach jump.

Lorraine Dixcey



The scrambles participants, by Lorraine Dixcey



Roger Broughton

Beware the carrot of shame!

Due to recent howling winds and a horizontal windssock, it has been relatively quiet over the skies of Bridlington; however, our loyal regulars continue to turn up and help out around the centre (for which we are truly grateful).

Despite the weather, there have been RAPS courses running and students jumping. Congratulations to Jason Target on completing his consols and achieving his A Certificate. Mick Cosgrove has crossed to the 'dark side' and is embarking on his cameraflying career. Unfortunately, his wing jacket has become his nemesis, though he will learn to love it!

There have been some successful charity events, including people from the Leeds Children's Hospital, who completed 15 tandem descents in a day, raising



Danny Coulthard

Alec Flint with tandem student Zoe

approximately £3,000 for a very worthwhile cause. Martin House Hospice supporters have also shown dedication to their charity with tireless fundraising.

The 'carrot of shame' is the new Brid award for those experienced skydivers that 'get it wrong' and the dreaded hat is sported, this month, by our very own Danny Coultrup. Danny does not need public humiliation by publishing his error; the pink cast on his arm is embarrassing enough.

Renovations to the centre continue, with a shiny new reception area. Alec has tirelessly rebuilt Skydive GB into a professional and welcoming centre. I speak on behalf of all the regular skydivers when I say "thanks Alec - you're a star".

Sara Orton



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CLUB ZONE

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Tracking dive at Go Vertical, by Scott Calcraft



Go Vertical 'Inn Hopp', by Wayne Glenn

Langar has been on telly again – the story of the 'Ruperts' of Operation Titanic (a series of drops with dummy parachutists to fool the Germans prior to D-Day 1944) appeared in the

BBC's *One Show* on 6 June. The drops were filmed at Langar with the help of the *Red Devils*, who jump regularly at Skydive Langar. Search for 'One Show Ruperts' on YouTube.

Twenty-one teams competed at the UKSL 4-way Meet in June and completed five rounds of the competition by the end of Saturday. Although several teams did jump the final round on Sunday morning, very adverse conditions meant that the round was abandoned and the competition called on the round 5 totals. Thanks to the competitors, judges and staff – everybody pulled out all the stops to make the most of Saturday.

This year's Go Vertical was included as part of the Langar Boogie 1, and a good time was had by all. Milko, Dave Lewis and the Go Vertical guys organised dives throughout using the Caravans, Beech 99 and Twin Otter,

LANGAR

skydivelangar.co.uk

Dave Lewis' 11-way at the Langar Boogie, by Tony Danbury



Pulling out the stops

DON'T MISS!
Langar Boogie 2
3-11 September

and Sian Stokes and Martine Howland ran beginners' 4-way training midweek. The Bell Long-Ranger helicopter was as popular as ever, and Brian Vacher's Safe Flight School was very well attended as usual – and they got all their jumping done! The Go Vertical 'Inn Hopp' demo into Henry Cressey's farm made for a good party, and raised a whole bunch of charity funds too.

Boogie 2 is scheduled for 3-11 September, so make a note in your diary. Meanwhile, we're open seven days a week (regardless of the weather) and busy jumping any day the weather is good, so get on down and try us out! Details of what's happening are on skydivelangar.co.uk.

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 & CH1 Peter Lloyd **FS1** Sunny Verma, Beth Jackett **FF1** Heather Wells, James Pritchard, Danny Lambert **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Sunny Verma 200 Darren May, Steve Lawrence, Danielle Baker 300 Kyle Price, Simon Donnelly, Darren Chaney 400 Kelly Williamson 500 Danny Lambert 600 Ross Lambert 700 Ryan Briddon 800 Charlie Smart, Gary Davidson 900 Sian Stokes 1,000 Vince Lam 1,400 Chris Cook 24 hours freefall Charlie Smart, Ross Lambert

PETERLEE

skydiveacademy.org.uk

Newly graduated Cat 8 skydiver, Dave Malortie



ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Alex Varty, Phil Ellwood, Oli Hare, Paul Clark, Michael Taylor, Stephen Milburn, Bryn Dixon, Andrew Kelly, Mark Spencer **Graduated AFF** Dave Malortie, Lisa Wilkinson **Cat 8** Dave Malortie **FS1** Charles Adams **FF1** Craig Hicks, Oli Clark **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Serena Ternent, Luke Burnley 100 Owen Burbridge 500 Trev Garrett

More pilots in the ranks

The Centre continues to operate the Grand Caravan, and three more pilots – Malcolm McBain, Stan Bacon and Tony Cowan – are all now qualified to fly it. May bank holiday weekend saw the return of *Team Phobia* members Richard and Laura Head, who ran an FS coaching weekend. Sadly, it was weathered out. That said, we benefited from some excellent groundschool work and a seminar, and very much enjoyed having Richard and Laura back with us. We wish them all the very best with the new addition to their family.

Steve Saunders is proving an excellent new addition to the centre staff. We ran our annual Progression Week and XPO in June. We were very lucky to have some highly-qualified CSIs give up a full week of their time to freely coach our Category System students – thanks to David Goodwin, Nick Brown, John Hillam, Steve Saunders and Brian Dyas. David and Brian also got involved in parachute drop flying, with thanks too to Stan and Tony.

During the XPO, Dave Emerson booked our Cessna Grand Caravan to support an ITV production for Ant & Dec at Alnwick Castle. Their security was quickly on to Ian's wife Thelma, who appeared to be stalking the cheeky Geordie pair.

Our XPO and Progression Week concluded with the National Classic Championships. See the competition report on page 35.

Ian Rosenvinge



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Mike McHale and Jim Morham, by Jonny Moulder

Celebrating Geordie

After six years of Skydive London, we have had a change of CCI. John Page (Geordie) has moved aside for the new self-confessed King Brucie Johnson to take over the helm of the good ship Skydive London. Geordie has guided many of the Redlands crew from idiots to instructors of various levels and I, for one, would like to thank Geordie for being a guiding light throughout my skydiving career. We will miss his builder's bum stories, but most of all his enthusiasm for the sport. We celebrated Geordie's six years with a party, which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed, especially the puddings!

Brucie (still 9lbs heavier than me) has now become a one-man dropzone and his super powers have grown to include Jump Pilot. This was just in time for the arrival of G-HTFU, our Turbo Airvan, in the UK. Having the Turbo will free up more time for us to spend on students and give us 12,000ft – woo hoo.

Our regular jumpers have been enjoying the good weather of late and no backlog of tandems has helped with the slots. Crazy and Luke Shaw caught the flocking bug and, after a trip to Sibson, returned with WS1 & 2, after coaching from Mark Harris. We welcome, with open arms, Chrissy Downer, packer extraordinaire and, after a trip to the tunnel, soon to be our new FS coach. Chrissy has kindly tested the new steps made by Buncey (even

SWINDON

skydivelondon.co.uk

though Crazy tried to take the glory), making it easier to get back on the dropzone.

Dunny has changed after having his baby and is now officially No2, mainly due to leaving the DZ at 4pm. Matt Ridge is still winning the gurning competition on exits and Luke Ingram is still awesome.

We await the return of Leonie Ingram to jumping, whose coaching we are missing.

Dylan Griffith-Jones



Chrissy and Crazy testing the new steps, by DZ Photos

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Enis Lavery, Scott McMichael, Karl Pearce, Jason Byrd, Scott Minton **FS1** Andrew Griggs, Paolo Messina, Jonny Moulder **WS1&2** Rob Spour, Luke Shaw, Brucie Johnson **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Jess Armishaw, Rachel King **200** Andrew Griggs, Jon Moulder, Em Green **300** Simon Cressdee, Luke Shaw **400** Robert Spour **500** Mark Benson, Pieter Potgieter **1,000** Matt Attridge **1,100** Luke Ingram **1,800** Dylan Griffith-Jones

DUNKESWELL

skydive99.com

Awesome Beech Boogie

The first Twin Beech Boogie of the year returned in May. Our Beech99 was joined by Jan's Beech99 and certainly kept everyone busy. Skydivers from across Europe came to join in the event and take advantage of the fantastic, free load-organising from some of Europe's best, along with demo gear available from PD and Aerodyne. Although the weather didn't play its part the whole time, we definitely made the most of the good parts, with some awesome jumping going on. We enjoyed a 16-way FS, 10-way wingsuiting, lots of tracking and freeflying, including Kristian Moxnes from the *Skywalkers* leading a tube tracking dive!

The Twin Beech Boogie returns on 13-18 September, with formation loads planned. All details and registration are available on www.skydive99.com.

Aerodyne PH36 have continued to introduce people to the world of CF and, now the skies are getting warmer, high hop 'n' pops and canopy flocking are becoming a regular occurrence above The Well. Our 'bring a friend day' was a great success, giving the family and friends of our regular jumpers the chance to do a tandem and find out why we love jumping so much, although we think a few regretted it when there were talks about AFF after! Also, congratulations to Fi Franklin who has gained her FS Coach rating.

In June, we were joined by some of the skydivers in the Southampton Uni Club for a weekend of big-way skydiving: they achieved a new club record of a 12-way! A special mention to Sam Cady, who ruined his trainers walking back through mud and had to jump the rest of the weekend in some beautiful pink wellies...

Miko

Southampton Uni Club record
12-way, by Rob Franklin



DON'T MISS!
Twin Beech Boogie II
13-18 September

Hybrid,
by Wiggy



ACHIEVEMENTS
Cat 8 Becs **FS1** Tom Weston, Garrick Taylor **FF1** Peter Shepard **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Steve, Jeff Sharp, Simon Hope **100** Ted Foster, Darrel B **300** Guy Wells, Dave Monk **600** Rob Gray **900** Shane Hardwick



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Military madness

Clarence's party, by Neil McLaren

Our first Open Week was very well attended despite the forecast giving us a mixed bag of weather. Averaging 10 lifts per day except Wednesday, Alpha Yankee was kept busy. The Jocks descended on us, with Chris, Andy, Eddy, Jim and Stu donning their wingsuits for a bit of coaching. Jim Scott and Stu Thornton made their virgin wingsuit flights and then numerous suit jumps followed throughout the week.

Our student clan all packed in a shed load of jumps, with most now only a few jumps off qualifying Cat 8. Big thanks to Dan G and Helen S, who spent virtually all their week refresher and progression training then, welded to the floor of the PAC, despatching. Smiley Nik ventured to the dark side to complete some sit flying. After a few jumps spent on his back, he has finally cracked it.

Mark Atherton (AKA Clarence) turned 30 and, in celebration, organised a little military-themed party. The evening saw the attendance of Napoleon, naval officers, WWII pilots and a few good men, with the odd officer and gentleman. The rest of us wore fatigues. The DJ entertained us with music and the odd club member came under the hypnotist's spell to perform the usual crazy acts. With a few revellers unfit to jump the next day, they made most of the forecast of showers. The

CARK skydivenorthwest.co.uk

Nik, by Jim Scott



DON'T MISS!
Open Week
6-14 August

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Tim Hynes, Kieran Bridges **Cat 8** Scott Allender, Fred Richards **WS1** Chris Goatleys, Andy Robson, Eddy McCallum, Stu Thornton **WS1&2** Jim Scott **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Nick Markham

afternoon finished with a flurry of jumping when blue skies appeared. Mark, from all of us, happy birthday and cheers for the catering. See you all at our second Open Week on 6-14 August and check out the DZ feature this edition! (Page 72.)

Stu Morris

SWANSEA skydiveswansea.co.uk



Jordan Wilcox's first stills camera shot

G-LEAP up for sale

On his first stills camera jump, Jordan came up with this shot, no doubt a cameraman of the future! There have been testing times due to the weather at the DZ recently, which has grounded many low-experience jumpers; but thanks has to go to many who continually help with catching tandems and bringing equipment back with Tom. Special thanks to Aled Mason and Mike Phillips for this.

Our DZ carpenter Shamus has been very busy as well, producing a better looking main packing room and working hard on a new room for club members to chill out and store gear in. Special thanks to Ricky 'Datori' Davies, Ben "put me on every lift" Jenkins, Grayson "there is only one like me" Buckley, handsome Rob and Daniel "I can get anything for you" Jones for all their hard work helping Shamus smarten the place up recently. Not forgetting a mention for Tanya "don't ask me to use the tannoy" Quigley for helping Sara on the desk. Congratulations to Hugo Zundel for gaining his A Certificate and Tom and Jane McNamara for their B Certificates.

Finally, the great news is that, due to continuing growth, our beloved turbine G-LEAP is now up for sale after three years of service, which has helped put the DZ firmly on the map. As soon as a buyer is found, it will be replaced by a Cessna Caravan!

Tom Hare

STRATHALLAN skydivestrathallan.co.uk

Spring clean

ACHIEVEMENTS First freefall Anna Storrie, Li Persson **JUMPS 200** Sandy Smart **300** Barry Hyde

The instructor course in May left its mark on the club, with the place looking spick and span after a vicious seeing-to by members painting fences, fixing ceilings, renovating facilities, cutting grass, sweeping hangars, giving the planes a fresh coat of duct tape, approving the ratings of our new pilot (Elizabeth), bringing in the shiny new DZ vehicle, hanging up the new student FS suits, and packing the new CF rigs. A Caribbean-themed party was held the weekend after and everyone did their bit to mess the place up again, littering the floor with silly string, booze, slush puppy cups, Rastafarian hats and (inevitably) items of Simon's clothing.

Joyce gave everyone a chuckle a few Saturday nights later by taking a peek at the new litter of kittens on top of the shower block via a ladder (and via the vodka bottle). Her yelps and profanities were heard some hours later by rescuers who pulled her out from under the ladder.

The BCPA came to visit and, as per tradition, they brought the clouds and howling wind with them, which abated when most of them left on



Student jumper, by Kelly Thomson

bank holiday Monday, allowing for the only competition held that weekend (accuracy) to be well and truly owned by the recently A-certificated Kat Stewart, who beat the C-certs to the pit. Some say she seemed surprised. Some say she was screaming. Some even claim it was a total accident, but we all know it was down to naturally born mad skills and eating your Weetabix. Also, of interest to the BCPA, John and Lucy have taken over as the captains of Strathclyde and Edinburgh for the coming year.

Jonny Danks



Solstice Boogie exit, by Micky Doyle



Jason and Liz Snailham, by Tash Higman

Wingsuit migration

Even the May bank holiday weather couldn't clip the wings of the Netheravon flock, as wingsuiters migrated to Wiltshire for the Phoenix-Fly weekend. Jarno Cordia from Phoenix-Fly came to coach and brought along a great selection of demo suits for everyone to lust over and fly. Experience levels varied hugely but, thanks to Jarno's expertise, everyone got the opportunity to be part of quality skydives and develop. 'Birds' have been flocking steadily to Netheravon over the past year and the wingsuit community is growing fast. After the

success of this weekend, the dropzone has several new BPA and Phoenix-Fly wingsuit coaches and the drive is on to get some first-flight suits and encourage other skydivers into the flock. So if you want to double (at least) your freefall time, put on a wingsuit and come meet the flockers.

Dawn broke over the Solstice Boogie with what is fast becoming traditional Skyvan weather – low cloud and rain! Thanks to everyone who persevered – it was good to get all three Caravans in the air together. Thanks to Dave Lewis for organising – the 60-way came close, which was a great result considering the tough weather conditions on both weekends. Tony Uragallo of Tonysuits also visited the DZ with his latest fleet of wingsuits. Despite the weather, they did manage some nice 120 knot run-ins out of the Skyvan to finish off with.

Congrats to Titch and DP, who celebrated their joint 3,000th jump with DP taking Titch on a tandem. They were joined by 12 friends who, jointly, had over 36,000 jumps between them.

Congratulations to Janine and Cookie, who got engaged while on a romantic break in Venice, and to Marc and Helena Le Gresley, who got married at the Mombasa Boogie. Jason and Liz Snailham got married on a Slovenian mountainside in early June with a large number of skydiving friends attending.

Everyone at the DZ sends their love and best wishes to Marcus Speed after he was seriously injured in a climbing accident – get well soon!

Kath Salisbury, Elana Cain, Tash Higman & Steve Murfin

ACHIEVEMENTS

FS1 Angus Gillespie, Tom Fletcher, Lucy Packwood, Marcus Fountain, James Wallace-Dunlop

WS1 Jenna Pickering

WS2 Paul Cain

JUMP NUMBERS

50 Angus Gillespie

200 Jo Leslie, Stephen

500 Jenna Pickering, James Lee

700 Ed Bowyer

1,500 Milke Lewis

2,000 Anna Hicks

3,000 Titch, DP

Phoenix-Fly Weekend flock

Beating the weather

Since the last issue, the weather gods have been debating who's the boss; sun, wind, rain, cloud... We've seen it all at the Wild Geese over the past couple of months. But, undeterred, student Glyn O'Brien gambled on the good weather days and got to his first freefall. Welcome to skydiving, Glyn!

With the Queens University AGM recently, we saw Eddie Montieth step down as QUB president as he is no longer a student (now go get a job and stop living off our taxes, Eddie!) to make way for newly elected president, Calum Thompson. Needless to say Calum, you've got big shoes to fill!

Meanwhile, back at the DZ, the Wild Geese display team welcomes its newest member, Graham Wallace, after safely completing his first display. I do believe that a case of beer is in order Graham! Congratulations on your promotion, but beware, all eyes are on you – better make sure you get the circle every time! Here's hoping the summer 'aint a bummer – blue skies and safe swoops.

Rod McCrory



Happy tandem student with Mike Murphy

A new year...

The BCPA Scots meet was very kindly hosted by Strathallan. Thanks to Jonny Danks and Jo Garner for organising the activities. We also made a return to Peterlee for our Northern event and had a blast, with the speed star competition proving very popular. BCPA Nationals this year featured plenty of jumping and some epic parties. The raffle prizes were exceptional, a big thank you to all our kind sponsors, and to Cark for hosting again.

Thanks to everyone involved in the BCPA this year, be it on the committee or the sidelines. It's been fantastic. We had our biggest freshers event, the largest foreign trip, raised our big-way record to a 22-way and much more!

With the new BCPA year comes clean slates on the leagues, so be sure to get involved. It could be your university name on the BCPA championship trophy this year!

Ailwyn McGeoch

Competition league:

- 1st Southampton
- 2nd Warwick
- 3rd Bath

League results

Individual league:

- 1st James Lee (Southampton)
- 2nd Tim Gaines (Warwick)
- 3rd Sam Lee (Warwick)

Achievement league:

- 1st Southampton
- 2nd Warwick
- 3rd Strathclyde

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UK PARA BECCLES

ukparachuting.co.uk



Thanks Gizmo!

The weather has warmed up at last and, with plenty of club jumpers around, it has been a busy couple of months of jumping at Beccles. Congratulations to Gavin Rixon and his partner Jo on the birth of their baby boy Oscar, who was born at the beginning of June.

Mike (Gizmo) Jones decided it was time for a change and a fresh challenge so, after four years with UK Parachuting (at Old Buck and Beccles) working on the packing mat, ground control and more recently packing reserve canopies, he has left the club. On behalf of UK Parachuting, I would like to thank him for all his hard work in the past and we wish him good luck in the future.

Andy Page is looking into the possibility of getting hold of a rig equipped with a round main canopy, so if anyone who has not jumped a round main before (or if you have and would like a trip down memory lane) fancies giving it a try, let Andy or myself know and hopefully we can organise it for later in the year.

There are plenty more events in the pipeline for this year, so keep up to date with what is happening on www.ukparachuting.co.uk and the Beccles fun jumpers' page on Facebook.

Mike Wemyss

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Callum Aspin, Alexander Parvies, Simon Fitzgerald, Chris Beeson, Winchester March, Michael Wilson, Jody Pryer **FF1** Paul Newton **JUMP NUMBERS 700** Bob Bellman

UK PARA SIBSON

skydivesibson.co.uk

Coaching galore

UK Parachuting Sibson has got off to a great season thanks to some great jumping and demos with the RAF Falcons, which will keep us busy up until the end of September. Our own demo team, run by Mark Harris, also did their first display into the East of England show. Well done guys!

Unfortunately, poor weather meant the annual FS Scrambles competition couldn't go ahead. It has been rescheduled for 17-18 September. To register, email skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk.

Team Raykipo, who started as a rookie team last year, have new attire sponsored by UK Para and Aerodynamics. They have already won three, yes three, gold medals in the A category at the first three UKSL Meets of the year! They will be on-hand for coaching at the Beccles Scrambles comp, which is being held over the August bank holiday. Register with Tomo at jump@ukparachuting.co.uk.

Damo has been seen wearing dungarees, paint brush in hand, giving The Jump Shop a makeover. The shop at Sibson is a bit more minimalist, but the website still has everything and more for your skydiving needs. Visit www.thejumpshop.co.uk.

Tarn Hollis and Liz Matthews will be back for another FS coaching weekend on 10-11 September. Their first visit in May went well, so if you would like some coaching from world champions, email skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk or let manifest know.

Our reception/manifest has had a revamp, so is now running much more efficiently. Thanks to Chris, Paul and Zolo for all their hard work.

We now officially welcome Rod Crews and Joan Eagles on board as our latest jump pilots, just in time for a busy summer. Grant has also been letting the manifest staff out occasionally, which meant Donna Jenkins got to do her 200th jump in June. She decided to do a tandem for it... well, any excuse to get strapped to a bloke!

Susie Richards

ACHIEVEMENTS Graduated **AFF** Martin Read **FF2** Ed Ashby, Anthea Harrison **WS1** Johnathan Francis **WS1&2** Rob Spour, Luke Shaw **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Paul Masters **200** Donna Jenkins **400** Peter Coville **600** Ed Ashby **84 hours freefall** Chris McCann



DON'T MISS!

FS Scrambles
17-18 September

FS coaching weekend
10-11 September



Donna's 200th jump with tandem instructor A. Batchelor, and Mark and Ailwyn. By Sarah Hall

We speak to Stuart Morris, joint owner of Skydive North West



DZ co-owner Stuart with wife Martine



DZ co-owners Mike and Kay Carruthers



CCI Dennis Buchanan

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How did Skydive North West originate?

In 1916, the site was established to house airships for the Vickers Company in Barrow but, because of a shortage of steel and budget, it was left unfinished. In 1921, part of the site became an airfield and from 1941 to 1945 it was used solely by training aircraft. Cark's military operation ceased in 1945 and the airfield was left abandoned until Alan Morris and Dave Prince established the North West Parachute Centre (Skydive North West) in March 1972.

The operation began with hired-in aircraft and an old cow shed that doubled up as the packing hall and canteen. It had four mains and two reserves to begin with and as interest in the sport increased so did the centre's acquisitions: from Cessna 182s to the twin-engined Islander that served the centre for a great number of years. In 2000, myself and Mike Carruthers took over the reins and leased a Turbolet 410 for a number of years. This was, as we call it, testing the water for our biggest venture: purchasing our brand new aircraft, the PAC 750 XL, in June 2004.

What are your opening hours and facilities?

Our operating hours are 9am until 9pm every weekend and bank holiday, with

additional operations at certain weeks of the year, the next being 6-14 August.

We had a brand new canteen installed in 2010, along with our refurbished shower room and toilet facilities (inc disabled). We also have a recreation room with large TVs, Wi-Fi, a large hangar for packing and the usual creeping pads and mock-up areas.

From dawn to dusk the backdrop of the Lake District never ceases to amaze

What aircraft do you use?

One of only two in the UK, our PAC 750 XL has proven it is worth our investment. It has a great load capacity (up to 16 skydivers), is multi-functional for all skydiving disciplines, comfortable and quick in the climb. Our maximum altitude is 14,000ft, taking approximately 14 minutes.

What events do you run?

In the past we have hosted the Classics Nationals, along with BPA Freely Roadshows and three FS UKSL competitions (in the last five years). Two out of the three were completed in one day, breaking the centre record of more than 40 lifts with one aircraft. Also, during our Open Weeks we organise competitions between our regular club members to keep the competitive spirit alive.



Photo by Gaz Turner



North West

Canopies in flight, by Ian Chick



The PAC, by Steve Nolan



Packing area, by Stuart Morris



Does the club have a good social scene?

To say the least. The camaraderie between all our club members is fantastic as most, if not all, of them enjoy a cool beer (along with the odd BBQ) after a good day's jumping. Bad weather days and evenings see us packed into the recreation room to check out the big screen or tap a foot to the resident DJ Disco Diva Neil McLaren's Smoke and Glitterball disco.

Do you feel part of the BPA?

The BPA is an essential part of our existence and operation. For many years we have relied on the Association to provide courses for our instructors and to develop and improve safety standards with the growth of the BPA Operations Manual, which, in turn, maintains a structured approach to safe parachuting activities. This is now becoming more proactive with the introduction of the BPA's DZ Safety Management System.

Do you have any university clubs?

Yes, we have three university clubs at our DZ. We have a great working relationship with all the committee members and their students.

Do you sponsor or have any teams that jump at your DZ?

We are not adverse to sponsoring teams and are willing to discuss any that approach us. That said, with the team scene being one of its largest for quite a few years, teams wish to train together in order to share coaches, knowledge (and secrets). They therefore seem to congregate at the larger-capacity centres.

Tell us something we don't know about your DZ

It's probably run by the two youngest DZ owners in the country!?

How would you say running a UK skydiving business has changed?

For us, it has become more customer focused in unison with more emphasis on safety management.

What's the best thing about your DZ?

The views! From dawn to dusk the outstanding backdrop of the Lake District never ceases to amaze, especially visiting jumpers. We never tire of its depth of beauty and, in reality, we work and play at a very pretty DZ.

Is there anything local worth visiting?

The famous lakes of Windermere and Coniston, as well as plenty of picturesque walks and exciting mountain bike routes throughout the area. We also have a nine-hole golf course on the perimeter of the airfield for the budding hackers.

What are your plans for the future?

Our next major project is the renovation of our training lecture rooms and sleeping accommodation.

Anything else you'd like to add?

If you are ever up in our neck of the woods, please call in to see us - it's not all cobbled streets and flat caps!

Any events planned for 2011?

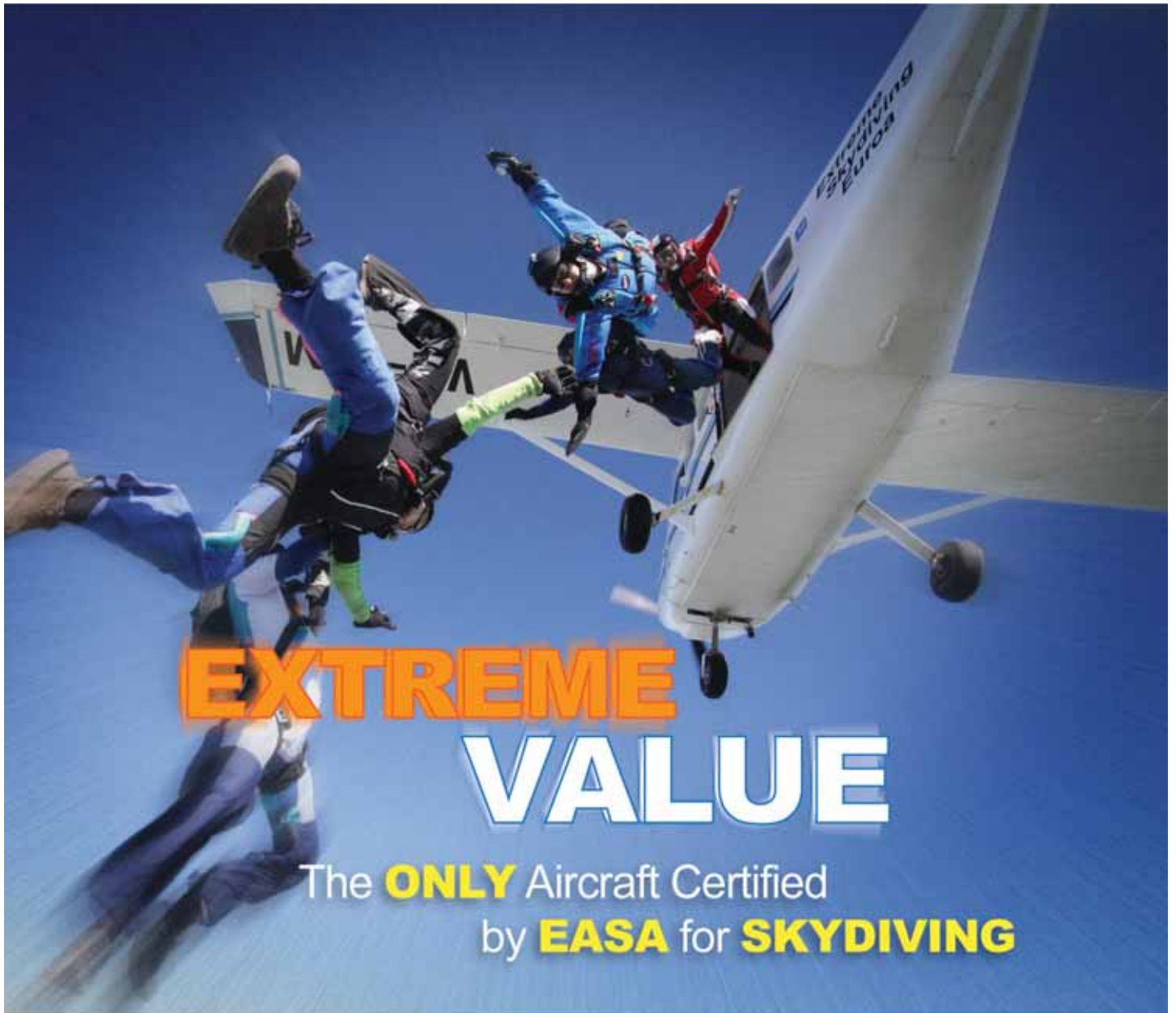
The BPA Freefly Roadshow, 24-25 September.

What kind of DZ do you try to make it?

We like to maintain an efficient but relaxed DZ, slightly laid-back, but with a professional edge, for all our regulars and customers. Evenings are really chilled, especially in the summer months, with the Lake District backdrop on the sunset loads.

How do your jumpers develop once off student status?

They develop within the BPA format, as with any other DZ. More experienced jumpers pass on tips and offer coaching and guidance. We promote safety along with enjoyment and have regular coaching from our instructors. We offer FS, FF, CF, Accuracy and Style coaching; we also have a resident Sky Surfer. FS and FF are the most popular disciplines.



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DROP ZONES



BPA Affiliated DZs in the UK

1 Black Knights

Black Knights Parachute Centre
Hillam Lane, Cockerham,
Lancashire LA2 0DY
DZ: 01524 791820
T: 01772 717624
Mob: 07501 223151/2
info@bkpc.co.uk
bkpc.co.uk
Turbine Porter

2 Bridlington

Skydive GB
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road,
Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB
01262 228 033 / 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
Cessna 206

3 Cark

North West Parachute Centre
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh,
Nr Grange-over-Sands,
Cumbria LA11 7LS
DZ: 01539 558 672
T: 01229 889 516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

4 Chatteris

North London Skydiving Centre
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea,
March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ: 01354 740 810
T: 0871 664 0113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish

Cornish Parachute Club
Perranporth Airfield,
Higher Trevellas, St Agnes,
Cornwall TR5 0XS
01872 553 352 / 07790 439 653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

6 Dunkeswell

Skydive UK Ltd
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell,
Devon EX14 4LG
01404 890 222 / 07718 638 000
info@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
Beech 99

7 Headcorn

Skydive Headcorn
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn,
Kent TN27 9HX
01622 891 670
info@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan, Islander

8 Hibaldstow

Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648 837
T: 0113 250 5600
info@skydiving.co.uk
skydiving.co.uk
Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-
92 single turbine, Cherokee 6

9 Hinton

Hinton Skydiving Centre
Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,
Northants NN13 5NS
01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk
skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

10 Jersey

Skydive Jersey Ltd
States Airport, St Peter,
Jersey JE3 7ZR
01534 747 410
info@skydivejersey.net
skydivejersey.net
Airvan, guest Turbines

11 Langar

British Parachute Schools
Langar Airfield, Langar,
Nottingham NG13 9HY
01949 860 878
info@skydivelangar.co.uk
skydivelangar.co.uk
2 Cessna Grand Caravans,
guest aircraft

12 Lewknor

London Parachute School
The Byre, Woods Farm,
Easthamstead Rd, Wokingham,
Berks RG40 3AE
0845 130 7194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

13 Netheravon

Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
01980 628 250
generalenquiries@netheravon.com
netheravon.com
2 Cessna Caravans, guest aircraft

14 Paragon

Paragon Skydiving
Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol,
Perthshire PH2 7TB
01821 642 454
billy.gollan@btinternet.com
paragonskydiving.co.uk
Cessna 182

15 Peterlee

Peterlee Parachute Centre
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery,
Co Durham DH6 2NH
0191 517 1234
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182
Cessna Grand Caravan

16 Salisbury

Skydive Southcoast Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
01722 323 628
info@skydivsouthcoast.co.uk
skydivsouthcoast.co.uk
Airvan, Cessna 206 and 172

17 The Silver Stars

Silver Stars
29 Regt, Duke of Gloucester
Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester
Gloucestershire GL7 5RD
DZ: 01285 868111
T: 07716 792942
info@silverstars.me.uk
silverstars.me.uk
Finist SMG

18 St Andrews

Skydive St Andrews
Osprey Road, Fife Airport,
Glenrothes KY6 2SL
0845 189 5865
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo
Cessna 206

19 Strathallan

Skydive Strathallan
Strathallan Airfield,
Nr Auchterarder,
Perthshire PH3 1LA
DZ: 01764 662 572
T: 07836 201953
kbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestathallan.co.uk
3 Cessna 206, guest Turbine

20 Swansea

Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood,
Swansea SA2 7JU
07779 019 655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
skydiveswansea.co.uk
Turbine Islander

21 Swindon

Skydive London
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm,
Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA
01793 791 222
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

22 Tilstock

The Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch,
Shropshire SY13 2HA
01948 841 111
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
theparachutecentre.com
Airvan

23 UK Para Beccles

UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough,
Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
01502 476 131
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
ukparachuting.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

24 UK Para Sibson

UK Parachuting
Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
01832 280 490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

25 Weston

Skydive Weston
RAF Weston on the Green,
Bicester, Oxon OX25 3TQ
01869 343 201
skydiveweston@fsmail.net
skydiveweston.com
Cessna Caravan, guest aircraft

26 Wild Geese

Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh
Rd, Garvagh, Coleraine,
Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
028 2955 8609
jump@skydivewildgeese.com
skydivewildgeese.com
Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

Cyprus

Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58,
Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus,
0035 724 744337
info@skydivencyprus.com.cy
skydivencyprus.com.cy
PBN Piston Islander

RAPA

Rhine Army Parachute Assoc.
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse,
33175, Bad Lippspringe, Germany
0049 5254 982 2378
jspl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk
Turbine Islander, Quest Kodiak,
Dornier G92 on call

Parachuting Societies

BCPA

**British Collegiate
Parachute Association**
Ailwyn McGeoch, BCPA Chairman
07969 484801
mail@bcpa.org.uk
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POPS

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Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7PD
07779 580399
jeffchandler@hotmail.com
pops.org.uk

SOS

Skydivers Over Sixty
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Bristol BS8 4ES
nielshsn@yahoo.co.uk

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FLYAERODYNE.COM

EVENTS ZONE

For more event details, visit the Events Zone at skydivethemag.com



Get to Nationals!



Nationals 2010, by Blair Stent

By the time this Mag is printed, the FS and Artistic Nationals will almost be upon us. Held over two consecutive three-day weekends, with a third weekend as backup, Hibaldstow will host the busiest event on the BPA calendar. 13-15 August is the 4-way FS and VFS Nationals, with a usual turnout of more than 50 teams - the second biggest Nationals in the world! The minimum requirement is only FS1, and teams compete across four categories, so why not enter a team and experience the Nationals machine in action?

20-22 August is the backup weekend for the 4-way, and the main weekend for the 8-way FS and Artistic Nationals. Sometimes 4-way teams have so much fun on the first weekend that they pair up with another team to enter the 8-way intermediate category. The Artistic events are Freestyle, Freestyle and Speed - who will take the top spots this year? Full report in the October Mag.

skydivingchampionships.com

BPA Boogie



Come and celebrate the BPA's 50th birthday at the BPA 50th Boogie! The three-day Boogie will run from 9-11 September at Skydive Langar. There will be two Grand Caravans, a Twin Otter, a Beech 99 and other speciality aircraft.

Jumps will cost £20, although speciality aircraft will cost

more. There will be free load organising and FS, FF, Accuracy and wingsuit coaching - with a special focus on A-certificate progression - all from Nationals and World Meet medal winners.

Registration costs nothing and there is a free goodie bag and T-shirt for the first 250 people who register. A raffle will be held each day for free jumps. Enjoy free food on Saturday night, live set and a themed disco (with music from all the decades) on both the Friday and Saturday.

You can attend the various seminars and talks that will be on offer. All BPA members are welcome, so come and join the fun and celebrate 50 years of your organisation! There is more to be announced, so keep an eye on the BPA website.

bpa.org.uk

KEY

BPA EVENTS
CANOPY PILOTING
FORMATION SKYDIVING
CANOPY FORMATION
STYLE & ACCURACY
BOOGIES/FUN
ARTISTICS
WINGSUIT
UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

27-28 **FS Coaching**
Netheravon • netheravon.com

27-28 **Hot Weekender**
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

27-28 **FS Scrambles**
UK Para (Beccles) • ukparachuting.co.uk

27-29 **FS 8-way & Artistics Nationals Res**
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

27-29 **Fly Hard & Brit HD Record Attempt**
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

AUGUST

25 July-21 **DZ operating at Middle Wallop**
Netheravon • netheravon.com

6-14 **Open Week**
BKPC, Cockerham • bkpc.co.uk

6-14 **Open Week**
Cark • skydivenorthwest.co.uk

12-14 **Safe Flight School**
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

13-15 **FS 4-way & VFS Nationals**
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

13-21 **Progression & AFF Week**
Peterlee • skydiveacademy.org.uk

15-19 **Instructor Course (CSBI/TBI/AFFBI/Adv)**
Langar • bpa.org.uk

16 **BPA Council Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

18-19 **Wingsuit Course**
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

18-28 **Style & Accuracy World Cup**
Kikinda, Serbia • events.fai.org

20-22 **FS 4-way & VFS Nationals Reserve**
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

20-22 **FS 8-way & Artistics Nationals**
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

22-26 **BPA Instructor Course (CSI)**
Langar • bpa.org.uk

22-27 **CP World Cup**
Klatovy, Czech Rep • pinkskyvan.com

22-Sept 2 **Jersey DZ Open**
Jersey • skydivejersey.net

25-28 **Euro FF Record Preselection Camp**
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

26-Sept 4 **Open Week**
BKPC, Cockerham • bkpc.co.uk

27-28 **8-way Speed Competition**
Netheravon • netheravon.com

SEPTEMBER

1-4 **Big-way Camp**
Perris, California • dubai500.com

1-5 **Couch Freaks Boogie**
Eloy, Arizona • skydiveaz.com

2-4 **Safe Flight School**
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

3-4 **8-way Speed Nationals**
Chatteris • ukskydiving.com

3-4 **BPA Freestyle Roadshow**
UK Para (Sibson) • bpa.org.uk

3-11 **Langar Boogie 2**
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

5-7 **Safe Flight School**
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

5-7 **Guernsey DZ Open**
Guernsey • skydivejersey.net

5-9 **Instructor Course (TBI/AFFBI/Pre-Adv)**
Skydive Weston • bpa.org.uk

7-13 **Progression & FS Course (B Cert)**
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

8-11 **100-way Camp**
Perris, California • dubai500.com

9-11 **BPA 50th Anniversary Boogie**
Langar • bpa.org.uk

10-11 **FF Skills Camp**
Netheravon • netheravon.com

10-11 **FS Coaching Weekend**
UK Para (Sibson) • ukparachuting.co.uk

10-11 **Canopy Course**
Netheravon • netheravon.com

13-18 **Twin Beech Boogie II**
Dunkeswell • skydive99.com

14-18 **Funshine Boogie**
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

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For more event details, visit the
Events Zone at skydivethemag.com

15-16 Wingsuit Course

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

16-18 ESL Finals

Texel, Netherlands • euro-skyleague.com

17-18 Big-ways for Beginners

Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

27-28 FS Scrambles

UK Para (Sibson) • skydivesibson.co.uk

19-22 Jersey DZ Open

Jersey • skydivejersey.net

21-25 Euro FF Record Attempt

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

22-25 Empuriabrava 16-way Trophy

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

24-25 BPA Freestyle Roadshow

Cark • bpa.org.uk

24-25 First Time Formation Loads

Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

24-26 CF Nationals

Netheravon • netheravon.com

29 STC & Riggers Meetings

BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

30-Oct 2 CF Nationals Reserve

Netheravon • netheravon.com

30-Oct 2 CP Basic Course

Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

30-Oct 9 Open Week

BKPC, Cockerham • bkpc.co.uk

OCTOBER

1-2 FS Scrambles

Netheravon • netheravon.com

1-2 FF Coaching

Dunkeswell • skydive99.com

1-2 Wingsuit Coaching

Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

7-9 Safe Flight School

Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

8-9 FF Skills Camp

Netheravon • netheravon.com

8-9 FS Scrambles

Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

11 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

12-16 California State Record 200-way

Perris, California • dubai500.com

13-14 Wingsuit Course

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

15-16 Wingsuit Coaching

Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

20-28 Equinox Boogie

Toogoolawah, Aus • ramblers.com.au

21-23 Safe Flight School

Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

28-30 Halloween Carnival

Eloy, Arizona • skydiveaz.com

29-30 Hot Weekender

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

29-30 10-way Speed Frostbite Friendly

Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

NOVEMBER

3-8 Progression & FS Course (B Cert)

Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

7-11 BPA Inst Course (CSBI/TBI/ AFFBI/ Adv)

Hibaldstow • bpa.org.uk

11-13 Safe Flight School

Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

14-18 BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

Hibaldstow • bpa.org.uk

14-18 Learning Curve Camp

Toogoolawah, Aus • ramblers.com.au

UK head-down record



The *Bad Lieutenants* will be joined by the *Skywalkers* and *Volare* in preparation for the 2011 UK head-down record attempt jumps on 27-29 August.

From Wednesday 24 August, Matt O'Riordan and Jim Harris will be joined by Mike Carpenter from *Volare* at Skydive Hibaldstow to run warm-up and selection jumps for the three days running into the weekend when the attempts to beat the current 22-way will be made.

Not everyone will be involved in all the record jumps, so the *Skywalkers* will be on hand to organise a separate group to be used to feed into all record attempts.

If you are interested and want to participate in the record, then please get in touch with the *Bad Lieutenants* at team@thebadlieutenants.com. For more information on the record, go to the website:

thebadlieutenants.com

17-18 Wingsuit Course

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

24 STC & Riggers Meetings

BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

25-27 Safe Flight School

Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

25-27 CP Basic Course

Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

DECEMBER

6 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

9-11 Safe Flight School

Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

15-16 Wingsuit Course

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

23-Jan 1 Christmas Boogie

Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

24-Jan 1 Christmas Boogie

Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

26-Jan 3 Christmas Boogie

Florida, USA • skydiveseb.com

28-31 6-way Weekend

Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

JANUARY 2012

28 BPA AGM & 50th Anniversary Dinner

Reebok Stadium, Bolton • bpa.org.uk



Get in the know

The digital version of *Skydive Starter* magazine now has another handy URL for sharing with friends and family:
bpa.org.uk/starter

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CYPRES 2
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Different by DESIGN

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW
R.A.G.E.?

It has been a long time since we have updated our innovative **R.A.G.E.** series.

Since its introduction in 2001, it has gained much respect with canopy connoisseurs all over the skydiving world. No other design to date combines sportive canopy handling with everyday-use capability and dependable openings.

This is why many professionals in the sport, competitors and instructors alike, choose the **R.A.G.E.** series.

Now it's time to bring the **R.A.G.E.** concept up to date in an exciting new form, using the latest 3D design applications. We have worked on the planform of the wing as well as on its performance dynamics. The main difference is in the sizing. Keeping the 107 in its new form, we have added the 118 and will round up the line with a 129. The smaller sizes (86 and 97) will then be officially discontinued.

We strongly believe the new **R.A.G.E.** will be a fantastic alternative for the performance-orientated skydiver.

We expect to have all sizes ready by spring of next year.

If you want to know more, email or call Stefan for details.

LANDING IN
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2012

www.paratec.de

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Flugplatz - D -66798 Wallerfangen
Tel: +49-6837 - 7375 - www.paratec.de - info@paratec.de

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optimises mind focus and concentration

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What is it like? Like an energy drink but without the fizz, caffeine, sugar or taurine - It's an "Oxygen Shot" - making it purer! It won't rot your teeth or make you hyperactive. With absolutely zero calories it won't even make you fat, in fact it will help you burn those calories faster!

How does it work? Under stress and physical exertion, the body's demand for oxygen increases, OxyShot can help to counteract oxygen debt and keep body and mind in peak condition.

Who invented it? The secret of OxyShot lies in Charged Stabilised Oxygen - CSO2™, a literally space-age technology pioneered by NASA, who else!

Is it legal? OxyShot is certified free of banned substances by IOC and WADA accredited laboratories.

Who uses it? Anyone! Internationally recognised and endorsed by professionals to improve mental focus, boost peak performance and speed up recovery times. See what the professionals say or post your own experience on our website.

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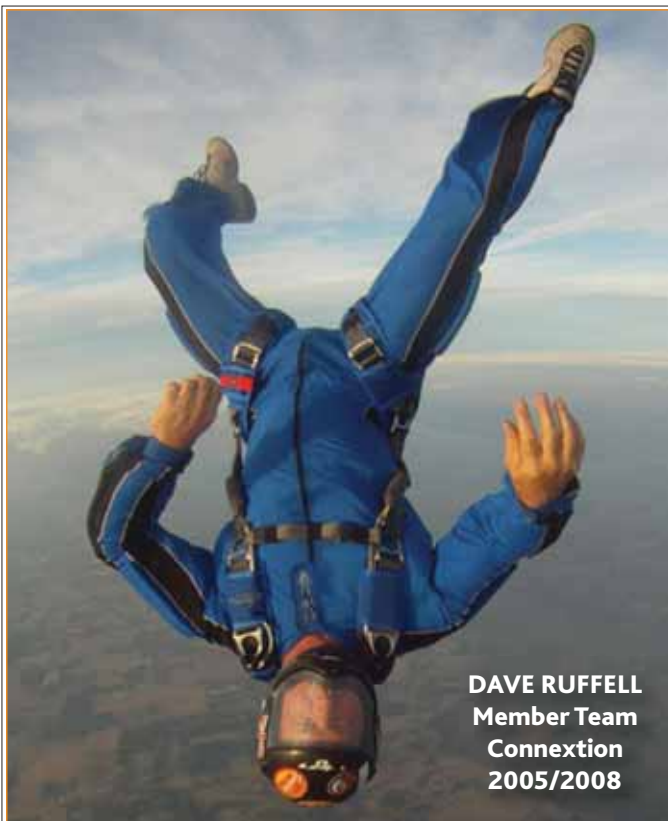
**Dr Margaret Clamp
MC Occupational Health**

**The Corner House
Rectory Road, Colwick
Nottingham NG4 2DU.**

Mobile: 0780 2850084

Email: mclamp@doctors.org.uk

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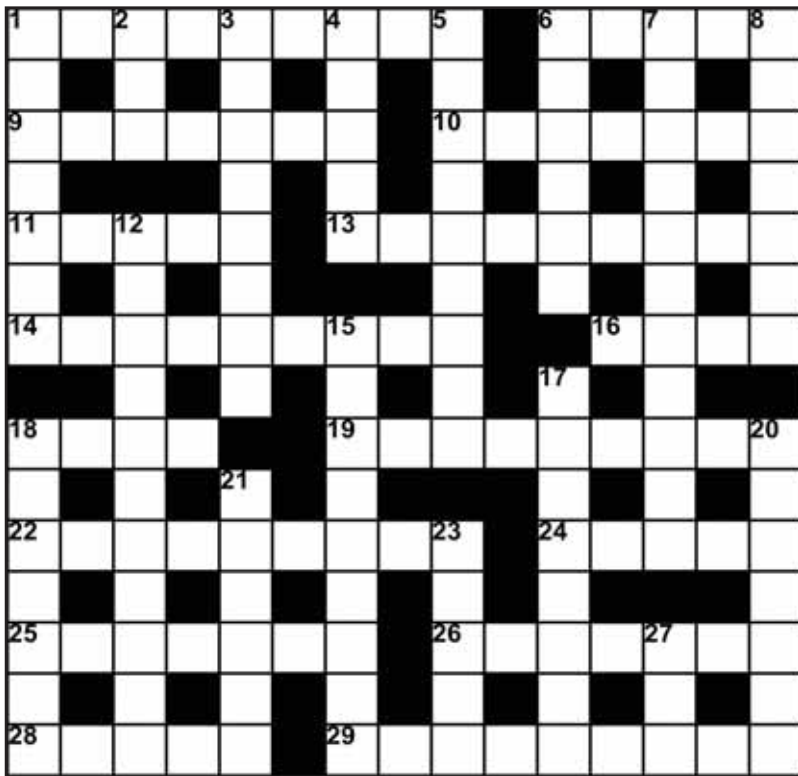
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Paul Boorer >>



MAIN Cryptic

Across

- They protect travellers from beasts let loose (4,5)
- Inside shorts a ferret is less dangerous (5)
- Going to land on that woman (taking alternative) (7)
- Editing of magazine, for the most part, is great (7)
- Sample of tea poured over street (5)
- Charm of hooker's footwear in a manner of speaking (9)
- He waits outside door of last parade vehicle (4,5)
- Cambridge college announced requirement for entry (4)
- To lose at regular intervals is feasible (4)
- Setting out to make dingo yelp (9)
- Spot way out argument (4,5)
- Story from the east covers very short aircraft propeller (5)
- Pause when brewing herb tea (7)
- Middle of street's rent free (7)
- Moving unevenly bloke tours street (5)
- Want dress to be re-designed for dropzone (2,7)

Down

- S-Snooker player who put the balls back (7)
- Headless vocalist is a fool (3)
- Stopped training for Feb. OK (5,3)
- Part of steerable echo-sounder which is beside the sails (5)
- Saint's aura leads animals back in formation (9)
- Says it tastes off (6)
- As the sun's rising, with a different start it's scary (11)
- They initiate, but don't open! Who assembled these reserves? (7)
- Little wheels that stop rolling (11)
- They're past it but still with hourglass shape (3-6)
- Reckoned up - allotted - distributed (8)
- Fabergé made part of rig (4,3)
- Goes good American groups (7)
- Inconsistent drug taken in "Animal House" (6)
- Ground up contents of circular retort (5)
- Drink a lemonade from both sides (3)

RESERVE Quick

Across

- Vehicle restraints (4,5)
- Less dicey
- Like morning coastal breeze
- Breathtaking
- Flavour
- Major malfunction
- Exit position (4,5)
- Signals
- Not succeed
- Opening (canopy)
- Skydive starting location (4,5)
- Aircraft Fuel
- Respire
- Cut-away
- Variably windy
- Northern dropzone (2,7)

Down

- Person who selects 22
- Donkey
- Ended formation flying (5,3)
- Blood sucker
- 8-way formation
- Declares
- Scary
- Kit servicers
- Canopy side flaps
- Veterans (3-6)
- Completely malfunctioned
- Reserve container (4,3)
- Parts of knickers
- Acned
- Earth
- Beer



Jackie Smith >>

Skydiving legend Jackie Smith brings you stories from yesteryear

An amusing word of warning from a 1970 issue of *Sport Parachutist* magazine, *Skydive Mag's* predecessor

"Stay put!"

The following episode took place at Strathallan Airfield not many moons ago. It illustrates one of the less expected hazards of operating in the land of the heather.

The Cessna 175 took off with two students and an instructor; the latter positioned as usual in the rear starboard seat.

At 1700 feet it became evident that the cloudbase was not sufficiently high to permit a drop, so the pilot was asked to return to the airfield.

The aircraft landed and taxied in towards the hangar. As it neared the hangar, another aircraft was taxiing out, so the pilot of the jump aircraft halted temporarily to let the other pass.

At this point the student seated on the floor by the door made to get out.

The instructor, aware that the aircraft was shortly about to taxi on, restrained him by the shoulders and ordered "Stay put!"

At this the student renewed his attempt to leave the aircraft.

The instructor, fury and incomprehension mounting, roared again "Stay put!"

The student made a third vigorous attempt to leave and had to be held by the lift webs until the aircraft had taxied in and switched off.

As the aircraft emptied, the student looking red and angry hauled off his helmet. The instructor equally annoyed removed his, and the following dialogue took place:

"Why in all hell did you keep trying to get out of the plane, when I was telling you to stay put?"

"Cherrist" exclaims the student, anger giving way to surprise, "I thoct ye were sayin' 'step out!'"

40 years ago

The birth of Sibson



Left to right: John Meacock, Bob Hull, Gerry McCaulley

Sibson airfield, first opened by John and Sue Meacock, has been home to a parachute centre since 1971, making it one of the first civilian dropzones in the country. In the early days, with small Cessna aircraft and a couple of De Havilland Rapides, it was a real skydivers' centre. With the help of Ronnie O'Brien as CCI, Sibson was heavily involved in the birth of tandems and AFF in the '70s and '80s.

The 1990s saw the rise of freeflying, with the Meacock boys Alex and Stuart dominating the freefly scene. As Sibson progressed into the noughties, disaster occurred. Following a fire in 2006, Skydive Airix came on board before the current owners, Grant Richards and Jason Thompson of UK Parachuting, took over at the helm.

Here's to the next 40 years!

DOWN
1. Spotter 2. Ass 3. Brake off 4. Leech 5. Straitstep 6. Stares
7. Flightlining 8. Riggers 12. Stabilizers 15. Old-timers
17. Totalled 18. Free bag 20. Gussers 21. Spotty 23. Terra
27. Ale
ACROSS
1. Seat belts 6. Safer 9. Onshore 10. Amazing 11. Taste
12. Canopy side flaps 13. Horshoe 14. Rear floor 15. Keys 18. Fall 19. Deploying
22. Exit point 24. Angus 25. Breathe 26. Release 28. Gussy
29. St Andrews



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