



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com February 2013

skyDIVE

the mag

INSIDE: THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME DUBAI MONDIAL 2012 NEWS FROM THE BPA AGM 2013
BECOMING A TANDEM INSTRUCTOR HEAD DOWN BODY POSITION BRAND NEW EXIT ZONE
MILESTONES FROM THE BPA ARCHIVES PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, IDEAS AND EVENTS

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* The FFU does not book your flights, when you book with us, we will advise of the flight cost and our ATOL protected travel agent will call you to make the flight reservation.

Welcome to this first issue of 2013. The British winter is usually a quiet time for the Mag, with many UK DZs closing for Christmas (or much longer) and few events on the calendar. Not this winter, though, as our top competitors disappeared to Dubai and left the rest of us green with envy at the tales of beach jumps, amazing fireworks, free iPads and much more. Of course, all of this was just the backdrop to the World Championships 2012, where our teams and individuals battled it out – and did rather well too. Read all about it from page 21.



But what if competition is just not your thing? Well, there are plenty of other ways to make a difference in this sport. We are a small community with less than 6,000 full BPA members so, instead of the old 'six degrees of separation', it's normally more like just one or two. This means plenty of opportunity to get involved and change things for the better.

This issue we celebrate exactly that. On page nine, we congratulate the 15 successful Council Members for 2013 and wish them all the best in their roles – thank you for standing and for committing to do your best for the BPA. On page 17, we celebrate the first five winners of the BPA Star awards for people who have made a real difference at a grass-roots level.

As I write this, our National Coach and Safety Officer John Hitchen has just announced his retirement after over 30 years of service and the advert for his job is within this Mag. John is an absolute legend, known and respected by every single instructor we have. He has worked tirelessly to improve the sport that he loves and will be a hard act to follow. Thank you from all of us, John.

Liz Ashley



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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.

**Cover: The biggest CRW diamond ever seen
over the UAE. Brits Martin Robiette and Doug
Preston were on the record, with Craig Poxon
also filming. By Bruno Brokken/EAA**

**Welcome: Ninja freeflyers mid-transition –
a 9-way head down round flips over and
into sit around a 2-way piece at the
Dubai Sequentials. By Brian Buckland**

**Contents: X for Xmas at the Empuriabrava
Christmas Boogie. More than 500 skydivers
did nearly 7500 jumps above Spain's north-
eastern coast. By Bruno Brokken**

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

**If you'd like to get involved, email
editor@skydivethemag.com.**

Deadlines you need to know for 2013 are:

Issue
April
June
August
October
December

Copy deadline
February 26
April 23
June 18
August 20
October 15

To reader
April 16
June 7
August 1
October 3
November 28



68-way female record,
by Tony Danbury

Brit Chicks 2013

A new women's FS record is planned this year at Langar, running during their Boogie 2 from September 7-15. The first weekend will be base training with trail aircraft practice, and the formation and slots will be shaped up. Weather and talent permitting, they hope for multi aircraft loads on that first weekend. The *Brit Chicks* then meet again at Langar on Thursday September 12, with record attempts running until Sunday September 15 or until they get the record they're aiming for.

What size record might that be? Well, we hear the big 80 is rumoured. The current British female record is the 68-way Red Cross that was built in 2007. An all-female Russian 88-way was submitted to the FAI for ratification as a European record last year, but was disallowed for the perplexing reason "Sporting code not completely respected". This means that the current European female record is still a 70-way set in 2008. Does this mean our 68-way the year before could have been a European record at the time and we didn't know it? Answers on a postcard, please.

Six years after the last *Brit Chicks* big-way event, there is a whole new generation of female talent to add to the mix. Although girls make up less than 20 per cent of the BPA membership, they are pretty good flyers: 10 of the 12 medal-winning teams at last year's 4-way Nationals had girls in their line-up (and, ironically, one of only two all-male teams on the podium was called *Equal Pay 4 Women!*). On the Senior 8-way podium, 17 of the 24 team members were female.

The ethos of *Brit Chicks* big-way is that it is open to all, from the top level to those who are just starting. Roughly speaking, if you can get out of an aircraft and dock on a 12-way then they are happy to coach you into slot from another aircraft, docking on a much bigger way. There is no jump number limit – if you've got the potential, then you are welcome regardless. More details to follow!



Current record,
by Olly Burgin

UK Girls' Head Down record

Sibson will be hosting a UK Girls' Head Down record attempt from May 3-6 2013. There will be some coached warm-up camps over Easter and also from April 26-28 (TBC). The current record is eight, but they would like to go for 12 or 14 and all jumps will be from a G92 at 15k. There is currently a Facebook event page up and running called Girls UK Head Down Record 2013.

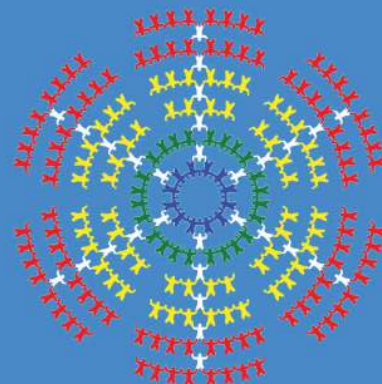
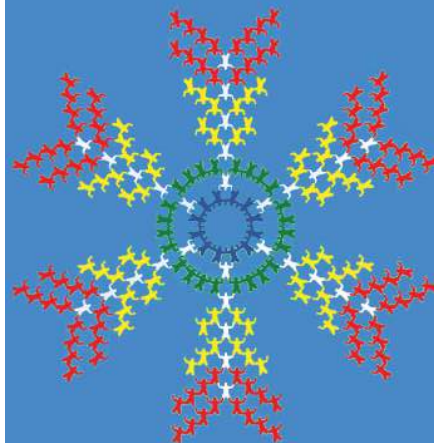


Florida females,
by Kazu Oyama

New State of play

BPA Artistics Rep Weed Stoodley is now a Florida State record holder. Having been inspired by her experience of judging last year's World Record 138-way in Chicago, Weed was on an all-female 12-way head down jump over Sebastian, FL at their Xmas Boogie.

The 'Fly It Forward'
dive design, by Rags Raghanti



FLY IT FORWARD

An unusual formation is planned for April 6-12 in Eloy, Arizona. This 2-point 222-way would be a new FS sequential World Record, but is special because it involves a complete break for 108 of the people. Normally the transition between first and second points on sequential records of this size involves large pieces flying together, with not many (if any) solo flyers. Aptly named 'Fly It Forward', everyone who is not in the base or one of the seven 'spines' will release the leg that they are docked on for point one and fly forward to pick up an arm for point two. Apparently the key to begin the transition will be an electronic signal transmitted by someone flying above the formation who can see when all grips in the 'V' formation have been taken.

Nick Batsch breaking the World Distance record, by Vania da Rui



NEW WORLD DISTANCE RECORD

When the CP Distance rules were revised last year, the gauntlet was thrown down for new records to be set under the new rules. Before, it was possible to score the first gate and then soar up high, gliding for a long way. Now competitors must drag water through consecutive gates, which limits long distances compared with the previous rules. Nick Batsch held the World Record under the old rules with 222.34 metres and has been repeatedly breaking records under the new rules too. His latest best was achieved on his Petra canopy at the Dubai Mondial. The world record now stands at 154.09 metres. That's more than six lengths of a swimming pool!

EXIT THE SATORI WAY

Julia Foxwell of *Satori* has written a book containing photos and tips for all the 4-way exits. It costs just £15 and is available from teamsatori.co.uk. Julia has also written the first of a new regular Mag column – check out Exit Zone on page 46.

AGM WINNERS

It was great to see old friends and meet new ones at the AGM – full report on page 12. The Mag had a stand as usual and we were collecting feedback to try and improve even more. There was a prize draw of five free subscriptions to any of our publishing partner Archant's other magazines. Congratulations to Regan Tetlow, Ed Moss, Eddie Gonzalez, Chris White and Henry Cressey. It was good to read so many positive comments – almost too good, as we were hoping for some useful constructive criticism to build upon, but everyone who gave feedback seemed to love the Mag!

BIG-WAY WORLD RECORDS

A new world record 6-way was set over Eloy, Arizona, in November 2012. How can a 6-way be a world record, I hear you ask? Well, it was a new JOE's World Record – Jumpers Over Eighty! Proving that skydiving keeps you young, Lew Sanborn, Dave DeWolf, Pat Moorehead, Bill Jones, Don Cripps and Bud LaPointe had a combined age of over 480. Just three days later, a new POPS world record 120-way was built over DeLand, Florida, consisting of parachutists who are all over 40 – or 'Phorty' in POPS-speak.

Not to be outdone, a group of sprightly JQS members (Jumpers Over Seventy) set a new world record 16-way the following month at Z-Hills, Florida.

DUBAIABRAVA

Exciting times at Skydive Empuriabrava in Spain. Not only has a new wind tunnel just opened in the car park, but Skydive Dubai have bought the DZ and are in the process of revamping it. Watch this space, it has the potential to be awesome...

MILITARY FREEFALL RECORD

Training has started at Netheravon towards a new military big-way record in 2013 with the aim of beating the current 50-way record that has stood since 1988! The team also aim to raise the core level of skydiving amongst the British military, while also raising money for a number of military and civilian charities. There will be several training weekends before the main event, with dates not finalised yet. For further details, join the Facebook group Military Freefall Record 2013 – UK and download the registration form.

Sending out an SOS

2012 was a great year for the UK Skydivers Over Sixty membership. Not only did *Team Siofur* win gold at the POPS world meet in 4-way and the team walk away with a clutch of other medals, but a new SOS big-way record was also set in November 2012. An 8-way was achieved, and repeated on the second attempt to show it was no fluke! In 2013, we want to continue to push the SOS skydiving envelope and we have set the date of April 27-28 to go for a new SOS UK big-way record at Netheravon. We want to go for at least one Caravan load full of SOS jumpers plus camera, so a 15-way is on the cards. If it looks like we could go bigger, we will fly a formation load. This is a considerable advance on an 8-way so we are taking names now for those that would like to be included in the team.

Moving from eight to 15 is a challenge. This means we would expect those stepping up to this challenge to be current big-way jumpers by April 27, to be able to exit in a tight group, to fly their slot (for a UK record, the formation needs to be slot perfect) and to flat track away to safety. Safety is our prime objective. With the experience of our SOS members, we think these requirements are a formality. If you do want to brush up on big-way skills in readiness for the record, there are a number of organised events running which you could use to blow off the cobwebs. To ask any questions or to register your interest, please contact Jeff Chandler on jeffchandler@hotmail.com

Tim Mace receives FAI Gold Parachuting Medal

Long-time jumper Tim Mace, a Brit now living in South Africa, has been awarded the FAI Gold Parachuting Medal in recognition of an outstanding feat – representing his country at Category 1 events in every discipline over the past 27 years. Tim says he never set out to achieve this feat, but his passion for jumping led him to try new areas of the sport and to then strive to do his absolute best at each of them.

Tim competed at Paraski in 1981 before becoming a member of the British 8-way team *Mo*, who went to the 1985 and 1989 World Meets. He then attended the 1998 World Cup 16-way event at Empuriabrava, having moved to South Africa in the meantime. 2003 brought the first ever Mondial in Gap, France, where he competed in both freestyle and freefly. In 2004 he competed in Style and Accuracy, then 2005 brought a return to Paraski. 2006 was Skysurf, then back to Paraski again for 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2012. The years in between saw Tim compete in 2-way CF in 2008 and CP in 2010. Finally, in Dubai, he took part in the Speed Skydiving World Series, placing fifth. Nice one Tim!

DIVE POOL CHANGES

The annual IPC Plenary meeting has seen a few changes. The 4-way dive pool remains unchanged, but 8-way has three new blocks and one new random. Block five is now 'Crank-Crank', seven is 'Nacho-Nacho' and 21 is 'Stereopod-Stereopod'. Since random K used to be 'Crank' and 'Crank' is now part of block five, K is now 'Crossbow'. For full details of all the changes, including changes to camera resolution, slow-mo judging and the VFS dive pool, see <http://tinyurl.com/FAI-FS-rules>

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BPA Council Election 2013

Sixteen candidates stood for the 15 seats available on Council 2013. 986 BPA members voted out of 5,225 who were eligible, an 18.9% turnout. Four new candidates stood, all of whom were successful – congratulations to Thea Westley, Jackie Harper, Pete McLaughlin and George McGuinness. Three 2012 Council members did not stand for re-election: Marc Fletcher, Richard Head and Weed Stoodley. Thank you to all Council members past and present for their hard work and dedication.

COUNCIL 2013

Number of eligible voters:	5,225
Votes cast by post:	422 (42.8%)
Votes cast online:	564 (57.2%)

Total number of votes cast:	986
Turnout:	18.9%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	1
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	985

Result (15 to elect)

Thea Westley	651	ELECTED
Jackie Harper	557	ELECTED
Karen Bain	547	ELECTED
Craig Poxon	541	ELECTED
Martin Soulsby	523	ELECTED
James Swallow	523	ELECTED
Paul Moore	514	ELECTED
Paul Applegate	506	ELECTED
Ian Marshall	498	ELECTED
Pete McLaughlin	466	ELECTED
Adrian Bond	431	ELECTED
John Page	417	ELECTED
George McGuinness	400	ELECTED
Mark Skarratts	400	ELECTED
Kieran Brady	377*	ELECTED
Steve Saunders	376	NOT ELECTED

*votes confirmed by recount

OFFICERS 2013

Immediately following the AGM, the following Officers were elected at the inaugural meeting of Council 2013.

Chair of Council
Martin Soulsby

STC Chair
John Hitchen

Royal Aero Club Delegate
John Smyth MVO

Vice Chair of Council and Development Chair
Craig Poxon

Competitions Chair
Paul Moore

Royal Aero Club Alternate Delegate
Jim Crocker

Treasurer
Debbie Carter

Communications Chair
Adrian Bond

COMMITTEES 2013

Members of the following BPA Committees for 2013 are:

Communications: Paul Applegate, Adrian Bond (Chair), Pete McLaughlin, John Page, Craig Poxon. Co-opted ex officio (non-voting): Liz Ashley (Editor, *Skydive the Mag* – editor@skydivethemag.com)

Competitions (including Discipline Reps): Karen Bain (FS Rep), Jackie Harper (WS Rep), Ian Marshall (Vice Chair/Classics Rep), George McGuinness, Paul Moore (Chair), Mark Skarratts (CF Rep), Thea Westley (CP Rep). Co-opted (non-voting): Kate Charters (Judges' Coordinator – cathycharters@hotmail.com), Mike Lovemore (Speed Technical Rep), Weed Stoodley (Artistics & VFS Rep – weed@stoodley.co.uk), Martin Reynolds (CP Technical Rep – dangerpants@btinternet.com).

Development: Paul Applegate, Adrian Bond, Kieran Brady, Pete McLaughlin, John Page, Craig Poxon, James Swallow. Co-opted ex officio: Debbie Carter (Treasurer)

See page three for Council/Committee members' contact details

Member resolutions put to AGM

BPA member Ian Rosenvinge put two ordinary resolutions to the AGM. Ordinary resolutions require a simple majority to carry. Ian's first resolution carried. His second resolution did not carry, by six votes.

IAN ROSENVINGE'S RESOLUTION ONE: RIGHT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE – AMENDMENT/CLARIFICATION CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

It is my understanding that our right as members to speak at a BPA convened meeting is at the Chairman's Discretion. I put it to the BPA Membership that such Discretion is not for the Chairman to deny any the right to speak, but rather as a matter of procedure to choose the moment and order in which those who wish to speak may speak, only curtailing contribution(s) when it becomes apparent that the same point or argument is being repeated by different speakers. Further, that where individuals are, or have been, denied the right to speak and Council, Committee or Sub-Committee have subsequently then taken action, be it due to discipline, a breach or change of regulation(s), and which has then resulted in the curtailment of an individual's activities, such as through the loss or non-renewal of a rating, that such individuals then have the right of Appeal to a Tribunal.

For: 190 – Against: 149 – Abstain: 23
CARRIED

IAN ROSENVINGE'S RESOLUTION TWO: ELECTION/RE-ELECTION OF BPA COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS – CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURE

I put to the BPA Membership that it should be proper procedure for BPA Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees to vote to appoint or re-appoint their Chairpersons annually, normally as the first item on the Agenda at their first meeting after the BPA AGM. My understanding is that this is the accepted practice at BPA Council and at some BPA Committees but that where such a practice has not been followed at other Committees/Sub-Committees then it should now be so forthwith.

For: 161 – Against: 167 – Abstain: 34
NOT CARRIED

Total number of voting papers (proxy and ballot): 362
Ian Rosenvinge was present at the count.

New Ratings

CSBI

David Mellish
Craig Hicks
Kris Cavill
Darren Graham
Karl Peart
Conrad Allen
Rudy McLenaghan
James Coupe

AFFBI

Steve Howes
Sarah Cannon

TBI

Rob Gray
Mark Benson

CSI

Paul Aubrey-Rees
Gary Yerrill
Nigel Peacock
Steven Watkin

Parachute Rigger

Chas Lawson
Darren Stuart

Basic Rigger

Stu Storey
Dave Pratt
Dan Whitby
Nick Spiller
Chrissy Downer
Matthew Knight

Richard Hughes
Barry Loftus
Jason Snailham
Spencer Hogg
Ricky Davies
Pelham Georgiades
Anthony Fernyhough

Advanced Packers

Hanna Davies (S)
Barry Loftus (S)
Gary Stevens (S)
Jason Snailham (S)
Mike McNulty (T)
Alec Flint (T)
Ian Cessford (T & R)
Karl Peart (S)
Mathew Knight (T)
Matt Abram (T)



Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries

Last call for 2013 – if you are aged 16 to 21, you would be crazy not to visit royalaeroclubtrust.org and apply for a bursary of up to £1,000 to support your skydiving. The final deadline is March 31 – do it now!

Competitions News

Last issue we reported that FS UKSL dates had been set, but locations were still to be decided. We can now confirm that the UKSL on June 8-9 will be at Sibson. The location of the other two UKSLs, on May 11-12 and July 13-14, has been put back to DZs for further bids and will be decided at the February Council meeting.

The CP Nationals have also now been confirmed. They will be held at Dunkeswell on their new swoop pond from September 20-22.

RENEWAL TIME

Your BPA membership renewal form for the year from April 1 2013 to March 31 2014 is enclosed in this Mag. To keep jumping after April 1, please return your completed renewal form before then to the BPA Office with your subscription payment of £106.80

– a reduction of £9.55 on last year! The new subscription rate comprises a BPA element of £41.63 (an increase of three per cent on last year) and an insurance element of £45.43 (a decrease of 20 per cent), resulting in a decrease of eight per

cent in the overall subscription. The cost of joint membership is £193.86. Joint members share one copy of the Mag and both share the same postal address on the BPA membership database, but each joint member has their own unique e-mail address.

ROYAL AERO CLUB AWARDS

This prestigious awards ceremony is held each year in London, with the top people from each of the Royal Aero Club's 14 airsports attending. The BPA nominated two skydivers for awards for 2012 and are pleased to announce that both were successful.

Rigger Examiner Bill Sharp is to be presented with a Royal Aero Club Certificate of Merit for

services to rigging. Bill has helped to produce more than half of our BPA Riggers (including your editor!) and has raised the overall standard of both BPA rigging and rigging courses.

Stuntman Gary Connery will be awarded the Norton-Griffiths Challenge Trophy, which is for aviators undertaking outstanding feats of courage, tenacity and imagination unrelated

to traditional sporting events. Gary's world-first wingsuit landing in May 2012 made him the popular choice for this award. Incidentally, the Royal Aero Club awards are usually presented by its President, HRH The Duke of York. Since Gary parachuted into the Olympic opening ceremony dressed as the Queen, Prince Andrew could end up presenting an award to his mother's stunt double!

2012 British National 8-way
team Brit Chicks 8 in their
Javelin Odysseys training
for the World Parachuting
Championships in Dubai, UAE.

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BPA AGM 2013

THIS YEAR'S AGM WAS HELD IN THE BPA'S HOME TOWN OF LEICESTER AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL. ABOUT 500 SKYDIVERS DESCENDED UPON THE UNSUSPECTING MARRIOTT FOR A WEEKEND THAT PROVED TO BE A MIX OF FUN, EDUCATION AND SERIOUS BUSINESS

PICTURES DAVID BURTON

The format was the usual tried-and-trusted one, with the AGM itself held in the morning and various seminars and meetings in the afternoon. Tradestands were running in the main foyer all day, and then the Film Fest kicked off the early evening before the dinner and evening entertainment started.

The AGM started with the Chairman's Review of 2012, a copy of which is included as an insert in this Mag. We celebrated our successes and thanked those who had made it all possible. Mikey Carpenter had edited together another 'BPA Best Of' video, and we also watched both Felix Baumgartner's stratospheric jump and

1 The Chairman's Report

2 The Leicester Marriott

3 Rick Boardman commenting on the resolutions

4 Ian Roseninge

5 One of Anu Ojha's props for his Felix talk

6 Trade stands in the hotel foyer



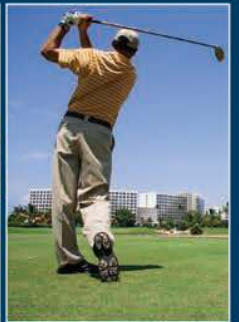
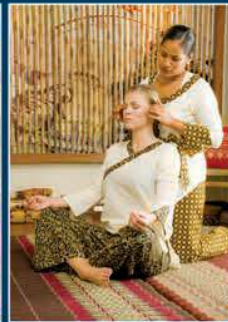
Gary Connery's wingsuit landing with wide eyes and even wider smiles.

It wasn't all smiles, though, as there was also serious business to deal with. Peterlee CCI Ian Roseninge had proposed two resolutions to the membership, which promoted much debate and were then voted on by ballot. The hard-working BPA office staff went above and beyond the call of duty by counting the votes during the awards ceremony, with the result being that →



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FS COACHING:

Sarah Cannon: World Champion Skydiver, Formation Skydiving Coach, individual flying skills instructor. Sibson DZ is home to the most progressive formation skydiving (FS) school in the UK. Suitable for all levels of skydiver; for anyone who wants to increase their knowledge of FS, gain the FS1 qualification, join an FS team, or just come along and have fun and meet new people. Team rates available, contact Sarah at team@ukparachuting.co.uk



FF COACHING:

Load organising and individual coaching with Steve Howes of Varial Freefly. Steve has joined the team for 2013. All standards welcome contact Steve at steve@varialfreefly.com or visit his website at www.varialfreefly.com



WINGSUIT COACHING:

UK home for the Phoenix Fly Wingsuit Academy. We will offer wingsuit coaching at all levels. There will be a number of dedicated wingsuit weekends throughout the year that focus on safely building skill levels in flocking, acrobatics and performance flying. Contact: www.phoenix-fly.com / Macca@phoenix-fly.com



AIRCRAFT FOR THE 2013 SEASON:

Cessna Caravan & G92 on selected weekends

MAJOR EVENTS

Dates:	Events:
30th – 31st March	FF load organising with Steve Howes Varial Freefly
26th – 28th April	Phoenix Fly Flocking camp
4th – 6th May	Ladies UK Head Down record
25th – 26th May	UK Parachuting (Sibson) FS Scrambles
8th – 9th Jun	UKSL
1st – 7th Jul	BCPA Nationals
5th Jul	Helicopter
22nd – 28th Jul	UK Parachuting (Sibson) Boogie
26th Jul	Helicopter
27th – 28th Jul	Load Organising Billy Payn
17th – 18th Aug	Phoenix Fly 3D Flying
17th - 18th Aug	Flight 1 canopy course
7th - 8th Sep	BPA CF Roadshow
13th – 15th Sep	CF/Accuracy Nationals
14th -15th Sep	Speed 8 Nationals

G92 AIRCRAFT DATES

1st – 3rd Mar	
29th Mar – 1st Apr (Easter Weekend)	
26th – 28th Apr	
3rd – 6th May (Bank Holiday)	
24th – 27th May (Bank Holiday)	UK Parachuting (Sibson) Scrambles
25th – 26th May	
7th – 9th Jun	UKSL @ UK Parachuting (Sibson)
21st – 23rd Jun	
5th – 7th Jul	BCPA Nationals
22nd – 28th Jul	UK Parachuting (Sibson) Boogie
16th – 18th Aug	
13th – 15th Sep	Speed 8/CF Nationals
14th – 15th Sep	
27th – 29th Sep	
25th – 27th Oct	

Team rates available all year contact office@ukparachuting.co.uk for more details

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1-6 Hollywood stars and starlets enjoying the evening meal



resolution one was carried and resolution two was not carried. See BPA Zone and the side column for more details.

In other formal business, members also voted to accept a reduction in the price of BPA membership of just under £10 due to a decrease in our insurance premium. Hearing that renewal would cost only a little over £100 certainly put the smile back on people's faces! Next came the awards, where we celebrated medal winners and other achievements in 2012.

SEMINARS

We were spoilt for choice with afternoon seminars, although the timings had to change due to the AGM taking more than an hour longer than usual. Hopefully people still managed to get to the ones they wanted at the new times, but if not then many of them will be available online by now – check out bpa.org.uk. In the main room, Anu Ojha gave us the geeky inside info on Felix Baumgartner's leap from the edge of space – watch out for an article next Mag if you missed it. There were also seminars on fitness and nutrition with Sarah Cannon, reserve packing by SunPath, wingsuit competitions, the Archive Project and much more.

The Film Fest had five finalists, but the winner yet again was Gerard Casale – can anybody knock him off his podium? It's never too early to start thinking about your entry for next year. The dinner was a spectacle of smartly-dressed skydivers (not a common sight), with nice food and a Blues band to follow. There was even a pole-dancing performance by skydiver Hannah Spring, aka Scarlet Butterfly – great show, Hannah. The Blues band and then a disco played into the early hours as things all went a bit blurry round the edges...

New Year's Resolutions

The AGM was unusual this year in that two member resolutions had been put forward by Ian Rosenvinge. Ian addressed the membership on each of his resolutions in turn, and members in the room then gave their views and asked questions via a roving microphone. An initial show of hands was made, which then led to a formal ballot taking place since a number of proxy votes had been made and it would have been difficult to get accurate numbers for and against by any other method.

► **What were the resolutions?** The full wording can be found in BPA Zone or on the BPA website, and it was also posted in a notice to all BPA members. Briefly, resolution one concerned the rights of BPA members to speak at BPA meetings, plus the right of appeal to a tribunal for any member who has been denied this and who has lost out as a result. Resolution two was to do with the annual appointment of a chairperson for all BPA Committees and Sub-Committees.

► **What was the history?** In late 2011, following a request from a BPA pilot for an exemption to continue flying past the age of 70, a Pilots' Age Working Group (PAWG) was set up. This considered the introduction of a mandatory age limit on pilots flying for parachuting in the UK. This was a vast and complex subject with many opposing opinions from both the aviation and medical worlds. Ultimately, the PAWG recommended that all pilots over 65 must have a Class 1 medical to continue flying and that pilots over 70 are not permitted to fly for parachuting, with these rules taking effect from March 31 2013. This report was accepted at STC and then ratified by Council. Both STC and Council had vast quantities of written correspondence presented to them, with arguments being put in respect of both sides of the case. However, the Chair of STC took the decision not to allow verbal representation at the STC meeting in question. This caused great concern among those who disagreed with the recommendations and who had hoped to add verbal highlights to their written correspondence. Those same people were then allowed to speak at the next Council meeting, and Council considered whether the proper procedure had been followed at STC. The Chair of STC was called upon to explain why he chose to disallow verbal representation, and Council members then voted 12-3 that the procedure had been correct and that STC's acceptance of the PAWG proposals should be ratified. There are currently 13 BPA pilots who will be affected by the change by virtue of being over 65.

► **What next?** Watch this space! The story is not over yet, because affected pilots now have a right of appeal. However, this Mag went to press just a few days after the AGM, before the next chapter had unfolded. The aim of this short piece was to explain how we got to the stage we're at, hopefully in an unbiased and factual fashion. Both the BPA office and Ian Rosenvinge have seen this text, and the Mag will continue to keep you informed. Much more detail can be found via the BPA website, BPA Facebook page and independent site UKS. Thank you to all who have contributed to the debate, and in particular to the hard-working BPA office staff for facilitating the process.

2012 AGM AWARDS

RECOGNISING THOSE AT THE TOP OF OUR SPORT, WHETHER FOR COMPETITIONS, JUDGING, INSTRUCTION OR OTHER CONTRIBUTION

PICTURES DAVID BURTON



THE JIM CROCKER TROPHY FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPORT

The Jim Crocker Trophy for an Outstanding Contribution to Sport Parachuting has been awarded to Dr John Carter (BPA Medical Adviser) and Debbie Carter (BPA Treasurer).

John Carter has been parachuting since 1973. He has made over 4,000 jumps and has been qualified in a number of areas. He has been a Category System, AFF and Tandem instructor. He has also been a BPA Authorised Pilot and Examiner. He is an FS and FF coach. He is a general medical practitioner and has been Medical Adviser to the BPA since 1990. He deals with around 300 enquiries a year on a wide range of issues and has been involved in a variety of important committees, working parties and training courses. He has played a major part in enhancing the safety of the sport.

Debbie Carter has been Treasurer of the British Parachute Association for 20 years. Her diligent, reliable and constant work has made a major contribution to the smooth-running and cost effective operation of the BPA, advising the Association on all aspects of finance.



THE TAZ CAUSER TROPHY FOR SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR 2012

The Council called for nominations from the Membership to win the Taz Causer Award for Experienced Skydiver of the Year for 2012. Council members then voted on the nominations received from members to determine this year's recipient.

Jim Scott is a Guinness World Record Holding Wingsuiter. In the space of three to four months in 2012, he has taken up wingsuiting from scratch, flown at events around the UK, performed admirably in a performance competition in Hungary and then met the minimum requirements to attend the recent Wingsuit World Record Training Camp in California. He punched well above his weight in terms of the experience of those whose performances he bettered and the capabilities of their suits. He went to the record camp on spec, with permission of the organisers, and grew every day to really earn his place in the final 100-way. His performance at the record camp, attitude throughout 2012, his willingness to learn at every opportunity and always help out others (with strapping, spares and more) makes him a credit to the BPA, a pleasure to be around and a pleasure to fly with!



THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR TROPHY 2012

The National Coach and Safety Officer and Technical Officer choose the Instructor of the Year and it is awarded to an Instructor who has gained an Instructor rating within the past 12 months.

The criterion used is that the Instructor not only did very well on the Instructor Course, but is also the type of Instructor that students would be very happy to turn to for advice.

The NCSO and Technical Officer have chosen Frank Millerick from *The Tigers Free Fall Team* as Instructor of the Year for 2012.

HONORARY BPA MEMBERSHIPS

Following the recent WPC Mondial 2012 in Dubai, Council decided to award honorary memberships of the BPA to the Crown Prince of Dubai, the Meet Director, the Technical Director and others from the Organising Committee. His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum (Crown Prince of Dubai), His Excellency Nasser Al Neyadi (President), His Excellency Yousif Hassan Al Hammadi (Vice President and Championship Director), Mohammed Yousuf Abdul Rahman (Second Vice Director), Adel Al Matroshi (Head of Technical Committee) and Alan Gayton (Operations Manager Skydive Dubai) all received honorary memberships.



THE BPA '50' AWARD CERTIFICATE 2012

Inaugurated as part of the BPA's 50th birthday celebrations, this new award is in recognition of those who have achieved the milestone of having been sport parachuting for more than 50 years. The first Certificates are awarded to those who have been successfully nominated to date, who are: Terry Crawley, Gordon Fernie, Leonard Mobbs, Doug Peacock and Clive Plummer.



BPA 'STAR' AWARDS 2012

We've all heard moans about poor service, but we also know there are many examples of fantastic service within our sport. We believe it's time for them to be recognised. That's why the Association asked A licence holders and above to tell us about great service they've received from another BPA member – to tell us if they've spotted a BPA Star. A panel of judges made up of the four BPA Vice-Presidents has considered each eligible nomination. The winners of the first-ever BPA Star Awards are: Rebecca Bradley, Victoria Bradley, Joyce Carter, Georgie Roles and Sian Stokes



CERTIFICATES

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Certificates of Merit were awarded to BPA members Bernard Devine, Del Hopkins and Clem Quinn for their help in saving the life of BPA member Dave Coveney who was preparing for exit from a Cessna Caravan when he collapsed with a heart attack 12,000ft above Headcorn on October 28 2012.



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Alistair Hodgson and Andrea MacLeod-Hodgson, 'Team Airkix Freestyle' – bronze medallists at the World Parachuting Championships Mondial 2012, United Arab Emirates, Dubai, held from November 28-December 9 2012



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

This Certificate of Merit is awarded to Georgie Roles for updating the BPA Formation Skydiving Manuals.



FAI JUDGE'S CERTIFICATES

FAI Judge's Certificates are awarded to the following Judges who qualified in 2012:

Kate Charters	- Artistic
Weed Stoodley	- Artistic
Liz Warner	- Artistic



JUMP/FREEFALL CERTIFICATES

A 144 Hours Free Fall Certificate is awarded to Dave Howerski



A 9,000 Jump Certificate and an 84 Hours Free Fall Certificate are awarded to Clem Quinn



A 8,000 Jump Certificate is awarded to Jane Hopkins



A 7,000 Jump Certificate is awarded to Pete Sizer



A 3,000 Jump Certificate is awarded to Del Hopkins



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Photo courtesy of KOB



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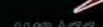
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GROUNDWASH



CYPRES 2



2012 GRAND PRIX/UKSL OVERALL MEDALISTS

ACCURACY LANDINGS

**JUNIOR EVENT
OVERALL ACCURACY
LANDINGS CHAMPION:**
James Stancomb

**INTERMEDIATE EVENT
OVERALL ACCURACY
LANDINGS CHAMPION:**
Simon Brentford

**SENIOR EVENT
OVERALL ACCURACY
LANDINGS CHAMPION:**
Glenn Stephenson



CANOPY FORMATION 4-WAY SPEED/ROTATIONS

**SENIOR EVENT OVERALL
CHAMPIONS (GOLD MEDAL):**
CFUK Gavin McLeod, Doug Preston, Martin Robiette, Colin Dickson, Craig Poxon



CANOPY FORMATION 2-WAY SEQUENTIAL EVENT

**SENIOR 2-WAY EVENT
OVERALL CHAMPIONS
(GOLD MEDAL):**
CFUK Gavin McLeod, Doug Preston, Martin Robiette, Craig Poxon



FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – 'Rookie Class'

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:
EqualPay4Women Harry Hill, Thomas Winyard, Alex Rowlett, Thomas Berryman, Craig Hicks, Matthew Byrne



SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:
Drifters Paul Johnson, Grace Gimson, Jonny Castell, Raphaëlle Barbier Saint Hilaire, Chris Judd



OVERALL CHAMPIONS – (GOLD MEDAL):
RAFSPA Hunter Alastair Holt, Steve Lamb, Adam Threlfall, Lydia Tapscott, Bruce McKee



FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – 'A Class'

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:
Fiasco Danny French, Pam Hawes, Sarah Law, Susan Lewellen, Barrie Bremner



SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

Anti Gravity Ninja Swans Stefan Richards, Ben Barber, Helen Brooks, Matthew Enright, Chris Judd, Sam Bemment



OVERALL CHAMPIONS – (GOLD MEDAL):

RAFSPA Venom Marcus Fountain, James Coupe, Leah Parle, Danielle Baker, Craig Harrop, Simon Donnelly, Trevor Davies



FORMATION SKYDIVING (4 WAY) – 'AA Class'

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:
Raykipo Katy Saxby, Liz Moor, Mike Roberts, Andres Von Walter, Sarah Cannon, Grant Richards



SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

High Altitude Heroes Jamie Pockett, Karen Pockett, Roy Little, Cara Finn, Joel Gluth, George Impey, Dorian Harwood



OVERALL CHAMPIONS – (GOLD MEDAL):

Hyrrokkin Laura Muller, Sam Bemment, Will Cooke, James Woods, Karen Nielsen, Chris Cook



FORMATION SKYDIVING (4-WAY) – 'AAA Class'

BRONZE MEDAL WINNERS:
Bodyflight Aerodyne @ Langar Sarah Cannon, Sian Stokes, Rebecca Bradley, Victoria Bradley, Alan Thompson



SILVER MEDAL WINNERS:

Kryos Paul Rowe, Audrey Rowe, Craig Poxon, Peter Spedding, Mick Tyler



OVERALL CHAMPIONS – (GOLD MEDAL):

Kaizen Lynne Murray, Rai Ahmed, Francois Cathelain, Liz Cathelain, Dave Curtin



FLIGHT PERFORMANCE

FELIX BAUMGÄRTNER

10.14.12

SPEED

1,342.8 KM/H (833.9 MPH | MACH 1.24)

HEIGHT

39,045 METERS (128,100 FEET)

ALTIMETER

ALTITRACK



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LARSEN & BRUSGAARD



THE WORLD MEETS IN THE CITY OF GOLD

THE COMBINATION OF SUN, SEA, SAND AND SKYDIVING WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE POPULAR, BUT THE DUBAI MONDIAL 2012 SURPASSED EVEN THE MOST OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS. THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT SHOWED OFF INCREDIBLE DISPLAYS OF SKILL AND UNFORGETTABLE HOSPITALITY →



“Try to imagine a gigantic two-week-long concert or festival with an abundance of delicious food, perfect weather, luxurious accommodation and wonderful hospitality”

Airkix Freestyle

WORDS AL HODGSON

What an amazing competition the Dubai Mondial 2012 was! Try to imagine a gigantic two-week-long concert or festival with an abundance of delicious food, perfect weather, luxurious accommodation and wonderful hospitality, then throw in 1,500 of the planet's best skydivers out to battle in the most prestigious of all competitions in our sport, the World Meet! It will be a hard act to follow for the next hosts – good luck indeed!

On a personal level, I was humbled by the thoughtful concern and effort by the organisers to make the event a safe and comfortable one. The venue was vast and, immediately on arrival, DZ manager Alan Gayton organised a golf cart to help me get around – the wheelchair would have been near impossible. Then, on discovering the landing area was gravel (a major hazard for my landing technique), a quick chat with Alan and it was sorted – 25 square metres of AstroTurf was laid down that evening by Andy Ford and friends to ensure I didn't hurt myself. Thanks guys, amazing!

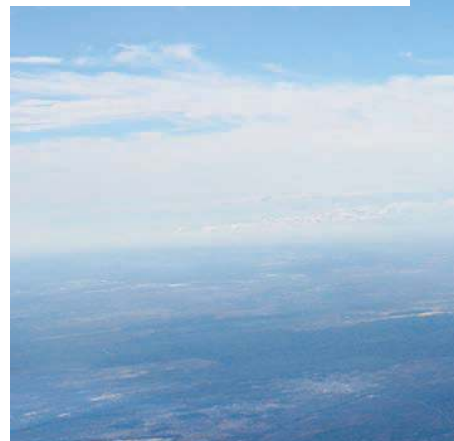
Pixie and I could now focus on the comp without distraction. We achieved our best scores to date with a 9.0 in three of our free rounds and our best compulsory two ever, scoring 8.1. We did have a little mishap in the first compulsory round, however, (actually, we messed up big) scoring a 7.1. We had a comfortable lead over fourth place throughout the comp, but we were just out of reaching distance from second place. The podium positions were not to change from round 1 with France one and two in first and second place and Team GB (me and Pix) proud to bring home a bronze for Great Britain.

GB (Airkix) Freestyle is taking a couple of months' break from training in Australia and New Zealand, catching up with friends before heading home to Skydive Langar where it all starts again (big smile). Thanks to Jan, Langar, the BPA and all our amazing sponsors for helping us win our third World medal in a row – you rock!



1 Al and Pixie over the Palm, by Rolf 'Kuri' Kuratle

2 Airkix Freestyle exiting the Otter, by Kuri



3



3 Kinetic, by Jim Harris

4 Volare, by Jim Harris

Kinetic Freefly

WORDS CHARLOTTE NEWELL

Going out to Dubai for the Mondial was an amazing experience. My favourite part about jumping at the Palm was landing on the crescent (edge of the palm), surrounded by water on either side, and then getting a speedboat ride back to the landing area.

Our hotel was only a 15-minute walk from the dropzone, so we got to walk along the beach each day to get there – the only bad thing being that we had such early starts that we were getting up at 5.30 each morning to get to the dropzone for 7am. Pete made good use of the snooze button each morning and only just made it down for breakfast before leaving. The opening ceremony saw a man being catapulted into the air before deploying his BASE canopy and landing in front of the staging area. Unfortunately he was catapulted too early, which just happened to be during one of the speeches – so, of course, everyone was captivated by the catapulted man and not so much listening to the speech...

Kinetic placed 11th out of 22 teams, a position which we were very happy with and also where we expected to place. We were happy with our scores, which were on average in the sevens. We didn't, however, have very much of a competition with any of the other teams – we were separated by those in front and those behind us by a few points so we stayed in 11th place throughout the competition. The top six teams had amazing free rounds and they were only separated by 0.4 of a point after round 1 so, right from the start, all of those teams were in medal contention. It was really great for us to be able to compete with these top teams.

This is the last year of competing for *Kinetic* as a team and it was great to end on such a high. As for the future for us individually we are not sure yet, but I'm pretty sure that we will all still be competing in some form of freeflying in the near future.

Volare Freefly

WORDS MIKEY CARPENTER

The biggest thing that stood out for us from this year's World Championships is how high the level is getting in Freeflying. In the past it was always about the top two or three teams, but this year all of the top 10 teams were pulling out some really awesome stuff with almost the entire top five or six teams in with a chance at taking a medal. Our small sport is definitely on the way up and it was fantastic to see!

The competition went really well for us. We are a new team with only one year together so far and, although we were hoping for a better result, we were actually close to teams that have been together for three or four years. The only other team with a new line-up that beat us was *Babylon*. Every other team has been training and building routines with a few years of competition experience, so this was a great experience for our team and hopefully something we can build on.

At the top, *Team Kristal* from France won the competition over 2010's World Champions, *SoCal Converge* from the USA. It was a very controversial competition, and it was a shame that such an awesome event can be tarnished by questionable judging. It's always very subjective when it comes to Artistics, but this year particularly had some judging decisions that left everyone in the dark. Poor judging aside, *Team Kristal* took the gold with a truly AWESOME routine. *SoCal Converge* also brought an EPIC exhibition of freefly and *Babylon* showed that they can still put medal-winning routines together even after only a year together with a new line-up.

The hardest part about competing is keeping your team together, especially at a higher level because it takes a higher level of commitment and sacrifice. So for us, just like every other team after you have achieved your goal, we need to take some time and decide on a new goal. Right now we are in the 'take-a-break' period and then we will decide where want to go from here.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the BPA for all the awesome support they have showed us – we would not have been able to achieve what we did without their fantastic support.

4



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Brit Chicks 8-way FS

WORDS JO HAWLEY

Stikkos filming the Chicks,
by Bruno Brokken/EAA

It was quite something to run in so far out to sea, for a start! As Inside Centre, I did have a quick look down between all the feet as I took my grips in the door and could at least see land, so that was reassuring. I did move my 12 lbs of lead from the inside of my jumpsuit to the outside, though, and moved the buckles round to the front in case of an accidental water landing – although I'm happy that this turned out to be an unnecessary precaution in the end. We were on some of the same lifts as the *Golden Knights* 8-way team and it was fabulous to watch their pre-jump preparation, which included a loudly-grunted team chant! It was also great to be part of such a big event with such a large UK delegation. With such a big team in our matching t-shirts, the *Brit Chicks* were an instant cheerleading squad any time another Brit team was walking out for their jump!

THE COMPETITION

We started round 1 with a bit of a wobble, although still scored 11 which put us in joint eighth place. As the competition progressed, we pulled ahead consistently to hold sixth place on our own. We were pleased with our scoring despite a slow draw, and a round 5 score of 14 put us nicely ahead of the next

teams on the table. Unfortunately, a dodgy round 9 saw us bust three points in a row amid confusion, meaning two very close teams below us managed to leapfrog over us and up the scoreboard. Only the top six teams would go through to the final round 10 and we had dropped to eighth, so we didn't get the chance to regain our position, which was a real shame as we were really keen to do round 10.

At the top of the table, the competition was between France and USA, with the twist that four of the French 8-way team were also France's Open 4-way team, who were hoping for gold in both events. The meet was already spread out over long days, with competitors often needing to set a 5am alarm to then do one or two jumps per day. However, doing two events meant maintaining over a week of near-constant readiness, as *Brit Chick* Laura (who was also competing for the UK in Female 4-way) found out. Did this affect the French scores? Nobody can say, but the gold eluded the French as the *American Knights* took the sword by four points with a 22.9 average and the Frenchies had to settle for silver.

THE NEXT STEPS

We did three camps together this year, plus two weeks at the World Meet, and this was our third year together so there has been a big build-up to this point. We will probably stay together and do a lower-commitment year, aiming to keep on top of our 8-way game and hoping the competition draw at next year's Nationals isn't another slow one so we can have another shot at the average we know we're capable of. *Brit Chicks Evolution* will also be continuing with a similar training plan to 2012 and there will also be another *Brit Chicks* big-way record attempt, aiming to beat the 68-way set in 2007. The details are still to be confirmed, but the *Brit Chicks* butterflies will be flying and enjoying themselves in 2013!



8-WAY FS

1



Satori 4-way FS open

WORDS JULIA FOXWELL

The best way to describe the Dubai Mondial is that it is a skydiver's dream playground. It has an amazing view and backdrop, a huge fleet of aircraft, all the skydiving disciplines in one place and, if there's a toy that can be airborne, it was there! It was a bit like a skydiving festival. As well as the competition itself, there were aircraft displays in the afternoon, including the Dubai equivalent of the Red Arrows and an aerobatic display aircraft. Also not forgetting

Katy Perry and Usher for the closing ceremony. Katy came on to the stage under a mock-up parachute!

We were pleased with how the competition went for us. We came sixth, which we were pleased with as the top five teams are all professional teams and have been able to train a lot more than us. Our aim was to be a 20+ average and place as the highest average amateur team, which we did.

The two teams fighting for first and second place (the USA's *Airspeed* and Belgium's *Hayabusa*), was nail-biting to watch. They

were neck-and-neck going into Round 10 and finished on the same point as each other, but *Hayabusa* busted the final point and so came second by one point. It was bittersweet to watch!

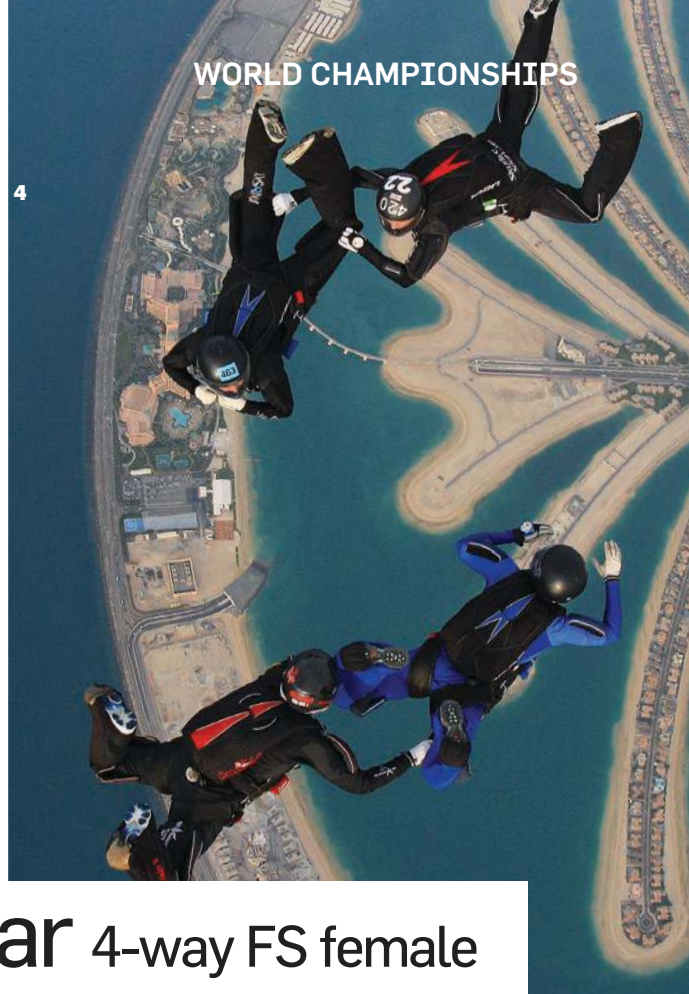
Satori has been together now for five years, with Aaron and myself in the team for the entire duration of the team. Our goal was to compete in Dubai, which we have done, and we would love to continue and compete at the Nationals. The plans, however, are not properly in place yet.

3



2





Bodyflight Langar 4-way FS female

WORDS SARAH CANNON

1 The battle for the top spot was a tight one between Airspeed and Hayabusa, by Bruno Brokken/EAA

2 Satori, by Dave Head

3 The UK girls' 4-way team Sian Stokes, Laura McLelland, Sarah Cannon and Helen Arnold, by Alan Thompson

4 Bodyflight Langar in competition, by Alan Thompson

What a competition! It had everything you could hope for; the location, the weather, the organisation, the biggest attendance in skydiving history with more than 1,400 competitors from 53 countries, speed boats, air shows, concerts, BASE jumpers getting catapulted, dinner in the desert and real live camels. What more could anyone ask for? Oh, and some jumping too. Landing on the Palm Beach and getting whisked back to the team tents on a speed boat never got old – this was the only competition I've ever participated in where I experienced a real sense of mourning when it was over! I wanted to just do one more jump...

The British delegation held its own throughout the meet, showing our usual sense of humour in the infrequent bouts of bad weather and generally entertaining people from the other delegations. Support within the British delegation was the envy of all other attending countries – flag-waving, drink-carrying, information-sharing and general light-hearted support for one another was the theme of the competition, plus being alongside the other disciplines made the event great fun and very entertaining.

The competition in FS was nail-biting from start to finish, with battles emerging in the Female and Open 4-way, and in the 8-way. For the top two teams in each to be so closely matched was incredible and made for brilliant scoreboarding. The huge screens around the DZ allowed all competitors and spectators to watch the skydiving battles being fought, while random prizes of iPhones and iPads from the Crown Prince of Dubai kept those less interested in 4-way and 8-ways entertained.

THE PATH TO DUBAI

2012 was an incredibly long season, with teams training up to the end of November rather than having to keep themselves in one piece only until July or August as is more usual. This showed its toll, with various people and teams not making it to the meet.

The UK Female 4-way line-up was a scratch team comprising myself, Sian Stokes, Laura McLelland and Helen Arnold with Alan Thompson on camera. The team was formed late in September 2012 and managed to spend 10 days split between Langar and Empuria, accumulating a lofty 30 jumps or so (really not the time of year to try and train, I'm still recovering from frostbite!) plus four hours or so flying at Bodyflight. Despite

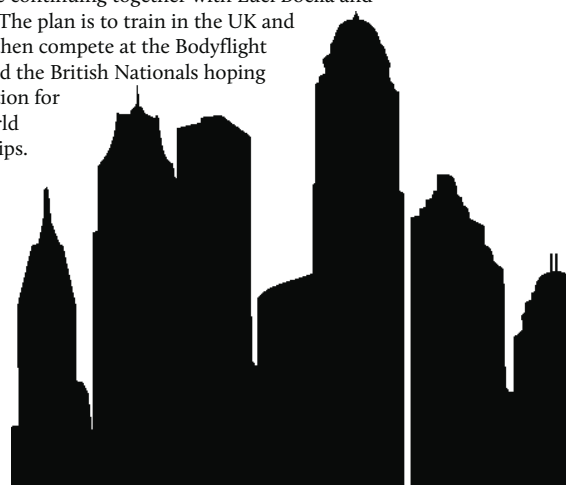
such a pared-down training plan, we were fortunate enough to secure support from Langar DZ and Bodyflight – for which we are all eternally grateful!

After round one, *Bodyflight Langar* stood in ninth place out of 14 female teams and gradually hauled up the rankings, taking points off the teams above on the scoreboard on each round until finally finishing at the top of the 'untrained teams' in a very respectable fourth place. The team's improvement throughout the competition raised a few questions from people within other delegations about whether this lineup would continue into next season. Sadly, we are not continuing, but we seriously enjoyed our brief time together – I felt as though where we lacked actual jumps as a team, we squeezed a year's worth of general fun team shenanigans into our 10 days of training together and came out of it with a tidy average!

The USA's *Arizona Airspeed* won the Open 4-way with a heart-stopping final round, finishing above the Belgian team *Hayabusa* by only one point, final averages showing an incredible 27.9 for *Airspeed* and 27.8 for *Hayabusa*. In the female category, the French *Deep Blue* took gold, only a few points ahead of the USA's *Golden Knights*.

NEXT STEPS

Sian and I are continuing together with Luci Boella and Anna Hicks. The plan is to train in the UK and at Empuria, then compete at the Bodyflight Challenge and the British Nationals hoping to gain selection for the 2014 World Championships.





“All the British CP Team were self-funded and, I feel, performed extremely well against the best pilots from around the world”

Canopy piloting

WORDS MARTIN 'DANGERPANTS' REYNOLDS

I had been looking forward to and training for this event all through 2012, and was not disappointed. Spencer Hogg and I headed out early to Dubai to get in some training prior to the competition, and we spent a couple of weeks swooping the pond at SD-2 (Skydive Dubai's second dropzone, based in the desert). The reason for heading out early was to make use of this awesome training opportunity. The pond was laid out for competition and filled to the brim with champagne (not really – I think they use Perrier water at the desert campus), the weather was ideal for training and the other competitors started arriving as the week went on. Training was relaxed and it is always good to catch up with skydiving friends from around the world at these events. We employed our tried-and-tested training method of doing penalty push-ups whenever we missed a gate or scored badly so, by the end of the two weeks of training, we were both bench-pressing 300lbs.

Three days before the comp, we headed to the hotel where the UK delegation were staying and went to check out the Palm (SD-1). The new \$100 million dollar runway, the million dollar pond, the delegate tents with air-con and flat screen TV, the fleet of aircraft and helicopters, the banquet-style lunch laid on every day, the thought of two weeks in the five star beach hotel and closing ceremony with Katy Perry and free bar all seemed to add a little to the occasion.

Day one started with thunderstorms, but by lunchtime the first load went up and we were under way for the CP World Championship 2012. There were a total of 129 competitors and each round took about two hours to complete, which meant wind changes and weather variations would play a part in the outcome, and this was managed by fast turnaround of loads and the good organisation by chief judge Exi. The competition went well and Curt Bartholomew established himself as World Champion overall by a fairly clear margin. Nick Batsch was awarded silver and Pablo Hernandez bronze. A couple of the other noteworthy performances were: Timmy McMaster, who came sixth overall and was first out of all competitors not using a new prototype canopy while also competing in the VFS and achieving silver; and Jay Moledski, who scored a zero in his first round of accuracy, to the complete amazement of all the spectators, but then showed his true character and ability as an athlete to come back, score 100 in the next two consecutive accuracy rounds and go on to achieve fifth place overall.

I think all the Brits enjoyed the competition with the possible exception of Brian Vacher, who was doing very well overall and sitting near the top of the leader board until the



1 World Champion Curt Bartholomew, by Vania da Rui

2 Setting up to swoop the pond, by Bruno Brokken/EAA

3 Smudge, Wez and Spence from the UK CP team

second round of accuracy. He carried too much speed into the course and had to choose between over-shooting the scoring zone and walking away or scoring by risking a hard crash landing. Unfortunately, he landed hard and had to retire from the competition with a back injury. However, he is now recovering well and is back on his motorbike. All the British CP Team were self-funded and, I feel, performed extremely well against the best pilots from around the world. Spencer, Smudge and Wez from Team Heat performed really well, but missing one or two gates impacted on their overall position. Stu, Si and Kieron also had some mixed form with some high-scoring runs and some missed gates. I was really happy with my competition, but I still think I could have done slightly better if Spencer had not invited half the UK delegation back to our room to party the night before the comp started.

There was also a mini freestyle event a couple of days after the comp, in which I managed to get fifth place, and you can check out some of the landings at <http://vimeo.com/55172324>

Overall, a very enjoyable and well-run event, and a massive thank you for the generous funding contribution to this extravaganza made by Skydive Dubai and His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai.

Brit placings

Martin Reynolds – 31st
Deane Smith – 36th
Spencer Hogg – 44th
Stuart Meacock – 67th
Alan Wez Westley – 68th
Brian Vacher – 74th (retired, injured)
Simon Larcombe – 79th
Kieron Hayes – 88th

Out of 129 competitors in total

MISSION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

4:20 minutes freefall from the edge of space. Each moment closely followed by the CYPRES Stratos unit specifically designed to cope with the dangerous radiation, hostile environment and unique jump scenario.



1

Accuracy

WORDS JEFF CHANDLER

This was the first time we have had a full Accuracy team at a World Meet with the 2cm dead centre (the size of a penny). While there can be only one winner, we had three Brits in the top 100 out of a huge field of 199

Accuracy competitors. Although the event is 'unfair' in that conditions are always changing, Accuracy is an event where one can get a perfect score of 0.00, however you get there. Esther Reynolds discovered this on one jump with some exciting canopy-handling which would have grounded a student! It paid off, however, as 'Esther the Best' came 29th in the women's Individual Accuracy with an overall score of 18cm over eight rounds.

The individual scores of each team member's eight competition jumps are also combined with those of the rest of the team, with the worst score per competitor being discarded. The five GB male competitors therefore all contributed to the overall *Team GB* placing of 28th with a 121cm total from their combined 35 best jumps. There is also a Commonwealth Cup for the top team out of GB, Canada and Australia – which we won! Note that all bar one of all three of these teams are POPS, and many are SOS!

BRIT COMPETITOR GLENN STEPHENSON COMMENTED:

"This was my seventh World Championship and the hosts in Dubai were by far the most hospitable and helpful ever. The facilities and location were the best and the organisation was excellent, completing all events well within time. For me, the highest praise and thanks go to the boss of the organisation, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. He was very generous and picked superb staff who were all helpful, responsive to requests and much better than in previous World Championships. All who attended were very fortunate and I doubt such an experience will be repeated in our lifetimes, unless His Highness were to be involved again.

"Notable results for Britain included Esther Reynolds beating women's Chinese team gold medallist Cao Yan, and Glenn Stephenson beating men's team gold medallist Roman Karun (and Jeff Chandler came within 1cm of equalling Roman Karun). I think these are great achievements and prove that British Accuracy jumpers are worthy of support now and in the future."

Brit placings

29th female	Esther Reynolds	18cm
75th	Glenn Stephenson	18cm
97th	Jeff Chandler	23cm
146th	Peter Sizer	42cm
160th	Janos Leszko	49cm
186th	Richard Bissett	77cm

SPEED



2

Speed

WORDS SIMON BRENTFORD

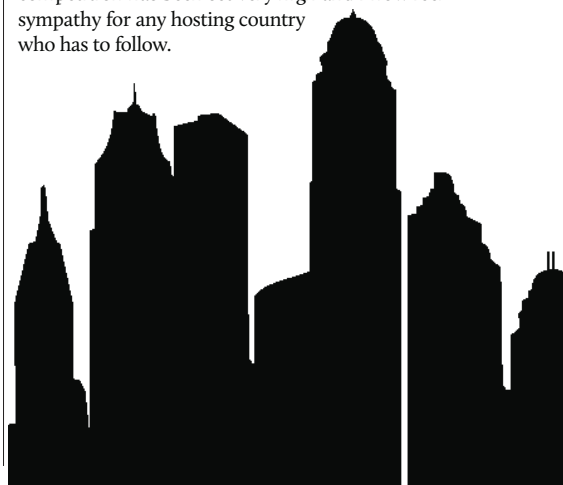
Dubai is a long way to go for just four jumps, but I was pretty sure it was worth it. I have attended many competitions in my time and this was by far the most impressive. Despite not having met any of the other speed competitors before, I knew the majority of the UK delegation and this made my experience easier.

In a normal Speed Skydiving competition, there are six jumps and an average of your best three jumps is taken to give you your average speed. With only four jumps in this demonstration event, an average of our best two was taken. No pressure, then! Getting a good speed is very much do or die. It is so easy to get an Out of Bounds (OB) score for your round, which can happen if the two Larsen & Brusgaard ProTracks are out by more than 30 km/hr. Unfortunately for me, this is exactly what happened on my first jump.

We were all to land on the Palm Jumeirah and that meant exiting deep over the water, which was quite scary considering I had to pick a point out over the ground or, should I say, the ocean! Many of the competitors found that not having the ground as a frame of reference made it harder to get fast times. The high temperatures also contributed towards this.

As my rounds progressed, I was able to get into my zone and I put up some half-decent times including a 265mph. By the time my final fourth round was completed, the organisers had decided to offer us another four rounds of competition for free. A big discussion ensued between the competitors, with some wanting to continue and others saying they had prepared a strategy for a four-round competition only. I had come sixth overall and, even though I had nothing to lose by doing the extra jumps, I had to concede that those in the medal positions had won them fair and square.

During my time in Dubai, I learnt a lot from the other competitors and in particular from the hard working Arnold Hohenegger, our event organiser. I hope to feed this back to the UK scene during my roadshows in the summer. The bar for the World Championships competition has been set very high and I now feel sympathy for any hosting country who has to follow.



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DUBAI MONDIAL 2012

CFUK 4-way
Rotations, by
Craig Poxon

“Doesn't get better
than this, we thought,
little knowing what
drama lay in store...”



CFUK 2-way
Sequential, by
Craig Poxon



CF

Team CFUK CF 2-way sequential and 4-way rotations and Team PH36 CF 2-way sequential

WORDS MARTIN ROBIETTE

The CF teams arrived in Dubai raring to go. We had the full 2-way sequential allowance of two teams – UK1 was Team *CFUK* (Gavin McLeod and Doug Preston with Martin Robiette camera) and UK2 was *PH36* (Jamie Flynn and Mark Skarratts with Pete Lindstrand camera). There was also a 4-way Rotations team under the *CFUK* banner (Gavin McLeod, Doug Preston, Martin Robiette and Colin Dickson with Craig Poxon camera).

We arrived yawning and stretching on Sunday morning after an overnight flight along with many of the other Brits but, after the initial confusion got sorted out and we got to the hotel, everything looked very good – especially the view! Being able to wander down the beach to the dropzone, have a slap-up buffet lunch and then go for a swim in the warm sea later – doesn't get better than this, we thought, little knowing what drama lay in store...

The first day brought an initial briefing where we were told the CF landing area would be a small patch of grass out at the racecourse, sandwiched between the stables and the Prince's falcons and dogs, but there was no opportunity to go and see it before jumping. Hey ho, we thought, can't be that bad, we'll just suck it and see and, when we did get our first practice jumps that afternoon we all landed fine despite it being somewhat tight and undulating (especially coming in quick on short-lined Storms loaded at 2:1!). However, on *CFUK*'s second practice jump, it all went pear-shaped when we ended up a little far out to make the grass and discovered to our cost that the desert around the racecourse was anything but flat – especially Gav, who managed to pile into a hidden dip and smacked his right knee and left foot hard into the deck. Judging by the quantity and quality of swearing coming over the radios after landing, and the extent of the bruising and swelling, a hospital check-up was called for – which involved an exciting ambulance ride with lights and sirens through rush-hour traffic and a few entertaining hours in A&E. All at the Prince's expense, apparently – all Gav had to do was show his Mondial ID card.

INJURY STRIKES

Team *CFUK* then spent the next couple of days seeing how Gav was doing and trying to work out a Plan B, plus getting in some quality time at the beach! In the end, despite there being no broken bones, there was no way he was going to be able to jump (he was having trouble even walking) so Martin stepped up from camera into the team with Doug for the 2-way and Craig came from the 4-way team to video, while Jamie came to help out in the 4-way from *PH36* – so the competition could go on, but with much-reduced scoring ambitions...

In 2-way sequential, *CFUK* picked themselves up and made the best of the situation, bearing in

mind that the first practice jump was Round 1! The scores were generally modest but respectable, although one notable exception was Round 6 where we were chuffed to pull an 11 out of the bag which came within a point of equalling the current UK record. In the end, of course, we placed much lower than we were hoping for with the proper team line-up, but hey, that's competition – anything can happen! We still enjoyed the amazing views of Dubai, the coast and the Palm...and took full advantage of the photo opportunities!

TURBULENT TIMES

Meanwhile, the second UK 2-way team *PH36* were quietly going about their business, getting stuck into their first world meet and putting scores on the board – until Round 2, that is. At break-off, *PH36* ended up close to team Australia 2 and, in a rash moment of youthful enthusiasm, Jamie couldn't resist their advances and ended up in a quick fun international 3-stack. Unfortunately, this was observed from the ground and happened to coincide with another more serious incident of blatant cheating by one of the Russian teams, who were spotted after break-off practising for the next round. All three teams were penalised by losing their score for that round, but the Brits and Aussies successfully protested that they couldn't have been practising as Jamie was in between the two Australians and their scores were reinstated. This should have been the end of the matter, but this must have ruffled someone's feathers as the next shock news was that both *PH36* and Australia 2 were now disqualified from the entire meet for performing CF too low! A tense two days followed while another protest was considered at length by the jury, including calling of various expert witnesses, before the disqualification was overturned for both teams and they were allowed to catch up and finish the meet – phew!

Finally, the 4-way rotations. After all that, surely nothing else could possibly go wrong (despite the fact that Jamie had never jumped a Storm or any canopy that small before and had never done rotations with the rest of the team)? Well, we had a promising start and were quite happily getting through the rounds until we came back from Round 6, then were gobsmacked to find that we had been taken off the manifest board and told verbally that we were disqualified from the rest of the competition for unspecified 'safety reasons'! The only incident we could think of was one team member landing in the opposite direction against the 'T' as the wind had changed, but that hardly seemed severe enough for instant and total disqualification without warning and we were never given any official explanation of the infringement. Another protest was put in to the IPC jury but this time to no avail as, while sympathetic to our case, they could not overrule the FAI officials so we ended up sitting out the last couple of rounds feeling bemused and very frustrated!

CF CHAMPIONS

At the top of the table, there was also drama in all the CF events – but for the right reasons. In 2-way sequential, the French were showing how much training they had put in by pulling clear of strong competition from the US and Australia (even with the Aussie's trick cross-braced 5-cell Icarus canopies). Russia would have been in with a chance too if they hadn't been penalised, but they managed to avoid complete disqualification and so ended up fourth.

In 4-way sequential, the French and US slugged it out – never being more than a point apart and entered the last round exactly equal. France took the gold by a single point and Russia the bronze. 4-way rotations was also incredibly tight between Russia and France, with both teams finishing on exactly the same points and the same highest score (21), the result being determined by the French getting the fastest high score by a fraction!

After the competition ended, the atmosphere was lifted by some fun international 25- and 26-way CF demo jumps over the DZ with 300' streamers (including three Brits previously deemed unsafe to compete!) and we finally got to land on the Palm in practice and experience the fun of the landing area and boat ride! All in all, despite being a frustrating competition and emotional rollercoaster for the whole British CF contingent, it was still a fantastic event to be part of and a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Future plans – this year, *CFUK* and *PH36* are planning to spend more time on coaching roadshows for both CF beginners and intermediate jumpers, including competition and big-way skills. So, if anyone is interested, keep an eye out for upcoming events and get in touch via BPA CF Rep Mark Skarratts (mark.skarratts@bpa.org.uk) or Facebook group 'Canopy Formation Coaching'.



Team cameraman
Darren Glover
filming QFX,
by Jim Harris



“This was a real enlightenment into how precise you must be to compete in the world arena”

VFS

WORDS PAUL COOPER

Being a part of the largest skydiving event ever was an amazing experience! Full credit must go to the organisers – hosting an event on this scale with so few incidents or complaints is an incredible achievement.

Team QFX met our objectives in the VFS discipline by completing the competition and bettering our points average. We found the judging to be far more rigorous than we had seen in our limited previous competition experience and we paid heavily for this with busts,

but this was a real enlightenment into how precise you must be to compete in the world arena. It was incredible to see how advanced the top three teams (France, USA and UAE) have become, particularly the UAE team who are a relatively new team but have trained exceptionally hard to reach a level where they can compete with the world's best in such a short timeframe. The VFS gold was taken by *Team 4-Speed* of France, who put in an outstanding performance; it's difficult to see how a performance on this level can be

improved on. *Nexus* from UAE and *SDC Standard* from USA were close behind, taking silver and bronze.

WHAT'S NEXT?

It's early days and we have not yet had a proper team discussion about 2013. However, it does seem very likely that *Team QFX* will continue to compete in 2013, at least until after the Nationals. If we get the opportunity to compete at international level again this year, we would have to take the team's budget and time constraints of individual members before we decide if we will compete.

QFX in training,
by Jim Harris



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The UK delegation, by Stikkos

Highlights and lowlights – a Team Manager's view

WORDS WEED STOODLEY

As Team Manager (and a female Team Manager at that), Dubai was an interesting experience. We were a large delegation going to an event with multiple landing areas. Our delegation never ceased to make me smile at their good humour, antics and camaraderie, but most of all by the awesome performances by each team and individual at the biggest World Championships ever. I already had some experience of testing circumstances in my role as Team Manager at Russia 2010, but still found that what on the face of it should have been an easy role was often very tiring and frustrating, although mostly an awesome experience. I realised over the course of the event that being a woman in this environment, albeit in very relaxed surroundings, would hold its own issues.

Anecdotes include...

Brazenly and naively waltzing alone in the evening through the hospital, after trying to find a ward Brian Vacher had been assigned to, and being stopped by security not once but twice to be told it was a male-only ward. However, my determination and 'talk to them till they give in' method prevailed! Helping Brian take off his clothes in hospital (ready for surgery) as there seemed to be problems for the nurses to assist – they asked if I was his wife, and on my "no", went to get help, only for a man to return with big plastic gloves and walk in on me mid-Team-Manager-clothes-removal-action-duties (Brian keeping decent with the aid of a blanket and me at that very moment pulling at his swoop shorts, trying not to damage or hurt him further and giggling). On visiting the hospital with others from our delegation (all male), on my approach to the male manned reception I explained my needs (official documents in hand) only for the receptionist to look at me, then go past me and shake the hands of all those stood behind me. All this was a real culture shock! Female/family areas on buses, female-only areas on the train (which our VFS guys entered by mistake and soon realised their error!). The contrast of the skydiving community with

their warm welcome of hugs and kisses, of the daily early bus runs where all nationalities and creeds, men and women, piled together, made me glad our hosts were so magnanimous, lenient and flexible to be able to host this event.

Nearly causing a diplomatic incident when I had the bright idea that I should ensure that the flagpoles outside our tent should have the Union flag instead of the ones we had – our flag was outside Australia and we had Australia – so I removed the huge flagpole and Australian flag from our frontage and marched down to Australia to swap over. I carried our huge flag and pole back to GB only to find the poles were different sizes – Australia was a bigger diameter! Plan B meant retrieving the Australian pole back to GB and taking the flags off each, when security (who, apparently, had been watching from a distance) swooped. It got complicated, with their need to assist, the realisation that maybe I shouldn't be taking down flags and a few language issues. It took a little while and some male intervention (thank you Craig Poxon!) but, in the end, we got our flag in front of Team GB (result!). Later, we noticed a handyman complete with screws and electric screwdriver screwing each flagpole into place to stop such further antics!

The army of helpers and staff who didn't let you do anything, put it down and it moved, ask and you got.

The hysterical (after the event) episode of me with a sudden, violent and debilitating episode of food poisoning outside the hotel lobby, only for the staff to presume I was drunk and ask if someone could move me away!

Becoming an oracle of the rules (sporting code Section 5) as the possible need to put in complaints or protests became reality. Watching with interest as it became clear that politics and networking are as important as the blunt approach.

Working with Martin Soulsby and Ian Marshall (and Paul Moore), who endeavoured to keep up with the constant issues in good humour.

The fantastic role Alan Gayton (resident Brit) played, especially on assistance for AL from team *Airix Freestyle*. It is true that when it was discovered

that the landing area out in the Palm was not very suitable and might even prevent their participation on safety reasons, a huge square of artificial grass was laid. Thanks Andy Ford and the army of helpers working out on the Palm landing.

Alistair's golf buggy given the 'pimp my ride' treatment with bunting, flags and GB1 number plate in duct tape.

The camaraderie of our delegation when, without the normal accompanying people to wave flags and cheer teams off, they all still ensured the Union flag was waved – whatever the discipline.

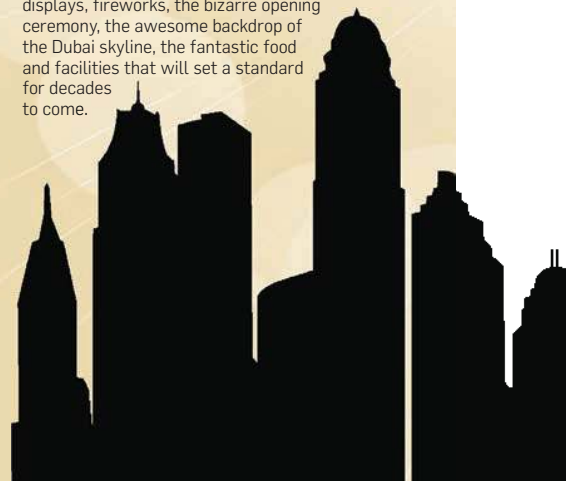
Trying to suggest to Brian Vacher on his long wait in A and E that perhaps he shouldn't move till the CAT scan results came – I failed!

Fireworks...better than anything you can imagine!

Katy Perry, Usher and Felix for the closing ceremony.

Proudly watching Alistair and Pixie Hodgson, team *Airix Freestyle*, being awarded their bronze medal.

The generosity of the organisers, the fantastic displays, fireworks, the bizarre opening ceremony, the awesome backdrop of the Dubai skyline, the fantastic food and facilities that will set a standard for decades to come.





TWO'S COMPANY

Becoming a (Female) Tandem Instructor

KAREN IS A TANDEM INSTRUCTOR WITH MORE THAN 1,000 TANDEM SKYDIVES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. IN THIS ARTICLE, SHE SHARES SOME OF HER EXPERIENCES AND SOME OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT ANYONE THINKING OF EMBARKING ON A TANDEM RATING SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. KAREN WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO INSPIRE A FEW MORE FEMALE SKYDIVERS TO TAKE THE PLUNGE...

WORDS KAREN BAIN

This article is relevant for anyone of either sex who may be considering becoming a tandem instructor. However, skydiving is already a male dominated sport with an 80:20 split in membership, so I make no excuses for trying to encourage a few more girls to consider breaking into some of the even more male dominated niches – of which becoming a tandem instructor is just one. The BPA currently has 203 tandem instructors, of which only three are female. In this article, I'd like to look at some of the questions you should ask, whether you are male or female, before going for your tandem rating.

AM I TALL ENOUGH?

I am 5'5". The two biggest considerations for me are: 'Can I locate the drogue?' and 'Can I control the student in freefall?'. The second has never proved a problem for me and I've taken people up to 6'7" on a tandem skydive. However, the first is clearly critical and ensuring the kit is well-fitting before going anywhere is just common sense.

AM I STRONG ENOUGH?

There is no getting away from the fact that tandem skydiving is physically demanding. Some tandem parachutes can be heavy to fly (particularly with a large student) and moving around in the aircraft can be quite challenging, but no more so than for a team with a punishing schedule on a training camp so, if you are reasonably

1 *You must be able to control the student in freefall*

2 *The exit is a crucial part of the skydive*

3 *A good briefing is key to a good exit*

fit, there is no reason why you cannot manage the demands of tandem skydiving with a bit of tandem specific training.

AM I A GOOD ENOUGH CANOPY PILOT?

One of the crucial skills for a tandem instructor is to be a confident and skilful canopy pilot. As with all skydiving, it is the landing which has the greatest likelihood of causing serious injury and, when taking direct responsibility for the safety of someone else as well as yourself, accuracy and safety on landing takes on another level of importance. Getting some canopy coaching on a canopy which compares well to the type of tandem canopy you may be flying before gaining your tandem rating is not a bad idea. Speak to your CCI or other tandem instructors for advice.

WILL I REMEMBER ALL THE DRILLS?

On paper, there are a frightening number of tandem emergencies and these should not be taken lightly. You will need to be fully familiar with them all prior to gaining your rating and at all times while practising as a tandem instructor, but they do follow a pattern and they build on, rather than replace, the drills you have already learnt as an experienced skydiver.

WILL I BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE FREEFALL?

Good FS skills are undoubtedly key and you should take time to develop your confidence on your belly. You will develop a different, bigger, position than solo skydiving as you are trying to use the air around the student but, for me, this is the easiest part of the tandem skydive.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXIT?

A good briefing is key to a good exit and a good skydive. Remember the student is understandably nervous and they need to have confidence in you to take care of both of you. The same principles apply as to any other skydive and good presentation and a strong arch are all that is needed. There are many different ways to exit with a tandem and each tandem instructor will have their own preference, so ask around to find what works best for you.

WILL I HAVE TO TAKE THE HEAVY STUDENTS?

As an instructor, you must always know your limits and when to say no to any particular skydive. Safety always has to be the overriding consideration. Clearly, the more restrictions you have, the less 'useful' you are to a DZ, but it would certainly be reasonable to ask for a gentle introduction to tandems with no extremely large or small students in the first instance.

WILL I HAVE TO JUMP IN MORE CHALLENGING WEATHER CONDITIONS?

Again, it is up to you to know your own limitations and make your own decisions. Ultimately, your student's safety is your responsibility. However, you should keep your DZ informed in advance of your boundaries, as last-minute decisions and changes are never welcome.

WILL IT TAKE OVER?

It can do, but that is up to you. Make sure you are clear with your DZ from the outset about what level of commitment you can give, and what they will expect, to avoid conflict later on and to make sure that being a TI will fit in with your other commitments. The bare minimum is 20 tandems per year, but this is woefully inadequate if you wish to be a competent Tandem Instructor.



“It only takes one student to scream in delight when the canopy opens and to hug me on landing to make it all worthwhile”



BECOMING A (FEMALE) TANDEM INSTRUCTOR

WILL I GET THROWN UP ON?

Sooner or later, yes, among other things! But there are many compensating rewards. Being responsible for the single most exhilarating experience in a person's life more than compensates for the odd queasy student, and it is also great being able to have a chat under canopy! What other skydiving discipline affords you the same opportunity?

WILL I EARN LOTS OF MONEY?

It is possible to earn good money on a good weather day in the middle of summer, but these days must be taken alongside the bad weather days when you are tied to the DZ in bad weather because there are tandem students still hanging on to jump. I am also a great believer that money is not the best reason to gain your tandem rating so, while the opportunity to get paid to skydive will always be an attraction, ask yourself if that is the only reason and, if so, then tandem skydiving may not be for you.

IS THERE A DEMAND FOR (FEMALE) TANDEM INSTRUCTORS?

There is always a demand for new instructors, although not all DZs need new instructors all of the time so you may need to wait to become an instructor at your existing DZ or consider a move to a new DZ. There is a growing demand for female tandem instructors from a number of communities such as Muslim and travelling groups. Female tandem instructors are also in high demand overseas.

MY EXPERIENCE

The Tandem rating was the first of the instructor ratings that I gained. It gave me the opportunity to begin to interact with students without spending too much time in the classroom and to introduce the sport to many people, and it was thoroughly rewarding being able

4



4 Ed Bowyer jumping a 'bag' on his Tandem Instructor course, by Chris Cook

5 Intentionally unstable exit as part of TI training, by Chris Cook

to help people experience something that they would otherwise never have the confidence to do. At times it can be easy to lose sight of this – when it is cold, wet and miserable and I can't go to the pub, or after the fourth or fifth heavy student of the day – but it only takes one student to scream in delight when the canopy opens and to hug me on landing to make it all worthwhile. There's not many people can put such a smile on so many faces while keeping all your clothes on and your hands to yourself! ●

Got the skills?

To attend a BPA Tandem Instructor course you must:

- ▶ Be a TBI, CSBI or AFFBI
- ▶ Have a minimum of 800 jumps, 50 within the last 12 months, and eight hours in freefall
- ▶ Have a written recommendation from your CCI
- ▶ Have a Tandem Instructor Doctor's Medical (form 116)
- ▶ Have made a tandem descent as a student within 6 months
- ▶ Have read and be fully familiar with the tandem equipment manual you will be evaluated on.
- ▶ Have a packing certificate and be signed off to pack the main that you will be jumping.

On your course, you will have to:

- ▶ Pass a written exam
- ▶ Carry out an assessed tandem briefing
- ▶ Pass an assessment of suspended harness drills for tandem emergencies
- ▶ Pack the main of your tandem equipment
- ▶ Pass four jumps with a 'bag' and five jumps with a C licence parachutist acting as a tandem student, within a maximum of 12 jumps

So you've gained your Tandem Rating – Currency requirements – you must:

- ▶ Revise emergency drills in a suspended harness every two months
- ▶ Make a tandem descent at least every three months
- ▶ Make 20 tandem descents every 12 months (or 10 on each system on which you are rated)
- ▶ Make at least 60 descents every two years

5



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HEAD DOWN BODY POSITION



FLYING HEAD-FIRST IS USUALLY THE LAST ORIENTATION YOU'LL LEARN. HERE WE LOOK AT THE THREE MAIN HEAD DOWN BODY POSITIONS
WORDS ALLY MILNE

2



HEAD POSITION

Head down in any of the main positions suffers from several common points of difficulty caused by pre-programmed muscle memory and body posture. The essence of a stable head down position is that it is entirely vertical, or 'falling down the tube'. Our body posture, however, works against us in this respect. Look at anyone standing straight in front of you, or yourself in a mirror sideways on. You will notice that the head and neck are not in a direct line from the spinal column but are curving forwards. In head down, this causes us to catch air and drives us rapidly forwards. Our head must be in direct line with the spine without lifting the chin. If you think about putting your neck into the back of your collar while forming a 'double chin', you are in about the right position.

TORSO POSITION

The spine must remain straight, similar to all body positions. One point of difficulty is chest arching or puffing the chest out. The torso can be thought of as the mainsail of a large yacht. If the chest is puffed out it can cause unwanted drive forwards, so we must think of rolling the shoulders in slightly to prevent this and keep the torso flat. The position of the arms can affect the chest position greatly.

ARM POSITION

The arms in normal flight must be placed in front of the flyer with the air hitting the back part of the hands and the arms straight. A common mistake here is having the air hit the palms of the hands, which can cause the elbows to bend and reduces the control area. When this is combined with arms out to the side, this commonly causes 'pizza hands'. The arms should be approximately 45 degrees relative to the horizon, and you should think about pressing the elbows forward rather than the hands and relaxing the forearms. You should use just enough strength to hold the arms in place – any more will cause the arms to be too stiff, making it more difficult to fly.

LEG POSITION

There are a variety of styles that the legs can be flown in and each one has their own advantages and disadvantages. There is often some debate about which leg position is the 'best', but the ability to fly with the legs in all positions is an important skill – especially in group head down flying, where your legs may get burred by other flyers.

LEG POSITION – STRADDLE

This is where the legs are held straight with the heels pressed into your shoes →

Head down flight captures the imagination and is held to be the pinnacle of freeflying ability. It is often the aim of freeflyers to be able to fly in this position, and groups of freeflyers can be gauged by those who can and those who cannot. In this article, we will look at the important basics of head down flight and the three main body positions which are most common today.

As with any new skill or body position, it is recommended that you speak to a BPA FF coach before trying this skill either on a coach jump or a solo. Due to the extreme nature of vertical and horizontal movement in head down, you must understand how to avoid flying up or down the line of flight. This is perhaps more important in head down than any other position.

There are two main coaching philosophies in learning head down and each has their own merits. You can learn to fly head down from either a static position (normally held by a coach) or by dynamically flying into the position through steep tracking and altering the pitch angle. A coach in either one of these philosophies will explain that theirs is the better but, in reality, both work towards the same goal and using techniques from both methods generally works best for the most complete skill set. Head down skydives are short and progress can seem difficult. For maximum progress up the learning curve, get some coach jumps and tunnel time to help you. Little problems can turn quickly into big problems at 170+ mph.

About 80 per cent of the work in learning head down is striving to find and maintain this vertical position. Once the vertical core position is learned, the other manoeuvres that form part of the BPA FF2 grading are much simpler to learn.

We talked in the last article on Sitfly about the importance of having a good solid foundation position, and we will in turn look at each of the areas of the body and talk about how we can successfully use them to fly head down efficiently.

1 Ally Milne
in a head down
'Straddle' body
position, by
Chris Cook

2 Ally in 'Daffy',
by Chris Cook

3 Shelf practice on
the mockup, by
Chris Cook

“The essence of a stable head down position is that it is entirely vertical, or ‘falling down the tube’”



3

4



and legs are pushed out to the side to create a stable platform of balance.

This is generally held to be the first head down position. Great, because it keeps the legs in a symmetrical configuration and lends itself to both flying at faster speeds vertically and big horizontal moves. It is more difficult to fly slower or pick up grips in this position. When learning head down in the sky, this is the position normally taught first.

LEG POSITION – DAFFY

This is an asymmetrical position with one leg forward and one leg back with a bend at the knees. Both legs must deflect the same amount of air, otherwise the flyer will drift forwards or backwards or spin. Unwanted turns can often be caused by the back leg not being placed straight back but by curving behind the body. A degree of flexibility is required for leg placement.

This is an excellent position for turning fast. Once you learn Daffy with one leg forwards, learn with the opposite leg forwards to increase the skills in your toolbox. The position also lends itself to smaller moves as opposed to the all or nothing nature of the Straddle position. A flyer must be careful when picking grips up with the same side that has the leg forward so as to prevent burling one's position. If this happens, switch to the other Daffy or fly in the next position we are going to talk about.

LEG POSITION – SHELF

The Shelf, also called 'Hook' or 'Stall', is the most modern of all flying positions. It has both legs placed symmetrically behind the flyer with lower legs level

with the ground and the knees slightly in front of the torso. A good way to imagine the position is to hang yourself upside down from a climbing frame or mock up with the main support bar underneath your knees.

Due to the removal of the legs from in front of you compared with Daffy, it is the easiest position to pick up grips from and is fast to turn. However, for outfacing VFS points such as L, N or 15, having both legs behind you will increase unseen burlles and a Daffy in this situation would be better. It is generally an easier position to learn the basics than flying in Daffy, but a Straddle is considered better for exits and initial sub-terminal flying.

4 It can be useful to switch between body positions when flying in head down groups.
By Swoop

5 Head down is susceptible to 'skating' around the sky, which can be dangerous when learning. A coach can help you to fall straight down the tube and practice in the tunnel provides just such a 'tube' (complete with forgiving walls) as a reference.
By Swoop

The head down position, like all bodyflight positions, has a series of different body position placements and each can be used to help you fly in a more efficient manner. Getting good coaching at the start is the key to minimise the time you spend developing bad habits and maximise your learning. The speeds are faster and the margins for error are smaller but, once mastered, these positions offer the most dynamic and extreme flight modes possible. Stay safe out there! ●

Ally Milne is a UK and European FF record holder and BPA VFS Silver medallist. He is sponsored by Airtec, UPT and Cookie Composites.
www.tryskydiving.co.uk



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EXIT ZONE



With 16 single-point 'random' formations labelled A-Q and 22 numbered double-point 'block' formations when doing 4-way FS, you can literally stand in the aircraft door already holding on to the right combination of arms and legs, jump out all together and let it unfold and fly. First in a new series of articles with tips from National Champion team *Satori* on how to successfully manage each exit, this Exit Zone is brought to you by the letter B and the number 14...

WORDS JULIA FOXWELL

By Dave Head



B – Stairstep Diamond

This is one of the first exits you will learn as a Rookie team and the suggested FS1 dive of B-O-M-J will in fact start with this launch. You want to aim to get Outside Centre and Inside Centre across line of flight, with Point at the top of the slipstream and Tail at the bottom.

OUTSIDE CENTRE

Stand just left of the centre of the door. You can head jam, but I recommend being out on the rail as it gives Inside Centre more room

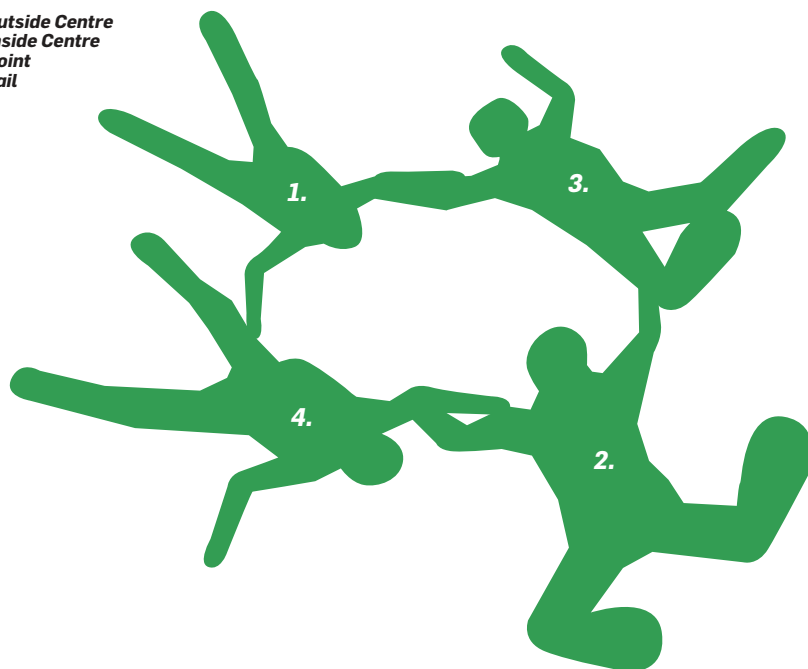
in the door – which is actually an aid to you when Inside Centre exits. Hold on to the rail with your left hand and Tail's leg with your right. Get your left leg out into the slipstream, as this will start to engage your right leg for the spring you need for the exit and help with presentation. When giving the count, go up, then put additional emphasis on the 'down' as this will generate more energy in your right thigh. When pushing off, also use the grip you have on Tail to help rotate your hips and get your head down to get across line of flight.

The push off your right leg will help you get away from the aircraft and the push from Tail's grip will help to rotate you into the right place on the slipstream

INSIDE CENTRE

Position yourself just left of Outside Centre. Have your left leg forward to help with your presentation. Have most of your weight centred towards your back (right) leg, as this is where you should be pushing off from on the exit. Have a double grip with Tail on

1. Outside Centre
2. Inside Centre
3. Point
4. Tail



Tail's left arm with your left arm and hold on to Point's left leg with your right hand. Although you are aiming to go across line of flight (opposite Outside Centre), as you are leaving the aircraft slightly later than Outside Centre you want to exaggerate this by trying to fire your hips through the door as if you are going below Outside Centre. You want to aim to lead with your hips, not with your head.

POINT

Stand as far up the door as you can; you do not need much room. When standing in the door, have your hips square to the door so the back of your rig does not get in Inside Centre's way. Have your left foot forward so you are standing presented. Hold on to Outside Centre's left arm grip and look across towards Tail. On the count, leave slightly later than Outside Centre and spring off to try and get higher than Inside and Outside Centre



By James Stevenson

(leaving late also helps with this). Really work hard with your presentation. Get your right arm up and get your right leg back so your chest and hips are presented to the slipstream. Keep looking back over your left shoulder towards Tail.

TAIL

Head jam in the door and make sure that your left leg grip is easy for Outside Centre to get hold of. The grip shouldn't be too far behind Outside Centre, as they will need this grip to push off. Have a double grip with Inside Centre on their left arm grip. Have your left leg out in the slipstream, which will help with presentation. On the count, leave slightly earlier than Outside Centre so you are below them on the slipstream. Push off from your right leg and, although you are pushing slightly away from the plane, aim to drop down – especially working on the

presentation with your right side down to present your chest to the slipstream. Your hips and head should be across line of flight (the same as Outside Centre)

CAMERA

B is a safe exit for camera. It usually presents well, but may rotate anti-clockwise 90 degrees. Imagine yourself doing a 2-way with Inside Centre as they pass through the door so that you end up flying with them in the four o'clock position relative to the line of flight (i.e. just left of Inside Centre). Each team's exit timing will be different. Watch the team in the mock-up to get a feel. Letting go at the bottom of the pulse in-swing would be a good place to try first.

As you leave look at the centre 'hole' of the B if you can rather than follow Outside Centre's head or rig. There's a natural tendency for your head and therefore lens to follow the person giving the pulse, but this can put grips out of frame on some longer formations if they key quickly out of the door and your lens isn't wide enough. Not critical on a B, but looking at the best place to show the grips to the judges is a good habit to get into on every exit.

B is also a safe exit to peel on. You can let go sooner than you think, as your reaction time will add a delay. Let go as soon as you see Inside Centre's rig moving through the door frame, as they and Point will have cleared the door by the time you start to drop, giving you clean air. This should put you in the one/two o'clock position. Make sure you still present when you peel as you can point your head in directions your body can't follow and still stay stable. If you are a little hesitant and wait until the divers go, you may need to track down the hill after them straightaway to keep a steep view on the team.

Exit rating 



By James Stevenson



By Dave Head

Block 14: Bipole – Bipole

For this exit, everyone swaps slots in the door. Tail is now Outside Centre, Outside Centre is Point, Point is Inside Centre, and Inside Centre is Tail. This is because you start with Inside and Outside Centre facing out and Point and Tail facing in. The aim for this exit is to go across the line of flight.

TAIL (OC)

Position yourself in the centre of the door. Ideally, you want to get Inside Centre's inside grip (right leg) and Outside Centre's outside grip (left leg). To do this, you need to head jam but, to get the grips, initially hold on to the rail with your left hand while reaching for Inside Centre's grip, then head jam and pick up Outside Centre's grip. Once you have had eye contact that Point is ready opposite you, give the count and work to get away from the aircraft and across line of flight.

POINT (IC)

Stand opposite Tail with your right leg back, standing so you are presented to the

slipstream. Take hold of Inside Centre's outside grip (left leg) and Outside Centre's inside grip (right leg). On this exit, there is a tendency to get a kick – where your hips are higher than your head. To stop this happening, push off from your back leg and get your left knee down, which helps to anchor your hips so they are underneath your head. You need to try and lead with your hips, not your head.

OUTSIDE CENTRE (P)

Stand at the front of the door with half of the width of your body inside the door (it's important to not take up much room). Stand 'stalked' so Point can get your inside grip on your right leg and have your left leg stalked high so it's easy for Tail to get your left grip. Watch Tail's count and leave slightly late, springing off your right leg. Work to open your hips to the slipstream by pushing your right leg back to work your presentation. Keep looking over your left shoulder, keep at a 45 degree angle to Tail and wait for the key.

1. Tail
2. Point
3. Outside Centre
4. Inside Centre



INSIDE CENTRE (T)

Stand on your right leg at the back of the door, facing inside the aircraft. Have your left leg out so it's easy for Tail to get your inside grip. Also be aware that Point needs your left leg. Hold on to the right side of the door with your right hand for stability. You want to be the lowest person on the slipstream – watch Tail's count, leave slightly earlier and really work to have your right side down. You want to aim to be 45 degrees to Point.

CAMERA

14 isn't a solid formation and it is easier for people to be a little off presentation, causing the piece to cut in or carve on the hill. The team can also go flat to the horizon during their individual turns. Aiming to go 'with' the centre pair of the formation to put yourself in the two to four o'clock position looking across the hill is safest. If you lead too much, your viewing angle may be too shallow to show the close of the block clearly if it goes flat during the inter.

Exit rating 



By James Stevenson



By James Stevenson

MARCH – SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2-3 – FLCPA Swoop Meet #2, hosted by Albert.
See www.swoopleague.com for more information.

9 – USPA Safety Day: Every year, USPA and Skydive City host a day of safety related seminars, re-currency training and seminars about all aspects of skydiving designed to keep you alive just a little bit longer. No registration, but we have prizes, drawings, a long list of speakers and presenters. First one starts at 9am sharp!

10 – Flight Essentials Canopy Course by Aaron Stocum. Designed to teach the skills necessary to form a solid foundation for up-and-coming Canopy Pilots. Limited slots – \$50 plus jumps. Book online at our reservation page.

16-17 – FurtheranZe: The act of advancing – RW camps designed to help build skills and experience for 4-, 8-, 10- and 16-way. Bob Byrne, veteran competitor and formation skydiver, is hosting camps for up-and-comers. Contact Bob at byrnerj@yahoo.com. For more information and the registration form, please visit our website at www.skydivecity.com. To book a slot in any of the camps, go to our reservation page and choose 'FurtheranZe FS Skills Camp' from the pull-down menu. \$25 per day plus plan 5 jumps each day. You can do Saturday, Sunday or both on any camp.

22-April 1 – The Annual Easter Boogie should be a very big year for attendance since Easter is early in the year. Big-way RW events, Danish Swoop Camp.

22-24 – Wingsuit Performance Camp: speed, distance, time...whatever you fancy, here's a weekend for some practice! Bring your flysight! Flysights will also be available for use, along with special coaching from the famous Tony Uragallo! simon.repton@wickedwingsuits.com

23 – Saturday Night Jumps

24 – 8am High Altitude Load

30 – Night jumps on Saturday evening

31 – 8am Sunday High Altitude Load

24 – Advanced Canopy Skills Course by Aaron Stocum. The advanced course is for skydivers interested in learning high performance landing techniques. Limited slots – \$75 plus jumps. Book online at our reservation page.

APRIL'S UPCOMING EVENTS

'SkydiveRatings' courses this month:

1-3 – Instructor/Examiner rating course

6-8 – Coach rating course

11-12 – Static Line/IAD rating course

13-18 – AFF pre-course training and AFF Instructor rating course

20-22 – Tandem Instructor rating course

27-2 – AFF pre-course training and AFF Instructor rating course

4-7 – Flock'n'Dock 9.0 – Wingsuit Heaven at Skydive City – loads of fun, lots of big-ways, be there! Register at <http://flockndock9.eventbrite.com/>

14 – Flight Essentials Canopy Course by Aaron Stocum. Designed to teach the skills necessary to form a solid foundation for up-and-coming canopy pilots. Limited slots – \$50 plus jumps. Book online at our reservation page.

28 – Advanced Canopy Skills Course by Aaron Stocum. The advanced course is for skydivers interested in learning high performance landing techniques. Limited slots – \$75 plus jumps. Book online at our reservation page.



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4303 Sky Dive Lane, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

By Rob Franklin



TOP TIPS: EXIT TIP

Smile! When you don't have many jumps, it can be easy to succumb to 'door fear' – stepping carefully as you approach it and suddenly somehow having the limb placement of a drunken octopus. Know in advance where you want your hands and feet to be in the door and plan the minimum number of steps to get there from your seat. Practise this move to the door on the ground, even if it looks a bit silly. Take a deep breath and banish all paranoid thoughts of "but what if I fall out?" – you were going to jump anyway!

Lots of newbies screw up their faces, tense their limbs and exit with the same enthusiasm as that normally reserved for Christmas dinner sprouts. It's only once in freefall that the realisation hits that actually this sport is amazing and you're having real, wild, fantastic fun.

You KNOW you're going to love it because you did last time, and the time before that, and the time before that. Anticipate that enjoyment and go through the door with your eyes wide open and a big grin on your face. As an added bonus, your exits will probably improve too!

OPS MANUAL QUIZ

An introduction to the BPA Operations Manual forms part of the requirements for JM1. Each issue, we'll ask relevant questions and answer them in the wording of the Ops Manual.

Q1 Who may perform flightline checks and whose responsibility is it to ensure they have been carried out?

Q2 Can someone who has got their JM1 but not their B Licence act as jumpmaster?

Answers below

NEW COACHES

If you're an A licence jumper looking to progress towards your FS1, check out this list of the latest new keen coaches at your local DZ. Or, if you're a bit further along the road, there are also four new WS coaches. The DZs given are the ones where the coach achieved their rating; they may be available to coach at other DZs. Congratulations to all.

FS COACH

Craig Harrop, 22 Tng Gp RAF
Steven Doran, Cark
Jeremy Price, Peterlee
Rob Gray, Sibson
Christine Downer, Redlands
Guy Martin, Sibson

Oliver Hudson, Peterlee
Benjamin Woollan, 22 Tng Gp RAF
David Monk, Dunkseswell
Madeleine Leong, Netheravon
Brendan McGourty, Netheravon
Ann Fleming, Tilstock
James Kerr, Netheravon

WS COACH

Jim Scott, Sibson
Dave Butterell, Sibson
Oscar Lozada, Sibson
Alastair Bradie, Netheravon

The JM1 is responsible for ensuring that all parachutists below BPA 'B' Licence on board have been checked. N.B. BPA 'B' Licence parachutists and above are responsible for ensuring that they have been checked.

Also Section 3, paragraph 2.3

BPA 'A' Licence parachutists and above (see Section 2 – Designation and Classification of Parachutists) may check each other, provided they are JM1 qualified. It is the responsibility of the Jumpmaster to ensure that these checks have been carried out.

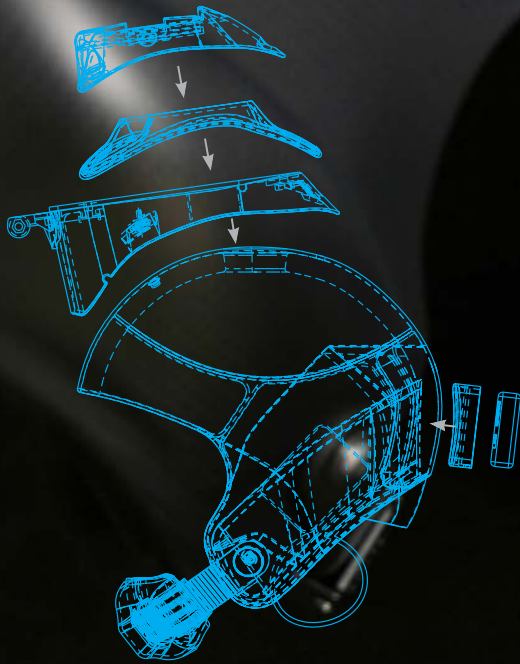
A1 Section 1, paragraph 4.1.3

Holders of JM1 may not act as jumpmaster until a BPA 'B' Licence has been obtained.

A2 Section 2, paragraph 6.1.1, N.B. (2)

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Skyhook reserve deployment, by Niklas Daniel

How low can you go?

It's the question that every instructor hates and that one student will always ask: "If I have a malfunction, how low can I cutaway?". The answer, of course, is that if you need to cutaway then you should do it as high as possible – thinking about how low you can get away with is all back to front.

Reserves are designed to open quickly and reliably, far quicker than a main. They are also packed in such a way as to aid a fast opening – for example, the nose of the reserve is folded 'open' to expose it to the airflow quickly, whereas noses on mains are buried within the pack job. A good reserve deployment can happen in just 300 feet. The fastest reserve deployments on record have been seen with a Skyhook, where the departing main lifts the freebag off the reserve and the altitude lost from cutting away has been as little as a crazy 100 feet.

So does this mean that it's a good idea to cut away at 100 feet if you have a Skyhook, or 300 feet otherwise? NO, absolutely not! Most centres teach their students a 'hard deck' of between 1,000 and 2,000 feet below which they must not cutaway and all students are taught to make a decision as high as possible immediately after carrying out the safety count. All kinds of factors can slow reserve deployment, such as instability or a simple problem finding the reserve handle. You might think you would always find that handle if your life depended on it, but there are people who didn't and are no longer here to explain why.

After a fatality-free 2011, an AFF student was killed last summer when he cutaway at around 200 feet. The reserve deployment had barely started when he hit the ground. 2013 has not started well either: in January, an experienced jumper had twists on opening which he tried to rectify by kicking out. Having not managed this, he then cutaway at approximately 400 feet and landed with the reserve still in its freebag and all the lines still stowed. He did not have an RSL.

So, back to the moral of the story – it's not about 'how low' you can cutaway but rather 'how high'. If you have a problem during or after deployment, deal with it immediately and be aware that you may be losing height quickly while under a malfunction. Even twists that are usually just a nuisance factor as a student can be a fast malfunction on experienced kit.



The scenarios in this regular 'what if?' column are deliberately vague. There could be a number of different 'correct' answers depending on your experience and other information not contained within the question. However, following feedback, it has been decided to reproduce some previously printed scenarios along with 'answers'... or at least things you might want to consider.

What if... a line from your deploying main snags on your GoPro? The GoPro doesn't snap off.

Once you've had a think, see below for more ideas...

Got any good ones? Send them in!

TOP TIPS: KIT TIP

When practising emergency drills, make it as realistic as possible by doing it in full kit once in a while. Jumpsuits, gloves, helmets – especially full face ones – will all add small differences that could waste valuable seconds in a real malfunction.

- Consider...**
- 1) Do you have a helmet cutaway and have you practised using it? If not, consider getting one – or not mounting cameras, however small, on helmets such as full faces that can't be cut away.
 - 2) Do you need to cut away the main – is it badly entangled or spinning? Will you stay entangled even after you chop it?
 - 3) What height are you at? The entanglement may have restricted the movement of your head, meaning you can't see the ground. Can you still bring your alt in front of your face?
 - 4) Do you have an RSL? How does this change what you will do?
 - 5) Can you find your hook knife even if you may not be able to look at it? Do you even know where it is mounted without looking? Would you think to use it in an entanglement, and to do what? How much altitude are you burning as you fuff about trying to find it and do something sensible with it?



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We are very pleased to announce the arrival of
Jake Diliberto who will be coaching and organising freefly at
all levels at Skydive Hibaldstow in 2013. Contact Jake on
freefly@skydiving.co.uk

WWW.SKYDIVING.CO.UK

SEE FULL DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS IN OUR EXPERIENCED SECTION ONLINE

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Flight Foundation canopy course
22-24 March, 4-6 May

Freefly Essentials - small group organising
29-31 March

Funshine Boogie – new 4 day format
25-28 May & 30 May-02 June

\$kysaver Weeks 20-24 May, 1-5 July

Big Way Head Down Experience Camp
(40ways) 5-9 June

Contact: mike@volare-freefly.com

Floquentials HD Invitational (40ways)
12-16 June Contact: mike@volare-freefly.com



Skydive Spain, Aeródromo La Juliana, Bollullos de la Mitación, Sevilla Tel: (+34) 955 766 056
UK Tel: 0113 2505600 info@skydivespain.com www.skydivespain.com



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FOCUS ON...

CYPRUS

WITH SUN, SEA, SAND AND SWELTERING TEMPERATURES, CYPRUS IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE BPA DROPZONE

WORDS MARTIN WHITE, CCI

HOW DID YOUR DZ BEGIN?

The Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Centre was originally started to offer adventurous training to Cyprus-based British Service personnel nearly 40 years ago. Service personnel are catered for during the week with the Joint Service Adventurous Training Scheme, parachuting being one of the many activities available, and a club was formed to allow continued participation and progression in the sport during the weekends as a result of sustained interest. The CCSPC welcomes all-comers and can offer a variety of ways to experience this exciting sport.

WHAT FACILITIES DO YOU HAVE?

We have our own 1,200m tarmac runway, an extremely large student landing area and a separate experienced landing area. Our packing and ground training is conducted in a large covered structure with mock-ups, mats, mirrors, suspended harnesses and ramps. An up-to-date lecture facility is contained within the office complex. Rigging services are provided with a reserve packing area and spacious rigging room. Our brand new mock-up allows for those funnel

exits to be practised all day long. We are proud of our well-stocked bar, the Drop Inn, with TVs and a catering facility adorned with photos and memorabilia from yesteryear. With free Wi-Fi throughout, I feel that we cater extremely well for regulars and visitors alike.

WHAT DO YOUR KEY STAFF MEMBERS DO?

As most members are aware, we are a military club and the military staff members therefore rotate on a two- or three-year basis. I am currently the CCI and work in conjunction with Dylan Bartle and Chas McNeil – the three of us are employed as the full-time Instructors, Cameramen, display jumpers, Riggers/Packers, etc. We are extremely fortunate to have Phil Bell as the stalwart of the organisation; he is the only permanent fixture at the DZ. He undertakes all the above tasks and most of the administrative tasks too. Raymond, our chief pilot, completes this small but effective team. Our other pilots and Instructors provide an invaluable service to the club. It is vitally important for such a small club that we all multi-task on a daily basis.

1 4-way during the 2012 Championships

2 The DZ

3 Smiling students ready to go

4 Our trusty Islander with her new paint scheme

5 Blue skies

6 A stunning view of Larnaca Bay

WHAT AIRCRAFT DO YOU USE?

We have our own Islander aircraft, which is capable of taking nine parachutists to 10,500 feet in about 20 minutes. While on the climb to altitude, you can take in the breathtaking views of the stunning Cyprus countryside and coastline.

WHAT KIND OF DZ DO YOU TRY TO MAKE IT INTO?

We are a very warm and welcoming club and, as you would expect with the sun shining each and every day, a relaxed atmosphere is easily created. Skydive Cyprus is a small organisation with an efficient work ethos. All abilities are welcome to the DZ and it is my job to get you in the air and back down as safely as possible in tandem with the rest of the staff.

HOW DO YOUR JUMPERS DEVELOP ONCE OFF STUDENT STATUS?

Once our students have been trained by Pelham Georgiades, our resident RAPS Instructor, they are progressed by one of our many coaches. All newly-qualified students are actively encouraged to progress through the grading system of CH1/CH2/JM1 at the



earliest opportunity and time is spent to facilitate this. With FS being the most popular discipline, several 'teams' easily begin to take shape.

IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU OFFER COACHING?

We offer FS coaching, with discounted jump tickets for those undertaking FS training, and several club members have gone on to gain their coaching qualifications. WS has seen an increase this year and coaching is available from the legendary Steve Thomas – it is in this discipline that several new birdmen have been seen soaring above Kingsfield. A highly successful canopy course was run for the first time this year and interest has grown sufficiently to enable our planning for a second course shortly.

WHAT EVENTS DO YOU RUN?

This year has been a busy time for us, with Brian Vacher's Safe Flight School undertaking two canopy-handling courses. The Cyprus Parachute Championships were resurrected and incorporated a Skydiving Festival, much to the enjoyment of 300+ participants. A highly successful concession weekend was held, as was a student progression weekend. All of these events were heavily subsidised by the club to enable maximum attendance by all club members. Scrambles competitions are planned over our winter period and, as ever, I am keen to continually progress and develop the DZ.

DO YOU FEEL PART OF THE BPA?

Despite being 2,000 miles from the UK, I feel that we are very well looked after by the BPA and they are always on hand to offer guidance – this is vitally important with the slight variances of operating in Cyprus. Both myself and Phil are in weekly contact with the BPA, be it on safety or administrative matters. We also make a concerted effort to attend the AGM and associated seminars and generally try to catch up with old and new faces. I feel that the service we get from our association is second to none and long may that continue.

DO YOU HAVE UNIVERSITY CLUBS?

No, but there are several universities in Cyprus, some with UK backgrounds. We do therefore have some members who are students, but nothing in the sense of dedicated university clubs.

DO YOU SPONSOR, OR HAVE ANY TEAMS THAT JUMP AT YOUR DZ?

We routinely offer discounted prices for all parachutists at the DZ. We have several Cypriot teams that train here and compete for their nation, and we fully support them. The Cypriot team competed at the last World Cup and performed admirably – I would like to think that we contributed to their success.



DOES THE CLUB HAVE A GOOD SOCIAL SCENE?

Of course we have! The bar is always open at the end of the parachuting day and sometimes that is quite early at the request of the locals. BBQs and impromptu parties are always occurring. Despite being smaller than most DZs, we can party hard. Our DZ bell for those obligatory beer fines and achievements rings almost every weekend.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR DZ?

The sun, the sea and the social. The sun shines all year round (with only 25 days lost to poor weather on average), the sea is two miles away and is crystal blue throughout the year and, as ever, we like to party.

WHAT ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA?

The stunning Larnaca Bay is best viewed from altitude but, if you want to participate in any watersports, this is all on offer within a stone's throw. If you are a dedicated clubber, then Ayia Napa and the world-famous Nissi Beach are just a short taxi ride away. The Troodos Mountains, where skiing and mountain biking trails are all on hand, are only about an hour away. Cyprus can cater for all tastes, young or not so young. Cyprus

offers everything from a relaxing break to a full-blown adventure.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

We are in the early planning stages to upgrade our aircraft within a year; I feel that this would be a major asset to attract some of the USA-bound skydivers from the UK. The equipment continues to be replaced with new and, with coaching and training events on the calendar, I feel that we are moving in the correct direction. See our FB page and website for all the latest news and developments: www.skydivecyprus.com.cy

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT?

We are continually trying to improve and promote the DZ and move forward – a new aircraft will certainly help with our aspirations for the future. We are only four-and-a-half hours from the UK and, with competitive jump ticket prices, we are a great location for that weekend winter training. We are a friendly and welcoming DZ with accommodating and approachable staff members who are always happy to advise and assist all levels of ability from novice to the more experienced parachutist – guaranteed. ●



23 Feb Night Jumps
16 Mar Safety Day
23-24 Mar 6-way FS Competition
29 Mar - 1 Apr Easter mini-Boogie
6-7 Apr Invitational VFS Sequential
13-14 Apr BPA Safety & Canopy Skills Roadshow



27-28 Apr Big Way Beginners

www.skydivechoreography.com

29 Apr - 3 May FS Skills Camp

Langar Boogie 2013 2-7 May
Watch Facebook for details!

25-27 May Freely Scrambles Money Meet

22-23 Jun Tracking Weekend

27-28 Jul Advanced Head-up Skills Weekend

7-15 Sep **Langar Boogie 2013**

Dave Lewis' Pinch Jump Organised FS www.strollerweb.co.uk

2-3 Mar, 6-7 Apr, 1-2 Jun, 6-7 Jul, 3-4 Aug



Find us on facebook!

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British Parachute Schools

✉ Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY

☎ 01949 860878

✉ info@skydivelangar.co.uk

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skydive
co.uk

CLUBZONE

AFFILIATED DZs
AVAILABLE TO BPA
MEMBERS – HOW MANY
HAVE YOU JUMPED AT?



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
T: 01262 228033
Mob: 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 558672
T: 01229 889516
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 740810
T: 0871 6640113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish

Cornish Parachute Club
Perranporth Airfield,
Higher Trevellas, St Agnes,
Cornwall TR5 0XS
T: 01872 553352
Mob: 07790 439653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

6 Dunkseswell

Skydive UK Ltd
Dunkseswell Airfield, Dunkseswell,
Devon EX14 4LG
T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
info@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
Beech 99

7 Headcorn

Skydive Headcorn
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn,
Kent TN27 9HX
T: 01622 891670
info@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan, Islander

8 Hibaldstow

Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648837
T: 0113 2505600
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
T: 01295 812300
info@skydive.co.uk
skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

10 Jersey

Skydive Jersey Ltd
States Airport, St Peter,
Jersey JE3 7ZR
T: 01534 747410
info@skydivejersey.net
skydivejersey.net
Airvan, guest Turbines

11 Langar

British Parachute Schools
Langar Airfield, Langar,
Nottingham NG13 9HY
T: 01949 860878
info@skydivelangar.co.uk
skydivelangar.co.uk
*2 Cessna Grand Caravans,
guest aircraft*

12 Netheravon

Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
T: 01980 628250
generalenquiries@netheravon.com
netheravon.com
3 Cessna Caravans, guest aircraft

13 Paragon

Paragon Skydiving
Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol,
Perthshire PH2 7TB
T: 01821 642454
billy.gollan@btinternet.com
paragonskydiving.co.uk
Cessna 182

14 Peterlee

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

15 Reading

London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield
Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS
T: 0845 1307194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

16 Salisbury

Skydive Southcoast Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
T: 01722 323628
info@skydivesouthcoast.co.uk
skydivesouthcoast.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
Cessna Caravan

18 St Andrews

Skydive St Andrews
Osprey Road, Fife Airport,
Glenrothes KY6 2SL
T: 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 662572
T: 07836 201953
kbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestrathallan.co.uk
3 Cessna 206, guest Turbine

20 Swansea

Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood,
Swansea SA2 7JU
T: 07779 019655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
skydiveswansea.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

21 Swindon

Skydive London
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm,
Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA
T: 01793 791222
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

22 Tilstock

The Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch,
Shropshire SY13 2HA
T: 01948 841111
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
theparachutecentre.com
Airvan

23 UK Para Beccles

UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough,
Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
T: 01502 476131
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
ukparachuting.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

24 UK Para Sibson

UK Parachuting
Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
T: 01832 280490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

25 Weston

RAF 22 Training Group
Availability TBC

26 Wild Geese

Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrrowreagh
Rd, Garvagh, Coleraine,
Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
T: 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,
T: 0035 724 744337
info@skydivecyprus.com.cy
skydivecyprus.com.cy
PBN Piston Islander

RAPA

**Rhine Army Parachute
Association**
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse,
33175, Bad Lippspringe, Germany
T: 0049 5254 982 2378
atgg-jspclac@mod.uk
skydive-badlippspringe.com
Cessna Caravan

Parachuting Societies

BCPA

**British Collegiate Parachute
Association**
Jack Bradford, BCPA Chairman
mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
*A community for university
skydivers*

POPS

Parachutists Over Phorty
Jeff Chandler, Top POP
1 Beaulieu Road, Boscombe Down,
Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7PD
T: 07779 580399
jeffchandler@hotmail.com
pops.org.uk

SOS

Skydivers Over Sixty
Contact: John Houghland
13 Bowers Croft,
Cambridge, CB1 8RP
johnhskydive@hotmail.co.uk



1-3 Santa skydive just before Christmas, by Jason Kelleher



NETHERAVON

netheravon.com

Achievements galore!

Nethers battled with the end of year weather and, despite this, we still got lots of jumping in – just look at the achievements list!

Thanks to Stacey Canning for running the progression week in mid-November. Although the weather wasn't very kind, the week was a huge success with eight participants being awarded their packing certificates and all JM1 and CH2 briefs being completed. The weather did, however, allow for a day of hop and pops (with exits improving throughout the day) and a full day of FS coaching. We finished it off with a trip to the wind tunnel for some more FS coaching. Huge thanks to Mark Bayada, Kenny Everitt and the FS coaches for giving up their time. Thanks also to Jo, the two Mikes, Albert, Si, Wes, Jules and Max for taking part. Keep an eye on the website for similar events in 2013.

Congratulations to Alex Dand (*Euphoria Freestyle*), who was runner-up in the British Army Sportswoman of the Year Award. She was narrowly beaten by Olympic rowing gold medallist Heather Stanning.

Well done to all the Santas who provided much entertainment with their festive December jump – quite why Jack Bradford chose that moment to sport a tankini, we'll never know!

Congratulations also to Geoff McVey for a massive 5,000 jumps! Finally, a big thank you to Paul Hix and Jon Moore just for being awesome!

Happy New Year everyone!

Kath Salisbury and Stacey Canning

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Edward Garibaldi **CAT 8** Slavoo Biegluk, Toby Bonnell, Jo Cunningham, Scott Kimber, John Munday, Ges Potter, Janine Qasim, Andy Reilly, Josh Rex, Natalie Smith **CH1** Slavoo Biegluk, Wes Blampied, Toby Bonnell, Jo Cunningham, Scott Kimber, John Munday, Ges Potter, Janine Qasim, Andy Reilly, Josh Rex, Natalie Smith, Si Thomas **CH2** Mike Anelli, Spencer Bailey, Wes Blampied, Jules Clayton, Steve Ferrigno, Max Foreman, Heather Gibbons, Viv Green, Scott Kimber, Gerwyn Legg, Metaxas Nicolaides, Mehrdad Safaieh, Si Thomas **JM1** Mike Anelli, Spencer Bailey, Wes Blampied, Jules Clayton, Steve Ferrigno, Scott Freemantle, Max Foreman, Heather Gibbons, Viv Green, Gerwyn Legg, Jack Marlow, Metaxas Nicolaides, Mehrdad Safaieh, Si Thomas **FS1** Daniel Anderson, Mike Anelli, Spencer Bailey, Chris Bryson, Steve Ferrigno, Max Foreman, Garrick Foster Taylor, Scott Freemantle, Heather Gibbons, Viv Green, Steve Higgins, Scott Kimber, Johnny Long, Ruth Marlow, Scott Minton, John Munday, Stuart Reid, Murray Sutcliffe **FF1** Chris Bryson, Lydia Glinski **WS1** Neelfred Mallow, Chris Mizzi, Joe Newrick, John Parker, Ralph Weatherburn **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Spencer Bailey, Wes Blampied, Steve Ferrigno, Max Foreman, Heather Gibbons, Viv Green, Gerwyn Legg, Johnny Long, Jack Marlow, Metaxas Nicolaides, Mehrdad Safaieh, Si Thomas **100** Linas Karaveckas, Scott Minton **200** Christopher Frost **500** Paul Aubrey-Rees **1,000** James Lee, Gareth Leonard **5,000** Geoff McVey **24 HOURS FREEFALL** Thea Westley

BCPA

bcpa.org.uk

Start as you mean to go on

To kick-start the academic year, the BCPA returned to Langar for 'BCPA Freshers' with a record turnout of student jumpers – Liverpool alone brought 15! The weather was kind to us over the weekend and we managed to get all of the competitions completed. The competition was tight, with Portsmouth and Bath coming away with 68 and 67 competition league points respectively and Nottingham not far behind. Big thanks to all of the Langar staff who made the event such a success.

BCPA Indoors will be taking place as this Mag makes it to you; we will be taking over the Bodyflight wind tunnel in Bedford over February 16-17, with more than 80 members of the BCPA flying 16 hours of coaching, competition and carnage. All of the time has sold out, but anyone who

wishes to join us for a party in the Flowhouse on Saturday night is more than welcome to come along – sign up on the website as always.

For those who missed out on tunnel time, our next major event is only a few weeks away at Hibaldstow over March 8-10 and will include discounted coaching and a canopy course with Brian Vacher! Keep an eye on the website for up-to-date details on this and all of our events. By the next edition of the Mag, we should have details for our events at Cark and Netheravon, and our first return to Chatteris after a whole decade!

Jack Bradford



1 Portsmouth Accuracy Team, by Madeleine Leong

2 Pete Hodges Accuracy, by Madeleine Leong

3 Bonfire, by Wayne Glenn

4 Luke, Lee, Wen and Loong

James Birchall, by Sav



BRIDLINGTON

skydivegb.com

No, it's skydiving...

The past few months at Skydive GB have comprised mostly of rain! Though we closed for December, the weather was kind to us for 2013 and we started the year in true style by jumping on New Year's Day. The New Year's Eve gathering was eventful, though the less said about that the better! Alec Flint and Liam Watt felt it was a good idea to welcome the New Year in with an early morning swim in the North Sea – lunatics...

Congratulations to our awesome pilot Mike Samuel for marrying his beautiful lady. A big well done also to Liam Watt on passing his commercial pilot's examinations – he's not just a pretty face. Rachael Poole has been jumping whenever the weather allows, and is now on 15 second delays and loving

every minute of it. James 'Birchy' Birchall has returned to skydiving after a six-year break from the sport – his new-found enthusiasm is proving expensive for him, but his shiny new rig is beautiful!

2013 should bring some positive changes to Skydive GB, as we are hoping to construct the new hangar, licence the premises and generally improve the facilities. We are looking forward to this year – we increased the amount of jumping by 50 per cent last year compared with 2011 and we aim to increase this further this year. We would like to wish all skydivers a very Happy New Year and we hope to see you all soon.

Sara Orton

Tracy Bartley and Dave Saville over the Yorkshire Riviera, by Sara



ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Liam Watt, Rachael Poole **JUMP NUMBERS 200** James Birch
1,400 Martin Heywood-Wakeman

HINTON

skydive.co.uk

New arrivals,
new lockers
and a new plane!

2012 was a great year for AFF students and, on the last day of the jumping year, Sam and Jason Kubiak (who have progressed equally throughout the entire AFF syllabus) managed to get on every lift of the day and, by doing so, both gained their 'A' Licence in time for Christmas. Well done guys!

It's been a busy start to the year for some of our jumpers. Isy Davies gave birth to Milly, and Vikki and Lance Barr welcomed Matilda. Congratulations to them all – we look forward to seeing you soon.

To start the New Year afresh, all of the lockers have been spring cleaned and have had new locks fitted. Any club members who would like to have a locker of their own should contact the office for details – it's on a first-come/first-served basis, so don't be late.

The big news is that our brand new aircraft has arrived from New Zealand! After a couple of days of prep, the seats are now in and the first lift was made on a beautifully sunny Sunday with a strong turnout of fun jumpers itching to get back in the sky after the Christmas break. Welcome back!

Sarah-Jane Meacock

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF GRADUATE Hamish Hurley, Jason Kubiak, Sam Kubiak, Lukasz Lancucki, Lynne Mattingley, Lee Wellstead **CH2/JMI** Mike Poli **FSI** Paul Townsend **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Ian Hutchinson, Andy Spillard **300** Bob Shears **4,000** Steve Park

Last lift of 2012 and last lift from the current PAC with Lawrence Fansa, by Lee Bennett





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HIBALDSTOW

skydiving.co.uk


By James Stevenson

Alice in...Hibaldstow?

What an incredible end of season we've had at Hibaldstow! Not many will be able to forget the huge Hibbleween meet weekend, where huge numbers of teams descended on the dropzone to battle for the prestige of winning the new meet medals. As exciting as the speed meet was, of course, the show stopper was the *Alice in Wonderland* themed party where the bar was turfed (that's right, grass turfed...) for the Mad Hatter's Garden Party while dancers raved to classic dance music on the giant chess board. Stunning costumes and mad dancing showed once again that Halloween at Hib is huge!

Stubert's FS1+ event continues to bring lower experience jumpers together to learn the core skills, enabling them to get into group skydiving efficiently. Centred around 6-way FS groups, skydivers (some of whom had travelled a long way to be involved) learned how to approach a formation and fly with a base. The event continues in February so, if you're looking for an easy way to get into group FS, come and see us.

A huge contingent of York jumpers continue to frequent the dropzone and some classic personalities are already starting to appear, such as 10p Dave – who lost five jump tickets in a gameshow but managed to walk away with a 10p coin. Better luck next time, Dave! Elsewhere, Tom Chan became the first York student to exit the aircraft without a static line on his first freefall. Trailing just behind, however, are 10p Dave, Lacey, Tom, Stuart, James and Lucy, who are keen to experience their freefalls. Congratulations also to Yorkie Bradders Cornes, who smashed his FS1 dive with a smooth eight-point 4-way, and to John Marshal and Iain Chorlton, who followed suit soon after.

The season ended with a bang with our end-of-year Christmas party weekend and the weather still provided opportunities to jump. With loads of fun jumpers, the DZ was busy with skydiving all the way to sunset when the bar opened for free mulled wine and buffet supper – a Hib Christmas classic.

The People's Awards were a treat, praising people for their achievements (and some failures) over the year. Congratulations to this year's winners:

Freefall Spammer – Richard Cotton
Faceplanter – Dodge Rogers
Boozehound – Shell Meakins
Student of the Year – Brad Cornes
Best Graduate – Krystian Groom
Team of the Year – *Team Tr4ck*
Skydiver of the Year – Stubert

All that was left for the year was to party hard and look forward to the season starting again. What a year – here's to 2013 being as huge! Keep an eye on our new events calendar for some hot events – something for everyone, every weekend!

Stu Ferguson

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Tom Chan, 10p Dave, James, Lacey, Lucy, Stuart, Tom **FS1** Iain Chorlton, Bradders Cornes, John Marshal

POPS

pops.org.uk

Just getting started

If you were born before 1973 then you are a POPS and, if you were born before 1953, you are also a SOS. It seems more and more people are still skydiving as POPS and SOS, and more than would like to admit are still in denial. With ram-air canopies, we can jump for longer and embrace this sport as the Master/Senior jumpers whose enthusiasm, dedication and sacrifice are the foundation of the sport today.

A plan is in motion to re-brand the POPS/SOS/JOS/JOEY as Senior/Master skydivers with a new badge as well – any ideas are welcome. I believe the badge should have at least a parachute, wings, Union Jack and a skydiver or two with the words Master or Senior Skydiver and letters POPS/SOS/JOS/JOEY.

The current British teams are 50 per cent POPS and we have achieved up to 15 golds at both the World POPS and over the six Worlds. I wonder how long the current younger jumpers will stay in the sport

with so much else to offer. We have also seen many parents and children jumping together, and three generations such as the Bagwells and the Chandlers jumping too. Are there any more? Perhaps we could have a parents and children or siblings event some day!

Some dates to note:

- SOS FS (relative work) record attempt (Netheravon) – April 27-28
- POPS Netheravon – June 1-2
- POPS Hibaldstow – July 6-7
- World POPS – Oct 30-Nov 9 2014 in Argentina

The competition is challenging, with three Accuracy events, three FS events, Precision Accuracy, Sport Accuracy, Hit and Rock, 4-way Scrambles, 4-way National/SOS and 8-way Speed. The rules have just been re-written (please see the link from the POPS website) and will be used as close as possible for UK events depending on numbers. Please remember – one needs to be a paid-up member of POPS/SOS/BPA and Netheravon DZ to come to any of these events, not just of a certain age.

Finally, I would like as many photos as possible of skydiving – particularly in black and white and with the older aircraft that many of us started with (such as the DH Rapide and then the piston Islander).

Jeff Chandler

PHANTOM

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1 Oliver Hudson (Adam Potter and Darren Strafford in reflection), by Darren Strafford

2 Darren Strafford and Tom Craw Freeflying, by Oli Hudson


PETERLEE
skydiveacademy.org.uk

There's an App for that...

Here we are again, a brand new year. 2012 saw the most-ever jumps completed at Peterlee. Inside the packing shed, we have installed a PC for regulars and anyone who is signed up on the Ground Control Manifest system. This allows users to manifest themselves straight from packing and saves a lot of time and queues. The system is also available on iPhones and Android smartphones as well.

We now have a third classroom finished, more TVs and monitors, full electrics installed in the second hangar and five extra caravan electric hook-up points on the north side of Hangar Two. The AFF School run by Brian Dyas is now up and running too.

Our annual Christmas awards dinner was a smashing hit. We saw lots of old and new faces. Awards were given out and Teesside

University swept the club annual awards. University Club of the Year went to Teesside University, Most Progressed Student and Most Entertaining Landing were given to David Fusaro (a Teesside student) and Most Persistent Student was given to Adam Boxall (an ex-Teesside student).

Oli Hudson

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL David Houghton, Wenyi Toh **CAT 8** Jo Burnie, Emily Horswill, Paul Bantock, John Swift **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Si Flisher, Adam Boxall

LANGAR
skydivelangar.co.uk

On top of the world...

It's January 2 as I write this and 2013 got off to a great start, with wall-to-wall blue skies for New Year's Day and loads of jumpers from around the UK getting their first jump of the year. It's back to cloud and rain today, needless to say, but rubbish weather during 2012 didn't stop us – we exceeded 30,000 jumps last year and we're confident that 2013 is also going to be great!

Langar jumpers made an excellent showing at the World Meet in Dubai: Pixie MacLeod-Hodgson and Al Hodgson were in the Freestyle medals

yet again, bringing home bronze this time. The Female 4-way FS team *Bodyflight* (sponsored for training jumps by Skydive Langar) came in an excellent fourth place despite last-minute personnel changes, so a big 'well done' to Siân Stokes, Sarah Cannon, Helen Arnold and Laura McLelland. Milko, with *Satori*, made the final cut to compete all the way to round 10 in Open 4-way for a very creditable sixth place against some tough competition. Langar jumpers also competed in VFS (Ally Milne), CP (Martin Reynolds) and CF (Gavin McLeod, Doug Preston, Martin Robiette). Sorry if I've missed anyone! Plenty of world-class people at Langar...

Boogie 1 dates this year are May 2-7 – watch this space and follow us at facebook.com/skydivelangar for upcoming events and up-to-the-minute news.

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Jiri Alaska, Ed Cawte **CAT 8/CHI** Pete Priaulx, Yassi Molazadeh **JMI/CH2** Luke Thatcher **FS1** Andrew Wilkinson **FF2** Matt Kite **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Rebecca Mansfield **100** Luke Thatcher, Al Campbell **800** Nick Robinson **900** Ryan Briddon **1,600** Siân Stokes, Tom Hartland **12 HOURS FREEFALL** Nick Robinson **24 HOURS FREEFALL** Will Cooke



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SWINDON

skydivelondon.co.uk

Skydive London shuts down for the winter for Brucie to get his beauty sleep and for Em to recharge her batteries, so not a lot has happened – other than the fact that it has rained. Biblical rain, in fact. Our runway has been shut for a while, so even if we wanted to jump Mother Nature wouldn't allow it. It wasn't a record-breaking year in the end, but our trusty Airvan has performed admirably all year.

The only event which has happened since the last Mag write-up was the Christmas do. After hurling Robby, the owner of the Cross Keys, via a Tandem (he cried), we all set off for dinner. Brucie tried his best to keep things sensible early on and then got frogmarched home by Emma at about 9.30pm after one too many Babychams. Mark Benson showed us what he can do with 46 two-pence pieces – it's a great party trick and the video is epic. Crazy had a great idea, though – how could he win lots of trophies, get a few free jump tickets, win Brucie's heart and feed his soon-to-be-Skygod ego? A unique and never-before-done event was thought up – what about an Awards Ceremony?

The categories were decided, internet voting was set up and Crazy sat back wondering how many awards he would win. In the end, he won one category: Sky Mong of the Year, which he received 100 per cent of the votes for. Proud of you, Crazy! Andy Ttyrreell won the Most Improved Skydiver, as quite frankly he was useless at first – nowhere near as good as his wife Hazel, who is awesome – but, with help from Em Green, he has become acceptable. Student of the Year went to GK1, who came from not being able to do his five second to completing his AFF in style. Skygod of the Year was, I feel, a little misunderstood by the newbies on the DZ but Em Green took the trophy home – as her instructing and general wearing the



Red Angels, by Rick Thorne

I'd like to thank the DZ...

trousers at home deserved. As for Instructor of the Year and Club Member of the Year, these two trophies are sat on my bedside table and I would like to thank myself for voting for me more than once just so Crazy didn't win. A new award was quickly ushered in after an Ashtray conversation with Mark Benson (after an incident in the Village Hotel, Leeds). This was Swampy of the Year, which Markie won with 75 per cent of the votes and with Dan Morgan coming second. True to form, after Pieter and myself had carried him home, Markie was stripped and placed on his new sofa wearing nothing but a wallet and resting on a towel. In the morning, a nice puddle was found under the sofa and the Best Girlfriend Award was presented to Lisa, who even cooked us all breakfast while Markie had a can of beer.

Ross Walker took his chances with the originally named 4play (Redland's finest and only 4-way team with three members since Max has more excuses than Carly as to why he can't jump) and flew off to Seville. One jump later and George

Von Kutzleben reduced 4play to 2play – you did us proud, GVK. Get well soon, and please, please don't fall asleep early when Claire Briggs is around. Tom Webster, you will be beer-fined if you mention Julia Foxwell and 12-way again – we got the message. Carly – don't worry, I won't mention the highlighter incident.

We open for business on the first weekend in March but we should be visiting Hinton en masse a few times in between. Let's hope we fare better than Rayner, who landed in the only tree within 10 miles of the DZ. Oh, and Crazy left us. After all we have done for him, turning him from chav to Tandem Instructor in four years, he got one word from Noel and he dropped us like a hot potato – the choo choo of the buca train will now be heard in the Hibs bar. I will miss him loads. Just don't tell him...

Dylan Griffith-Jones

ACHIEVEMENTS FS! Andrew Griggs, Ross Walker

BLACK KNIGHTS

bkpc.co.uk

All change

Happy New Year to all and a big thank you to everyone who attended the end-of-year party. We bid a sad farewell to F-GODZ and Christophe, and we would like to thank Mike and all of his team for their hard work, dedication and support of F-GODZ during its time at BKPC.

We are looking forward to starting 2013 with lots of changes around the centre. Paul and John have been extremely busy during the Christmas shutdown, extending the canteen and building new offices, a club area and our new bar. We look forward to welcoming old and new faces.

We are working hard on the 2013 calendar and we will be holding special events in CF, FS and wingsuiting – please check the website for more

details. With a busy season ahead, we are looking for committed staff, Tandem Instructors, cameramen, AFF Instructors and packers to come and join our team. Any further information can be obtained by speaking to Paul or John at the centre.

Congratulations to Danny and Jo on the announcement of their engagement and the confirmation of Jo's pregnancy. By the time this goes to print, John and Jan will have tied the knot in Mauritius (that is, of course, if we can get him away from the DZ over there!).

Blue Skies

Sharon Beeson

ACHIEVEMENTS WSI! Roger Hughes JUMP NUMBERS 100 Clint Gaskell 500 Steve Searle

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 50 James Tuck

Looking forward

So 2012 is over and 2013 is here already. There are some great events lined up for the year ahead, but more on that later. The end of the year concluded with the Beccles Christmas party and awards presentation, held once again at the Wine Vaults in Beccles. It was fantastic to see so many people attend and enjoy good food and great company. Once again, Tomo didn't disappoint with his now-legendary speech that put a smile on everyone's face!

Congratulations to Dan Semper, who was Student of the Year 2012, James Page, who was Club Jumper of the Year 2012 and, last but by no means least, Steven Wickham, who was awarded the prestigious Spanner of the Year award. As with last year, this was well earned! A big thanks to the Locks and all their staff at the Vaults, who put up with us until the small hours.



Congratulations to Steve Wickham and Kelly and also to Sean Thompson and Sarah Law, who welcomed baby girls in December. Best wishes to both couples – good luck and have fun, guys!

Here is the list of events UK Parachuting Beccles have planned for 2013:

- The Tunnel trip in early February will be an evening session, so get your name down
- FS coaching weekends will be held on February 16-17 and 23-24
- Pagey's Playday in early March will celebrate Andy Page's 10,000th jump
- This year's FS Scrambles has been moved from the usual August Bank Holiday date



1 Steven Wickham and Dan Semper

2 James Page, award presented by DZO Tomo

because it will clash with the Nationals, so it will be held on the May 4-6 weekend this year

- The Hangar party will be on Sunday May 5
- There will also be a BPA CF Roadshow and a Brian Vacher Canopy Handling course, dates TBC soon
- Packing courses will run throughout the year

Of course, FS coaching continues every last Sunday of the month – just pay your own slot.

Let's look forward to an even bigger and better year at Beccles in 2013.

Michael Wemyss

Apocalypse... ah, later

Well, 2012 proved to be busy for the Wild Geese. Numbers of fun jumpers are on the up and it's good to see two new AFF students joining us: James Hendron and Matt Taylor – you're very welcome at Wild Geese. Despite being hampered by spells of poor weather, we were still able to fulfil the dreams of countless tandem students. Along with numerous RAPS courses and fun jumpers, the manifest team have been well and truly run off their feet! We also have a new Instructor in the fold, so big congratulations go to Rudy McClengahan on getting his CSBI rating.

Further afield, the ever-cheerful Mr Rod McCrory and Eddie Montieth formed the 'World Famous Irish Swoop Team' and took themselves off to Dubai to take part in the World Parachute Championships – a stunning spectacle the likes of which the skydiving world may not see again for a very long time. From the photos we've seen, he certainly made a big splash at the event. Well done, Rod – nice one!

At the Christmas awards ceremony, DZO/CCI Maggie Penny thanked everyone for their commitment to the sport and to the club before making the awards. 'Bum Tandem Exit' went to He who shall remain nameless! 'Student of the Year' went to Joanne Wilson. The Award for 'Skydiver of the Year' was split between Nadine Bibby and Wendy Hyland, both of whom had phenomenal success at the 2012 National 4-way competitions as part of the *Well Wild* all-ladies team. Well done girls – all of us at Wild Geese are extremely proud of you!

On an equally pleasant note, the world DIDN'T end on December 21, so we can look forward to another excellent year of skydiving at Movenis DZ. C'mon over for a wee visit!

Rod McCrory

WILD GEESE
skydivewildgeese.co.uk
ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Philip Bogues **CAT8/CHI** Joanne Wilson **CAT8** James Hendron
CH2/JMI Simon Finlay, Michael Telford **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Phil Bannon **1 HOUR FREEFALL**
 Simon Finlay **6 HOURS FREEFALL** Neal Fitzpatrick


1 Rod McCrory swooping at the World Meet, by Kuri, Babylon

2 Student of the Year Joanne Wilson with Maggie Penny

3 Skydivers of the Year Nadine and Wendy



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SIBSON
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13k, 15k, 21k...

After an awesome year of multiple aircraft, multiple events, BCPA(!), live music in the hangar and the Black Hawk, we are now moving on and up towards 2013. So who is going to join us for skydiving the way only Sibson knows how this year?

We have an events list that is now growing by the day. Please keep a lookout on our website events page and our Facebook groups (UK Parachuting/Sibson Airfield and Sibson Skydivers). We are adding new events there weekly at the moment.

New for 2013, we have secured the usual Cessna Caravans but the Black Hawk has gone – enter the Dornier G-92! Going to 15k in approx 12 minutes, the G-92 will not be here until the end of March and won't be here every weekend but does work out on average at two weekends per month. This also includes the UKP Boogie in the last week of July, so come jump from 15k with us in style!

We have also secured a UKSL 4-way comp and are looking at another one. This all makes sense, as the doors of the UK's newest and most progressive FS school also open in February and it will be run by none other than World Champion Sarah Cannon (who will be based at the DZ). Please get in touch if you fancy trying your hand on a 4-way team, as Sarah will be putting together teams of all abilities from newbies to old hands.

Speaking of old hands, check out the picture taken by Nick Davison of a staff jump which had a combined number of about 21,000 jumps between them – there's a rumour that it was a one pointer, but who's counting? Thanks also to Johnny Moore, our club news photographer of the year. If you fancy seeing your pictures in print, please email them to me in the office.

We had a charity night at the end of 2012 in aid of MAGPAS Air Ambulance – a charity close to everyone's hearts. This included a charity auction where there were zillions of amazing lots from iPads to sports cars to slave for a weekend. The auction master Macca was in full flow and kept the bidding war under control. *Grounded* provided their services for free, with Macca taking to the keyboard and playing along with the guys from his elevated keyboard stage while looking down on us mere mortals. There was also a bake sale, a raffle and a hog roast which helped keep everyone fed. The cheap bar allowed the beer to flow like wine. The evening was an amazing success and we raised just short of £13,000. The guys at MAGPAS said they were very humbled and amazed that we could do it. Well done to you all for your generosity, time, gifts and bidding.

Plenty to look forward to for 2013. Should anyone have any ideas, let me know in the office at office@ukparachuting.co.uk – nothing is impossible! Stay in touch via our Facebook groups and Twitter feed. Why not follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook or check out our website at www.skydivesibson.co.uk/events to keep up to speed with all the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson?

Paul Dorward

DUNKESWELL

skydive99.com

2013!

Not much to say really – a wet and windy end to a dismal year, weather-wise. I think I can safely say that 2013 will be better – it has to be. However, even in the face of adversity, we have managed to train and jump more AFF students than ever as well as having had a fabulous Twin Beech Boogie and building both a swoop pond and a rigging loft – so

I guess things could be worse. Big congratulations go out to Rob Gray and Steve Howes for gaining their Basic Instructor rating in Tandem and AFF respectively.

2012 was rounded off with a great Christmas party. A few themes went on, with some of the ladies dressing up very nicely while some of the boys enjoyed an alternative version of pub golf. I feel I should write more about the party, but I was quite drunk and can't remember. Roll on next year!

A few notices and dates for the diary this year:

- CP Grand Prix – Dates to be confirmed
- CP British Nationals – September 20-22
- Twin Beech Boogie – Dates to be confirmed

Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for updates of FF weekends, big-way weekends or CP weekends.

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Looking back over 2012

As 2012 drew to a close, we celebrated in true Tilstock style at our Christmas party and AGM. We had a fantastic night – so much so that Colin has already booked the same venue for 2013 on December 14. Put it in your diaries now! Hawkstone Park did a great job fitting us in at very short notice and many of us kept their bar staff working until just before breakfast!

It was lovely to see Martin Wilshaw back with us after his car accident last year and great to see him improving each time we see him. Colin and Lyn gave out the awards and said thank you to everyone who helps make Tilstock a wonderful club.

Mary Carbutt won the Student of the Year award and, thanks to Tom Rees, she also won £100-worth of tunnel time. Tom has recently moved to work at Skydive Dubai and he left behind a canopy that he told Buzz to give to the Student of the Year. It was decided that the canopy wasn't worth keeping to fly, but Buzz managed to sell it to Dave Major (our Advanced Rigger) and the money was put towards tunnel time.

Gareth Wood won the Take Up Golf Award due to losing quite a few things this year. First of all he lost his jumping partner, Micky Cox, to a broken leg, then he lost his frappe hat, Pro Track and (later) his goggles.

Martin Wilshaw won the Crater of the Year Award for the accident he had last year where he lost an argument with a tractor. Martin wasn't well enough to collect this award in 2011, so we rolled it over to this year. There was also the case of the cheesecake thief, which was solved by Ellie Southworth and myself. I hope you have learned your lesson, Craig Powell!



- 1 **Lauren Wood**
15 sec freefall
- 2 **John Poole and Paul Wood**
before their Santa jump
- 3 **Dan Griffiths**
after his first freefall



ACHIEVEMENTS
FIRST FREEFALL
Dan Griffiths,
Andy McCleary
JUMP NUMBERS 400
Barry Jones,
Ian Raynor
FS COACH
Ann Fleming

Back at the DZ, we have been making the most of the beautiful winter weather. Gareth Wood, Eddie Milnes, Steve Parton and John Poole took part in Tilly's first hoop jump and Paul Wood and John Poole completed a Santa jump. The students are continuing to impress us with their progression and 2012 has been one of the best years for new students.

We are open on all Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays, then all Fridays from March. We will also be open on ad hoc Thursdays throughout the summer.

2012 Awards

Student of the Year – Mary Carbutt
Club Member of the Year – Ann Fleming
Crater of the Year – Martin Wilshaw
Take Up Golf – Gareth Wood

Ann Fleming

You can't keep a good skydiver down!

Things have quietened down considerably as we have gone into winter. The constant rain has put quite a dampener on things, but has not stopped us from having a record year.

In late October, the legend that is Dave Coveney suffered a heart attack on jump run at 12,000ft and effectively died. Due to the lifesaving skills of Bernard Devine, Del Hopkins and Clem Quinn (who were all onboard the aircraft), he was given continuous CPR until the aircraft landed and then shocked four times with the airfield's defibrillator. He has now had a pacemaker fitted and a bypass, and I am happy to say that he is on the road to making a full recovery. We love you Dave!

Some very keen students have battled on throughout, most notably Melanie Kyle and Ram Aiyar. Both were determined to get their

AFF done and have not been put off at all by the cold weather.

We have also had a sudden surge in static line students from Kent University and Imperial College. Lots of them have already progressed to DPs, so hopefully we will start the New Year with a few first freefalls!

We lost Del for a couple of weeks in December as he went and helped out the country on another Exped with the Tigers. Hard life! Clem even managed a sneaky skiing trip over the Christmas period.

The Christmas Day jump was rained off, but January 1 2013 saw blue skies. We allowed everyone to get one jump in before we decided to give the soggy runway a rest and let it recover.

The usual carnage crowd have made the most of the down time with several trips to the wind tunnel. We look forward to seeing the evidence of their new-found skills in the skies above Headcorn later on in the year.

Jane Hopkins

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Jack Ridgeway **AFF GRADUATE** Melanie Kyle **CAT8/CHI** Valerie Hindie, Darren Street **CH2/JMI** Luke Warren **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Luke Warren **200** Michael Morton **500** Sam Laming



Our legend Dave Coveney on a water jump a couple of years ago, by Lucy Smith-Willey


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February

February 23

B/F Night jumpsLocation: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

March

March 1-3

CP CH/CP courseLocation: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

March 8-10

B/F BCPA HibaldstowLocation: **Hibaldstow** · bcpa.org.uk

March 16

U Safety DayLocation: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

March 23-24

FS 6-way compLocation: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

March 25-29

BPA Instructor Course
(Tandem/AFF)Location: **Langar** · bpa.org.uk

March 25-29

U PIA SymposiumLocation: **Daytona Beach, Florida** · pia.com

March 29-31

A Easter Boogie (WVWR qualifier)Location: **Eloy, Arizona** · amyhmelecki@hotmail.com

April

April 4

BPA Riggers' and STC meetingsLocation: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

April 4-6

U Bodyflight World ChallengeLocation: **Bedford** · worldchallenge.info

April 6-7

A Sequential VFS InvitationalLocation: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

April 6-7

B/F Helicopter jumpsLocation: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 6-12

FS 2-point 222-way with BJ WorthLocation: **Eloy, Arizona**

April 13-14

BPA BPA Safety and Canopy Skills
Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langar** · bpa.org.ukCF coaching over Dunkeswell,
by Dan Guest

April 16

BPA BPA Council meetingLocation: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

April 20-21

B/F Load organisingLocation: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 26-28

WS Phoenix Fly Flocking CampLocation: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

April 27-28

FS Big-way BeginnersLocation: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

April 27-28

U SOS FS record attemptLocation: **Netheravon** · jeffchandler@hotmail.com

April 29-May 3

BPA Instructor Course
(Tandem/AFF)Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk
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May

May 2-5

FS P3 Big-way CampLocation: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

May 2-7

B/F Langar BoogieLocation: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 3-6

B/F BCPA NetheravonLocation: **Netheravon** · bcpa.org.uk

May 4-6

A Ladies' Head Down
Record AttemptsLocation: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 4-6

FS FS Scrambles (with
Hangar Party on Sunday 5)Location: **Beccles** · ukparachuting.co.uk

May 9-12

FS P3 100-way CampLocation: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com



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May 11-12

FS **FS UKSL**

Location: **TBC**

May 13-17

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

Location: **Strathallan** · bpa.org.uk

May 15-19

FS **P3 Spring Fling Unique Formation**

Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

May 20-24

BPA **Instructor Course (CSI)**

Location: **Strathallan** · bpa.org.uk

May 24-27

B/F **BCPA Cark**

Location: **Cark** · bcpa.org.uk

May 25-26

A **Freely Money Meet**

Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 25-27

FS **Scrambles**

Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

June

June 1-2

U **POPS meet**

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 5-9

A **Big-way Experience Camp, 20/40-ways**

Location: **Skydive Spain** · mike@volare-freely.com

June 6

BPA **Riggers' and STC meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

June 8

B/F **Fall for the Fallen – World Record Tandem Day**

Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 8-9

FS **FS UKSL**

Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

June 18

BPA **BPA Council meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

June 21-23

B/F **BCPA Big-way**

Location: **Netheravon** · bcpa.org.uk

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July

July 1-7

B/F **BCPA Nationals**

Location: **Sibson** · bcpa.org.uk

July 6-7

U **POPS meet**

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

July 9-14

B/F **Vector Festival**

Location: **Chalon sur Saone, France** · vectorfestival.com

July 13-14

FS **FS UKSL**

Location: **TBC**

July 15-19

FS **East-West Challenge 100-way Sequential**

Location: **Kolomna, Russia** · aerograd.ru/en

July 18-28

B/F **Sibson Boogie (helicopter on July 26)**

Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

August

August 1

BPA **Riggers' and STC meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

August 1-2

A **Summerfest Boogie (WVWR qualifier)**

Location: **Skydive Chicago** · melissaaheart@yahoo.com

August 3-4

FS **4-way Cup**

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

August 13

BPA **BPA Council meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

August 13-18

B/F **AN28 Boogie with Dave Lewis**

Location: **Magdeburg Germany** · mdskydive.de

August 17-18

WS **Phoenix Fly 3D Flying**

Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

August 24-26

FS **FS 4-way and** **A** **VFS Nationals**

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

August 27-28

FS **Billy Payn Load Organising**

Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

August 31-September 2

FS **FS 8-way and** **A** **Artistics Nationals** **FS** **FS 4-way and** **A** **VFS Nationals Reserve**

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

September

September 7-9

FS **FS 8-way and** **A** **Artistics Nationals Reserve**

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

September 7-15

B/F **Langar Boogie 2**

Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

September 14-15

BPA **Speed 8 and CF Nationals**

Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

September 20-22

CP **CP Nationals**

Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

September 26

BPA **Riggers' and STC meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

October

October 8

BPA **BPA Council meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

October 24-26

A **Halloween Boogie (WVWR qualifier)**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona** · amyhmelecki@hotmail.com

October 30-November 9

U **World POPS Meet**

Location: **Argentina** · pops.org.uk

November

November 21

BPA **Riggers' and STC meetings**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

November 26-December 1

A **WVWR – Women's Vertical World Record attempt**

Location: **Eloy, Arizona**

November 30-December 6

FS **Square One USA Record 333-way**

Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

December

December 3

BPA **BPA Council meeting**

Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

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This was the 'one leg in, one leg out' position used by parachutists to ride to altitude in a Tiger Moth. Demonstrated in 1959 by Bernard Green, Sandown, Isle of Wight



DANGEROUS COMBINATIONS

In this edition of Time Zone, **Bernard Green**, one of the founders of the BPA who also created the first commercial skydiving school in the UK – British Skydiving Ltd – reminds us that a combination of unrelated mistakes, resulting in serious consequences, is not a modern skydiving phenomenon

“When there is an accident, there are usually a number of reasons as to why it occurred. One reason might turn out to be an incident that the participant can discuss later in the club or pub. But, when other mistakes occur, the combination can cause serious injury or be fatal. This example is about ‘Ginger’, who was a friend of mine.

He started parachuting at the British Skydiving Club at Thruxton in the early 1960s. He was a painter and decorator by trade and was fit, muscular and of medium build. He progressed to freefall and was a competent and safe skydiver. He met a woman and then did not attend the club for a few months. One day, he arrived and introduced the lady that he had married. He told me that he wished to demonstrate to her his prowess in the sport. I had no worries about his ability, it was a

fine day with a light wind and the students were already jumping from the club De-Havilland Rapide aircraft. The airfield was a huge grass expanse with a tarmac runway and peri-track around the boundary. Ginger’s parachute was an American C9 28ft circular chute with a double-L cut-out for turning and forward drive.

There were no apparent problems. He drifted down and landed on the runway. But, for some reason, he fractured his spine and was never able to walk again.

When I was talking to Ginger later at Stoke Mandeville spinal hospital, he told me that during the week before the accident he had fallen off a ladder and injured one of his knees. He most probably would not have made this parachute jump under normal circumstances,

but he wanted to demonstrate his prowess to his wife. As he came in to land and was unable to avoid the hard runway, he thought about his injured knee and decided to land on one leg. This action caused his spine to twist and break on the impact.

Here we have five apparently unconnected reasons for this tragedy: firstly, there was the knee injury; secondly, there was a gap in training and the instructors were unaware of the injury; thirdly, his desire to demonstrate his ability to his wife overcame caution; fourthly, his decision to favour one leg on landing and, finally, landing on the hard tarmac runway. A dangerous combination with a tragic outcome...”

Let’s learn from history and break dangerous chains of events where we recognise them.

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1,000th hour, 1,000th jump

If you're a Netheravon jumper, then this photo of Dick Kalinski will be a familiar sight – it's a couple of metres tall and has lived in the bar for many years. Dick is pictured jumping out of a Scout helicopter over Sek Kong airfield in Hong Kong on his 1,000th jump, having just completed his 1,000th flying hour on the same sortie.

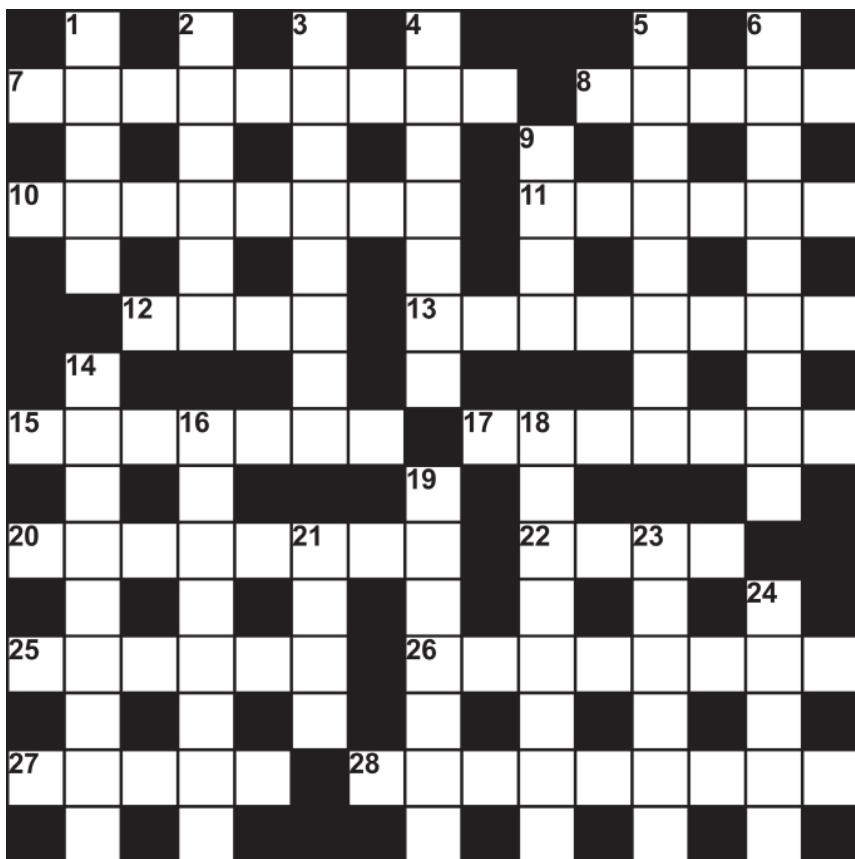
That was in June 1983 and, nearly 30 years later, Navy helicopter pilot and skydiver Will Major realised that he was also approaching a 'double thousand' milestone. With some careful planning, he managed to achieve his thousandth flying hour in a Lynx Mk. 3 and then jump out on his 1,000th jump on a demo into RNAS Yeovilton.

Dick Kalinski is also still jumping and can mainly be found at Black Knights, Cark or Peterlee these days.



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By Abbie Herron





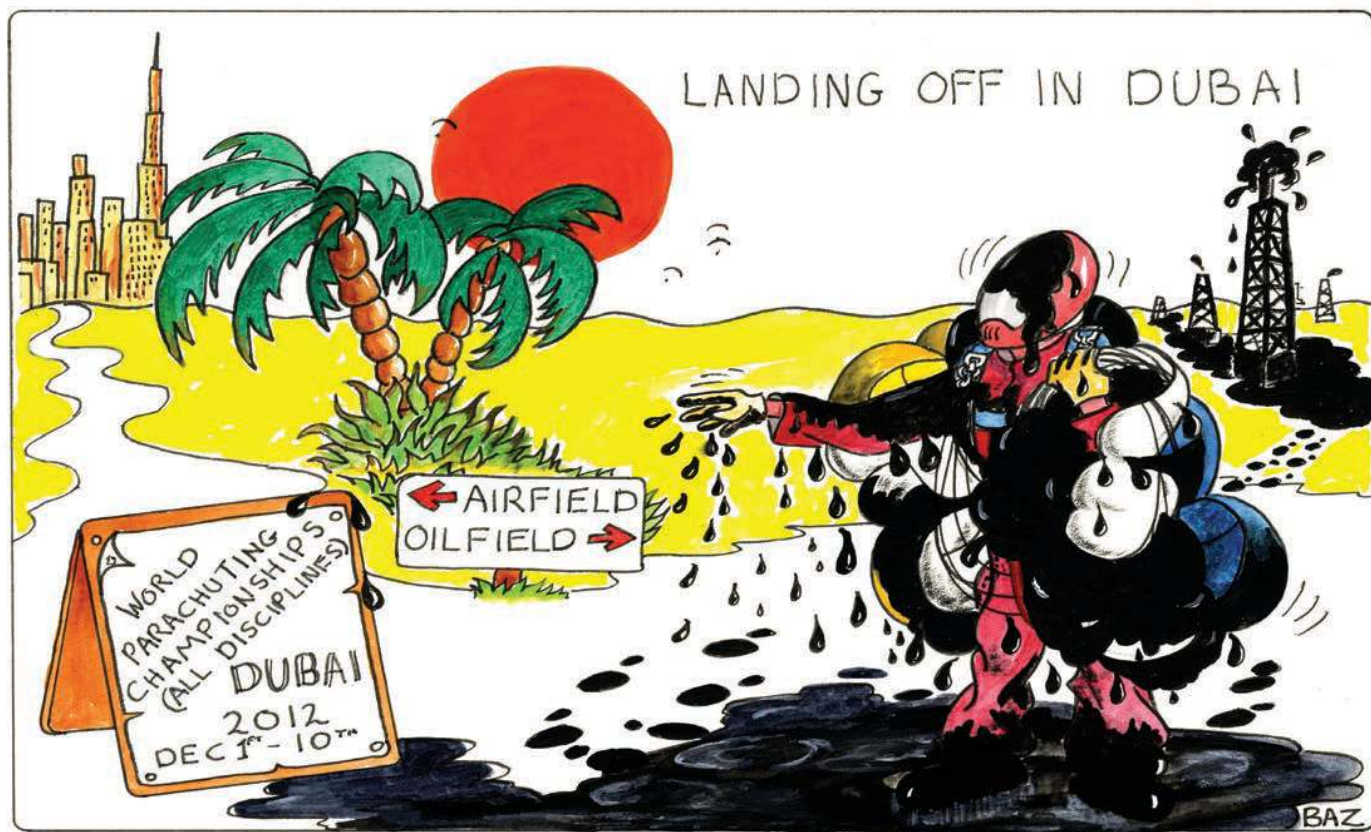
Across

- 7. Skiing equipment (4,5)
- 8. Land
- 10. Room to fly
- 11. Pointing
- 12. First instructor (initials)
- 13. Collide with another canopy
- 15. Direction in degrees
- 17. Not deep
- 20. Medical treatment centre
- 22. Exit hand grip
- 25. Moving formations
- 26. Left an aircraft
- 27. Bury (in the middle of a 25)
- 28. Clear, sunny

Down

- 1. Heavy skydiver
- 2. Suspension lines problem
- 3. Turning movement
- 4. Given instructions
- 5. Maximum free-fall velocity
- 6. Aerobatic manoeuvre (5,4)
- 9. Tight
- 14. Flying craft
- 16. Stowed again
- 18. Rip cord problem (4,4)
- 19. Flying without power
- 21. Piece of work to be done
- 23. He flew too high
- 24. Typical number of reserve cells

CARTOON



Across 7. Shallow board 8. Terra 10. Airspace 11. Aiming 12. CSBI 13. Entangle 15. Bearing 17. Shallow 20. Hospital 22. Rail 25. Blocks 26. Deployed 27. Inter 28. Unclouded
Down 1. Anvil 2. Twists 3. Rotation 4. Briefed 5. Terminal 6. Front loop 9. Taut 14. Aeroplane 16. Repacked 18. Hard pull 19. Gliding 21. Task 23. Icarus 24. Seven

Smart

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Open



Fly



Land



Smile!

Photos: Stacey Carl



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