



British Parachute Association

skydivethemag.com

April 2015

skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964



INSIDE: NEW COMPS CHAIR BRIAN VACHER PARAGLIDING SPECIAL FEATURE WHAT NEXT AFTER FF1 SWOOP'S CAMERA HELMET TIPS WOMEN IN SKYDIVING THE FREEFALL CAMERA PROJECT RETURNS BEN WHITE WHY SKYDIVE? PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS 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 the April issue and the start of the season! My Facebook news feed is full of photos from Easter boogies all around the UK – it looks like lots of DZs did lots of jumping.

This Mag contains plenty of ideas for you to progress in all the different disciplines in 2015. Check out what the BPA has to offer you on page 12 and get the competition dates in your diary

or commit to trying something new at a Coaching RoadShow. There's also Ally Milne's great article on what to do once you've got your FF1, but it's not just for new FF1s. I've had mine for more than a decade, but it's still given me some ideas and I'm currently having a great time doing lots of 2-way skills jumps – inspired by his article.

Talking of inspiration, it was great to get the chance to print *High Flight* by John Gillespie Magee in the article on page 44. Lots of skydivers will know the poem, but did you know that the poet died aged 19 flying a Spitfire over Lincolnshire during World War II? He was involved in a mid-air collision with another aircraft at 1,400ft. He had a parachute, and managed to remove the aircraft canopy and stand up to jump, but was unfortunately too low to use it. It's a sad story that gives his famous words extra poignancy.

Liz Ashley

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The National Governing Body for Sport Parachuting. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in London No. 875429.

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Cover: Mike Carpenter, head down even in a sausage suit! Mike was a stunt double for the hit film Kingsman: The Secret Service. By Norman Kent

Welcome: Editor Liz on breakoff, by James Stevenson

Contents: Walking out for Kingsman: cameraman Craig O'Brien with stunt doubles Chris Ivory, Phil Curtis, Andy Duncan, Dave Ruffell, Lucy Maycock and Steve Scott. By Norman Kent



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 Archant Dialogue Ltd, Prospect House,
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ARCHANT } ARCHANT DIALOGUE IS PART OF
 ARCHANT COMMUNITY MEDIA

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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 CI.

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
June 2015	April 21	June 03
August 2015	June 16	July 28
October 2015	August 25	October 06
December 2015	October 20	December 01

Sequential World Record

On March 26, 15 Brits took part in setting a new FAI World Record, with a 122-way, 2-point sequential skydive over Z-Hills, FL. 'Z-Hills 40-120-ways' was organised by Dieter Kirsch, Patrick Passe and Milko and we had twenty jumps to go from fun 40-ish-ways to a sequential 124-way. Unfortunately, the weather was against us.

We reached Thursday and the weather forecast was not great. With a storm coming in, we knew that this was our last chance. The three attempts at the sequential so far had only minor issues; a Skyvan door playing up, people low and a bust – we were so close. With a murky start to the day, it didn't look

promising but, at 3:20pm, there was blue above. With a 20 minute call, we were ready. We went up as a 122-way – no time for second chances when you need two points for a world record.

Climbing to altitude, everyone focused on the jump ahead. Looking out, the clouds were still fairly large and I wasn't sure if we'd get the hole that we needed. Red light on! Green light, deep breath, climb out. Super floater out, go! The formation was building, not as calm as the earlier attempt that day, but still flying well. Streamer released, second point. Kick kick kick, time to track. On landing, I wasn't sure if we had it. I hadn't witnessed any problems. I asked the nearest person to me, they weren't sure either. No-one on the pickup vehicle was sure.



First point, by Andrey Veselov

We were called to debrief and everyone went straight there – no one wanted to be anywhere else! The two on-site FAI judges announced that they had unofficially confirmed the record and they were awaiting the third judge to confirm. We celebrated regardless; we were confident we had the record. It was announced later that we had it and a cheer erupted from around the dropzone.

It was official – we were FAI World Record holders!

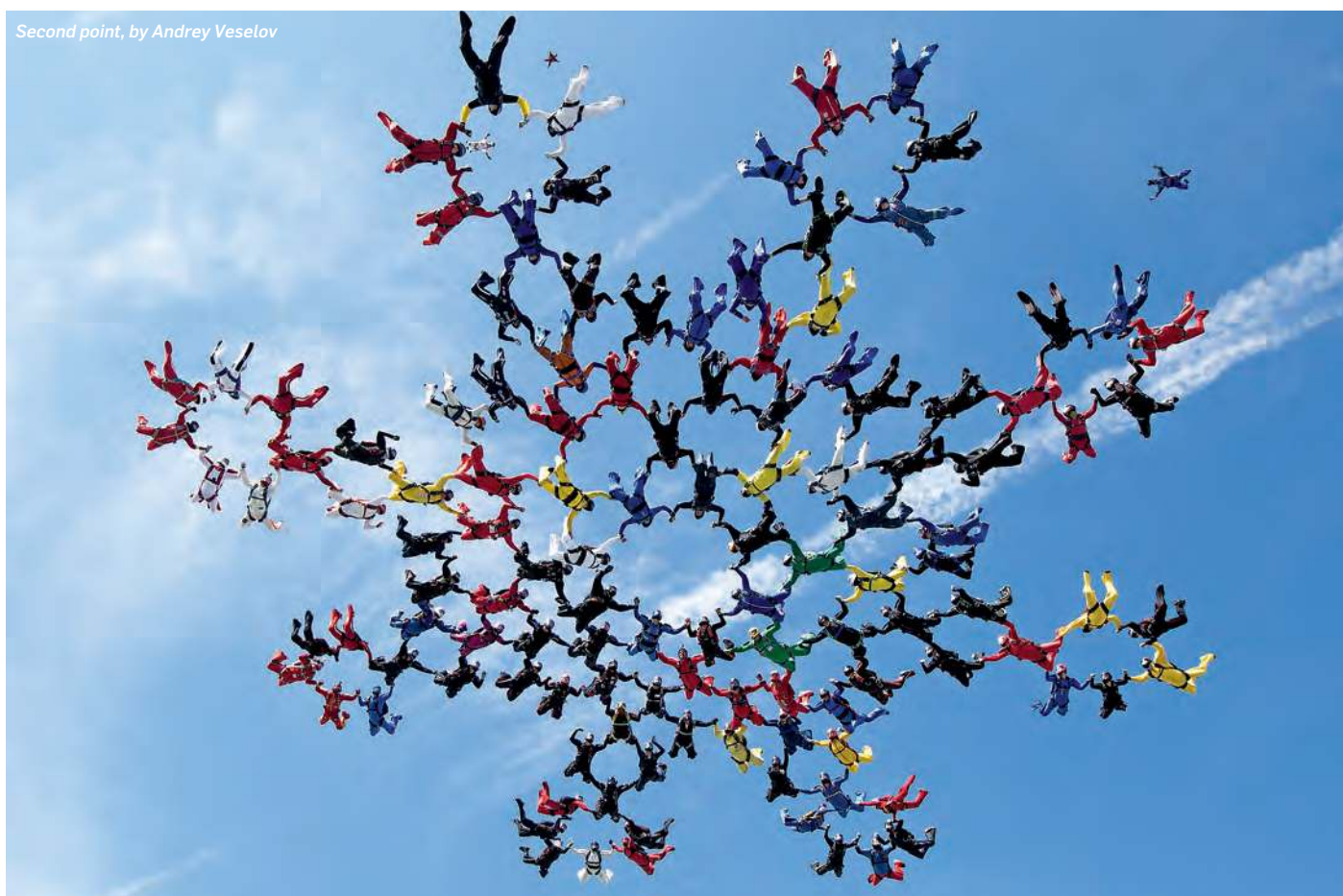
Brits on the record: Fiona Birnie, Jim Bradwell, Elliott Brown, Les Dalziel, Lesley Gale, Ruth Green, Milko Hodgkinson, Roy Little, Des Meyer, Andy Pook, Siân Stokes, Rod Stone, Derek Thomas, Gary Wainwright and Helen Williams.

Elliott Brown



By Andrey Veselov

Second point, by Andrey Veselov



10th Anniversary Challenge

The 10th Bodyflight World Challenge took place on April 3-4 as this Mag went to press. This event really put the UK on the map when it first started, and has always attracted the world's top teams. This year was bigger and better, if that's even possible, and a record-breaking 90 teams competed in 4-way FS across five categories (Rookie, A, AA, AAA and AAA Female). The event still took place over two days as usual, but a format change meant that flyers competed during either two mornings or two afternoons. This meant less hanging around between rounds and more downtime to enjoy all the extras that owner Paul Mayer put on – a bucking bronco, bungee run, human table football and more. It also meant that AAA teams were available to coach the lower categories without the distraction of their own next round, and it was great to see overall champions *Hayabusa* on the creeper pad giving out free advice.

Paul had also got his communications strategy sorted, with an impressive array of features. Ged Parker headed up a team of presenters streaming live TV coverage throughout the event – search YouTube for the hilarious *Hayabusa* skit. There was also dedicated event wi-fi so you could check the manifest, analyse the scoreboard and watch competition videos from any team you liked.

Watch out for a full report next issue, and happy anniversary to Paul!

POPS in the press and SOS on the screen

Well done to the UK Skydivers Over Sixty, who have been getting some great publicity for the sport. The *Daily Telegraph* printed an excellent article about Caroline O'Hagan on March 11 as part of their 'It's Never Too Late To...' series – search for it online. Then, a fortnight later, Ann Robinson visited Netheravon and interviewed a group of SOS jumpers for a forthcoming BBC programme on the topic of 'What do the 60-year-olds of today do with their money?'. The show will be aired some time after June, so watch this space!

The Mag YouTube channel – a growing resource

Did you know that, since launching its own YouTube channel in 2014, the Mag has uploaded more than 30 videos? The most recent additions are edited seminars from Skydive the Expo 2015.

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE

Have you seen the latest Matthew Vaughn film yet? In the spy action comedy film starring Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson and Michael Caine, you might recognise scenes shot in and around London. Did you know that the skydiving scenes were shot at Hinton, filmed by Craig O'Brien and Norman Kent and starred plenty of home-grown UK talent as stunt doubles? Watch out for Andy Ford, Mike Carpenter, Steve Scott, Lucy Maycock, Chris Ivory, Dave Ruffell, Phil Curtis, Andy Duncan, Sean Freeman, Steve Howes and Ramsey Kent when the credits roll!



Lucy Maycock,
by Norman Kent

These are 45-60 minutes each and cover a wide range of topics. Some of the most popular so far include: Two Paths of Canopy Progression with John LeBlanc; The Freefall Camera Project seminar; Collisions and Openings with Brian Vacher; Making the Impossible Possible with Alastair Macartney; Tandem Canopy Flight Dynamics with Tom Noonan and Reserve Packing with Tom Parker. If you missed the AGM itself, then you can even watch that and

you can also see the highlights video of BPA skydiving in 2014.

As well as the Expo videos, you will also find a growing resource of videos accompanying other Mag features. There are Safety Zone videos for Mal of the Month; competition jumps from the Dubai Cup; team videos from *Vision99*, *Kaizen*, *MicroClim8*, *QFX* and *Euphoria* and even a fun two-minute edit of the time Editor Liz took the rest of the Mag team to the wind tunnel for the first time!

It's a growing resource and will only get bigger – check it out if you haven't already, and click on the video links if you're reading this Mag online or via our free App.



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/MUZS7NA

Check out a packed playlist of seminars, the AGM, highlights from Skydive the Expo 2015, events footage, Mals of the Month and more at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com

"Helmets, Altimeters & Cameras... Oh My!"



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FROM THE CHAIR

Brian Vacher, Chair of Competitions

As the new chair of the Competitions Committee, it is now my turn to talk a little bit about what we do. Thankfully, having spent many years as a competitor in the BPA, I have had many dealings with previous Competitions Committees and aim to ensure that we are as progressive and encouraging to our competitors and judges as we have ever been.

Of course, our responsibilities as Competitions Committee, as set out in our Terms of Reference, include the obvious aspects of deciding which teams and individuals represent the UK in the BPA National Delegations, along with those that support them, at international competitions.

The responsibilities that may be less obvious are those such as how we encourage both our competitors and judges. It is clear that we need competitors for competitions but, in the UK, we also have an amazing set of dedicated judges. It is up to the Competitions Committee to encourage our existing UK FAI and National-rated Judges to maintain those ratings with the training they require, just as much as it is our job to inspire new judges to join the fold.

Our responsibility to encourage competitors is, at the very least, two-fold. Firstly, it is up to us to work out what you, the membership, need to make that leap from simply jumping for a bit of fun to becoming a competitor in one of our many skydiving disciplines. What can the BPA do to ignite that competitive spark and spur you on to become one of our vital competitors? Without new competitors each year, we wouldn't be able to boast the largest 4-way Nationals in the world and some disciplines might struggle.

Secondly, once you've decided that you would like to compete, we need to make sure that your experience at our competitions is so good that you want to progress and continue competing. Without skydivers dedicated to competing in their chosen disciplines, we would never have been able to achieve the very impressive medal count we have – let alone have the World Champions who make us proud. One of the ways we do this is by supporting and organising events such as the Skills Coaching Roadshows, which any BPA member can attend.

Having said all of that, your experience at a competition doesn't just come down to whether there are Competitors and Judges present. It is up to the committee to arrange the rules and venues for each UK-based



Brian Vacher on his way to winning the 2014 CP Nationals, by Rob Lloyd

competition (such as the Nationals and the UKSL/GP competitions). It is also our job to make sure that the judging equipment is maintained and provided to the competition venues on time.

And so on to money! The excerpt below is taken from Form 285, written by Paul Moore in 2013 when he was Chair of Comps: "BPA Competitions Committee are allocated a sum each year in order to run and administer BPA Competitions Committee business. Currently, this is approximately 55% of the overall BPA surplus for the previous financial year (April to April), and represents the largest single budget in the BPA financial portfolio except for General Funds. BPA Competitions Committee use the available budget to administer and manage a range of competition related activities in the following training year (June to June)."

You might think that 55% of the overall BPA surplus for the previous financial year is a lot of money to spend, and you would be quite right to ask where it all goes. The Committee decides on the allocation across our many aspects of competition, and these aspects include everything from budgeting for the actual competitions themselves to funding allocations for teams and individuals preparing to compete. The Committee is currently undertaking the task of re-establishing and re-implementing the funding criteria for teams and individuals alike. We also have the British Team Fund, and we will be monitoring the progress of and allocating funding from this fund too.

That just leaves me to wish any of you who are planning to compete this year a great season of training and best of luck at your competitions!



NEW RATINGS

CSBI

Joshua Garrett
Dylan Morris-
Roberts
Matthew Willson
Don Tomkinson
Jon Wilson
Linley Ewing

David McMinn
Stephen Burdon

AFFI

Alexis McNaughton
Grant MacPherson
Chris Judd
Nicole Elliot

AFFBI

Charlotte Pope
Brian Cumming
Danny French
Zuz Tillner
Leah Frost
Guy Martin
Richard Thompson

TI

Mark Scobie
Simon Beech
Danny Rowlands
Nicholas Hynes
Richard Gecse
Dave Keevers

TBI

Christopher Dickie
Ian Cain
Neil Henshall
Stephen Baldwin
Drew Moon
Nick Utton

Advanced Packer

Josh Clark (T)
Martin Cole (T)

Basic Rigger

Martin Bradshaw
Ruth Jordinson
Aaron Cosbey

CSI

Thomas Bellis
Ryan Stew
Andrew Pointer

Parachute Rigger

Simon Chipp
Josh Clark
Anthony Fernyhough



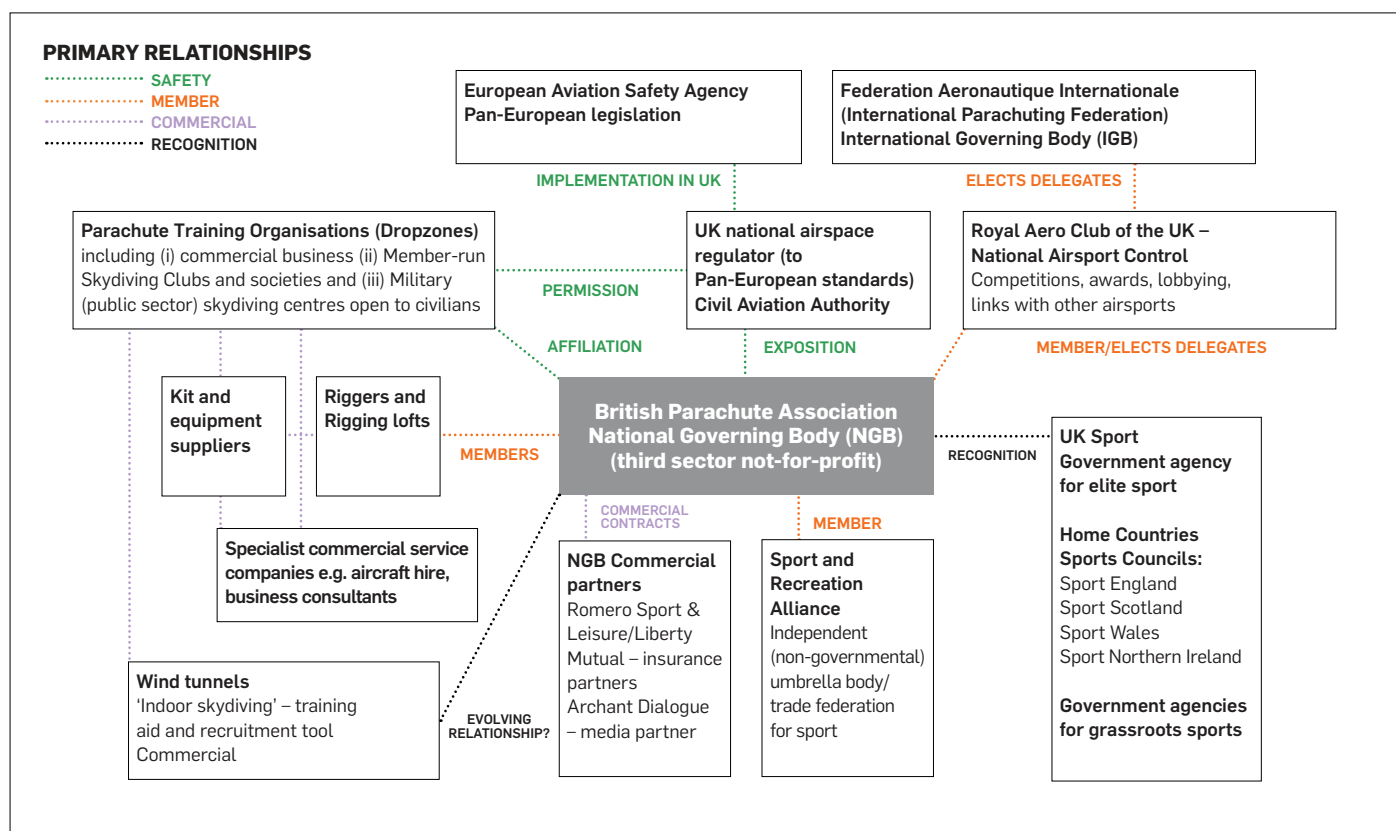
*Instructor course at
Langar, March 2015*



*Instructor course at
Peterlee, February 2015*

*Chris Judd on his way to
becoming an AFF Instructor
as BPA Examiner Scotty Milne
plays student, by Chris Cook*





Sectoral map of skydiving in the UK

An **Action Plan** target for the Development Committee 2014-5 is to draft a sectoral map of skydiving in the UK. The map aims to define key segments that comprise the sport parachuting (skydiving) sector of the economy in the UK including its frameworks of regulation and governance.

As the draft is worked up, it will seek to include organisations and institutions and their functions together with their relationships, interdependencies and flows (such as finance and information). One use of such a map may be to help to inform development of the sport.

This is an early working draft on which member comments are invited. Please send your thoughts to Martin Shuttleworth, Secretary-General at martin@bpa.org.uk

Membership renewal reminder

To those members who have renewed – thank you! To those who haven't, last year's subscriptions expired on 31 March and must be renewed to join on or after 1 April.

A renewal form (BPA Form 101) was in the February issue of the Mag. You can download the form from the BPA website at bpa.org.uk – enter '101' in the forms search box – or telephone the BPA Office (0116 278 5271) to ask for a form by post.

Members aged over 18 with UK or BFPO addresses and without ratings – and who have never previously held ratings that have now lapsed – may renew online. You can also update contact details (even if you have, or previously had, ratings). If you haven't yet activated your online BPA membership



By Paul Bayfield

account, click on the login tab on the menu bar on the BPA website and follow the instructions.

The June Mag will be sent only to those current on the membership database when we print the labels in mid-May.

Read all about it!

There's lots going on at Council and its Committees. You can keep up online at: bpa.org.uk/minutes

Not a typo!

In case you had noticed the new term 'CI' and wondered what happened to 'CCI', it's a terminology change that has happened as a result of the way dropzones are categorised. CCI used to stand for Centre Chief Instructor or Club Chief Instructor. Responding to the EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) regulatory process in 2013 meant that many dropzones faced a decision to categorise themselves as either commercial operations or clubs. However, this division has been negated by all dropzones now being referred to as PTOs (Parachute Training Organisations) and the Chief Instructor is just that – a CI, no extra 'C' required. So now you know!

BPA Stars

It's time to start BPA Star-spotting again! Nominations are now open for BPA Stars 2015, the BPA's award for excellence in customer service to A Licence holders and above.

You can find out how to help a new BPA Star shine at bpa.org.uk/star



COACHING ROADSHOWS

QFX members will be providing free coaching at BPA Coaching Roadshows. By Ewan Cowie

No matter the discipline, the BPA has got an action-packed season of events lined up for you. Here are the headlines from each discipline, along with the key events to be aware of in 2015 – from coaching roadshows to competitions. All coaching roadshows provide totally FREE coaching; you just pay for the jump tickets if your coach jumps with you.

If you are a competitor, 2015 is an 'on year' for selection. This means that teams and individuals will be selected to compete at the 2016 World Championships based on their performance at 2015 Nationals. These World Championships will be part of a Mondial, held in Chicago on September 9-22 2016. You can tell how long each competition discipline has been around by the numbering – for example, it will be the 34th Style and Accuracy World Championships, the 22nd in FS, the 11th in Artistics and the very first in Speed Skydiving, where the winner will be awarded the new Tim Mace Trophy.

FS

BPA Discipline Rep: Jason Kelleher
jason@bpa.org.uk

FS is the most popular competition discipline in the UK and we have a long history of huge National competitions and international success. Since FS1 is the most common progression route after A Licence, it also provides a structured path to competition exposure. Although our top teams look like skygods now, most of them will have started at Rookie level and progressed up through the categories before reaching AAA or Senior. You too can do the same, all the while building valuable skills which transfer across well to other disciplines such as Freefly.

- May 9-10** Coaching Roadshow with *4mula* – Black Knights
- May 23-24** 4-way UKSL – Langar
- Jun 20-21** 4-way UKSL – Netheravon
- Jul 11-12** Coaching Roadshow with *Vision99* – Chatteris
- Jul 18-19** 4-way UKSL – Dunkeswell
- Aug 22-24** 4-way FS Nationals – Hibaldstow
- Aug 29-31** 8-way FS Nationals – Hibaldstow
- Sep 12-13** Coaching Roadshow with *NFTO* – Beccles

Wingsuit

BPA Discipline Rep: Jackie Harper
jackie.harper1@gmail.com

Wingsuiting has absolutely exploded over the last decade, culminating in its recognition as an official IPC event in 2015. Netheravon will host the very first FAI World Cup and the previously

published dates of the BPA Nationals have had to move to September as a result. There are now wingsuit coaches on nearly every major dropzone, so you don't have to look far if you haven't tried it yet.

- May 25-29** First FAI World Cup in Wingsuit Performance – Netheravon
- Jul 11-12** Coaching Roadshow – Langar
- Sep 12-13** BPA Wingsuit Performance Nationals – Netheravon

Canopy Piloting

BPA Discipline Rep: Brian Vacher
brianv@bpa.org.uk

CP is a bit different to the other disciplines in that it cannot be an entry-level competition discipline available to newer jumpers. BPA CP competitions have a minimum requirement of a D Licence and

The UK's top swoopers, by Rob Lloyd



CP2 for obvious safety reasons. This means that there are traditionally fewer formal CP events run by the BPA as swoopers tend to arrange their own dates and coaching between themselves. However, if you don't know where to start, this year's free roadshows would be a great place to meet the crowd. With Dunkeswell being the home of the UK's only swoop pond, watch out for CP training and Swoop99 Cups there too.

- Apr 24-26** CP Grand Prix – Dunkeswell
May 15-17 Flight-1 Coaching Roadshow – Langar (yes, it's free!)
May 24 Flight-1 Coaching Roadshow – Black Knights (also free!)
Jun 12-14 CP Grand Prix – Dunkeswell
Jul 24-26 CP Nationals – Dunkeswell

Accuracy

BPA Discipline Rep (Classics): Ian Marshall
 marshallcf@aol.com

Just like CP, Accuracy is also characterised by a core of competitors who are experienced at what they do while also being very welcoming to newcomers. Unlike CP, Accuracy can be practised by anybody at any level on any dropzone, although Headcorn is probably the best place to find Accuracy jumpers lurking.

- May 22-24** Accuracy Nationals – Swansea
Sep 19-20 Accuracy Grand Prix – Headcorn

Canopy Formation

BPA Discipline Rep: Gavin McLeod
 gavin.mcleod@gmail.com

There is a full CF calendar for 2015, with two Grand Prix events and one Nationals interspersed by three Coaching Roadshows. There is also the CF Diamond project, which aims to build a bigger and better CF diamond than the current British Record 18-way – see the February 2015 Mag!

- May 9-10** Grand Prix – Langar
Jun 13-14 Coaching Roadshow – Langar
Jul 10-12 CF Nationals – Black Knights
Aug 8-9 Coaching Roadshow – Chatteris
Sep 19-20 Grand Prix – Netheravon

Artistics and VFS

BPA Discipline Rep: Weed Stoodley
 weed@stoodley.co.uk

This year, there are two BPA 2-way VFS Grand Prix events – building on the success of the first-ever 2-way comp in 2014. These are aimed at introducing FF2 members to VFS competition via a fun and simplified dive pool with easier moves and the overall champions will be awarded at Skydive the Expo 2016! There are also two fantastic Coaching Roadshows supported by our top teams and world-class competitors. The season culminates with the Nationals in August. Rules for all disciplines will be on the BPA website soon, and Discipline Rep and Judge Weed warns: "There are major changes to both Freefly and Freestyle compulsory moves and judging criteria, so take note!"

- Apr 25-26** Coaching Roadshow – Langar
 With Joel Strickland (*Varial Freefly*),
 Dave Pacey (*Euphoria Freefly*) and
 Ally Milne
May 16-17 2-way VFS Grand Prix – Hibaldstow

- Jun 13-14** Coaching Roadshow – Beccles
 With Paul Cooper and Pete Dennett
 (*QFX VFS* and *Freefly* record holders)
Jun 27-28 2-way VFS Grand Prix – Dunkeswell
Aug 15-16 4-way VFS Nationals – Dunkeswell
Aug 29-31 Artistics and Speed Nationals
 – Hibaldstow

Speed Skydiving

BPA Discipline Rep: Mikey Lovemore
 speedskydiving@hotmail.co.uk

Speed skydiving is seeing an impressive growth rate at the moment, even hitting the heady heights of Simon Mayo's BBC Radio 2 Friday fixture. The Speed competition calendar is filling up quickly and is looking very well-fed for the next couple of years. Will we see anyone beating Marco Wiederkehr's ISSA World Record of 531kph? In case that's foreign to you, it's a mind-bending 330mph! See the definitive Speed Skydiving calendar for all speed competitions in the world and much more at the all-new ISSA website at speed-skydiving.com, and find ISSA Speed Skydiving and UK Speed Skydiving on Facebook.

BPA dates:

- Apr 18-19** Coaching Roadshow – Sibson
 With Jason Bird and Mikey Lovemore
Aug 29-31 Speed Skydiving Nationals –
 Hibaldstow

Two further Coaching Roadshows to be confirmed

ISSA World Series dates

Enter two of these four competitions to get an ISSA world ranking for 2015:

- Apr 3-6** Fano, Italy
May 14-17 The Tim Mace Memorial Cup
 – Leutkirch, Germany
Jun 5-7 Gryttjomm, Sweden
Aug 7-9 Hibaldstow, UK



Update on FAI Sporting Licences

The rules have changed and you no longer need an FAI Sporting Licence to compete at Senior level in the UK. Previously, you applied to the BPA who then sent your red licence book (or blue if you've been around a while) back to you with a full-page licence. You then paid a pound each year to keep it current with a little sticker. You now only need the licence if you are competing internationally or taking part in a World Record. It is no longer available from dropzones (who used to have to administer new and renewing licences at competitions) but only from the BPA who will ensure that you are on the international database. Licences expire on December 31 each year and it is not enough to have the sticker – you must be on the database. Check here: fai.org/about-fai/fai-sporting-licences





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FF1

– WHAT NEXT?

WORDS: ALLY MILNE – TRYSKYDIVING.CO.UK
PICTURES: CRISTIAN STANCIU

Firstly, well done on working hard to get your FF1! You have achieved the basic skills of sitflying and can now jump with others with FF1. With the FF1 coaching syllabus structure, there has always been a prescribed skill or level to perform next – now you're free to choose how to proceed. At this stage, many people feel a bit lost but hopefully you'll feel better prepared to progress safely and efficiently after reading this little guide.

STARTING OFF

Now you have FF1, you can complete 2/3-ways until cleared by your FF Coach. This gives you the opportunity to consolidate your skills and gain confidence that you can use them effectively with other FF1 holders. As well as practising the skills you have learned already, there is a stack of new skills you may start to learn next. Once you have gained your FF1, it is not the end of the journey but the start of another much more exciting one. You can still do coached jumps and move on to learning advanced skills such as carving, grip taking, back tracking and many others. There are also a variety of different exit slots to try and to master as well. The learning never stops – that's why it's so much fun!

It is worth remembering that the key principles are similar to belly flying: keeping eye contact and anticipating what the

group is doing so that you can make small adjustments to compensate. Working with your Freefly Coach on some of the options to change your fall rate relative to others is another set of really fun jumps and you'll be amazed at how such small inputs can affect your flying. As you start to develop your skills from a basic, static sitfly position, you'll find that you're starting to use different parts of your body to generate lift or increase your fall rate. Playing with this to isolate different body parts while maintaining your fall rate and heading is a great way to start using different parts of your body to get lift. For example, flying with your legs or back more and minimising use of arms to maintain stability or get lift are great exercises and help you develop skills to use later for things like taking grips or, later on, holding a tube.

WHO TO JUMP WITH?

One of the wonderful things about getting your FF1 is that you will get to meet and jump with lots of new people. As Freeflying is such a social discipline, a 2-way can very easily turn into a 10-way so you should take great care in choosing what jumps to participate in at first. It is easier to split a big group into smaller, more manageable and more fun groups if the experience level isn't high enough. If you can't do skills on a 2-way, you won't be able to do them on a 10-way!

If you have a buddy who is at a similar or slightly higher level, a great deal can

be learned by planning to do lots of 2-ways with them. 2-ways are easier to fit on to manifest and this will help you do a few more jumps. Too often, the first skill that new freeflyers try to achieve is grip taking, which is how we learned to progress in Formation Skydiving. This will often end unsuccessfully due to the very high difficulty of this exercise and can be disheartening. By initially working on fall rates, moving forward to slot and stopping as well as learning other dynamic skills, this will pay dividends many times over in later FF jumps. It will set a good foundation that will assist learning grip taking at a later stage and build confidence.

If you can find a more experienced freeflyer who is willing to jump with you, you can learn a little of how they do things. Soon you will realise that everyone has their own favourite type of jumps to perform; some prefer picking up grips, tracking or dynamic head up jumps. They may have a camera so you can benefit from seeing yourself on video – take a copy to your FF Coach when they are not busy and see if you they can give you any further pro tips. Bribery with tea and biscuits is often the way forward!

Sometimes you will arrive at the DZ and there will be no one else to jump with. Too often, people just sit on the ground and wait. However, there are plenty of skills to practise on a solo. The advantage is that there is no one around to see if you mess up!





3

“ Soon you will realise that everyone has their own favourite types of jump ”

If you are stuck for ideas, ask your FF Coach or another experienced freeflyer and see what they would recommend. Solo jumps are ideal to practise new positions such as flying in a daffy or flying stag (with one leg down). Practise putting your hand forward to make prolonged alti checks or pick up grips.

BREAK-OFF

The break-off is the most important part of the jump and you will find that your skills develop as you progress in this area. If you are only going to be good at one bit of the skydive, make sure it's this bit! You can never be too good at breaking off. There is a whole article written about break-offs in *Skydive the Mag* February 2014, so check it out for a full recap. Once you start jumping in groups, learning a break-off that involves backtracking is essential, but practising this skill is best left to 2-ways until you are confident. Don't be afraid to take a rain check on larger groups or ask for a higher break-off.

INTRODUCTION TO MORE ADVANCED SKILLS

On the next page is a quick list of some skills you may be interested in learning. Some coaches work on the skill as part of FF1 and some slightly later, and each coach or dropzone may have different names to mean to the same skill. As with learning a new skill, it's best to get taught by a BPA Freefly or Basic Freefly Coach. This list is →

1 Hand-to-foot docks are usually easier than hand-to-hand docks

2 Ally Milne flying head-up stag with his QFX teammates

3 Forward and backward movement in head-up





not exhaustive, it's just meant as a starter to build up your skills:

- Backtracking
 - Essential for larger group break-offs
- Exits
 - Tail facing forwards
 - Outside/inside centre side exit
 - Linked sitfly exits
- Carving
 - Rotational move around an orbit facing towards a centre point
 - Outface carving
 - Two feet carving
 - Two feet outface carving
- Loops
 - Front loops
 - Back loops
 - Cartwheels
 - Layouts
- Grip taking
 - Feet-to-feet
 - Feet-to-knees
 - Feet-to-shoulders
 - Single grips to the side
 - Hand-to-foot, then hand-to-hand
 - Single grips to the front
 - Hand-to-foot, then hand-to-hand
 - Double grips
 - Hand-to-foot, then hand-to-hand
- Flying with legs in different positions
 - Daffy
 - Stag (one leg down)
 - Freestyle Straddle
 - Compass (one leg stretched out horizontally and toes pointed)
- Head up tracing
 - Extreme forwards and backwards motion

4 Beginner freeflyers have plenty of new skills to practise

5 Small group jumps offer more opportunity for progression than big-way carnage jumps!



LARGER GROUPS

When you feel confident and ready, you can take part in larger jumps. If you are unsure if you are ready, then ask your CI or FF Coach. Larger jumps will have many more people on them and you should remain aware at all times of who is around throughout the skydive. It is better to take part in larger groups that are being controlled by a Load Organiser who is normally a FF Coach – they can put you in an appropriate slot and can help you achieve your best. Organised loads are a great way of learning as part of a group and are a very cost effective way of pick up coaching pointers as well as meeting lots of new people. There is normally a video debrief, so make sure you show up on time afterwards so you can get maximum benefit from the organiser's experience – and, more importantly, see yourself on the video!

KEEPING CURRENT

Like any skill we learn, it's worth remembering that these skills can degrade over time if we are not using them. If you haven't jumped for a while over winter or another long break, it is worth taking part in smaller groups at first or maybe even asking if your FF Coach or experienced FF buddies have the time to take you up on a 2-way to refresh your in-air skills and break-off technique.

MOVING ON TO HEAD DOWN

Everyone who is keen to learn wants to get going to head down sooner rather than later and it is worth remembering that everyone will progress at different rates. It is necessary to ensure that you can confidently make all the head up inputs and have a good array of sitfly skills as well as front/back tracking skills before moving on to head down, as flying head down incorrectly can cause you to move horizontally at extreme speeds. Head down progression is super fun and extremely addictive, but people who progress too fast often end up with big skills gaps which can come to bite them down the line – especially on advanced level Freefly jumps where it may be assumed you can fly head up to an advanced level. The path of best progression is with your FF Coach, who can point you in the direction and make sure you gain all the relevant skills before moving on.

CONCLUSION

Once again, well done on getting FF and making this first big step in Freefly progression. Hopefully, this article can help prepare you for the next fun steps and help you progress effectively towards becoming a well-rounded head up flyer. •

66 It is worth remembering that everyone will progress at different rates 99

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Art design Willy Boeykens

EVER THOUGHT OF TRYING PARAGLIDING?



COMPILED BY JOE SCHOFIELD, EDITOR OF *SKYWINGS* MAGAZINE IN A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BPA AND BHPA MAGAZINES. AN ARTICLE BY LIZ ASHLEY ABOUT LEARNING TO SKYDIVE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL *SKYWINGS*

From its simple parasailing beginnings, paragliding has become the fastest growing air sport in the world. Initially intended as a way of descending from mountains under a rectangular ram-air canopy, paragliding has evolved at a staggering rate as an easy and cheap form of aviation which is accessible to many and enjoyed around the world.

In the right conditions, paragliders can travel great distances, exploiting rising air just like sailplanes and hang gliders. The ultimate form of portable aviation, they can be carried in a rucksack and launched by foot

from hills or tow launched from airfields. Many people first try paragliding through tandem flights on holiday in ski and beach resorts. Later, they may become pilots themselves through the many flight schools around the world. They can travel easily with their paraglider and fly in other countries using an internationally-recognised pilot proficiency recognition system.

Paragliding schools teach people to fly in a progressive way. Before undertaking high flights or learning to ridge soar, many short, low flights are made in light winds. These training flights on gentle slopes allow student pilots to practise →





“A properly trained paraglider pilot will be able to make decisions informed by air law, meteorology, other aircraft and many other factors in order to carry out safe, enjoyable flying and get the most out of the conditions”

launches and landing approaches and – essentially – wing control on the ground and in the air.

Like parachute rigs, paragliders are controlled primarily by handles connected to the trailing edge. Pulling a control handle (often referred to as a brake) creates drag on one side and induces a turn. All paragliders require finesse with the controls and high-performance models demand constant subtle adjustment of the brake position to fly through turbulent air. Student pilots coming from parachuting often have to ‘un-learn’ the larger control inputs they are used to making, which on a paragliding wing may induce a stall or spin with serious consequences.

Although many pilots enjoy cross-country flying (the UK distance record is currently more than 250km), other paragliding spin-off disciplines exist and are rapidly gaining in popularity as part of this expanding sport. Among the plethora of wings produced by manufacturers, paramotoring, ‘acro’ flying and speed gliding involve paraglider wings that are usually developed to achieve specific flight characteristics,

some of which require a high level of pilot experience.

Speed gliding (fast mountain descent) and speed riding (speed gliding on skis) have exploded on to the scene in recent years. Helmet-cam footage on video sharing websites shows high-speed descents of Alpine mountains, the gliders trimmed to hug the features of the terrain for the ultimate adrenaline rush. It’s a long way from the serene soaring of windward hills, or pleasant evening glides down a fell in calm air!

Speed gliders are small wings with a high wing loading, and as a consequence have a very quick and dynamic response to control inputs. Activity enthusiasts from other sports like kite surfing have incorrectly assumed that skills from their sport are directly transferable to speed gliding but, without the supervision of a properly licensed instructor, such enthusiasts have often been caught out – resulting in severe injuries.

With the popularity of online marketplace sites, it has never been easier to buy paragliding equipment without any guidance. Video sharing websites

1 Jez Pearce, by Chad Smith

2 Chris Lynch

3 Serene soaring, by Wolfgang Ehn

4 Chris Lynch at Pendle Hill (about 45 minutes from the Bolton AGM venue!)

5 Jez Pearce, by Chad Smith



contain an array of paragliding technique demonstrations that people have used in attempt to teach themselves, unaware that, as soon as they take their feet off the ground, they are becoming aviators and therefore fall within legislation covering flight activities.

Paragliding and hang gliding rely on maintaining good relationships with landowners. Some popular flying sites have been put in jeopardy by untrained pilots, unaware of the site rules or codes of conduct that have been set up.

Paragliding in all its various forms is a sport that involves strategic decision-making on many levels. A properly trained paraglider pilot will be able to make decisions informed by air law, meteorology, other aircraft and many



other factors in order to carry out safe, enjoyable flying and get the most out of the conditions.

In the UK, the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) licenses paragliding instructors to teach its pilot training syllabus. This syllabus, known as the Club Pilot (Novice) Course, typically takes 10 days to complete, although transferable skills developed through activities like skydiving may assist a pilot in getting through the course faster.

The Club Pilot rating is acknowledged as the standard required to equip pilots with the skills necessary to enable them to begin flying unsupervised in the UK's complex network of airspace. However, as with many skilled operations, this is just the beginning of the learning experience! Once trained, Club Pilot rated pilots usually join a local club to benefit from the many paragliding sites the clubs operate. As well as having an active social scene, clubs run a coaching scheme to assist new pilots with further development of their flying skills.

The BHPA provides the infrastructure within which UK paragliding and hang gliding thrive. It works with other associations in Europe to develop and maintain EU standards for paraglider airworthiness, oversees pilot and instructor training standards, provides



6 Jez Pearce,
by Chad Smith

**7 French winter
speed riding,** by
Ilan Ginzburg

**8 Thermal flying
in the Dolomites,
and more risers
than skydivers are
used to!** By Simon
Goodman

technical support and a host of other services including third party liability insurance to paraglider and hang glider pilots. Find your nearest paragliding school and more information about the sport at bhpa.co.uk.

BHPA Assistant Technical Officer
Mark Shaw

ADVICE FOR SKYDIVERS WANTING TO TRY SPEED FLYING

- Get some coaching
- Read the *BHPA Pilot Handbook* and Tim James's *Speed Flying Reference Guide*
- Start with a big wing – you can always downsize later
- Do plenty of ground handling with your wing
- Do more ground handling with your wing
- Try to use minimum toggle input to get the wing in the right place. Less is more
- When you think you're ready to hit the hills, do some more ground handling
- When looking for somewhere to fly, respect the sites
- Practice your PLFs →



SKYDIVING TO PARAGLIDING

By Duncan 'Cobi' Cockburn

I've been skydiving for more than 17 years. Recently, a friend asked if I'd be interested in learning to paraglide with him and it didn't take much encouragement for me to go ahead and book on a course. I had an active interest in parachuting canopy flight and was intrigued to see what paragliding could offer. As a skydiving Instructor, it was also interesting to remind myself of the 'beginner course' experience again and to compare techniques between the two sports.

Similarly to a skydiving course, I greeted people from a wide variety of backgrounds and different age groups. The maximum age in learning to solo paraglide is higher than the solo skydiving age (roughly 70 vs 55), and I think this was reflected in the age range across my course.

On the course I attended, we got into practical very early on. The first lesson was PLFs. As a skydiving Instructor and having started on round parachutes, the pressure was on to provide an exemplar performance on this one! A question for regular skydivers and paragliders: when did you last practise your PLF? As a skydiver, I can safely say that, for many experienced parachutists, it would have been quite a while!

After PLF practice, we went straight into getting suitable equipment, heading out to a field and starting to learn forward launch from a very small hill that morning. This is in contrast to skydiving, where you have to have minimum of six hours of ground training before an Instructor can sign you off to do your first descent. It's not the same, but the paragliding practical definitely was able to ease you into it compared with doing your first AFF level from 15,000ft. AFF still eases you into it, of course, but the first hurdle is quite high!

Common to both courses is a systematic approach to certain safety aspects. On launch, I was taught a mnemonic to ensure I was correctly set up for launch. Sadly, I got complacent and didn't check my control line was clear – I got a surprise after I completed my

turn! I distinctly remember telling some skydiving students there was a reason that I was teaching them a particular safety aspect that they should continue to use their entire skydiving life. Perhaps I should take my own advice!

The Paragliding Elementary Pilot (EP) Course was mostly about launches and landings, gradually increasing in height throughout the week. My impression was

that this compares strongly with the skydiving exit – they are both critical. For paragliding, I believe there to be a chance of injury if you launch incorrectly and don't manage to abort. In skydiving, if you have a poor exit, you create all sorts of problems and need to sort them in freefall. In paragliding, if you abort correctly, you can reset and try again. Otherwise, you are into whatever evils are around the launch site.

Comparing landings, the paragliding landings were a little bit like landing a parachute in slow motion. However, an important difference is that, as a skydiver, I am generally used to landing on a flat grassy field. As a paraglider, I found myself landing in fields both muddy and grassy – downhill, uphill and across hills as well!

One aspect of landing that I struggled to come to terms with was collapsing the glider at the end. As a parachutist, I don't really care how the wing lands. Paragliders will be damaged if the nose consistently comes down first. I had 2,000 jumps' worth of habits to break there!

There are similar terms between the sports – 'Met Roulette' being one! Both disciplines are also home to experts in tea/coffee drinking.

As might be expected, a lot of time was spent on rules of the air and how to →

9 Speed riding,
by Gin Gliders

10 Chris Lynch
on the north
coast of Kent

“ There are similar terms between the sports – ‘Met Roulette’ being one! Both disciplines are also home to experts in tea/coffee drinking ”





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-Roberta Mancino



handle the glider. I was impressed that 'look, lean, turn' was drilled into you from the outset. I'm not sure if this is universally taught but, as a skydiver, we tend to leave the leaning as part of a turning technique until much later on, if at all.

Paragliders are much more aware of meteorology and the local microclimates, evaluating what is going on and where might be more suitable. As skydivers, we tend to sit on the same airfield waiting for the weather to clear. As a paraglider, I found that people were (generally) much more in tune with what could be happening and at what time. However, that weather forecasters frequently get it wrong is common to both sports!

In parachuting, currency is king. It's no different in paragliding. Parachutists who haven't jumped in a while (over winter, say) will be a little rusty when returning. I was strongly advised to keep ground handling my glider even when I wasn't able to fly.

Over the years, I have unfortunately witnessed skydiving accidents and have even had to say farewell to some friends. Some of these were extremely experienced skydivers involved in canopy collisions,

11 Using a hand-held anemometer (recommended piece of kit) at Rhossili in Wales. This was over 65mph, yes that's tooooo windy!

12 UK hill flying – ready to launch. By Al James



and this continues to be an area of concern in the sport. Freefall skills have improved, with better tuition and the introduction of vertical wind tunnels to provide a superb, safe learning environment. Sadly, parachute flight has not kept pace with the freefall skills, despite the many excellent courses that are available. The truth is that a skydiver will only have a few minutes of canopy flight before landing on every jump. Much of this time is spent trying to orientate yourself after opening, and then trying to get back to the airfield for landing. The actual period of time where you can be relaxed and learning to fly your parachute is very small, unless you dedicate some jumps to focus on flying your wing. In contrast, on the final flight of my Club Pilot (CP)

Course, I was ridge soaring for comfortably over an hour, with about 12 other pilots in the sky

around me and five of them were also on the CP Course. While anxious at the start of the flight, everyone was relaxed, flying comfortably, in fairly close proximity to each other and obeying the air law. I know many skydivers who would be deeply uncomfortable with that proximity and actively try to fly away. I'm not claiming that paragliding is a wind tunnel for parachute flight – they are different wings, but I feel that there are definitely benefits to spending that amount of time flying in terms of increasing your airspace awareness and would strongly encourage any skydivers to try it out.

Many skydivers may consider paragliding to be a solitary sport. However, I made a good number of friends on my courses and enjoyed talking/waving to them in sky as well! It's all summed up by helping someone with a lift to the airport. I'm promised a beer next time we meet!

Many thanks to Rob, Tony, Niall, Russ and Ross at FlySpain for an amazing introduction to the sport. →

12

“ I was ridge soaring for comfortably over an hour, with about 12 other pilots in the sky around me and five of them were also on the CP Course **”**





THE SPEED FLYING ANGLE

By Chris Lynch

I've been skydiving for 33 years, accumulating more than 16,000 jumps, but I began to look for something else that didn't involve aircraft rides, noise and pollution. I'd always fancied trying hang gliding or paragliding, and speed flying seemed the perfect option because of the similarity in wing shape.

I approached speed flying with the attitude that I was a complete beginner. I searched for info on the internet, watched videos on YouTube and asked lots of questions. It was clear that that plenty of ground handling was the way to start. I got a brand new 14m Niviuk Skate wing and a harness. That's 150 sq ft, a fairly mellow size for skydiving by today's standards. My regular main canopy was a Performance Designs Velocity 90 and

I have since downsized to a 79 Competition. During my research, I became aware that a lot of sh*t-hot skydiving canopy pilots had had a fairly serious speed flying crash, several resulting in hospital time, so I felt happy about my 'big' 14 square metre wing.

As it turned out, the Skate was just not suitable for our little Kent hills – it flew too steep and was more suited to big mountains – so I snapped up the first used Ozone XT16 I could find. This 172 sq ft wing was just the job. By now, there were six or seven Headcorn skydivers regularly speed flying in Kent and some that had ventured further afield to places like Rhosilli, Pendle Hill, the Lake District, Snowdonia and Chamonix.

As we gained experience, we flew in stronger winds which enabled us to soar and achieve much longer flight times.



13 Speed gliding at the Long Mynd, by Alan Clarke

14 UK flying near the south coast, by Stuart Martin

This allowed us to get a better feel for the wings and achieve top landings – no walking back up! The other advantage of the stronger winds was that we were less likely to encounter anyone who might have a moan about us not having any insurance. I can apologise for this attitude now but, at the time, we just couldn't see the harm in it or the need for membership or insurance.

Obviously this situation was not sustainable, and two of us studied the BHPA Pilot Handbook and took our CP exams last year. Another four or five speed flyers were due to sit their exams and join the BHPA via their Alternative Entry scheme in February. There was quite a bit of studying to be done compared to how it's done at a DZ. The *Pilot Handbook* was very readable, with plenty of useful and interesting info – particularly the advice for flying better and understanding the weather. The Air Law and Airspace stuff kinda dragged, though, as I wasn't sure how relevant it was – we're unlikely to make proper cross-country flights or soar into upper airspace.

Regarding sites, most flyable places have been flown by paragliders and hang gliders for years and it has taken lots of time and effort to keep them open. Joining the BHPA and the local club is a great idea. You don't have to skulk about waiting for the winds to go over paraglider limits, you get third party insurance and the *Skywings* mag every month, and you'll end up with a new group of friends.

Now I've been speed flying for about three years and probably have 12 hours or so flight time. I haven't flown a conventional paraglider but, at some point in the future, I would love to give a bigger wing a go ... and hang gliding ... and I've just bought a paramotor. It's just a matter of finding the time! ●

14



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1

ANYTHING



YOU CAN DO...



WORDS: HANNAH BETTS, 4-WAY FEMALE WORLD CHAMPION WITH BRITISH TEAM STORM
PHOTOS: GARY WAINWRIGHT (STORM) AND ROB LLOYD



1 Storm launching a 1

2 Brit Chicks at the 2013 record attempts

3 Welcoming FS coaches Helen and Ana

4 On the creeper pad with Storm

When doing some research on the percentages of women and men in the sport of skydiving, it's interesting to discover that there is pretty much an even 50/50 split when it comes to tandems but that only 18% of full BPA members are female. This tells us that women are just as brave as men when it comes to throwing themselves out of a plane for the first time, but we're not enticing them into the world of skydiving as a sport. I was surprised and happy to

find out that the percentage of women who are experienced jumpers is the same percentage of women who go through the first jump course, which means that women stay in the sport once they sign up to become a skydiver (great job, Instructors!).

But why only 18%? There are obvious aspects of life that we can't ignore, such as pregnancy, child rearing and the fact that only 8% of single parent families are single father families. This leaves a lot of women with less time for recreation and hobbies than men, but I still think we can boost these numbers.

WE CAN DO IT

For those of us who are established in this sport, we already know that women are amazing skydivers. I don't mean amazing 'for being a woman'; I mean *waaaaaay* above average – seriously, better than most men! For example, take the most popular competitive discipline – 4-way FS. Out of the 120 4-way competitors in the UK who medalled in the Senior or AAA class division over the last 10 years, 69 were female. You heard me right. Despite making up only 18% of the sport, 58% of medal winners were women. However, most non-skydivers tend to have an old fashioned, skewed perspective of what it means to be a skydiver. People often associate the words 'military' and 'extreme sport' to skydiving, and these words are also associated with a male-dominated world. A lot of action sports rely on physical strength and endurance to truly excel or 'stand out' from the rest of the crowd. Skydiving, not so much. Just the other day, I was walking back from landing and a five-year-old boy shouted to his dad: "Oh my gosh, even women do it!" Enough said.

So, how do we let the 50% of female tandem students see that this could be the sport for them? Like any other industry, we need to see more women in authoritative positions. I'm talking Instructors. Instructors are the first people you interact with when you are new to skydiving. Despite having a very welcoming experience during my AFF course, my biggest fear of turning up on a DZ by myself was knowing I'd probably be the only woman on the course (which I was) and feeling →





slightly awkward around such a male environment (which I did). I nearly wasn't part of the 18%. I would have LOVED to have had the option of having a female Instructor. We need more of you! I speak to a lot of women who are incredibly talented skydivers, with a wealth of knowledge and experience, who say they would like to be Instructors but just don't think they're ready for the job. On the flip side, it's not uncommon to see men with minimal experience and jump numbers signing up for an instructional course without giving it a second thought. So, I say to all those women who are thinking about becoming instructors, but are lacking the initial confidence: YOU CAN DO IT. And you can do it well too.

TAKE THE LEAD

Some of the best Instructors in the world are women and they come in all shapes

and sizes. When other women see female role models, it sparks a fire within and there is a chain reaction. Female Tandem Instructors have become much more commonplace on a DZ in the States, including those who are 5'5" and 8½ stone. In the UK, women make up 10% of AFF Instructors and just 1% of BPA Tandem Instructors. We've proven ourselves in competition, where the difference between winning and losing is all about communication, level-headedness and remaining calm in stressful situations – these are the exact skills that make excellent Instructors! If we boost our female Instructor numbers, I believe a lot of those female tandem students will become way more curious about what our sport has to offer. So, to the new female AFF students and die-hard jumpers alike, don't be afraid to break boundaries – dream big and become that next role model. ●

Ways to help the cause:

Chief Instructors

Encourage the talented female skydivers to get their instructional ratings when they're ready. Offer them support and guidance. If you have female Instructors, make it known on your website – it can only boost your numbers.

Newer female jumpers

Find out who the local female badass is on the DZ (or do your own homework and Google) and talk to her! I guarantee she'll be happy to share any words of wisdom, tell stories of the mistakes she made along the way and help you out in any way possible.

Newer and established female jumpers

Connect online! There are some seriously inspiring, amazing skydiving women all around the world. They range from multiple World Champions, to DZ owners, to Skydiving Event Managers, to World Class videographers to AFF Instructors and Tandem Instructors. Check them out on Facebook and see for yourself (and I guarantee they'll reply if you message them!). To name a few off the top of my head: Amy Chmielecki, The JoyRiders, Claire 'Sparky' Scott, Sydney Williams, Julia Swallow, Melanie Curtis, Sarah Smith, Lesley Gale, Kate Cooper-Jensen, Katie Woods and Karen Lewis Dalton.

4-WAY FS PODIUMS SINCE 2010

Year	Podium	Team	Point	OC	IC	Tail	Camera	Average
2014	1	Voodoo	Dennis Parker	Vana Parker	Liz Matthews	David Sumter	Dave Head	19.5
	2	Vision	Simon Guest	Steve Hamilton	Mike Hayes	Ady King	Rich Orford	18.5
	3	Kaizen	Lynne Murray	Rai Ahmed	Laura McLelland	Maria Russell	Andy Ford	18.4
2013	1	Satori	Julia Foxwell	Steve Hamilton	John McIver	Milko	Dave Head	20.5
	2	Kaizen	Lynne Murray	Rai Ahmed	Laura McLelland	Maria Russell	Dave Curtin	17.9
	3	Bodyflight Isis	Anna Hicks	Sarah Smith	Luci Boella	Siân Stokes	Nigel Holland	17.4
2012	1	Satori	Milko	Julia Foxwell	John McIver	Aaron Faith	Dave Head	20.0
	2	Kaizen	Lynne Murray	Rai Ahmed	Francois Cathelain	Liz Cass	Dave Curtin	15.6
	3	Pink Panthers	Jo Hawley	Laura McLelland	Simon Cathrine	Maria Russell	Dave Butterell	14.7
2011	1	Satori	Milko	Julia Foxwell	John McIver	Aaron Faith	Dave Head	19.6
	2	SonicNutz	Helen Arnold	Darren Atter	Simon Cathrine	Dave Honeybone	Rob Frost	17.1
	3	Bodyflight Aerodyne	Rebecca Bradley	Sarah Smith	Victoria Bradley	Amanda Kemp	Ben Cannon	14.7
2010	1	Satori	Katie Woods	Julia Foxwell	John McIver	Aaron Faith	Rob Stevenson	20.7
	2	Bodyflight	Tarn Hollis	Sarah Smith	Liz Matthews	Amanda Kemp	Alan Thompson	18.8
	3	SonicNutz	Helen Arnold	Darren Atter	Jason Kierman	Dave Honeybone	Rob Frost	16.5



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*Swoop getting the angle
on a tandem, by Milko*

• REC

SETTING UP A CAMERA HELMET

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE OPTIONS!

WORDS: GARY 'SWOOP' WAINWRIGHT

Over the winter, I became interested in the idea of using a mirrorless stills camera for tandems instead of my current DSLR – I wanted to reduce the weight on my head. I bought a Samsung NX mini, which works quite well and is significantly lighter, but it still made me want to reduce the weight further. In the end, I decided to just set up a new helmet.

This would be my third camera setup. My first 3,000 camera jumps were with a Headhunter Voodoo. This was very much in the traditional style, with the video on top and the stills on the front. As video cameras started to get smaller, it became more practical to mount both on top and most people agree this is better for your neck. I toyed with doing this with the Voodoo, but ultimately bought a Bonehead Flat Top Pro as this seemed more suitable for the job and that has served me well for the last 3,500 camera jumps.

Over the years, I have built up quite a collection of cameras and lenses. I currently have four video cameras and three still cameras (plus a box of stuff I no longer use) with various lenses. I sometimes like to jump with a flashgun too, so you can soon run out of space and there always seems to be a compromise somewhere.

I had a look at what helmets are available and, with the advent of much smaller cameras, I think there are fewer larger helmets to choose from. I wanted something with a decent amount of room on top, but also something that was lighter than my current helmet. After looking



My old tandem set-up on the left (7lbs) and the new one on the right (4.5lbs)



New set-up Canon 6D with 17-40mm lens and Sony CX410



Canon 6D with 15mm lens, EX580 flashgun and Go-Pro

New helmet with quick releases



'Selfie' by Swoop!

at various options, I decided to go for a Tonfly 4X Top. Having seen a few different helmets by Tonfly, I was impressed with their designs and they are a very easy company to deal with.

My old tandem setup weighed 7lbs, but my new one weighs 4.5 lbs. In a study in 2013, 'soft' openings were measured up to about 3G (this is why I usually jump a Pilot with a Dacron line set to ensure this!) and 'Harder but not unreasonable' openings were recorded at 6G. Therefore, my 2.5lb saving would actually reduce the load on my neck by 15lbs during a hard opening! The hardest openings recorded were 12G, but this was with no slider (must remember to always attach my new removable...).

QUICK RELEASES

I see lots of cameraflyers using various quick releases for their cameras and so do I. However, if you only ever jump the same video and stills camera, why bother? They add extra weight and good ones are expensive. However, if you want to be able to use different cameras and accessories, they can be really useful. →

EYE IN THE SKY



Filming a
Freefly jump,
by Chris Cook



Samsung
NX Mini
and Go-Pro
(Note: no sight).
My lightest
set-up at 3lbs

I have always used the Stroboframe QRC, but these are becoming harder to find. I was chatting with Andy Ford, who showed me a mount by 'Really Right Stuff', and what impressed me about this design was the ability to slide the camera forward and backwards to allow for greater flexibility. Andy has his stills on the RRS bracket, but I decided to have my video on this and have two Stroboframes for stills depending on which stills camera and lens I want to use. I also added a mount for a GoPro on the front of the helmet.

When I jump a flashgun with wide lenses (15mm on a full frame camera – pretty much a r80° view), I put the flash where my video would normally go and put a GoPro for video on the front. The problem with this is that you can see the flashgun in the extreme left-hand side of the stills. However, if I move that mount backwards, then it doesn't work for my usual 'normal' wide angle set-up. Using the RRS bracket, I simply slide the flashgun back until I can't see it – simple!

RING SIGHTS

It makes me cringe when I see guys wearing camera helmets with ring sights doing linked exits; they are basically jumping with a spike on their helmets that could quite easily puncture somebody's eye in a funnel. On this helmet, I decided to go with a removable sight so when I want to deliver pizza to my friends – sorry, I mean Freefly with my friends – I'm still happy with my camera helmet on and can just put a GoPro on it. I also think it would be possible to have two sights – one for regular camera jumps and one angled down for when I attempt to film VFS. Another trick to note is that my sight is over my left eye – this is a tip from Norman Kent, who recommends that you have the sight on the opposite side to your main deployment hand to reduce the risk of entanglements.

CAMERA INDICATORS AND TONGUE SWITCHES

I have been using a Cameye for years with no problem. Unfortunately, they are not compatible with the latest Sony cams and won't work with a GoPro. Chris Lynch is now selling the Camcheka, which is particularly great for GoPros – they are



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/PDQ39CU

For advice on avoiding hard openings that could save your neck, check out parachutistonline.com/feature/hard-openings. Also, for John LeBlanc's smash-hit seminar on Avoiding Hard Openings at this year's BPA Skydive the Expo, go to the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com

cheap and they work! I have attached mine to my VISO and it works a treat – check out the Camcheka in Gear Zone on p53!

I prefer a tongue switch for my stills camera and usually use a Conceptus model. This is great for the cheaper Canon still cameras as it just plugs straight in. However, the Canon 6D and the Samsung NX Mini have different sockets. I found a small adapter for the 6D off eBay and a guy called Laszlo Andacs makes an adapter for the Samsung. In fact, Laszlo makes converters for many cameras if you are stuck. This means that I can leave the Conceptus switch permanently plumbed into the helmet and just change the adapter as required.

First impressions of jumping my new set up were:

- The new helmet fits very well and is very comfortable. I really notice the reduced weight after a busy day of filming tandems
- The new system is very flexible and easy to change between different cameras if I find myself on a short call
- The Samsung NX mini works well, but it's a bit slower than a DSLR – you have to think more about your shots (not a bad thing!). I may upgrade to a faster model, which may be an Olympus Pen
- I still can't film VFS... ●

My cameras!



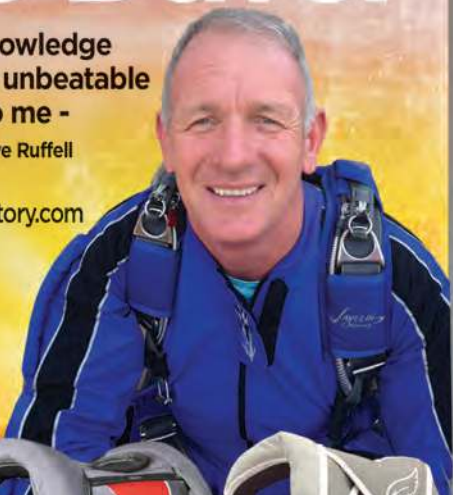


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FREEFALL CAMERA UPDATE

WORDS: PETER STOREY PHOTOS: NICK ROBINSON

We have had a lot of success since our last update in the Mag (if you haven't already heard about our project, catch up with our article in August 2014 and watch our seminar from BPA Skydive the Expo 2015), so I'll start with the one you all want to hear more about! A few weeks ago, we received permission from the CAA for five low-altitude drop tests of a testing rig – a stripped-down version of The Freefall Camera, with the bare essentials for parachute control.

Our plan for these drops was to first confirm that the parachute would indeed open and fly, then demonstrate that the servo motors used in The Freefall Camera would be strong enough to steer the parachute. Our secondary aims were to test the robustness of the programming for the landing pattern, and the accuracy of the GPS module and other electronics.

The tests were completed on March 10 at Skydive Langar. We have proved that the parachute can deploy unaided and that the brake lines can be used for effective steering, and the program for the landing pattern was modified throughout the day to test out the GPS and work on accurate landings. We are hoping to be granted further permission to carry out some more low-altitude tests, but will have to wait and see if we need to go abroad for some freefall testing!

Big thanks go out to Gareth Thomas from FOXY plane, without whom we are sure we would still be struggling for CAA permission, and to the staff at Skydive Langar for their support in conducting drop tests and continued enthusiasm for the project.

Although somewhat overshadowed by drop tests, we also went to Airkix earlier in the month. We performed repeated experiments to look at the effectiveness of the robot's control surfaces, tested our pilot chute to see what deployment force it could provide and looked at some alternative shapes for the robot's shell for reduced drag. ●

1 Chief Instructor Rich Wheatley prepares to dispatch the Freefall Camera test rig

2 Holding the pilot chute in place, the test rig is released

3 The bridle acts as a static line and the backup pilot chute is not required

4 Happy Freefall Camera team



VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/K3OB6F7](http://tinyurl.com/K3OB6F7)

Watch The Freefall Camera Project's seminar from BPA Skydive the Expo 2015 at the link above or click on this page in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com

FLYING HIGH

1

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.BODYFI

WORDS: JOEL STRICKLAND,
VARIALFREEFLY.COM
PHOTOS: ROB LLOYD

I first encountered Ben White as the missing person in the British delegation at the 2014 World Championships in the Czech Republic – an empty space of severe news, hope, doubt and more hope. Jason Southall filled in at the last minute so *Revolution Freestyle* could exist for the competition, agreeing to a stand against the worst of circumstances (and who could you want more to help pick up such impossible pieces?), but the news stayed bad.

The way we communicate now has information flowing by at incredible speed and often barely registering. So much waffle tumbles past, it can be easy to forget the technological tools we have at our disposal are a great privilege of the modern world and can aid us – a small community often spread far and wide – in powerful ways. Now and then, something will grow from mundane to beautiful if there is a good enough reason.

Over recent years, there have been some notable examples of the skydiving community at large coming to the aid of a broken friend. In the summer of 2012, a guy called Dan Hunt exited from the

Jungfrau high above the Lauterbrunnen valley in Switzerland. After mistakenly zooming off over the wrong bit of terrain, he spent several days huddled in the fabric of his speed wing as the money was rounded up to pay for the heli time to go and find him. A short while later, everyone who donated received a handwritten message of thanks on a picture of the weather-beaten but relieved-looking Dan climbing out of the craft that ultimately came to his rescue. In 2014, a small miscalculation saw Ben Cornick swoop into the side of the DZ van at the end of a routine camera jump on the island of Fiji. Pretty soon, skydivers had ponied up the urgent cash needed to get him onto a plane and into an Auckland operating theatre for the surgery he needed to keep his leg.

SKYDIVERS, ASSEMBLE

Last year, while training at Hibaldstow, Ben White hit the ground too hard and now his legs don't work any more. The short version of this part of the story is that Ben needs some cash – the kind of cash nobody expects to need or has a frame of reference for – to deal with a likely endless list of unfathomably expensive

domestic pain-in-the-ass things such as getting doorways widened and steps dealt with and myriad other stuff about the place that you would never even register as potentially prohibitive until your body no longer does all of the things it did when you moved in. A graceful post from Jen Saville – Ben's girlfriend – about their situation had many concerned parties scheming and plotting out ways to help, then Paul Mayer from Bodyflight – who had already been sponsoring *Revolution* to help them achieve their goals – stepped in to offer his facility for an entire night and hopefully help make a dent in the pile of money in question. I sat in front of my

1 From wheels came flight

2 Ben's injuries included five broken vertebrae, six broken ribs, one broken femur and T-10 complete paraplegia

3 With *Revolution* teammate Emma Pilkington and *Bodyflight* owner Paul Mayer



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, YOU CAN DO SO AT YOUCARING.COM/HELPBENWHITE

Many people have shown their support for Ben and Jen in recent weeks and months. Here are a few that should not pass by unthanked:

- Paul Mayer has always gone the extra distance for those attending his events, but this time he opened up his tunnel facility for a whole night, donated a lot of stuff for the auction and gave the profits from the bar.
- Roy Castleman and Emma Foy who organised the raffle (which, based on the amount of stuff, could not have been anything less than perplexingly complicated).
- HRH Fazza, HE Nasser, Alan Gayton and the staff of Skydive Dubai for throwing in a selection of prizes that were – true to form – marvellous.
- The bar staff at Bodyflight for staying very, very late.



computer and watched it happen. In a very short time, things went from plans to planned and from what, to when, to done. People began donating items to sell, an idea corralled into the form of a raffle by Roy Castleman and Emma Foy, and then expanded into a supplementary auction to the point where they were in danger of becoming buried under the amount of prizes there were to organise.

The night itself was divided up between a Scrambles competition for the belly types and some (very) loosely organised Freely groups. It seemed proper that nobody should really care much about the competition, nor much else other than having fun, with a greater purpose being the reason everybody assembled. Ben flew using a positional contraption of straps and such that some handy fellow had constructed and looked pretty graceful doing so, even if he had to wheel himself into position on a creeper and then be launched into the tube a little bit like those nature programmes where activists transport a dolphin back to the sea. As Friday became Saturday, everything resembling a plan had been fully abandoned and things largely devolved into humans pancaking each other into the tunnel walls, with just a gentle reminder from Paul of the single rule – to keep it to eight or fewer in there at any one time (which was almost adhered to). The raffle and auction offered a kaleidoscope of items, from small to spectacular, and the usual (t-shirt, anyone?) to the unpredictable (we want to hear you play those ukuleles). Core Skydiving's Mike McNulty is as odd a duck as any of us, but the surprise of the evening is how good an auctioneer he makes.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR SPORT

If looking at the pictures of Ben's x-rays makes you feel fragile, they should. They are a very precise reminder of exactly how squishy one's corporeal being actually is and of irreparable damage so easily done to the human form. I am drawn into memories by that feeling of vulnerability – of the near misses, of the mishaps and minor injuries, of the times that some tiny unknowable factor was the difference between one path through life and another. Accidents don't happen as much as people on the outside think they do, but they certainly happen sometimes and can be very affecting whether big or small, near to you or far away. From a small lapse in concentration leading to a badly sprained ankle that still likes to punish the best part of a year later and remind you of your foolishness with a quick stab of pain here and there, to the triple fatality of three of the best proximity pilots in the world that makes the big

wingsuit you just bought loom out of the corner of the room like a vengeful spirit. There are the things that are all too knowable, the ones that make you all shivery to this day when you think about them. A hair's breadth near miss between two deploying canopies at the end of a newbie Freely carnage jump that earned you an angry bruise on your inner thigh from *the hacky handle on the other guy's pilot chute*. An overcooked aerial that leaves you foetal and nauseous when you watch the video, quickly deleting it lest anyone – including you – ever again see how close you were to going in that time. Then there are the near misses that nobody ever saw. The slippery patch on an exit point that you were inches away from but never even knew about. A near miss on break-off that everybody missed...

When I think about what has happened to Ben, it is so very easy to imagine myself in his place – such are the parallels. Training for an Artistic category at the World Championships – upgrading your ambition and downsizing your gear, the time and the effort and all the money it is costing made right in your head by the pride you feel wearing the flag and representing old Blighty at the fancy level. This similarity of circumstances is what has me in front of the keyboard, unsure whether sharing words about it has any value to anyone else.

No matter what kind of extreme activity jumbles your weasels, when something serious happens within reach, we are faced with some level of cognitive dissonance about the inherently risky business that we chase; remember – *just for fun*. If you have been doing this for a while, you will likely have played this game many times. If someone gets broken, or even forever gone, what would they want you to do? Should you get out now or carry on as if nothing has happened? Should you dial it back or go hard? If something happened to you, what would you want? We can arrive at the other side perhaps not knowing which way up we are. If you walk away, are you dishonouring the spirit of what we do and the decisions we make on the way in, when evaluating the risk of our intent?

It is quite possibly the wrong thing to say that I owe Ben a debt of thanks, and yet maybe I do precisely that. My position relative to this situation has made me resolve to be better at what I do, to be wiser, smarter and safer than I have been in the past – and most importantly – to help others do the same where I can. With my actions, I will honour the luxury of my life and pay service to a situation that I have witnessed and do not have to endure myself.

Ben's legs don't work anymore, but yours probably do. Be sure to have them carry you somewhere awesome. ●

"Over recent years, there have been some notable examples of the skydiving community at large coming to the aid of a broken friend"



why DIVE?

By Richard Drabble, 200 jumps and trainee CSBI

Being a relative newcomer to the sport, I thought it might be interesting to look into why we do the things we do. This came about largely because of my 'normal' non-skydiving friends, who frequently seem to ask me "why?" I've been struggling to answer this apparently simple question myself, so I thought I would ask some of the usual suspects at my local DZ.

The first thing that became apparent is that this is a question that many of us don't really need, or maybe don't really want, to think about. The initial reaction from most skydivers was an inarticulate grunt and a confused look – they seemed to think it was a crazy question to be asking. However, when pressed, some interesting answers began to emerge...

NOT JUST ANOTHER SPORT?

My first victim tried to escape by claiming to be 'only the cleaner', but eventually said that he felt skydiving was more of a participation sport compared with going to watch a football match. When I pointed out that he could try playing football rather than just watching, his reply really set me thinking when he pointed out that "anybody can play football". Almost as soon as he said it, he looked embarrassed. Suddenly, 'only the cleaner' had become somebody quite special – somebody out of the ordinary. Actually, my cleaner friend is quite correct – we are quite extraordinary people. The BPA only has approximately 6,000 full members, suggesting that there are maybe 4-5,000 active skydivers, making us less than one in 10,000 of the general population – a very exclusive club indeed!

TRIAL BY FIRE

There are various reasons for this. Becoming a skydiver is a difficult process which involves learning some completely new skills, making a substantial financial commitment and, perhaps most significantly, overcoming a basic instinctive fear. All of us are born with an inbuilt, 'hardwired' fear of falling. This is proved when a midwife tests the 'Moro reflex' by allowing a newborn to drop a few inches and a normal baby will throw its arms up in an attempt to grasp at something to save itself. As skydivers, we have to use our reasoning mind to overrule that most basic animalistic fear of falling.

Once we have achieved that control, we can enjoy what we, and we few alone, know is the most calming and relaxing experience imaginable. For that minute, there is nothing else; only the dive, only the moment, no past, no future. We live totally in the moment.

That control is something that most people can't achieve; they must forever remain prisoners to their instinctive fear and can never experience the freedom that only we can enjoy. In fact, most of the general public actually behave as though they think we are somehow insane.

I also spoke to some non-skydivers to see why they thought we like to jump out of aeroplanes. One of the people I spoke to was a work colleague, a very clever lady who runs a successful company. Her answer was quite interesting in that she actually got the 'intellect over instinct' thing quite quickly, and then went on to say that she didn't think I was a risk taker: "I know that if you weren't 99% sure..."

What? Only 99%! I know that I surely wouldn't enplane if I was anything approaching that unsure of the outcome and I can't imagine many other skydivers would either.

But there are interesting points here. We are able to enjoy an experience that most people never will. Maybe they do think we are insane, but could it also be that they are also just a bit jealous?

I rather like that thought. Another (slightly less comfortable) thought is that, although there are few risk takers in our sport, with the vast majority of us being careful, meticulous (and maybe even a bit boring?), the general public perceives us as an altogether more exciting bunch who regularly 'live on the edge'. Do we as a group actually enjoy that perception? Do we enjoy the illusion that we are a bunch of crazy risk takers?

1 *Milko landing at an ethereal Langar, by Chris Cook*

2 *Gary Townsend, Stephanie Driver, Elliot Fry and Jon Wilson launch a Stairstep Diamond from the Beech at Dunkswell, by Bill Booth*

3 *Paul Dewey's 1,001st jump, by Chris Cook*

4 *"I've chased the shouting wind along". By Nigel O'Brien*



66 I've topped the
wind-swept heights
with easy grace
Where never lark,
or even eagle flew –
And, while with silent,
lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed
sanctity of space,
– Put out my hand,
and touched the face
of God 99



TO FLY WITHOUT THE PLANE

It's also clear that adrenaline plays a part. One old-timer who was jumping rounds before I was born was quick to admit that nothing else gives the same buzz. He seemed to have tried several other 'extreme' sports such as hang-gliding, paragliding and even flying light aircraft. Apparently flying came close, but he had to give it up because it was interfering with his skydiving! I have noticed the adrenaline thing myself – I've never felt fear at diving out of an aeroplane, certainly not the 'kick in the guts' fight or flight response normally associated with fear and adrenaline, but I do notice that, when my fingers are numb and white with cold, a skydive makes them pink and warm pretty much instantly. Clearly there is some physiological response going on!

Many of the skydivers I spoke to also admitted to being very different personalities when on the DZ. This too is something I can relate to, and is something that I suspect is very common. Off the DZ, I'm a shy introvert who hates having his photo taken, but on my office wall is a

photograph of some crazy skydiver dude in freefall. It's not me, of course – a boring person like me would never take a crazy risk like that! That photograph is somebody else, somebody who only appears at the DZ.

There is also a close camaraderie within our sport. I find myself, a real novice at the sport, constantly heartened by the bits of advice and help freely given by real world-class skydivers just because they want to help. I have never, despite my frequent demonstrations of ineptitude, received anything close to a 'put down' from any other skydiver. I can't think of any other sport, pastime or hobby in which that is true.

BECAUSE THE DOOR IS OPEN

In summary, our reasons are complex.

- We are an exclusive club, and we like that exclusivity and the camaraderie that comes with it.
- Occasionally we allow visitors. Visiting the skydiver 'club' is called 'doing a tandem'. But, at the end of the visit, our guests are politely escorted back across the spectator line and waved

goodbye – except in a very few cases, never to return.

- We enjoy training our thinking minds to overcome our animal fears, and we enjoy the fantastic freedom that gives us.
- We like mastering the skills that we need to fully enjoy that freedom and, like most sportspeople, we feel that we can always improve those skills, always get that little bit better.
- Many of us secretly like being perceived as crazy risk takers who live on the edge – which, of course, we aren't and don't!
- We need our adrenaline hit... regularly!

I've found asking myself and others 'why?' quite an interesting experience.

I'm not sure that I've really answered the question very well; in fact, I seem to have turned up as many questions as answers.

In researching this article, I came across the well-known poem *High Flight* by RCAF Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee in 1941:

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the
tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with
easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
— Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

When a non-skydiver asks me 'why?', I think "to slip the surly bonds of earth and do a hundred things that you have not dreamed of" probably explains it as well as anybody can. ●



AERCTOR3

What's under the hood?

Container: V306 MICRON

Main: PD Peregrine 67

Reserve: PD OP 126

Skyhook: For sure!



Photo of Marat Leiras
by Max Haim

MICRON

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CANOPY CORNER



By Kye Bromley

We learn from the example (and mistakes!) of others, so it is useful to read about what other people have done. Each issue, I'll print case studies of people's canopy choices during their first thousand jumps and beyond, along with any lessons they learned along the way. Please do get involved – email your canopy progression if you've been around long enough to have lessons worth sharing.

Name: Paul Dorward
First jump: 1996
Total jumps: 6,500
Current canopy: Velocity 90

From 0-100 jumps, I had typical student kit ranging from 280 down to 220. I vividly remember jumping a Sabre 210 for the first time on my

110th jump, which was so radical that I managed to put it into twists by pulling down way too hard on one toggle. I used a Sabre 190, very carefully, for the next 50 jumps.

Then I bought my own Sabre 170, which I did about a hundred jumps on, then had a Sabre 150 for the next hundred. It was around this time that I was exposed to my first real skydiving incident when my instructor Steve Burns was hurt badly during his first jump on his new Velocity 120 canopy at Peterlee following a turn too low to the ground. This had a profound impact on me; I still think about it to this day and tell the story to people as much as possible when coaching.

I bought a Sabre 135 for my next thousand jumps. It was around about this time that

I would watch my instructor Dave Mitchell, who was somehow able to put his Stiletto 120 and 107 just about anywhere – upwind or downwind – and (his party piece) swoop a football anywhere on the DZ. Watching Dave gave me inspiration to want to start swooping because he was always accurate and looked so smooth. I learnt a great deal just watching Dave.

My next canopy was a Stiletto 120, which I started to really dial in. I did a lot of jumps in a short space of time before then going to the Stiletto 107. Again, I was very current and jumping a lot.

My first-ever brand new canopy was a Katana 107. I got it after much research and speaking →

By Joanne Dawson



with many people I respected in the industry. In the end, after a very long chat with Dave Ruffell from the Sunshine Factory, I went for it and ordered it. I jumped this canopy for about three years, again staying very current and jumping on three or four expeds to the USA each year as well as many weekends in the UK.

My next brand new canopy was a Velocity 96. This was another big milestone for me as the Velocity had a reputation for being a very committed canopy and, as I previously mentioned, I always think back to what happened to Steve. I was very nervous when I collected it in the USA. I managed a couple of jumps on it before doing a 100-jump 4-way camp, which really helped dial it in.

My next new canopy came about after speaking with Performance Designs and eventually them offering to add me to their scheme of sponsored instructors – a deal that I still have today.

I have jumped Velocities now for quite a few years and have jumped sizes from 79 upwards. My current size is a Velocity 90 and I find this canopy to be the perfect size for me. I work full-time in skydiving and I always feel at home under it. I recently demoed the Comp Velocity 84 and, while its characteristics were very similar, nothing feels like my Velo 90. This is the one canopy I feel I can do anything with – I have done tight demos, downwind, crosswind, formation swooping, even following others in on brakes while filming them landing. It literally

does anything and I love it. I now feel I have no real need to downsize. I could happily jump a 79, but this canopy is just right – almost the holy grail of canopy.

I am always learning and every day is a school day. I remember having bits of coaching from Brian Vacher in Empuriabrava and thinking I semi-knew what I was doing with landings and flight plans, and he promptly tore me a new one. However, I learnt a lot in these couple of days. I have since had some more bits of coaching with Brian and others and learn more and more every time. I still feel like a sponge soaking up the info. Another top tip is that there is so much online coaching that you have to just ignore! Go and speak with well-respected coaches and learn under direct supervision. Forums are just full of rubbish.

In 6,500 jumps, I have had no serious injuries but a couple of moments of insanity. I once

landed in front of a taxiing plane (much to the surprise of the pilot) due to a poor setup and a serious overshoot, and I also had one very memorable landing while swooping the pond in Elsinore, California. It was hot, I was tired, I was jetlagged and there was a camera involved. I was only two feet too low, but it was enough to leave a big old bruise (on the ego) and again teach a very valuable lesson on when to say no and on self-discipline.

The absolute top tip is that you must get coaching as early as possible from the right people in the industry. The courses now are very professional and have some amazing coaches teaching them. Also, you must use all of the instruments that are available. Audible and digital altimeters have changed the way a lot of canopy pilots at all levels of experience do things, so learn to use them properly.

Stay safe, have fun and always learn.

By Kye Bromley



NEW COACHES

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

FS COACH

Thomas Lawson, Netheravon
Nicole Elliott, Swansea
James Meen, LPS
Liam Hardman, Sibson
Wendy Hyland, Wild Geese
David Keevers, Sibson
Jay Richardson, Sibson
Kate Lindsley, Langar
Gareth Toner, St Andrews
Ben Wood, Hinton
Harry Shanker, Netheravon

Michael French, Netheravon
Tom Shorten, Langar
Lee Winter, various locations
Sarah Ashworth, Chatteris

BASIC FF COACH

Mark Tether, Netheravon
Mark Collins, St Andrews

CF COACH

Michael French, Netheravon
Paul Floyd, Weston

FF COACH

Nicole Elliott, Swansea
Greg Harwood, Netheravon
Paul Bateman, Chatteris

WS COACH

Jonathan Charles, Langar
Stuart Ryan, Wild Geese
Paul Floyd, Weston

TOP TIP: RTFM!

Don't forget that training manuals are available to download from the BPA website for pretty much anything you could want to progress in – AFF, Formation Skydiving (one manual each for coaches and students), Canopy Handling, Canopy Piloting, Freely, Wingsuit and Canopy Formations.

bpa.org.uk/training-and-progression/training-manuals

FOR ALL YOUR SKYDIVING GEAR

Photo courtesy of KOE



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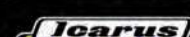
parachutesystems



CYPRES 2



Deepseed





"Is it big?" – yes.
 "Is it rectangular?" – yes.
 "Can I control it?" – errr!
 By Tom Shorten

MAL OF THE MONTH

I was feeling tired after getting down from the previous jump, so I asked one of the packers if he could sort my rig out. Thirty minutes later, I was on a call and on went the rig. I'm learning how to film group FS and so had decided I would film a 3-way. After a rather uneventful jump, I watched the others track away, took it down to 3k and pitched my pilot chute. Moments later, I found myself spinning under my Sabre 135. At first, I thought it was just a really bad off-heading opening that resulted in twists, but then I noticed that my brake line was routed across the other riser! I gave it a quick look to see if I could fix it, decided I couldn't so performed my drills at 2k and found myself under my Optimum moments later. I landed with no further incident and walked back to find that Laura Hampton and Ally Milne had already found my canopy and freebag. Luckily, they landed right on the runway! This was my first chop and I really couldn't have asked for anything more. The decision was clear and all my stuff was returned in the time it took me to land. The packer, who will remain nameless, was apologetic and even paid for my reserve repack once he had seen the footage.

Tom Shorten

Optimum 126, by Tom Shorten



LIKELY CAUSE?

This malfunction was caused by the left brake line being misrouted around the right riser group, and there is a tangle in the left riser group too. There are a couple of moments when this is most likely to have occurred.

Firstly, it is possible to tangle your canopy when you land from the previous jump. To avoid this, collapse your canopy gently to the ground, put your toggles back on their risers and bring all four risers together before walking up the lines to the canopy. When it lands on your head and you step out through it, or when you collect it like a big ball of string, problems occur!

The second likely time to introduce twists and tangles is when taking your kit off. Drop the

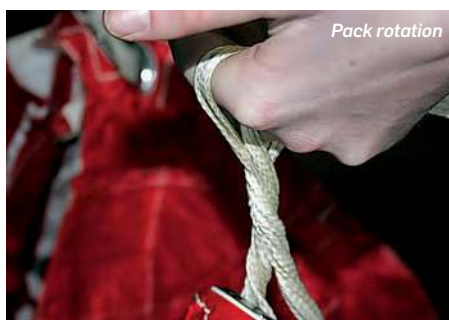


VIDEO: [TINYURL.COM/Q2MMK5D](https://tinyurl.com/Q2MMK5D) BY TOM SHORTEN

Watch the action at the link above or click on the link in the Skydive App or at skydivethemag.com

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

What if... you are on the second lift after a wind hold and, as you're waiting to enplane, you watch several bumpy landings on the lift before you?



canopy and walk backwards, letting the lines stretch out. Take off the container and flip it back so it is in the correct orientation with untangled risers. If leaving it for a packer and there isn't space to stretch it out, you should ideally put the container neatly on top of the canopy bundle.

If twists and tangles have been introduced, a simple 4-line check will pick them up. See the packing guide in the April 2011 Mag for more top tips.

By Rob Lloyd



- You will not be landing for another 35-40 minutes, so what might the conditions be then? if it is very marginal, what if it got worse?
- If you are experienced and happy to jump, is there anyone else on the lift who might lack the experience to make the call that they should be staying on the ground?
- If in doubt, stay on the ground. The last thing you need when dealing with challenging wind conditions is a nagging doubt that you don't have the skill or experience to be safe doing it.

- First, well done for watching the landings on the previous lift and not just blindly getting on the plane!
- If the wind is outside BPA limits, then the DZ controller or CI will stand the lift down. However, this is often not the case abroad where you may need to make your own call.
- What is your experience level, what canopy are you jumping and what is your personal level of comfort in the current conditions – not how others around you feel?



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PEACE



Phoenix Fly Phantom Edge

The **Phantom series** of wingsuits from Phoenix Fly have been widely regarded as one of the best all-round wingsuits on the market. Great for beginners right up to experienced pilots, the previous model, the Phantom 3, was an excellent, versatile suit. Robert Pecnik and the team have now released the latest version of the suit: the Phantom Edge.

More an evolution of the platform than a revolution, this new suit still offers great performance and ease of flight but sees newly designed air inlets and wing profile to improve the inflation and overall flight characteristics.

The suit has been designed to get the maximum performance while keeping the overall wing size smaller. This leads to a stable flight platform with an easy pull from the BOC. It's a great option for those just starting out, right up to experienced pilots looking to get in acrobatic flying. It'll fly as comfortably on its back as it does on the front.

Options include Performance foam leading edge, 5/10 BASE soles, cargo pocket in the tail wing (ideal for BASE stash bags), action cam belly mount hole and a range of fabric options.

Available from Phoenix-Fly.com, priced from €815

Disclaimer: Macca works for Phoenix Fly (although he'd still say the same about this suit if he didn't).



Camcheka

As the old story goes, the Americans invested millions of dollars and considerable time during the Space Race developing a special pen that could write in space. The Russians just used a pencil.

True or not, the point is that there's usually a simpler way to do something and that's exactly where the super smart, super simple Camcheka comes in.

How many times have you been on run in and heard "Is the red light flashing?" Maybe it's easier to ask how many times have you NOT heard that. Everyone wants to know if their GoPro is on and, despite recent developments from Hypoxic to give you a visible indicator light, the only other way was to ask someone.

Designed by Chris Lynch, the Camcheka is as simple and as easy to use as it looks. It's a shatterproof, rounded, low-profile plastic mirror that you wear around your wrist on an adjustable piece of elastic that you use to check if your camera is on. *Simples.*

Available from camcheka.com for a mere £5.50 plus postage.



Coloured closing loops

As skydivers, we all know that the more your gear matches, the safer you are. Fact. Next in the line of matching your colours is this creative idea from Lou Smith-Wildey.

Just £7 will buy you five new snazzy closing loops in the colour of your choice made from 550 paracord. Colours available are: green, blue, purple, pink, red, orange and yellow.

On a more serious side, I've seen some closing loops in truly terrible states on packing mats the world over so, if going colourful can help get those changed more frequently, I'm all for it.

Available from the Kit Store, the Jump Shop or directly through Facebook by contacting Looby Lou Smith-Wildey.



READ SKYDIVE YOUR WAY

Two great Mags... lots of ways to read them!

Skydive the Mag is a free membership benefit to more than 6,000 full BPA members. If you're reading this now, it's most likely that you're part of the BPA and so that's why the articles are focussed on UK jumping and UK jumpers. However, we do have subscribers from 32 countries on six continents, both for the printed Mag and the digital version, and there is also the fantastic *Starter Mag*. Could you be making even more of us, or helping to grow our amazing sport?

Read us digitally

Do you want to carry all of your favourite back issues of *Skydive the Mag* everywhere you go? You can download whole mags, individual pages or anything in between from the *Skydive the Mag* App for mobiles and tablets, jump to our dedicated YouTube videos and search for your favourite articles, authors or subjects – perfect for the skydiver on the go.

Access is absolutely free to BPA members, so all you need to do is search for 'Skydive the Mag' in Newsstand in the App Store or in Android Apps, find the *Skydive the Mag* App version you want and give the BPA members-only login details from the bottom of the e-Newsletter or that came in the post with this Mag. That's it – enjoy! For non-members, the App is £2.99 for one issue or £14.99 for a whole year's subscription.

The App is compatible with iPhones, iPod touches and iPads and is optimised for the iPhone 6/6+ (through Apple Newsstand) or for all Android devices (through Google Play).

Read us the old-fashioned way

If you're a BPA member, your printed Mag will drop through your letterbox every two months automatically. However, we also have plenty of non-members and ex-members, both in the UK and overseas, who still like to keep up with the sport and subscribe to the Mag without becoming full BPA members. A one-year subscription costs £23.94 in the UK, £28.94 in the EU and £29.94 worldwide. Better yet, if you take out a magazine subscription and then join the BPA as a full member, your magazine cost is deducted from your membership fee so you don't pay any extra. Subscriptions are available online via subscriptionsave.co.uk/skydivemag or over the phone on +44 (0) 116 278 5271 – why not buy one as a present for a friend who doesn't already get the Mag?

Spread the word with Skydive Starter

The BPA also produces an annual *Starter* magazine, pitched at total beginners and often given out to

tandem students on the day of their first jump. The aim is to keep them in the sport and bring them back to start their A Licence. *Skydive Starter* magazine explains the routes of progression as well as all the different disciplines and what it's like to become a skydiver. However, by its nature, it is generally only read by people who have already taken the big step of getting themselves to a dropzone. In 2014, we developed the *Skydive Starter* Tablet App, which is basically an interactive version of the *Starter* Mag. The great thing is that it is totally free and can be found online by anyone browsing for apps, so it provides education and advice to people who haven't even started jumping yet. If you're a skydiver, this is the perfect answer to all those non-skydiving friends and work colleagues who want to know more about what it is that we get up to – download it today. ●



CLUBZONE

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

BPA Affiliated DZs in the UK

PAGE 58 1 Black Knights

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Mob: 07970 764850
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GA8 Airvan

PAGE 60 3 Cark

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skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

PAGE 60 4 Chatteris

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Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish

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cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

PAGE 63 6 Dunkeswell

Skydive UK Ltd
Dunkeswell Airfield,
Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG
T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
info@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
Two Beech 99s and Caravan

PAGE 64 7 Headcorn

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

PAGE 67 8 Hibaldstow

Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield,
Hibaldstow, Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648837
T: 01132 505600
info@skydiving.co.uk
skydiving.co.uk
Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92
single turbine, Cessna Caravan

9 Hinton

Hinton Skydiving Centre
Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,
Northants NN13 5NS
T: 01295 812300
info@skydive.co.uk
skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

PAGE 67 10 Jersey

Skydive Jersey Ltd
C/O Jersey Aero Club,
L'Avenue de la Reine Elizabeth II,
St Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands
JE3 7BP
T: 01534 747410
info@skydivejersey.net
skydivejersey.net
Cessna 206, guest turbines

PAGE 67 11 Langar

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

PAGE 68 12 Netheravon

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

PAGE 68 13 Paragon

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

PAGE 71 14 Peterlee

Peterlee Parachute Club
The Airfield, Shotton
Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH
T: 01915 171234
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182, Cessna Grand Caravan

PAGE 71 15 Reading

London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome,
Icknield Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire
OX10 6AS
T: 0845 1307 194
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@skydivessouthcoast.co.uk
skydivessouthcoast.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: 01592 882400
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206

19 St George

Skydive St George
Durham Tees Valley Airport,
Darlington DL2 1LU
T: 01325 337929
info@skydivestgeorge.co.uk
skydivestgeorge.co.uk
Airvan

20 Strathallan

Skydive Strathallan
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder,
Perthshire PH3 1LA
DZ: 01764 662572
T: 07836 201953
kbrady@btinternet.com
skydivesthathallan.co.uk
Three Cessna 206s, guest turbine

PAGE 72 21 Swansea

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

PAGE 75 22 Swindon

Blue Skies Freefall Club
Redlands Airfield,
Redlands Farm, Wanborough,
Swindon SN4 0AA
T: 01793 791222
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

PAGE 75 23 Tilstock

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

PAGE 58 24 UK Para Beccles

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

PAGE 72 25 UK Para Sibson

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

26 Weston

RAF 22 Training Group
Currently military only

27 Wild Geese

Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield,
116 Carrowreagh Road, 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

PAGE 63 28 Cyprus

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

RAPA

Skydive Bad Lippspringe
Flugplatz 1, 33175
Bad Lippspringe, Germany
T: 0049 5254 982 2378
info@skydive-badlippspringe.com
skydive-badlippspringe.com
Cessna Caravan 208

Parachuting Societies

BCPA

British Collegiate
Parachute Association
Hannah Parker, BCPA Chair
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
John Houghland
13 Bowers Croft,
Cambridge, CB1 8RP
johnhskydive@hotmail.co.uk



1

CYPRUS



2

HEADCORN



3

DUNKESWELL



4

SIBSON



5

CARK



6

JERSEY





1 By Chris Sphicas

2 Chris Lynch and Luke Warren, by Si Beech

3 By Bill Booth

4 Some of the staff playing, by David Haygarth

5 Pete 'the legend' Dolbel showing a tandem student the time of their life, by Nigel O'Brien

6 Brett and Lawrence track over the sands, by Kev Coffey

7 By Tanya Quigley

8 Ross Andrews' son Arthur wondering if he is old enough to start AFF

9 Jase Hughes, by Josh Clark

10 Ellie Marshall's AFF Level 4 with Siân Stokes, by Matthew Willson





BECCLES

HAVE: SPANNERS
NEED: FUSES

The weather gods here at Beccles have been shining down on us over the last couple of months and we've been making the most of the winter sun by smashing out plenty of fun jumps. A lot of the less experienced jumpers have been working really hard, gaining new skills and progressing through their B Licence requirements.

This has been helped by Symon running another ace packing course, which was attended by more than 10 clubbies and saw acres of fabric a' flying, yards of lines a' stowing and tonnes of containers a' closing. Congratulations to all of you who participated and, as always, a massive thanks to Sy for his continued patience and hard work in helping everyone develop their packing expertise. A huge *muchas gracias* also needs to go to the AFF Instructors for their ongoing support to all of us. Without them passing on their knowledge and keeping us on our toes, we wouldn't be as safe in the skies as we are.

January saw a Beccles contingent descend on the annual BPA Expo. We enjoyed the informative talks by the likes of John LeBlanc and Brian Vacher as well as the free stuff handed out by the tradestands. We also had a strong showing at the party in the evening with a special mention going to Sam Carter and Mark Walker, who kept the party rocking 'til gone half five in the morning. If the BPA can't hold their AGM there next year, I'm blaming you guys for your debauched behaviour.

I'm glad to say that, as you're reading this, spring has definitely sprung and it means the sunset dives are back. They should be held on the last Wednesday of the month, so make sure you start getting those 'dentist' appointments booked in, get away from work early and come enjoy the joys of a midweek skyfly. Something else to look forward to is that we are going to be hosting another BPA Freefly Roadshow weekend on June 13-14. Last year's was brilliant, with the coaches providing top notch advice and help, so make sure to keep the dates free so you can make the most of the BPA-funded coaching on offer (and yes, that does mean the BPA will be fronting up for the coaches' slots).

Mark's 1,000th jump,
by Andy Parker

Freefly over BKPC,
by Adam Potter

This year, I've decided to introduce the Bimonthly Spanner Shout-out. This is a chance for us all to recognise one of our members' great achievements of spannerishness over the last couple of months and to act as a gentle reminder that the beer fridge needs restocking by them. As this is the first time it's been awarded, I thought it could be shared between two of you: Marty Burgess and Maximus Meridius. Marty deserves it for his sterling effort for trying to miss out on the packing process and gain a head start for getting back on the plane by landing his brand new rig straight on to the runway. As well as scuffing up the new rig, he decimated his colour-matched jumpsuit too. And Max... well, Max thought that, rather than have his pesky pud hanging out and getting in the way of his mad skills, he'd push it right in and have a reserve ride instead – thus giving Andy Page a few more dollars in his pocket. We're glad you're both safe after your crazy antics and will be packing the beer fridge with fines soon. If anyone has any nominations for the next issue's shout out, please let me know.

Everyone will be glad to know that we at Beccles are upgrading the onsite facilities for club jumpers and staff. We have a new club room, with heaters that work and everything, although the fuses have been removed – Tomo's not made of money, you know. There's also a new AFF classroom and staff room in place, and it's a two-storey building with a balcony ready for us to catch the summer sun over the coming season.

As well as building upgrades, we've seen staff upgrades too. I'm chuffed to say "sweet job" to Frenchy, Zuz and Rick for all passing their AFFBI courses. It's superb to see you all moving on up the UK Para totem pole and we're all looking forward to the hard work you'll be putting in teaching the next crop of club jumpers.

Through all the great times we have here, it's easy to forget how quickly tragedy can hit and it saddens me to talk about the passing of Gareth Jones, who died last December in Australia. Gareth was a big club jumper from the Old Buck days and one who spent plenty of time on the dropzone rocking it both on the ground and in the skies. He brought copious amounts of joy and mischief to the dropzone and, even though he moved into other aspects of the sport, his influence will always be remembered here. Blue skies, dude.

James Page

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8/CH1 Lewis Nixon CH2/JM1 James Brooke
FS1 Tom Davies, Gary Murray, Stuart Young **JUMP**
NUMBERS 100 Gary Murray 400 Sammy Carter 1,000 Mark Walker



BLACK KNIGHTS

TOP OF THE WORLD

After a somewhat icy start to the season, we're underway and team training for all of our resident teams has begun with determination. In the last few weeks, Team Crwsaders (the overall regional medal winners for 2014) took to the skies to try out their new kit, FS teams Why So Serious, Blackhawk and a couple of 'as yet unnamed' gangs threw some shapes and our first VFS team AC:DC got in among it too.

We will be running regular coaching and training weekends for teams with special rates and offers, so please get in touch if you'd like to team train at Black Knights.

We have a special Flight-1 Canopy Roadshow planned for the girls →

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when Maxine Tate visits us to run 101 and 102 courses on May 22-23. We will also be running Accuracy competitions and putting on a variety of load organising for FS, FF and wingsuit jumpers that weekend. Definitely a date for your diaries!

Our very own Ash Kemp renewed his CS and AFF Instructor ratings recently and Dave Simpson, Chris Nelson and Sue Nuttall have started on the road to becoming CS Instructors. We will be running a variety of courses and progression weeks for new and current students, so keep your eye on the calendar for these as well.

Mark Lord also started working towards his FS Coach rating recently and is looking forward to joining our team of coaches here at BKPC. I spoke to Mark this week and his enthusiasm and excitement for FS comes across so much you can feel it. If you're interested in coaching or even becoming an FS coach, come on down and we'll get you flying.

Massive congratulations also go to Neil Henshall for completing his TBI rating. We look forward to seeing Neil take to the skies with his first students soon.

Our new cafe is up and running with a new menu and regular meals provided for those staying on the DZ. Believe me, the coffee is amazing.

We'd like to welcome Daniel and Katie, who will be helping with the running of 'The Knights Table' this season, and we'd also like to welcome Liam, who has joined our team of editors and is presently training to produce the fabulous quality DVDs and photo packages we offer to tandem customers.

As always, all of our events are listed on our website and Facebook pages. Come and climb aboard the mighty Blackhawk and join Paul and the gang at 15,000ft for some fun.

AJ

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 100 Connor Lynch 300 Sue Nuttall 600 Carl Marsh TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL Laura Jones, Phil Murray SEVEN HOURS IN FREEFALL Dave Bloomfield

Pete at drogue release, by Gaz



CARK

IT'S GOOD UP NORTH

Planning for August's Skyfest and FS Record attempt is already underway, with a second aircraft now secured. Anna and Speds will be FS organising, starting with smaller groups and working up to 16-ways over the forthcoming months. Watch for the specific weekend dates on our Facebook page and the website.

Congratulations to Dave McMinn on gaining his CSI rating and Don Tomkinson for gaining his CSBI rating. Both were very well deserved and we have gained two very competent and enthusiastic instructors – well done, guys.

The first weekend in March saw the return of the BCPA posse. Nice to see you all again and, as ever, the evening's entertainment never relented – taking many of us into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Our first Open Week is in May, starting on Saturday 23 and finishing on Sunday 31. We have tied it to the half term again, so bring your kids and enjoy the week with us.

The Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS) Band will be filling our skies in May with a weekend of large formation experience. Any eager or budding skydivers over sixty can join in preparation for a future record attempt later on in the year.

There's a baby boom at Skydive Northwest, with Andy and Becky having a little boy called Alfie and Frosty and Rachel having a little girl called Isabelle Rose. Congratulations to our mini skydivers and their parents – we look forward to seeing you all soon. Pete, when's your next one?

Stuart Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS JUMP NUMBERS 100 Gaz Kirby 200 Pete Donald 500 Steve Steward 800 Kev Coffey

CHATTERIS

ENJOY THE SUNSHINE

The season is just about getting into full swing now and we're making the most of any spring sunshine. The DZ is also now open again on Tuesdays as well as the normal Wednesday to Sunday, allowing you more opportunities to come and jump.

We can confirm we have the BPA FS Roadshow and BPA Canopy Formation Roadshow visiting us this year – see Events Zone on p79 for details. There is also still the possibility of the FF and Wingsuit Roadshows coming too, but we're yet to hear. For those interested in some Freefly coaching, we're in talks with a coach who may be coming to Chatteris over a few weekends to offer specialist in-depth coaching.

If you missed Chris Beattie's memo on Facebook, then can all of the club's B Licence jumpers and approved Jumpmasters please see an Instructor for a brief when you next visit the DZ if you haven't already.

Robynne Haynes

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Hakim Abdul, Lee Jarvis, James Moran, Mike Russell FF1 Vikki Poulton JUMP NUMBERS 13,000 Mike Rust →





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UoN Bigway record attempt
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20-24th

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Hybrids
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25-26th

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CYPRUS

NEW YEAR, NEW TOYS

We managed to get our 2015 season going with two weekends left in January. Even such a short break felt long to all of us and we were itching to get back up in the sky. The typically mild winter weather was nowhere to be seen this year, which led to several unexpected reactions ranging from Chas walking around in two bomber jackets trying to keep warm on the ground to our trusty pilot Howard finally consenting to wear gloves due to it being -20°C at altitude.

Undeterred by the freezing cold, we have been logging a lot of descents each weekend and that's mostly due to us wanting to try out all the new goodies. A group order came through for five wingsuits and a couple of tracking suits, all with awesome colour schemes (well, at least they're better than the training suits). Then we have the six full-face helmets, four audibles, two matching jumpsuits and a shiny container – Javelin, of course...

It wasn't just the club members who got some neat upgrades, though – Hotel Delta has a new engine. Our beloved Islander is now having an easier time of ferrying us all to our preferred exit altitude and all of the staff have returned from their training trip abroad with a whole range of souvenir clothing that they can always be seen wearing. Funnily enough, the location escapes me – where did you guys go again?

On the student side, we have had three AFF students progress through to consols and we also had five new students complete their first static line jumps. This is probably news to everyone, not just readers abroad, as it happened during carnival weekend (also known as 'the weekend where most people went to the carnival instead of showing up at the DZ'). It did, however, provide the opportunity for a couple of big formation jumps with both a 7-way and an 8-way being put together by all of the jumpers who showed up.

A final word on our pictures this issue. We are proud to present you with two seldom seen and rarely achieved 3-way formations. Firstly, we have the random Z-Stack, and the timing and positioning here is key to success – please see below. Then we have the transition move of block 24; Sidebuddy-Parkour-Sidebuddy – please see the gallery on p56. Abrupt level changes are a real issue with this block move.

Chris Sphicas

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Chris Berry, Christian Colaco, Dave Cousins **CAT8/CH1** Ryan Ridgewell
CH2/JM1 Stephanie Stylianou, Liza Yianni **FS1** Chris Keville
WS2 Charalambos Charalambous **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Chris Keville, Stephanie Stylianou, Liza Yianni



Gary Townsend,
by **Bill Booth**

DUNKESWELL

THE PLACE IS BUZZING!

We have been jumping almost every weekend this winter and have had students qualifying for A Licences.

April is big for us. As you are reading this, we have one of the best canopy pilots in the world holding a swooping course in Dunkeswell. As promised, Nick Batsch (The King of Swoop) is back and rock'n'rolling the pond. His courses were very popular last year and we have taken swooping to a whole new level here in Dunkeswell this year. We will have our first swoop competition of 2015 at the end of April and there will be many more swoop competitions this year. Brian Vacher will be coaching in Dunkeswell over the pond at the beginning of June too. This should get you in form for the CP Nationals as well as the European Swoop Cup Dunkeswell 2015, where this year's European champion will be decided and awarded.

We have separated FS load organising for beginners and advanced jumpers this year, meaning that both groups of jumpers have better progression for their level. There is a weekend for each group every month, which is held by experienced load organiser Gary Powell.

One weekend a month is also dedicated to tracking coaching. This is a safe and supervised way for you to learn tracking and progress to levels with no limits thanks to the one and only mega fun FF Coach, Mr Pete Brookes. The world-class medalist will make sure he provides coaching for your level, so please check the dates in our online diary.

Our Wingsuit School is going really well and we are happy this winter has been nice enough for us to award WS1s. Huge thanks to our BPA WS Coach Neil Empringham for his dedication and love for this discipline. Our WS community is constantly growing here in Dunkeswell.

The good news is that you will probably never see a Caravan here again. We now have three (!) Beech99s instead. With the DZ constantly growing, we are just trying to catch up with the demand. Flight level 150 is a bonus and you get up there in about 10 minutes with our planes.

We are open every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a smile! Don't miss the first Twin Beech Boogie in May!

Teddy Mikowich →

“All of the staff have returned from their training trip abroad with a whole range of souvenir clothing that they can always be seen wearing. Funnily enough, the location escapes me – where did you guys go again?”

By **Chris Sphicas**

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Scott Forbes, Anand Lurati, Calum McDonald, Hannah Rawlins JM1/CH2 Merlin Webster WS1 Will Tenison, Chris Ware **JUMP NUMBERS** 300 Jasper Smith

Dates for the diary:

Apr 15-19: Nick Batsch Swoop Coaching
Apr 18-19: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (beginners/intermediate)
Apr 24-26: April Swoop99 CUP 1
May 1-4: BCPA Boogie
May 16-17: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (beginners/intermediate)
May 22-24: Twin Beech Boogie 1
Jun 6-7: Brian Vacher CP Coaching
Jun 6-11: European Swoop training week
Jun 12-14: European Swoop Championship
Jun 14-15: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (beginners/intermediate)
Jun 27-28: VFS 2-way competition
Jun 27-28: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (intermediate/advanced)
Jul 18-19: July UKSL
Jul 25-26: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (beginners/intermediate)
Jul 24-26: UK CP Nationals
Aug 8-9: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (intermediate/advanced)
Aug 15-16: VFS 4-way Nationals
Aug 15-16: FS Load organising with Gary Powell (beginners/intermediate)
Aug 27-30: Twin Beech Boogie 2

George Raft receiving his 5,000th jump certificate from Pete Sizer



sunglasses ready as they prepare for another Dubai trip to continue preparation for the Accuracy Nationals in Swansea. As usual, the warm temperatures and perfect jumping conditions are being called a 'working trip' by all of them. Erm, yes, okay...

Henry Van Halewyn will be starting his year the way he means to go on by making his first trip to Dubai to compete in the Swoop league after some great performances in 2014.

The annual pilgrimage to Deland took place in March, with many of our club members participating and gaining new qualifications along the way.

Meanwhile, it's worth mentioning that we did more lifts on one day in February this year than we did in the whole of the same month last year. Good times and happy jumpers!

Charles Henley, who has now turned 90, showed his dedication by making his first jump of 2015 in February – static line, of course. Who knows, Charles, you may progress to freefall again this summer...

Our trusty Islander is back from having a comfy new interior fitted and was being used in February while the Caravan was in for its annual service. By the time you read this, we will have the Caravan back and ready for a busy season. The Islander is having a complete respray to match the Caravan and complement its new interior.

In anticipation of a busy year ahead, we also have a new bus for picking jumpers up from the PLA and it is a rather good looking 17-seater. There is also plenty of space for a lie down on the way back after a fun jump!

In other news, the runway is being extended to accommodate the imminent arrival of a new aircraft to the Headcorn Aerodrome. There is always something interesting to see here...

Congratulations to veteran team member of *One Foot In The Grave* George Raft, who has completed his 5,000th jump and is still going strong. George is an excellent FS jumper and is happy to pass his knowledge on to our younger members.

Our illustrious leader Peter Sizer has been busy in the packing shed and has completed his 4,000th reserve pack job. Jane and Georgie, meanwhile, bunked off early one Sunday (how naughty) and competed in the Scrambles at Basingstoke. Finally, Si Beech strapped himself to Pete in anticipation of going on his Tandem Instructors course in March.

There is never a huge amount to write about over the difficult winter months but, as usual, our club jumpers, students and visiting jumpers have been making the most of every opportunity to get in the sky.

Here's to a great 2015 with lots of activity and fun!

Blue skies

Si Beech

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 George Voke, Nick Wickens **JUMP NUMBERS** 900 Sam Laming →



HEADCORN

THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT, WE'VE GOT TO WEAR SHADES

We are feeling pretty optimistic here at Headcorn and, with the worst of the winter hopefully behind us now, it's time to get the sunglasses polished off and ready for some sunny weather! Let's start off with sunny thoughts...

Pete Sizer, Janos Leszko and Steve Hastings have definitely got their

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AIRSHOW

**NIGHT
JUMPS**

**SUMMER
BALL**

**LOAD
ORGANISING**

**GUEST
AIRCRAFT**



24th-31st August 2015

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For up-to-date news on this event follow us on Facebook!

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HIBALDSTOW

THE SEASON HAS BEGUN!

Freefly is off to a great start thanks to our first weekends with our handpicked selection of Freefly organisers. This season, Matty Mitchell, Mike McNulty, Liz Boniface and Paul Cooper are running the show and they've got loads of energy and ideas. Opening the season with a few stickers is always a good idea, so congratulations to Geraldine Lawson for grabbing her FF1 and to Chris Foster for being signed off for his FF2 – get flying!

The Formation Foundry brand continues to grow with more FS coaches training to join our team – it's great to see so many people wanting to give back to group. It's a long road ahead to a coaches rating, but we look forward to seeing Leander Hambley, Jack Davies and Magnum Tsang working with FS students this season. Congratulations to Guy Wilshaw for his chilled out 12-point FS1 and subsequent insertion into the organised groups. Guy has been spotted launching points and building 8-ways only weeks after FS1...

A selection of achievements over the past few months: a cheeky 11-way for Ann Fleming's 800th jump here and a hoop dive for Rich Dunn's 400th there, a sunset 14-way for John Andrew's 200th, a funky outface for Charlie Pearce's 400th... the list goes on and long may it continue. Celebrate in style!

One of the more curious jumps of the season so far must have been the eclipse jump in March. With the moon aligning with the sun, jumpers aligned calendars and took to the skies one morning to build an 8-way as the solar eclipse occurred. While it wasn't quite the blackout most expected, the jump was a hoot and certainly one for the logbook.

The DZ family is ever growing, but it's time to celebrate when a baby arrives in it. Big congratulations go to James and Julia Swallow for the arrival of their beautiful daughter Chloe. A fine addition to the Swallow fleet!

We've got a whole season of events ahead of us, in every orientation and for every kind of skydiver, so check out the diary, keep an eye out for some new ideas and maybe look out for a few announcements in the future.

See you on one of our DZs very soon!

Stubert Ferglstein

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Guy Wilshaw FF1 Geraldine Lawson FF2 Chris Foster **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 John Andrew 400 Rich Dunn, Charlie Pearce 800 Ann Fleming

“With the moon aligning with the sun, jumpers aligned calendars and took to the skies one morning to build an 8-way as the solar eclipse occurred”

By Pench

JERSEY

IGNITION

By the time you read this, we should have been enjoying some high times after the dark period of downtime over the winter and the annual service should be signed off for another year. As I type this, the aircraft prop is being sharpened ready to cut through the thin summer air...

Time has not been wasted while we've been on the ground, though, as refresher courses have proved a hit with the locals and there's a buzz about static line courses that will hopefully swell the club numbers.

Our big news for 2015 is confirmation of a Jersey Boogie, so get the dates in your diary for August 14-21 and come down to jump the beach in the Jersey sun! A Caravan with wings has been booked, so keep an eye on the next issue and our Facebook page for more details soon.

Let's get this season started!

Nigel O'Brien

LANGAR

HERE WE GO AGAIN

Quoting last April's news: "Well, winter dragged on as usual, but we were open throughout (also as usual) and jumping got really busy whenever the days were nice. Also, we were open when the nights were nice – February's night jumps, while cancelled on the Saturday night, went ahead on the Sunday...". Who says history never repeats?

We've had another good intake of new static line students in the early part of the year and, now that we've got several new CSBIs, we're properly geared up for plenty of student progression any day of the week.

Tom Shorten and Emily Aucott organised a pub quiz in February in aid of the fund in support of Ben White. The event raised nearly £500, so not a bad evening's work in the bar.

Langar Boogie 1 is a little earlier than usual this year, running from April 18-26. We'll have advanced Flatfly, Freefly and wingsuit organising, plus the usual parties and live entertainment on both weekends. The second weekend also includes a BPA Freefly Roadshow. We encourage student jumping during the Boogie, so everybody is welcome to come on down and get the new season off to a flying start. ➔



We've got lots of events planned this year, so keep an eye on facebook/skydivelangar for details.

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Sara Anderson, David Eyre, Ellie Marshall **GRADUATED AFF** Rob Britain **CAT8/CH1** Rob Britain, Ian Kelly, Dan Reed, Miles Venni **CH2** Claire Jones **FS1** Dora Dyakova **FF1** Andy Barton, Peter Hutchinson **FF2** Roy Wimmer **WS1** Tom Shorten **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Elle Flynn, Mark Hart **200** Aiden Chaffe, Rich Drabble **500** Roy Wimmer **1,400** Ryan Briddon **2,000** Nick Robinson



Left: Nethers FF group, by Harry Shanker

NETHERAVON

SOMETHING BORROWED, SKIES BLUE...

Double congratulations to Dave Pacey!

The Royal Aero Club has awarded APA member Dave Pacey the prestigious Bronze Medal for his achievements in developing and promoting skydiving for disabled people, and injured servicemen and -women in particular. Dave started the BLESMA project several years ago, and his legacy continues with a great team who are making a huge difference to the lives of many injured servicemen and -women as well as raising massive amounts for charity. We would also like to congratulate Dave and fiancée Harriet on setting the date for their wedding this summer. No doubt it will be a fantastic day and we wish them every happiness.

Starting with Safety

Club jumpers, students and Instructors all attended the Netheravon Safety Weekend in February. As well as addressing issues specific to individual disciplines (FF, FS, CP and WS), the duties of Jump Masters and Coaches were covered with reminders of these responsibilities. Student jumpers received free refreshers and Tandem Instructors enjoyed a lengthy and lively discussion group. CI Mark Bayada was greatly impressed by the attendance and enthusiasm of all and would like to thank APA members for their commitment to making 2015 a very safe year.

Easter Boogie!

As this magazine goes out, we will be launching our Easter Boogie (April 3-6)! There is load organising planned for everyone, regardless of experience level and discipline, which will be led by Mike Lewis, Entropy and the Netheravon Flock. The Paul Capsey VFS competition will be in full swing, with Freeflyers from all over the UK battling it out, and the bar will be fully stocked and ready for a great party on Saturday. If all this proves just too much for you, don't worry: we've booked a top sports massage therapist to take care of all your aches and pains...

It's only just begun

The Easter Boogie is kicking off a season packed with events. We have put a lot of focus on providing great Coaching and Load Organising, bringing together club jumpers of every experience and skill level. Check out our Facebook page at Skydive Netheravon or go to the events calendar on our website at netheravon.com.

Wingsuit World Cup

The Wingsuit Performance World Cup will be held at Netheravon on May 25-29 this year. This is a huge honour and achievement for our club and we are very proud to be the first dropzone to host a

“Dave started the BLESMA project several years ago, and his legacy continues with a great team who are making a huge difference to the lives of many injured servicemen and -women as well as raising massive amounts for charity”

Right: Eoin Muir and Calum Bisset (The Vowel and Big Burd), by Chik Adams

world-level event in the UK. Plans are well underway to ensure that British skydiving and the Army Parachute Association at Netheravon are showcased at our best and we make everyone proud.

Elana Cain

PARAGON

WE'RE MISSING A VOWEL

Well folks, once again there has been a little gap in our news, mostly due to the usual quiet period over winter, but we shall do our best to catch you up.

We had extended visits from wandering Paragoners Walter and Irene Gillan and Jim McConnell. It was good to see them all again and we're already looking forward to the next time we catch up with them all.

Due to recent changes in Health and Safety Regulations, Santa popped in to complete the SERT course (Sleigh Emergency Response Training) where, in the unlikely event of a sleigh malfunction, Santa needs to wish the reindeer the best of luck and get off. We were honoured Santa chose Paragon to complete this training and we were the first option since we are the closest in the UK to Santa's house. We look forward to seeing Santa for refresher training at the end of the year.

As we headed into the New Year, we had our first guest aircraft in; a cheeky wee tail dragger by the handle of Romeo Mike. We are working on the next Big Bird Boogie too, and more details will follow in the future!

As spring rolls around, things are getting busy with Tandem students and RAPS alike. There has been plenty of fun jumping with our very own Big Burd (a.k.a Calum Bisset) making his return after an extended absence carrying out upgrades to his nest. He brought along with him part-time occasional resident cameraman and good friend 'The Vowel', who officially retired from hire or reward jumping and paid for his slots. He even packed for Calum, who pulled the age-old trick of "forgetting" how to put the canopy in the bag. Nice one, Big Burd!

As I announced in club news some time ago, The Vowel has been awaiting news of a move to the Shetland Isles. Well, sadly that day is finally upon us. In honour of The Vowel leaving, we did think about changing our name to Pargon (see what I did there?). However, we decided not to change the name because he has hardly been jumping of late, so we won't really notice he's gone!

Only kidding! The Vowel will be sorely missed by all of us, but we hope he keeps his promise to visit occasionally and join us on the Empuriabrava pilgrimage later in the year. On behalf of everyone in the Paragon family, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Eoin, Mo and their lovely wee girls Erin and Elsa all the very best on their adventure to the Shetland Isles.

Take care and don't be strangers.

Blue Skies

Markie D10168 →

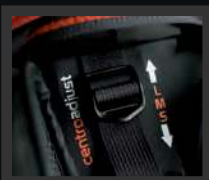




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PETERLEE

BEER, BEARDS AND BURDON

We start this issue with an apology because, in the last issue, we got our Sams mixed up; we credited Sam Charlton with achieving his FS1 when it was, in fact, Sam Parker. Henceforth, Sam Parker shall be known as "Big Beardy Sam" to avoid confusion. Congratulations on your FS1, Big Beardy Sam!

Bad weather prevented us from opening in the last weekend of January, but we made up for it in the first weekend of February which also saw our first Category System course of the year and 19 static line jumps completed. The first descent of 2015 was a 3-way affair featuring David Houghton, Tomasz Lipiec and John Welsh – beer! All in all, it was a great start to the season and one with more parachute flying over the weekend of February 6-7 2015 than in the whole of February 2014. It was great to see so many regulars back that weekend as well as a number of visiting jumpers, and one of our visitors, Marwa Albloshi, made her 200th jump and achieved C Licence. We hope to see you all back soon.

We had great pleasure in hosting two BPA Instructor courses. All CSBI, TBI and AFFBI candidates successfully completed their course during the first week, and five CSBIs who attended the CSI course in week two – including our very own Steve Burdon – were awarded Instructor ratings. Congratulations, Steve. We also took the opportunity to carry out some Tandem Hand Cam training jumps, with both Chris Gilmore and Dave Taylor satisfying the requirements to use hand cams with their students and they've both sent their thanks to Lisa Stephenson for jumping with them in the student slot. Lisa is trying to achieve a brand new tandem student qualification, having now done 12 tandem jumps in a row since getting her C Licence.

We had an excellent FS Presentation by Team *Hyperion*, who entered Nationals last year in the Rookie class and have now begun training to compete in Single A this year. The presentation sparked a lot of interest in FS competition and we already have a new Rookie team, *Ninja Torpedoes*, formed by David Houghton, James Perry, Tomasz Lipiec and John Welsh, who have now begun training.

We have also undertaken repairs to the access road, resurfaced the taxiway and added new walls, doors and carpets in the bar and training area. Thanks go to the Moore (distant) cousins Paul and Dan for the chipping, Mark Baker (plastering), David Houghton (painting) and Roy Howarth and Tony Fernyhough (fires and lights).

Simon Minto

ACHIEVEMENTS JM1/CH2 Chris Erwood **FS1** Big Beardy Sam Parker **FF1** Peter Hutchinson **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Tomasz Lipiec, Marwa Albloshi **1,000** Richard Smith



Instructor Stephen Burdon with five of his solo student parachutists, by Ian Rosenvinge

READING

NO SNOWBOARDS WERE HARMED IN THE WRITING OF THIS COLUMN

LPS are looking forward to the start of the season and getting the gang back together. Ann Lewis and Tom Blakey headed for the sun of Seville over Christmas and enjoyed some fab jumps with Justin Gumm, Blanaid O'Sullivan and Charlotte Pope. Andy Mitchell went on a road trip from Algarve to Seville and then did a bit of skiing. There is a dodgy picture of him with a snowboard wedged in his butt cheeks which we are unable to print due to its graphic nature (let your imagination do the work), but you can head over to the LPS Club Jumpers Facebook group and see it there. Sophie Smith is still chasing that A Licence and is currently watching a full and wild windsack in Ocana.

Sadly, Rachel Hinde-Harris had a different kind of 'break' while skiing and managed to do the most damage in the slowest fall. Hopefully she will be out of plaster when this goes to print!

More skiing news: Cerys Floyd took to the slopes and learned to ski, to the delight of her proud mum and dad Sharron and Paul.

Mike Bolton was chuffed to bits with his article in the last edition and has promised to call in soon to the DZ for a cuppa!

Remember, we can accommodate progression skydivers and experienced jumpers at LPS and have a special deal for 4-way teams. See you all in the skies!

Ann Lewis →



Right: Ann and Tom in Seville with a Dornier in the background, by Tom Blakey

Left: Team Ninja Torpedoes' first training day, by Richard Smith





SIBSON

ON THE UP AND UP

The new season is underway, the new changes have had a positive effect already and the new building is in place. Everything is up and running with cracking results, and manifesting is simple and painless now that it is separate from the reception office.

Continuing with the improvements, there are now three new members of staff. We welcome Yolande Lee and Gary Chapman in full-time roles; Yolande has joined us as our AFF Co-coordinator, while Gary joins as Tandem Coordinator. We have also taken on a new manifestor to help assist you on your way to the big blue yonder in the form of Chloe. Welcome to the team, guys!

Changes have happened off of the dropzone as well. Our website has had a makeover and has been updated, with a blog feature added too. Keep an eye on it to see all of the latest information and events that will be coming up in the season. Don't let the photo gallery put you off! Find it at skydivesibson.co.uk.

Our opening times have been revised and improved for the season. From April 1 right through to September 30, we'll be open from Wednesday to Sunday – this is another new feature for us. If you have the time to spare, come along and pay us a visit. Then, from October 1 up to December 19, we'll return to operating from Friday to Sunday again. All days are from 8:00am to sunset and we are open on all bank holidays too. That is a lot of time for jumping and, if you thought it couldn't get any better, it can! There is a special offer through April and May and all midweek jumping is discounted down to £19 tickets!

As we progress into the season, we hope to hold more helicopter weekends since our resident Caravan pilot Dan is also a Jet Ranger helicopter pilot. Everyone loves a helicopter and Dan loves to fly them, so everyone is happy! So far, we have the helicopter in on April 3-4 and for the Boogie at the end of July. Keep an eye on the website for more heli events. We also have a large number of weekends set aside (12, so far) for getting a second aircraft in and the type will be announced nearer the dates. All information of aircraft dates and all of our other events can be found at skydivesibson.co.uk/category/club-events.

The AGM saw a healthy number of Sibsonites taking part this year, with a decent number scrubbing up nicely for the dinner event in what was quite a stark difference from the usual grubby jumpsuits and skydiving attire normally seen. Two of our homegrown teams even found themselves coming home with some medals for the UKSL series of competitions; *Perpetual Chaos* won gold in the Rookie category while *Bodyflight Aero* took gold in the AA category. Very well done, guys!

Despite the cold weather at the moment, the club scene is very much alive still. A good number of us are still braving the cold, even at a not-so-tropical -30°C at altitude. We look like a mob of Michelin men walking around, but the enthusiasm is still high. Just keep an eye open for the ninja glove stealer that is Dave Haygarth – a gloved hand within his reach will be undressed before you realise it. Don't let that 'gentle nature' trick you! Hopefully your hand is back to normal now, Allan.

Not quite gone to plan, by Michael Wilson-Roberts

Why not follow us on Twitter, add us to your Facebook (UK Parachuting Sibson Airfield or Sibson Skydivers) or check out our website at skydivesibson.co.uk/category/club-events to keep up to speed with all of the happenings at UK Parachuting Sibson.

Kye Bromley

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM1 Candice Kass, Lucy Ryan FF1 Andy Mitchell, Jess Withers **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Candice Kass, Lucy Ryan 200 Andy Mitchell 700 Giuseppe Damiano, Naomi Maguire

SWANSEA

DUBAI? WHERE'S THAT?

Winter has been kind to us all so far at Skydive Swansea, with a lot of jumping done despite lots of rain falling in January and February – god bless those who gave us concrete runways! This has been evident in Peter 'Mr Stuntman' Guiney and Craig 'I'm eternally sorry I didn't jump without any clothes on' Hammond each completing their 100th jumps. Jean Baptiste did his 200th and FF1 recently as well.

AFF is almost fully booked for the year ahead, with extra courses now having to be squeezed in. Fortunately, Reg Green will be with us as a full-time Instructor from March 1, bringing a wealth of experience to the DZ. Dougy, who will no doubt have a baptism of fire shortly, has joined the packing team too.

Carl 'Did I mention I'm off to Dubai soon?' Williams will be returning to the desert for a week's Accuracy training in March and a few club jumpers are going out with him for a week in the sun. On his return, the newly refurbished Accuracy tuffet will be a permanent feature of the Northern PLA in preparation for the BPA Accuracy Nationals being hosted at Swansea on May 22-24, with the Practice Day on May 21.

Carl is slowly amassing equipment for anyone who is at B Licence and above who wants to have a go – £10 a jump and no gear hire fees with coaching. On April 2-3, the DZ will be open as Matt Fogarty is back for another Canopy Course (which was sold out within 30 minutes of being announced on Facebook) with Accuracy training at the same time. Anyone is welcome to fun jump too, so put it in your diary.

We say farewell to our longstanding resident cameraman Anthony Andrewes, who departs for a minimum of two years' hard labour – working in a tunnel somewhere in England. Good luck, fella!

Finally, the DZ will be open from midday every Friday throughout the summer now that the clocks have changed.

Laura 'Camera Person Wannabe' Turner

ACHIEVEMENTS FF1 Jean Baptiste **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Peter Guiney, Craig Hammond 200 Jean Baptiste →



*Laura looking cool!
By Carl Williams*

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SWINDON

A SELFIE STICK, A GAP YEAR AND RETIREMENT

By the time you are reading this, Brucie will have come out of his annual hibernation and Redlands will once again be in full swing. Let's take it back a couple of months to how we kept ourselves entertained while Redlands was shut...

January started with much promise when Ross organised a Redlands trip to Dunkeswell but, unfortunately for Ross, he had organised the trip for when I was off skiing. As I don't like to miss out on anything, I did the only thing I could: a rain/wind dance. Turns out I'm really good at it and the trip was canned due to bad weather. Oops! Sorry, Ross.

Jonny had more luck when he organised a trip to Hinton – I was back from skiing, the weather behaved and everybody who turned up got to do some great fun jumps. Dylan "I'm a maybe" Jones was, as usual, a no show – I think he's still embarrassed by his lack of FF skills. Aaron would've turned up if he had had a decent jumpsuit, but it seems there aren't many suits out there for 5ft-tall 15 stone men. If anyone has one, please could you let Aaron Doy know. Our last jump of the day was manifested as a 6-way FS jump with Jonny, Jasper, Darrell, Dermot and Doog and myself. A plan was made, but it turns out Dermot and Doog had their own plan. Let's just say they could both do with practising their slow fall skills...

The annual trip to Wales took place at the end of January. Unfortunately, I couldn't make it this year, so I sent my roving reporter Chrissy Downer to be my eyes and ears. Here are her Wales 2015 highlights: Jonny had trouble reading a map and took four hours to find the youth hostel (well, that's the story he's telling), Darrell nearly missed a peak as he got distracted by something shiny (!) and the favourite peak for all the skydivers was Fan-Y-Big – go figure! As is tradition with the Wales trip, the snow, wind and rain also paid a visit to the Redlands crew as they walked up Pen-Y-Fan.

The Awesome Tyrrells have finally seen the light and turned to the dark side: they have been busting some pretty spectacular FF moves at Airkix Basingstoke, taking to it like ducks to water. I'm pretty sure that, by the time you are reading this, they will both have their FF1 stickers and I for one cannot wait to be FF jumping with them both in the sky.

In other news, Dylan has sunk to an all-time low and has been caught using a selfie stick. In his defence, it was the only way to get all his chins in the picture. Ed has managed to outdo Dylan by retiring from our wonderful sport of skydiving – your pipe and slippers are in the post,

A FF jump over Redlands featuring Cath Thorne and Paul Capsey, by Simon Cresdee

“Dylan has sunk to an all-time low and has been caught using a selfie stick. In his defence, it was the only way to get all his chins in the picture”

John Pool on deployment, by Barry Jones

Ed. Mark James was apparently awesome in March. Jasper has decided to take a gap year at the age of 45 and is currently skydiving his booty off. Darrell is trying hard to just keep swimming, but keeps getting distracted by shiny things. Finally, Crazy wanted to apologise for having done nowt special recently and for letting Max down when he flew camera slot for him...

Cath Thorne

ACHIEVEMENTS

FS1 Ellleeeaaaa **JUMP NUMBERS**
100 Cowan 300 Jasper Smith

TILSTOCK

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET

The 2015 jumping season has officially started, and what lovely weather it has given us so far. Tilstock members have been out in force; especially John Pool and Barry Jones, who have definitely started as they mean to go on with their 'five jumps before lunch' regime. One of the first tandem jumpers we had this year was our very own club member Dan Cope. Even though he has more than 250 solo jumps, I don't think he could pass up on the opportunity of jumping so close to our CI – his instructor for the tandem.

It's not just at the dropzone that our Chief Instructor has our best interests at heart – he just can't help but keep us entertained during the week with his tunnel trips to Airkix. The tunnel trips are becoming much more of a regular thing and that's definitely going to continue throughout the year. It's not just an excuse to do skydiving related things away from the dropzone after work, but it also provides so much progression for our FS students and especially so when we have Ellie Southworth in there coaching us (thank you, Ellie – you rock). It's not all about FS, though, as Buzz is sneaking in some FF sessions with the guys at Airkix (who also rock). If anyone wants to mix it up a bit, let Buzz know in advance and he'll be able to make it happen.

I think it's going to be a packed year for us at Tilstock. We already have plans for safety days and canopy/packing courses, and I think Colin is even planning our Christmas AGM already. Just keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and don't let it slip your mind that we are now open every Friday, Saturday and Bank Holiday Monday throughout the year until December. Oh yeah!

Mary Carbutt



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DATE:
20 – 24 October 2015

DISCIPLINES:
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WHERE:
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Prague wind tunnel




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1st FAI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015
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ENTRY FEE	
4way (open, female, junior)	500 EUR*
VFS (open, junior)	500 EUR*
Freestyle (open, junior)	500 EUR*
D4W (open, junior)	500 EUR*
D2W (open, junior)	450 EUR*
Member of Delegation	200 EUR*
Alternate Team Member	200 EUR*
Additional Event (per competitor)	50 EUR discount on additional event entry fee
Accompanying person	190 EUR

*+ 90 EUR per person for FAI/IPC Sanction fee

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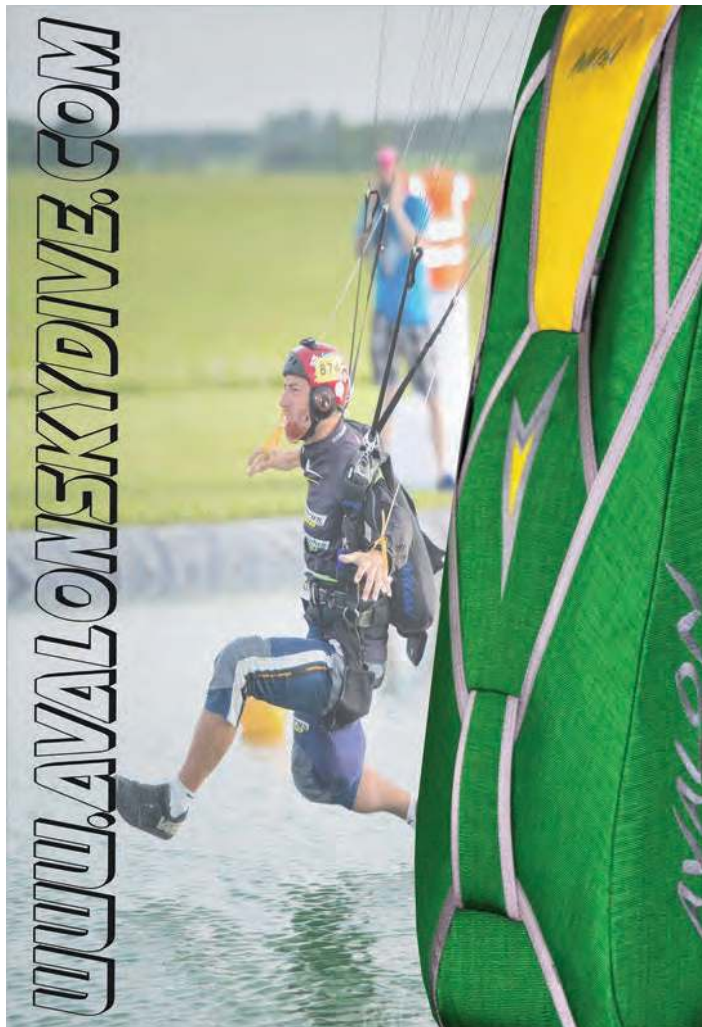
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April

April 18

FS Multi-plane FS with Dave WestLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

April 18-19

CP Flight-1 Canopy Course 101/102Location: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

April 18-19

BPA Judges' Training SeminarLocation: **Sibson** • bpa.org.uk

April 18-19

U Speed Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

April 18-26

B/F Langer Boogie 1Location: **Langer** • skydivelanger.co.uk

April 20-24

BPA Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Hibaldstow** • bpa.org.uk

April 24-26

CP CP Grand PrixLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

April 25-26

A BPA Artistic and VFS Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langer** • skydivelanger.co.uk

May

May 4-8

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 9-10

CF Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

May 9-10

FS Coaching Roadshow with 4mulaLocation: **Black Knights** • bkpc.co.uk

May 11-15

BPA CSI CourseLocation: **Strathallan** • bpa.org.uk

May 15-16

CP Flight-1 GIRLS ONLY Canopy Course 101/102Location: **Langer** • skydivelanger.co.uk

May 15-17

CP Flight-1 BPA RoadshowLocation: **Langer** • skydivelanger.co.uk

A warm-up 42-way on the way to the new Sequential World Record 122-way in Z-Hills. By Gary Wainwright



May 16-17

A 2-way VFS Grand PrixLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

May 22-23

CP Flight-1 GIRLS ONLY Canopy Course 101/102Location: **Black Knights** • bkpc.com

May 22-24

S&A Classics – Accuracy NationalsLocation: **Swansea** • skydiveswansea.co.uk

May 22-24

B/F Twin Beech Boogie 1Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

May 23-24

FS UKSL Meet 1Location: **Langer** • skydivelanger.co.uk

May 24

CP Flight-1 BPA Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Black Knights** • bkpc.co.uk

May 25-29

WS First FAI World Cup in Wingsuit PerformanceLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June

June 4

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

June 6-7

FS SOS Warm-upsLocation: **Langer** • skydivelanger.com

June 6-7

CP Flight-1 Canopy Course 101/102Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 6-11

CP European Swoop Training WeekLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 12-14

CP CP Grand PrixLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

June 13-14

A BPA Artistic and VFS Coaching Roadshow with QFXLocation: **Beccles** • ukparachuting.co.uk

June 13-14

CF BPA CF RoadshowLocation: **Langer** • skydivelanger.com

June 16

BPA BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

June 20-21

FS UKSL Meet 2Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

June 20-21

FS SOS Record AttemptsLocation: **Langer** • skydivelanger.com



June 22-26

BPA Tandem and AFF Instructor CourseLocation: **Sibson** • bpa.org.uk

June 27-28

A 2-way VFS Grand PrixLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July

July 4

FS International 28-way competitionLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

July 8-12

FS Diamonds and Jewels Team Elite big-waysLocation: **Hibaldstow** • strollerweb.co.uk

July 10-12

CF CF NationalsLocation: **Black Knights** • bkpc.co.uk

July 11-12

FS Coaching Roadshow with *Vision99*Location: **Chatteris** • skydivechatteris.co.uk

July 11-12

WS Wingsuit Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Langar** • skydivelangar.com

July 18-19

FS UKSL Meet 3Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 24-26

CP CP NationalsLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

July 25

FS Hib Cup 4-way CompLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

July 27-Aug 2

B/F Sibson Boogie – G92 and Helicopter jumpsLocation: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

July 30

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

August

August 8-9

CF Coaching RoadshowLocation: **Chatteris** • skydivechatteris.co.uk

August 10-14

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 10-14

U 'The Armies' Armed Forces Parachute ChampionshipsLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

August 11

BPA BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

August 14-21

B/F Jersey BoogieLocation: **Jersey** • skydivejersey.net

August 15-16

FS Armies Speed 8 CompetitionLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

August 15-16

CP Flight-1 Canopy Course 101/102Location: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

August 15-16

A VFS 4-way NationalsLocation: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 17-21

BPA CSI/Tandem/AFF/Pre-Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Headcorn** • bpa.org.uk

August 22-24

FS 4-way FS NationalsLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

August 22-29

S&A European Style and Accuracy ChampionshipsLocation: **Erden, Montana, Bulgaria**

August 23-30

CP CP World Cup 2015Location: **Montreal, Canada**

August 27-30

B/F Twin Beech Boogie 2Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

August 29-31

FS **A** 8-way FS, Artistic and Speed NationalsLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September

September 5-6

A UK Head Down RecordLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September 7-11

BPA Tandem, AFF and Pre-Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Langar** • bpa.org.uk

September 7-12

FS **A** World Cup and European Championships in FS and Artistic Events and World Cup in Speed SkydivingLocation: **Teuge, Netherlands** • paracentrumteuge.nl

September 12-13

WS BPA Wingsuit Performance NationalsLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

September 12-13

FS Coaching Roadshow with *NFTO*Location: **Beccles** • ukparachuting.co.uk

September 17-20

FS ESL FinalsLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

September 18-20

CP Swoop99 Cup 3Location: **Dunkeswell** • skydive99.com

September 19-20

S&A Accuracy Grand PrixLocation: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

September 19-20

CF CF Grand PrixLocation: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

September 24

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

September 26

U Bodyflight Revenge MeetLocation: **Bedford** • bodyflight.co.uk

September 26-27 (TBC)

FS **A** Speed 8 NationalsLocation: **Sibson** • skydivesibson.co.uk

October

October 6

BPA BPA Council MeetingLocation: **BPA Offices, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

October 13-18

WS Wingsuit World RecordLocation: **Perris, California USA** • skydiveperris.com

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The Coach on the 13/14 / 15 November is Dave Reader.
Camp Organizer David Howerski. Costs 700 Euros per hour including coaching.
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By Luciano Bacque



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Winner: "Nice jump girls, first one down gets the beers"

Pete Spedding

Runner-up: "Compared to her friends, she was definitely going up in the world"

Paul Garwood

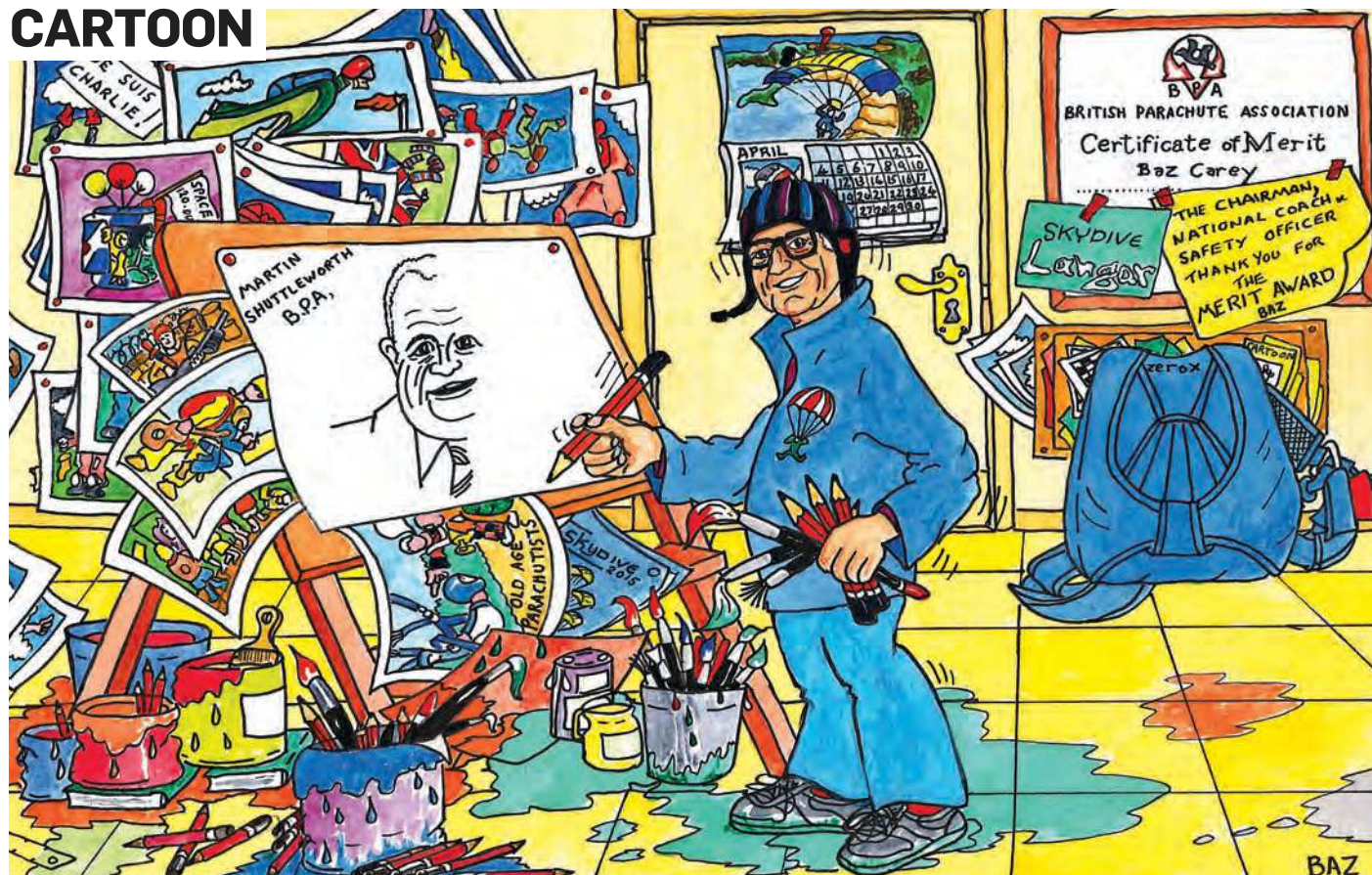
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