



British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com October 2017

skyDIVE

the mag

SINCE 1964



INSIDE: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017 NATIONALS, WORLD CUP AND EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
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Cover: *Awesome angle flying*, by Andy Ford

Welcome: *Freds flying the flag*, by Red Devil Ian Cain



What a summer! I am officially the most current I have ever been, having done my 2,900th and 3,000th jumps (at last!) since the last Mag. This involved buying a month pass to a DZ, hiring a trailer and living the simple life of skydiving all day, every day.

More than 100 of those jumps were with a guy whose name I recognised from somewhere – Nick Fener. We'd never met before, but I'd heard about him in 2011 when his canopy collapsed at Perris and he suffered life-changing injuries. Then, this summer, a grinning, bearded guy with no feet said hello and offered to jump with me. We spent the next month in pursuit of being better head down flyers, manifesting on 15-minute calls as soon as we landed and going straight back up to do it all again.

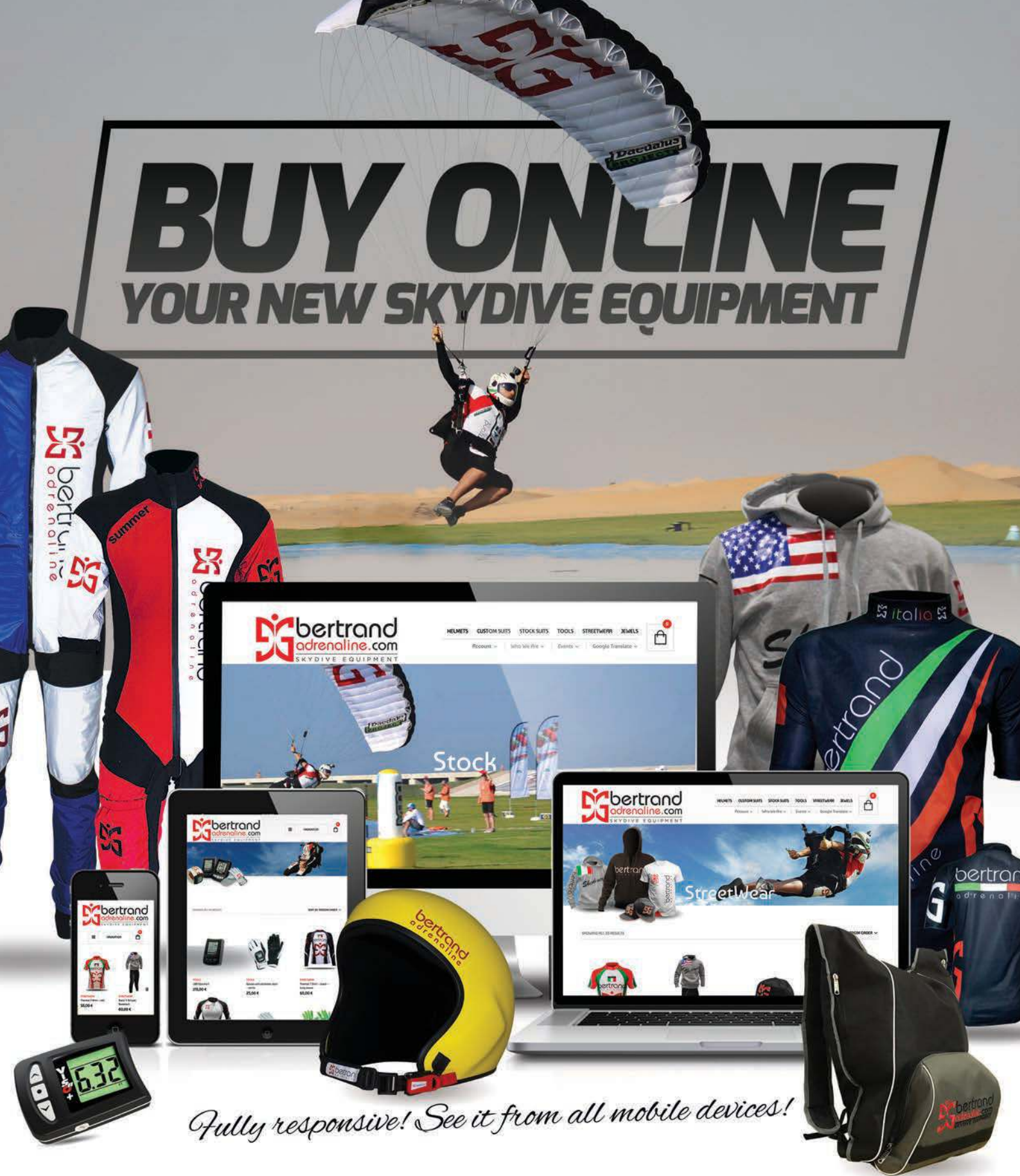
My month taught me about linked exits, body position, levels, docks and all those good things... but it also reminded me how inspirational this sport and the people in it are. Nick could have chosen to let his accident define and limit him for the rest of his life. Instead, he is skydiving, SCUBA diving, travelling the world and living a happy life.

I did 205 jumps in my fabulous summer. Nick? Oh, he did 206.

Liz Ashley

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Always the photographer, never in the photo – Gary Wainwright's shadow gets its five minutes of fame!

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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.

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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BPA members get *Skydive the Mag* free as part of their membership. Also, if you take out a magazine subscription and subsequently join the BPA as a full member, your magazine cost is deducted from your BPA membership fee so you don't pay any extra. If you are not a full BPA member and would like to receive the printed *Skydive the Mag*, check out subscriptionsave.co.uk/skydivemag. You can also subscribe over the phone on +44 (0) 116 278 5271.

APPS

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE THE MAG APP:

Apple: tinyurl.com/skydivethemagapple **Android:** tinyurl.com/skydivethemagandroid

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

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE STARTER TABLET APP:

Apple: tinyurl.com/skydivestarterapple **Android:** tinyurl.com/skydivestarterandroid

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

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

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
December 2017	October 19	November 23
February 2018	January 12	February 21
April 2018	March 15	April 24
June 2018	May 2	June 13
August 2018	July 2	August 8
October 2018	August 23	October 3
December 2018	October 19	November 28



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By Andy Ford

UK HEAD UP RECORD ATTEMPT

Unfortunately, bad weather meant there were only four attempts at setting a new Head Up Record at Hibaldstow in early September. Although the second jump was just moments away from completion, there was no new record on this occasion. However, the event did showcase the potential of UK freeflying, with coach Matty Mitchell commenting: "I believe that, given good weather, we can not only smash the record but double it!"

In keeping with international trends, 2018 will be a Head Down year and therefore 2019 will be the next opportunity to prove Matty right. Skydive Chicago are hosting the Head Down World Record attempts at Summerfest in July 2018, aiming to take the existing 164-way up a notch – perhaps to 200? Even if 200 is out of your league, the UK Head Down Record will be at the end of the 2018 season so there is plenty of time to get training and get noticed!



By Andy Ford

HOW DO YOU READ YOURS?

The Mag is available in several different formats to suit your reading pleasure. BPA members benefit from both a free printed copy through the post and also a free digital subscription. You can either download our app on Apple Newsstand or on Google Play, or go to skydivethemag.com/archive to read it in your browser. Use the user name and password that is on the bottom of eNewsletters from the BPA and that is also printed on the address label that comes with the printed Mag. The website is in the process of being fully revamped, so you will soon be able to do much more than just read back issues on it – watch this space.

The Development Committee also completed an Archive project in which every old Mag was scanned and placed online for all to read. The collection goes all the way back to the first edition in 1964 and can be found at bpa-archive.org.uk – great for bad weather days!



Roman Fox, son of skydivers Jason and Patricia, enjoying his Mag in the garden



CHAIN OF FLAGS

The *Red Devils* are one of the oldest display teams in the world, having formed in 1964 (making them the same age as the Mag!). Their displays have inspired thousands of young children to grow up and join the Army or do a parachute jump. However, they are still innovating and their latest trick is this 'Chain of Flags'. Here it is flown by Stephen Handley (who also made the chain and is on the bottom of the diamond) with Wayne Shorthouse, Mike French and Tom Blakey in the formation and Ian Cain filming.

CALENDAR AND STARTER 2018

Your December Mag will include a free 2018 Calendar and we are looking

for awesome photography that deserves to be showcased. It doesn't matter whether you've never sent in your photos before, and we are after a wide range of different disciplines. Please email or file-share submissions to editor@skydivethemag.com by no

later than October 18 2017. We will also be updating the *Skydive Starter* magazine, which is given out free to all first-time jumpers. If you have any great photos of students enjoying our sport, the same deadline and details apply for submissions.



ARNHEM JUMP

On September 8 2017, 95-year-old Arnhem veteran John Jeffries made a tandem skydive at Peterlee Parachute Club with the *Red Devils*. It was John's first jump for 74 years, having joined the Army at the outbreak of WWII. He joined the newly formed Airborne Forces and was wounded jumping into Arnhem while still under canopy. John's jump at Peterlee was the first of his two jumps in one week, as he then jumped into Arnhem on September 14 to raise

funds for the North East Blood Bikes Charity. Well done John, and a big thank you to all the regulars who came in to help out to make John's day extra special.

SHUNT

If you thought he was just an FS and events organiser, think again – Hibaldstow's Stubert Ferglstein has only gone and written a sci-fi book! It follows the fates of three teenagers as they are stolen away in the night by a technologically superior alien species at war with another major galactic power. *Shunt* is the first book in the new Crest trilogy, and is available on Amazon (£8) and Kindle (£2).

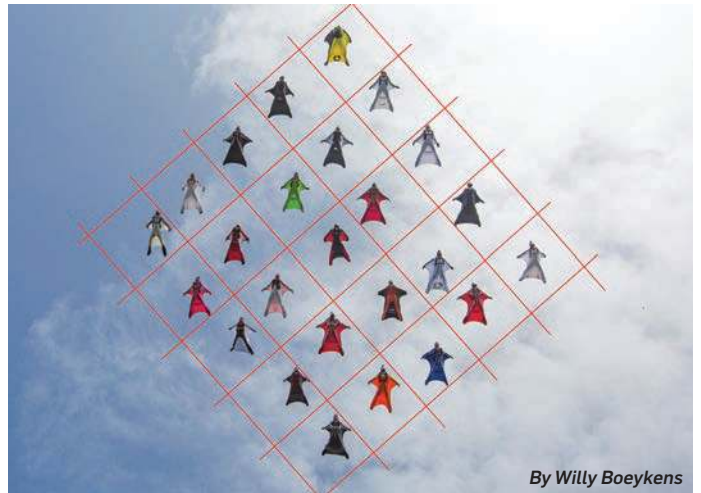


EURO WS RECORD

The new European Record for Wingsuiting is now a 25-way, set by the French in August. Since wingsuit big-ways do not have any grips, they are awarded by overlaying a grid onto the photo of the formation and then judging whether every wingsuiter lies fully within the grid. Congratulations to France, but surely we can beat that? Let's go for it.



By Willy Boeykens



By Willy Boeykens

NATIONALS 2017

The BPA Nationals are over for another year, and what a year! See this issue's Comps Zone for reports from 4-way FS, 8-way FS, Freely, Freestyle, Speed, CF, CP

and Accuracy. As this Mag went to press, Dunkeswell had also just held the BPA VFS Nationals while the Speed 8 was held at Sibson.

Omni retained their title as our National Champions in VFS, securing themselves a slot at next year's World Meet in Australia. *Omni* are head and shoulders above the competition, finishing 50 points clear at the top of the

table despite a complete camera malfunction on Round 3. They have also been working very hard to make VFS more accessible to newer flyers, and this year saw a fight for silver and bronze between the *Pandies* (27 points over ten rounds) and *Excite 96* (31).

Appropriately, there were eight Speed 8 teams. While VFS were managing ten rounds at

Dunkeswell, Speed 8 were battling the weather over at Sibson and eventually had to call the competition on just two rounds. Congratulations to National Champions *Unleash the Dragon*, silver medallists *R8kipo* and bronze medallists *Oh W8!*. Special mention to *Hard Currancy* who were just 23 hundredths of a second behind the bronze!



By Georgina Woof

Photo: Luciano Baque



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BPA SKYDIVE THE EXPO 2018



Saturday 27 January 2018
at EMCC, University Park,
Nottingham NG7 2RJ
skydivetheexpo.co.uk

Once again, the BPA can offer some great prices for those attending BPA Skydive the Expo, including the BPA AGM, in Nottingham on Saturday 27 January 2018. Members, their guests and the public are cordially invited to the Expo. You're welcome as day visitors, for which there's no charge, but why not come to the Gala Dinner too and stop over?

Rooms sell out quickly, so please ensure that you book early. To book online, go to www.deverevenues.co.uk/en/venues/east-midlands-conference-centre-orchard-hotel and enter the promotion code 'BPA'. You can also call the Orchard Hotel direct to book on 0115 876 0900. For other accommodation options, see the Expo website.

BPA SPECIAL RATES

- Orchard Hotel single room including breakfast – £64.80 per night
- Orchard Hotel double/twin room including breakfast – £76.80 per night
- Gala Dinner (Sat only) – £29.95
- Special drinks offer for selected beer and lager (pint) or wine (glass) – £2.95
- All other drinks – 20% off

PRE-REGISTER TO ENTER THE GRAND PRIZE DRAW!

Pre-register on the Expo website as a visitor and your name will automatically be in the Grand Prize Draw which will take place in the Theatre at 17:00 on Saturday afternoon. Entry is free of charge. There'll be some super prizes (see the Expo website nearer the time) but you'll need to be there in person to claim your prize if you are a winner or it will be redrawn!

EXHIBITION

Space at the Exhibition (09:00 to 17:00 on Saturday) is now on sale, subject to availability. Please contact Marie Reynolds at the BPA's exhibition partner Eventpro UK for details. Telephone 01509 610 452, email marie@eventprouk.com.

BPA AGM 2018

The AGM will be held at 10:30 in the Theatre at EMCC. The agenda will be published in the December Mag.

BPA SKYDIVING AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

This will follow the AGM in the Theatre in the morning. Nominations are invited for:

THE BPA TAZ CAUSER EXPERIENCED SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This is for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nomination giving the name of your nominee with reasons (no more than 250 words,



please) to the BPA Office by November 14. Council will consider nominations received at its meeting on November 28.



THE BPA STAR AWARDS 2017

We're asking A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service. Have you received a shining example of customer service at a BPA Affiliated Parachute Training Organisation from another BPA member – service above and beyond the norm that goes the extra mile? Service that's made a real difference by helping you to stay in the sport, to achieve your next goal or by giving you that all-important extra support just when you needed it most? Have you received Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition? For full eligibility criteria and

details of how to make a nomination, visit bpa.org.uk/star/. Closing date: November 1.



THE BPA SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD FOR SPORT PARACHUTING

Sponsored by the BPA's insurance partners Romero Sports and Leisure and Liberty Mutual Insurance, with a £5,000 cash prize. See bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-innovation-award/. Closing date: November 1.

AFTERNOON MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

As always, there will be a full programme of meetings and seminars during the afternoon. Keep an eye on the Expo website for details. It's not too late to offer a non-commercial seminar for the programme which aims



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to educate, entertain and enthral about all aspects of our fantastic sport.

BPA ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Tickets for the Saturday night Gala Dinner at EMCC will be on sale, priced £29.95 each, from November. Please telephone the BPA Office on 0116 278 5271 (M-F, 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00). For the menu, please see the Expo website. If required, the vegetarian option must be ordered, and any special dietary requirements notified, at the time of booking.

ENTERTAINMENT

There'll be live entertainment free of charge from about 22:00, plus our famous disco into the wee small hours.

**CALL FOR
ELECTED COUNCIL
NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are invited for full members to stand for election for three Elected Member seats on BPA Council, each with a tenure of three years. The BPA Council comprises 10 Elected Members and two Independent Members and all Council Members are Non-Executive Directors of British Parachute Association Ltd. The AGM on January 27 2018 is the second AGM following the adoption of BPA's new Articles of Association.

Independent electoral administration services are being provided by Mi-Voice.

Nominations are invited at the dedicated Mi-Voice nominations site at mi-nomination.com/bpa, which sets out the full eligibility criteria. There is a link from the BPA website. The close of nominations is at noon on November 14.

If there are more valid nominations than the three available elected seats, an election will be triggered. Voting is due to start before Christmas and close at noon on Thursday 11 January 2018. The elected directors, together with one independent director to be appointed by the AGM on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, will take office at the AGM to join the seven elected directors and one independent director already on Council.



START THE SKYDIVING YEAR WITH A BANG

The most fun you can have with your feet on the ground

It's the biggest gathering of skydivers in the British skydiving calendar! BPA Skydive The Expo will return to the East Midlands Conference Centre on January 27 2018.

The Expo provides an opportunity to catch up with the skydiving community in the middle of the off-season. We'll also be laying on an exhibition, offering you opportunities to check out the latest gear,

pick up some deals and attend a programme of interesting and informative seminars by experts in the sport – including some big names!

But that's not all. The day will also include the BPA's AGM, annual dinner and the famous after-party. Celebrate 2017's achievements at the AGM with the prizegiving and premiere of our BPA Video of

the Year. Spend an evening trying to recognise each other all scrubbed up at our popular black-tie dinner, then dance until the early hours. The AGM, Expo and party are free and open to everyone.

This is not one to miss, so see you there!



Overnight accommodation:

BPA per night rate, including breakfast, at De Vere Orchard Hotel at EMCC: £76.80 double/twin, £64.80 single, for Thu 25/Fri 26/Sat 27 Jan (subject to availability).

See the Expo website to book online using the promotion code 'BPA', or call the Orchard Hotel direct on 0115 876 0900.

BPA Gala Dinner:

Sat 27 Jan, tickets £29.95 each, available from November from the BPA Office. **Tel: 0116 278 5271.**

For more information and to find out how to book accommodation nearby, check out **skydivetheexpo.co.uk**. Look for the latest news on the **BPA's Facebook** page.



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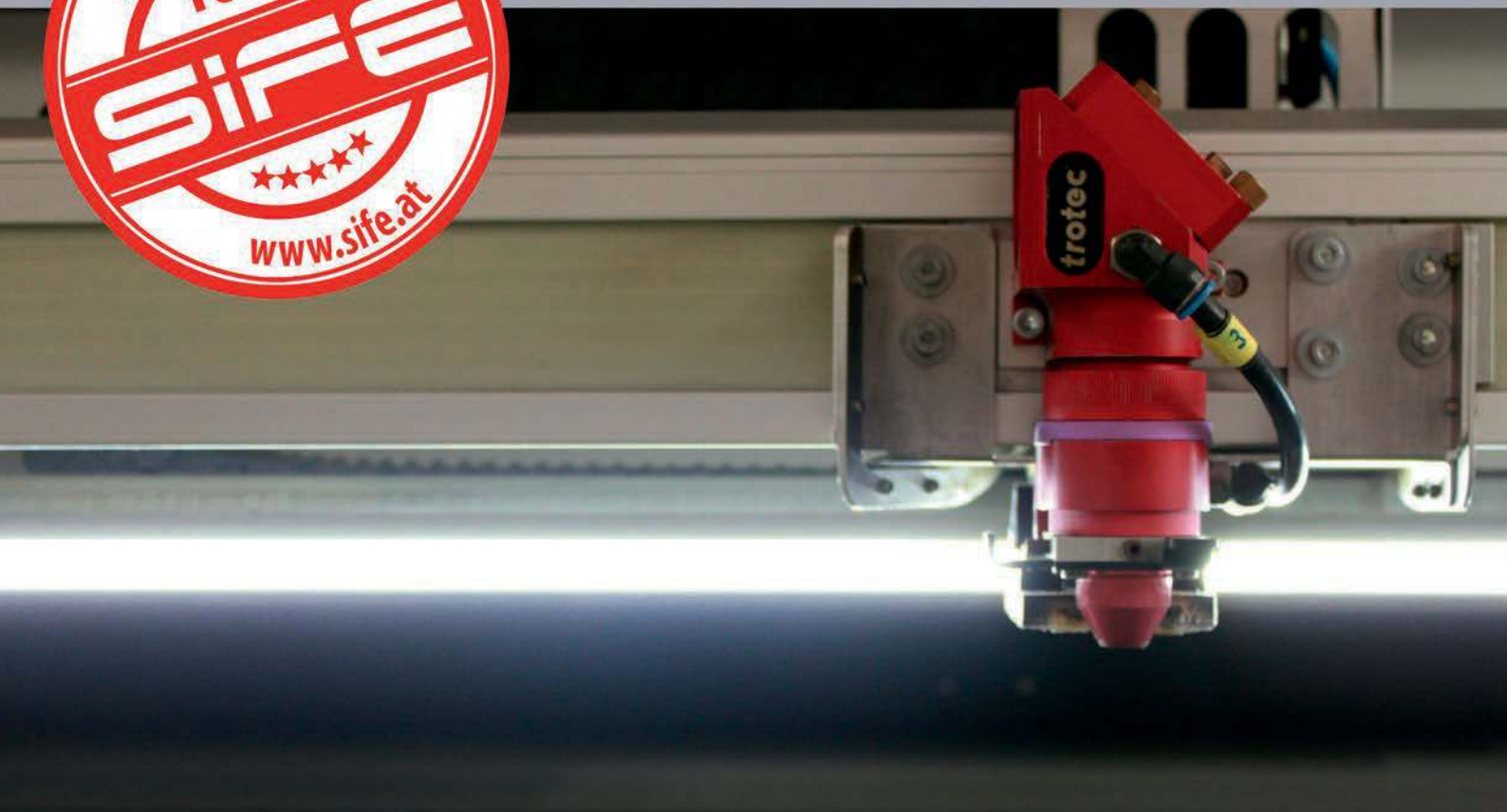
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CANOPY SIZE		79	89	99	109	119	129	139	149	159	169

CUSTOM SIZES AVAILABLE AT NO EXTRA COST.

Picture: Wolfgang Lienbacher



1

LONG FALLS



AND CLOSE CALLS

With 0.2 point margins on the podium, Spider-Man homages and an inflatable T-Rex, the World Cup and European Championships 2017 were worth waiting all year for

WORDS: LUCY WESTGARTH





2



4



3

The British delegation was out in force at the World Cup and European Championships at FSZ Saar in Saarlouis from August 7-13. A total of 52 competitors, two

officials, four accompanying people and one stowaway at the closing party made us the largest delegation in attendance. We made the most of it, with a spectacularly decorated team tent, music and a herd of toy mascots.

Despite high spirits on arrival, the weather will very much be the team's lasting memory of Saarlouis. With the exception of day three, which saw almost a whole day of jumping, the weather gods were not kind to us. Sucker holes and optimism soon turned to desperation as it became evident that no disciplines would be completing their rounds.

The British particularly seemed to cope with the situation. Perhaps being used to

jumping in 'challenging conditions' helped with some very strong performances from the UK teams?

4-way Open

The podium results weren't a real shock; *Hayabusa NMP Pch*, *VR4 France* and *SDC Rhythm XP* took the World medals, with *Black Cat* of Russia taking the European bronze. Worth noting, however, is that France came the closest they ever have to the outdoor gold during the reign of *Hayabusa*. There was only one point in it after the four rounds of competition.

From the UK, *Chimera* suffered an injury less than two months before the competition so they had to find an alternate (Aaron Faith) and train the new line-up on short notice. Still, they managed a very respectable 16 average and left as the top UK team.

Antimatter was one of only two UK FS teams with no line-up changes since the Nationals, but they still lost a lot of

training time earlier in the season to an injury. Their 14.6 average put them in 18th. *Eros* weren't far behind in 22nd, and they had the added time constraints of 8-way commitments too.

Tyranno4us Rex took the step up from AA at Nationals and finished with a 10-point average. On top of that, their mascot Terry the T-Rex finally got the recognition he deserved thanks to hundreds of adoring fans at the opening ceremony and on the dropzone.

4-way Female

The UK was the only nation to enter two female teams and both had evidently trained hard over the last 12 months. *Kesshin* made the step up to AAA with a line-up change and had a great time with it, turning some very nice blocks and bringing the *Kesshin* partners to join the party. HABs as opposed to WAGs, anybody? *PTW* have also had a line-up change since Nationals, but they added

1 Volosity Freestyle, by Will Penny

2 World Cup Freestyle bronze for Volosity, by Craig Poxon

3 Speedster James Parker, by Craig Poxon

4 Tyranno4us Rex in training, by James Stevenson



a tremendous three points to their average. It's going to be great to see what both teams can produce if they decide to continue next season.

The Ladies medals saw gold going to *VR4 France Femmes*, silver to *Bubble Trouble* of Russia and bronze to *Fuzion* of Canada. *No Mercy* of Poland took the European bronze. *Bubble Trouble* and *Fuzion* were the last teams to be released at the end of the competition due to a jump-off situation. The weather didn't allow for it in the end, so the Russians took the silver with fastest time to the last common point.

8-way

The British know a thing or two about manifesting a large and hectic Nationals, but nobody envied the job Saarlouis had with the British FS teams. The *Awkward Turtles* 8-way were made up of members from *PTW* (4-way Female) and *Chimera* (4-way Open) and *Project: Ride the Dragon* 8-way had members from *Eros* (4-way

Open). In addition, one of the *Dragons* was also an alternate for *PTW*.

Both the *Dragons* and the *Turtles* dealt with the pressure well. Teams were rarely given a stand down if there was a weather window, so team members who were only on one team would often have several hours sat on the ground knowing they hadn't been manifested but being unable to leave (or order beer) in case the plan changed. Those affected made the best of a difficult situation, waving Union flags in the boarding area or holding up score cards on the landing area for the best swoops.

Both UK teams were tied for fifth place after two rounds. The British knew from looking at the forecast that getting a third round in would be a push. Luckily, Round 3 was completed on the last morning. The *Turtles* suffered heavily for a camera angle/incomplete separation double bust so *Project: Ride the Dragon* took European fourth and World fifth,

with the *Awkward Turtles* finishing right behind them.

At the top end of the table, the *Golden Knights* finished first with a 22-point average, followed by the Russians, the Belgians (with the *Hayabusa/Fireflash* line-up) and the French in World fourth/European third.

VFS

VFS was relatively poorly attended this year, with only six teams in attendance. Of the teams that turned up, three of them were American and there were injuries aplenty. *SDC Core* lost their cameraman to injury prior to the competition. They subbed in an alternate and moved one of the team onto camera, weighing up the option of flying fast but potentially suffering more busts. *Blue Pelican* of Norway and the *Golden Knights* also had shoulder and neck injuries and were regular visitors to the event massage tent during weather holds. *Core's* gamble



Terry the T-Rex at the opening ceremony, by Craig Poxon



Bronze medallist Dan Guest, by Craig Poxon



'There were six members of the legendary 500 Club in attendance so competition was always going to be tight'

with camera showed in some rounds, scoring 16 with six busts on one occasion. *Golden Knights* were flying cleaner and both were tied for first place after three rounds. The fourth and final complete round gave *Core* the lead they needed, leaving them with the gold, *GK VFS* with silver and Russia with bronze.

The shortage of European teams made the European medals a very different podium line-up from the World Cup one. European medals went to Russia in first, Norway in second and *Kwansta Kwattro* (Sweden) in third. *Kwansta* came into the competition very much as the underdogs, being left to compete against their coaches and their coaches' coaches. The British were sharing a hotel with the Swedes and their VFS team were regular friendly faces in the bar. They were on top form at the afterparty, giddy with their shiny new European bronze medals.

Freestyle

Always a crowd favourite on the big screens, the Freestyle category didn't disappoint this year. The competition was called after only three rounds, with just 0.2 points separating first and fourth. *France 2* threw some wildly original exits out of the door, upped their degree of difficulty and hit some fast angles to clinch the gold.

Team USA had near flawless camerawork and a lot of moves most

wouldn't dare try in a tunnel. Their higher-scoring free routine ensured them the silver medal despite tying on overall points with *France 1*, who took the bronze. *France 1* brought the elegance with an almost romantic routine between real-life couple Greg Crozier and Karine Joly. Think *Dirty Dancing* lifts, the legendary *Spider-Man* upside-down kiss, pirouettes and carving sh*t up.

A British interest also crept into the European medals, with Anna Moxnes (daughter of Skydive Swansea legend Dave Howerski) representing Norway. The Scandinavians managed the highest compulsory score of the competition and mirror-like synchronisation on their free round. I'd highly recommend watching all the rounds from the top four online – these guys truly are trailblazers.

Freestyle

Following on from Jamie Arnold and Dan Guest's success at the 2016 British Nationals – possibly the youngest team the BPA have ever entered – *Team Volosity* made their way to Saarlouis ahead of the rest of the delegation for some extra training. In the face of their first outdoor Category 1 FAI event and challenging weather conditions, the pair kept a cool demeanour throughout. Only four rounds were completed. French duo Loic Perrouin

and Pierre Rabuel dominated in each round as expected and scored more than nine points in each free round, taking World and European gold with an amazing 36 points in total. Slovakia took a solid second place, with a slight improvement on their scores from the Mondial being enough to secure the silver.

The real battle in Freestyle was between Dan and Jamie for the UK and the Swiss team. After Round 1, *Volosity* tied for fourth place but a very good compulsory score compared to the Russians and Swiss bumped them up to third. After the fourth and final round, Jamie and Dan edged out the Swiss to take the bronze by 0.2 points. Excellent work, chaps!

Speed Skydiving

The second notable success for Team GB was Max Hurd in Speed Skydiving, who improved on his bronze in Chicago and took the World and European silver. Only four out of eight rounds were completed, meaning only the three highest speeds of each competitor were counted. Max finished less than 2kmh behind the overall winner, Moritz Friess of Germany. Despite the gold being so agonisingly close, there were six members of the legendary 500 Club in attendance so competition was always going to be tight. The world's fastest man, Henrik Raimer of Sweden, took third.



Keshin cameraman
Dave Butterell,
by Craig Poxon



Bronze medalist
Jamie Arnold, by
Craig Poxon



Silver medalist
Max Hurd, by
Craig Poxon



Another GB representative finished in the top 10 when Cezary (Cez) Krzyczkowski set a personal best of 453.98kmh and finished seventh. James Parker suffered the most from only half the rounds being completed and scored three OBs (out of bounds, a zero), ultimately finishing 21st. Lucy Westgarth withdrew after two of the four rounds with an inner-ear injury and placed 20th.

Unfortunately, the only other woman due to attend (a Russian jumper unknown in Speed Skydiving circles) withdrew before the start of the comp, meaning that there was no Female category and no female Speed medals would be awarded.

Between rounds, one topic dominated conversation and kept the delegation officials and judges busy. The controversial placement of competition Pro Tracks by a Russian Speed competitor saw calls of “unsportsmanlike behaviour” and the use of “a non-standard rig”, both of which go against the currently short set of Speed Skydiving rules. After setting only the second score in history above 600kmh, Dmitry Gmyzin was asked to relocate his Pro Tracks before continuing with the competition. He finished out of reach of the medals due to two OBs, but the rules will nevertheless surely be tightened to avoid any further imaginative interpretation of the rules in future.

CF 2-way sequential

At the beginning of the meet, there was relatively little British interest in the CF category aside from it being quite pleasant to watch during the training jumps and sunnier intervals of weather. Once the draw was made, however, those in the



delegation with knowledge of the CF dive pool began buzzing with anticipation. Round 3 – F-F-E-D-E – was an absolute burner round. The previous competition favourites from Chicago weren't in attendance, but their replacement France A line-up didn't disappoint and the old World Record was smashed by 11 points with a total of 56 points in time. The remainder of the medals went to Russia in second and France B in third.

Keep calm and carry on

The dropzone made every effort possible to compete with the weather. To make up for the lack of jumping, exceptionally

good live music and free beer were laid on at the closing ceremony. It was a pretty sweet way to end a bittersweet week.

A special mention has to be made for Craig Poxon and Ian Marshall, our Head of Delegation and Team Manager respectively. Between manifest miscommunications, formal complaints being lodged over Pro Tracks, injuries, transport problems and general babysitting, we couldn't have managed without them – not to mention their pep talks and exceptional flag waving on the flight line.

Just remember: it's not the size of your flag that matters, it's how vigorously you can wave it! ●

5 Tyranno4us Rex closing Block 19, by James Stevenson

6 Eros, by Joe Mann

7 Chimera (before breaking Chris Judd!), by Chris Cook

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OUT WITH

The Nationals are over for another year... and what a year it's been!



A B A N G

Hibaldstow – 4-way, 8-way, Artistics and Speed

By Chimera

Aside from line-up dramas in 4-way (more on that later), it's been a busy season for many of the British teams. There have been more trained teams in 8-way than we typically see, more Speed skydivers than ever before and World Cup medals the week before set the scene for an exciting competition across all disciplines.

For us in *Chimera*, it was an incredible experience. We're still on a high from our

bronze medal win and we had loads of fun in the 8-way with the fourth-placed *Awkward Turtles* too. But hey, enough about us... here's our write-up of Nationals 2017!

All change!

You've planned, you've trained and you've set yourself up for a cracking weekend at Hib. But even the best laid plans can go awry in this sport... as many of our 4-way teams found out this year.

It was a challenging season for *4mula* from the start. They lost their tail flyer, Ady, ahead of their Empuria training camp and then, a few months later, cameraflyer Nick was taken out by an injury sustained

during a tandem jump. We were genuinely sad to see them struggle with various other extraneous issues too. Having watched the team progress through the categories over the past seven years, we all wanted them to be able to compete with the strong line-up they deserved – a sentiment we know was shared across the AAA category.

Luckily, Will Cooke (previously of teams including *Hyrrokin* and *Tetris*) was able to step up to the plate and take the position of tail, with Sam Bemment (also previously of *Hyrrokin* and *Lowabusa*) joining in Nick's spot on camera. *4mula* finished on a very respectable 18.9 average, achieving their second silver

1 Antimatter on break-off, by Pench

2



3



4



medal and giving *Satori XL* a real run for their money.

Then there was our very own Chris Judd, who broke his femur on landing a few weeks before Nationals. There are few things more gutting than losing a team member after you've trained and worked hard with them. When you've made your plans as a 5-way, it's difficult to then reassess and look to the future with a new flyer.

That said, we were incredibly fortunate to be able to persuade Jonny Flowers (previously of *Eclipse*) to join us in Chris' tail slot. When Jonny couldn't join us at the World Cup in Saarlouis, we used Aaron Faith – not too shabby, right?! We were so, so proud to win bronze in AAA with an average of 17.1.

In other 4-way news, *NFTO* put up a solid fight, finishing in fourth place and

scoring themselves a place at the 2018 World Meet in Australia as the British female team.

Satori XL were exceptional as always, with newest flyer Ady helping the team to yet another gold medal.

Moving on up

Of course, it's not all about the podium. There were loads of great teams coming up through the disciplines and making their move into AAA this year. Special mention has to go to the teams who also competed at the World Cup in Saarlouis – making for a gruelling three competitions in as many weeks for those competing in both 4- and 8-way. That includes *Tyrannoqus Rex*, *Antimatter*, *Eros* and *PTW*, all of whom put up some impressive scores in AAA.

In AA, the fight between *Pajama Pumas* and *Salty Jacks* was incredibly close, with

the latter pipping the former at the post with just one point between them. After a couple of lower scores in the earlier rounds, *Vantage* fought back to take the bronze.

The A category for 2017 should go down in history as one of the best sets of team names ever! Winning the gold was *Jurassic Pork*, achieving a decent lead ahead of second-placed *RAFSPA Venom* and third-placed *Bacchus* (named after the god of wine). *Boobasaurus Rex* finished in fourth despite having started strongly, but a couple of challenging rounds lost them points later in the competition.

RAFSPA Shadow took first in Rookie by the skin of their teeth, with the judging going to 'time to last point' after both top teams posted identical scores even after the jump-off. *Fireflies* finished second, with *Flying Fossils* in third.

2 Bacchus mid-transition, by James Stevenson

3 Quasar in a sidebody, by James Stevenson

4 Three Dorniers and 40 4-way FS teams, by James 'Macca' Macdonald



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8

It's busy in Senior 8-way!

Go back just a few years and 8-way was a pretty lonely competition, with only a few teams ever turning up. Fast forward to this year and we had no fewer than six 8-way teams in Senior, plus one in 8-way Rookie. It's great to see so many teams progressing to the top level, and we hope that's inspired lots more in the lower categories for the coming season.

Microclim8's win was pretty much a foregone conclusion (though that

didn't stop *Project: Ride the Dragon* putting up a fight!). Having returned victorious with a new British Record average of 14 from Chicago's World Meet last year, *Microclim8* had some line-up changes including Phil Hartree's move to replace Chris Cook as camera, the addition of Ruth Morrison in Phil's place and Ane Brentford replacing Jonny Flowers as point. The team – which has been largely undefeated in its many guises since, well, forever –

trained outdoors and in the tunnel, all of which helped them retain their average of 14 and take home the gold.

The *Dragons*, just back from Saarlouis, added several points to their World Cup average. The team was composed and clean, paying testament to their training and coaching from Johan Van Eeckhout and Marco Arrigo; their score of 9.3 got them the silver.

With one of the best names in 8-way history, *Sky Wars: The Farce Awakens*

5 Antimatter G launch, by Pench

6 Quasar closing block 18, by James Stevenson

7 Satori XL, 2017 4-way FS National Champions... again! By Rob Lloyd



9



10

took bronze, in part thanks to some bumbles that gave the *Awkward Turtles* a whopping 11 busts overall!

Awesome artistics

Having taken the bronze at the World Cup the week before, superstars Jamie Arnold and Dan Guest were back in the Freestyle A competition. Their stunning routine earned them the gold medal at Nationals. That's another one to add to the pile for this exceptional pairing!

Nova had an administrative nightmare when they missed the bus, taking a 0.0 for Round 5. Though that may well have lost them the silver, they showed great sportsmanship and took it on the chin as they finished in third place. *FSU* took second and will join Jamie and Dan's *Volosity* in Australia next year.

Freestyle A was taken by *Varial*, who sported a new line-up and new jumpsuits. They excelled in the free routine with a consistent 8.6 to 8.7 score.

Similarly, second-placed *Parallel* (who had also changed a team member, with Paul Dewey replaced by Chris Cook) showed off some great skills in the free routine, but both teams struggled with the compulsories. For *Parallel* in particular, bad weather and other issues had slowed training so it was even more impressive to see them pull such a great performance out of the bag – especially as they'd only changed their routine the week before.

8 *MicroClim8*, by Simon Brentford

9 *Varial Freestyle National Champions 2017... again*. By Roy Wimmer-Jaglom

10 *Varial*, by Adam Dare

11



Both teams will be heading Down Under next October.

Corr, that's fast!

Remember when 500kph was an impossible goal? Those days are long gone! In the Speed competition, Britain's Official Fastest Man Max Hurd took gold by binning two 500kph scores and achieving a new British Record speed of 559.78kph in Round 6. Max also took silver at the World Cup.

The famously un-sponsored speed flyer Matt Byrne took the silver. He's been really focused on his training this year and it's paying off; he beat previous champion Mikey Lovemore, who came third.

We were sad to see Lucy Westgarth, the UK's current fastest woman, had to drop out of Nationals for health reasons. However, she did a great job in her new role of Judge.

What next for Team GB?

Next year is a World Meet year, so the top teams in 4- and 8-way, the top two teams in Freestyle and Freestyle and the top six flyers in Speed will all be heading to Australia's Gold Coast come October 2018. Meanwhile, *Satori XL* – minus Ady and plus Katie Woods – will head to Montreal alongside 4-way female indoor team *Volition* and Freestyle team *Volosity*.

Closer to home, *Chimera* will be finishing our season with (hopefully) some super fun team trips to a water park, a Crystal Maze and a few bars around town! We'll be waiting on the Return of Judd, then getting right back to it as we prepare for our next year.

As always, we'll be organising events at Skydive Langar and tunnel scrambles down at Bodyflight Bedford. Keep an eye on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/chimeraskydiver](https://www.facebook.com/chimeraskydiver) for more info.

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Dunkeswell – Canopy Piloting

By Georgie Vacher

This year's Canopy Piloting National Championships were once again held at Skydive Buzz, Dunkeswell, and the weather was almost perfect. All nine rounds were completed in a single day and that gave us a new National Champion – Dan Guest.

The first lift saw a round of Accuracy. There then followed a round of Distance and then one of Speed so that, should the weather have closed in, the meet could be called with all competitors having completed a round of each and that would give us an overall Champion. The second and third Speed rounds were then completed, but a minor technical hitch with the sensors (and, we believe, his white shoes) meant that Martin 'Danger Pants' Reynolds had to complete

two re-jumps to complete the Speed rounds. When an attempt to run-out the course resulted in a pulled hamstring, he decided that his meet should end there and he pulled out of the remaining rounds.

Meanwhile, the rest of the competitors had had an extended lunch break and were ready to get the rest of the competition done. A single gust of wind over the limits for Accuracy (five metres per second) threatened to take to the competition into the second day, but it was all over by sunset. Brian Vacher, as BPA CP Rep, was there as always to help the Judges get the equipment set up and offer his support and advice to Judges and competitors alike. This year, he was also able to film some of the competitors in the air – giving some great footage and a bird's-eye view of the competition as it happened. The Judges, as always, were awesome and it certainly wasn't made easy for them this year with the rule changes and video footage having to be reviewed for more than one jump.

Congratulations to Dan Guest, who became our new National CP Champion

with the top overall score and also for winning the gold medal for Speed. Congratulations also go to Wez Westley for his gold in Distance and Chris Lynch for his gold in Accuracy.

I can also confirm that the water in the pond is not actually as cold as it looks. So, if you are a keen canopy pilot and are thinking of having a go at the competition next year, the pond is always available at Dunkeswell.



11 Freestyle silver medallists Parallel in a double joker, by Chris Cook

12 From left, Matthew Byrne, Max Hurd and Mikey Lovemore, the fastest Speeders in the BPA, by Rob Lloyd

13 Dan Guest, Overall CP National Champion 2017, 2017 National Champion in Freestyle with Volosity and VFS with Omni, by Andy Guest

14 From left, Chris Lynch, Dan Guest and Wez Westley, overall bronze, gold and silver medallists in CP

Swansea – Accuracy

By Sara Williams

Skydive Swansea held the British National Accuracy Championships on August 4 2017. This was our third year hosting the competition and this time it was a midweek event, which we thought could affect entries. To our surprise, we beat last year with 37 competitors. There were 17 Seniors, 13 Intermediates and seven Novices.

The practice day was August 1, with many competitors arriving to set up their tents. Goodie bags were handed out and we managed six lifts on the southern PLA. Unfortunately, there was no jumping on Wednesday due to heavy rain all day and high winds on Thursday meant we were grounded then as well.

We still managed to have some fun watching Jay Townsend doing chiropractic sessions and acupuncture. There was a bowling competition, a bit of golf, eating endless cupcakes provided by Ben Fennell-Jones and supplies of Pringles and sweets. It was a good chance for the competitors to catch up, as some had not seen each other for several years.

Wednesday night was party night and 75 attended for delicious fish and chips provided by Adam George and his team. There were lots of laughs on the wrecking ball bouncy elimination game. The beer fridges were full and actually

lasted three nights! There were raffle prizes for the competitors, with Jimmy Frith winning the £100 cash prize. The fun lasted into the early hours of the morning, with Brian Stokes showing his tracking skills on the canteen tables at 4am!

Friday started well but, as the day went on, winds started to increase and several re-jumps were awarded. By 6pm, the competition was called on completion of four rounds on the northern PLA for all the competitors.

Senior Accuracy Medals

- 1. Dave Crowhurst
- 2. Les Carroll
- 3. Carl Williams

Intermediate Accuracy Medals

- 1. Isaac Brown
- 2. Alun Morris Jones
- 3. Steve Adams

Novice Accuracy Medals

- 1. Jay Townsend
- 2. Paul Hendry
- 3. Brian Stokes

Team Accuracy Results

- 1. Team GB: Carl Williams, Steve Hastings, Esther Reynolds, Pete Sizer and Janos Leszko
- 2. Team Brexit: Dave Crowhurst, Jeff Chandler, Dave Tylcoat and Les Carroll
- 3. Skydive Northwest: Jimmy Frith, John Boardman, Brian Shaw, Stuart Morris and Nick Johnston

Club Cup Results

- 1. Swansea: Carl Williams, Alun Morris Jones and James Lewton
- 2. Headcorn: Janos Leszko, Isaac Brown and Paul Oxby
- 3. Sibson: Steve Hastings, Paul Hendry and Steve Simpson

Thanks to all of the competitors for supporting the event. It's great to see people are still interested in this competition, with the numbers increasing each year. Thanks to Richard Cole for flying, Reg Green for DZ Control, Gwilym Floyd for ground crew, Andy Houston for supplying the equipment, Chief Judge Bob King and other Judges Dougie Peacock, Richard Flavell, Trainee Judge Don, Paul Vandermeer, Alun Morris Jones, Ben Fennel Jones for taking the pictures and me, Becky and Danni for manifesting. It was great to see everyone and we hope to see you all next year.

15 Approaching the tuffet, by Alun Morris Jones

16 The enormous Accuracy turnout!

17 The Scarecrows, by Ming Chu

18 Wise Prankers, by Gary Wainwright





17

Black Knights – CF

By Gavin McLeod

This year's BPA CF Nationals was one of the biggest for a long time, with 30 CF jumpers forming three Senior, four Intermediate and three Rookie 2-way teams and some joining together to make three 4-way rotation teams. By comparison, we had six people, just two of whom were Seniors, turn up for Nationals in 2011...

The weather was very taxing, but excellent work by Black Knights got us in the air at short notice during lulls. Four out of six rounds of 2-way and three out of six rounds of 4-way completed in two days.

There were fine performances by all of the teams, and especially by many of those new to CF competition. Some of the competitors only got their CF1 stickers a few months ago!

I'm pleased to say that my team, CFUK, made a comeback after a break and

managed to set a new UK National Record of 17 points in 2-way. That broke the previous record of 16 points, which was also set by us back in 2013.

It's good to see CF having a resurgence!

4-WAY ROTATIONS:

- 1: *Cunning Stunts* (12 pts)
- 2: *Team Crwsaders* (9 pts)
- 3: *Backdoor 4* (2 pts)

2-WAY: Senior

- 1: *CFUK* (50 pts)
- 2: *Wize Prankers* (29 pts)
- 3: *Waffle Stack* (27 pts)

Intermediate

- 1: *The Scarecrws* (24 pts)
- 2: *Team Scat* (19 pts)
- 3: *Double Trouble* (16 pts)

Rookie

- 1: *Cark Crew* (25 pts)
- 2: *Cark Corner* (11 pts)
- 3: *Two in the stack, one in the back* (6 pts)

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MORE COMPETITIONS NEWS

4-way UKSL overall results

The 4-way Nationals at Hibaldstow, as well as determining the National Champions, were also the fourth and final competition in the UK Skydiving League series. The UKSL competitions in 2017 were at Dunkeswell in May, Langar in June and Cark in July, all topped off by the Nationals in August. The BPA provided top-quality coaches in the form of our sponsored athletes, who shared their knowledge and experience for free. The overall league champions and runners-up will collect their medals at the awards ceremony that follows the AGM at BPA Skydive the Expo on January 27 2018 – be there!

AAA

Gold: *4Mula*
 Silver: *Satori XL*
 Bronze: *Cark Americanos*

AA

Gold: *Pyjama Pumas*
 Silver: *Vantage*
 Bronze: *Dive Hard 4.0*

A

Gold: *Jurassic Pork*
 Silver: *Poor 4 Cast*
 Bronze: *RAFSPA Venom*

Rookie

Gold: *RAFSPA Shadow*
 Silver: *Let's Do it Girls*
 Bronze: *Aero 4M*

VFS Intermediate competition

Thanks to VFS team *Omni*, our reigning National Champions, whose passion for their discipline seems to know no bounds. They are super-keen to get new flyers involved in the difficult upside-down shenanigans that they love so much. As well as passing on their knowledge by writing Mag articles and providing free coaching at BPA Roadshows, they also decided to be proactive and run a trial intermediate 4-way VFS competition at their home dropzone of Dunkeswell on August 12-13. The BPA supported the event by providing free camera slots and the weekend was a great success. Three teams completed six rounds each, and the scores were impressive considering that this was an introductory event and many were competing for the first time. *Ming Snake* (Ming Chu, Elise Sharp, Pete and Jimmy Meen) held off the *Pandies* by 38 points to 33, with *Last Minute* managing 18.

19 Intermediate VFS, by Greg Lucas



BPA SPONSORSHIP

The BPA funding programme is being replaced with a new BPA sponsorship programme which will allow us to continue to support our top athletes, enabling them to excel at international events.

Once the details are finalised in early October, a new sponsorship application form and full details of how to apply will be made available online and through your discipline reps.

Please be aware that, as was the case in previous years, there will be a deadline for applications and this is likely to remain October 31 this year.

The Competitions Committee is looking forward to supporting Team GB in 2018!



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Jay Moledzki poses for Norman's cameras during the "60 Cycles" event at Go Jump Oceanside. Photo by Norman Kent

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6.725 MILES HIGH

It's 07:00 in northern California. I have been up since 04:00 running through final kit checks, weather checks and aircraft checks, and I am about to exit from extreme altitude in a wingsuit...

WORDS: FRASER CORSAN

Main: The view from 35,000ft shortly after exit. By Fraser Corsan via chest camera
Right: Getting ready to exit, by Tad Smith

As I pre-breathe dry O₂ for the last 90 minutes to clear my system of nitrogen and help protect my body from hypoxia, I realise the last two years of work are about to come to fruition.

As the aircraft climbs to altitude, it's pretty quiet. Tad Smith, my jumpmaster and O₂ specialist, hands me a piece of paper with our climb rate, O₂ levels and updates on positioning. Chris, our pilot, is wringing every last

bit of climb out of the Supervan as we break through 30,000ft and head higher. My breath is now starting to freeze as it passes through my exhaust hose. A small rim of ice is forming on the edge of the hose; I flick it and watch the crystals break off.

We are now at more than 35,500ft, the aircraft is done climbing and it's time to go.



Final checks – wings zipped up, full face helmet closed, O₂ systems working, cameras and GPS all running. I am switched from the aircraft O₂ system to my own system for the jump.

I move towards the door as Chris balances the aircraft, running in at more than 257mph. I focus on staying relaxed and focussed on

the job at hand. The exit goes well for about a second and then I enter a spin, having exited slightly off axis from my normal exit. At these speeds, there is no forgiveness. I recover within seven rotations and the hours of studying aerial images allow me to orientate with the Sierra Nevada mountains on my right. I can see a slight curvature and the top of my vision is a deep dark blue; this is a pretty beautiful place. I feel privileged to be here.

I feel *fast*. I am flying a delta position to optimise speed and,



Exiting into 257mph at 35,508ft; the journey begins. By Tad Smith

‘With an aircraft exit at more than 35,000ft, the run-in speed is no longer your friendly 120mph max – it’s now more than 250mph. In fact, I ultimately exited at 257.248mph and that was the fastest the team had ever exited a wingsuit pilot’

Training over Netheravon, by Josh Clarke





though I am nearly seven miles up, I can see the relative speed as the mountains and fields are passing by. I am going faster than I have ever flown. Check O₂, temperature and stability – everything is working. The only frustration is that the batteries in my glove are blocking my ability to grip my wingtips, but there's nothing I can do about that so I keep focussing on the jump. As I pass through 20,000ft, I am super alert to aircraft because I am no longer in managed airspace. Commercial airliners know where I am; general aviation does not.

From 10,000ft, I start to plan where in the next few miles looks good for landing. I settle on a plantation with clear fields by a motorway. At 4,000ft, I go in for the pull and my thermal suit blocks a clean pull. I can only just touch my deployment pud. There's no time for fear as I am pitched head down. I go straight back to full flight and go in again with a lot of aggression, and my Spectre 120 deploys cleanly behind me. I now unzip the wings and release my O₂ mask before setting up for a fast light crosswind landing down a farm track.

I have just completed the longest and highest freefall jump for the UK and Europe and have set a new Speed World Record with a wingsuit but, for now, I am just happy to have landed safely.

The Long Way Up

Let's go back to July 2016, which was when I received confirmation of the official nod for the project to aim for 42,000ft with a wingsuit to go ahead.

That was when the hard stuff really began. How do you get to 42,000ft with a wingsuit and safely exit the aircraft, flying in the harshest atmosphere above the planet, and come home safely? With a degree in Aerospace Engineering and nearly two decades in defence and aviation safety, I am fortunate to have a number of insights and experts to help me on the journey. So here is a breakdown of what it took and what it was like...

Life Support

Supplemental O₂ is required for HALO jumps, which are typically from 25,000ft to 30,000ft. However, just having your own O₂ bottle at more than 35,000ft is not enough; you also need a decent regulator to force the O₂ into your lungs for absorption. Without all that, the O₂ physically cannot be absorbed into your body due to the ambient pressure being just 14% of the level it is on the ground. Without O₂ at 35,000ft, you have 15-30 seconds before you lose consciousness.

Fortunately, contacts in Cobham provided me with the right kit. However, we still needed to modify it to counter the problem of the exhaust valve freezing. Every time we breathe out, we exhale moisture content. This vapour turns into a solid block if you're not careful and results in you effectively suffocating. Historically, when that happens you have to break the seal in the mask and vent your breath through the gap. This is not a great solution, and especially so when flying a high-performance wingsuit.

We solved the problem with some modification and some shielding provided by the Bonehead Ox, a prototype helmet that shielded my oxygen mask and protected it from the extreme cold and relative wind blast.

To familiarise myself with the sensation of pressure breathing, normally the domain of fighter pilots, I had access to the facilities at QinetiQ and training in both the altitude chamber and on a live pressure breathing rig. This was essential – the sensation is pretty strange and you cannot afford to get the technique wrong at altitude.

Specialist Kit

On top of the O₂ equipment, Airtec provided me with two CYPRES units capable of operating both under wingsuit flight conditions and from more than 40,000ft. I flew with a military Altitrack which could record the entire jump from more than 40,000ft on down and, for the official record data, three Flysight GPS units as well.

Sunpath provided me with the superb Aurora wingsuit-specific container system for optimised flight and safety. I also had a Javelin Odyssey in case I needed a backup during training.

I had a thermal suit on under my wingsuit from FlexiTog and Clo Insulation, which maintained my warmth. One of the biggest challenges was how to keep my hands warm while flying a wingsuit for up to 10 minutes and at -50°C plus windchill approaching -130°C. I had a combination solution with liners and Li-Ion battery heated gloves. This worked well, but you're on the edge in terms of having the necessary dexterity for pull and emergency procedures.

Training

How did I prepare? At the most basic level, I needed to be able to fly a wingsuit well for endurance and with control at deployment. However, I also needed to be confident flying the suit at the limits in terms of understanding its stall point, its angle of attack for maximum forward speed,

PROJECT CIRRUS

optimum glide and being able to recover from extreme spins.

With an aircraft exit at more than 35,000ft, the run-in speed is no longer your friendly 120mph max – it's now more than 250mph. In fact, I ultimately exited at 257.248mph and that was the fastest the team had ever exited a wingsuit pilot. Those spin recovery techniques came in handy and they needed to be executed without thinking; I went through seven rotations before recovering full control and flying the heading I wanted.

The danger is that your spin accelerates and you experience G-Lock. To break it might require a deployment, but that is never going to be a good option at these altitudes. In addition, all your previous reserve drills need to be re-evaluated: what do I do if I have a premature, how much O₂ do I still have, is my O₂ still working? No RSLs or Skyhooks for this jump – in the event of a premature deployment, I did not want to transfer straight to a reserve if I did have to cut away because I could run out of O₂ before reaching a breathable altitude.

There was a whole lot more, but this should give you an idea of the mindset and thinking I needed to take into making a high altitude jump above even the normal altitude for HALO.

Physically, I needed to be in excellent shape. While flying any wingsuit for long periods of time is demanding, flights of more than 10 minutes coupled with the additional equipment I was carrying (four GPS units, a thermal suit, gloves, heat packs, a phone, an O₂ bottle, a mask, a regulator) meant the weight starts to add up too. I keep fit but, for six months prior to the jump, I had a personal trainer and trained five to six times a week with a series of drills to increase cardio fitness, core strength and very specific muscle groups to fly the suit for prolonged periods.

My Flysight indicated that I was able to fly at 26-33mph for my average descent rates without dive and flare as used in performance comps. I developed strategies for working different muscles groups in flight to decrease fatigue, which all resulted in slower descent rates and increased flight duration over the 100 training jumps I made.

These extreme altitudes are unforgiving. I trained hard physically and on specific wingsuit flight techniques, but I also visualised both the perfect flight and it all going wrong and then dealing with it. I was under no illusions about the risks and took out a life insurance policy so my

family were protected in the event that the worst should happen. However, my basic approach was to triple-check all systems and have emergency protocols for all situations independently reviewed. I won't cover those here because there are a whole load of them but, by training for them, I wouldn't need to think about what to do if they did occur. I'd just deal with it.

We had two high altitude jumps planned: one with clearance to 38,000ft and the other to 42,000ft. The jump in California was only able to reach a maximum of 35,508ft because our jump coincided with an extreme heatwave in northern California and the aircraft physically could not climb any higher. Though this has given us UK and European FAI Records for the highest skydive ever made and the longest freefall duration (subject to ratification), the world record remains with the Stratos Project. However, I hit a peak horizontal speed of 246.6mph – a new Speed World Record. We made a modification to the Li-Ion heated gloves post-jump because the battery back within the glove blocked my wrist from picking up the wingsuit winglet. Fortunately, we were always going for max speed on the first jump and planned to tackle time, distance and altitude on the second jump. Unfortunately, the northern and southern jet streams combined on top of us in Canada and dropped a series of low pressure systems on us, which meant we had to abort that second jump after a week.

I flew a Phoenix-Fly Vampire Alpine. While it's a huge wing, the design provides an easy pull, super-solid pressurisation and excellent performance without sacrificing safety. When you're flying with so much kit for recording data, life support and thermal protection, you have to be confident that the wingsuit is the right one.

Why?

While I had always wanted to make a high altitude jump, I also wanted to raise funds for the armed forces charity SSAFA, who support defence personnel and their families. Although they are the oldest armed forces charity, they are not well known and the project was an opportunity to raise both their profile and funds. They make a phenomenal difference to our forces and, if we look at skydiving today, much of it has come from military roots. It's great to give a little back.

Finally, a huge thank you to all my sponsors for projectcirrus.com and my family for supporting me and helping make all this happen. ●

*Under canopy with the Bonehead Ox over Davis.
By Jarno Cordia*



*The final training jump was completed in Davis with 98°F heat.
By Stuart Turner-Hill*





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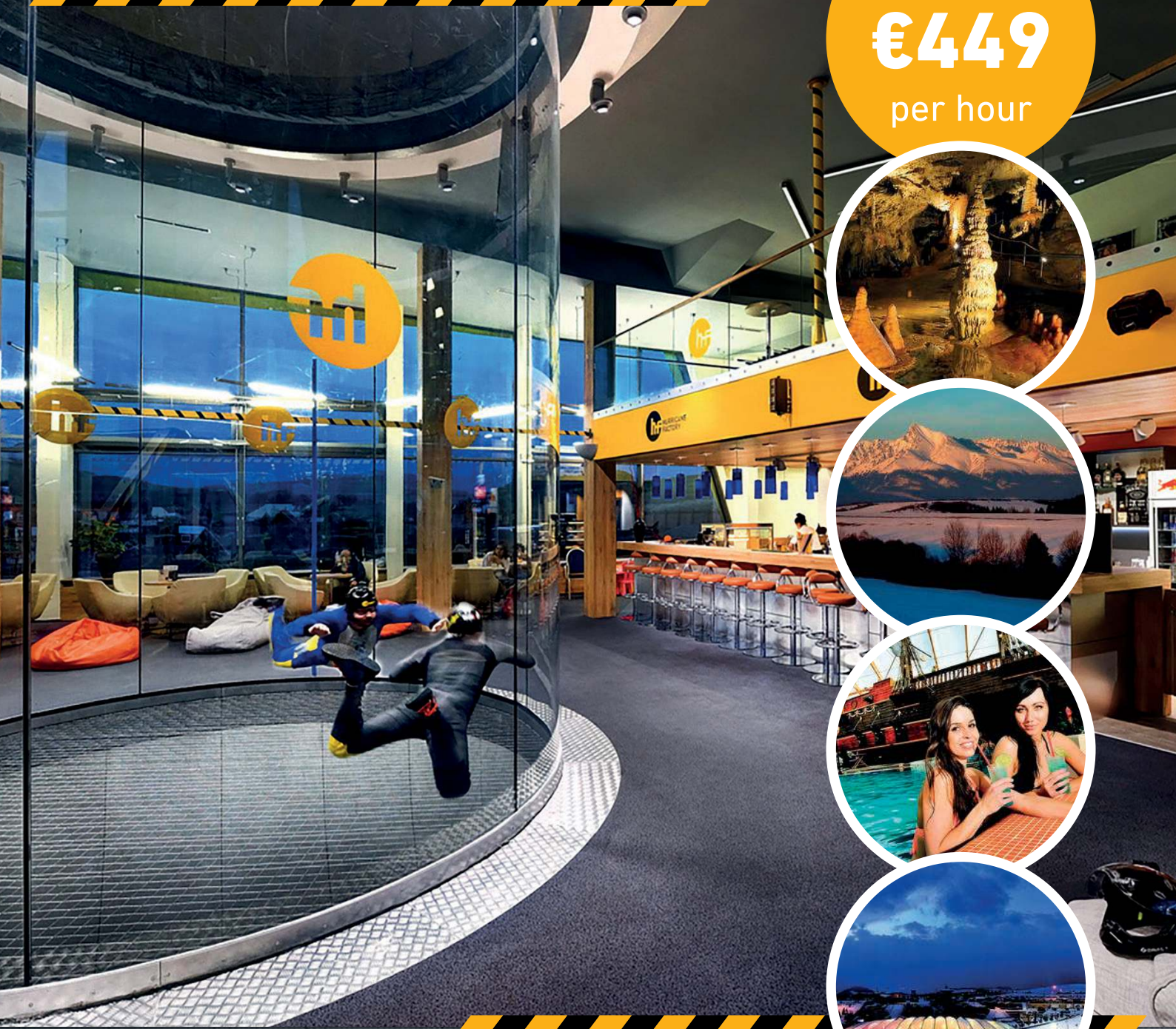
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BIGGER,

BETTER,

BACK

The first Wings of Hintonia event went so well, we had another one in August...

WORDS AND PHOTOS: JONATHAN CHARLES





Following on from the success and smiles of the first-ever Hinton wingsuit event earlier in the year, we held a bigger and better second edition!

After pitching up at the DZ in the pouring rain on the Friday evening, a few of us opted to dry out in a local pub and, as usual, put the world to rights over a few jars. Saturday morning arrived with broken cloud and sunshine, so the stage was set. I was excited – it had been quite a while since I had last flown a slot that wasn't base and I was keen to shake the dust off.

The first jump saw a few people caught out by the PAC's small door, which led to quite a large exit separation in the group. Despite this, the simple flat formation formed up well and flew much better than most had expected for what was a warm-up jump for everyone. A bit of fine-tuning was discussed, but things had started off well and more practice getting out of the mock-up door ensued.

With Kraig Evans cracking the organisational whip (and jokes), the game was upped with plans for a vertical formation. After leading the warm-up, Kraig was now going to fly outside camera so a new base was elected. Flying base is often a thankless task, but it is an essential skill and one people often neglect. If you can't fly completely solid with a consistent vertical and horizontal speed suitable for the whole group, then there is no chance of a tight formation building around you. Add on top of this the pressure of navigating a safe, smooth wingsuit flight path and you have a lot of responsibility. If you turn too sharply, the group will break and you might cause collisions as some people react faster than others. If your navigation is ropey, some people may find themselves hosed at break-off and struggling to make it back. All eyes are on you. In the air, you alone call the shots.

I had been given a backfly slot under the formation, which was exactly what I wanted. Flying relative to a formation like this is always challenging. Aside from the

differing approach, position and visuals, the range you have while backflying can also be considerably different to that on your belly. The fine inputs and tweaks to your position can seem alien if not practised and some muscles you use can tire quickly if you are at your limits. Common problems include not having enough forward speed or lift to keep with the group and I did struggle with both towards the end of a couple of jumps. Slowly watching the group pull away as you seemingly have no speed left to give is frustrating, but I knew I could improve with practice. The group got tighter as the jumps racked up and, by trying small isolated tweaks to my flying position, I found a little more range each time.

Saturday closed with a successful ro-way vertical that left everyone grinning. Then it was time to eat, sleep and hopefully repeat, with plans for the first load on Sunday to be taken over by wingsuiters. The morning came with fantastic blue sky and a few changes to the group. The ever-important base changed, with a few new faces replacing one-day warriors who had gone AWOL. Wingsuiters dominated the PAC for the first load and the formation built fast. The pace seemed quite slow and floaty compared to the close of Saturday, which really made me work hard on my back. The following jumps were faster and virtually everyone was on it, which made for some great photos and videos.

Eventually, high cloud started descending late in the afternoon and forced us to exit at 8,600ft on the last jump. The formation still built and flew before break-off at 5,000ft and we even had a minute of freefall. Everyone nailed it, and I'm sure everyone will be back for the next event! ●

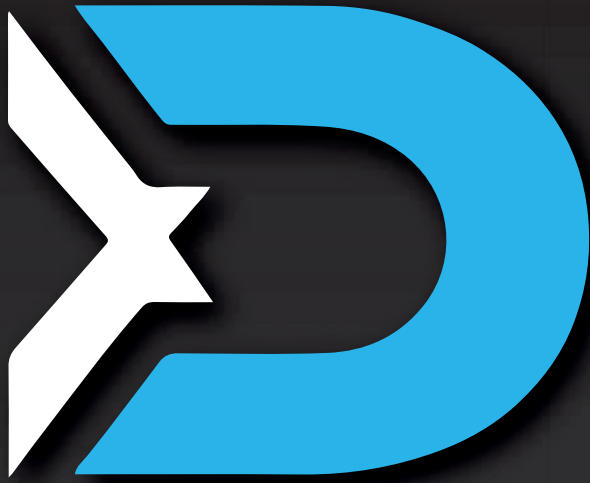
1 The challenges of backflying under the formation include a different approach, position, visuals and range

2 Base flyers must fly completely solid with a consistent vertical and horizontal speed suitable for the whole group

3 Wingsuiters dominated the PAC



'All eyes are on you. In the air, you alone call the shots'



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TERRY CRAWLEY



The Autumn 1965 issue of the BPA magazine featured Terry Crawley on the cover. The jump was a demo from a Chrisair Rapide at 8,000ft over Stapleford and the photograph was taken by future editor Dave Waterman

Fifty-seven years of jumping: celebrating the life, work and pioneering sports parachuting of Terry Crawley, BPA 543 and D119

A man named Terry Crawley died in a nursing home in the south of France on July 27 2017, aged 85. To the vast majority of those reading this, that name will mean nothing. However, I would ask you to continue reading.

This is not an obituary in the common form – namely, a resume of a person's life – but a letter from someone who did know him and feels that his passing should not go unnoticed by the skydiving community. There may well be a few of his old contemporaries still with us, a few retired jumpers who benefitted from his instructional

skills as students, and those who simply had the chance to know him and to enjoy his company who would want to mark his passing with a few reflective thoughts.

He was one of a small group who, in the late 1950s, saw the parachute not just as an air-to-ground vehicle for a soldier or a piece of lifesaving kit for a pilot, but as a means of excitement and, above all, fun – and Terry was a fun person to be with. I first knew him when I was a student and he was an Instructor. He was always at pains not just to critique but to encourage and his incredible enthusiasm for the sport gave confidence to many a nervous student.

His sport parachuting career saw him jump every single year between 1951 and 2007, but he was never one to live in the past. He was one of the first to embrace the piggyback rig when front and backs were the norm. When a safe ram air parachute – the StratoStar – came along, he was of the first to be seen jumping it. His last jump was in September

2007 when he jumped onto the Polish DZ at Driel near Arnhem, aged 75. The aircraft was a World War II Dakota, the same plane that took part in the resupply drop at Arnhem in September 1944.

Terry Crawley didn't invent sport parachuting, but he was undoubtedly one of its founding fathers in this country and certainly one of its greatest characters. It's unlikely that his record of longevity as a sport jumper will be surpassed.

So I would ask just this. Whether you're an early jump student or member of a hot-shot team, next time you're kitting up, lying in the sun reliving your last jump or planning your next, or sitting (perhaps a little smugly) in the office on Monday morning looking at your earthbound colleagues after a fabulous weekend of jumping, spare a grateful thought for Terry Crawley and his like. I'm privileged to have known him and some of his contemporaries, and you should be thankful for their tenacity in setting the foundations for where you are today.

Gordon Lilly D1611

WE REMEMBER

Terry Crawley and the Condor Parachute Display Team with Sally B, the B-17 bomber



TERRY IN HIS OWN WORDS

I first became a parachutist when I joined the Airborne Forces in 1951. My first two jumps were from a balloon at 800ft, and there were no reserves until 1955 when we became part of NATO.

My interest in sport parachuting began in 1957 when I applied to join the club at Fair Oaks – no luck! The maximum altitude there was 1,500ft and first-time students dispatched themselves. My first two sport jumps were under Don Hughes and Pete Sherman. Pete was jumpmaster and the other jumper with me was Charlie Harding. The equipment was American. The static line was four-pin and wrapped around the jumpmaster's wrist. The aircraft was a Cessna. That was where I got the bug.

Looking back, the different types of parachutes that were used were amazing. British World War II mains and reserves, plus American survival chutes, stopwatches and altimeters from World War II bomber aircraft. Cross pulls, right hand, top or side pull reserves. Many different modifications to the canopies. Different types of sleeves. One or two extractor chutes. Some reserves with no extractors. One-and-a-half shots and one-shots for cutting away. There were not many designer jumpsuits, boots and helmets. French jumpsuits and boots were a prized possession.

THE INSTRUCTOR'S COURSE AT THRUXTON

From memory, I think there were 20 of us on the course in early 1960. The aircraft was the Thruxtton Jackaroo, an ex-RAF two-seater Tiger Moth trainer bi-plane. The pilot sat in front and two passengers were in the rear. For spotting, the jumpmaster would climb onto the right hand wing and spot over the leading edge, then climb

back in to dispatch the student. To attend the course, you had to have done at least 20 freefalls. You each trained your own individual student.

On the day, the weather was perfect. Just prior to my take-off, I was asked by Bernie Green if I would take his student (who I had never seen before) instead of mine. In retrospect, I must have been off my f%&\$ing head. We took off and reached spotting height. I climbed onto the wing to spot the aircraft. When I climbed back in, the student was gone! The pilot, from India, was a very good and experienced one, but he was very, very agitated. He had difficulty in handling the aircraft and we were losing altitude. I then saw the student outside the aircraft, hanging onto the left-hand side. All I could do was stamp on his fingers to make him let go. Both the pilot and I were more than relieved that the student landed safely.

I was told that I had failed my Instructor's course. When I explained what had happened, they had a word with Bernie Green and allowed me to test again with my original student. I passed that time!

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

One jump stands out because of the event and the aircraft used. Namely, the Royal Jubilee on July 30 1977 at RAF Finningley from a World War II B17 Flying Fortress – "The Sally B". This aircraft had been used mainly for survey work since the war, and it took quite an effort for me to get permission from the CAA and the RAF to jump from this aircraft. We had to jump from the left-hand bomb door (the right staying sealed) because there was a concern that exhaust fumes might come into the fuselage if we used the rear door. There would be no practice jumps.

Our team name was the Condors on that jump, and I was both Team Leader and jumpmaster. As far as I remember, there were 37 aircraft flying in formation and we were in the middle. It was to be a crosswind run in formation, no streamer. We took off from RAF Coningsby and joined the

formation over the RAF Finningley area. The run in over the airfield was crosswind. The left-hand bomb door was opened by hand and I climbed onto the bomb rack, climbed down into the bomb bay. My right foot was on the bottom rung and my left foot was on the bomb door. Gordon Lilly climbed down to my shoulders and Keith Taylor was above him to pass on instructions to the pilot. We were all wearing smoke and I pulled my smoke early, which pissed the rest of the team and aircrew off. Everything went off perfectly during the flight and the jump, it was a great team effort and the size of the crowd was unbelievable. We were and are still privileged to have jumped "The Sally B".

Probably the worst thing I ever did was while jumping at Thruxtton when I took my son Stephen to 7,000ft in the Rapide and told him to stay where he was and not to move. He was five years old at the time. I followed this up eleven years later when he was 16 by dispatching him on his first jump at Headcorn. I forgot to tell his mother, Audrey. She would not allow my daughter Anne to jump later on!

One last piece of useless information: in 57 years and over 2,500 jumps, I have never used goggles! ●





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Rules for Rookies – what do you need to know when you're new to big-way?

THE DIRT DIVE

Don't be last! It's a painful walk of shame when you realise the whole group is assembled and you're still in the canteen queue. Be there early with your jumpsuit on. Spend time looking at the kit colours of the people in the base (so you know what your sight picture on approach should be), immediately in front of you (so you know where to dock), directly opposite you (for referencing) and immediately behind you (in case you go low or get taken out and need to get back into your slot). Aim for multiple references so that, even if the person you intend to follow (or 'sheepdog') has a disaster, you can still get to the right place.

THE EXIT

A lot of planning goes into organising multi-aircraft, or formation, loads. The 'lead' aircraft usually contains the base, or centre, of the formation. The pilots have to get to the correct altitude, at the correct spot, close enough together to give the formation the best chance of building – not an easy demand! Although the pilots can talk to each other via radio, communication with the jumpers is usually done using red and green lights. The jumpers in the 'trail' aircraft will climb out on to the float rail on the green light, then wait and watch the lead aircraft as best they can. Often a 'superfloater' will be the first to leave the lead aircraft, followed shortly after by the rest of the load. The superfloater's job is to signal the jumpers in the other aircraft to start exiting. Without them, the last people to leave the trail aircraft could have a very long dive to the formation, jeopardising the

chance of it building. The superfloater sacrifices an easier exit for themselves by exiting early and then 'floating' back up to the base. Meanwhile, jumpers in the trail aircraft often sacrifice stability for speed. It is better to pile out quickly and then get stable than it is to take your time exiting stable and end up miles away!

THE APPROACH

A few golden rules apply here. Anticipate your route to the formation so you can power out of the door into a dive, spring off the rail into a float, or whatever your job may be. Know what the WHOLE formation looks like, not just the bit that you are docking on. Do not overtake people who are docking in front of you because you will create a traffic jam. Try not to be so slow that you risk being overtaken by people behind you. Approach your slot from the correct radial – imagine the formation is a large wheel and stay on your spoke without drifting from side to side. Keep some altitude and distance in reserve, only giving these up when it is time to dock and you need to be perfectly on level. Dock without momentum and look across the formation to reference with the other side.

THE COMPLETION

Keep flying – now is not the time to relax. Be strong and anticipate ripples. Keep referencing across to the other side of the formation – this helps keep the whole big-way on one level. Do not drop grips unless you've got a very good reason to do so!

THE FUNNEL

If you are hit, stay strong and try to fly through it.

If you need to drop grips to stop you taking others down with you, do so. If a ripple comes through the formation, do everything in your power not to pass it on. Keep referencing and try to stay on level with the whole formation, not just your section. If you do get taken out, immediately sideslide into clear airspace and try to get back up. Pray it wasn't your fault. If it was your fault, pray you got away with it!

THE BREAK-OFF

The bigger the big-way, the more complex the break-off. Multi-plane loads will usually have more than one 'wave' of break-off. Make sure you completely understand the whole plan, including your wave's break-off height and deployment altitude. Break-off is often signalled by the base kicking their legs. Track as though your life depends upon it, because it does. In a three-wave break-off, if the outer wave don't do a fantastic job then the second wave have a scary time feeling squished as they try to avoid catching up with the first wave while knowing that the final wave are about to chase them from behind too.

THE CANOPY RIDE

This should be part of the overall plan. Good organisers will include it in both the dirt dive and the debrief, and perfect freefall performance can be scuppered by dangerous canopy control which gets you grounded. Do not make any unnecessary turns and allow as much of a stack to develop as you safely can. If you are on a large canopy, be patient and expect to land last (it's less crowded that way too!). You don't need to collapse your slider or

NEW COACHES

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

BASIC FREEFLY COACH
Graham Jackson, JSPW(N)
Joshua Jamieson, Beccles

Christopher Dutton, Swansea
Jamie Gray, Peterlee
Andrew Kilpatrick, Hinton
Robert Southwell, Hinton

BASIC TRACKING COACH
George Kakkis, Cyprus

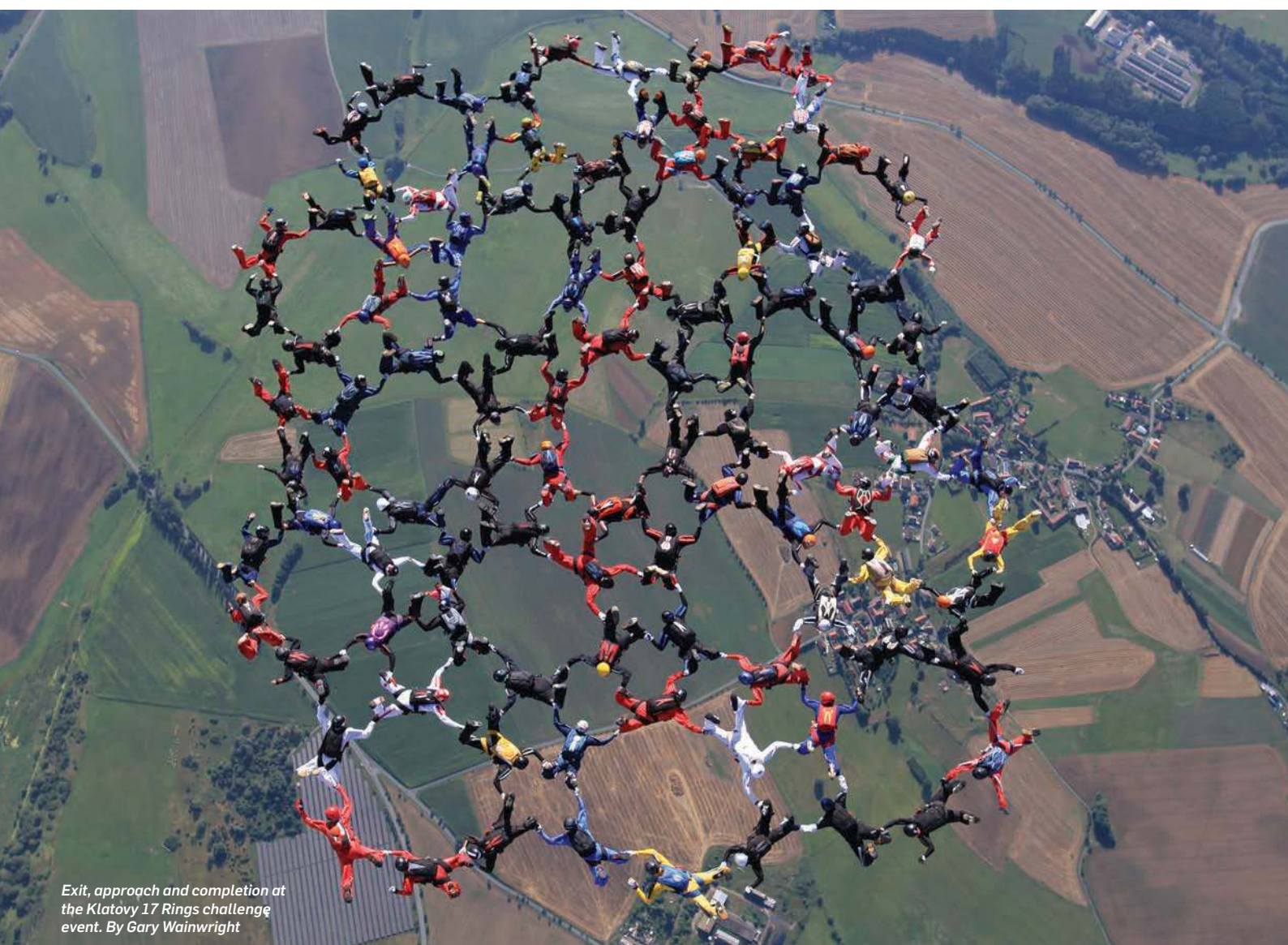
FS COACH
Michelle Meakins, Peterlee

Sophie Barnwell, Chatteris
Lewis Nixon, Chatteris
James Curry, LPS
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FF COACH
James Round, Hibaldstow
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TRACKING COACH
Karim Shokraee, Cark
Daniel Cope, Tilstock

WS COACH
Charlambos Charalambous, Cyprus
Rachel Walker, Hinton
Oliver Ellis-Middleton, Langar



Exit, approach and completion at the Klatovy 17 Rings challenge event. By Gary Wainwright

remove your booties, not in busy skies. It is more important than ever that everyone lands in the same direction, even if this is crosswind or slightly downwind. After landing, turn and face towards other canopies that have not yet landed.

THE DEBRIEF

Don't be last! Listen to all of the debrief, not

just the bits about you and your section – there will be lots to learn from others' mistakes and triumphs. Try and watch the big picture and not just focus on yourself on the video. If an organiser points at the video and asks the crowd "Who's this?", answer with your name, not "Me" – it is really difficult to work out where that "Me" came from! If you disagree with anything

or you don't understand, wait until afterwards and ask someone more experienced than you but less experienced than the organiser. Say "Thank you" at the end of the weekend, and be quick to be nice in other ways. Buying the first round of drinks is a great way to spend the rest of the evening making new jumping friends who you can progress with in the future.

KEEPING YOU SAFE

The BPA's excellent safety record is no accident. There is a lot going on behind the scenes to keep you safe, including regular audits of all DZs and a bi-monthly Safety and Training Committee meeting of all Chief Instructors.

Every jump that results in an incident or injury is reported to the BPA by each DZ and Chief Instructors review the incident reports at every meeting. The most common incidents are malfunction/deployment problems and these are broken down into Student, A Licence or above and Tandem categories. Injuries are also divided into these categories.

The two months before the July 2017 STC meeting saw 44 malfunctions and deployment problems: five Student including one first-jump static-line hang-up; 34 at A Licence or above and five at Tandem. There were also 32 injuries: five Students, all on landing; 12 A Licence or above, all minor except one low turn resulting in serious injury; and 15 Tandem, with three being to Instructors and the majority being minor.

Other incident categories include AAD fires, off landings, items falling off jumpers and aircraft incidents. In the same two-month period, there was one report of an AAD firing on a display. The AAD fired at approximately 400ft and became a down-plane. The jumper cut the main away and landed without further incident. It appears the AAD had been set on Student mode. There were 21 'off landing' reports and five reports of items coming off jumpers on exit or in freefall: three

helmets, a trainer and a camera.

Finally, five reports were received involving aircraft. The first was a wheel strut boot which the jumpmaster noticed was hanging off shortly after take-off. The load was dispatched and the aircraft landed without incident. The problem was later repaired. The second report was for an aircraft infringement when a Piper Navajo overflew a PLA. The third was when a reserve handle got caught by another jumper's hook knife and the reserve deployed. The aircraft landed without further incident. The fourth concerned a Cessna 208 where a parachutist restraint was found to be detached because the jaw attachment had been jammed open. The last report was of broken window rear of the door on an Airvan. This was likely to have been caused by a parachutist climbing out.

If you like reading these summaries, you can do so every two months. Just look for the STC minutes on the BPA website.



Jay Kubiak safely tracking over Hinton, by Andy Ford

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

WORDS: RICH DRABBLE

A few months ago, I helped out at the 'beginning of season' Safety Day at Langar. I'm beginning to get a little experience with students, but this was my first Safety Day as an Instructor. There were a series of talks on reserve drills, equipment and a rather fun whodunnit presentation by the CI running through a fictional fatality incident and the subsequent investigation to determine the cause.

In many of these lessons, checking of handles and reserve drills were mentioned and practised, including the 'no pull/hard pull' scenario. Then we moved out to the hangar to practise drills in suspended harness.

While I have some experience of teaching students in suspended harness, this was the first time I had seen 'experienced' skydivers practise their drills. It wasn't a pretty sight, and one example sticks in my mind. As I helped a guy into the harness, I asked: "How many jumps do you have?"

"Almost 3,000," was the proud answer. As a C Licence-holder with less than 300 jumps, I must admit to having felt a bit outranked and nervous. We talked about his plan for the 'jump'; it was going to be an "awesome 4-way", breaking off at 4,000ft and pulling at 3,000ft.

Once he was in the harness, I did that nasty Instructor trick of slipping out the dummy pull and popping it into my back pocket (one of the perks of holding a rating!). Then I asked him: "Happy to go?"

He took a look at his cutaway pad and reserve ripcord, and nodded.

We ran through the simulated exit, "awesome 4-way", break-off and track, flaring out to pull at 3,000ft. He groped around trying to find his pull for a full 10 seconds (now being at a simulated 1,000ft).

"I can't find my pull," he eventually (and rather pathetically) volunteered.

"No," I said, "it's in my pocket. Did you switch your AAD on?"

"Errr..."

"Never mind, it's really rather too late now. You're dead."

I was initially shocked at how poor the performances of this participant and others were, but I began to think over the next few days that I was maybe being a bit harsh. As a CSI, I run through reserve drills several times on every visit to the DZ. Maybe my expectations of regular jumpers were unreasonably high?

A few weeks later, I was happy to take up a student who completed his third good Dummy Ripcord Pull on his ninth jump.

"Okay then, let's get you briefed for freefall."

The first freefall brief is, as I'm sure you all remember, fairly lengthy. At Langar, it's a point at which we begin to stress that students are taking more responsibility for kitting up and



*Check Canopy!
Selfie by Kev Coffey*

checking themselves as they begin to become 'real skydivers'.

I completed the paperwork and ran through the brief, including checking and protecting handles and pull. We ran through possible malfunctions and how to deal with them, including, of course, the 'no pull/hard pull' situation.

Next, we were into the mock-up to practise plenty of exits and emergencies. At some point, my nasty streak came out and the pull was slipped in my pocket.

"Okay, back in – let's do another. Running in now..."

I was about to say "Feet out" but my 'fun' was spoiled. As I told him we were running in to drop, he did exactly what he has been briefed to do and checked his handles, including his pull.

"Oh, I can't find my pull. Wait, wait! I can't jump!" I was busted by a student with nine jumps. Actually, I was really pleased. His drills had been really good and this was just the finishing touch.

I congratulated him on correctly checking himself before moving to the door and manifested him for his first freefall. He completed the jump with flying colours.

It wasn't until a little later that I began to think about the drills I had seen on Safety Day.

In many ways, my nine-jump student was safer in the air than my 3,000 jump D Licence-holder.

Maybe I wasn't unfair in thinking that many of the drills I had seen from those experienced guys were rubbish. Maybe they could and should do better?

SUN, SEA, SAND, SKYDIVE THE ULTIMATE HIGH



KENYA IS GETTING READY FOR THE BIGGEST BOOGIE THE CONTINENT HAS EVER SEEN!



From December 9 to 17, we are turning Kenya's prime holiday location, Diani Beach, into a skydiver's heaven!

We are kicking off the event with an Opening Party Extravaganza! After gigs in Miami, Ibiza, St Tropez and Dubai, the incredible HedKandi will be rocking the beach with us, supported by Resident DJ Gloria Ansell from Hong Kong and the amazing eight-piece funk band Beathogs. And then it's time to get ready to jump onto a stunning white sandy beach.



0254 701 300 400
JUMP@SKYDIVEDIANI.COM
WWW.SKYDIVEDIANI.COM

GET READY...

...for exotic Inhops into tropical islands, sandbars in the middle of the ocean and river mouths.

...to jump into parties, BBQs and beachfront restaurants.

...for the most amazing Christmas dinner and pool party you've ever been to, with incredible live music and DJs.

...for inflatable jumps, bikini jumps, coconut jumps and more.

...for free coaching and organising in all disciplines.

...it's boogie time at Skydive Diani!



By James
'Macca'
Macdonald

Facebook.com/
skydive macca

Sony RX0

If small-form cameras are your thing but you like them a little bit more in the 'pro' range, Sony's latest pocket-sized wonder is likely to be of interest.

More akin to a GoPro form factor than their usual range of action cams, the RX0 is an interesting concept. The casing is claimed to be waterproof, shockproof and crushproof and Sony say the camera is great for both photography and video.

Featuring a ZEISS Tessar 24mm f4 fixed wide-angle lens, it won't shoot as wide

as their action cam range. However, that's a small trade-off when you get a 1.0-type stacked 15.3MP Exmor sensor.

Capture your awesome skydives in 4K video or, if you prefer, a line of stills. The RX0 will shoot up to 16fps in either JPG or RAW, which is great for people who really like the flexibility that offers in post. For the video peeps, you can shoot at a staggering 1000fps with the camera offering all the pro file types and time codes. If you really want it, there's the option to output uncompressed 4K directly to an external recorder. As you'd expect,

Sony are also releasing a range of accessories to go with it including a cage, waterproof housings and filter adapters, all of which

should be available when the camera launches in October for around £750.

sony.co.uk



Boogie Man Skin

All the cool kids are now freeflying in super-tight jumpsuits, especially in the tunnel. If you want to join them, Boogie Man already offer the Marvel – a custom suit that you practically spray on.

For those who want a tight-fitting jumpsuit but want it in a hurry, the French jumpsuit maker is now offering a new stock range called Skin which means you can have one in as little as 48 hours.

Available in a range of 13 stock sizes, from children's right up to super-big people, Skin is a top-quality, no-frills jumpsuit available only in black. Customisation, which we all know is important to skydivers, comes through your choice of stitching and logo colour, where you can pick from red, grey or neon green. If you'd like a hood attached to the suit, they'll sort this for you for an additional €40.

Designed to be flown both in the tunnel and the sky, the suit is made from a durable, flexible fabric that will mould itself over your body and comes complete with wind-stopper zips.

If this sounds like your kind of thing, you can order it directly from Boogie Man right now for a mere €295 plus shipping.

boogiemanager.fr



Fluid Wings Nexus

Fluid Wings, based in Deland, are really starting to make a name for themselves in the canopy market. Known widely for their high performance range, they're now targeting the less swoopy people and have announced their new canopy – the Nexus.

Sitting slightly above their Prime, which is suitable for beginners, the Nexus is aimed at intermediate level jumpers who want a great all-round wing.

At lighter wing loadings, Fluid Wings say, the wing is suitable for beginners and intermediate jumpers. When loaded higher, it will offer a nice speed and dive for those looking to taste a bit of performance.

Featuring new technology to its class, the canopy has a slight taper to the leading edge, partially closed tips, inflatable tips/stabilisers and a host of other things that have been used in their high-performance range.

Nexus is a nine-cell ZP wing that comes standard with 750lb Vectran lines and offers a step-up in steepness and overall speed compared to their Prime. It's available in sizes ranging from 107 up to 210, with a retail price of \$2,225.

fluidwings.com

**NOVEMBER 4TH
HALLOWEEN & BONFIRE NIGHT**

OPEN HOUSE

2017

FANCY DRESS PARTY & FIREWORK DISPLAY
HOT FOOD & GOOD BEER
FREE LOAD ORGANISING & HEATED AIRCRAFT
WILL COOKE INVITATIONAL - 4 NOV
BCPA FRESHERS - 18 & 19 NOV

...ALSO NIGHT JUMPS - 2 DECEMBER



 /skydivelangar

Check out our Facebook page for more info
and a full list of events!

CLUBZONE

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

BPA Affiliated DZs (PTOs) in the UK

PAGE 61 **1 Black Knights**
Black Knights Parachute Centre
Hillam Lane, Cockerham, Lancashire LA2 0DY
DZ: 01524 791820
Mob: 07970 764850
bkpcinfo@googlemail.com
bkpc.co.uk
Blackhawk Caravan

PAGE 61 **2 Bridlington**
Skydive GB
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road, Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB
T: 01262 228033
Mob: 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
GA8 Airvan

PAGE 63 **3 Cark**
Skydive North West Club
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7LS
DZ: 01539 558672
T: 01229 889516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

PAGE 63 **4 Chatteris**
North London Skydiving Centre
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea, March, Cambridgeshire PE15 0FB
DZ: 01354 740810
T: 0871 664 0113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

PAGE 64 **5 Cornwall**
Cornish Parachute Club
Perranporth Airfield, Higher Trevelias, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0XS
Mob: 07790 439653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

PAGE 66 **6 Dunkeswell**
Skydive.buzz Ltd
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG
T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
office@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
Three Beech 99s and Caravan

PAGE 66 **7 Headcorn**
Skydive Headcorn
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX
T: 01622 891670
jump@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan, Islander

PAGE 66 **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, Cessna Caravan

9 Hinton
Hinton Skydiving Centre
Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley, Northamptonshire 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 69 **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 69 **12 Netheravon**
Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
T: 01980 628250
generalenquiries@netheravon.com
netheravon.com
Two BlackHawk Caravans, guest aircraft

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

PAGE 70 **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 73 **15 Reading**
London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS
T: 0845 130 7194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

16 Salisbury
Go Skydive Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield, Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
T: 01722 567536
info@goskydive.com
goskydive.com
Cessna Caravan

17 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

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

PAGE 74 **19 Swansea**
Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea SA2 7JU
T: 07779 019655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
skydiveswansea.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

PAGE 74 **20 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 74 **21 Tilstock**
Skydive Tilstock Freefall Club
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA
T: 01948 841111
skydive@skydivetilstock.co.uk
skydivetilstock.co.uk
Airvan

PAGE 60 **22 Beccles Skydivers**
UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
T: 01502 476131
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
ukparachuting.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

PAGE 73 **23 Sibson Skydivers**
UK Parachuting
Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
T: 01832 280490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

24 Weston
RAF Weston on the Green, Biester, Oxford OX25 3TQ
Currently military only

PAGE 77 **25 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
wildgeeseskydive.com
Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs (PTOs)

PAGE 64 **Cyprus**
Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus
T: +357 2474 4114
info@skydivencyprus.com.cy
skydivencyprus.org
PBN Piston Islander

Parachuting Societies

PAGE 60 **BCPA**
British Collegiate Parachute Association
Sam Doughty, BCPA Chair
mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
A community for university skydivers

PAGE 73 **POPS**
Parachutists Over Phorty Polly Chandler, Top POP
parachutistsoverphortyUK@gmail.com
pops.org.uk

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



GALLERY



1 Kev Coffey, by Duncan

2 The Headcorn big-way event, by Paul Rimmington.

3 The Freefly Head Up record attempt, by Andrew Ford

4 Wayne Bell enjoying some wingsuit selfies on his 500th jump

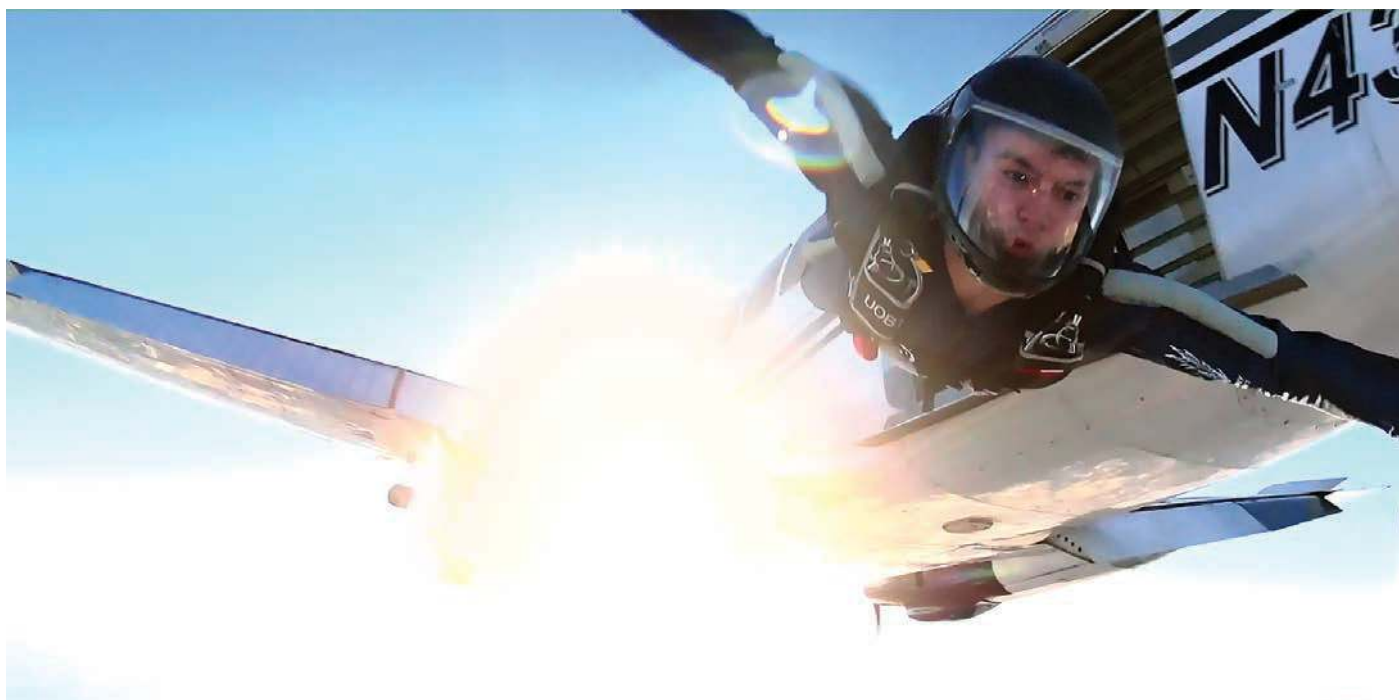
5 Drew Moon, Simon Griffiths with the tube, Alun Griffiths and Johnny Kelly over St Owen's Bay, by Nigel O'Brien

6 The world's first Chain of Flags, performed by the Red Devils at the Armed Forces Parachute Championships at Netheravon, by Lucy Smith-Willey

7 Cameraman Michael Phillips shows off his freefly skills during a tandem for his mum Tina, by Tanya Quigley







NEWS

BCPA

SCHOOL'S OUT!

The BCPA year ended with the Nationals back in July and official activity has been relatively quiet, but that hasn't stopped our members getting involved in the national competitions. Big congratulations go to all BCPA members who competed and to all participants as a whole.

We are now preparing for the beginning of the academic year and are ready for the fresh intake of university skydivers who will be joining the sport in the coming months. The committee are working hard and planning events to make sure this year will be just as good, if not better, than previous years. The first big event of the year will be BCPA Freshers in November. Keep your eyes peeled on social media for when the dates are released so you don't miss out!

Finally, if you are joining university this year and want to get involved with your university club or if your university doesn't have a skydiving club yet and you are thinking of starting your own, get in touch by emailing club@bcpa.org.uk and we will make sure that you find what you are looking for.

Until Freshers, blue skies and I hope Fresher's flu doesn't hit you too bad.

Jacob Verlander

BECCLES

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Once again, the time has flown around ready for the club news. There is no better way than to start off with Beccles' Nationals teams. We sent two Beccles teams, *Anemoi* and *Beccles Big-way*, off to Hibaldstow to represent us and what we're about here at Beccles.

Anemoi, consisting of Sara Rourke, Lewis Nixon, Jordan Bate and Rhian Hogg, competed in Rookie and did very well, particularly as this was their first Nationals competition, by taking sixth place. We are all very proud of you, guys and girls. The second team, *Beccles Big-way*, consisting of Mark King, James Brooke, Cammy Gunn and Dave Tee,

BCPA
By Robyn Dean,
BCPA Photo
Competition winner
for August 2017

who competed in A, did very well in representing us, even in their name, by also placing sixth. A huge thank you goes out to Freddie Mowforth, who filmed both teams.

Danny French, who coaches both teams, said: "It was a pleasure to coach and take two Beccles home-bred teams to the British Nationals. Both teams, with minimum training, delivered great results while enjoying the sport at the same time. It's always a pleasure to see people grow in this sport. They should be proud of themselves and fellow teammates."

As you may well know, the club scene at Beccles is absolutely smashing it. Andy Picking, one of our regular jumpers, has been crunching the jumps out to start working on his WS1 with our very own in-house wingsuit coach Javi Gómez. Get that beer fine ready!

Finally, massive congratulations are in order for Josh Jamieson on achieving his Basic FF Coach rating. Awesome stuff, dude!

Callum Kennedy

- ACHIEVEMENTS** CAT8/CH1 Victor Blaga, Lee Cogman, Steven Cole, Andrew Garner, Jasmine Jirrand, Lee Hampson, Chris Kastelik, Darren King, Cody Markham, Sam Midgely, Jon Parkman
CH2/JM1 Gwyn Martin, Karl Thackeray, Jemma Westing FS1 Lee Harding, Ella Holmes, Zifan Meng, Sara Rourke, Aaron Rudgely FS1 Nigel Highfield
TR1 James Brooke, Brenn Proctor, Ross Fisher, Zifan Meng JUMP NUMBERS
50 Gwyn Martin, Karl Thackeray, Jemma Westing 200 Andy Picking, Brenn Proctor, Rhian Hogg 700 James Brooke, Callum Kennedy

BECCLES
Anemoi members
Jordan Bate, Rhian
Hogg, Sara Rourke
and Lewis Nixon,
by Rob Lloyd



BECCLES
Beccles Big-way
members Mark
King, Dave Tee,
Cammy Gunn and
James Brooke, by
Rob Lloyd





BLACK KNIGHTS

A FINE SUMMER

Well, the weather has been really testing us lately. Despite this, we have managed some great days of skydiving. A few of our AFF guys who completed their courses recently are well on the way to completing their consols, so well done. A big thanks to Dave, Chris and Steve for their continued support of the students.

Our achievement board is full once again, so the beer fines are rolling in. Those on the board need to pay up!

A big thank you to Pud and Mick for their continued efforts and support over the past few months in helping the guys complete their FS training. As students come to the end of their AFF and RAPS courses, plenty of coaching will be needed. Keep up the good work!

Dave Simpson has started a 4-way FS team that will be put forward for the Nationals in 2018. If anyone else wishes to be involved, we can always enter two teams. Enthusiasm, commitment and a sense of humour are a must, and team rates will be offered by the centre.

As the season starts to draw to a close, we will be starting to sort out the Christmas party. This will be at the Garstang Golf and Country Club again, and will be on December 16. Please book your room as soon as possible – they are going fast – and please see Sharon for more details.

We must say a big thank you to Pud and Mick for arranging a tribute to our own Steve Collins, who is sadly no longer with us. Huge congratulations go to Sharon Collins for completing her skydive at the same time. It was great to see so many people honouring his memory, and it just goes to show how highly he was thought of within the BKPC family.

Big thanks go to all of the team that helped with the building of our new bunk rooms, which all have Freeview and all bedding is supplied. They are permanently booked on a weekly basis so, if you would like to reserve one, please call the office to enquire.

Please remember to speak to the Instructors if you have any learning needs so we can make a plan on progression before the end of the season.

BKPC would like to say a big thank you to all of our club members who continue to provide a great atmosphere, lots of fun and make it a joy to jump here at the centre, week in and week out, despite a hard year.

The team have completed a few demos this year and we have had a few enquiries for next year. If this is of interest to you, please speak to Paul for further information.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate Paul, who has managed to achieve his PPL. God help you all – his next goal is to fly the Caravan!

Felix

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Phil Maining FS1 Mark Abraham, Matt Brears, Paul Cooney, Craig Oliver-Walsh
 TR1 John Welch **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Craig Oliver-Walsh, Richard Walsh
 200 Mike Lehan, Dan Mills 600 Pud Waterhouse 700 Levi Hamill, John Welch 1,000 Steve Searle 1,200 Dave Bloomfield 1,400 Ruth Morrison
 1,800 Elliot Mitchell 11 HOURS IN FREEFALL Pud Waterhouse

BRIDLINGTON

BREAKING NEWS: SKYDIVER IS SOBER

As we approach the end of the summer – which was apparently about three weekends between May and October – it is good to see that we are still busy with tandems, fun jumpers and static line courses. The past few months have been difficult at times, predominantly due to our temperamental aircraft. G-VANA has blown more oil rings than I knew it possessed and is presently undergoing an engine rebuild – not ideal in the height of the busy season. However, Go Skydive came to our rescue. We have been flying their Airvan for the past few weeks and the operation can continue, for which we are very grateful.

Our very own Chris Milnes has qualified as a jump pilot and is doing an outstanding job of putting the aircraft in the right place at the right height. Congratulations Chris – you've waited a while for the opportunity and it paid off.

We welcome Dave Ruston to the Skydive GB team as marketing and sales manager. Dave has proved his worth over the past year, advertising the club and ensuring the booking numbers stay up, on a part-time basis. He will now be dedicating his time to us and we expect great things. No pressure, Dave!

Mel and Anita have decided it is time to leave Skydive GB and return to warmer climates. We have benefited from their running the café over the past few years and they have provided an excellent service that will be difficult to follow. We constantly receive good reviews of the café and they will be missed greatly.

We welcome back Steve 'The Boy' Rothwell to the skies. Steve has had a significant break and it is great to see his cheery face back in the aircraft. Steve has also proved he has a flair for photography, recently taking some hilarious shots of Ninja's exposed belly under canopy when his top rode up.

Kevin 'Mac' McCormack arrived at the centre, early in the morning and sober. This is more national news than club news, but we felt it deserved a mention. Well done Mac, we are very proud of you.

Blair Stent has developed the international tandem brief over the past few weeks. Blair is particularly talented at explaining himself to those with English as a second language, something also apparent in his tandem interviews. When recently asking a student where they were from, he received the response 'My parents'. Blair managed to keep a straight face but the cameraflyer filming the interview struggled.

The Silver Stars emplaned from Skydive GB for their Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival display. Despite all the aircraft issues, we managed to provide them with an aircraft to ensure their display happened.

Club members have now started to organise Skydive GB trips to

BLACK KNIGHTS
 Sharon Collins on a tandem with Levi Hamill filming

BRIDLINGTON
 The Silver Stars making a guest appearance at the Ebor Festival, by Blair Stent



Get G'd Up from A to Z!

A AADS

B Blogging since 1997

C Cookie Helmets

D Digital Altimeters

E Enola Gaye Smoke

F Freebags In-Stock

G GoPro

H Hundreds of In-Stock Helmets

I Icarus Canopies

J Jumpsuits

K Kroops

L Laura Bales bringing the ChutingStar Boogie Tour to you

M Mike G...keeping you G'd up for more than 20 years

N Night Jump Supplies

O Online Powerhouse

Q Quick Shipping

R Rigging School

S Socks!!!

T Tunnel Rats

U Used Gear

V Vector

W Wingsuit Accessories

X X-Shut

Y Your Reviews On ChutingStar.com

Z Flex Z Goggles



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the wind tunnel. This is great news and we aim to continue with this in the future as it provides training and a good night out.

Overall, it has been a busy summer with some great times, some frustrating 'weather watching' times and plenty of jumping.

Sara Orton

ACHIEVEMENTS TR1 Sam Rehill **JUMP NUMBERS 250**
Shaun Ruffell **400** Philip Wayer **2,000**
Martin Heywood-Wakeman



CARK

JUMPERS SET 26-WAY RECORD

Friday was practice day for the UKSL 4-way meet. With good weather, many of the registered teams managed two or three practice jumps but a big-way at the end of the day was short-lived as the forecast inclement weather appeared on the horizon and stopped play after 12 loads.

Saturday's conditions were dull, damp and breezy. With 14 teams eager to jump, the day was spent with BPA Coaches providing briefings, seminars and mini-competitions. We spent Saturday night drinking and a few shapes were thrown to the tunes of our disco diva Neil.

Sunday brought glorious sunshine, blue skies and a westerly breeze. Alpha Yankee fired up at 8.50am and, after one start and 28 lifts, switched off at 6.30pm with five rounds completed. Representing Skydive NW were *Cark Americanos* and *Team Ospreys* in AAA and *Norfolk/Chance* in Rookie. *Cark Americanos* won gold and *Team Ospreys* silver while *Norfolk/Chance*, in their first competition, came home with a bronze – an excellent result. It was great to see so many teams at a northern meet. Well done to all those competing and the medal-winners, and a huge thank you to the pilots, BPA Coaches and judges.

For Cark Week, Alpha Yankee was joined on Monday by Langar's Oscar Hotel Caravan, kindly loaned again by Dave and Angela, for multi-loads and another attempt at breaking the Cark record. On the first load, we scored a 24-way with 24 jumpers. Groups continued to rise to a record-breaking 26-way and 27-way, but the 27-way was built from a load of 30 and didn't meet the record criteria. Duncan broke his duck flying a formation load, costing him dearly in a beer fine.

Our students progressed rapidly. With two aircraft, low winds and a few scattered clouds, they were cracking four to five jumps a day. Joe Clift has done very well since his course and is on track to qualify as CAT8 soon – amazing what some consistent good weather can do for progression students. Thanks go to Ana, Speds and Taff for your

CARK
The Cark 26-way record-breakers, by Pete H

CHATTERIS
Andrew makes a balloon jump, by James Moran

great organising skills and patience when dirt diving and to everyone who took time off work to attend our week's jumping.

The Skydive North West social evening at iFLY began with a buffet while our newbies took to the tunnel, with Cark staff up next. Dennis led the way while Ollie, Miller and star performer Georgina gave some of the staff instructors a run for their money. Martine, Kay, Jo and Louella provided the girl power from the office and, despite Martine, Jo and Louella's reluctance to fly, they emerged all smiles. John and his staff worked tirelessly to make the night a success. Cheers guys – it was an awesome evening.

A new office suite is being designed ready for a spring installation, allowing our existing office to become another suite of lecture rooms for our AFF and Tandems and enabling us to run more weekend coaching seminars. Rather than keep on carrying out further temporary repairs, the runway will be completely resurfaced in October.

Don't forget our Christmas dinner on December 2. Put your names down on the list for another fantastic bash.

Our two CF teams, *Cark CRW* and *Cark Corner*, cleaned up in Rookie at the Nationals, taking gold and silver.

Congratulations go to all our achievers. We have so many due to the great weather.

Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Lee Dirom **CAT8/CH1**
Joe Brennan, Philipp Nguyen, Jemima Powell
CH2/JM1 Gar Evans **FS1** Gregor Rawson **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Gar Evans
100 Brooke Rawson **200** Becky Higham, Laura Sidhom **500** Derek Cornelious
Michelle Eppleston, Louise Whitby **600** Christine Dawes **1,000** Nigel Hodgson,
Fiona Lee **2,800** Duncan Haynes **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Gregor Rawson,
Brooke Rawson

CHATTERIS

BALLOON BONANZA

Chatteris has become obsessed with balloons over the last couple of months as the club recently bought a second hot air balloon. As many of the fun jumpers have been completing their first balloon jump at our dropzone, we've coined a new achievement of BJJ (Balloon Jump 1, obviously). On one of our recent sunset loads, we also celebrated with a balloon party on the plane. The balloon jumping



raffle is still under way to decide who gets to jump that day so, if you have B Licence, you stand a chance of having a go.

The September 23-24 Big-way Weekend with Chris Shaw was popular, with participants enjoying the challenge of larger formations and gaining more formation skydiving experience. Thanks go to Chris and Graham for a great weekend. A group of regulars headed to Algarve in October for some fun jumping, views and good times – watch this space for more on this.

Club members and regular jumpers had a general meeting on August 5 to discuss the further developments of the dropzone, and please see the Skydive Chatteris website for the minutes. The bunkhouse has recently been upgraded, so users are enjoying their stay even more. Special thanks go to Graham Ablett for all his hard work. Tanya Burton is currently planning the Chatteris Christmas Party, so please let her know if you have any ideas. Any help would be appreciated.

We've been getting a tonne of beer fines in during the good weather. During the last few weekend evenings, fun jumpers have been sticking around for the club barbecue and to undertake the 'difficult' task of demolishing all the beer fines by the end of the weekend.

Remember, ticket prices for February to December are at £20 for 0-50 jumps, £15 for 51-75 jumps and £12 for 76 jumps onwards. We have at least five regular skydivers already enjoying the benefits of cheap tickets!

Sophie Barnwell

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** James Bonnick, Dave Edmondson, Pawel Kuczynski **FS1** Rob Baskerville, Lee O'Flynn, Vlad Verdes **FF1** Greg Fletcher **FF2** James Moran **TR1** Greg Fletcher, Max Fuller **TR2** Lewis Nixon, Jan Zackl **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Lee O'Flynn **200** Bobby Islam, Jan Zackl **500** Michael Burns, Dave Wickes

CORNWALL

JUMP NUMBERS KEEP CLIMBING

Not sure what happened to the summer this year, or whether we had it for two weeks back in May, but fortunately the weekends have been reasonably kind to the dropzone. Jump numbers keep on climbing, and we are beating records from previous years.

Charity tandem weekends for the Cornwall Air Ambulance saw impressive amounts of money being raised for a great cause. It was on one of these tandems where Monty clocked up a very impressive 120 hours in freefall – probably 60 of those have been strapped to someone else! Dr Rob has made it to 200 jumps and has spent as much in beer fines over the past year as he has on jumping.

Also reaching the 200 jump milestone (but needing a hand to get over it) is our very own 'Grumpy Stumpy'. He has come a long way from starting his AFF with us, but has kept his chin up (not high) and can be proud of his achievement. He is supported each weekend by his family and his girls have even resorted to magic stickers to help his landings.

The camera team are working extremely hard and heading in 'one direction', thanks to 'Niall' (Guy), Olly and Ray – keep collecting all that footage for the end of season edit! I'm sure there are a few beer fines outstanding from the three of you.

The open week was unfortunately hit by the poor weather we have come to expect from midweek jumping in Cornwall, but thanks go to all the staff for your commitment so we could get the job done.

A benefit of working as a Tandem Instructor (for the kids anyway) is being able to ask dad if you and a friend can do a skydive for a 16th birthday present. Keely thoroughly enjoyed her tandem and was fearless throughout. The only nerves were from me and I'm sure there will be more to come.

Too many hours have been spent by Dave in the hangar packing, on the landing area pushing his mower up and down and making sure the programme runs as smoothly as it can as Chrissy keeps booking in the tandems and cracking the whip. Chris the chief pilot takes such pride in his plane and works hard, keeping up its appearance when we are grounded by weather. His new trusty sidekick in the form of Bear, the DZ dog, is a very welcome addition to the club. Kate and the kids tag along when possible or whenever the little ones need feeding up.

CORNWALL
Ray, by Guy Wells



Great news has come from the other side of the world. Chris Todd, one of our AFF graduates from recent times, left the UK in search of living the dream. He now works at one of the busier DZs in Oz and has hit the 500 jump mark, so well done Chris!

I won't say too much about these next two because we may not see them again for another year, but Andy Hart and Ben ('Hedge Monkey') have been back with us.

Hope everyone has had a good summer, stay safe out there.

UBI

CYPRUS

JUMP AND PARTY

The club marked the closure of the DZ for the summer break with a summer close-down party at Kakkis Ranch with a Cowboys and Indians theme. An amazing barbecue and amazing people made for a great and memorable night.

During the summer break, we had several club jumpers plying their trade around the world at other DZs. They included the Cyprus National 4-Way Team competing in the World Cup at Saarlouis in Germany. The team, featuring new member Christos Nicolaou (who has less than 300 jumps), competed extremely well and set a new national record average of 8.2 in the process.

The DZ reopened on August 26 and the club is now back in full swing, with all eyes skyward again. Club jumpers are keen to get back into the air to try new skills learned at various boogies and tunnel camps.

Congratulations go to Leigh 'Hobbo' Hobson and Joey on getting married and to Leigh on passing his Tandem Instructor course. We all know the amount of work and preparation you did in the build-up to the course. Congratulations also go to Sam Williams and Lauren Rose for passing their AFF courses.

The club has lots planned from now through to Christmas with the Boogie and Flight-1 courses, 4-way competition and lots of parties and barbecues to go with them.

Chris Haughin

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Matthew Anderson, Adam Challand, Nabin Gurung **CAT8/CH1** Lauren Rose, Sam Williams **WS1** Mehdi Chennour **FS1** George Zorpas **TR1** Kate Giorgiou **JUMP NUMBERS 600** Chris Haughin **1,000** Leigh Hobson

“His new trusty sidekick in the form of Bear, the DZ dog, is a very welcome addition to the club”

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DUNKESWELL

SUN SHINES FOR THE CP NATIONALS

After an interesting definition of 'summer' in the past couple of months, the sun has finally decided to return to Dunks. This was just in time for the CP Nationals, which meant all nine rounds were completed in one day. It was great to see the excitement created by this discipline; one of the only skydiving competitions which is really a spectator sport. We are proud of our staff who competed – Dan Guest, who brought home the overall gold, Jack Bradford, who took bronze in Distance and Ben Simpson, whose first competition shows great promise for the future. Wez Westley finished very strongly in second place overall, nail-bitingly close to Dan, while Chad Smith did fantastically well in his first competition, coming fourth overall.

We also hosted the International Speed Skydiving Series. Competitors came from all over the world to show their skills, but the top three spots went to our awesome UK competitors. The VFS Roadshow also came to town, giving a great opportunity for freeflyers to learn about this discipline and get some grade A coaching. Perhaps there'll be some new teams for the VFS Nationals?

We've also had fantastic personal achievements from some of our members. Luke Knight gained his C Licence, FF1 and WS1 in the space of just three days while Krista, who works in our office, finally gained her A Licence after spending so long working on every good weather day. An amazing number of people also achieved their TR1 with Joel Strickland's tracking groups. Not only that, our CSI Roger Hoe did a static line jump to mark 40 years since his first ever static line jump, dispatched by Dave Hickling. Roger has been jumping continuously ever since and I for one hope I can still jump out of planes when I'm 71.

We saw off the summer on the bank holiday weekend with two Beeches flat out, taking one load up every 10 minutes for two days. This was topped off by Andy Guest's party of old and new skydivers, combining people from the long history of our dropzone with current fun jumpers. It was great to see lots of new people coming here for this event, and hopefully we can carry on those days into the autumn.

We've got plenty of events and load organising coming up so, if you fancy a visit, you can be sure there'll be lots going on.

Miko

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Joel Wilkins **CAT 8/CH1** Chris Austins, Sophie Bailey, Matt Bolger, Karol Karpinski, Krista Radzina, Liz Williams **CH2/JM1** Emma Blackmore, Priya Handa, Ben Hugget, Jacob Verlander **FS1** Ash Russell, Lewis Wood **FF1** Phil Husbands, Rob Kisiel, Luke Knight, Lauren Miles **WS1** Luke Knight, Konrad Wysocki **TR1** Benjamin Akande, Vicki Dickcleland, Max Fuller, Max Hogg, Phil Husbands, Shellby Kate-Collins, Rob Kisiel, Michal Kopczyński, Lloyd Taylor, Chinedu Ume-Ezeoke **TR2** Shelby Kate-Collins **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Emma Blackmore, Priya Handa, Ben Hugget, Jacob Verlander **100** Jon Hancox, Mona Nasser **200** Vincent Bath, Rosie Davies, Richard Harrison, Luke Knight, Justin McDoogall, Ralph Mignano, Alex Potter, Stuart Wright **300** Steve Mains **400** Cara Pritchard, Elle Westaway-Heaven, Neil Hooper **500** Rob Southwell **600** Phil Cane **1,000** Joseph Graves **1,500** Tim Gaines

HEADCORN

MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

The sun is shining and the weather is sweet, as the weather gods have been playing ball for us in the Garden of England this month. It's been all go, with huge amounts of progression ranging from lots of AFF students to our very own Isaac Brown representing Great Britain in the European Skydiving Championship in Montenegro. Isaac has come a long way from his very first entry into the Swansea Accuracy competition this time last year as a novice. He is destined for great things, so good luck Isaac – we have our fingers and toes crossed for you.

Chad Smith and Chris Lynch have been to the Canopy Piloting



HEADCORN
Happy landings, by Paul Rimmington

Nationals at Dunkeswell and both returned with 'bling'. Well done Chris on gold in Zone Accuracy and third place overall and to Chad Smith, who took bronze in Speed in his first competition and was fourth overall.

Brian Cumming organised another very successful big-way event on August 12-13 and the centre was buzzing with 32 loads over two days. Saturday was the warm-up day with two groups running, both completing five jumps. On Sunday, there were three completed 12-ways and a three-point 8-way on the final jump. These jumps are not big in comparison to other centres, but we can only operate one aircraft so we are never going to build bigger than a 14. Some of the participants in this year's event were not hugely experienced either and the learning curve for a few was quite steep. A special mention should go to Connor Higgins, who only gained his FS1 a few weeks before and was seen docking eighth on the first 12-way, which was held for six seconds. Jason Burgoyne also completed his 300th jump on this load. Well done to everyone who made this a success.

Our annual water jump went ahead on September 5 and was a great success again – photos to follow for the next issue. Thank you to everyone who made this possible, especially Howard McKenzie of Bewl Water, with whom we have been working with for the 35 years we have been doing these jumps. Thanks also go to volunteer boat crews and drivers Polly, Zeina, Caroline, Scarlett and Clem, and to Pete and Jane for running the ground. Further thanks to Simon Soper, who made a successful debut as jumpmaster despite the challenging weather conditions, and to Richard Pickin for your superb flying!

Fingers crossed the summer is still going to be with us a few more weeks yet. Either way, we are still open midweek, so please pop down to Headcorn and meet some new friends. We have accommodation as well as camping, showers and the Wings bar on site, where all the best jumps are ripped to pieces over a beer and normally a few shots!

Kimbo

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Simeon Filipov, Jack Upstone **GRADUATED AFF** Tony Barnes, Robert Leutchford, Tom Nolan **CH2/JM1** Alistair Clinch, Cai Dale, Jade Evans, Chinedu Ume-Ezeoke, David Williamson **FS1** Jonasz Warzecha **FF1** Tilly Attewill, Liam Mather **TR1** Tilly Attewill, Liam Mather **WS2** Charlie Puttick **CP2** Chad Smith **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Alistair Clinch, Cai Dale, Jade Evans, Chinedu Ume-Ezeoke, David Williamson **500** Mike Morton **600** Trevor Cowell, Nick Mentz, Simon Soper **900** Craig Crosbie **FOUR HOURS IN FREEFALL** Mike Morton **24 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Si Beech

HIBALDSTOW

SMASHING THE NATIONALS

Nationals? Smashed it! Over the course of two weekends, Skydive Hibaldstow saw the best of the best come from all over Britain to go head-to-head in this year's BPA National Skydiving Championships.

“A special mention should go to Connor Higgins, who only gained his FS1 a few weeks before and was seen docking eighth on the first 12-way”

The first weekend saw the nail-bitingly close 4-way completed by 6pm on Sunday with a party that was incredible to behold. *RAFSPA Shadow* took gold in Rookie, *Fireflies* took silver and *Flying Fossils* took bronze. In A, our very own *Bacchus* took bronze, *RAFSPA Venom* silver and *Jurassic Park* gold. AA saw *Vantage* win bronze, *Pajama Pumas* silver and *Salty Jacks* gold. In AAA, *Chimera* were bronze medallists, with *4mula* taking silver and *Satori XL* gold. Well done everybody.

The second weekend of the Nationals concluded on a very sunny Sunday afternoon with some incredible skydiving and funnels to watch on the big screen. The 8-way Rookie saw *AV8* win gold. They may have been competing against themselves, but we still saw some impressive flying from these guys! In the 8-way Senior, *Sky Wars* won bronze, *Project: Ride the Dragon* silver and *Microclim8* gold. In Speed, Mikey Lovemore took bronze, Matthew Byrne silver and Charles Hurd gold. In Freefly A, *Mass Attack* were bronze medallists, *Parallel* silver and *Varial* gold. Matty Mitchell's epic barrel roll fail is available in slow-mo if anyone wants a copy!

In Freefly B, *The Evils* took bronze, *Mischief and Mayhem* silver and *RAFSPA Vulcan* gold. Freestyle A finished with *Nova* winning bronze, *FSU* silver and *Volosity Freestyle* gold. Freestyle B was extraordinarily tough this year, with *Old Kix New Trix* up against their toughest rivals – themselves. Somehow they still managed to pull through and came out of other end holding a gold medal and a beer. Well done to Marcus and Godders.

With the excitement of Nationals over, we needed something to look at and found a Head Up British (and World) Record attempt, led by Adam Mattacola, Ally Milne and Matty Mitchell. They came damn close to breaking the record, managing to put together some incredible flying and take some amazing pictures. Next time, guys!

One legend we have in our midst is Ally Tebbutt (who's Ally Milne?). This champion has just reached 600 and 700 jumps and celebrated with a tandem camera jump. Sophie Harper (myself) reached 300 jumps. Jordan Sowsbery and Chris Gonnerman reached 200 jumps and Martin Kowalski did his 50th jump – #teamdig. We have had lots of A Licences too, so congratulations to Heather Whitwham, Simon Beck, Greg Jelinowski, Ben Allmendinger, Lee Shepherd and Peter Berenyi.

Here at Hibaldstow, we have lots of great events coming up such as Sausage Fest (as much sausage as it sounds), Freeflying with James Round and lots of tunnel camps with the infamous Stubert (world-renowned author). Come down and see what all the fuss is about!

Are you looking for something to read on those bad weather days this autumn? Then *Shunt* by Stubert Ferglstein is the book for you. Reviewed as a "A darn good read!", "Left us wanting more!" and "I'm not reading that tripe" (Stubert's gran) and available to purchase now on Amazon – happy reading!

Sophie Harper

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Ben Allmendinger, Simon Beck, Peter Berenyi, Greg Jelinowski, Lee Shepherd, Heather Whitwham **CH2/JM1** Wrener Kodar, Martin Kowalski, Ezra Morris, Cheryl Watson **WS2** Jason Fox **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Wrener Kodar, Martin Kowalski, Ezra Morris, Cheryl Watson **200** Sarah Blanchard, Chris Gonnerman, Jordan Sowsbery **300** Sophie Harper **600** Ally Tebbutt **1,000** Lewis Young, Caroline Kirkland **4,000** Ruth Green

JERSEY

BOOGIE ON FOR A RECORD

Action has been peaking over the last couple of months. The big event was the boogie for four days in August, when the French Cessna Caravan came over to boost our speed and altitude, and the weather gods served up some sweet sunshine. To make the most of the opportunity, we were keen to attempt a new record Speed star. The number to beat was a 9-way over Jersey from many years ago. The first full day's jumping started extremely positively with an 8-way nailed on load one, producing a few surprised and happy faces. Everyone was having fun with tubes, freeflying, wingsuiting and the usual shenanigans, so it wasn't until the last day that we got a load together to try again. This time, we managed to reach the full 15,000ft and bail 11 jumpers out, and I'm stoked to announce we nailed a new record 10-way, with a cameraman to record the awesomeness. This may not be a massive achievement outside the island, but is one for our record books.

A few demo jumps were put on during the boogie week, landing on beaches around the island and finishing off an excellent day's jumping with a few beers while watching the sun setting as the tide rolled in. More demo jumps are in discussion for high-profile events, so we're all hopeful this can come to fruition.

JERSEY
Jersey's record-breaking 10-way,
by Nigel O'Brien



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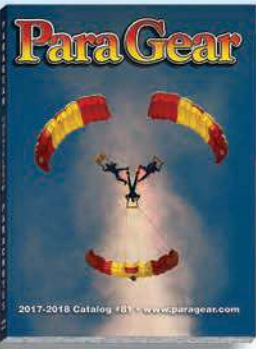


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Skydive Jersey was due to jump into the opening of the Battle of Flowers event but, despite blue skies, the wind stopped play. However, Mally was able to present the flag to the Lieutenant Governor, marking the opening of the parade, so the club's profile had a boost and we have a foot in the door for next year.

One of the most exclusive dropzones in the world opened again in August for three days – jumping on to our sister rock, Guernsey. Mother Nature was very kind and allowed play for the whole time, so the Sarnians loved their time in the blue skies above the L'Eree nature reserve, where special landing permission is granted for Skydive Guernsey.

Five of the locals have decided to put together a 4-way FS team to compete in the AA Nationals next year. They're agreeing on a name as I type and I hope to provide updates on their progress leading up to the event next year. Good luck with the training to Claire, Mike, Liam, Hedi and Simon – bring back some gold to the rock in 2018!

The firsts and achievements are plentiful this month, so check out the details below and keep up the cold frothy beer-flavoured progression!

There are far too many people to thank for all their help and contributions to the club, but you know who you are. Every act of support for the club is greatly appreciated. A special shout-out goes to George and Geraldine, who are legends of the sport, for running the beach ops over the boogie week.

Let's boogie again next year, Mally, like we did this summer.

Nigel O'Brien

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Simon Humphries CH2/JM1 Simon Humphries JM1 Ian Mawson FS1 Simon Humphries, Ian Mawson FF2 Simon Griffiths TR1 Simon Griffiths TR2 Simon Griffiths JUMP NUMBERS 50 Simon Humphries 400 Michael Stocks 800 Simon Griffiths TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL Shayne Lightfoot

LANGAR

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Summer is coming to an end but the events at Langar keep on rolling! Over the past couple of months, we've had the wingsuit

“A few statistics: 196 competitors from three services took part, completing more than 2,000 jumps from 130 loads”

Stack Attack, tracking weekend, Sky Candies, FF organising from Paul Cooper and FS organising from Will Cooke. We've also hosted BPA Coaching Roadshows for CF, VFS and Freely/Freestyle. There's never a dull moment! Plenty of the CF teams have also been using Langar to get those all-important training jumps in leading up to CF Nationals.

On the ground, Linley and Tom have been running emergency scenario training sessions, keeping experienced jumpers on their toes to make sure they can deal with various situations they might not have spent much time thinking about. Keep an eye out for more of these evenings.

By the time this goes to press, Boogie 2 will have come to an end and Langar's 40th year of parachuting will be drawing to a close. It's been a great season, so thanks to all of our regular jumpers and those who have visited for the huge array of events we've had on. You make this place what it is, so we hope to see you all again soon!

Chris Judd

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Catherine Brown, Madison Cotteret, Olivia Crowe, Andy Ellinsworth, Nick Hutton, Rebekah Kay, Andreas Singarajah CH2/JM1 Catherine Brown, Chris Lane FS1 Alex Baker, Catherine Brown, Rebekah Kay, Alp Sayin, Marvin Stanley-Jones FF1 Mark Ellis, Ryan Garner FF2 Dawn Conrady WS1 Jason Mountford WS2 Ryan Garner, Ben Mitchell CP1 Will Cooke TR1 Jake John, James Sherwood-Jones JUMP NUMBERS 50 Catherine Brown, Chris Lane 100 Jamie Ball, Jake John 200 Phil Bodycote, Meg Carey 400 James Sherwood-Jones 500 Eve Mason 600 Matt Cumming, Pete Harries, Simon Perry 900 Paul Monaghan 1,000 Jon Charles, Jason Hobs, Dylan Morris Roberts 12 HOURS IN FREEFALL Ryan Garner

NETHERAVON

THE NEXT GENERATION

Rookies ruled at this year's Armed Forces Parachute Championships (AFPC), with 15 Rookie teams entered into the 4-way FS. Well done to all new parachutists and a massive thank you to the experienced jumpers who have been inspiring, coaching and encouraging our next generation of skydivers. This year, we saw a 40% rise in the number of competitors, making it one of the best-attended AFPCs ever!

A few statistics: 196 competitors from three services took part, completing more than 2,000 jumps from 130 loads. There were also 130 Accuracy competitors. FS attracted the most teams at 28, followed by Freely on 22, seven for CF and five for WS.

NETHERAVON
Zion and the
Freely Boogie
Extravaganza



Visitors included the US Army's *Golden Knights*, Sri Lankan Army and Norfolk Army Cadets. We hope you enjoyed yourselves and look forward to seeing you all again soon. The post-competition Beach Party was an epic event – you can find all the photos on our Facebook page, Skydive Netheravon.

FROM NORWAY TO NETHERS

Zion Freely, the Norwegian Freely champions, were the main attraction at this year's Freely Boogie Extravaganza! During one of the best weather bank holidays the UK has ever seen, our planes dropped constantly until they were almost down to the last drops of fuel on Monday evening. This event was the result of more than a year of hard work and planning by Harry Shanker and *Zion Freely*, who were determined to create an event which involved FF jumpers of absolutely every experience and skill level. I think we can call this total success! There are links to lots of photos and a video edit of this cracking weekend on the Skydive Netheravon Facebook page.

MEDALS FOR MEMBERS

Well done to all APA members who entered the BPA National Championships this summer, with special congratulations going to *Jurassic Pork*, who won gold in the FS 4-way single A category, *FSU*, who picked up silver in Freestyle A, Freely A bronze medallists *Mass Attack*, *Last Minute*, who took bronze in intermediate VFS, and *AV8*, gold medallists in the 8-way Rookie. A special mention must go to Wez Westley who, after having to take a year out of competition and with only 10 training jumps this season, swooped his way to an overall silver in the CP Championships by coming first in Distance, second in Speed and third in Accuracy. Glad you're back competition fit!

CONGRATULATIONS

...to the *REME Parachute Display Team*, who have officially been taken on as a Core Defence Parachute Display team – a fantastic achievement. And well done to Colin Jenkins (AGC), who was awarded APA Instructor of the Year. Colin also jumps as a guest member of the REME team.

CARRY ON COACHING

As you can see from the list below, our Coaches have been having quite an intensive summer, training and testing the growing number of skilled skydivers at Netheravon. A huge thank you goes to you all. If you think you are ready to become a Coach, talk to one of our senior staff or discipline leaders, find out how and join the team!

Elana Cain

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Michael Briggs, Richard Clarke, Adolfo Ferreira, Callum Fowler-Wright, Archie McKellar, Anne Phillips **CAT8** William Bassett **CH2/JM1** Ross Briggs, Scotty Colley, Scott Cozens, James Jannetta, Nathan Lewington, Archie Selka, Matthew MacKay, Graham Webber, James White **FS1** Dave Agar, Charlie Berry, Billy Bowditch, Richard Clarke, Scotty Colley, Tracy Coker, Rebecca Cooper, Sean Garrett, Edwards Gould, Patrick Hepburn, David Jenkins, Annette Jane Lawson, Nathan Lewington, Archie McKellar, Elise Sharpe, Nick Taylor, Tarrick, Victoria Tomlin, Julian Wakefield, Sib Zaidi **FF1** Dan Anders-Brown, Chris Foster, Bethan MW, Wendy Searle **WS1** Rob Judge **WS2** Rob Judge **TR1** Lauren Barr, Charles Benn **TR2** Iain Grant, Bethan MW, Sue Nuttall **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Ross Briggs, Scotty Colley, Scott Cozens, James Jannetta, Nathan Lewington, Archie Selka, Matthew MacKay, Graham Webber, James White **100** Lauren Barr, Rebecca Cooper, Iain Grant, Michael Veevers **200** Craig Anderson, Michael Bayada, Thomas Bennett, James Fidler, Kelly-Ann O'Donnell **300** Dan Anders-Brown, Martin Leadley, Pete Sands, Andy Swaffian **500** Emma Reynolds **600** Ashley Burns, Stuart Sneddon **700** Si Goodman **900** James Garnett, Colin Jenkins, Jamie Kinniburgh, Sue Nuttall **6,000** Wez Westley **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Iain Grant, David Jenkins, Gemma Summers, Michael Veevers **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** Colin Jenkins

PETERLEE

WELCOME BACK, OLD FRIEND

We are finally a multi-aircraft DZ once again following the welcome return of our old stalwart Cessna 182 G-PLÉE. Extensive work has been carried out on the old girl by her new service organisation in Perth. She is well and truly back in service for all categories of skydiving, from static line students to AFF and Tandems. More than



PETERLEE
Cameraflyer Richie 'Bean' Smith demonstrating his usual approach on landing, by Lisa Stephenson

a few experienced jumpers have taken advantage of having her there too on the quiet days in between C208 Caravan loads.

There's been lots more going on over the last couple of months and even our Chief Instructor Ian Rosenvinge was lured out of his office and into the air when his old friend Jamie Cuthbertson came along for a tandem he'd been wanting to do for the past 20 years. Jamie lost his sight while serving in the Army when some explosives he was working with went off unexpectedly. He brought a dictaphone and recorded his whole experience for the RNIB's Connect radio station. It was my privilege to take Jamie on his tandem jump and he certainly seemed to enjoy himself. His enthusiasm was electric and rubbed off on the few of us who were still around for his jump.

There have been several new faces at Peterlee thanks to the AFF School, including the Chappell family. Dad Mark and his sons Greg and Leigh all completed Level 1 and will hopefully be back for more. A fair number of other AFF students are currently progressing through their levels and consolidation jumps. There have also been a number of newly qualified A Licence skydivers thanks to the school, and they are continuing their progression at Peterlee as our team of FS Coaches help them build their skills and gain FS1.

John Welsh, a newly qualified member of the FS coaching team, has recently been celebrating winning gold in the A category of the FS 4-way National Championships, along with his *Jurassic Pork* teammate and former Peterlee jumper Emma Reynolds. Well done guys – keep flying the Peterlee flag.

Peterlee Parachute Club's Christmas Party will be held on November 25 at Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County in Durham. Tickets are £30 per head until November 1, then increase to £35, and are available at Shotton Aero Sports Club. For all the details of the event including exclusive room rates, please see posts in the Peterlee Skydivers Facebook group.

Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Alex Blake, Mark Fox, Mark Robson, Connor O'Brien **FS1** Larry Ward **FF1** Kiera Chapman, Chris Lawson **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Sally Anderson, Larry Ward **100** Kiera Chapman **200** Caiti Stewart, Will Wilkinson **500** Wayne Bell, Stephen Ashley Smith

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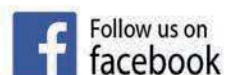
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POPS
New POPS member Lee Shepherd (right) with Jonno Horne, by Rob Lloyd

Sadly, an item of skydive gear 'went missing' from LPS. Chris Stone lost his L&B Altitrack, which magically disappeared from the packing mat area. It's a standard black wrist altimeter with an analog face and digital back. It's showing about 650 jumps. If anyone sees such an alti on the market, please give Chris a shout.

Annie Lewis

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Mickael Bryssens, Deborah Hughes, Gavin Mair, Geoffrey Planas, Louis Premont
CH2/JM1 Josh Allen **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Josh Allen 200 Stefan Inge

POPS

WATCH THIS SPACE

Congratulations go to Lee Shepherd, our newest POPS member, who has achieved his A Licence.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on the website. This has been given a new look and was relaunched during September.

Polly Chandler

READING

ON TRACK FOR BIG-WAY TARGET

Marie-Ann Stevens has been a superstar, along with Ian Charnock and Paul Floyd, and they have whizzed through yet another long list of newly qualified AFF students!

The LPS big-way team have been doing well, attempting a 13-way each time and almost getting there with nine docked on the last count! There's still more time to try and get this by the end of the season, which sadly closes at the end of October. We resume in March, though Marie-Ann will no doubt still run some packing courses, B Licence briefs and tunnel training in the downtime.

A huge thank you goes to the clubbies for helping out around the dropzone at set-up and set-down and all the other bits in between. It really is very much appreciated. Thank you also for your patience while we got to grips with our new manifest system. Now you are all aces at registering, it makes Kat's life easier. Thanks to Glynn Somers for mucking in on the bank holiday weekend – it was nice to see you!

Plans are underway for the end of season activity/party and Tim has a few ideas for a fun time. It's strange saying 'end' – it never really felt like it started due to the poor weather we have been experiencing...

Tamsyn and Kim got a little less 'weather witchy' and allowed us to have a three-day jumping weekend for a change over the bank holiday. No doubt they are conjuring up a nice potion to ruin the end of the season instead (love you girls!). On Saturday night, we had a beer and chilli night with a traditional bar in place. The next day, we had a pub quiz and pizzas round the firepit. It was great to see you all at a social, which has been very much missed due to one-day weekends only.

Roger Davis, Josh Allen and Kim Tyler set a new bar in skydive fashion with their hilarious onesie jump in honour of Josh becoming a B Licence holder. Well done, Joshy! Mark Clayton has continued to be awesome – so awesome, in fact, that Mike Charnock has gone and bought himself a green helmet like Mark's so that he can start trying to be awesome too. Still a way to go though, hey Mike?



READING
Gavin Mair, Marie-Anne Stevens, and Deborah Hughes, by Gavin Mair

SIBSON

MEDALS ROLL IN

In breaking news, Paul Dorward rode a horse into the Blue Skies bar (really), Del Hopkins didn't have a chop and Wes Lawes finally did a fun jump! We were all genuinely shocked and somewhat worried by Wes's activity, particularly as Mr Superdry was in danger of cracking a smile. Normal service resumed shortly afterwards, however, when he donned his camera helmet to carry on filming tandems.

Elsewhere on the dropzone, the chink of metal has been very much present since the last club news, with a veritable haul of medals from the various national competitions. At the FS 4-way Nationals, AA Team *Vantage* (they have allegedly jumped at Sibson this season at some point) secured bronze in a hard-fought competition. They did an astounding job of pulling back from a disastrous first two rounds which left them in last place, making the podium finish all the sweeter. Downing a somewhat less sweet and rather more bitter pill, single A team *Poor 4Cast* – after a great run this season – managed to throw away the overall UKSL gold medal for the year but consoled themselves with silver and the fact that, at the end of the day, it's always Peter Leach's fault.

Elsewhere, the medals continued to roll in. In the second weekend of the UK Nationals, Senior 8-way team *Project: Ride The Dragon* featuring Sam and Fiona Lee and Liz Moor took silver while the Bradley twins with Steve Howes (*Mischief and Mayhem*) took silver in Freefly B. Claire Hill and Yvonne Gassner with Maxwell Hill (*The Evils*) completed the Sibson representation by taking bronze in Freefly B. Great achievements, everyone!

But it doesn't end there, because Sibson also fielded a team at the Accuracy Nationals. Along with the Seniors, the team included some new skydivers, some of whom have only recently achieved their A Licences. The medal haul included silver for Paul Hendry (Novice), bronze for Geordie Steve, Steve Hastings and Paul Hendry (Club Cup), bronze for Jimmy Frith (Senior team) and gold for Steve Hastings (Senior team). Finally, well done to Paul Oxby for winning silver in the Club Cup (for Headcorn – but we don't talk about that).

It's been great to see plenty of students graduate through AFF and achieve their A Licences recently, so well done to Becca, Phil, Niall, Deborah, Jenny and Karolina. By the time this goes to print, some of them will have already achieved their FS1s. For those that haven't, we have some new FS Coaches on the dropzone so make sure you check the UK Parachuting FS Coaches Facebook page for their availability. Slightly ahead in terms of time in the sport, many congratulations to Fiona for joining the D Licence crowd! Geordie Steve also deserves a mention this month after racking up 500 jumps in only a year in the sport. Well done!

As we near the end of the season, we have some great events on the dropzone. The Speed 8 Nationals happened despite the best efforts of the British weather – think much hilarity, a little carnage and toilet selfies from the obligatory after-jumping party. Coming up soon after that, we will have the second club Scrambles event. It's been an awesome season so far – let's pray for an Indian summer so the jumping can continue!

Matt Brown

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Deborah Fehete, Phil Gostick, Jenny Morrison, Karolina Musteikyte, Niall Power, Becca Start **CH2/JM1** Morgan Holland **FS1** Gloria Bayne, Luke Morrison **FF1** Dean Thomas Smith **FF2** Andreas Michli **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Jay Arnob, Morgan Holland, Charlotte Stapleton **100** Matthew Allsop, Lynne Upfield **200** Russ Horne, Andreas Michli **300** Dean Thomas Smith **400** Kyle Scholes, Katie Wilkinson **500** Hannah Cooper, Geordie Steve **800** Aidan Chaffe, Wes Lawes (work) **1,000** Fiona Lee **1,200** Sam Lee **2,500** Shane Wood

SWANSEA

ACCURACY NATIONALS KEEP GROWING

For the third year in a row, Swansea hosted the Accuracy Nationals. This was bigger than ever, with 37 competitors (17 Seniors, 13 Intermediates and seven Novices) from five different UK DZs. Compare that to the 12 that entered the first three years ago.

Holding the event midweek proved popular, as many competitors work at the weekend at various centres. The practice day on Tuesday was followed by two days of rubbish weather and a great party on Wednesday night. Brian Stokes flew the flag for Swansea and was last man standing at 4am, but still made golf at 10.30am.

Friday was calm and we went for it as the deadline was 6pm, regardless how many rounds had been completed. The Chief Judge indicated a minimum of two rounds would be a meet but everyone packed furiously and much more was achieved. Winds picked up mid-afternoon to put a spanner in proceedings and re-jumps began.

By 5.55pm, the last Seniors to do their re-jumps were in the air and it hung in the balance, with winds occasionally gusting over. If five rounds were completed, Les Carrol would be National Champion but, if it was four, Dave Crowhurst would take the title. The competition was called on four rounds, so Dave became the champion. The event dictated who can attend the World Meet next year in Bulgaria and the Senior Accuracy British Team for 2018 will be Dave Crowhurst, Les Carroll, Carl Williams, Pete Sizer and Steve Hastings.

The Intermediate and Novice Accuracy events were the best so far for numbers and produced a great competition. In Intermediate, Isaac Brown took first, Alun Morris Jones second and Steve Adams third. In Novices, Jay Townsend was first, Paul Hendry second and Brian Stokes third.

Three dropzones fought it out for the BPA Accuracy Club Cup and final placings were 1: Swansea – Carl Williams, Alun Morris Jones, James Lewton; 2: Headcorn – Janos Leszko, Isaac Brown, Paul Oxby; 3: Sibson – Steve Hastings, Paul Hendry, Steve Simpson.

Please put April 10-13 2018 in your diary because those are the dates for the 2018 Accuracy Nationals. These dates are midweek and during school holidays.

Carl Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS **FS1** Rhys Jenvey **JUMP NUMBERS** **100** Jay Townsend **300** Steve Adams



SWINDON
Joe photobombing Doog's 200th jump, by Jonny Moulder

SWINDON

HEROES AND VILLAINS

Having started the summer months with a gathering of superheroes and villains around the firepit, chomping on BBQ while discussing the latest deeds of cunning, chivalry and daring, it is no wonder that the next few months brought more heroics than you can shake a cape and eye mask at.

A big mention must go to our home-grown FS team, *The Flying Fossils*, who surpassed expectations at the Nationals and brought home bronze in the Rookie class – a champion performance despite injury and a combined age of more than 200! We're proud of you heroes – it's single A for you next year.

Out to prove that we are all sporting heroes, Sarah Cox, Doog and John Guy all conquered the Tough Mudder course and were still smiling at the end. Thanks to some wet weather days on the coast, Darrell, Brucie, Jonny and I are ready to form a team for the World Crazy Golf Championship (it's a real thing).

Bud lost a few hero points when he managed to cutaway while kitting up. Perhaps the shiny Nationals medal was distracting him. Pat had no such excuse for the loss of his helmet – he'll never make it as a superhero if he can't wear the gear! Epic fails on landing priorities from Flanners and Jonny made them more the villains of the piece than the heroes, but I am happy to report no injuries other than bruised pride.

Let's end with the heroic efforts of our pilot Bob O'Hara, who has just flown his 5,000th load of skydivers – thank you Bob – and Luke Ingram, a total megastar and hero... and he baked us cake! And finally a mention to Brucie, who must be a celebrity because he was recognised in Costa!

Jenny Bouquet

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Mike Daniels, James Nicol, Charlie Webb **FS1** Will Eggerton **FS1 RETRACTION** Darrell Gibson **TR1** Ronnie Shalom **JUMP NUMBERS** **100** Bud Flint **200** Doog McDougall **300** Aaron Doy **400** Dermot McCrystal **3,000** Jonny Moulder

TILSTOCK

A SUMMER OF FUN

It's been an interesting summer in our part of the skydive world! Two of our jumpers have stepped up to the mark and been through the fun and games documented recently in the Mag to gain their CSBI rating (with six-month recommendations), so congratulations



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to Pete Dickens and Dan Griffiths. Dan got to work straight away assisting Conrad Allen in running a static line course for people taking part in an SF Experience Course.

Ratings were to the fore with Dan Cope gaining his Tracking Coach rating and Roger Hughes getting his TBI. Dan then went on to award three TR1s and his first FS1.

Midweek Mayhem, the Tilly progression week, was full of fun and frolics, with Wes Westley leading two Flight-1 courses, Flight-101 and Flight-102. The students enjoyed them greatly and all but one had the chance to practise their new knowledge, with excellent coaching and filmed debriefs – such a valuable tool. One student had to sit out the jumping, having had a bad landing on Saturday (guess I really needed this course earlier)! On Wednesday, we had an unexpected visitor when a helicopter dropped in. A very naughty CI announced that it was a surprise jump ship and certainly got a few of us going. Skydivers are so gullible when it comes to fun things to jump out of...

On the subject of jump ships, we had a pleasant Friday recently when VANX was unavailable and we had the PAC from Cork – thank you, chaps! It was great fun to have a chance to jump something different, which got people thinking about future possibilities.

Jim Coupe, one of our Tandem Instructors, has decided that tandems aren't exciting enough for him and so has joined the *Hawks* display team (the team for the RAF Sports Parachuting Association) and had a hoot at the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells. We have also welcomed two new members to the jump staff, Rob Bellman and Richard Cotton, who are both Tandem Instructors and cameraflyers among their other skills and gifts.

We had a spot of familial joy when two of the younger generation did a bit of daddy-daughter bonding. Piotr was manifested on the same lift as his daughter Kamila as she continues her static line training and I jumped with my youngest, Hannah, as part of her 20th birthday celebrations. She jumped tandem with Tony Lightfoot and I managed to get into the right place at the right time. There is something peculiarly amusing about jumping out of an aeroplane after one of your children and we look forward to many more smiles in the sky to come.

Gary Windon

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Charlie Broomhall TR1 Gary Bradshaw, Jaroslaw Jochymczyk, Adam Roberts **JUMP NUMBERS** 1,700 Roger Hughes **ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL** Piotr Czartolomny **TWO HOURS IN FREEFALL** Gareth Saunders

TILSTOCK (TOP) Gary, Steve, Alex, Vera and Nathan, graduates of the Flight-101 and Flight-102 courses, by Alex Busby-Hicks

TILSTOCK Hannah Windon and Tony Lightfoot, by Gary Windon

WILD GEESE

SUCKER HOLES, CHAINSAWS AND BEER

Well, that's it – summer's over. Did it ever start? Did we miss something at Wild Geese? The weather hasn't been kind but, as per usual, we stuck it out and grabbed any sucker hole that popped up long enough to sucker us in.

Unfortunately, this pattern scuppered both Kevin Brady and Stuart McIlvenna. They were briefed for their first freefalls and the weather closed in. Next time, gents, next time! In the meantime, we have had some progression. Rachel McGill completed a tandem and was so ecstatic that she booked the very next static line course the following week and is jumping solo. While I won't claim it to be a first, this is a rarity – the Lewis family of mum, dad and son all did their static line course together and jumped on the same day. I'm sure that doesn't happen very often.

To grasp as much skydiving as possible, a small crew from Wild Geese ventured to the Irish Parachute Club for their annual boogie. Neal, Matt, Stephen and Ralph enjoyed the G92 Dornier to participate in big-way fun and freely frolics.

Eoin Black has punched through the 50 jump barrier and is working towards completing his B Licence. Meanwhile, Aaron Klewchuck got all the boxes ticked and, with his B Licence completed, can finally get that new G3 in the air. While doing a sterling job as No.1 DZ controller, 'Crazy' Neal has managed to accumulate more than 12 hours in freefall. This was greatly assisted by his time having fun at the IPC Boogie flying multi-point big-ways.

The penultimate achievements belong to the dynamic duo. While Sandra has managed to get her gear ready and think about jumping again, 'Chainsaw' McGarvey has actually got his reserve repacked and back in date.

And last but not least, tunnel addict, skydiver extraordinaire and former Queen's University President Orla Donnelly completed her 100th jump. However, we're not sure if she should be included here because she went to the USA for the summer and completed the very memorable 'Horny Gorilla' at Skydive City in Zephyrhills, Florida. We'll expect a beer fine to be left behind the bar when you return in October.

Remember to keep your head on a swivel!

Rod McCrory

P.S. I managed to jump in Florida and NOT lose a very expensive high-performance parachute. BOOM!

ACHIEVEMENTS CH2/JM1 Eoin Black, Aaron Klewchuck **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Eoin Black, Aaron Klewchuck **100** Orla Donnelly **12 HOURS IN FREEFALL** 'Crazy' Neal



WILD GEESE Orla Donnelly's 100th jump



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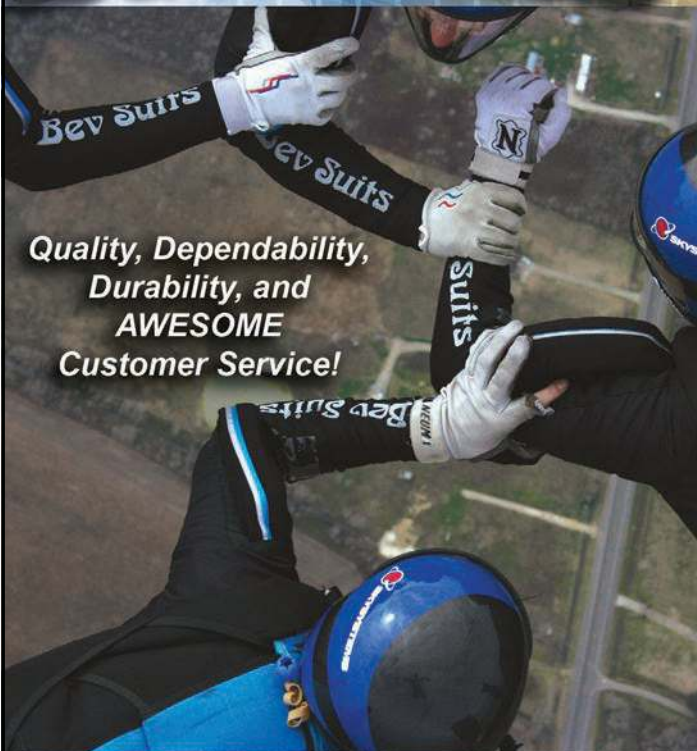
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OCTOBER

October 3

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

October 20-22

T World Indoor Skydiving Championships

Location: **Laval, Quebec, Canada**

NOVEMBER

November 2-8

WS World Cup of Wingsuit Flying

Location: **Overton, USA**

November 6-10

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

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

November 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

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

November 16

BPA STC Meeting

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

November 27-December 1

CP Canopy Piloting World Cup

Location: **Dubai, UAE**

November 28

BPA BPA Council Meeting

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

2018

January 27

BPA BPA Skydive the Expo and BPA AGM

Location: **EMCC, Nottingham** • skydivetheexpo.co.uk

February 5-9

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

Location: **Netheravon** • netheravon.com

March 19-23

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

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

April 9-13

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

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

May 7-11

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

Location: **Strathallan**

May 14-18

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

Location: **Strathallan**

June 18-22

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

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

August 6-10

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

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

August 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (CSI, Tandem, AFF)

Location: **Headcorn** • headcorn.com

September 10-14

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

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

November 5-9

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

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

November 12-16

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)

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

Dates correct at
time of printing

KEY

BPA BPA EVENTS
CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING

CF CANOPY FORMATION
S&A STYLE AND ACCURACY
T TUNNEL

A ARTISTIC
WS WINGSUIT

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