

Sport Parachutist



February
1992

RN CALIFORNIA • WORLD CLASS COACHING • VIDEO • VIDEO REVIEW ROOMS • BUNK H.
2 TWIN OTTERS • KING AIR • "OUR DOUGLAS" DC-3 • C-206 • SOUTHE
D ORGANIZERS • JUMP WITH THE AIRMOVES 4-WAY TEAM • 2 TWIN OTTERS • KING AIR • "OUR DOUGLAS" DC-3 • C-206 • SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA • WORLD CLASS COACHING • VIDEO • VIDEO
REVIEW ROOMS • BUNK HOUSES • TEAM TRAINING FACILITIES • CREEPER PADS • LOA

PERRIS, SKYDIVE HARD!

"The right time for a new place"

Open 365 Days a Year!

talon

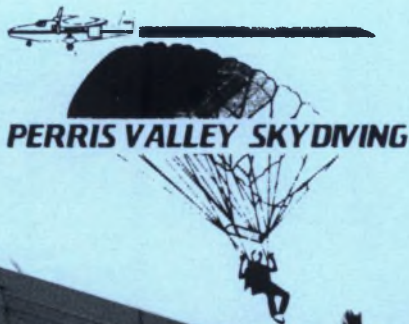


PHOTO BY ROLAND BARKSDALE

PERRIS VALLEY
714 OR 213 - SKYDIVE

AIRMOVES
COACHING, DAN B.C.

SQUAREONE
PARACHUTE SALES & SERVICE

SABRE

From Performance Designs

**Feel the Difference!
Join Sabre.**



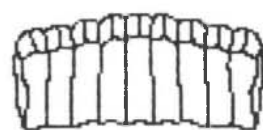
 **Performance
Designs** INC

1300 Int'l Speedway Blvd.
DeLand, Florida USA 32724
Phone: (904) 738-2224
Fax: (904) 734-8297

**Available now. Contact
your local dealer today.**

The KIT STORE

*** We have in stock a large selection of Canopies, Rigs and Accessories, including :-**



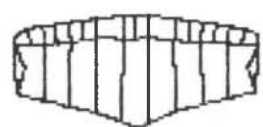
BLUE TRACKS

TEARDROPS



PINTAILS

ATOMS



SABRES

RACERS



FURYS

ZEROX

PDs

VECTORS



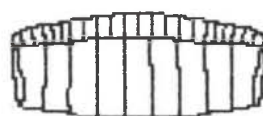
CLIPPERS

ALTIMETERS



COE-Ds

HELMETS



SWIFTS

JUMPSUITS



RAVENS

GEARBAGS

*** Expert advise given without obligation**

SPECIAL AFTER SALES SERVICE

You will remain on our Computer, and we will keep you updated on any Safety Notices or modifications pertaining to your Equipment for as long as you own it.

*** We're located on a Drop Zone, so you can try out our Demo rigs, or jump your new Kit straight away.**



Call or write for a Brochure and Stock List



Rob Colpus and Sarah Brearley at The Kit Store, The Airfield, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9HX
Tel - 0622 890 967, Fax-0622 891 236

Sport Parachutist

February 1992

JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
WHARF WAY: GLEN PARVA: LEICESTER
LE2 9TF
Telephone 0533 785271 Fax: 0533 477662

C ontents

REGULAR FEATURES

News and events:	4
Editorial:	5
Correspondence:	6
Video Review: <i>Leo Dickinson's video - Dead Men's Tales - Ola Soyinka's review.</i>	8
POPs Corner: <i>All about the 'Airborne Aged'</i>	22
Club Corner: <i>...or is it DZs around the world? Anyway apparently they skydive all the year round in sunny Scotland. Write-up by Katherine Andrewes</i>	
Calendar of Events	31
DZs around the world: <i>Rowland Cook Boogied over to Belgium</i>	33
Noticeboard: <i>Actually it's more letters</i>	42
Clubs and Centres: <i>Where you can find out if your favourite DZ is affiliated to the BPA</i>	46
Classified Ads: <i>Kit Korner</i>	43
BOOGIE ROUND UP	
<i>Spanish Boogie — (Dave Morris)</i>	20
<i>Mmabatho Boogie — (Simon Ward)</i>	33
BPA, FAI, ETC	
<i>AGM report</i>	9
<i>Chairman's report</i>	10
<i>IPC RW Subcommittee - Chairman's report</i>	19

READERS WRITE

Red Devils at the World Meet <i>Chris Allen describes the Red Devil's trip to Czechoslovakia</i>	12
African Adventure: <i>If you think that learning to parachute at your club is dangerous, read Chris Lyall's account of his early days.</i>	17
Balloon over Everest: <i>Having failed to damage himself by cave diving and mountaineering Leo 'Branson' Dickinson has the brilliant idea of flying a balloon over Everest. Why? Find out on page</i>	24
The Cyprus Championships <i>Mike Smith reports</i>	16
<i>Neil McLaren gives the Tayside view</i>	26
The Roger Marsden Memorial Trophy: <i>NWPC jumpers find a sensible use for balloons</i>	27
The Mustgetbeers: <i>The Mustgetbeers Mustgetnearer the centre of the disc if they are to beat their arch-rivals at accuracy this year.</i>	34
Cranfield Night RW Record: <i>At Cranfield skydivers prefer to do it at night</i>	38

COMPETITION

Win a satellite system and support our national teams. 32

Cover Picture: Exit Montage:
- Casa Exit by Simon Ward
- Cessna Exit by Stuart Meacock
- Tandem Exit by Simon Hughes

© SPORT PARACHUTIST

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the permission of the Editor...however if you don't tell him he probably won't find out.

The views expressed in Sport Parachutist are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the BPA. The Editor retains the right to refuse or withdraw any advertisement at his discretion and does not accept liability for the delay in publication or for clerical or printers' errors. Every care is taken to avoid mistakes but they sometimes have a supernatural tendency to evade all known methods of detection.

Published by Airscape Ltd, 3 Tyers Gate, London SE1 3HX
Tel: 071 403 6753 Fax: 071 378 1208

Design/Typesetting by Airscape Ltd, London SE1

Printed by Stevensons and George Ltd., in association with Caric Print Ltd, Clerwood, Corunna Main, Andover, Hampshire.

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman John Lines Vice-Chairman Dave Hickling Chairman STC John Hitchen
Chairman Competitions Committee Bob Card Chairman Development Committee Dave Hickling
Vice-President Jim Crocker Council Members: John Lines, Dave Hickling, Steve Hastings, Amanda Kenny, Bob Card, Lofy Thomas, Kevin Hughes, Allison Cronnelly, Chris Lyall, Richard Atherton, Andy Fair, Terry Carroll

BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION STAFF and REPRESENTATIVES

National Coach and Safety Officers John Hitchen and Tony Butler
Financial Administrator: Steve Harratt Treasurer: Debbie Clouting
Administrative Staff David Oddy, Trudy Kemp, Sharon Gurney
Royal Aero Club Representative Jim Crocker GASCO Representative Angela Hickling
CIP Delegate John Hitchen Chairman Riggers Committee John Curtis
Chairperson Pilots Committee Angela Hickling
Editor Ola Soyinka, 10 Brecon Road, London W6 8PU
Editorial Assistants: Linda Edlin, Lynette Horne, Patti Gallagher. Airscape Ltd
Commercial Managers Conor Cassidy / Ola Soyinka, Airscape Ltd

NEWS & EVENTS

AIR-TO-GROUND VIDEO

The IPC Relative Work Subcommittee's ultimate goal for judging RW events is to transmit freefall video directly to the ground, and judge each team while they are skydiving. Development of such a system will progress on two fronts.

The first is to develop a functional set of rules using air-to-air video recording as a primary judging tool. The second is to develop a reliable air-to-ground video transmitting and recording system, which will then replace the air-to-air system.

The proposed method for judging, would require each team's freefall photographer to become a full member of that team, and be responsible for recording each jump, showing the judges the exact moment of exit, and each complete formation and intermediate maneuver throughout the allotted working time. If the freefall photographer failed to show any required part of the dive, scoring would temporarily stop, and the team would receive a 'bust' and be penalized as per the current rules. To ensure consistent tape speeds for all teams, each team's video cameras/recorders would be calibrated before the competition, and continue to be monitored throughout the competition.

During the IPC meeting in February, 1992, the RW Subcommittee will finalize the Competition Rules for judging with air-to-air video. Copies of the proposed rule changes are available through all national aero clubs, and as with previous

changes to the rules, the Subcommittee is soliciting comments and suggestions regarding these rules. Anyone wishing to contribute this effort is requested to submit their ideas in writing to one of the members of the RW Subcommittee.

Simultaneously with the testing of the air-to-air video system for judging, an air-to-ground video transmitting system will be developed for future RW competitions. The prototype system will tentatively involve four cameras with transmitters, and two ground receivers. Two transmitters and one receiver will operate on each of two frequencies, allowing four teams to get airborne at one time. An additional exit camera will be mounted outside the aircraft facing the door, and will transmit to a third receiver on a third frequency, to record each team's exact moment of exit. The operator of the ground tape recorder would switch from the exit camera to the freefall camera after the exit has been initiated.

The RW Subcommittee is soliciting proposals for developing this air-to-ground video system, which could operate on frequencies available for use permits. Proposals should include a projected budget and schedule to build the test system, and a projected budget for building a complete system for a world meet - probably 12 primary cameras and 3 transmitters, plus 2 exit transmitters and a receiver. Ideally, a mutually beneficial contract would be established between

the system developer (who would maintain possession of the system), the IPC, and the various event organizers regarding the funding, use and maintenance of the system.

B.J.Worth, Chairman: 1161 Fiske Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, USA.

TEL 1-310-454-9455.

FAX 1-310-459-8098

UK Subcommittee Member: Robert Colpus, The Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX. TEL 44-580-291-600. FAX 44-622-890-967.

GALLANTRY AWARD

Ronnie O'Brien has been awarded the Queen's Award for Gallantry. Ronnie captured the news headlines when he saved the lives of a tandem pair after Mike Smith, the Tandem Master, had been rendered unconscious by a freak accident in which the drogue chute bridle cord wrapped around his neck. Ronnie also received a special award from the BPA which was presented at the AGM.

RESCUE - 911

Twelve British jumpers will be flying out to France to re-create another mid-air rescue which saved the life of a British jumper. Two years ago, at Moorseele in Belgium, George Pilkington was knocked unconscious by the prematurely deploying canopy of a jumper who had gone low on the formation. The canopy, as shown by the camera of Bruno Brokken who was filming the dive, scattered the formation, and George who took the brunt of the impact tumbled away unconscious.

Bruno started the chase at about 11,000ft, he finally caught up with George at 4,000ft, initially dropping the pull-out pad before successfully deploying the canopy at the second attempt. Rescue 911,



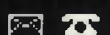
SYMBIOSIS SUITS

AT THE TOP FOR TEN YEARS

**JUMPSUITS,
WARMWEAR
FALL RATE EQUIPMENT
PARA BAGS**

by Rob Colpus & Sarah Brearley
Fast Delivery
Guaranteed Workmanship.

SEND FOR BROCHURE



The Airfield, Headcorn. Kent TN27 9HX
Tel: 0622 890967 Fax: 0622 891236

a French TV programme which specialises in reconstructing true-life stories of dramatic escapes, will be filming a reconstruction of the event and have invited all the jumpers who were present on the load over to Gap Parachute Centre in France for the shoot. No doubt this is one movie in which the 'actors' will not mind how many 'takes' are needed to get the film in the can.

SCOTTISH NATIONALS

The Scottish National Championships will be held from the 23-25th May 1991 at Strathallan Airfield, Auchterarder. The format will be as per previous years, namely - Style, Accuracy and 4-way RW. The practice day will be the Friday. Planes will be Cessna 207, Cessna 206 and an Islander. for further information contact: Billy Somerville, Chairman, SSPA.

NEW DZ FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

Freebird Skydiving is the name of the latest parachute centre to open in the UK. Chris Donaldson and Ali and Louise Christie form the partnership who will run and staff the club which is to be on the site of the Manby showground, an ex-RAF base near Louth in Lincolnshire.

The CCI will be Chris who moves on after many years at Sibson. Ali Christie will be the resident instructor and Louise Christie will be in charge of administration and 'smiling at people' (...a club spokesman said). The centre will run a Cessna 206 and will offer the usual facilities, in addition there is the bonus of a Skid Pan and Quad Bike circuit located nearby which should come in useful on bad weather days. The club will be opening in early April. More news then.

BT LINES

Parachutes de France have announced that their **Blue Track** range of canopies are now available with polyethylene lines. The new lines will be available on the BT-40,50 and 60 models. Parachutes de France claim that the lines, called **Optima**, have a high abrasion resistance, small diameter (which reduces drag) and are subject to minimum stretch thus keeping correct canopy trim during use.

STOP PRESS

Manslaughter charges- Dave Harrison, owner/operator of the Bandeirante aircraft used during the Tilstock Boogie and Lyn George, CCI and organiser of the event, have been charged with manslaughter in relation to the death of John Ward. The pilot and jumpmaster of the lift are not being charged.

John Ward suffered a tail strike on exiting the plane. It subsequently transpired that the plane had not been modified for parachuting.

Editorial

Ever since I left that privileged period of my life when I could wake up on December the 25th and rush down to the Xmas tree to tear open my presents, I have regarded Christmas time as a period to be survived rather than enjoyed. While exercising my skills in unarmed combat in the midst of the Christmas shopping crowds I noticed two particular trends in the goods on display. Firstly, the onward march of the microchip means that it is virtually impossible to buy anything (anything inedible) that is not at least partly electronic. Secondly, it is difficult to buy any product that has not been subjected to greenification.

This would explain why as from Dec 25th 1991 I have become the proud owner of an electronic roamaphone, an electronic diary, three electronic christmas cards (which sing tunes when you open them), onion avocado and mayonnaise bubble bath (not tested on animals - which is a shame because I think rabbits and Beagles would appreciate a good bubble bath), lemon scented Bermuda Mud soap (no artificial colourants which a shame because it looks and feels like a turd) and a pen - yes it did have a microchip in it - to run the digital clock.

It is taking me a while to get used to these minor but definite improvements to my material wellbeing. I find it disconcerting smelling like an avocado salad and I was caught out while watching a loud TV programme when the phone rang - I answered the remote control and tried to turn down the TV with my electronic diary.

I've written 200 words and not mentioned anything of importance concerning parachuting so I'd better get to the point. It has occurred to me that there is very little either electronic or green for the average jum-

per (with the notable exception of the Cypres AAD).

Where are the digital readout altimeters? How about the electronic log-book (it would save hours of man-stamping and gallons of Tippex). Why hasn't someone come up with an anti-hook turn device? (Eg a small device which attaches to the ankle, detects ground proximity with an accuracy to within inches and sounds an alarm when you're too low for a hook turn). Surely the 'Frap Chat' is now a possibility ie Frap Hats with miniature transmitter/receivers in them so that RW teams can continue their dirt-dive disagreements in the air.

As for our environmental friendliness - well there are many shades of green canopy, packs and jumpsuits but that's as far as it goes. not much progress there. Aeroplanes are not known for their friendliness to the environment. How about recycled canopies? I don't mean buying second hand ones, but instead of selling your first docile square for a 125 sq ft zero porosity screamer why not get a conversion job done? Surely some rigger can come up with a go-faster tune up service: snip off a few square feet, streamline the profile, shorten some lines to alter the glide ratio and spray the fabric to reduce its porosity.

And what about all the time we spend at altitude - is there nothing that can be done for the Ozone layer while were up there?

Well there you have it. I don't think there is enough technological innovation in the sport, and we're being left off the green bandwagon. Any comments from out there?? Send them in on a (recycled) postcard please.

Green skies

CORRESPONDENCE

WIND TUNNEL

Dear Ola

I would like to send a special "Thank you" to Thomas Zurkinden, the manager of the new Airodium in Zurich who took the time and trouble to come to Britain to give a presentation at the AGM in Leicester about his vertical wind tunnel. He also went on to Peterborough Parachute Centre for a repeat performance to a delighted audience.

Having spent three days (one hour's freefall) in the wind tunnel, I was so impressed that I invited him over to Britain. It appears that there is very little known about wind tunnels in this country, and I am sure that the audience at the presentation will agree that there is more to them than meets the eye.

I believe that it is excellent for the improvement of flying skills and I have no doubt that my own have improved 100% directly as a result of its use. For those who are already sufficiently skilled the wind tunnel is perfect for adrenalin junkies. It is very exciting and VERY addictive.

We should not be happy until we have a wind tunnel in this country. However, there is a lot of educating the public to be done before the demand for one is sufficient to create a profitable enterprise that someone will be willing to finance.

I have found only one other person with sufficient enthusiasm to attempt to get the ball rolling. We are pooling our ideas. If there is anyone else out there who has researched into the feasibility of creating one and feels that they can contribute something to our project, please do contact me. I have also been designated the UK representative of the Zurich Airodium, so if you wish to have some more details on it please write to me at this address below.

1 Ambleside Crescent, Enfield, Middx, EN3 7LZ

071- 325 4063 (24 hr answerphone)

The good news is the Airodium, which owns 50% of the Pigeon Forge wind tunnel is expanding into Berlin and Vienna!

Carol de Solla C8512

MARKETING SPORT PARACHUTING - 1

Dear Mr Soyinka,

Your article (SP, Dec 1991 pages 38 and 39) took the words right out of my mouth. As a recent member who has wanted to jump for years but didn't know how, I couldn't agree more that some drastic measures such as an all out campaign are needed. I am fed up taking time out from work and sitting around only to find nobody else has turned up at the airfield. Where are my fellow jumpers?

It's now been 18 months since my first jump and I didn't know about membership and this magazine until I recently progressed finally to freefall and was told I had to be a member. So first of all the individual centres should make first timers more aware. Because you become an automatic provisional member you relax - How about every provisional member receiving a single sheet Newsletter or Poster? Tonight I went to my local sports centre "Branson" in Witham. All types of sporting activities were on the Notice Board but nothing about Parachuting. Again, Centres could approach local Leisure Centres.

There is something I would like the BPA to consider if you have not already done so. Write to large employers such as the Civil Service, incidentally my employer, I list the following addresses:

The Civil Service Sports Council, 7/8 Buckingham Place, Bellfield Road, High Wycombe, BUCKS

HP13 5HW, Telephone 0494 465 973. The Chairman is :

Bob Connell, 7th Floor, N.W. Wing, Bush House, Aldwych, LONDON WC2B 4PP, Telephone 071 438 7350

The Treasurer is :

A K King, C/O Room 127, PNC, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, LONDON SW1P 2AW. Telephone 071 217 8488

My husbands employer is BT. They publish their own newspaper called "BT Today". They regularly sponsor various sports, why not write to them:

"BT Today" A2, Editor Ken Runicles, telephone 071 356 5276, BT Centre, Newgate Street, LONDON EC1A 7AJ..

Telephone for Newsdesk is 071 406 8717

By contacting employers you reach groups of people. We all know people are braver in a crowd than on their own. Well I have done my little bit by writing to you and will continue to tell every first time jumper to go up again straight away - some do.

Thank you also for the article on Page 33, I will certainly have a quick look at Wilson Airport when I go on safari in February.

Yours sincerely

Gilda Sebastian

MARKETING...2

Dear Ola,

After reading your article in the December issue of S.P. regarding the marketing of Sport Parachuting, I have been prompted to tell you of my own experiences as a newcomer to the sport.

For as long as I can remember I wanted to Parachute, but didn't have the financial resources necessary until about 18 months ago - when a small advertisement in my local paper reminded me that I still hadn't fulfilled my ambition.

So, I went ahead and booked a training weekend, which personally I enjoyed - although frustrated at the downfall in British weather conditions not actually getting to jump. This is, of course, one thing that puts students off, which the BPA has no control over!

Since completing my training I have only managed eight jumps, due either to weather conditions or lack of finance. However, I have found that although eager to receive the money for student training the welcome and helpfulness from the BPA club owners and instructors leaves a lot to be desired once the initial training is over.

The attitudes of the parachuting sportsmen and women really needs to change if new members are to be encouraged to take up the sport. I do not appreciate being treated as an inconvenience when I'm spending hard earned cash to participate in a sport which should be exciting and enjoyable for ALL concerned.

In my admittedly very limited experience the centres seem to be run purely for the experienced clientele, where the student parachutist, although ploughing in necessary funds for the sports continuation, is barely tolerated.

I have set myself goals which I hope to achieve before retiring from the sport, but I just hope the attitudes of those around me will not force me to do so prematurely.

Karen Rendall BPA 492108

This is a commonly voiced complaint. There are many ways in which the less experienced jumper can be made to feel more welcome at his or her club, I would recommend readers turn to page 30 for one example.....Ed

MARKETING...3

Dear Editor,

Your article on 'Marketing Sport Parachuting' I read with interest. I can't help thinking after being in Sport Parachuting for five and a half years, the BPA are going totally the wrong way.

First and foremost too many students are signed on for each course at some of the larger centres. It might be bringing in big money from the students first jump, but the trick is to get him/her to do their second and third jump and not dispose of them like toilet paper. With this in mind the first jump is best undertaken as early in the morning as possible, in order that it gives time to get them in the air again the same day, whilst they are still on a high. The jump master when possible, should be the same person who trained them as they have built up a rapport. After his/her first jump the student should be asked to fill in a simple questionnaire, in order to get some feedback. i.e. was the instruction clearly understood at all times? What did they think of the Centre? What improvements could be made?

I wish to upset no-one, but parachute centres are pretty appalling at getting students through the category system. I think this is the main area which should be concentrated on in the near future. This can be done in many ways, providing the centre wants progressive students (I've been told on more than one occasion they do not). Progressive students should not be kept away in the packing shed all day as cheap labour, unless they want to be. If you look after your students they will in turn look after your centre in the long run. I feel I could write a book on improvements but would only bore you.

Another point whilst writing is that if we remove the Military from Sports Parachuting, this would be the biggest nail in the coffin yet as they have done more than anyone to promote the sport, from their equipment, their demo's, the high standard they maintain and the number of people they introduce to the sport. I jump a few times a year with them and it is always very rewarding and excellent experience.

Pat Hammond BCCS117

Thanks for the letters and the constructive input on this subject, it's also a pleasant change to have some letters from relative newcomers to the sport ...Ed

SPACE CADET

Dear Ola

High Adventure, skydiving from space at 700mph, in a pressurised suit, -90°C at 120,000ft. That sounds wacky enough to rate in the Merlin Book of Fame, and to make it a bit more interesting....Leo Dickinson hovering in a helicopter underneath the freefaller who is slowing down from 700mph to terminal.

What does Leo think he is doing now? What a stupid idea. He will either endanger the freefallers life with his flying mincer or he will be that far away that he films a blurred speck on the horizon. Sorry Leo but there is just one small floor in your plan....it's bollocks. I suggest to whoever is sponsoring you to spend his money at B&Q instead. If you don't want to follow him off the balloon, find somebody who will. I will volunteer if you won't, what the hell....we could launch a 2-way. Per Linstrand could put another seat on the balloon and pump a bit more gas in the bag, and take Leos cameras off. The world keeps turning and the grass keeps growing, oh and by the way John Flynn has already done it.

130,000ft - Been there, Done it, Filmed it!

Merlin D9081.

RESERVE JUDGEMENT

Dear Editor,

I, and many of my fellow jumpers, are aware of the current dissent and controversy surrounding the BPA, its organisation and management and the confusing signals that emanate from its headquarters.

The recent amendment of the rules regarding the re-packing of reserves seems to me to be a prime example of unclear instructions, ill conceived implementation and vested interest.

1) After the rule change clarification had to be issued.

2) The packing of reserves (or any other canopy for that matter - sic) must be undertaken only by a Rigger or a person who has attended an appropriate packing course.

3) The proposed check list must be completed at each repack.

4) Re-packs are now required at 6 month intervals.

5) The 25 year life rule is now abandoned subject to the above.

Let me raise some interesting points about the above.

1) Rule changes do become necessary as circumstances alter - but this is a prime example of all the ramairifications not being fully considered.

2) Absolutely correct - no one should be permitted to pack any equipment unless formally trained and qualified.

3) The check list - brilliant idea (well maybe not so brilliant it should have been introduced years ago) but it has some serious omissions. For example who keeps the check list? They really should be in duplicate; one for packer and one for owner, with a specific time limit on retention and the last check list submitted at the next re-pack. They should also require both packer's and owner's signature.

4) Re-packs at 6 months - question of opinion. OK the Riggers feel this is sufficient, we can live with it, - I hope!

5) This is a serious one! 25 years is a long time for the life of any equipment and it should be mandatory for any canopy to undergo a full strength and material stress test at this age. We do not know all the causes and effects on the integrity of the materials after such a period, but more sinister is the question of who owns most of the kit that is 25 years old..... you guessed!!! Look at the date stamp on some of your club kit. There is the vested interest I mentioned. We only need one failure and we again have management by crisis.

Now if I have misinterpreted something then who's fault is that.

It must be the desire and aim of all of us to improve not only the safety but the quality of our sport and it is this area that seems to require both the members and committees best efforts.

'91 has not been a good year for the sport, let us all try to make '92 the year of the Skydive.....now there's an idea. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and successful year.

Roger Bancroft C8340

BRITISH BOOGIE - FLAGLER

Dear Ola

In the mag last month I noted the comments of a letter 'Flagler fun' and would agree. I spent one week there during the 'British Boogie' where I was one of the 4 Brits that turned up!! It was fun however, especially the barrel rolling plane, courtesy of Fang. (hard to remember your skydive after that though).

I went on to Skydive City (Z-Hills) which is a friendly & well organised club. We did three excellent 6 point 10 ways, not bad, considering I had less than 200 jumps, gloat gloat. Indeed the credit must go to the WARP system, my coaches (don't get a big head) and my skills of course! Seriously, a big thanks for the encouragement especially from Ian Loveday who has helped me immensely. We were given a free jump for Xmas day, which was well received.

Jane won a bag in the scrambles, it ended on her head as we got mad at her gloating (we were jealous). She managed to come home with 399 jumps, now everyone knows, where you are doing your 400th! Ian got his new Sabre, we tried to see if it really was non-porus; in the bath, but we got caught before we found out. Is that why you switched?

Well we had a good time and hope everyone else had good fun over Xmas. To the blue skies we nearly had. NB John Coleman will soon need WARP from me when he returns from Bahrain, that's if I haven't jumped out his rig by then.

Love, Dawn Crawford

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD

Dear Ola

I am enclosing a photograph and an interesting story for you to print in the Sport Parachutist. The photograph shows two members of the Cornwall Parachute Centre, on the left in a red and blue jump suit is David Bently with his RW Instructor Eddie Fisher.

David phoned me last February wanting to book a Course for his sons 21st Birthday, a Square course, he then decided also to do the course himself. He continued after that and up to date has done 182 jumps all at the Cornwall Parachute Centre. He hopes to do his 200th jump by the end of February of this year.

He is just finishing the Cat system, has done 2 night jumps, has purchased all his own kit and accessories and most of his jumps are on video. We are very proud of David not just because he has come runner up in the Mike Forge Trophy, because we have won that twice before at the Centre, but because he is over 50 years of age. Proving that Skydiving can and is a SPORT FOR ALL.

Well done David.

Fran Fisher, Secretary

Sorry, no room for the pic...Ed

CLUB REP

Dear Members of the BPA

I would like to thank all of you that voted for me in the recent elections to Council. I have taken up the post of Club Representative, a position which appears to be largely undeveloped and very much the sort of job that will only be as good as I care to make it - I care very much!

My perception of the post is that it can be used to great effect as a point of contact between Clubs and Centres and council itself as a sort of 'go-between'. It is my intention to visit as many Clubs and Centres as possible in the next few months, with the aim of talking to as many of you as possible, in order to communicate the views of the membership directly to Council.

I urge you please to use me in this role, so that the position may be given the best possible opportunity of working successfully, to the ultimate benefit of all. You will certainly find me approachable and a good listener. Furthermore, I undertake to provide feedback from Council to the membership as a means of following up any questions or problems that you raise with me. Finally, I can assure you all of the fact that I shall give the job maximum effort and dedication - Let us make it work!

Chris Lyall BPA 15257

AMAZED OF LEICESTER

Hi there

Thanks a lot to everyone out there that voted for me. I was amazed at the results and I'm really looking forward to this year on council. Special thanks to Kevin McCarthy for the time and effort he put into the carefully worded write-up - if anyone else wishes to take advantage of his PR flair please don't hesitate to contact him at Peterborough.

Blue Skies

Allison Connolly

JUMP/GLIDE IN POLAND

Dear Sirs,

I should like to draw your attention to the new company, (White Eagle Soaring), set up by a Polish and an English Glider Pilot to arrange gliding holidays for British Pilots. We also thought of our friends the parachute enthusiasts, who would be sure to enjoy 'NOWY TARG' in the south of Poland, a huge airfield facing the Tatra Mountains. Experienced parachute instructors for all standards, fine scenery and accommodation either on the airfield or twenty minutes away in the long-established Ski resort of Zakopne.

Please contact us direct at the address below for details or enquiries about other areas of Poland which would interest you.

With thanks,

White Eagle Soaring, ul. Wilczak 13/102, 61-243 Poznań, Poland. Tel. (048-61) 795 815

More letters on page 42

ANYONE GOING TO THE STATES?

Dear All

If anyone out there is thinking about a trip to the US at Easter but like me can't find anyone else who wants to go I'd be interested to hear from you.

I'm planning to complete my AFF course, perhaps at Flagler but I'm open to suggestions. You can phone or fax me anytime, the sooner the better!

Tom Carter Phone: 0865 718813

Fax: 08665 749965

TARGET SKYSports

(Formerly Doncaster Parachute Club)

Our new DZ will open shortly and we're looking for students !!

We will offer £20.00 for each Tandem and £15.00 for each Static Line student you send us. Tandem jumps can still be made at Doncaster so please call straight away !

Ring Helen Swallow on 0532 505600

VIDEO REVIEW 'Dead Men's Tales'

I know for a fact that a major topic of late night apres-jump conversation concerns skydiving horror stories - near misses, direct hits, 'there-I-was...' etc. It's usually riveting stuff, first time round at least, but so much is left to the imagination and I usually wish I'd seen it happen myself. I'm into thrillers, especially skydiving ones, and I like a happy ending.

I was therefore very keen to see Leo Dickinson's new video called 'Dead Men's Tales' which is about six individuals who, by rights, should not have survived to tell their tale. I won't go into the details of the individual stories but the film starts off with the Molly Sedgewick story (first ever mid-air rescue), then travels to the 20th century with a rather unique incident involving a DC3 using a skydiver as undercarriage, there is a CRW wrap, a mid-air rescue of an unconscious girl in freefall, a static line hang-up and the truly amazing story of the man who fell to earth with a double malfunction.

The film is documentary style with the subject or an eyewitness giving a first hand account, with reconstructed sequences emphasising the narrative. The reconstructions are convincing and I found myself with quite sweaty palms even the second time around.

I usually watch skydiving videos when I haven't been jumping for a bit and start getting withdrawal symptoms. (others symptoms I get include involuntary stable spreads off the diving board when I go swimming, leaping down stairs 10 at a time, repacking my rig in the living room, doing two-ways naked in front of the bathroom mirror etc). I think this video needs to be watched when you have been skydiving hard; when you've had a month or so of gentle openings, soft landings, no near-collisions, and complacency is beginning to set in - there are lessons to be learned from this film. What struck me about these incidents were the million-to-one chances that occurred which nearly lead to disaster. I have

resolved to check my pin regularly, buy a dytter, a jack knife, an AAD, bright pink kit and a fluorescent Protec, and after all that when I've saved up enough to start jumping again I'll never skydive with strangers; that should improve the odds a bit.

Non-skydivers will of course enjoy the film, don't show it to your gran if you're planning to get her to do a tandem though. It's ideal for showing to your relatives if they are becoming blasé about your favourite pastime and take it for granted that you're going to come back from the DZ in one piece; or tease you about going off to play ring-a-roses or indulge in aerial synchronised swimming.

Leo tells me that filming the reconstructions was an adventure in itself and has been kind enough to promise us an account of the filming; so watch this space for...the serial of the story of the filming of the reconstruction of the incidents.



SKY RATS Spain - Xmas Boogie Video

Seagull Picture Co
15 Coronation Rd
Cranfield
Beds MK43 0JP
0234 750683

Produced by **Kevin Hughes and Bruno Brokken** - 45 minutes
of the best of the Boogie.

Featuring Skydives organised by Alexis Perry, Dave Morris and Peter Gerrick, Speed 10 competition, skysurfing, freestyle....the Sun, the Sea, the skydives. There's action in the air and on the ground all set to music by Bruno Brokken. Price: £15 (+£1.50 p&p)



This is a must for your skydiving video library.

Also available from April 1st VISIONS 1

A quarterly skydiving video magazine which will be offered to skydivers at a realistic price. Seagull Picture Co will be putting together footage from all the major European events (Spain, Vichy, Langar, etc). There will be unique footage of these funny/hairy/whacky moments that do not often reach the jumping public. Fast moving and topical this series will build up to form a unique archive of the European skydiving scene. At the introductory price for VISIONS 1 - £11 (+£1.50 p&p) Can you afford NOT to buy it??



AGM Report

The annual gathering of the faithful once again took place at the Park International Hotel in Leicester. The AGM offers the opportunity to look back over the last year, look forward to the new one and have a damn good party while you're at it. This year, the event was kindly organised by John Curtis.

The AGM weekend starts on the Friday night, rather like a Boogie, members start arriving at the hotel and, naturally, gravitate towards the bar. The Boogie feel is accentuated by the appearance intermittently of people you last saw on a DZ in another country many months ago; and have not seen since simply because they live a few miles away and jump at a different dropzone.

Saturday morning: the stream of arrivals continues, some turning up for the meeting others more interested in the dinner dance and the disco later. The meeting proper started at 11.30 am. John Lines addressed the audience (see overleaf for the text of his speech), afterwards the treasurer, Debbie Clouting, introduced herself and then the new subscription fee, which has gone up by 6%.

The results of the election of council members was announced. There were four changes to the line-up from last year with Chris Lyall, Andy Fair, Richard Atherton and Allison Cronnelly, taking the place of Tony Knight, Bryan Davies, Dave and Lyn George. (Alison was surprised to find herself elected. She had been out of the country at the deadline for nominations. At short notice she had to engage the PR services of another jumper who produced...well - a short notice; her nomination write-up was a classic. Succinct, to the point, and would have been enough to guarantee failure at any election, except of course, ours).

There were two items of special business, firstly John Lines proposed that the number of council members for

next year be increased to 15. This was because the increasing workload generated by council and the subcommittees on which they were needed to serve was beginning to stretch the manpower that 12 people can provide. The motion was carried. The second item proposed that the minutes should become an integral part of the magazine again. This was rejected. The underlying problem - how to keep members informed, in good time, of the work being done on their behalf remains to be solved.

Finally the awards were presented and raffle draw took place with Charlotte Kirwan pulling out the winners.

One feature of past AGMs which had been changed was the usual display of skydiving equipment by the various Kit retailers and manufacturers in the foyer. This was because the space was to be used for incoming and outgoing council members to hold a surgery. Anyone interested could meet the new members and, if they wanted, discuss matters close to their hearts or air their grievances directly. Unfortunately only one person took up the offer! It was a bold move by John Curtis who had a difficult decision to make. It would appear that retaining the exhibition would have been more popular.

I should mention that there was one stand displaying wares. No prizes for guessing that the ubiquitous Sward Sports would not be denied floorspace. A quick word with the management and a spare function room was found for Simon to put his new chutes on display.

The main meeting room meanwhile

was the setting for a presentation from the manager of the Zurich aerodrome the videos showed how skydivers could have fun and also improve their flying skills. Building up airtime this way is a lot cheaper than jumping out of a plane.

Other videos were shown including a video of Airtime in training.

Meanwhile back at the lunch...the inaugural council meeting took place. The main purpose of this meeting is to appoint the officers for the coming year and introduce the new council members. A list of the new council members and the officers so far appointed is on page 12.

There was a strong smell of mothballs in the lifts and foyer of the hotel at around 8pm. Dinner suits and dickie bows and dress shirts which had not had gravy spilled on them for a year had their outing. The dinner was the usual affair followed by a disco into the small hours. Once more the Park International Hotel coped admirably with the hordes of merrymaking members. In past years there have been a few people who overdone things. This year was nearly an exception, but at about 4am, a fraternal feud became nasty when one brother attacked the other with a broken bottle.

The overall conclusion about the level of attendance at this meeting, and the last few AGMs, is that attendance could be higher. This means making the event more of an attraction. There will probably be some major changes for next year.

BPA 1992 Lottery Prizewinners

Name	Ticket No	Prize
Wynne Thomas	30403	£500
W Oxenford	32849	£250
Dave Cassidy	25646	£100
W Balcarass	71495	£50
Lisa Liddell	47707	£40
J Boxall	44292	£30
?	91254	£20
Ken Jones	38197	£10
Special draw for the seller of a complete book of tickets		
P S Clarke		£500

The text of John Lines' address to members at the Annual General Meeting, 11th January 1992

May I open proceedings by welcoming you all to this 25th Annual General Meeting of our Association. It is a great pleasure to see both old friends and new faces.

My report is not intended to be a comprehensive review of 1991, instead to highlight some of the events that have happened and issues that have arisen.

Your Council's primary method of reporting to you is via the production of Minutes of our meetings, and I would urge you all to give careful consideration to the proposal later, on today's Agenda, concerning their reproduction in out of the magazine.

1991 has been a momentous year for our sport in many ways and particularly so on the Competitions scene.

I am pleased to report to you that the Winners of our National Championships were as follows:-

In CRW, the rotation competition was won by **Team Rabbit**, the sequential by **No Limits** and the 8-way speed formation by the **Royal Marines**. I should also like to mention the work being carried out by members of those teams which is aimed at strengthening our participation in future CRW World Championships. Thank you.

In Classics, this year's overall mens Champion was **Les Carroll**, with **Esther Reynolds** taking the honours for the ladies. Both have been active competitors



would also like to mention the growing popularity of our Regional Meets and to thank Steve Hastings for his hard work in the initial stages to promote them to members. The RW rounds were particularly well attended, with the final competition at Doncaster being attended (mobbed!) by 21 teams. Presentations will be made to the Medal Winners later and I would like to thank all Competitors for their support.

Thanks also to all who hosted our Competitions, to Judges and Cameramen and to all the BPA Staff who helped (and competed!) I must also mention the many smaller competitions organised by individual centres which also contributed to the scene. I think we can be proud of the level of activity in competitive skydiving in the UK.

This year I was honoured to be elected as Chairman of your Council. As always members have worked hard and given up a great deal of personal time to attend Council and Sub-Committee meetings. Several members of last years' Council have not stood for re-election, and I should like to thank them for their efforts. **Bryan Davies**, **Steve Treble**, who has maintained a strong interest in the Competitions Committee, **Tony Knight**, who Chaired the Safety and Training Committee for 5 years, and **Lyn George** who resigned earlier in the year for personal reasons, have all now retired from Council. We thank them for their work on our behalf.

I think it is right to single Tony out for special mention. Not only has he successfully Chaired STC through some very difficult times, but he has been the Associations key negotiator with the Civil Aviation Authority for many years. At this forum he has robustly defended our position and helped in no small measure to safeguard our sport from proposed increases in regulatory involvement by the CAA. His contribution has been extensive and will be greatly missed. I must not forget to mention our loyal and hard-working staff. Trudy, Norma and Sharon have worked tirelessly at the office, and are of course on duty today. Please take a moment to thank them personally for their work on your behalf. I should also like to welcome **Steve Harratt** to our team. He is our Financial Administrator, a new post which was created in response to an increased work load in the area of financial management and reporting. I must thank **Jim Watson** for his

1992 AGM

work in the BPA Shop and stores, and David Oddy who left us in October but whose efforts were greatly appreciated.

Finally in this section I must mention and thank Tony Butler and John Hitchen, for their hard work. They continue to carry out a very difficult job with diligence and a real understanding of our sport.

Part of their work is to organise and run our Instructor Courses. I am pleased to see that in 1991 there were 28 Approved Instructor Ratings awarded, 4 Advanced Instructor Ratings, 14 Tandem Instructor Ratings, 8 AFF Instructor Ratings and 8 Examiner Ratings. Congratulations to those people. Our Instructor Courses continue to be well attended, which is an encouraging sign.

The Coaches also supervised the introduction of the BPA Relative Work Coaching Scheme in 1991 and so far 105 Ratings have been issued. I must also thank all those on the Examiners Panel who assisted us throughout this year.

Sadly, I must report with great regret, the deaths of **Nicholas Irving** and **John Ward** in skydiving accidents in the UK in 1991. Many of you will also recall the loss of **Paul Dixon** in an accident in France and will mourn the loss of one of the true 'characters' from our sport. Our sympathies are extended to their families and friends.

The tragic incident at Tilstock, in which **John Ward** lost his life, resulted in an unprecedented action by the CCA, which withdrew the Centre's permission to operate, pending an inspection of the operation.

After strong representations by Tony Knight and the personal attendance at the Centre, for a full weekend, by John Hitchen, I am pleased to say that the permission was renewed.

On a lighter note, the UK Boogie scene in 1991 was particularly active, with highly successful events at Langar and Tilstock. From personal observation, the attendance by the Boogie School at Langar resulted in some excellent skydives being organised, including an attempt on the British RW record which, although organized and dirt dived in haste, ultimately failed by two jumpers only.

When I took over from Jim Crocker as Chairman, one of the major problems which confronted me was the difficult rela-

The RW rounds were particularly well attended, with the final competition at Doncaster being attended (mobbed!) by 21 teams.

for many years and deserve their success.

In RW, the UK scene has been very active this year. The Nationals Winners were: **4-Way**, **Airtime** and **8-Way**, **Toy Time**. 1991 was an on-year for World RW Championships and we were superbly represented by **Airtime**, who finished 6th out of 27 teams. During the Competition, they scored 18 points in one round, which is a UK record. Congratulations. In 8-Way the **Red Devils** represented us at their own expense and finished a very creditable 8th. Thank you and congratulations.

Before concluding this section of my report, I must mention the hard work of our Competitions Committee, ably chaired by Bob Card. Thank you for all your efforts. I

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



tions which existed between the Association of Professional Dropzone Operators and the various Military Sport Parachuting factions which are affiliated to the BPA. I am pleased to report to you that after several meetings and much discussion, initiated by myself, both parties appear to be much happier with matters and are now co-existing without rancour. Indeed APDO have had a member in co-opted role on Council for the full year, which I trust has given them a better insight into the way we do things. Their representative has been able to freely express his views and has generally taken a constructive role.

In a similar spirit of co-operation, both myself and other Council Members have attended APDO Meetings, in an effort to maintain good communications, I think we must all recognise that it is immensely difficult for an organisation like the BPA, where policy is decided by a council composed of volunteers, to reach decisions which are always acceptable to everyone. In my opinion Council has to reach balanced judgments which will hopefully be to the benefit of all members. It must follow that we will occasionally reach a conclusion that does not meet with universal approval and this is perhaps most noticeable where commercial interests are involved.

Another issue upon which I must report and comment is that of the large sum of money embezzled from our funds by Mr. Tony Lewis, the former Commercial Manager of Sport Parachutist. There has been great deal of comment on this matter, including a detailed report presented in the Magazine by the Sub-Committee of Council which investigated the matter.

It is a matter of considerable regret, that such a situation could occur. For my part personally I have already accepted responsibility but I would ask you all to understand that not only was there a failure of various procedures which ought to have alerted us earlier, but there was also a deliberate campaign by the thief to disguise his activities. He had been placed in a position of trust by us, which he systematically abused.

The Association has commenced legal action both to recover any monies available from Lewis and to ensure that he is punished by the law. We have already obtained judgement against him and are

presently forcing the sale of his home to raise funds. The Police are also prosecuting him. There are lessons to be learned from this unsavoury business and I believe we have taken them on board. Further developments will be reported to you via minutes of Council Meetings.

The magazine is now being edited by Ola Soyinka and produced by his company under a proper Contract for a fixed price. I certainly feel that the content and presentation of the magazine is of a very high standard and all concerned are to be congratulated.

Members will doubtless recall that in 1991 our Membership Fees were increased substantially due to the increases in our insurance costs. Regrettably, we continue to experience difficulties with insurance. The incidence of claims is increasing year on year and I would ask everyone to be vigilant whenever they are on a DZ.

We have now appointed a new company to act as our Brokers and they are presently investigating the market for us. I know that the treasurer will be reporting to you on this matter in more detail in a few minutes.

On European matters, we have continued to be represented by David Hickling, via the EPU. Council has resolved to remain involved in European matters wherever an opportunity is presented, to have our voice heard. We have BPA representation at CIP with John Hitchen as our Delegate and Bob Card as Alternate as well as having additional individual contributions at this forum from Rob Colpus and Roger Flinn. I think it correct to say that British skydiving views are well represented in Europe.

One subject which I will not apologise for bringing to your attention again, is that of the emergence of the Airfields Environment Federation. I wrote to Clubs and Centres in the Autumn, outlining the activities of this organization and the threat I believe they represent. I suggested that Members may care to write to their own MP on the matter. How many of you did, I wonder?

I urge you not to be complacent about this matter. Although I am not suggesting that they are particularly focusing their attentions on our sport, we have already encountered their activities in 1991. One of our largest Centres has already faced threats of legal action against it for alleged

noise nuisance and upon investigation, the AEF was found to be involved. The Centre concerned won this particular battle and was subsequently grant aided by the Association for its legal costs.

We know that other Centres are facing action against them brought by Planning Authorities, and Council has agreed that the threat to our sport is serious enough to warrant special action.

We have retained the services of a Consultant to advise us on planning matters of concern to us, and his advice will be available to Centres who face such problems in the future. Although not perhaps a particularly 'glamorous' matter, this is a classic example of the Association's efforts and funds, being directed towards a threat that could, if left unchecked, cause us great difficulty in the future.

I said when I began my report that it was not intended to be an exhaustive review of the year. I have instead tried to concentrate on issues that have some idea of what 1991 was about and also give some information about the work of Council and our Staff. But any review of 1991 would be seriously deficient if it did not mention the most extraordinary incident that I have ever heard of, and I suspect likewise for most of you here today.

I refer of course to that most spectacular and heroic act by **Ronnie O'Brien**, Chief Instructor at Peterborough Parachute Centre, whose extraordinary presence of mind and lightning reactions saved the lives of **Mike Smith** and his Tandem Passenger.

The incidence of claims is increasing year on year and I would ask everyone to be vigilant whenever they are on a DZ

I know that when I watched the video I was frankly amazed by the combination of skill and bravery that Ronnie demonstrated. His behaviour on that day reflected magnificently, both on himself and our sport, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for averting a terrible tragedy. He has rightly been honoured with the Queens Award for Gallantry, and I have no doubt that other such accolades will follow. Ronnie, thank you for being there.

I should like to conclude by thanking you for listening to me this morning and for attending today to support your Association. I wish you all a safe and successful year in 1992.

John K. Lines

1992 BPA Council

Elected Officers of Council and Sub-committees:-

Chairman BPA	John Lines
Vice Chairman BPA	David Hickling
Chairman Competitions	Bob Card
Committee Members	Steve Hastings (Vice Chairman) Amanda Kenny Terry Carroll Allison Cronnelly Andy Fair Steve Treble Paul Mansfield David Hickling To be announced
Chairman Development Committee Members	
Co-opted Council Members:-	
Chairman STC	John Hitchen
Treasurer	Debbie Clouting
Co-opted Council Member to deal with CAA matters:-	Tony Knight

BCPA

The AGM was held at: Halfpenny Green Skydiving Centre

Present: Bath Univ, Exeter Univ, Glasgow Univ, Hatfield Poly, Lancashire poly, Lancaster Univ, Leicester Univ, Manchester Poly, Manchester Univ, Oxford P C London, Salford Univ, Salford Univ, Univ of East Anglia.

Apologies for absence: Newcastle Poly, Nottingham Poly, Southampton Univ.

The following events were decided:

BCPA Nationals:

Venue: The Sport Parachute Centre, Tilstock.

Date: 5th to 11th July 1992

Fee: £15 per person or £25 per person if club receives funds from Univ/Poly.

Easter Progression Week:

Venue: Headcorn Parachute Centre

Date: 5th to 11th April 1992

Contact: Giles Huby, 21 Trident House, Hatfield, Herts AL10 0NQ

Peterborough Parachute Centre Ltd.

1992

Easter Speed 8	17-20 April
May Day Speed 16	2-4 May
Life After WARP Week	9-17 May
Spring Bank Holiday 16 Way Sequential	23-25 May
Nationals Training Camp	19 - 31 July (Training rates)
1992 RW Nationals	1-9 August
August Bank Holiday Boogie	22-31 August

Sibson Airfield
Wansford
Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: Oundle (0832) 280 490
Facsimile: (0832) 280409

Peterborough Parachute Centre Ltd.

THE RED DEVILS AT THE WORLD MEET



SQUARE ONE

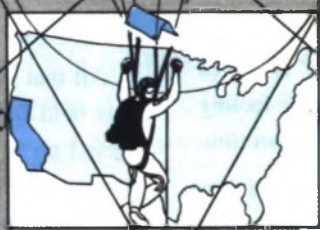
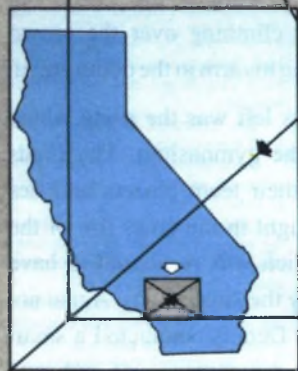
PARACHUTE SALES & SERVICE

1-800-877-7191



2095 GOETZ RD

PERRIS-CA-92570



Aim for the Best.

SQUARE ONE
PARACHUTE SALES & SERVICE

Supporting the world of skydiving.

Call Victor or Virginia today. Use our tollfree number to place your order: (800) 877-7191

2095 Goetz Road, Perris, California 92570

Tel: (714) 657-8260 • Fax: 714 657-8179

Visit both stores conveniently located directly on the drop zones at Perris and California City.

2095 Goetz Road, Perris, CA 92570 • 5999 Curtiss Place, Unit A, California City, CA 93505



'One and one in 91' was the dream title conjured up by the American Parachute magazine; 'hey we've actually made it!' was ours. For the first time in the history of the Red Devils, the RW team was at the world meet, unfortunately JC's baggage didn't make it for some days after. Bless Malev Airlines little cotton socks, or JC's lack of them.

After being chosen to represent the UK we set about the mammoth task of equipping an 8-way team in the short time that was left.

We would like to thank John Le Blanc from Performance Design for supplying us with nine custom coloured PD 190's in just four days, and Derek, Chris and Lofty from Thomas Sports Equipment for supplying our 1-Pin Teardrops at such short notice. Also thanks to Tony 'Uregobelow' (Tony suits) for getting all our suits to the airport in time, and thanks to Eddie gets Carroll for coordinating it at all. We would also like to thank Simon Ward (Sward Sports) for the gloves that we all wore.

Life in Lucenec was different to say the least. The food was OK if you were heavily into boiled potatoes, and not vegetarian. The Town was old and looked as if it was just emerging from Communism into Capitalism with such additions as an ice-cream parlour. The prices were very cheap with people offering all and sundry for Western currencies. There was also a lot of fighting

going on between the local pickpocket gypsies and skydivers out at night for a drink.

Our training camp days started at 0530 hrs (the '0' standing for, 'oh my god it's early!') with half an hour stretching, followed by dirt diving under the guidance of Andy Woodmansey our bungee jumping coach. The first lift would take off around half past six and we would normally be on it. The loadmaster spotting for the M18 left a lot to be desired. On our very first lift of the training camp we all landed far enough away to warrant getting a public transport bus back to the airfield which amused the locals to say the least. Unfortunately Andy McGowan from Airtime managed to bend himself in a corn field and had to face the normal 'if you pull those toggle things just before you land you get a nice soft landing' jokes for the next couple of days. After that experience John Rix spotted for us for the rest of the trip on all fours looking over the edge of the tail-gate. This made an irresistible target and John was duly kicked off the tail-gate towards the latter part of the training camp.

The training camp went well with breaks being spent doing impromptu demos onto the local lake side followed by sun-bathing and long conversations about the amount of body hair on the local female population.

We knew that the Golden Knights had arrived when we woke to find that the doors to our rooms had been booby trapped. In fine British tradition, and not to be outdone, Dennis Hayes acquired the Knights 'Energy Bar' sponsors flag, wrote England on it and placed it on the highest building on the airfield.

The training camp on the whole went very well with the weather going from blue skies to pouring rain and howling winds in an amazingly short period of time. Being paratroopers and because beer worked out to be about 10p a pint (an empty beer bottle was worth 2/3rds of a full one) we took Airborne Forces day off, indulged and swapped Airborne warrior stories with the Golden Knights. We managed 78 training jumps and our average went up by 2.7 points.

The start of the competition came closer and heralded the arrival of our British Delegation which included Rob Colpus, Amanda Kenny, John Hitchen and Red Devils Team Commander Terry Carroll. No prizes for guessing that Malev Airlines managed to lose Terry Carroll's baggage. Help was offered in the form of underwear from Amanda and impartiality (for the embarrassment) from John.

The day of the opening ceremony was hot and humid with thousands of spectators turning up to watch the airshow and listen to the bands and speeches that were given. Standing at the ceremony in a nylon tracksuit was not conducive to health but many thanks to Reebok for providing us with squad shoes and uniforms.

At the end of the meet Dennis had 21 T-shirts, a Spetz Natz uniform and a groin strain to take home with him.

The next two days had been set aside as official practice days. The weather was horrendous and switching the primary judging aid to air-to-air was discussed. Tuesday morning turned out to be ground-to-air judgeable and the practice jumps went ahead. We managed two 'ten in time' and one 'seven in time' skydives for the practice jumps and were feeling ready to go at the start of the competition.

The French 8-way and Golden Knights being very good friends of ours still snubbed the rumour that we were going to take the gold. The friendship between the teams was high (less so for the French and Americans for obvious reasons) and one of the classic opening statements came from a couple of the Russian 8-way team members (who are all military parachute trained) they came over, shook our hands and said "now we are friends". Dennis took full advantage of this and immediately started swapping T-shirts. At the end of the meet Dennis had 21

T-shirts, a Spetz natz uniform and a groin strain to take home with him.

The Czech team were jumping an interesting canopy that was a Blue Track/Sabre copy. One of them hooked himself into the ground and another managed maximum freefall time after cutting away. In fact even though the level of experience at the competition was obviously high, so was the number of people hooking themselves into the ground and various stationary objects.

The competition rounds went by quickly for us as one of our earlier jumps was missed by the camera and we spent six rounds trying to catch up. Thanks again to Andy and his notebook for helping us sort out all our "how can we get this dive back to the start again" problems.

At the end of the competition we came eighth which we thought wasn't bad as we hadn't spent much time together as an 8-way team. The actual competition was a great learning experience, especially watching the Golden Knights break their own world record and carry on to win the 8-way.

The 4-way was won by the French and congratulations to our own British four way team on their new British record of 18 points in time. With the competition over, prize giving turned out to be quite entertaining with the French representative climbing over the crowd before breaking his arm in the demo arena.

All that was left was the party which was held in the gymnasium. The Freds turned up in their team blazers and ties only to be caught in the cross fire of the food fight which was rumoured to have been started by the Australians. Again not to be outdone Dennis conducted a smart left flanking manoeuvre and put two stitches in the Golden Knights chiropractor's nose with a peach stone and was captured and reprimanded by the team commander.

I would just like to say thank you to the BPA for letting us attend and we will be back next year!

Chris Allen
Team Leader, RW Team, Red Devils

ParaGear

The best known name on the planet.

SERVING THE WORLD

When it comes to skydiving, Para-Gear is the best known company worldwide!

The best, year after year, in:

- Inventory
- Selection
- Big 160-page catalog
- Competitive pricing
- Fast shipping anywhere on the planet

More individuals and organizations worldwide use Para-Gear for all their equipment needs than any other.

Don't you deserve to have the best working for you too!

Send for your catalog Today! Catalog + Air Mail Postage to Europe, South America, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, APO, FPO: \$6.50.

Catalog + Air Mail Postage to Africa, Asia, Australia: \$8.00.

para-gear  equipment co., inc.

3839 W. OAKTON STREET • SKOKIE, IL 60076 USA • (708)679-5905 • TELEX: 724438 • FAX: (708)679-8644

\$25.00 minimum on credit card purchase



Dealer Inquiries Invited
Member Parachute Industry Association



PD Source Inc.

Performance Designs
and Vector Specialists

**We Have
Sabres
In Stock**

Uncompromising Service
Competitive Prices
Call Dawn English
800-222-0482
Toll Free in the US and Canada

PO Box 484 • Deland Florida 32721 USA
Phone (904) 734-8888 • Fax (904) 736-2600



DEALER FOR
ALL AMERICAN
AND EUROPEAN
PARACHUTE
MANUFACTURERS

DISTRIBUTORS FOR
JUMP SHACK
GLIDE PATH
PRECISION
P.D.

TRADE IN YOUR
OLD RIG

CHECK OUR
PRICES
BEFORE
YOU BUY

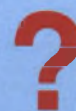
0% FINANCE 2 WOODBURN TERRACE
EDINBURGH
EH10 4SH
TEL: 031 4475236



**FREEFALL
PROMOTIONS**

Are
you...

- tired of waiting for good weather...
- having problems getting off student status...
- tired of jumping outdated parachute equipment...



If so why not plan a trip to sunny

Flagler Beach Florida, U.S.A.

Skydive Flagler Beach dba Flagler Aviation Inc. is the home of Rocky Evans and Rich Fennimore. At Flagler Aviation you will receive personalised instruction from the folks who developed the "Accelerated Freefall Programme" (AFF). We specialize in AFF instruction using "state of the art" parachute equipment. Our student gear is equipped with modern Ram-Air canopies, main and reserve. Our student progression programme is second to none.

Cost for the AFF course (7 jumps) is \$970.00 US.

Flagler Aviation also offers Tandem Parachute Jumps and Tandem Master certification by appointment. Tandem Master Certification

Costs \$280.00 US. (You cover slots in aircraft)

Should you be interested in learning to fly an airplane Flagler Aviation Inc. has a flight school. Our training aircraft is a Cessna 172 (1FR). Our flight instructor will give you personalized instruction to prepare you for your written, oral and practical flight tests. We have a 100% success rate with our student pilots, PPL, commercial and instrument.

We guarantee your Private Pilots License for \$3000.00 US.

Flagler Aviation offers complete Parachute Sales and service. Team rates are also available in any of our aircraft.

Aircraft for 1991-92 include: Cessna 172, Cessna 182, Cessna 206, Queen Air, Twin Otter and DC-3 (on-call).

When you're not jumping you can relax and enjoy the beach, just five minutes from the airport. Accommodation on the beach available.

For further information contact:

Flagler Aviation Inc.

S.R. 100 Box 1636

Bunnell, FL. 32110-1636 U.S.A.

Phone: 904-437-4547 Fax: 904-437-0541

African Adventure

After a short lay off, I recently started instructing at Doncaster Parachute Centre. For some reason this has led me to reflect on my own early days in the sport. To this end I dug out my first log book and reminisced over my first 100 descents.

Whilst I am certainly no advocate of shoddy and inadequate instruction, my overriding memories are ones of great fun - The standard of training today bears no relation at all to the outrageous and indeed exceptionally dangerous instruction that I was made to suffer! On reflection however, it occurred to me that if it were possible to recreate the atmosphere which I enjoyed as a student parachutist, and combine it with the high standards and safety we enjoy today, then just maybe we could dramatically increase the retention rate of our sport as a whole, which is the real way ahead from a development point of view.

So, why then were my early days of parachuting so memorable? Allow me to describe something of the atmosphere of the time:-

My first parachute descent took place on 13 August 1971 at the Rhodesia Skydiving Club. The club was situated twelve miles from Salisbury (now Harare) in the middle of darkest Africa - or so it seemed to me at the time. For over a year, the clubhouse became the absolute centre of my universe - nothing else mattered except being there!

Socially, it was unbelievable - the beer was cheap and the company was stimulating, to say the least. Stacked around the walls of the bar was a collection of over 150 plaster casts of various shapes and sizes. Each was signed and had a description of how

the injury had befallen the unlucky parachutist. The building itself was truly African in character - it was built from large blocks, painted white and adorned with a tin roof which would beat like a drum in the rainy season. Inside the clubhouse was a bar, a general sitting area and a kit store - all parachute packing and maintenance was carried out in the open.

purple and had a horrendous rate of descent caused by a combination of old age, use and the elevation of the D.Z. It was rumoured that it was responsible for most of the plaster casts around the bar. I got on famously with it however, and thought it entirely normal to hit the deck and perform *three* PLFs before everything went quiet (Seriously!)



Bonanza Exit. Photo: Chris Lyall.

Just a few yards from the clubhouse was the pit, where down wind accuracy on Para - Commanders was practised furiously during the day, every bit as furiously as drinking was practised during the night! There was also a dusty airstrip running down the centre of the field which the club aircraft (an ancient Cessna 182) used to inhabit.

The kit in use was extraordinary - mainly ex-Korean war junk, modified in all manner of unspeakable and dangerous ways - "Where ignorance is bliss tis folly to be wise"! The canopy which I adopted as my own was named the "purple people eater"! It was dyed

In static line mode it used the standard sleeve deployed, five break tie system which was in general use at the time. It worked remarkably well. However, in its free fall configuration, its personality changed. It had the combined disadvantages of a B4 four pin pack and a C9 canopy being fitted with a sleeve that the pack was never designed to accommodate in the first place. This, plus twin extractors made it stupendously difficult to close. As if this wasn't enough, there was loads of dust and grit knocking about - ideal for the jamming of ripcord pins in metal cones. Not surprisingly, the result of all this was that two-handed,

two-footed, two-legged and anything-else-you-happened-to-have-going-spare-at-the-time pulls, were not uncommon. This resulted in many a low and often violently unstable opening, which of course required on occasion, the use of the reserve.

The reserve - now there's a thing! Tie downs. No such thing as a nice neat piece of webbing with a crocodile clip at each end existed. No, we literally used a piece (two pieces) of 540lb cord that physically tied the reserve to the base of the pack. This meant that it took ages to put on and even longer to take off! Some reserves were fitted with pilot chutes and some were not - but, nobody knew which!

Altimeters - in all my time in Africa I never used an altimeter. The methods used for the accurate assessment of opening height were as follows:

- a) The Mk 1 eyeball
- b) Watch someone else
- c) Count - (45 second delays!!!!)

Naturally, we had a few persistent low pullers, (often below 1000ft) who were considered to be "a bit of a lad". Disciplinary action was totally unheard of.

Instructors - we didn't have any! Just a bunch of well meaning amateurs. Prior to my first descent I was taught to roll, exit the aircraft, the stable position and if anything were to go wrong, to pull the reserve. Altogether, the training took one and a half hours - quite sufficient!

Progression - Progression was also a little imprecise. My log book shows the first descents in the following sequence:

- 3 x Static-line stable (Counting didn't matter)
- 3 x Dummy pulls - All ok
- 1 x 5 second delay
- 1 x 10 second delay 1 x 20 second delay (with hand pulls)

- 1 x 45 second delay (with hand turns and backloops - of sorts) **QUALIFIED!!**

Altogether I was a student parachutist for three weekends - then I became a skydiver! Or so I thought.

It was shortly after this that it occurred to me that perhaps all was not well. On the next jump, number 11, I experienced my first malfunction. The pilot chute was so well knackered that the spring came out through the fabric and wedged under the back of my helmet, creating a total malfunction. Eventually I thought it would be a good idea to pull the reserve. The reserve opened like the wrath of God (that one **was** fitted with a pilot chute!). The opening shock just about broke me in half - I'm sure that I can blame my back aches on this and not old age!

The chap involved expressed his irritation and pointed out why, in polite society, it is considered important to track

I was involved in relative work from jump 13 onwards - only three and four way stuff, but nobody had ever bothered to explain to me what tracking was or it's purpose. I soon found out when I went clean through a canopy from above - I was still in free fall - he had just deployed. The damage inflicted to the Para-Commander was quite spectacular; 3 gores removed entirely and the peripheral hem was cut right through.

The chap involved expressed to me his irritation and pointed out the reason why, in polite society, it is generally considered important to track - I learned about parachuting from that!

I have to mention at this point the Sacred Stump! Yes Stump! An ordinary tree stump, about four feet tall, standing outside the clubhouse door and which had to be bowed to as one walked by.

I strongly recommend the use of a Sacred Stump to all clubs and centres in this country. Their use should be implemented without further delay. The function of a Sacred Stump is as follows:

Absolutely any **FIRST**; be it jump, free fall, malfunction or indeed, any occurrence that could warrant the victim to be made to stand upon the stump, can of beer in hand, to speak for one minute without pause about the event that was deemed worthy of its use.

If the victim did hesitate, he was blasted with beer by the assembled company, made to down his own beer in one gulp, then perform a side left or whatever from the stump, purchase a round of drinks for the assembled company including himself and then back on the stump to start all over again. Much free beer was obtained in this manner - excellent idea!

Think what you may, the end result of all this, was a great sense of belonging which in turn led to high morale. Negative vibes were unheard of. It took me years to realise and even longer to apply, this simple fact - when morale is high absolutely anything can be achieved. Here is a lesson to be learned!

Finally, this strange African environment in which I found myself, gave rise to some amazingly memorable jumps. So outrageous in their nature were they, that even Bren Jones would think twice - Well maybe not quite that outrageous, but still deserving of an article in themselves - more to come....

Chris Lyall D1898

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION (F.A.I.)

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR FREEFALL FORMATION

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1991

The Subcommittee for Freefall Formation has been very active and productive in 1991. The Subcommittee members have communicated with one another on a continual basis during the past year, and have functioned as a very effective team in dealing with the international freefall formation community. The members of the Subcommittee are: Rob Colpus, United Kingdom; Mads Larsen, Denmark; Arnold Collenteur, Netherlands; Hugh Newman, South Africa; Frank Mahut, France; and Jean-Charles Portier, Switzerland.

Our Subcommittee's first interim meeting was about one hour after the 1991 IPC meeting adjourned. We discussed the replacement name for *relative work*, and agreed that *freefall formation* didn't roll off the tongue very easily, and it's meaning was unclear to non-skydivers. We agreed that either: we ignore the public's confusion over *relative work*, and continue to use it because it would be hard to convince English speaking skydivers to do otherwise, or... we find a practical term which is self explanatory, and make a concentrated effort to persuade English speaking skydivers to use it, especially when dealing with the public.

We agreed on the latter, and propose using the term *formation skydiving* to be the new term to describe our aerial activities. As a test of its practicality, the term *formation skydiving* will now be used in this and the other documents I'm preparing for the IPC delegates. The decision to continue its use will be made at the 1992 IPC meeting.

Most of this year's Subcommittee work centred around the 9th World Parachuting Championships of *Formation Skydiving*, which unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend due to conflicts in my personal work schedule. The other members of the Subcommittee were able to attend and, along with IPC President Eilif Ness and Chief Judge Sherry Schrimsher, did an exemplary job in helping the organizers coordinate a successful world meet. My personal thanks go to Rob Colpus, who took over my responsibilities as IPC controller on very short notice.

Following the competition, Rob Colpus chaired an open forum meeting with competitors, judges, IPC Delegates and other interested participants at the world meet. Many topics involving competitive *formation skydiving* were discussed. No competitors desired any radical changes to the format of the competition events. Their greatest con-

cern was over the source of video recordings used to judge the *formation skydiving* events. Arnold Collenteur recorded comprehensive minutes of this meeting, which have been used as a guide for the Subcommittee's agenda for the 1992 IPC meeting.

The *Formation Skydiving* Subcommittee has spent considerable time discussing the dilemmas of the various methods of recording video for judging. Ground-to-air recording allows for live viewing and immediate scoring, but poorer screen images result in less accurate judging, and its use is limited by cloudy weather.

Air-to-air allows for accurate judging, and continued use in partly cloudy weather, but its use prevents live viewing and immediate scoring. Other problems also surface. Tape speeds have to be synchronized at real-time speeds for all teams, and the difference in video formats causes technical problems. There is also the question of who's responsible if the freefall photographer is unable to accurately record a team's entire air-to-air performance.

One of the Subcommittee's highest priorities is to oversee the development of an air-to-ground video system, and its use in WPC of Formation Skydiving

Direct air-to-ground video transmission allows for live viewing, immediate scoring, accurate judging and use in partly cloudy weather, but the technology and equipment required to develop this system is very expensive, and permits have to be obtained to use the required frequencies in each nation. Maintaining and updating this system also requires expertise and continued funding.

During the Boogie in Bali, Indonesia, Rob Colpus, Mads Larsen and I held an impromptu Subcommittee meeting concerning this dilemma, and we formulated a game plan, which is supported by the other members of the Subcommittee. Now, one of the Subcommittee's highest priorities is to oversee the development of a functional air-to-ground video transmission system, and implement its use in World Parachuting Championships of *Formation Skydiving* as soon as it's practically possible.

The Subcommittee plans to accomplish this goal in three phases. The first phase will be to develop a means for freefall camera operators to accurately and consistently record each team's complete performance, and sustain real-time tape speeds. The second phase, to be simultaneous with the first, will be the development of a prototype air-to-ground video transmitting system. Once this prototype system is proven functional at the world cup level, the third phase will be to assemble a complete system with enough transmitters and receivers to support future World Parachuting Championships of *Formation Skydiving*.

To begin the first phase, the Subcommittee proposes to amend the 1992 Competition Rules for *formation skydiving* to use air-to-air video as the primary means for judging the 4-way and 8-way events. These rules will address all the problems which are initially identifiable, but probably not the subtle ones which won't become obvious until the rules are actually used. Ideally, these rules will be used for many competitions during the coming year, prior to their major test at the 1992 World Cup in Gap, France.

The technology is currently available to develop the air-to-ground transmission system, but the physical assembly and testing of the system is dependent on funding. The Subcommittee has prepared a proposal requesting that the IPC contribute a portion of the funding necessary for the development of the prototype system, in order to begin the second phase.

In November 1991, the Subcommittee for *Formation Skydiving* distributed a press release to most major skydiving publications. It explained the goals of the Subcommittee regarding its proposed use of video judging systems, and solicited recommendations from interested skydivers about the rule amendments for air-to-air video judging. It also solicited bids from technicians who are interested in developing an air-to-ground video transmission system.

The Subcommittee has worked by fax to prepare the initial draft of the proposed amendments for the 1992 Competition Rules for *Formation Skydiving*. The Subcommittee members will continue to gather comments from the skydiving community regarding this draft, and be prepared to make final decisions on the rules at the IPC meeting in February, 1992.

Ampuriabrava - Christmas Boogie

Scenery Ampuriabrava is one of the most breathtaking settings for a dropzone. From twelve thousand feet you can look out over the snow-capped peaks of the Pyrenees which spread themselves towards Gerona in the south and literally into the sea a few miles north of Ampuriabrava. Over the ridge you can see the neighbouring bay and the clear defined coastline disappearing towards France.

The drop zone has been built next to the town, which has a complicated network of canals leading from the sea to every holiday home or apartment. The architecture is incredible and there are times when you feel as if you have stepped into an Escher painting.

Sunshine Ampuriabrava can offer every action sport facility, from snow skiing to skydiving, but more importantly during the three weeks of the boogie, every day was 'wall-to-wall' blue.

A fourteen hour drive from St Malo and I arrived to find the local bar, the Captain's Cabin buzzing with skydivers of all nationalities. From that first night there was a steady stream of new arrivals, which gave the boogie a great party atmosphere.

Aircraft The line-up of aircraft was very impressive with two Skyvans, two Pilatus Porters and a Twin Otter, (all turbines) which made for a very fast turn round.

Alexis Perry led a group of organisers who worked very well as a team and catered for all levels of skydiver. There were times when all five aircraft were working, non-stop, from the start of the day until dusk.

As well as the organised loads, which have become an expected part of any boogie, Ampuriabrava was buzzing with teams in training. Mind Games, a newly formed British 8-way with a lot of talent, plus three 4-way teams, were under the critical eye of Pete Allum. There was an active AFF programme, which included on of my own



Kevin 'Bart Simpson' McCarthy & Michelle.

Photo: Kevin Hughes.

students who graduated on his last day, and many, many tandems.

Boogie Video The fun in the air and on the ground was professionally videoed by Bruno Brocken and Kevin Hughes, who are producing an edited version of the event. Lets hope it will include the hook turn Bruno made with his video strapped to his foot, the turn was good, the flare was great, but the foot with the video camera was three inches

SKY RATS

Hey

Our CENTRO de PARACAIDISMO COSTA BRAVA is your habitat. We cater to your species' needs and desires by offering you.

- BLUE SKIES and MEDITERRANEAN SUN.
- TURBINE A/C (Pilatus Olympic Porter and others).
- MODERN, LUXURIOUS FACILITIES (bar, canteen, shop, dormitories, showers, toilettes).
- LOAD ORGANIZER/RW INSTRUCTORS/COACHES (top-rated professionals helping you to get more out of your skydives).
- AIR-to-AIR and GROUND-to-AIR VIDEO SYSTEMS, VIEWING ROOMS (the "EYE IN THE SKY" that will make you debriefings easy).
- LOW DIVE RATES (discounts for "FREQUENT FLYERS" and for TEAMS).
- ALTERNATIVE SPORTS (mountain bike, rafting, sailing, surfing, waterskiing).
- FUN (**SKY RATS** are PARTY ANIMALS after all).

Send for our free information/registration package!

**CENTRO de PARACAIDISMO
COSTA BRAVA**

Apartado de Correos, 194, 17486 Ampuriabrava, Gerona, España

Tel. +34 72 45 01 11 - Fax +34 72 45 07 49

SKY RATS



too low and spread the camera 30 ft across the packing area - **Crunch!**

Parties Christmas Day and Boxing Day passed with the usual mirth and everyone enjoyed the parties very much, but the night I will remember is New Year's Eve.

As soon as the days jumping was over, every skydiver registered was given a bottle of champagne courtesy of Roland; that made for a lot of bottles and set the scene for the rest of the night. The atmosphere later that evening was unlike any other I have experienced at a boogie, there must have been over 500 skydivers involved, as well as the locals, and everyone was celebrating. Midnight brought the usual countdown and then partygoers everywhere spilled into the streets, dancing, drinking and setting off very loud fireworks.

The first day's jumping of 1992 took a little longer than normal to get going!

1992 - The year of Europe As a start to the 'Year of Europe', the Ampuriabrava boogie could not have been better. Spain is certainly in the public eye this year - Barcelona is hosting the Olympics, Madrid has been designated the European City of Culture and Seville is the venue for Expo '92.

The mood of this boogie seemed to reflect the excitement surrounding the move towards a united Europe and left me with no doubt that it is a good thing.

Boogie News Stefan Ertler from Glide Path was there for the entire period, wooing skydivers with Christmas gifts and tempting them with test jumps on his new Nova. I had the 150 for 2 days, it is fast, precise and exciting, without any nasty characteristics.

Cypres, the new automatic opening device caused a couple of problems by deciding to fire prematurely. The units in question are with the manufacturers to be checked and reset. I would be very interested to read a report on what caused the problems (see box.....ed).

A couple of accidents, caused by late turns, left two of our skydiving friends in hospital. Hook turns, front riser turns or any other method of increasing ground speed for landing is a skill that must be learnt properly - get advice!!



Photo: Kevin Hughes.

Alexis and the Boogie School will be back in England, at Langar from the 27th June to 12th July and will be hosting the second annual European 40-way competition and introducing a new 20-way competition

Thanks Thanks to all those who came to Ampuriabrava, thanks to all the workers who helped to make the boogie run as smoothly as it did, thank you Spain, I will definitely be going again.

Dave Morris

Cypres... from the manufacturers.

We spoke to Helmut Cloth about the supposed premature firing of the Cypres units. He has investigated the incidents and the conclusion is that there was no *premature* deployment. The two firings were as follows: 1) I.C. Male. Experienced jumper with over 400 jumps using the Cypres unit. Jumper estimates that unit fired at approximately 1400ft. 2) T. Female. Total of 120 jumps experience. Tracked off after RW, noticed needle on alti was in the red. Continued with full wave off before deploying main. Cypres fired at this point. Altimeter was not checked immediately. Estimated firing height of Cypres 1250 ft.

Helmut Cloth had the following comments to make about the way the Cypres works:

The Cypres has an activation altitude on 750ft. (Tolerances - minus 100, plus 150). The unit is installed in the reserve container on the jumpers back in an area of lower pressure. This gives an altitude of plus 350ft - this is taken into account in the Cypres calculations. For a tumbling jumper where the Cypres will be exposed to the varying high and low pressure areas above and below the jumper, mathematical algorithms are used to calculate altitude. The two situations in which the unit can be fooled are: a) Where a jumper remains on his/her back for the whole or most of the jump: in this case the firing altitude will be plus approx 350ft ie 1100ft. This is not a bad thing as the pilot chute may need longer to clear if a jumper is back

to earth. b) When a jumper pulls late and is in an upright position (ie Cypres is not in the low pressure area above jumper) and has a high descent rate at this low altitude (eg slow deployment when pilot chute has exerted enough force to pull jumper to the vertical). If all the other error margins are in the 'plus' direction and at their maximum, it is possible for them to add up to fire the unit at 1250ft. (ie 150+350+750) however this is an extremely rare combination of circumstances.

Regarding the two incidents. I.C reckoned his unit fired at 1400ft. Aneroid altimeters also have an error margin especially under changing acceleration. Reading in freefall is not precise either. Therefore 1400ft can not be regarded as a definite firing height. The margin of error means that I.T. could have been at 1250ft, the maximum margin for the Cypres. As for the case of Ms T, it is very likely that she was at, or below, 1250ft.

There are now approx 1400 units in use. During 1991 35,000 documented jumps were made with them without a single unexplained activation. There have been 4 activations which have occurred with skydivers in freefall at approx 750ft and it can be assumed that lives have been saved in some if not all of these cases.

(The Cypres has been described in SP April 1991 page 33, for further information a leaflet is available - see advert).



POPS CORNER

Now that the excess of Christmas and the New Year are well behind us, and all the well intentioned resolutions have been broken we can hopefully look forward to a super year of POPS meets and safe skydiving.

A few of us gathered at the AGM in Leicester last month and the main item was the increase of the once-and-for-all joining fee to £10. So now it will cost all of you aspiring POPS a bit more to join us, but it is still a small amount to pay to join the best club around. We will have available soon a new POPS polo shirt, and metal pin/brooch badge; details in the next mag.

And finally a warm welcome to new members, **Malcolm Ross, Geoff Ellis, Noel Mitchel, Dave Sands, John Flower, Stephen Collier, Sue Hill** and **Dave Lehane**.

Keith Penrose on his 500th, Photo: Ronnie O'Brien



To all of the POPS who are travelling to Cyprus we shall be sending out full details of the competition etc in the next few weeks, if you are making your own way then please let me know so that I can keep you informed. For those members not going to Cyprus we have arranged an alternative meet at the British Parachute School at Langar on the bank holiday weekend of the 23, 24 and 25th of May. John Peck will be there to over-see the proceedings and can be contacted an 0533 897098.

I was delighted to receive the picture of POPS member **Keith Penrose** of Hull, it was Keith's 500th and his happy face says all there is to say about the pleasures of skydiving, even if you are over forty. Keith started jumping seventeen years ago at Grindale as a student of **Ronnie O'Brien**, and was a member of the Northern Sky Divers display team. He finally achieved this mile stone on the 27th July last year. With Keith on this dive were **Dennis Jones, Mike Smith, Ray Kalnins** and **Steve Plank**, the cameraman was Ronnie O'Brien. If you have anything to celebrate or just some news that will be of interest to POPS members then please let me know.

Michael Allum POPS 252
Hon. Treas/sec POPS UK.

POPS MEETS

Date	Place
10th May to 17th May	Cyprus
4th July to 5th July	Swansea
19th to 20th September	Peterborough

DO YOU PAY FOR YOUR BPA MEMBERSHIP BY DIRECT DEBIT?

If you do, please remember it is still important that your membership renewal form is filled in and returned. This enables us to keep our records up to date.



Skysdive Scotland

Parachuting in Scotland is alive and well! For those of you who think that Scotland is just a part of the Arctic tagged onto the top of England, where we spend our lives wearing woolly jumpers and battling through storms, the Scottish Parachute Club would like to announce that parachuting took place on 52 weekends in 1991 !!! That's right, we didn't lose a single weekend due to bad weather.

As a weekend club operating a Cessna 206 and a Cessna 207 we achieved a total of 8000 descents, a record for Scotland, and a tribute to all the instructors and club members who put in a lot of hard work over the year. We had as much enthusiasm from the jumpers the day it was -24°C at 10,000 ft. (in the 206 with no door) as we did in the 'T-shirts and shorts' weather of the summer.

The club also trained more students than ever before with our busiest month being, very strangely, November. All but 12 of the students carried out their jump (they are due back next weekend to be videoed) and retention has been excellent. The S.S.P.A. student of the year went to Simon Raw who went from 1st jump to Cat 10 in just three months and who has now done CRW, accuracy, night RW, anything else going and is now coming up for his D licence.

Other achievements by club members included Graham Harris being invited onto the World Record attempt, the Scottish 9-way coming second in the All Nations competition at Swansea, Katherine Andrewes winning the ladies style, accuracy and overall at the Cyprus Championships and CCI Tim Andrewes being the only person to land off the D.Z. during the night jump programme.

The Scottish Parachute Club runs various small competitions throughout the year to cater for all levels of jumpers, as well as the Scottish Nationals which attracts many jumpers from south of the border. The competition (which is held over the May bank holiday) was completed in all events in 1991, while the rest of the country was hidden under a 1500' cloud base.

In August the club also ran a training week with the emphasis on student progression. The B.P.A. video system proved invaluable as all jumps were videoed and helped both students and experienced jumpers enormously. It was a very successful week with several students progressing onto freefall and others achieving



Kieran Brady, Harry Morgan, Katherine Andrewes, and Graeme Logan at Strathallan.

Cat 8 and Cat 10. CRW also saw a revival and the first 8-Stack over Scotland was built. An attempt was also made at a quadra-down-plane which very nearly worked and was very entertaining to watch.

Some larger formations were made possible in the summer using the two Cessnas and Ronnie Groat's islander flying in formation. The standard of RW has taken a big leap this year with the increase in numbers of instructors and WARP instructors as well as club members who have visited different boogies throughout the year and really improved their own skills.

The club also got some very good media coverage with many newspaper articles about competition successes, charity courses and general club activities. Grampian TV also spent a day at the club and produced a short TV slot on 'North Tonight', the news programme that covers the whole of Scotland. A short film was also shown on Sky TV. Media coverage like this is not only good for the club but also for the sport in general and it is a trend we are hoping to encourage in the future.

Facilities at the club are improving all the time with the building of new student training areas and refurbishment of the buildings. The club has a large hangar, with carpets for packing on, eight male and female toilets (no queues), a good canteen, video room, classrooms and all the other usual facilities. Camping and Bed & Breakfast are in Auchterarder and are cheap and good. As it is a members club and not a commercial centre, jump prices are also cheap with student jumps costing £10 and experienced jumps costing between £4 and £10 depending on altitude.

At the moment the club only runs static line round courses and tandem but we are hoping to introduce A.F.F. next year.

Also next year the club will be running the Scottish Nationals as usual, which may incorporate a regional competition, the British Nationals in Style and Accuracy, a PI Exam course which will also include a student progression course and we are also negotiating to run a collegiate meet. If any POPS would like to organise a visit as well, you will be more than welcome.

Hopefully by next year we shall also have a custom-built portable accuracy pit which will not only be used for competitions and training but will also allow accuracy displays around the country.

One of the biggest achievements of the year was the securing of a 21 year lease on the land for which Kieran Brady, the club chairman, deservedly received the award for services to parachuting in Scotland. This has meant that the Scottish Sports Council now recognise the Scottish Parachute Club at Strathallan as the national centre and accordingly will make the club eligible for sports grants to improve further the clubs facilities. As the oldest existing club in the country we are now looking ahead to a fairly secure future - a comfortable position to be in. We also have none of the air-space problems that many English centres have, we are totally unrestricted and the views are superb.

In the unlikely event of bad weather there are plenty of things to do, as the club is situated in a busy and popular tourist area with all the usual sports and leisure as well as interesting ethnic craft centres (try a visit to the Glenturret Distillery, the oldest in Scotland)!

Night life after parachuting usually takes place in the Star Hotel in Auchterarder which not only will allow you to party until about 6am but also lets you take your fish and chips or Chinese carry-out into the bar.

Why not venture North sometime next year and experience the kind of hospitality you will find nowhere else, and do a few jumps too.

If it seems a long way to come to visit just one club, you could do a tour. The Fife Parachute Centre, the Stirling Parachute Club and the Scottish Parachute Club are all within 40 minutes drive of each other.

Here's wishing you as good a year in 1992 as we had this year.

Blue skies!!!

Katherine Andrewes D7134



Chris and Leo in the basket over the Himalayas



The old Tibetan stared intently. Something had gone terribly wrong. That much he could see even though he had never clapped eyes on a hot air balloon before. I wished I hadn't. My chest hurt. The sun burned down. Feathers danced in the dazzle bright air. The man spoke to a child or was he addressing me? I swivelled my eyes further in his direction. Uh-yuh, it was a child....and it was blowing into a pink toy balloon. I wished it wouldn't. I didn't need reminding about balloons....Where the hell was I? And where was Chris? And where for that matter was the damned balloon?

The sky was completely blue...The child didn't look as if it had ever washed in its life - hands black, dried snot hanging from its nose - I couldn't tell if it was a boy or girl. The Chinese arrived, grinning, and pushed it aside. I tried to grin back but a scowl came.

As I stood up the ribs bit in, and I rolled back in pain. That at least was real. My mind was floating in realms of its own, consciousness and subconscious arguing for attention.

How did I come to be here? Fine time to ask a dumb question like that. But to arrive so rudely in Tibet, and then fall out of the balloon? You can't blame anybody else, I growled at myself, you were the one who persuaded the sponsor, Star Computer Printers, to keep going when all they wanted was to jack the whole thing in. What a stupid idea

anyway - to fly a hot air balloon over Mount Everest!

I found my boot. It had saved my life when it came off. Good boot. Nice boot. I put it back on - it deserved that. Where had these Tibetans and Chinese sprung from? The place was desolate - sand, stones, sky - nothing else. The old man was rubbing his ribs, mimicking my actions. He understood. I drank some water. I hadn't had anything since breakfast, five hours earlier, back in Gokyo in Nepal. Our inflight entertainment didn't run to refreshments - just a stupefying 360-degree panorama. A feast for the eyes; the stomach could wait.

Everest had been just between my legs, Lhotse under my armpit. Further right was Makalu, looking ridiculously easy. Beyond, in the distance, lay Kanchenjunga, peaking up through low cloud at 22,000 ft. To my left Lo La, on the border, carved a link around to Cho Oyo in Tibet where the Russians we met a few days ago were now struggling at 8000 metres. Away on the far horizon lay Shisma Pangma and to the south east lay Annapurna and Dhaulagiri, eight of the World's 8000 metre peaks lay below us. Few people can claim to have witnessed such a spectacle, and certainly not from the open basket beneath a hot air balloon. 'Star Flyer I' had held together - just. Chris was expecting us to plummet at any second, but our parachutes would have saved us...I

sneezed on a passing feather - and passed out.

Don't sneeze, don't cough, and for god's sake, no jokes, I muttered grimly as I fought back to reality. So why did we crash? And where is the balloon now? Where's that bloody Australian pilot? - I could be dying here. An hour ago, I thought I was... on my first drift back to consciousness, when I saw the feathers and sun, and I hurt like mad. My hands were clamped around my lower guts. I remembered Dr. Glen's last briefing. 'If you've got to amputate,' he said, 'leave a flap of skin to sew up the wound.' And priming us for survival (of the leanest), he'd indicated where to find the best cut of meat from the human body.

'If one of you's got a pain in the guts,' he advised, 'the other should stand on him - hard. That'll stop the bleeding. ...Then call me on the radio. And don't forget, nobody's dead until I say so.'

Okay. But the one thing you didn't tell us, smart-ass, was what if we got separated from the balloon and the radio...? Here I was with a pain in the guts and nobody to do the bloody honours... We had packed ten days' radio beacon that would tell the world to within 10 metres where we were (or at least where the it was!). With our high frequency radio, we could talk to England, and we'd been supplied with enough local currency to buy half a Yak. I'd even laid on oversized parachutes in case we had to land high. Performance Design 280 sq foot dayglow orange, and yellow canopies packed into a Vector rig. I had tested it at Dunkeswell and stayed up half an hour! With a 240 sq ft reserve I wasn't taking any chances. Imagine landing on a glacier at 22,000 ft. To give you an idea, at 15,000 ft the atmospheric pressure is exactly half that at sea level meaning that you would descend exactly twice as fast and twice as hard with no 'friendly' DZ operator to pick you up. I thought

...LOON OVER

we'd thought of everything. Nobody told me that balloons can eject their passengers and carry on regardless, taking all their life saving powers with them.

Where the hell was it? I had seen Chris limping off after it. One question stuck in my memory. Mike Bolsan, my film's co-director interviewing me about 12 hours before take-off, had asked 'But why, Leo are you doing this?'

Because, its there? No, I couldn't say that...too well-used. Because it's in the way? Better... because, nobodys done it before? Nobodys been that stupid....

'Well do you think it might be dangerous?' Mike had persisted.

With an airy 'I have to say I feel Ballooning is rather tame', I'd dismissed any such notion, adding that on a Richter scale of 10, Extreme Cave Diving would come out 8, solo-climbing Mount Everest at about 6, and normal sport ballooning somewhere between zero and a half. 'I'll be happy to be proved wrong,' I had told him. Something to haunt me a long time, that was. After the most outrageous balloon flight in history, I now felt we'd moved a couple of points up the danger scale - to 3, perhaps, or even 4.

There were two balloons, four of us, two pilots, and another cameramen besides myself. All of us were skydivers. Without Mandy on the load, I was the most experienced with 2,500 jumps, Eric was next with 400, Chris had completed an AFF course and Andy 'half of one' with Brian Dyas. Try as she could Mandy could not

EVEREST



*Everest at
Sunset*

*Below - Mount
Everest in the
centre with
balloon in the
distance (top left
of picture).*



sneak a slot although she was first reserve if anything had happened to Eric or myself. We were very careful and I even used a food taster, the Nepalese cook. Eric Jones had had a crash course in filming on our trek into the Khumbu three weeks earlier. Chris Dewhurst was my Australian pilot, and Andy Elson, from Bath, Eric's. We were, as all scripts like to describe - a motley crew. Chris used to be a rock climber, a very good one before wrecking his knee and taking up ballooning; Andy knew nothing about mountains, but Eric, who was the first Brit to Solo the Eiger North Face (even if he was 44 when he did it), had given him some icecraft lessons on a glacier we'd passed. Ideally we each needed the skills of balloonist, parachutist, mountaineer, survivalist and cameraman but we settled for three apiece - and Eric. If we were going to land in the shit, my idea was for Eric to get us out. I didn't actually mention this to him but that's what he is good at, after all he's seen Eddie Birch and me up the Matterhorn North Face in appalling winter conditions, and Mick Coffee and me across the Patagonian Ice Cap even if he did spend 54 days finding the way. He is the bloke to have around when you're worried about dying for he won't take it seriously, and laughs the old spectre away.

Chris took off first. It wasn't the plan, but he did. Twenty seconds apart, we'd agreed upon, with the others going ahead. I'd reckoned on having Eric's balloon in my sights and two hundred feet below as we skimmed

and we drank to the downfall of all politicians. What great guys - I loved them all. They stopped climbing as we rose above them. It would have been difficult to do otherwise.

The Sherpas had accepted us without question, and we had been blessed by the monks at Thangboche. One of their number had flown from Tibet to Nepal 600 years

***it is one thing to
crash into Everest in
your own barrel but
quite another to see a
flying frog hovering
around the basket!***

ago on the Windhorse. We were simply going in the other direction. No big deal.

'Black Mountain' dropped away beneath us. (The name was ours, as it didn't appear to have one of its own, and at 19,000ft held no snow.) Our doctor, Glen with his Russian-born wife Irena, were just below us down there, armed with six cameras to record our passing.

Nuptse at just under 8000 metres loomed up, but we cleared it well. The Western Cwm - Eric Shipton's Valley of Silence - beckoned. Last time I had seen it (with Eric) was when Reinhold Messner climbed Everest without Oxygen - and almost without his then mate, Peter Habeler. His latest book tells that I got to 7400 metres; it felt lower but who am I to split hairs. Now I was 'doing' Everest without Messner - and suddenly, without Oxygen either. A ball of ice encased my oxygen regulator and stopped the life-nourishing flow. Uh-uh, that's it, I thought, and gave Chris the cut-throat out-of-air signal that divers use. By way of response, he asked my date of birth!

'Leo,' I answered, puzzled, thinking it was my name he wanted to know. This, in turn, left him wondering why I'd suddenly started talking about star signs. The flight video clearly shows me staring at him and muttering, 'He's more hypoxic than I am.' I continued my filming.

The winds blew at 58 knots, 65 mph, and we flew straight between the Hillary Step and the summit - spot on! but where was Eric's balloon? Through the 300 mm lens you could just make out a tiny dot on the landscape. We must have looked the same to them. Insignificant. No chance whatsoever of filming one another soaring over the world's ridgepole. My 'shopping list' of shots was lost forever.

Chris had other worries. He thought the balloon was overheating and the top might burn out, but he kept this gloomy forecast to himself. In blissful ignorance I continued snapping away at anything that 'didn't move' to compensate for the blown opportunity of a balloon-over-Everest-summit picture.

Unexpectedly we ran into cloud - or that's what I thought till I realised it was the effect of our 'Hot air' meeting the cold atmosphere. A temperature difference of more

that 180 degrees centigrade produced - when viewed from the ground - an effect similar to a flying jet we tugged behind us a streaming vapour trail of whiteness, our 'cloud'.

For filming, I had erected a platform on the outside of the basket. It gave a much clearer view, free from flying wires and gas tanks. The plywood cost me 200 rupees (£4) in Kathmandu, and into it we drilled four holes through which we threaded climbing tape. Wearing my parachute, I boarded my platform for the take off, only to discover that the basket itself was not level, so that my little trapeze felt alarmingly insecure. Nonetheless I climbed outside during the Nepalese part of the flight, and it was only when I clambered back inside the basket and had passed over Everest and were into Tibet, that I grew frightened about falling into the unknown.

We were running short of fuel. Four tanks to 'Ascend Everest', four to find safety. Now we were down to our last one. Chris was worried and it showed. I would jump in an emergency, and felt no qualms about that but earlier in my plans I had thought about skydiving into Tibet, it would be a real coupe for the bar and a good one for the log book if I had still bothered to fill one in, but only in either a real emergency or if everything was under perfect control and our retrieve was in view.

Parachuting is a lot more natural than ballooning. I should have done it, too, except I was lulled into thinking this a tame balloon, large and warm, spilling its heat down onto us like an invisible electric blanket, so that even at minus 56 degrees centigrade, we never needed to wear gloves. In false security, I elected to stay. It was my biggest mistake.

The balloon hit a moraine ridge at 40 kilometers an hour. My world was now horizontal and becoming a drag. Boulders scooped into our basket, my camera fended them off. Fabric tore from the balloon, letting in the sky.

The film showed balloon and basket level. Then we fell off the earth and were in freefall 30 metres above the ground. The pendulum swung us across the valley with terrifying finality.

'Light the burners!' I yelled. I didn't want that happening again. Chris frantically pressed the jet-fighter spark plug, but we were on a relentlessly downward curve the gas would never lift us now and a basket fire was a serious possibility. That's what happened to the Japanese on their attempt 18 months earlier when they hit the side of a mountain ridge. They tumbled 300 metres, and their gas exploded into flames. The basket became a fireball as they dragged their pilot to safety. He suffered a broken femur - and severe loss of face.

Our basket stopped, momentarily, having collided with a boulder the size of a small car. I, on the other hand, kept going, catapulted forwards and outwards, the movie camera still in my hand.

I fell underneath the basket as it dropped. Blue, black, black, blue - the sky and the basket, the basket and sky... Another boulder hit my chest and crushed a rib.

The monster lifted again and lurched on. Something was badly wrong I was still being dragged along underneath. My left boot had caught in a line. Bang, again.



Leo and Mandy Dickinson Ice Climbing

Everest - child that I was, dreaming with my tiny toys. This was no model in the Royal Geographical Society; this was six miles high, against which we and our balloons were the fragile toys.

Six weeks earlier in Spain I'd jumped out of a balloon at 30,000ft filming two ex-SAS men making the world's highest tandem jump. The ground was at sea level, and the drop between my legs enormous. I'd felt very tiny and vulnerable then, scared lest I fell from the basket a second too soon for the shots. It was different here. As we rose, the ground stayed with us. Cho Oyu headed our valley. The Russian expedition climbing it were to lose their Doctor that day, when - at 8000 metres - a tug on the rope unexpectedly released a huge loose block. We'd visited them in their base camp, getting stuck into the medicinal spirit when the vodka ran out. We'd even been invited to Siberia, which sounded a whole lot better than being sent there. Choice was their new found doctrine,

Bump, bump, draggg.. There is always panick, and sometimes it works. I panicked. I pulled and tugged and twisted at my leg until the foot came off... until my foot slid at last free of it's boot. I fell away and motion stopped.

Chris tipped out too, trying, he said, to haul me back in. But I was glad to be out.



Tibetan Family

I'd had enough. Chris's first thought was that he'd broken his leg. Then his rib. He turned out to have a torn ligament in his finger. My duvet had exploded in a show-storm of feathers, I felt like a plucked duck. The balloon - with Chris in forlorn pursuit - came to rest three miles distant.

Eric meanwhile, was having his own epic....

Not only were he and Andy left at the starting gate when Chris unexpectedly took off from Gokyo first, but the problem was compounded by the fact that not one, but all four radios refused to function. Massive interference prevented us from speaking to one another. Unable to see above their big balloon and believing Chris was dangerously close, just above, Andy and Eric in 'Star Flyer II' took off slowly. Without contact they couldn't know we had gone ballistic to 24,000ft. With the first part of the plan wrecked, they approached low over Black Mountain, then had to rise very steeply to climb over Nuptse, the Western Cwm and the even blacker rocks of Everest itself.

Eric was enjoying himself in his role of cameraman. He had strapped himself to the outside of the basket in a barrel, and had Everest big in his lens, when the deafening roar of the balloon burners gave way to eerie silence. They had all blown. (I can tell the precise moment this happened because Eric never finished his 'zoom.-amateur!) Andy at once scrambled on top of the basket with a flint striker, yelling to Eric to do the same. The balloon started a disastrous plunge.

Eric had learnt that when the wind blows upward through the wicker basket you are descending fast. Being inside his barrel he did not experience this breeze. However it is one thing to crash into Everest in your own barrel but quite another to see a flying frog hovering around the basket! When it flew up above the burners he knew something was very wrong! Frog was carrying a radio-sonde to track their passage and should have been 6 metres below on a cord. Their downward descent pulled Mr Frog skywards. It was an unforgettable moment.

Eric said later that never had he felt so out of his depth in the mountains when things go wrong, at least you feel you still have some control over your destiny. Here he didn't, and he decided to jump.

Andy, however, had managed to relight the burners, although their problems were far from over. The same thing happened twice more. Each time Eric psyched himself to jump. The problem was, where to? In 65 mph winds, a square parachute would go backwards at 40 mph, to be sucked straight into the mountain. If you were lucky enough to get over the South Col, it would be the Kangshung Face learing to receive you. And that was without allowing for curl-over. The theoretical rule of thumb to avoid being caught in that, is not to come

down in a horizontal distance from a mountain of less than three times it's height, and allow a thousand foot clearance for every 15 knots of wind.

With all five burners blazing, Andy and Eric limped over the South Col with the barest margin of safety, only then to be confronted by a noise even more sinister than stony silence. One twanging 'ping' was followed by another, and yet another. Seven steel flying wires snapped off, to hang uselessly down the side of the basket. That was a quarter of the complement anchoring basket to balloon. Too much heat had been focused into the mouth of the balloon. Not Andy's fault it was either that or crash into the Southwest Face. In his mind, Andy prepared for the long downward drag, recalling the familiar climbing pictures of Everest's 'Hard Way'. Were they tilted, or was it really that steep?

Six wires had detached from one corner alone, leaving only a solitary strand, which mercifully held. Eric didn't jump, and Andy didn't get his fast ride down Everest, but it was a close call. Later Andy revealed that if the last wire had come away, the weight of

the basket (loaded with 1200 kilos) would probably have been too much for the other corner, where more wires would have snapped to leave the basket and burners dangling at right angles to the balloon. Even if the crew were not tipped out right away, no flames would ever again reach the mouth of the envelope. We preferred not to think about it.

They climbed to 38,000ft to try to overtake us in the faster, higher windspeed. As we in 'Star Flier I', almost out of fuel, spiralled down over snow topped mountains looking for somewhere to land (- and fast!) and dropping 2,000ft a minute. Andy chased us downwards. In his mortally wounded flying machine, he dared not match our descent. Eric filmed our balloon dragging along the ground, pilotless and out of control, not realizing we had been dumped three miles to the east.

With his parachute rip line to the top of the balloon burnt out, Andy had no way of releasing hot air as he bounced over the Tibetan plateau like an giant red and yellow ping pong ball. But after the third 'pong', they came to a gentle halt, remaining upright in zero wind. What a contrast to our own headlong landfall, which was still dragging across the plains of Tibet.

Leaving their balloon up for over an hour, it acted as agigantic marker for our retrieve crew. Within 12 hours of landing, Russell Brice (of Everest North East Ridge fame) had us back at his base camp eating egg and chips, swilled down with beer. We were back in the real world. The Gods of the Mountains had let us off lightly.

Summary: Take off from Gokyo, Nepal (c. 16,000 ft) 06.40 a.m. 21 October, 1991. Flight duration 1 hour 20 minutes and distance 90 miles, to land north of Mount (Ama Drome). Balloon crews Chris Dewhurst and Leo Dickinson in 'Star Flyer I'; Andy Elson and Eric Jones in 'Star Flyer II'. Maximum heights reached 34,000ft and 38,000ft respectively. Everest cleared at 33,000ft by 'Star Flyer I' and just by 'Star Flyer II'. Hot Air Balloons - 240,000 cubic feet with an estimated payload of 1300 kilos. The whole project was Sponsored by Star Micronics UK Ltd makers of Computer Printers.

HIGH ADVENTURE

SPECIALIST TUITION IN SKYSPORT

Why come down when you can go up?!

Today's Paragliders have a sink rate of less than 200ft per min a max speed of 35mph and a glide angle of 10:1. The world record cross country flight is 255Km!!

For further information on

Paragliding, Hang Gliding, and other Adventure Holidays

Ring: High Adventure on 0983 752322

Open All Year Round

The Cyprus Open Parachute Championships

This year's Cyprus Open Parachute championship was the biggest parachute competition ever held in Cyprus. With 166 jumpers taking part, it was also the largest competition held within the BPA in 1991. There were 28 teams in the 4-way Relative Work and 24 4-way teams in the Accuracy event. Almost 1,600 jumps were made in 5 days of competition by jumpers from Cyprus, Austria, USA, Canada, Sweden, Australia, and UK. A good number of the competitors were in intermediate or novice categories. There were prizes in every category so regardless of experience level the opportunity to take away a trophy was there.

Major Bob Card the Commandant of JSPC Netheravon was the Meet Director and ensured that every available moment was used to the best advantage. His team of experienced international judges saw that fair play prevailed throughout a very friendly and protest free meet.

The November Cyprus weather was just about perfect with blue skies, light

winds and temperatures of 24°C for most of the week. The two jump aircraft, Netheravon's turbine Islander and the Cyprus piston Islander flew almost non-stop. The piston had to shut down on occasions as the jumpers could not keep pace with the turn round time in the accuracy event. Nil wind conditions on the night jump made for some interesting arrivals in the target area and surrounding Bondhu!

The Deputy Commander British Forces Cyprus, Brigadier J H Almonds, himself a military parachutist, presented the prizes on the Saturday morning. He thanked Carlsberg Cyprus for their continued support in sponsoring the event and congratulated the prize winners on their achievements.

Thanks go to the judges and officials for their efforts and cooperation. They were Bob Card, Rene and Anneka Bodin from Belgium, Mick Turner, Don Hughes, Jack and Anne Fowler, Jo Scott, Debbie Wynne, Scotty Milne, Jackie Glover, video operator Sarah Young and chief manifestor Tony Makepiece.

The Championships concluded with a most successful party, despite 2 hours of Karaoke, where great quantities of the sponsors product were consumed! Some continued to party until breakfast time down the infamous Lamaca strip but that's another story. We hope to see you all again in 1992 either for the Cyprus Open Championship or any time during the year.

Mike Smith



Runners up in the intermediate RW, Whoops.

CYPRUS OPEN PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIPS - RESULTS

CYPRUS CLUB EVENTS

Best 4 way team
Best placed man
Best placed lady
Best Novice
Best Intermediate
Best placed Cypriot

Famagusta Funnel
Paul Protopapa
Alex Markantoni
Paul Protopapa
Chris Morgan
Paul Protopapa

NOVICE EVENTS

Novice Accuracy Champion
Runner Up
3rd Place

Broughy Brough
George Robertson
Mark McConnell

INTERMEDIATE EVENTS

Style Champion
Runner Up

Graeme Cawthorne
Shane McFadden

Accuracy Champion
Runner Up

Shane McFadden
Andy Paddock

Overall Champion
Runner Up

Shane McFadden
Chris Morgan

4 Way RW Champions
Runners Up
3rd Place

3 men and a Doris
Whoops
RAPA

4 Way Accuracy Champions
Runners Up
3rd Place

Prof's Belly
F.A.B.
Tayside Thunderbirds

Overall Team Champions
Runners Up

F.A.B.
Prof's Belly

NISFFC
RMFFT
Fife PC

Fife PC
RAPA

RAPA
RCT

RAPA
CJSATC

NISFFC

CPC
JSPC (N)

JSPC (N)
CPC

SENIOR EVENTS

Ladies Style Champion

Katherine Andrewes

Runner Up

Debbie Card

Ladies Accuracy Champion
Runner Up

Katherine Andrewes
Debbie Card

Overall Ladies Champion
Runner Up

Katherine Andrewes
Debbie Card

Style Champion
Runner Up

Jeff Chandler
Carl Williams

JSPC (N)
JSPC (N)

Accuracy Champion
Runner Up

Dave Ballard
Carl Williams

JSPC (N)
JSPC (N)

Overall Champion
Runner Up

Dave Ballard
Carl Williams

JSPC (N)
JSPC (N)

4 Way RW Champions
Runners Up
3rd Place

Tenesmus
Floatation Mr Maxwell?
JAIT

4 Way Accuracy Champions
Runners Up
3rd Place

H Tp
Goldilocks & the 3 Bears
Royal Artillery (Red)

JSPC (N)

Overall Champion Team
Runners Up

H Tp
Royal Artillery (Red)

JSPC (N)

Nearest to Egypt Landing

Chris Morgan

CJSATC

Outstanding Personality

"Professor" Tony Makepiece

Kingsfield revisited: The Tayside story

The Cyprus story from Tayside parachute club: volume two.

You may have read volume 1 in one of last year's mags, but this is the second report of the Parachute Championships at Kingsfield DZ, Cyprus.

As with last year we left a windy and cold Glasgow Airport on the Wednesday afternoon and arrived in a lovely warm evening in Cyprus. After settling in to our rooms and finding the local, it was heads down for a sleep before seeing Scotty Milne the CCI and his merry men on Thursday.

There were two aircraft there, a nasty cold Islander H-D with no handles and a horrible warm Turbine Islander A-P that had so many handles you couldn't climb out of the damn thing. (Beats the c..p out of -20 degrees at Errol the Saturday before!). The call of "running-in" will never sound the same again, Thanks Ali.

By the weekend we had all had a couple of lobs just to get to know each other (the RW teams had done little or no jumps together before due to shifts, offshore work etc etc). The category students were doing really well with three jumps a day, progressing at an alarming rate. The other group of the crew arrived late on Saturday. Some come out to the DZ on Sunday but as the gliders came in at noon we had to go to the beach instead!

The competition started on Monday morning with the novice accuracy. This always provides enormous entertainment with the roundies fighting for the pit. Several TPC members were in action and young "Numptie" Mark McConnell was up with the leaders from the beginning. The intermediate Accuracy team of the "Tayside Thunderbirds", Consisting of Pete Anelli, Andy Dickson, Roger Donaldson and Tamara Forgie also took to the air. Tamara was here last year as a static-line student and Scotty was delighted to see her back on Squares.

We had two RW teams, one senior TCN (The Cyprus Numpties) and one intermediate AEW (Acting Ensign Wesley Crusher), the latter causing Bob Card and Prof to manifest all sorts of problems, but we knew who they meant. The battle was not so much to win any prizes in the competition but to beat each other!

Two competitors entered the Unstable competition at intermediate level, Graeme Cawthorne and Neil McLaren. Graeme did

an amazing job at the old "dizzy dizzy, blue - green" and won the event. Neil, however, zapped in both rounds. (I blame sitting in H-D at 7000 feet for 45 minutes and still not getting out!).

The competitions carried on as the week progressed, with George Mutch lurking on every possible lift to progress after the day's novice accuracy had been completed. The first cloud to stop jumping since February put the RW on hold for a day, but the accuracy carried on. Eight rounds of both RW and Accuracy meant that the aircraft hardly ever stopped during the week.

AEWC carried on where the Tayside teams had left off last year and launched a 4-man cat on Round 3. After moving to the first point we were lost on video and had to re-jump. Unfortunately the cat burst on the second attempt.

In the team accuracy, the TT's were doing well and eventually finished third. Andy Dickson decided to plough the pit with his nose at one point, and Tamara learned a lesson that, fortunately, did not land her in hospital. (One or two others, however, were not so lucky). Young Numptie finished third in the novice accuracy and along with Graeme's style win, we didn't do too badly. As for the RW, TCN scored eight in total and AEW scored seven.

As with last year the night life in Cyprus just has to be savoured. Staying in Ayia

Napa meant a thirty minute drive each morning, and I think Larnaca is looking better next year, but the pubs and clubs were great even though it was getting to the end of the season. 'Party Animal' this year went to Roger Donaldson proving that this is not just a young man's sport. (Just ask Tim Andrews!). Fun jumping was available after the competition finished on Saturday and again on Sunday. The aircraft were due services so nothing much happened after this. You guessed it, we had to go to the beach again. The end of meet party was good with a DIY Karaoke machine starting off the night, and a magic meal laid on by the Pergamos staff.

Once again a great time had by all and I'm sure we will be back again next year. Thanks to Scotty and his staff, the judges, pilots, canteen ladies, the Marines for keeping us all amused with their punishments and stonings and especially the Prof, (wait till the party pictures come out!!).

The Easter boogie is on again in 1992 along with the November championships. Why not head off to Cyprus and go jumping in God's back yard.

Remember, "You've got to be fit for this shit!" (G.S. Nov 91)

Blue bits and fluffy landings,

Neil McLaren D9296

Take off into the sunset. Photograph: Neil McLaren



ROGER MARSDEN MEMORIAL TROPHY 1991

Held at the N.W.P.C., the competition saw the registration of 20 teams by early Saturday morning. As the briefing and ground rules for the meet took place, the cloud was lifting and by mid-morning the draw was complete and the competition was under way.

Teams consisted of two jumpers and two non-jumpers. Jumpers exited at three and a half grand with a balloon, on landing the balloon was passed intact and inflated to the non-jumper who, dependant upon age, sprinted, ran, dashed, walked, or crawled 100 metres to the judges table where the balloon was burst and the time recorded. Many ideas emerged regarding exiting the aircraft without losing or popping the balloon. Needless to say many failed and the non-jumper paid the price by having to blow up a balloon and burst it after the 100 metres.

With such a large turn-out and a later than anticipated start the meet was completed after two rounds, and after the judges had implemented the handicapping system the top 3 teams emerged.

To find the individual winner, members of each team, raced against each other in an egg and spoon race, three heats finding one winner from each team. The final was a 10 question music quiz which eventually saw Dennis Buchanan emerge triumphant.

It was interesting to find that the 2nd placed team 'Cow pat united' had only completed their 1st jump training the previous weekend and had made their 1st descent on the Friday before they start of the meet, knowing that student



1st Placed team: Quick Quick Slow

jumping would be difficult because of the competition they, entered; what a surprise they got!

The presentation was made after the B-B-Q, during the bad taste party, before the serious drinking broke out. Fanny, Roger's wife presented the winners with some superb trophies and medals, and crowned Dennis Buchanan the winner of 1991 Roger Marsden Memorial Trophy. The competition was completed in 1 day and it was pleasing to see such a large turn out for such a light hearted meet.

It goes without saying that if Roger had been with us today he couldn't have asked for a better weekend and for those who didn't know Roger personally, by the end of the meet they

wished that they had. Roger has been sadly missed from the parachute fraternity and it only seems appropriate that we remember him in this way.

Thanks go to all who organised the meet, the N.W.P.C. for hosting the meet and those who made every effort to join in and enjoy the weekend.

Special thanks to Fanny, Kate and Jacky Marsden for their donation/presentation of the trophies and medals to the winners.

Everyone agreed that this is a meet not to be missed and we hope to see a few more skydivers for this years "meet", as it's going to be a corker.

Stu Morris D4818

Results

1st	Quick, quick, slow Steve O'Rourke John Flynn John Williamson Carl Bowen
2nd	Cow pat united Simon Finch Steve Hughes Paul Grainger Gareth Jinks
3rd	Dennis Dodds dad's dogs dead Dennis Buchanan Gill Williams Terry Noone Bobby Williams

CONFUSED ABOUT
WHERE TO GO FOR
NEW GEAR?



RIGHT TRACK

PARACHUTE SALES & SERVICE INC.

**You won't get a cold
shoulder from us.**

JAVELINS - RACERS - VECTORS - TALONS - PD'S
- SABRES - GLIDE PATH - ARIELS - MONARCHS -
PARA FLITE - SWEETHOG - FALCONS - DYTTERS -
ALTIMETERS - TOYS - T-SHIRTS - GEARBAGS -
JACKETS and MORE, MORE, MORE

Call or write for Free Catalog.

P.O. BOX 1655, ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33539 ph. 813 783-2932 fax 813 783-7604
VISA - MASTERCARD - AMERICAN EXPRESS

LOCATED AT THE PHOENIX/Z-HILLS PARACHUTE CENTER

1992 DIARY OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
21st - 25th Feb	International Parachuting Committee Meeting	Paris
22nd - 23rd Feb	Instructors Weekend	Weston-on-the-Green
18th - 20th April	Easter Bunny Boogie	Langar
2nd - 4th May	Central Regional Style & Accuracy Meet	Langar
11th - 15th May	PI/Advanced Instructor Course 2-92	Peterborough
18th - 22nd May	Exam/Pre-Adv Instructor Course 2-92	Peterborough
23rd - 25th May	Scottish National Championships	Strathallan
23rd - 25th May	Northern Regional/Style/Accuracy /RW Meet Strathallan	
23rd - 25th May	Central Regional CRW Meet	Langar
6TH - 14TH JUNE	CLASSIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	STRATHALLAN
13th - 14th June	Central Regional R.W.Meet	
27th June - 12th July	Large Aircraft Boogie	Langar
9th - 7th July	40-way R.W. competition	Langar
11th - 18th July	RAPA Championships Bad Lipspringe,	Germany
17th - 19th July	Southern Regional Style & Accuracy Meet	Eaglescott
1ST - 9TH AUG	R.W. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	PETERBOROUGH
3rd - 7th August	P/I Advanced Instructor Course	Strathallan
10th - 14th August	Exam/pre-Adv Instructor Course 3-92	Strathallan
13TH - 24TH AUG	CLASSIC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIEBEN,	AUSTRIA
22nd- 31st August	Army Championships	Netheravon
15TH - 25TH SEPT	CRW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ANYANG CITY,	CHINA
2nd - 6th Nov	PI/Advanced Instructor Course 4-92	Venue to be decided
9th - 13th Nov	Exam/Pre-Adv Instructor Course 4-92	

COUNCIL & SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 1992

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
STC	20th February	7.00 p.m.	BPA Offices
Council	3rd March	6.30 p.m.	BPA Offices
STC	9th April	7.00 p.m.	County Arms, Leicester
*Council	22nd April	6.30 p.m.	BPA Offices
STC	28th May	7.00 p.m.	County Arms, Leicester
Council	9th June	6.30 p.m.	BPA Offices
STC	9th July	7.00 p.m.	County Arms, Leicester
Council	21st July	6.30 p.m.	BPA Offices
STC	27th August	7.00 p.m.	County Arms, Leicester
Council	8th September	6.30p.m.	County Arms, Leicester
Council/EGM	20th October	6.30 p.m.	BPA Offices
**STC	26th November	7.00 p.m.	County Arms, Leicester
Council	8th December	6.30 p.m.	BPA Offices

Riggers Sub-Committee Meetings also take place on the same days as STC Meetings, but are held at the BPA Offices at 4.00 p.m.

* Please note that on the previous notice sent out the Council meeting in April was notified as on the 21st. Unfortunately the BPA Offices are closed on that date for Easter. Therefore this Council Meeting will be on **Wednesday** the 22nd April.

** Also on the previous notice it stated the STC Meeting was on the 25th November. This was incorrect, the November STC takes place on the 26th November. All STC Meetings in 1992 are on a Thursday.



BRITISH PARACHUTE SCHOOLS

■ **AFF** We now offer the best deal yet. £1250 for the eight jump course. A made-to-measure Symbiosis jumpsuit included in the price. Low cost rejets, a level four would be only £28. Seven sets of AFF equipment.

■ **IN-FLIGHT DOOR!** We now boast an approved in-flight door for our Islander to take full advantage of the unrestricted altitude over Langar.

■ **COURSES** We offer all courses. Static line square - Static line round - Tandem Skydives - AFF - WARP.

■ **WARP** We have a full compliment of WARP instructors waiting to help you. Due to our active AFF programme WARP is very important and very active at Langar.

■ **BOOGIE SCHOOL 1992** If you missed it last year, don't miss it in 1992. The first two weekends in July the Langar Large Aircraft Boogie is happening again!

CHECK OUT LANGAR - A DROP-ZONE RUN FOR THE JUMPERS BY JUMPERS.

For more information on courses, competitions and boogies, contact:
Dave Hickling (0949) 60878 or Dave Morris (0733) 266076

British Team Fund Competition

With world meets being held in distant countries such as China and Thailand, delegations growing in size, and the rising cost of travel and accommodation the competitions committee budget is suffering and so are our National Teams. The Sports Council contribute much needed cash to the association and a percentage of this money is allocated to competitions. The total money available for our teams however, unfortunately does not provide enough to cover training camps, jumps and coaching in addition to the above expenses. In the past, some successful teams have had to disband because the financial strain of getting to an international championship results in months spent working to recoup the money.

With this in mind a British Fund, similar to one run by the USPA is being set up, and members are being urged to contribute. We will all benefit in some way and there are many reasons why we should all make the effort to give a little extra..

Firstly, in the UK unlike some other countries, almost without exception, national champions have reached their pre-eminent positions the hard way with much personal sacrifice and determination. Because they are committed to the sport, they put a lot back in; by coaching, advice, demos (good PR) and participation in the running of the sport.

Secondly, by improving the skills of our national champions and improving their international success at the international level, we will reap the benefits at club level. Already our national champions are actively involved in coaching up and coming teams. These teams will compete at national and regional competitions and pass on ideas, techniques and training tips. The higher standard of jumping will set new targets and new levels of commitment for aspiring competitors.

There is little doubt that a little more money will go a long way, as was shown

Win a Satellite System

To launch the fund, the BPA is running a competition offering:

First Prize: Amstrad 400 Satellite System with built in decoder and 65cm Black Mesh Dish.

Second Prize: £50

Third Prize: £25

Plus: 10 Ben-Bags for runners up.

Just answer the following questions and complete the tie breaker:

- 1) **Where was the first British civilian parachute club founded?**
- 2) **How many were in the large formation record set 10 years ago (June 1982)?**
- 3) **What is the highest ever placing for a British RW team at the World championships, and in what year was it achieved?**

Tie-breaker: In no more than 100 words list 4 people (they don't have to be parachutists) who should be included in the delegation accompanying the next British RW squad to the WPC, and give your reasons. The most amusing or original entries. will be published in the next SP (assuming they are printable).

Entry fee is £5: Send a cheque, or postal order made out to the BPA British team fund.
To: **BTF Competition, British Parachute Assoc. Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF.**

Closing date for the competition is April 4th 1992.

Competition rules:

- Late entries will not be accepted
- The panel of judges' decision is final
- No employees of the British Parachute association, Airscape Ltd, or Northampton Aerials may take part.

by the fortuitous circumstances that occurred this year; the Red Devils who represented us in the 8-way were self funded and the extra money available enabled the BPA to fund a training camp for **Air-time**, plus a hundred jumps and one of the worlds top coaches. The team went on to break the UK record and came 6th in the World Championships. The fund will ensure more such successes

The British Team Fund will be a High Interest Deposit account, administered *only* by the competitions committee - It will be used solely for British national representatives in all disciplines. The BPA will actively seek contributions from businesses. This will hopefully result in more success than past efforts have in finding single sponsors for teams.

How can the average jumper help? Firstly, any contribution will make a difference...for instance if every full member of the BPA contributed the equivalent of one altitude jump ticket the fund would have over £60,000. Secondly you can donate prizes for the competitions (which we will be running in the mag) and the BTF Auction, (details in next SP). Thirdly you can enter the competitions; **and you can start right now!**

INSURANCE FOR PARACHUTISTS



**WEST MERCIA
INSURANCE BROKERS**

High St., Wombourne, Nr Wolverhampton WV5 9DN
Tel: 0902 892661

MMABATHO BOOGIE CHRISTMAS 1991

There's no doubt - South Africa just HAS to be on the travel itinerary at some time in your life. The country is vast, the clouds huge and the people larger than life. Combine your travelling with a Boogie and you have the perfect introduction to the people of the region.

The number one Boogie in Southern Africa, Bophuthatswana to be exact, was once again held at Mmabatho Airport about three hours West of Johannesburg. Owing to internal politicking and less overseas marketing the 1991 event was **down** on jumpers from the previous few years, about 150 in total or up to 100 at any given time.

The Drop Zone features clubhouse with bar, canteen, grassed packing area, shades and the new swimming pool - a much welcomed addition to the facilities.

There were several notable overseas organisers and guests including 'Fritz', Roger Ponce De Leon, Peter Schafer (of Blue Sky Magazine and sky surfing fame) and even Jim Hooper (ex owner/operator of Z-Hills) made an appearance. Leo Dickinson showed his latest film 'Dead Men's Tales' and other adventures whilst Simon Ward took a few snaps and offered video assistance to the event.

Jumps were from military Casa's, both the long and short versions which held 70 and 35 respectively. Jump standard was at 'Boogie' level with two or three main groups and levels forming.

The Mmabatho Boogie has been going for a number of years and we may well see a change of venue for the locals. A new operation called Skydive Africa has recently opened at Pilansberg, just a stone's throw from Sun City where the 83 World Meet took place.

Watch out for the DZ, It's set to make an international reputation as it offers world class facilities and favourable jump rates - especially for teams.

Skydive Africa can be contacted at PO Box 6563, Dunswart 1508, South Africa. Telephone +27 11 849 7445 or fax +27 11 918 1997.

Simon Ward



Words and pics by Simon Ward



Belgium

For the last five months of 1991 I had to work in Brussels. Before leaving, I contacted the BPA who gave me the address of the Belgian Parachute Federation. I rang these people to establish the nearest Drop Zones to Brussels and I found myself talking to someone who knew very little English. My French is diabolical, but I managed to establish the name of one Drop Zone - 'Schaffen'. With this in mind I left for Brussels with suitcase under one arm and my kit under the other.

In Belgium there is basically a North/South divide. Those north of Brussels speak Flemish, those south speak French. In Brussels both languages are spoken. Due to the history of Belgium there can be some bad feelings between French and Flemish speakers, although I won't explain why; you may well find some French speaking people refusing to speak Flemish and Flemish speakers refusing to speak French. Most people can speak English well.

I did not have a car during my stay so for most of my travel I had to rely on the trains. At first I found this confusing, on the first page of the time-table there is a map of all the routes with names of stations and a letter for each route signifying the table to use for the times. On turning to the desired table you find that not

all the names are the same as on the map. This is because the map uses the Flemish names and the table uses the French! I solved the problem by buying a map of Belgium that showed both the Flemish and French names. I have since discovered that you can get a Flemish-only time-table. The general rule of thumb is use the Flemish time-table north of Brussels and the French time-table south of Brussels. All the drop zones I visited were in the Flemish part.

When names of places are mentioned I shall give the Flemish name and if applicable the French name in brackets. It is worth mentioning that the exchange rate was about 60 Belgian Francs (BEF) to the Pound Sterling. On my first weekend I decided to make my way to Schaffen. I caught a train from Brussels - via Leuven (Levain) where I had to wait 40 minutes - (Leuven is famous for its university founded in the 14th century and Stella Artois). From Diest station to Schaffen Drop Zone is a 30 minute walk north. The first time I caught a taxi it cost me about 200 BEF. The total time from Brussels to Schaffen is about 2 ½ hours; a return ticket costing 325 BEF.

Schaffen is the home of the Belgian Parachute Regiment. It is situated about 69km east of Brussels and consists of a military base with a DZ large enough to sprinkle the entire static line load of a C130 in one pass. It also has the largest pit known to mankind, even I managed to land in it. The civilian club I believe is one of the oldest clubs in Belgium. It is a weekend-only club and has one hangar which houses everything: planes, kit room, manifest, cafe and loos. Schaffen normally operates two Cessna 206's, but due to operating difficulties only one was in use while I was there. For the previous 14 years there had been hardly any problems with any of their aircraft. However, in 1991 they crashed four aircraft in as many months. One incident was caused by the nose wheel of the Cessna 206 sinking into a hole while taxiing. This caused the propeller to hit the ground causing serious damage to the engine.

The other two were more serious. A low pass by a pilot who hit a wind sock pole (he got down safely), and the worst was a Cessna 185 which crashed while taking-off. Fortunately nobody was seriously hurt. Despite there only being one Cessna 206 the waiting was no worse than a British drop zone with a larger aircraft. Belgium has several smaller clubs

fairly close together so membership is proportionally smaller. I found this club to be very friendly, it is in a Flemish speaking part of Belgium which can be confusing when they call out the manifest. I could recognise my name being called but I had no idea if it was for a load in 30 minutes, 5 minutes, if I was stood down or whether they were asking me to pay my last jump bill.

Maximum altitude was 10,000 feet and this would cost 520 BEF + 50 BEF for a non-member. The most number of jumps I was able to do in one day was two.

I found Schaffen to be a very friendly club and would recommend it to anyone who has just got their Cat 8 because of its large size and lack of hazards. They apparently run an AFF course for as little as 40,000 BEF (less than £700). As far as I could make out there are no facilities to stay overnight and no showers. The static line course use the military kit. First jumps are done on non-steerable round canopies from 1,500ft. One of their pilots is an ex-Belgian air force F16 pilot. They also have another member called Crazy Rambo, he's special forces and jumps a camouflaged rig/canopy. I think someone should tell him that his pilot chute is bright red.

The next DZ I visited was Swartberge. This is about 8km north of Genk roughly 120km east of Brussels. A return ticket to Genk cost 550 BEF. On arriving at Genk I decided that I was in no immediate hurry to get to the DZ due to low cloud. I saw a sign for Swartberge with the distance of 5km, foolishly I decided to walk - I'm sure that distance was in miles, not kilometres. I arrived at the club at midday and found it had a very good restaurant. Unfortunately due to the weather I was unable to jump that day. The only other things I can tell you are that it runs a split DZ, has one Cessna, (I don't know which model but it holds 7 jumpers and has a turbine engine), maximum altitude is 12,000ft, and is the home of the Black Mountain Boogie.

The next DZ I visited was Moorsele. I'm sure many Brits are familiar with it as the home of the Hercules Boogie (before the Gulf War). This time I was lucky to be driven to the DZ with friends from Schaffen. Our intention was to participate in a night jump. However we were unlucky with the weather as it was raining very hard when we arrived. No jumping took place that day. The only information I can give



is that it has one piston Islander, it's about 8km north west of Kurtrijck (Curtrai) and about 150km west of Brussels.

Last but not least, on my free weekend I decided to visit Oud-Turnhout. This is probably 100km north east of Brussels. I caught the train to Turnhout changing at Mechelen (Malines). Do not change at Mechelen Nekkerspeol (Malines Nekkerspeol). The train journey takes about an hour and a half and cost 325 BEF. The only way I could find the way from the station to the DZ at Oud-Turnhout was by taxi, this cost 300 BEF. Everything focuses around the club house, and it works extremely well. Each jumper is given a piece of plastic the size of a credit card with his name on it. There is a rectangular board which consists of transparent pockets in which the cards are inserted. The board is 10 pockets deep (the number of jumpers on the plane) by about 8 columns (ie, 8 lifts). When you manifest, you purchase your ticket in advance, stick it to your card and you choose which lift you are on by placing it in the first empty slot on the board. When it's time to kit-up they put a sign "Fitten" above the desired load. It's a very simple system. The plane is a Pilatus Porter that they will fly with either 9 or 10 jumpers. If you are jumping by yourself you virtually have no waiting, you are only limited by how fast you can pack/eat/drink throughout the day. I was there in the last weekend of November; I was on the first lift at 11:30hrs and by 15:45hrs I had done 4 jumps. Incidentally there is only one altitude of 12,000ft at Oud-Turnhout at a cost of 800 BEF for non-members, 630 BEF for members. The Porter is the only plane into which I have climbed into feeling cold, and left (at 12,000ft) feeling uncomfortably hot. The heating was superb.

After this weekend I regretted not going there earlier. In the summer you can have a long wait. It is heavily frequented by RW teams, and the teams have privileges that mere mortals do

not, like double manifesting. This DZ has the reputation for being the best DZ for RW, it is also the smallest DZ I have ever seen, and is a funny shape.

There are plenty of hazards around. They do run an AFF course (about 40,000 BEF) and square static lines; students do not attempt to land on the DZ but in some fields about half a mile away. Apart from the situation of the DZ, it's probably the best for RW and there was a lot of talk of purchasing another plane possibly a Pilatus Porter. If this happens it will certainly be the best DZ in Belgium.

There is no accommodation on the DZ but I was lucky in that someone put me up in their caravan for the night. The club is very close to Holland and a lot of Dutch people jump there.

The rules and regs in Belgium are a little different to those of the BPA. There is no category system in Belgium. Frap hats can be worn as soon as you finish the Freefall course. It only takes 100 jumps to acquire a Belgian FAID licence. Radio spotting also occurs more frequently, even though the rules say the ground must be visible before you jump. One jump I did at Schafften was from 8,300ft, the cloud was solid for 6,500ft down to 1,500ft. It's no fun tracking and dumping in cloud. Just before we left the aircraft the pilot turned round and said something in Flemish. It was translated by a jumper to 'If asked by an instructor if you could see the ground, "say yes"'. We did all receive a B***** for leaving the aircraft, it was all in Flemish to I couldn't understand a word of it any way. I was just glad to be down safely.

At Oud-Turnhout there was only one load on the Sunday I was there. The Porter took off and very quickly disappeared into the overcast sky. On the ground we heard it climb to altitude, the engine cut, and the canopies open. But not one canopy became visible as they



descended from the clouds at 300ft. I was beginning to wonder how much face I would lose by taking my name off the 3rd lift. Fortunately everybody landed safely. I talked to an American on the load and he said, "I just had time to turn, then flare, the clouds were from 300 - 1,000ft". Meanwhile the Porter landed and the next load, all kitted-up, were being coaxed into the aircraft. I was glad to see they all walked back to the packing shed.

I hope this information has been interesting and that it will be useful for any other jumpers who find themselves in Belgium with or without a car. I did not get a chance to visit any DZ's in the south of Belgium, maybe someone else can do that. The only DZ in the south I heard mentioned was called Spa, and if my information is correct it is the only full time DZ in Belgium, all other clubs are weekend-only. If anyone does find themselves in Belgium then sample Oud-Turnhout as well as the 800 beers brewed from that country.

Blue skies

Rowland Cook C8808

Air Care

Manufacturers of Quality Sports Goods

When you choose your next skydiving suit, Why not consider what Makes that suit just right for you. If it is price, style, performance, fit, quality, workmanship, guarantee and service then Air Care has the suit that's right for you.

For further information on our suits and other quality products, contact Nick Johnston.

Our NEW address:

7 Boynton
Bridlington
East Yorks
YO16 4XJ
Tel 0602675098

INSTRUCTOR WANTED

Weekend Instructor wanted at the
**Sterling Parachute
Centre**

(Good Daily rate paid)

Thornhill
Nr Sterling
FK8 3QT

Contact Rob or John
(0786) 87788

NEW & USED GEAR, ANDY AND THE ALTI V

Sword Sports have just been awarded the sole UK distributorship for SSE Inc who produce the world standard range of altimeters including the Altimaster II, Altimaster III (now supplied with a wrist mount) and - the brand new Altimaster V.

The Alti V features a similar face to the Alti II within a far smaller case. It's ideal for chest or wrist mounting and comes complete with a curved backplate and wrist mount strap. The Alti V is already beating all other Altimeter sales in the USA.

This month we welcome Andy Peckett to the staff. Andy is an ex Royal Marine (Freefall team) and will be handling our gear sales - new and second hand, always plenty in stock - so call him!

Don't forget the Cypres parachute opening device. Is your life worth it? (You don't have to answer!) We've recently published a small booklet all about the device which is free with every order or send us a stamped A5 envelope and we'll get one to you.

Altimeters

○ Metres ○ Feet

- **Aeronaut** 13,000 ft, white face. Wrist or chest mount. Inc wrist mount. Great value £54.95
 - Black ○ Red ○ Blue ○ Pink
- **Altimaster II** 12,000 ft, white face. The 'Standard' Altimeter £112.75
- **Altimaster III** 12,000 ft. Includes wrist mount. £143.45
- **Altimaster V** Wrist (inc) or chest mount 12,000 ft. ○ Blue ○ Black £79.95
- **Parachutes de France** 13,000 ft, white face. Inc wrist mount. Very sturdy £87.50
 - Pink ○ Silver ○ Blue ○ Turq
- **Chest Pad** foam pad fits all altimeters. Colour: _____ £4.75
- **Chest Pad/Zak Knife** as above with built in Zak knife. Colour: _____ £7.99
- **'U' Brackets** (pairs) attach Altimaster II to chest pad. £2.95
- **Wrist Mount** ○ Alti II ○ Alti III £5.95

Audible Altimeters

Altitude awareness safety devices. Recommended to all levels.

- **Dytter** pulsating tone at preset height Very loud. ○ Red ○ Black ○ Blue ○ Turquoise. £120.00
- **Microhawk** Black. £89.95
- **Dytter Mount** For no helmet dives £9.95
- **Dytter Batteries** Set of 4 £9.95

Gloves

SIZES: ○ XS/7 ○ S/7.5
○ M/8 ○ L/9 ○ XL/9.5

- **Aircrow** Close fitting unlined leather Sensitive feel. Excellent for all purpose use. £17.50
 - Black ○ Red ○ Navy ○ White
- **Thermal** Thermal lined leather gloves with cuffs. Close fitting. Ideal for winter. £17.50
 - Black ○ Red ○ Navy ○ White
- **Gripfit** Leather palm/Lycra back Stretch fit. Fashionable £17.50
 - Black palm/black back
 - White palm and hot pink/turq back
- **Silk Inners** Liners for gloves for extra warmth under your normal gloves £7.25
- **Webbed Gloves** Suede leather palm/spandex back. £19.95
 - S ○ M ○ L

Camera Gear

- **Mount** Polycarbonate plate & nylon brackets for stills/video/film. Fits Protec only. £70.00
- **Newton Sight** Lens in mount with 1/4" rod £69.95
- **Stem/Universal Joint** Stem fits to any helmet, joint connects stem to sight. £24.50
- **Complete Kit** £149.95

Goggles

- **Sword Sports Goggles** Superb comfort, soft edging. Lens: ○ Clear ○ Green Trim: ○ Pink ○ Green ○ Orange
 - Black ○ Blue ○ Red ○ Grey
 - Turquoise £6.99
- **Sky Eyes** Clear lens. Soft case inc. (New colours soon) £9.95
 - Edge colour ○ Blue ○ Yellow
- **Kroop's Clear Lens** Side vented
 - Clear ○ Smoke
 - Trim Colours: ○ Red ○ Black
 - Blue ○ Hot Pink. £4.95
- **Kroop's Over Eyeglasses** Clear lens goggle for spectacle wearers. Trim colours: ○ Hot Pink
 - Black Blue ○ Red £8.95
- **EZ** Clear, rimless, non fogging £4.50

Hats & Headgear

- **Frapp Hat** Handmade in quality leather. Custom size & colours. Dytter holes. Clip fastener. Phone for stock or order form. £97.50
- **Frapp Hat** factory made Dytter holes. Clip fastener ○ S ○ M ○ L
 - Black ○ Midnight Blue. £54.95
- **Protec** Tough plastic helmet £35.95
 - S ○ M ○ L ○ XL
 - White ○ Red ○ Black ○ Blue
- **Protec Liners** £12.95
 - S ○ M ○ L ○ XL

Bits & Pieces

- **Tube Stoes, Clear** £4.95
 - Standard ○ Microline
- **Tube Stoes, Coloured** £5.95
 - Standard ○ Microline
- **Wallet** Hip Pocket Nylon wallets. Many colours including fluorescents
 - Canopy design ○ RW design
 - Colour: _____ £4.50
- **Freefall Calculator** Slide-Rule to calculate delay times. £4.99
- **Ben Bag** Flat waist pouch, two pockets, snap fastening, elasticated waistband. ○ Bright ○ Quiet. £9.95
- **Weight Vest** Made from parapack with expandable back & 8 filled/unfilled tubes
 - S ○ M ○ L £34.95
 - Filled Tube (1lb/450gms) £1.00
 - Filled Tube (1.5lb/750gms) £1.50
- **Leather Day Sack** Handmade in soft, quality leathers. Padded shoulder strap. Call Sword Sports for stock or custom details. £69.95
- **Sunglasses** Cool, groovy bright colours Rubber frame. UV protected. £2.99
- **Googlies** Soft, adjustable retainer bands for sunglasses.
 - Bright ○ Subtle £4.95

Knives

- **Jackknife, Spare Blades.** £9.50
 - Yellow ○ Black
- **Pouch for Jackknife** Fit to jumpsuit or rig. Colour: _____ £2.50
- **Aluminium Hook Knife** Same as Zak. Replaceable blades
 - Black ○ Red ○ Blue £10.50
- **Aluminium Hook Knife in pouch** Colour: _____ £12.50
- **Zak Knife** Small single blade emergency knife. Also good for fishing!! £3.25
- **Zak Knife with Tape & Pop Stud** £3.75
- **Zak Knife in Pouch** Fits to chest strap. Colour: _____ £5.75

Parachute Release System

- **Cypres** 1 pin model £699.00
- **Cypres** 2 pin model £749.00
- **Cypres** Student & Tandem models POA

Gear Care

- **Packing Mat with Pocket** Large size. Padded kneeling area. Riser holders. Colour: _____ £10.95
- **Rig Bag with Pockets** Padded shoulder straps. Carry handle. Large main pocket plus smaller front pocket with 3 dividers. Packing tabs. Colour: _____ £47.50
- **Rig Bag for Tandem Rigs** Colour: _____ £62.50
- **Mini Rig Backpack** Lots of pockets, padded straps. Pop Top or 'Vector' (tick for order form) £24.95

Self Inking Stamps

- **Self Inking Stamp** ○ RW ○ CRW Never needs an ink pad. £5.50
- **Fun Logging Stamps** Four great stamps to assist with logging, dive organisation or pure fun! £4.99
 - Zoo ○ Funnel ○ Tandem
 - Mega Man Stamp
 - (1 1/2" for dive organising)
- **Ink Pad for Stamps** Standard ink pad for use with our Stamps (not self-inking ones!) £1.99

Logging

- **Log Book Holder, Basic** Parapack. 2 large, 2 small & pen pockets. Holders for RW & CRW stamps. Padded. Colour: _____ £9.95
- **Log Book Holder, De Luxe** As above with extra pockets and velcro fastening. Fully padded. Colour: _____ £12.95
- **Log Book, 2 Jumps/Page** 'Traditional' RW logbook. Lots of information pages. £5.75
- **Log Book, 10 Jumps/Page** As above. £5.75
- **Faxlog Log Pages** Logbook for 6-ring personal planner (ie Filofax). Information pages. £4.95
- **Faxlog 6-ring Folder** High quality laminated 6-ring personal planner/binder. £9.95
- **Faxlog Folder/Log Pages** Combination of the 6-ring binder and the log pages. £12.95

Jewellery & Watches

- **Funky Freefallers** Very colourful
 - Brooch ○ Fridge Magnet £5.95
- **Enamel Pin Badges**
 - DC3 (brooch)
 - Freefaller ○ Tandem
 - Square side on ○ Square front on
 - Round (A/Con) £3.75
- **Silver Earrings**
 - Square canopies side-on
 - Front-on ○ Freefaller £8.45
- **Silver Pendants**
 - Square canopies side-on
 - Front-on ○ Freefaller £5.25
- **Watches** Traditional altimeter design face. Swiss quartz movement. Black Strap
 - With Date £19.95
 - Without Date £18.95
- **Altimeter Wall Clock** Brighten up the home or office with our Wall Clock depicting an Altimeter design - just as the watch face. Supplied with battery and one year guarantee £14.95

Books & Posters

- HB - HARDBACK PB - PAPERBACK
- **'Filming the Impossible'** Adventure travel book by Leo Dickinson Inc some skydiving. 255 pages PB & HB. £7.95
- **'Anything is Possible'** 2nd adventure travel book by Leo Dickinson Inc skydiving 225 pages HB. £14.95
- **'Skydiving in Eight Days'** By journalist Miles Clark about AFF Course Recommended to AFF students. 128 pages PB. £8.99
- **'Guide to Sport Parachuting'** By Charles Shea-Simmonds. Ideal for students. 144 pages HB £12.50
- **'Picture Library, Skydiving'** Full colour picture book including basic text 32 pages HB. £5.95
- **'Skies Call I, II & III'** Full colour pictures in three volumes. Approx 150 pics per volume HB
 - I ○ II ○ III £12.50
- **'The Sky People'** History of parachuting by Peter Hearn. 200 pages HB. £18.95

Posters

- 5 Man Star Trailing Smoke £3.50
- Build-up to 126-way Record £3.50
- 24 Stack Record £3.50

Videos

- **'Relative Work "The Basics"'** Inc all 10 levels for training from the WARP programme. £29.95
- **'The World Skydiving Championships'** 1990 CRW Championships. £19.95
- **'World CRW Championships'** 50 min TV programme + loads of training and competition jumps Nearly 2 hours. £19.95
- **'Anything is possible'** 3 x 26 min TV documentaries. £19.99
- **'Travelling 1'** 3 top class films & amazing freestyle footage £35.50
- **'Travelling 2'** More great sequences. £29.95
- **'Flight of the Dream Team'** By Norman Kent. Narrated and ideal for showing non-skydivers £29.95
- **'From Wings Came Flight'** By Norman Kent. Superb skydiving footage in exotic locations £39.95
- **'Norman Kent Compilation'** World Champion Air Bears, Freakbrother Convention, Ride a Cloud 60+ mins. £19.95
- **'Kinesthesia'** The art of body flight by Norman Kent. £39.95
- **'The Right Wally' (I)** £29.95
- **'Wally, the Movie' (II)** £29.95
- **'The Wally Stuff' (III)** £29.95
- **'Wally Goes Tropical' (IV)** £29.95
- SPECIAL OFFERS**
- **'Relative Work - The Basics' AND 'Kinesthesia' together for only £64.95**
- **All 4 Wally Tapes £99.95**

Sward Sportswear

- Please call Sward Sports for colour choice
- **Skydive Sweatshirts** £9.99
 - White with large 'Skydive' logo across chest in Fluorescent Pink & Bright Blue
 - S ○ M ○ L ○ XL
 - **Skydive T-Shirt** as sweatshirt
 - S ○ M ○ L ○ XL
 - **Jackets** Made from F111 & towelled lining
 - Style: ○ Pull-Over ○ Zip-Up
 - Colour: £34.99
 - **Trousers** Made from F111 & towelled lining
 - S ○ M ○ L ○ XL
 - Colour: £29.99
 - **'Biggies' Flying Hat** Great for wearing anywhere on a cold day, also good for skydiving. Original brown only £39.95
 - S ○ M ○ L

Sportswear Cont

- **Irvin Style Flying Jacket** An absolute must have! WWII Sheepskin Flying jacket, made with authentic detail and in the original brown. £245.00
 - S ○ M ○ L
- **Mark 9 Superjet Goggles** A classic accessory. Quality metal frames and replaceable laminated glass. Black with brushed aluminium. £17.50

Footwear

- **Strops (Thongs)** £14.95
 - Rubber sandals with ankle straps.
 - Size: _____ (3 - 12/37 - 46)
 - Single Bright ○ Multi Bright
 - Black ○ Blue
- **Fibus** Hard wearing sandals with fully adjustable ankle straps £24.95
 - Size: _____ (3 - 12/37 - 46)



The number one catalogue for 1991 is also the number one catalogue for 1992 - yes, we're holding ALL prices right into the new year. Don't forget we send a catalogue with every order.



Mail your order today:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Have you ordered from Sward Sports before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I enclose a cheque or please debit my Access/Visa/Mastercard A/C No:

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Home Tel No: _____

Item description	Size	Colour	Custom options (size, colour, name, etc)	Custom charge	Item price	Qty	Total price

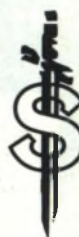


Post & Packing	UK	BFPO & Europe	Outside Europe
Orders up to £20.00	£1.50	£2.50	£4.50
Orders £20.01 - £50.00	£2.00	£3.50	£7.50
Orders over £50.00	£3.00	£4.00	£10.00

Post & Packing	
Goods	
TOTAL	

Sward Sports, 25 Hook Cottage, Hook, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 8EA, (UK)

SWORD SPORTS



EUROPEAN NIGHT RECORD - CRANFIELD

As Skydiving progresses further each year, so the boundaries of what is possible within the sport get pushed back along with this progress. The largest formation, the most points in time, the largest stack; all go that little bit further with each new record. While good for the image of the sport in terms of its higher visibility in the outside world, each new record also goes that little bit further away from the average skydiver who does not have a brace of DC3s and a large amount of time and money at his disposal. Records become something that other people do in far warmer and nicer places than Britain, and so the search for new goals gets forgotten.

Daytime shot of the record breakers on a practice jump



It became clear though, that one record was not only accessible and waiting to be broken, it was also achievable without the need for any special aircraft or resources. The European night relative work record stood at a mere sixteen, and was prime, not to put too fine a point on it, to be roundly stuffed. The record had been set in Britain at Cranfield four years ago, by a team led by Pete Reynolds, and featured on the cover of *Sport Parachutist* before being forgotten again. It seemed incredible that no-one in the whole of Europe had tried to beat it, and so on Saturday October 1991, it was decided to make an attempt.

The venue was again Cranfield, where regular organised night jumping has become something of an institution, and where the Shorts Skyliner was put at our disposal. The organiser this time was Sandy McRobbie, who was trying to cap off a season's organising and his 2000th jump with the record attempt.

As is so often the case, the weather decided not to join in on the Saturday morning, but the 20 way was ready at the crack of noon to start dirt diving. Sandy's brief was short

and to the point. It was to be a relaxed fun attempt at the record, but a record attempt it was, so don't **** up. With the pleasantries out of the way, we got down towards dirt-diving for the practice jumps. The formation was to be a launched 5-way star, with three people forming a diamond off each person in the base. Not the most efficient way of building a 20 way during the day, but just about the only surefire way of building one in the dark. This meant that some people got to stay in the base, and some people got to swoop more than others. It was a feature of all the dives we did that day, that all egos were checked at the door, and everyone took their slot without a single complaint.

The weather decided to get with it at about one o'clock, and we climbed into the Skyliner for our first dive as a 20 way with the ever present Kevin Hughes on camera. The dive worked out fine after a small amount of pushing and shoving, and was building to a second point at break off. The video debrief was done, and after a stern word or two from Sandy, the same 20 people got back in the air to do a much cleaner 2-point dive. Then, as it tends to do at night, it got dark.

The moment of truth arrived as we all got geared up for the dive. The cameramen were fixing the new lights which Sandy had arranged to illuminate the formation. These were taken from Elstree film studios, and required the use of 600 volt powerpacks. These were possibly the brightest floodlights ever used for a night dive, and we were all warned to close our eyes on the standby in case we got a faceful of them when they were switched on. As I always skydive with my eyes shut anyway, this was not a problem for me. An extra carrot was offered to us in the form of a promise that we would be guaranteed a five minute slot on Sky and Anglia TV should we complete the record, so we juggled for the best positions while the dirt dive was being filmed.

At 6.30 we took off to reach our exit altitude of 12,000 feet. The gods, in the shape of Air Traffic Control chose to smile on us, and at 12,000 feet, gave us a clearance to 14,500. Finally, the run-in came, and the standby was given. I didn't see any of this as I had my eyes shut, remember? The exit was given and out we all piled, Geordie Best and yours truly last out. The visuals as we came out last were some of the most impressive that I have ever seen. The whole of rural Bedfordshire lit up orange, with the 5-way base illuminated by the floodlights glowing like a U.F.O. below us with a steady trail of green cyalumes homing in on down to it. It was a long way off but we had plenty of time.

The base flew fast and rock solid, and the wingmen on the diamond docked level and cleanly. The five diamond closers came next with Geordie and myself docking 19 and

20 to complete the record on the first attempt. The formation was flying cleanly and level, and was held for five seconds, when we transitioned to the second point. We ran out of time while flying the 5 way pieces, but no-one cared, because we all knew that barring a disaster, the record had been broken.

As is traditional on a night dive, some of us elected to create some new drainage channels with our faces on landing while others who shall remain nameless, but shall be called Neil Reeves for the sake of argument, decided to celebrate early by landing in a pub car park in Cranfield. Others who did not make it back to the landing area could be located by the fine display of swearing coming from the dark. Everyone checked back OK, and rushed to see the video, which was going to be judged by Sue Dixon. The video showed the 20 way built cleanly, with all grips help for five seconds, so with great whoops and general all round merriment, it was time to get pissed, and tell everyone who wasn't on it how brilliant we were.

The next day, true to their word, Sky TV and Anglia did us proud with their coverage. The Sky TV item was particularly impressive, with computer graphics used to explain the formation, and a studio interview with one of the participants, Rod Fairweather. Anglia News also gave us a three-minute slot which was very nice thank you.

All in all in the general round of thanks, praise goes to Sandy McRobbie who organised the whole thing, and

although it wasn't his 2000th on the dive, he is getting his reward in Z-Hills right now. Thanks also to the London Skydiving Centre and Greg Cox for the use of, well, just about everything, and to Neil Anderson for his fine flying throughout the day, and during the record. Special mention goes to Jane Howell, for whom the record attempt was only her second night dive, and to Jennifer Packer, an American citizen, who has now been declared British as a result of being on a European record.

The record was, like the whole day, one of good vibes and fun, and it left us with the feeling that it shouldn't be left for another four years before someone finds another record to break.

Gareth Holder

The Skydivers on the record 20 way were:

Sandy McRobbie	Georgie Best	Andy Pay
Sarah Eaton	J T	Tony Bell
Ron Weigner	Neil Spellacy	Tom Scanlon
Ian Loveday	Jane Howell	Andy Phillipson
Neil Reeves	Rod Fairweather	Greg Cox
Jennifer Packer	Mike Wigg	
Mark James	Ian Matthews	Gareth Holder

London Skydiving Centre Ltd



1992 Schedule of Events

February 28/29 - Night Jumps

March

April

May 30/31/1 June - CRW Seminar

June 20/21 Regional Comp.

July

August To be arranged - Big Aircraft Boogie

September 26/27 - 10 x Speed Star Comp.

Cranfield Airport, Cranfield, Beds MK43 0AP. Tel (0234) 751866

All experience levels welcome

Excellent facilities - Canteen - Bar - Accommodation

Large Accuracy Pit - Two C-182's - Skyliner - Tandem

The 'Mustgetbeers' Look back on '91

...AND FORWARD TO 1992

The year got off to a good start, winning Gold at the Scottish Nationals, but the Mustgetbeers soon regretted their somewhat rash challenge to the Army Team in 1990; (quote "we want to stuff the Army") as they then came second to the Army in every other event after that, including the Nationals. So it ended up being a 'Silver' year for the Mustgetbeers Team, comprising of Steve Smyth, Cheryl Smyth, Steve Hastings, Alan Dumbell and Steve Eversfield, with some help from Tim Andrews and Dennis Hayes.

Most notable individual successes went to Cheryl Smyth, becoming Scottish Champion, winning silver overall in the Regional Championships, and silver overall at the Nationals. The highlight of the year was to receive an invitation to the International Day & Night Accuracy competition in Locarno, Switzerland. We were the only team from Great Britain and many of the other countries represented sent their national teams. However, the competition was completely weathered out. A long way to travel for such disappointment, but there's always next year!

As for next year, as it is an 'on' year for the classics, Cheryl's and Alan's primary aim is to regain their places on the British Team. The Mustgetbeers as an Accuracy Team intend to give the Army Team a good run for their money in as many in as many competitions as possible and that is the main reasons for writing this article.

We really do not want Accuracy competitions in the U.K. to become two horse races. Europe has

already discovered the spectator value of Accuracy and they even have to turn teams away from their competitions, such are their popularity. So why not in the U.K.? We often hear it said, "We can't compete with the likes of Les Carroll, Esther Reynolds, or indeed Cheryl Smyth, they never miss the pad, and I feel such a fool if I do". Well, let it be said, we all miss the pad and there is every point in competing, perhaps even more so in Accuracy because it is the one discipline where it is possible for *any* dog to have his day, no matter how bad; even John Smyth has managed to win a few individual Golds in competitions against Les and the others and he *is* bad.

So please, come along to the Regionals and the Nationals in 1992. You might find that you actually like it! As the photos show, Accuracy is sometimes 'Chicken' and sometimes 'Feathers' but once you get into it, you'll enjoy it; it's another challenge for new comers to the sport.

Finally, the Mustgetbeers must thank all those who helped us in training last year but in particular Greg Cox and the staff at Cranfield for their understanding of our particular requirements even when trying to keep a Skyliner flying and especially Major Bob Card, Pete Lambson, Skippy, and all the Army Team at Netheravon who went out of their way to make us welcome on our visits there, which completely puts paid to any nonsense about Army/civvy rifts.

Have a good year, all.

The Mustgetbeers

The Mustgetbeers...



...sometimes chicken...



...sometime feathers



PIGS
MIGHT
FLY

Steve Hastings is doing
another animal
impression... all
for a good
cause.

Henry the Houghton Ham 1992 Celebrity Calendar



Ode to Henry

It's Saturday lunch time, a DJ for an hour,
Then I'm riding at Osdal on my brand new JAWA,
Showjumping at Wembley with a different horse power,
Some frames at the Hexagon, then to the Ramada for a shower.

See me at Wentworth putting on the green,
Signing for Everton I'm straight in the team,
A motorbike with a chair which way do I lean,
A straight drive for six over the sightscreen.

Some line-out practice and a work-out in the gym,
A walk on the beach followed by a swim,
Practice my backhand with my racket called SPIN,
My medals worn proudly, who said we wouldn't win?

Twelve photos with celebrities now that I must try,
'Cos being a pig I'm always stuck in a sty,
Each month completed but the cover takes the eye,
How about a picture of me high in the sky.

... Who said pigs can't fly!

WAG.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALES OF THIS
CALENDAR ARE GOING TO THE
ANNE DIAMOND COT DEATH APPEAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: THE SUN NEWSPAPER, BYLINE PUBLISHING, GROSVENOR PRINTERS, ADRIAN JUSTE - RADIO ONE

THE
ANNE
DIAMOND COT
DEATH APPEAL
CALENDAR

The flying pig - Henry the Houghton Ham - on the cover of the calendar is none other than the famous animal impersonator (see opposite page for his chicken-laying-a-large-egg impression) Steve Hastings. The pink kit is in fact a favoured demo jumpsuit of Steve's though he does not usually put its head on until his chute is opened. Wearing it in freefall is an experience that Steve will not be in a hurry to repeat. The calendar features Henry the Houghton Ham posing each month with a sporting celebrity; Alan Lamb, Sharron Davies, Howard Kendall and so on. Proceeds from the sale go to the Anne Diamond Cot Death Appeal. It's for a good cause and 'the year is yet young' so anyone who wants one should get in touch with Steve Hastings via the BPA.

Ta - WOTGCC I 1991

Dear Editor,

GREETINGS 1992

Am I alone in the feeling that I should be contributing material to the Magazine?

As the months go by I realize that, despite the many hours spent 'chewing the fat' with friends and contemporaries within the Parachuting world, I still have not put pen to paper to write an article of deep significance or one full of sparkling wit and repartee!! However, fear not, the day will indeed come when such a work will be forthcoming!

For the time being, I should like to take the opportunity to thank all at Weston-on-the-Green for their help and assistance in the season of '91. I am sure that many will join with me in thanking especially the outgoing C.C.I. Dave Emerson, wishing him well in his new posting; and also to hope that the incoming C.C.I. Mick Rafferty, the staff and members enjoy a good season at R.A.F.S.P.A..

To all my acquaintances in Parachuting, belated greetings for 1992.

Roger Flavell C8397 Pops 418.

P.S. A cryptic message to the 'Chats Volants'.... "La pomme tombe vers la Terre".

CZECH IT OUT

Dear friends of sports,

Best regards from the Czechoslovak sky-diver. I'm 46 year old and am a Chairman of the PARACHUTE-CLUB in Sumperk - little town in the north of Czechoslovakia. I and members of my club want to throw several meetings for sky-divers from all over Europe on our airfield in 1992. This meetings will always last 9 days / from Saturday to next Sunday / from May to August.

We're able to look after 30-40 sky-divers. If you have an interest, please, write me and I'll send you accurate terms and further information. Czechoslovakia's a small but beautiful country and I'll guarantee you a warm welcome. Jumps, board and accommodation will be very advantageous for you. We're looking forward to seeing you.

And now a personal request. I'm a collector of para-wings metal badges, insignias, labels, stickers, sew-on-embles, magazines, etc. If it's possible please send me any of these items; I can send you some in return if you are interested. Thank you for your understanding.

We hope you'll write us soon. We wish you friends for the present many successes in your activity in 1992!

Blue skies

BOB SVOBODA, Chairman of Para - Club,
U MORAVKY 2
OLOMOUC 772 00
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ESSEX FRED

Hi Ola,

Here's one for the mag, overheard on the drop zone.

Q. "Whats the difference between an Essex girl and a Red Devil"??

A. Nothing!!

No offence to Essex girls intended, Hi Gill.

Also congratulations to Chris Allen on his judges rating & apparently grapes are not very sweet at this time of year.

Yours sincerely

D1234 Jammy Dogers

P.S. Please could you not put my name to this as knowing the Freds, they might get violent.

Cheers dude.

My pleasure Jenny, Name and number cleverly disguised as requested. ...Ed

CORRESPONDENCE

...continued from page 7

ODE TO TOPCLIFFE

Dear Editor,

I have sent you this poem, please could you print it in the poets corner in Sports Parachutist. I wrote this one night as I was thinking of when I did my first jump. I did my first jump in 1987 and did one or two more then packed in, until this year when I took the sport up again.

I am dedicating it to the instructors at Merlin PC Topcliffe, as they are one hell of a set of lads. They are so helpful and confidence boosters, they help you in every way possible and beyond their normal duties. I think if that all instructors were like this the sport would have less problems.

Thanks to them one and all

Blue Skies

Andy A

GO FOR IT

We all turn up about eight or nine
Clear blue sky the weather is fine
Name on the board then sit about
I know I can do it I have no doubt

Bill calls my name out, "Who me"
God I must go for a pee
Now the time is almost here
No more doubts, "Just bloody fear"

We all kit up and look the part
"Oh No", listen to my beating heart
All checked out and ready to go
I have never walked so slow

To the plane I know I must
Now's the time shit or bust
All inside a laugh and a joke
When the plane took off Nobody spoke

Up into the sky then a shout of "Cut"
"Oh God", what's this strange feeling in my gut
In the door "Who Me", you must be joking
"Oh No", a second later out and floating

Landed in the perfect place
"Wow, fantastic, brill, bloody ace"
So if you are in any doubt
Go to Merlin PC and try it out

To all the dedicated instructors at Merlin PC
Topcliffe

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH AGAIN

Dear Editor,

Any editor of Sport Parachutist who makes the statement, 'The Magazine will come out in the first half of the month of publication', deserves to be bought a drink.

Please find enclosed DM10,-.

B.L. - Hamburg B.P.A. 75406

It's a fair cop guv...if I say it again will you send me some more dosh-marks?



MARITIME MOGGY

Dear Ola,

Yet another good issue of the Mag! This is probably a good thing really as no doubt our subs are about to be hoiked up again in line with inflation, and the black hole in the BPA Current Account left by T. Lewis esq. I thought the membership might be interested to know the latest development in the sad story of Neville Ewkwalor.

Following his disgraceful treatment something of a witch-hunt has been conducted by the management of a certain southern DZ. However they are (unusually for them) finding it very hard to apportion blame, as no-one actually knows what Neville himself looks like. In order to ensure that justice is seen to be done, I can exclusively reveal that a trusted source of mine, (whose identity I regret I am not at liberty to tell), feels sure that whilst snapping at a recent soiree near Milton Keynes has captured someone on film who may just be distantly related to a friend of Neville's sister's greengrocer. Please observe the gentleman in the blue shirt between the two girls in the enclosed photograph. If indeed there is any connection I think that the Management at Cranfield should be told.

Kindest Regards Ola,

The Ship's Cat.

Name, address ..and gonads withheld by the Vet.

As everyone knows, the editors modest stipend would not even stretch to a can of Whiskas a week. I have therefore taken the opportunity of holding on to the photo and will exchange it for a suitable amount of used fivers (or Deutsche Marks).

FRAP

HAND MADE IN THE FINEST
CUSTOM LEATHER WITH
FASTEX FASTENER AND...

OPTIONAL ; DYTTER HOLES &
PATTERNED LININGS.

SEND OR CALL FOR FORM TO;

RICHARD LINE (HATS)
57 CAPEL FOREST GATE
LONDON E7 0JP
TEL: 081 5550247

Visa
Mastercard
Access
Eurocard



HATS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

CHASER/TURBO/PRESERVE IV

Royal Blue Chaser
Sky Blue Turbo Main
Preserve IV Reserve
Excellent condition. Suit someone under 5'5".

£500

Also pink & grey frappe hat £50
0235 527706 Evenings

TALON GP RAIDER/FITS LASER 7

Black & yellow Talon in Cordura.
Glide Path Raider in yellow & white 270 jumps.
Laser 7 Square reserve, light blue, used once. Very nice kit in good condition.

Realistically priced £950. ono.

Phone Mark on 0608 677 532

TURBO MINIMAX JAGUAR

Turbo Main - 35 jumps.
Minimax - Square Reserve, unused.
Jaguar - As new, two tone blue.
Also Altimaster, trap hat

£900

Paul 0606 40549

RACER CRUISELITE SWIFT

Light blue Racer (pull out)
Cruiselite - Blue 300 jumps
Swift - Unused

£695 or offers

Mike Wills (075 539) 261 Ext 2202 Office
or (0404) 891697 Weekends

RACER MAVERICK K20

Royal blue Racer, maroon/light blue/silver
Maverick, KXX Reserve never used. Complete with parabag, 3 jumpsuits, new leather gloves. Meticulously maintained. Retiring from sport.

£600 ono

Tel Andy Grice 0935 840 250

ZEROX FURY

Ready to jump
Zerox/Fury 15 jumps only
Main (red, black, silver). Purple container & square reserve.

£1000 ono

051 933 2334

MAVERICK AAD

FXC 12000 AAD in immaculate condition, excellent service record, ideal for club, university kit etc.

No reasonable offer refused

Maverick Main square canopy. In excellent condition, CRW modded only 250 jumps

£300

Tel 051 924 2324 After 6pm

RACER MAVERICK KXX

Racer - Navy/Sky blue/violet
Maverick - Silver/Pink/Purple/Blue
KXX - Acid checks O.K.
Complete with Rig bag, Log book holder, Packing mat. All in excellent condition.
Ready to jump.

Must sell - £550 ono

Phil - (0384) 240772

FURY UNIT

Fury Main - Blue/Silver 200 jumps

£275 ono

U.S.A. Unit Main - Black/White 300 jumps

£95 ono

Phone Martin 0252 349485 Day
0252 331033 Evening

ZEROX FURY SWIFT

Fury Main (Blue & Silver)
Swift Reserve (Yellow)
Zerox Red/Blue. All in very good condition

£850

Also ALTI II

£70

Mike - 021 427 1330

WARP III CRUISE PHANTOM 24

Warp III container (Red/Blue)
Cruiselite main (throwaway)
Phantom 24 reserve (acid tested)
300 jumps, excellent condition, recent full service.

£600

Lady Astra container (Rapid Transit with slightly smaller harness and low chest strap).
K20 reserve (acid tested)
350 jumps. All kit in good condition all recently overhauled by master rigger.
New velcro.

375

Lindsey or John 081-530 4322

JAGUAR DRAKKAR MAGIC

Red and Grey Container with Throwaway.
Red Drakkar 9 cell 290. 75 Jumps
Black Magic Reserve 230. All as new.
Kit can be sampled at Cranfield. Ask for Ian.
Great kit for the larger skydiver.

£1,000 ono

VECTOR FIREFLY PHANTOM 24

Brilliant first kit! Vector with firefly main and Phantom 24 reserve. In good condition. Altimeter II, Protec, small jumpsuit and goggles.

Sensible offers only

Day: 0206 578267 X418

Eve 0206 767180

CONTAINER MAINS RESERVE

PD210 - Mixed blue - 100 jumps.
Raven II reserve - 1 test jump.
Fury - 50 jumps.
Surfair 210 - Rainbow coloured - 70 jumps.
Tracer - Red/black/silver - immaculate condition for square reserve.
Tracer - Blue - fair condition.
Brand new reserve Poptop and a free bag for Racer.

No sensible offer refused

Mick 0245 258121

121CHASER MAVERICK PRESERVE III

Complete kit for sale.
Glide Path Maverick main in Chaser and Preserve III reserve, very well looked after rig.

Absolute bargain: £475

Paul 0392 218478

Also lost at Cyprus Championships - All black cotton ripstop jumpsuit - Reward.

SLR CAMERA

PENTAX SFX. Motordrive and Flash.
8 Exposure modes. 3 Focusing modes.
35-70 Autofocus zoom. Lithium or alkaline batteries. Includes shutter release cable and Protec bracket mount.
(Canon T90 forces sale).

Mint £195

Tel: 0444 - 232891 (Mid Sussex)

CHASER MARAUDER RESERVE

Gold Marauder - Seven cell, 22 jumps.
Swift Reserve - Nil jumps.
Black Chaser - With exquisitely decorated pop top (Take a bow Pam Mobbs).
Recent full MOT and converted to throw away for student use. Perfect, unmarked, new condition throughout

£1,000 Ono

John 081-878 0147

or 081-392 9291

FURY CHASER SWIFT

Complete system ready to jump.
Container: Unmarked black Chaser with royal blue piping.
Main: Fury 7 cell (throw away) navy blue/royal blue/silver.
Swift square reserve. All perfect, less than 100 jumps from new.

£1,000 Ovno

Phone Malcolm 0268 293418

VECTOR CLIPPER PARABAG

Container: Blue Vector (Throw away)
Main: Clipper (Multi) 100 jumps
Reserve: Raven I (Red/black) Unused.
Good condition, ready to jump.
Plus: Alti, Protec, jumpsuit, Parabag, etc.

£800

Phone Graham (0272) 615295

RACER CRUISELITE 220 RAVEN I

1 Racer complete with Cruiselite 220 Main and a Raven I reserve, Good 1st rig

£700

Also 1 Black jumpsuit with pink arm and leg grips

£20

Phone Michelle: 071-222 1020(Day)

081-461 2718(Evening)

RACER ELITE PREDATOR 150 PHANTOM 22

Ready to jump
Predator main (pink, black, grey) 120 jumps
(Throw away)
Phantom 22 reserve, Tested acid free, suit medium weight jumper

£550 for quick sale

Plus: Spitfire main 170 sq ft, green/white/blue 250 jumps

£150 for quick sale

Call Heath (0302) 730282

CLASSIFIED ADVERTS COST £5 FOR 40 WORDS PLUS 10P PER WORD THEREAFTER. ADVERTS CAN BE SENT IN BY PHONE OR FAX BUT PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE GOING TO PRESS. CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: AIRSCAPE LTD AND SENT TO:

AIRSCAPE LTD
3 TYERS GATE
LONDON SE1 3HX

Do you know anyone who wishes to do
a parachute jump?

MIDLAND PARACHUTE CENTRE

is currently offering **£15.00** for each
1st jump student you send.

Course fee is currently **£100.00**

Please contact Liz on 0543 271676

INSTRUCTOR WANTED

Seasonal Instructor wanted at the

PETERBOROUGH PARACHUTE CENTRE

March-November 1992.

Contact: John Meacock

Oundle (0832) 280490

Fax: (0832) 280490

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Aircare	35	London Skydiving Centre	39	Seagull Picture Company	8
Centro de Paracaidismo	20	Midland Parachute Centre	43	Skydiving Magazine	42
Classified adverts	43	Paragear	15	Square One	13
Cypres	44	PD Source	16	Sterling Parachute Club	35
Flagler Beach	16	Performance Designs	1	Sward Sports	36
Freefall Promotions	16	Perris Valley	Inside Front	Symbiosis Symbiosis Suits	4
High Adventure	26	Peterborough Parachute Centre	12, 43	Target Skysports	7
Kit Store	2	Pheonix Z-Hills	Inside Back	Thomas Sports Equipment	Back Page
Langar	31	Richard Line Frap Hats	42	West Mercia Insurance	5
		Right Track	30		



the view from
down under

...who else but a Kiwi? Wendy Smith takes in the sunset,
(or sunrise, depending upon your point of view). Snap by Sward.

**SWARD
SPORTS**



Would you walk the tightrope without a safety net?

The CYPRES is a safety net for skydivers

Cybernetic Parachute Release System

In simple terms - if you're travelling through 750ft or below, the CYPRES will activate your reserve by cutting through your closing loop or loops.

The CYPRES has been designed to the following specifications:

- Eradicate unintentional activation
- Absolute reliability
- Minimum size and weight
- Complete accuracy
- Minimal attention (servicing every two years)
- Installation and operational simplicity
- Invisibility from the outside
- Maximum safety

Can you afford NOT to jump with a CYPRES?

- 1 pin model £699.00 inc VAT, installation and reserve repack
- 2 pin model £749.00 inc VAT, installation and reserve repack

Also available: Student and Tandem models, call Sward Sports for further details.

Installation is included within the sale price and will be arranged by Sward Sports. Normally this will be a one-day turnaround at an approved CYPRES installation facility.

Write to or call **Sward Sports** for further information and orders:

25 Hook Cottage, Hook, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 8EA (UK) Tel: 0793 854301 Fax 0793 852452

the view from
under



▲
...is that all you, or are
you just well stacked?
(A Crude shot of a
4-man stack)

pics by Simon Ward

who is flying this thing?
...take it round again
you've missed the runway

▶
the view from
the top



BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED AND ASSOCIATED CLUBS AND CENTRES

Badminton Parachute Club

Contact J Davis
Badminton
Avon
Tel: 045 421 486

Black Knights Parachute Centre

Weekend centre, first jump SL courses, radios and aeronicals. Tandem courses. SL and FF progression to category 10. RW and CRW instruction. Cessna 105 (in-flight door). SL and FF kit hire. Accuracy pit, canteen, washing and toilet facilities. Camping and caravans on DZ. B&B local.

Contact: Bob Parry
Patty's Farm
Hilliam Lane
Cockerham Nr. Lancaster
Tel: weekend 0524 791820
(midweek) 051 924 5560

Border Parachute Centre

On Northumbrian coast (area of outstanding natural beauty) ideal for combining a family holiday. Cessna 205 with in-flight door. Visitors most welcome. No membership fees, no hire charges (even for squares). Canteen on DZ, bar, restaurant and great accommodation at centre, 3 miles. Open weekends, occasional Wednesdays (BST) and all last week in May.

Border Parachute Centre
Dunstanburgh House
Embleton
Northumberland NE66 3XF
Tel: Embleton (0665 76)588

British Parachute School

Large airfield only used for parachuting, with unlimited altitude. Open every day. Visitors welcome. Static line Round and Square courses, AFF, Tandem and WARP. Progression encouraged. Cessna 206 and Islander

British Parachute School
The Control Tower
Langar Airfield
Langar
Nottingham
Tel/Fax: 0949 60878

Cornwall Parachute Centre

Is about people enjoying themselves, safely. The finest equipment, good food and friendly staff. C182, Video, Tandem, Static Line Square, WARP. Unrestricted altitude. All types of accommodation available. Open Wednesday through Sundays. Please contact secretary, Linda Ruth Grant.

Cornwall parachute Centre
Frans Ranch
Old Naval Airfield
St Merryn Cornwall
Tel: 0841 540691

Dunkeswell International Skydiving Centre

Friendly, full time, with basic courses and tandem jumping available all year round. Student progression, RW and CRW instruction, accuracy pit. Student and ram air kit available. Overnight accommodation, Cessna 206. Non members welcome.

DISC
Dunkeswell Airfield
Nr. Honiton
Devon
Tel: 0404 891350

Doncaster Parachute Club

The new skydiving centre of the north. Open Fri, Sat, Sun & Bank Holidays - other weekdays by arrangement. 1st jump static line courses, tandem jumps, excellent student progression - WARP, RW, CRW and AFF instruction by competent instructors. Radio helmets, AADs, Accuracy Pit, student and experienced kit hire. Cafe, toilet and shower facilities, accommodation, caravans and camping. Bar on airfield. C206, Cherokee-6 and Piper Lance. Competitive jump prices everyone welcome.

Doncaster Parachute Club
Doncaster Airfield
Doncaster
South Yorks
Tel: Weekends 0302 532922
Tel: Midweek 0532 505600

Eaglescott Parachute Centre

Open every weekend and also weekdays by arrangement. Friendly small club atmosphere with emphasis on safety. All students equipped with AADs, helmet radios and GQ Aeroconicals. RW, CRW, Style and Accuracy pit. Tents and caravans on the DZ. Local B&B. If it is windy, you can always go surfing!

Dave Tylcoat
Eaglescott Parachute Centre
Eaglescott Airfield
Ashreighney
Chulmeigh
Devon EX18 7PH
Tel: 07693 552/0392 75222

Fife Parachute Centre

Full time 12-7 from Wednesday to Friday, 9.30-7 Sat and Sunday. 1st Jump courses, progression jumps, Tandem, RW (WARP system), CRW. Facilities include canteen, bunk beds, camping, Islander. B&B locally. DZ visitors welcome.

Fife Parachute Centre
Errol Airfield
Grange
Perthshire PH2 7TB
Tel: 0821 2673

Flying Tigers Skydiving Centre

No round Parachute Courses!

Our 5th year of RAPS training & 2nd year as the only All RAPS centre in the country. Join us down on the sunny south coast. We specialise in student square progression, midweek courses available. Private, large, hazard free off-airfield DZ with pit.

Tandem, AFF, WARP, CRW & RW coaching. Experienced jumpers & team training welcome. Islander & 206 aircraft.

Flying Tigers Skydiving Centre
Goodwood Airfield
Nr Chichester
West Sussex PO18 0PH
Tel: Kevin McIlwee 0243 533444

Halfpenny Green Skydiving Centre

A lively friendly centre geared towards progression. RW & CRW instruction. First jump training on both Round and Square Canopies also Tandem and AFF instruction. Islander aircraft with in-flight doors, and Helicopter. Unrestricted altitude, accuracy pit. Bunkhouse, showers, food and bar on airfield. Camping and caravan site next door. Open weekends and mid-week in summer.

The Airfield
Bobbington
Nr Stourbridge
West Midlands
Tel: 038 488 293

Headcorn Parachute Centre

Fulltime, 9 to dusk, very active midweek. All levels of instruction/ progression. Tandem, AFF, RAPS, Rounds, WARP, Accuracy. Two Islanders - Twin Otter most weekends. Free accommodation. Cafeteria run by skydivers, parachute club shop on site. Competitions, lots of fun, everyone welcome.

Headcorn Airfield
Headcorn
Kent TN27 9HX
Tel: 0622 890 862

Ipswich Parachute Centre

Open 6 days a week (closed Tuesdays). Islander and Cherokee VI permanently available. Student, RW and CRW instruction by full time staff. Accuracy pit, excellent rigging facility. Food, accommodation, camping and bar on drop zone.

Ipswich Parachute Centre
Ipswich Airport
Nacton Road
Ipswich
Suffolk IP3 9QF
Tel: 0473 710044



London Parachute School

Weekend club: beginners courses and progression training. Farmland DZ. B&B available locally. Aeroconicals, radios, boots and helmets loaned free. All welcome at small but friendly club. Please telephone beforehand for weekend activity.

London Parachute School
P.O. Box 18
Goring on Thames
Reading RG8 9EW
Tel: 0249 651909 DZ
(Weekends) 0860 559112

London Skydiving Centre

1st jump Courses. SL round and square. AFF, Tandem. Experienced WARP Instructors. Load organising. Full time centre, Skyliner and Cessnas. New clubhouse with showers, accommodation, cafeteria & bar. Kit hire, camping. Easily accessible from London and the Midlands. 5 miles from M1 (Junction 13 or 14). Very friendly club.

London Skydiving Centre
Cranfield Airport,
Cranfield
Bedford MK3 0AP
Tel: 0234 751866

Merlin Parachute Club

Open every weekend and bank holiday. Beginners courses, excellent student progression, student radios, AADs, boots and helmets, Tandem, WARP, RW/CRW instruction and air to air video available. Purpose built training areas, toilet and canteen facilities, accuracy pit and Islander aircraft. Friendly atmosphere, non members made very welcome. B&B and free camping off site.

Merlin Parachute Club
Topcliffe, Near Thirsk
North Yorkshire
Tel: weekends 0748 832521 ext 5367
Tel: weekdays 0904 645488

Midland Parachute Centre

Skydive MPC. Great weekend club. Islander, free kit hire, video and tandem plus S/L and progression R/W jumping. Bunkhouse and showers, bar and cafe on airfield. All welcome. Cheapest jump prices in the Country.

Midland Parachute Centre
Long Marston Airfield
Stratford-Upon-Avon
Warks
Tel: 0789 297959

North West Parachute Centre

In fabulous lakeland scenery. RW, CRW, WARP, Kit Hire, BN Islander bunk house, showers etc. Camping on airfield, visitors welcome open weekends and bank holidays mostly.

North West Parachute Centre
Cark Airfield
Flookburgh
Nr Grange-Over-Sands
Cumbria
Tel: Airfield 05395 58672/58555
Tel: Weekdays 0772 720848

Oxon & Northants Parachute Centre

Situated off A422 between Banbury and Brackley. Open every weekend, midweek evenings during BST months. Beginners S/L courses, radios, freefall progression, kit hire. Cessna 180 (inflight door) always available. Friendly atmosphere, visitors very welcome, no membership fee.

Oxon & Northants Parachute Centre
Hinton-in-the-hedges Airfield
Steane, Nr Brackley
Northants
Contact: Mike Bolton
85 Oak Park Road
Wordsley, Stourbridge
W.Midlands DY8 5YJ
Tel: 0384 393373

Peterborough Parachute Centre

Tuesday to Sunday from 0800hr. Skyvan and C206. AFF, WARP, Tandem. Bunkhouse accommodation, free camping, bar, food.

UNRESTRICTED ALTITUDE. Twenty years unrivalled experience.

Peterborough Parachute Centre

Sibson Airfield
Wansford
Peterborough
Tel: Elton 0832 280490

Peterlee

Shotton colliery airfield, 2 miles west of Peterlee Flyover intersection. Open daily up to 8.30pm.

Beginners, Tandem, WARP, CRW, canteen, toilets and indoor packing facilities.

Shotton Colliery Airfield

Peterlee
Co. Durham.
Tel: (091) 5171234
(091)3865315

Scottish Parachute Club

Over thirty years of skydiving in Scotland. Open weekends and Friday evenings. C206/207. WARP, RW, CRW, Style, Accuracy (pit and electronic pad), Air-Air video. Canteen, lounge, video room, shop. Excellent student progression, radios, free kit hire, Good camping/B&B nearby.

Scottish Parachute Club
Strathallan Airfield
Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire
Perthshire PH3 1LA
Tel: 0764 62572 (weekends)

Sport Parachute Centre, The

Young progressive centre, operated by Skydivers for Skydivers. Student and RW. Progression, AFF, Tandem, RAPS, courses. Weekend and midweek evenings at present. Aircraft - C182 with others on occasional call. New club building, unrestricted altitude. Canteen and accommodation available.

The Sport Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield
Whitchurch
Shropshire
Tel:0948 841111

Stirling Parachute Centre

Fulltime parachute training facility set in spectacular scenery. Convenient for both Glasgow and Edinburgh and easily reached off the M9. Beginners Courses run midweek and weekends. Progression from first jump to experienced free fall, RW, WARP, CRW, Tandem. Lecture rooms, indoor training and Packing facilities. Camping Available. B&B nearby.

Stirling Parachute Centre
Thornhill
Nr. Stirling
FK8 3QT
Tel: 0786 87788/Fax: 0786 87748

Wild Geese Centre- New High Tech Training Area

Open 7 days a week. NITB approved, with accommodation for 42, hot showers, full catering. Camping welcome. Daily student courses - full indoor training - training to Cat 10, RW, & CRW instruction and night jumping. S/L Square courses, AFF, Tandem jumping, and Display Team. Kit Hire, AADs, radios, Air to Air video and a large accuracy pit with competition pad. Cessna 206 and Pilatus Porter PC6 B2H4

Wild Geese Skydiving Centre
Movenis Airfield
116 Carrowreagh Road
Garvagh, Coleraine
Co. Londonderry, N.Ireland
Tel DZ: 0265 58609/57050
Dave Penny: 0265 58002

OTHER ORGANISATIONS ASSOCIATED TO THE BPA

The Free Fall Company

Peter Allum and Kevin McCarthy have moved from Slipstream Adventures to Peterborough Centre. A new Accelerated Free-Fall school, using Sibsons excellent aircraft, facilities and unlimited altitude. Also RW/AFF trips to Gap (S.France).

The Free Fall Company

Sibson Airfield,
Wansford
Peterborough,
Cams. PE8 6NE
Tel:0832 280055

Scottish Sport Parachute Association

Dedicated to the promotion and development of parachuting in Scotland. Services provided include equipment grants (Fan Trainers, Parachutes, Aircraft, Accuracy Pits, etc), sponsorship of the Scottish National Championships and other competitions, provision of the only student progression, WARP, and CRW training subsidy system in the world; Rigger and instructors training grants and much much more.

Mike Strachan (Secretary)
47 Great Southern Road,
Aberdeen, Scotland.

Slipstream Adventures

With 4 fulltime AFF instructors and 6 AFF rigs at our disposal, Slipstream offers you outstanding instruction. We operate full time with the use of all Headcorn's facilities. We also offer RW/AFF Courses at Avignon in the South of France.

Slipstream Adventures
The Airfield,
Headcorn
Kent TN27 9HX
Tel:0622 890641/890862

POPS UK

Hon Treas/Sec Michael Allum
64 Ardleigh Court
Hutton Road
Shenfield
Essex
Tel: 0277 219717

East Coast Parachute Centre

Currently sharing facilities with the London Parachute School at Lewknor Drop Zone.

8 Burns Crescent
Chelmsford
Essex CM2 0TS
Tel:0245 268772

British Collegiate Parachute Association

Bath University	Manchester University
Exeter University	Manchester Polytechnic
Glasgow University	Oxford
Hatfield Polytechnic	P.C.London
Lancashire Polytechnic	Salford University
Lancaster University	University of East Anglia
Leicester University	

C/O Parachute Association

Manchester University
333 Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PG
Paul Mayer - BCPA chairman 1991
Mat Usher - Treasurer
Audrey Kelly - Secretary

David Morris Action Sports

Private AFF instruction with the use of Langar's facilities and aircraft. We can arrange AFF courses in Southern France. Kaleidoscope - experts in skydiving promotions, exhibitions, stunts and displays.

41 Ellindon
Bretton North
Peterborough
PE3 8RG
Tel:0733 266076

OTHER AFFILIATED CLUBS/CENTRES

Army Parachute Assoc.

The Commandant, JSPC
Airfield Camp,
Netheravon, Salisbury
Wilts. SP4 9SF
Tel: Bulford Camp 0980 33371
ext: (Commandant) 8245
(Chief Instructor) 8229
(Staff) 8277

RAFSPA

Weston-on-the-Green
Nr Bicester
Oxon
Tel:086 989 343

The Red Devils

Queen's Parade
Aldershot
Hants
Tel:0252 24431 ext 4600/4699
Contact: Red Devils
Browning Barracks
Aldershot
Hants.

RN & RM SPA

Dunkeswell Airfield
Dunkeswell
Honiton
Devon
Tel: 0404 891697/891716

Northern Ireland Services Free Fall Club

John Boardman
N.I.S.F.F.C.
Shackleton Barracks
B.F.P.O. 802
Tel:Civil 0504 49972
Military: Limavady 36472

Silver Stars Parachute Team

RCT Parachute Club
Azimghur Barracks
Colerne
Chippenham
Wilts. SN14 8QY
Tel: 0225 743585/743240 ext 5265

Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Club (CCSPC)

CJSATC Pergamos Camp, B.F.P.O. 58
Tel: from UK
010 357 47 44337 (Office)
010 357 47 44245 (D.Z)
Contact: Club CCI

Joint Services Parachute Centre Hong Kong

Borneo Lines, BFPO 1
Tel: 0-483 7221

RAPA JSPC(L)

Bielefelderstr. Normandy, Kaserne
4791 Sennelager
Tel: 010 495 254 822378
JSPC(L), STC, Sennelager BFPO 16.

Beginners guide to

Freestyle

How to do the Tee...

1) One...



2) Two...



3) Tee!

It's that easy.

**Demo by Pete Allum
Photos by Ian Thomas**





PHOENIX/Z-HILLS

1992 Schedule of Events

March 22-28
March 22-28

Spring RW Training Camp
* Sky Eye Sequential "College Camp"

April 4-20
April 13-15
April 17-18
April 18

27th Annual Easter Boogie
3rd Annual 20 Way
7th Annual Speed 40-Way
Awards Night

April 24

PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!!!
Sky-Eye Sequential Presents
"The Over the Hill Boogie"
Come celebrate the Old Man's Birthday -
40 WAYS ALL DAY

*Sky-Eye Sequential "College Camps" - Higher Level Skydives
by Martin Evans and Friends. No Fee/Pre-Registration Suggested.
The Sky-Eye Sequential Team is Based All Season Long at Phoenix/Z-Hills

P.O. Box 1889 Zephyrhills, FL 33539
(813) 788-5591 FAX (813) 783-1339



THOMAS

Sports
Equipment
Limited

Lofty's Loft • Pinfold Lane • Bridlington • North Humberside • YO16 5XS
Telephone: 0262 - 678299

THE NEW 1 PIN TEAR DROP



The '1 Pin Tear Drop' is manufactured and tailored with precision to your specific requirements, with custom colours and no extra charge.

The safest and most attractive narrow pop top you can buy. It has one very special feature, only 1 Pin is needed to close the reserve! This makes packing the reserve as easy as any other single pin reserve container.

Re-designed riser covers
Not just cosmetic, they make for ease of use, preventing the risers from falling off your shoulders at any time.

Unique and revolutionary shaped harness: ensures unsurpassed comfort, extra padded leg pads for comfort in both the aircraft and under canopy.

The new '1 Pin Tear Drop' guarantees you the TSE expertise, advice and after sales service. You know you have the best rig in the world with the '1 Pin Tear Drop'.

CALL NOW!

ASK FOR CHRIS, GARY OR SALLY.

Manufactured to BS 5750: Part 2: 1987 / ISO 9002:1987. TSE Standard 1: Issue 2 (as amended), approved by the Australian Civil Aviation Authority CAA under Civil Aviation Order CAO 103.18 - Equipment Standards - Emergency - Parachutes. This equipment qualifies for TSO-C23b under bilateral airworthiness agreements between the US and Australia.