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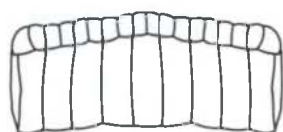
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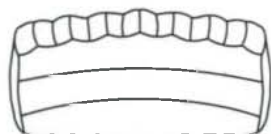


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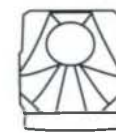
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Published by Aircscape, Media Suite, 3 Tyers Gate, London SE1 3HX
Tel: 071 403 6753 Fax: 071 378 1208

Design/Typesetting by Aircscape, London SE1 3HX

Printed by Stephens & George Ltd., in association with Caric Print Ltd,
Clerwood, Corunna Main, Andover, Hampshire.
Tel: 0264 354887

NEWS & EVENTS

EDITORIAL

To misquote Tolly, I like Cypres and AADs, but I don't really understand how they work.

Recently, there have been far too many appalling tragedies to sit around babbling about pressures, heights, settings etc. When you're at 500 feet with nothing above you – do you really care how they work?

Have you ever been on the run-in and wondered why you packed your parachute in such a hurry? Do you sometimes go in for the pull and pray like hell that everything is going to be OK? Do you honestly go through your safety checks every time you're about to exit? Do you truly check your complete rig – not just the canopy – every time you pack? Do all jumpers really know what

they are looking for when they check one another out?

I'm not a Cypres or AAD sales rep. I'm ashamed to admit I'm a complete Doris when it comes to understanding technology, but it strikes me that these gadgets need more press – the sooner we all get it into our minds that parachutes are going to be £800 more expensive the better; £800 to save your life sounds like a bargain to me! If you are one of those people who genuinely don't care about themselves, well what about your family and the friends you leave behind.

If you don't get one for Christmas then you know what your New Year's resolution should be.

Katie

POPS MEDICALS: A CORRECTION

We erroneously quoted Dr Carter as saying that "At present 50-70 year old require medicals every six months". In fact 50-70 year olds require a medical every 12 months and skydivers over 70 require medicals every six months. We apologise and hope that no-one has unnecessarily paid for a premature medical.

POPS NEWS

Mike Allum writes: Sorry no POPS Corner this issue, we are all in Umatilla, Florida for the 2nd World POPS Meet. Full report and pics in the next mag. Have a very Happy Christmas and hope to see lots of members at the meeting after the AGM in Leicester in January

1994 COUNCIL

Only 12 nominations for places on the 1994 council were received. An election will not be required. The 1994 council will consist of the following people: Chris Allen, Bob Card, Lesley Gale, Phil Gibbs, Helen Harber, Kevin Hughes, Samantha Linklater, Chris Lyall, Michael Matthews, Ian Midgeley, John Smyth and Lofty Thomas. Lesley, Helen, Ian and John are the new faces.

BRIDLINGTON FOR CLASSICS AND CF NATIONALS

The Canopy Formation National Championships will be held from the 23rd to 31st July 1994 and the Classics Nationals will follow, running from 30th July to the 7th August. Entry forms and fees need to be in by the 21st June and 1st July respectively. More details will be published in next issue of *SP*.

RAFSPA RE-OPENS FEB

Jumpers intending to visit RAFSPA at Weston-on-the Green should note that it is closed until the new season starts on 26th February 1994.

IVth INTERNATIONAL HOLLAND TROPHY

From May 13th to 15th 1994, Paraclub Flevo will be hosting an international Accuracy meet. Teams and individuals are welcome. Contact: Herman Boerman on 31 78 - 184428(h), 10-4026388(w)

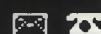


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GUY MANOS 100-WAY STARS

The 'Man' and his followers arrived at Eloy, promising a 100-way star record for the Championship's Opening. The jumpers reportedly paid \$300 each for the attempts, none of which came to any fruition, the best being about 60'ish. The method in his madness was to BACK lines apart (!), and this they did..... miles apart! Steve Johns (MindGames) told 'The Word on the Streets' "From the ground they looked like Straggly Worms with no sense of direction."

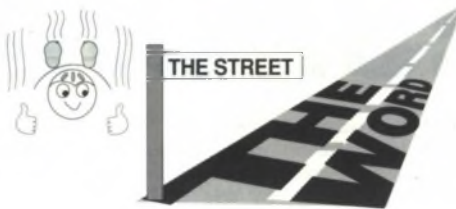
The general feeling among competitors was that Manos was trying to do it the *hard way*. The Word on the Street was that it would be fun to get 100 competitors and the correct mechanics - it would only take the 1 jump.....

10th WORLD PARACHUTING CHAMPIONSHIPS of FORMATION SKYDIVING ELOY, ARIZONA

Skydive Arizona played host to the 10th World Meet from the 23rd to 31st of October. The meet was run from Twin Otters, one being a 'Super Otter' the other 'Normal'. The weather was fantastic and the organisation like clock work. Even the Dust Devils looked on in awe, as the National Champions of the World, (27 4-way, 13 8-way,) battled it out in the Arizona Desert, for the *Ultimate Prize*. The 4-way was predictably dominated by the *French* (190) and *USA* (182) with the *Danes* (169) snapping at their booties. But that was not the only competition! There were 12 teams all averaging 12+ below these three, standards were awesome. *AirTime*, Brit Champs, turned and burned all meet to finish 12th (113), putting an 18 on the board in round 10, Nice Skydive! The 8-way was fraught with drama. The French were busted to 11 on round 1, and the Aussies missed a point from a dive and only scored 6 in round 2. The Russian (What they sell is what they eat) 8-way were hooking their 'Monstrous' canopies in all directions... including into the First Aid Tent! *Mind Games* did their thing, and put a smooth 10 on the board, round 1. John McIver remarked "Round 1, World Meet, just another skydive.....**NOT !**". Just like Gap (World Cup '92) the championship is down to the last round. Both teams kick Boo in this one scoring 17, and the 1993 Championship of the World is won by *The USA* (169) from *The French* (168), *Russia* (133) with *Mind Games* finishing 9th. (Full report on pages 21-24).

ALL COMPETITOR 100-WAY ROUND ATTEMPT

Jack Jeffries and Craig Buxton (USA 4) called the teams together for one go at the world record. They started at the top, and worked down, until they had the *hottest load* probably ever assembled. The brief was short, little needed to be said, two Otters & two DC3, 20-way base, four loops of 20, an eight grip transition to a 100-way Star. On the way to altitude a load of fun jumpers, lobbed out of a '3', unfortunately so did 12 from one of the otters, so now we were down to 88. The exit was at 14500ft, and the build smooth and fast. The only people not to dock on the formation were camera men and those who got out on the first pass. Brits on the load were *AirTime*, less Chris, plus George, a privilege indeed.



THE PRESS 'BANG OUT'!

The Express have pulled out of the display team game, possibly due to the VAT treating government. Auntie Lou, '93 team member said "The Express have had to make major financial cut backs in their 'Special Events' department, and the Tarts are history!" This leaves the all girl Flying Crusaders looking for new employers. Any one interested in the services of a display team should call WoTS and we'll put you in touch.

PHEONIX CLOSED OVER CHRISTMAS ?

The word on the street has it that George Kabeller (owner, Pheonix) has settled his court dispute with the local council, and is moving his DZ to "Somewhere else". This info was called into WoTS by Tony Ayling who read it on a PC bulletin board, Thanks Tony. We suggest you call Phoenix to confirm they are operational should you be planning a visit.

NEW PRODUCT FROM SKY GEAR

An anonymous colligate caller would like to know if The Streets think that the "Top lip Warmer", modeled by Andy "Swoop" Peckett, page 1 of the new catalogue will catch on.....

AIRTIME DESIGNS BREED LIKE RABBITS!

Tony & January Uragallo McKensie now have a son. Sky was born around the end of September and gives Tony his own 4-way to coach in the future. They have also been procreating in the canopy department and have been testing "The WoodMouse". Two prototypes have been made and jumped. For further info call on Tony: **USA 813 788 4753**.

FREEBIRD NO MORE

Free Bird Skydiving, based at Mamby Airfield has also put the plane away for the last time. Run by ex Sibsonites, Ali & Louise Christy and Chris Donaldson they have been constantly harassed by the local "Hate Squad", and have decided to "Bin It" for the time being. A twist to the tale is the many letters they have received from OAP's who "Love to watch the parachutists, while taking Tea in the garden!"

PDF PULLOUT

Parachute de France's container "The Atom" is now available with a "TSE" type Pull Out Pilot chute option. This type of handle is very difficult to knock, or kick off and easy to use, even through thick gloves. The rig is also available with a leg strap, or bottom of container "Throw Away". PDF have two demo Atoms available with George and Tim at Sibson (see WoTS #1 August SP).

SYMBIOSIS CHUTE ASSIS

Symbiosis Suits, run in Headcorn and Gap by Rob Colpus and Sara Brierly, have added two new suits to the range. "A Chute Assis suit for the *Sitting Down Dudes*, and a flying suit for the *Surfboard Dudes*," Rob told us. Both are available now, get one for Christmas and have a blast in the new year, when its far too cold to be serious! Sort yourself out, call Rob on 0622 890967.

GIRLS BRITISH RECORD

It is hoped to have a week of attempts at the record during the last week of July. "The current record is 40, (Pampisford, '87 ?) and this one's gonna be much bigger." Adrian Thornton, (who is putting the attempt together) told WoTS, "I have just procured the services of Alexis Perry (current Girls World Record Organiser), I've got positive feedback from various companies about sponsorship, the aircraft are getting sorted, and I've got 75 skydiver's applications, but I could do with a few more." So girls, if you don't tell Ady who you are, he can't invite you on the *New British Record* can he? Skydiving records attempts are special, and they don't come along very often. Don't Miss Out! Call Adrian Thornton on 0404 44801 for further details, do it NOW.

CYPRUS OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dequalia Drop Zone was host to the meet attended by 4-way and Style & Accuracy teams mainly from the UK, *all in fact*, with the exception of the Cyprus National 4-way Team, led by Tony 'Funky' Modebe. Point Two Five (Skydive Sibson) were ready to rock establishing a commanding lead, finishing 15 points clear after 6 rounds. "The jumps were great, the booze was absurdly cheap and we partied hard. And, WE came home with the goodies. What more is there?" No Knees told the WoTS answer machine.

sp@postlin.demon.co.uk

What? Yes *Sport Parachutist* has now got its own E Mail address, so if you have the technology, you can converse with the editor on the InterNet system, which can also be accessed from numerous others, so next time you log on, say Hi.

It only takes a phone call to leave *your word* on the street. You are the word so let us have your info on 0788 860882

Compiled by George Pilkington

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CORRESPONDENCE

VIVA LA DISCIPLINE

Dear Editor

It was a great pleasure to read Chris Shaw's review of our DZ in the June issue of *Sport Parachutist*. We are very pleased that recent experiences by visiting European skydivers have been so positive and it is our intention to continue to make all of visitors feel welcome. While it is true that students from Ireland, Italy and Portugal qualify from our training which is very similar to your RAPS. There are plenty of facilities for AFF, tandem and RW school, and we run regular RW camps with video during summer weeks, which have been much appreciated by some of our casual English speaking visitors and would be suitable to BPA skydivers of Cat IX and above. If anyone wants information and is worried about a language problem, just send us a fax on (33-1) 64.20.20.72 and we will fax you an answer in reasonable English.

We must comment on Chris' concern about a perceived lack of canopy discipline. Skydivers are permitted, but not encouraged, to land in the areas immediately adjacent to the apron, clubhouse and hangers, but the penalty for landing in forbidden areas is expensive and highly embarrassing for anyone with a modicum of self respect. As Chris noticed, these areas are busy and almost always used by groups of regulars with a very high level of experience, who know each others habits and the quirks of turbulence from the surrounding buildings. We have not had a canopy collision near the ground since 1986, and that was long before the days of hook turns. This safety record is probably because our skydivers have 110 hectares of drop zone at their disposal, which must be one of the largest and clearest landing areas in the world. The accuracy pit ("pit") barely describes this huge circle filled with soft gravel) is particularly suited for anyone with worries or problems, and the short, easy walk back to the packing areas is a small price to pay for the comfort and safety of a good landing. We certainly have no complaints from our students.

Also a word about air traffic control. Our pilots are professionals, who have very good relations with Paris ATC, and the only current 'problem' experienced is the occasional holding pattern at altitude which allows visiting skydivers a little extra time to admire the scenery and (if they are lucky like Chris Shaw) the occasional airliner passing nearby.

We look forward to seeing even more of our British and Irish friends in coming years, especially during our regular August International 16-way competition which has attracted both established teams from the UK, Germany, Holland and the USA, and multinational multilingual scratch teams of visiting skydivers looking for a fun load to join!

Yours faithfully
The Committee (La Ferte Gaucher)

VISIONS 1

Dear Ola

I found Martin Lysters thoughts on "The Vision Thing" (SP Oct 93) of considerable interest and agree with him on many issues.

I have to admit to only attending one AGM in ten years, but tend to support the views of Martin, and John Lines (SP Feb 93), about the need for a rethink.

Martin also made an excellent point with regard to the dangers of relying on "back-up" devices such as AADs when it is better to remain practised at reserve drills. This view is also supported by the USPA analysis of recent fatalities. (Paul Sitter, Parachuting June 93).

However, I am at a loss to understand his point concerning the STC discussions about the possible mandatory use of AADs. Surely discussing ways of making the best use of new equipment is "Thinking ahead"?

I personally agree with Martin that we will see the eventual fading out of round parachutes in Sport Parachuting, but as for his view on the "decades old

category system" and clubs that "have to buy old fashioned equipment" again I am at a loss - hasn't he heard of RAPS and of the considerable changes to the Category System that we have seen this year?

Long live development, and congratulations to Martin for raising several interesting points, let's have more views aired. "The Membership" (that's you, me, him...) should make their views known; to those jumpers that give their time to be on Council, to their CCLs (who are on STC) and here in the mag.

I have had a year off from competition (apart from the Scottish Championships) but what do people out there think of "Off year selection"? (stay with it), and "three classes at Regional FS"? (give it up).

By the way, what is the definition of "Intermediate" in Accuracy Landing competition?

Blue Skies (hopefully!!)

Peter A Sizer

VISIONS 2

Dear Ola

I write with regard to Martin Lysters article in SP of October 1993. Unfortunately Mr Lyster has "adjusted" a few facts to fit his own theories on AADs. While the action on fitting AAD's to tandem rigs was totally over the top especially when one considers that a tandem fatality in California a week before the UK incident didn't cause anyone to so much as bat an eyelid. A few points need correcting.

Point 1: Tom Piras was wearing an AAD, however, it was not switched on - had it been, we would most likely still have one of the world's best skydivers walking around.

Point 2: It is a proven fact that 48% of all fatalities could be prevented by the use of AAD's.

Using the old "No service facility" - "Too expensive routine" is crap - you can always have an AAD serviced during a winter lay off.

What do you do if you're doing tandem under drogue and can't release the main? That's right, you punch the reserve out past the drogue! The manufacturers tested it and it works. The worst case of inadvertent misfire with a free bagged reserve will give you a main and reserve flying together leading to a canopy transfer.

Quite simply AAD's save lives and at £750 fitted there is no excuse for not fitting AAD's to all equipment in a 'reasonable time scale'.

I would refer all readers to a letter in USPPS Parachutist magazine replying to a letter saying until AADs could be trusted 100% they should not be fitted. As the man said:

Do you trust your rig 100%?

Do you trust the plane ride 100%?

Do you trust your fellow jumpers 100%?

We read in the same SP of a mid-air rescue or another jumper knocked unconscious - it can happen to anyone - and there may be no-one close enough of good enough to perform such a rescue.

Think about it - AADs save lives.

Bill and Ted

PS I tried fitting a smoke detector at home but it looked stupid on my rig!

BUNNY HOP

Dear Ola

I am a member of Halfpenny Green Parachute Club and I am writing this letter to tell you of something that happened to me on 15th Sept this year.

I was on my second 10 second delay and I only just made it back to the edge of the airfield. Unfortunately for me, where I landed there was a rabbit hole, which my right foot went into. I went to do my PLF and my body moved but my right ankle didn't - I shattered my ankle.

Luckily for me, the people at the Jump Centre were quick enough to realize and got to me quick enough. At this point I would like to give a big thankyou to Ray,

Adam, Joe and the two crash truck guys, who kept me going when I know I nearly went spark out.

In hospital, I had visitors from the jump centre and everyone is always asking how I am coming along.

I have now got the nickname "Bunny" and one of the guys, Brendon Carvill, wrote a poem for me. I think it is very apt. (See page 14 ... Ed)

I would like to thank everyone at Halfpenny Green as it is one of the best clubs I have been to where everyone is welcome and it's like one big happy family.

Thanks again to everyone and a special thanks to Ray and Terresa Parker for putting me up until I am more mobile.

Here's hoping I am back under canopy soon.

Bionic Bunny (Alias Paul Parsons)

GOOD JOB ROB

Dear Ola

Having just returned from Arizona, I would like to thank Rob Colpus for the support he gave British Teams at the World Championships.

I was surprised to find, that although Rob acted as Head of Delegation for the British teams and is also a member of the IPC subcommittee for formation skydiving, he is not the BPA delegate to IPC.

The past two years have seen big changes to the judging of formation skydiving with air-to-air now being used for primary judging. Also trials have taken place of air-to-ground, for live viewing on the ground, with the ultimate aim of IPC to have immediate scoring from these live transmissions.

These changes and trials have not been without problems, if it had not been for Rob's work with IPC and notably his idea of "conditional rejudges" being accepted, I don't think air-to-air would have been used at the World Championships.

I had always assumed, as Rob did so much work with IPC and took the time to keep teams informed of rule changes and other developments, he was the BPA delegate.

We are now in the crazy position of having a BPA member, who is one of the most respected members of an IPC committee (and possibly the next chairman of that committee), not being supported by the BPA.

If the BPA feel that their delegate is working with the IPC in a more constructive and productive way than Rob, perhaps they should let the membership know.

If the BPA want to have any credibility at IPC they need to have a delegate who is forward thinking and be part of the decisions that are changing our sport.

Steve Johns

PS Who is the BPA delegate to IPC? I've never heard anything about IPC from them

John Hüchen is the BPA delegate to the IPC ... Ed.

SHIT 'CHUTE

Dear Editor

I recently bought a new pilot chute for a throw-away system (about 20 jumps ago) and noticed that the delay time between throwing it out and the canopy opening was increasing. On the last 2 jumps I used it, the delay time was 3 seconds and 4 seconds respectively. On both occasions I was on the point of using my reserve when the main came out.

After the '3 second delay' jump I asked an instructor if 3 seconds was long enough to wait before reserve drills, and his answer was roughly "3 seconds? That's nothing. You should see how long mine takes to open. Don't worry about it".

After the '4 second delay' jump, I asked another instructor at a different DZ if this was safe. He at once asked to see my pilot chute. On discovering that the netting allowed more and more air to spill out, he insisted I never jumped again with that pilot chute. On the two subsequent jumps my main cracked open in a second.

Is there no set time beyond which reserve drills are a must – or is this critical decision-making moment really up to the individual?

Yours sincerely
Jenny Woodman

You did the right thing getting your kit checked. The first instructor was correct about the time but should not have said don't worry. Change your kit not your count! ... Ed

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Ola

This note seems so inadequate - but I just don't seem able to write anything else down.

I want to thank everyone for your kindness, messages of sympathy, great generosity, but mostly for being there when I needed you most. I can't begin to let you know how much it has meant.

Thank you
Karen Farr

CHRIS CLARIDGE

Dear Editor

On Saturday the 25th September 1993 I was amongst the group of family and friends who went to South Cerney in order to pay respects to the memory of Chris Claridge who died recently in a tragic skydiving accident. I would just like to pass on my personal thanks to Dave Lewis, John Boxall and everyone else who were responsible for handling a difficult and delicate situation with such genuine feeling and care, they are all a credit to themselves and their sport. After speaking to many others who attended, I can tell you that they all spoke very highly of the way Dave and his team acted on the day of the funeral and again at the South Cerney DZ, it was extremely clear that Chris's untimely death was as great a loss to all his skydiving buddies as it was to a lot of other people who knew him.

I knew Chris as a friend for over 30 years and it was his infectious enthusiasm for parachuting approximately 14 years ago, that prompted me to travel with him from Bristol to Shobdon Airfield, Hereford and make a number of student jumps myself. Unfortunately circumstances at that time prevented me from progressing through the sport, but Chris carried on doing the thing he loved the most, apart from being with his family, skydive.

Again, please could you pass on my thanks to Dave Lewis and his team for making two extremely difficult days, memorable ones for all of us who attended. Also can you send my best wishes for a speedy recovery to one of my jump master of about 14 years ago, John Boxall.

Kind Regards
Reg King

HONEYMOON 18-WAY

Dear Ola

I would like to share some details of my recent honeymoon (not those sort of details!). Chris Mizzi and I got married at the end of September and were fortunate enough to receive our free 'Hoover' tickets the day before the wedding. We flew out to Orlando, Florida two days later.

We spent two days sightseeing before arriving at Skydive City in Zephyrhills on Friday morning. Chris (the skydiver in the family) immediately went along to manifest (surprise surprise) and was on a lift two minutes later. We stayed until Monday morning – Chris managed 14 skydives during these two and a half days and I read three books, not bad relaxation but I was ready to move, I was getting bored. During these few days we had made many good friends, drank a lot of beer and had eaten too much!

The following Friday we arrived back at Skydive City, after a week of sightseeing. We went out that evening and partied and I committed myself to doing a tandem jump (must have had a lot to drink!). Sunday morning it was all fixed. Craig was going to be my tandem master and Chris was going to 'pin' the tandem along with Ian Head. Chris mentioned to the load organiser Dave Farkey that he would be

'binning' himself off their 16-way to do this and by Sunday lunchtime all this had changed. The tandem was going to be part of an 18-way, plus videoman! In the meantime, we had been told that Skydive City and Freeflight would allow us \$100 off the cost of the tandem. This was going to be the most exciting jump of the day.

We all dirt-dived the jump and boarded the Twin Otter. At 13,500ft we got ready to leave the plane. Seven floaters out first, off we go! Craig and I go next and then all I can see is Derek Thomas from Sunpath geeking at me! This is fun. Next I see Chris and then the videoman. We did a 360 degrees turn so that I can see all the friends I have made over the past two weekends; Dave Farkey, Mike Furry, Ian Head, Chris Mizzi, Henry Pohjolainen, Derek Thomas etc to name but a few, plus Barry the cameraman (see enclosed photograph). Wow, what a skydive.

When we finally landed, really smoothly I have to say, Craig and I were buzzing "what a beautiful skydive". It had all gone really well and I wasn't scared at all, brilliant, definitely a future AFF student. I wanted to pack and do it again, that's how good it was! (Not bad for someone who was definitely 'anti'.)

Chris went to pay for the tandem and was told that there would be no charge, it was a wedding gift from them and they even paid for Chris's own slot. We were given the video ("Chris and Stephenie's honeymoon skydive") and the roll of film too. We cannot thank everyone enough. It was a brilliant honeymoon, meeting so many people and making new friends.

Thanks again Skydive City and Freeflight Express, next time you see us there'll be two of us at manifest requesting slots!
Stephenie Mizzi

PS We'd like to thank Pat Thomas for her brilliant roast beef dinner and Ian Head for his excellent curry!

ANYONE FOR 8-WAY?

Dear Ola

As those of you who read the adverts before the letters may have noticed, I'm on the lookout for like-minded skydivers to form a competitive 8-way team.

Why advertise you might ask? Should a team not just come together from friends and associates? My experience tells me that the method often takes a long time and doesn't always produce the results. My impression from working as a load organiser over the last five years, is that there are many competent British skydivers out there who would like to get involved in some quality team skydiving – but how to do it!

As stated in the advert, the initial aim of the project is to do 150-200 training jumps between April and August '94, and compete at the British Nationals obviously any further targets are dependent on the result of this meet. Having looked at the most cost effective training programs, this would probably entail a couple of week-long camps. Most likely these would be in the US to guarantee weather and maximum value in slots plus professional coaching.

So what kind of skydiver is being sought? The main attributes would seem to be ability, enthusiasm and commitment (of both time and money). A minimum of 500 jumps/8 hours freefall is probably necessary although as we all know currency and altitude are often more appropriate than jump numbers. Experience of 8-way is not a necessity as the training will start from the basics. Obviously if you've got thousands of jumps and competition experience, you'll be very welcome, but enthusiasm and commitment of time and finances are very important to the project. Age, sex, colour, home drop zone, skydiving, politics, extra-mural activities etc are not important - an equal opportunities team? I hope so.

Just to dispel any thoughts that those more cynical amongst you might have - this is not a money-making project (I'll be putting my money on the line like everybody else). Once we've put together the group, hopefully sometime in February, then team members will have an eighth share of decisions / responsibility / expenses. They'll also have 100% share of some quality skydives!

I'm working at Skydive Arizona until mid-January '94. After that I can be contacted at: 3 Conningham

Road, London, W12 8BP, 081 749 4615. If there is a problem with the phone then send me your details plus phone number and I'll get back to you during the first week of February '94.

If this is something you've always wanted to do then don't dismiss the idea - go for it! Who knows, you might end up doing some very excellent skydives!

Cheers/blue skies

Sandy McRobbie

WAKE UP TO THE CYPRES

Dear Ola

This is our reply to the article by Martin Lyster: Has Martin Lyster been asleep for the past three years? At the present time more than 8000 experienced skydivers use a Cypres (not including Tandem and Student versions) and over a million jumps have been made with them. Twenty six skydiver's lives have been saved, and nobody has been killed while using a Cypres. Is Martin simply not informed of the actual situation, or is he just simple minded?

With best regards
Helmut Cloth (Airtec)

TA AND TA TA

Dear Ola

Appreciation and many thanks to Dave Ruffell (former CCI) at 'Target Skysports'. His patience, time and commitment to the sport throughout and beyond the closure of Doncaster Parachute Club in December 1991 and consequent relocation to Hibaldstow in May 1992 has been commendable. His primary concern being first and foremost the safety and progression of the students. Disappointing to note was Dave's resignation as CCI in September 1993 and subsequent departure. He will be sadly missed.

Target Skysports

TEAM TESCO

Dear Ola

Having read the account in George Pilkington's column of the Woodmouse 4-way competition held at Sibson on the 14/15th September this year, we realise that George didn't have the full details at hand and would like to clarify a few points. The team that won the intermediate event was indeed Team Tesla (one's). However, we did not do 50 practise jumps in Gap or anywhere else. The truth is that we only managed a total of 12 team jumps over the summer at Windrush (MPC) primarily due to the good old British weather. However, we are looking forward to the training camp, complete with a weeks coaching by a member of AirTime, that we won at the competition.

We would also like to say what a fantastic event it was with 27 teams participating (17 senior and 10 intermediate) and how much we enjoyed the weekend. It was exceptionally well organised and proceeded without a hitch - other than Moley's camera trying to get some close-up shots of a team on its way to Terra Firma! Many thanks to all those at Sibson who helped to make a great success of the event, especially Jim Brown who donated the intermediate prize.

For your information, Team Tesla are: Tom Scanlon, Ian Stevens, Ian Gould and Eddie Coleman. Until next year ...

Blue skies, low winds, high clouds etc
Team Tesla

STOP PRESS SKI SP

LAST FEW PLACES FOR TRIP TO
VAUJANY / ALPE d' HUEZ

March 5th - 1 week
S/C Apartment

£289!

A classic controversy

should they stay or should they go?

The case for:

Esther Reynolds ...

"two of the competitors to be fully funded had worse accuracy scores than two of the women being denied the privilege of going at all"

This is the first time after 18 years in the sport that I have felt strongly enough about any subject to write to the mag.

I would like the membership to be aware of recent decisions made by competitions committee, and also by council, regarding selection of the national team to attend the next style and accuracy World Championships to be held in China in May 1994.

The competitions committee in an attempt to raise the standard of competition, introduced new style criteria for our nationals last June. The competitors were informed of these criteria no sooner than at the Nationals competition briefing! (A criteria which I had in fact been competing within over the last two years.) However, no accuracy criteria was set, which means, in effect, that the style and accuracy competitors were selected to represent Great Britain solely on the results of three style jumps, completely ignoring the 10 rounds of accuracy and subsequent accuracy scores. This also totally disregards the fact that no British competitor has ever made the slightest impression on the style world, whereas in accuracy we have enjoyed numerous occasions of high placings with even the odd medal to boast about, both in team and individual events.

Normally the national Classics teams consist of the overall top five men and top five women. The competitors were led to believe that those of them who failed to meet the newly imposed criteria would still be included in the team, but would not be fully funded by the BPA. This was accepted as being reasonable.

As it happened two of the five men (Dave Ballard and Jeff Chandler) and three of the women (Esther Reynolds, Francesca Shashkova and Linda Rogerson-Heath) all failed on this occasion to meet the style criteria. The competitions committee decided that the two men should go to the World Meet in China substantially funded, but the three girls should not be allowed to attend under any circumstances. Can you spot the difference? No? – in some way the competitions committee did.

No satisfactory reason or explanation was given for this lopsided decision apart from: "We have studied the results carefully." They obviously did not study the accuracy results very carefully, or they would have spotted that two of the competitors to be fully funded had worse accuracy scores than two of the women being denied the privilege of going at all.

Fran and I wrote to the committee expressing our dismay at this strange unexplained decision, and requested its discussion at the next Competitions Committee meeting. At this meeting it was eventually proposed that Fran and I should be allowed to attend the World Championships, as we had offered, at no cost to the Association whatsoever. "A gift" you may say. "They've got to

The Competitions Committee have refused to allow Esther Reynolds and Fran Shashkova to compete for GB at the next Classics World Meet – a decision supported by council. Why was this decision taken and is it justified? Well, you can decide for yourself, as it has prompted many to write in. We asked the council chairman, Bob Card, to explain the official line and he has done so, as has Doug Young the team leader. John Horne, chairman of the competitions committee declined to comment.

let them go. How can they say no?" Yet they did. The vote was not carried, (it went two for, two against, with one abstention) who later admitted that had they been better informed at the time would definitely have voted for us, thus closing this matter long ago.

We were told that if we did not like the decision we should take it to Council. So we did. Our case was strongly supported by letters from eminent people such as; Rob Colpus (CIP member, ex-Council), Pat Slattery (Experienced international Classics competitor, and CCI), Katherine Andrews (Current Ladies Classics Champion, – unable to attend the World Meet due to personal reasons, – congratulations Tim and Katherine!) and Bob King (International judge). At this Council meeting, the absent chairman and his deputy allowed only one person to present our case, then it was discussed in camera. We were not privy to their reasoning and were unable to clarify, question, defend or bring up any point that may or may not have arisen. The vote eventually came back, very strongly "To uphold the decision of the Competitions Committee".

Again no reason was given, just a "Sorry girls, you're not going to China". We have been told it is not a funding decision and we have been assured it is nothing personal! Perhaps the Council could at least give us some solid guidelines. There have been precedents, for example, in the case of the Red Devils who represented Great Britain in Czechoslovakia in 1991, funding themselves after failing to meet the criteria.

Surely any experienced and competent competitor who is prepared to invest so much personal and financial commitment to assist Great Britain to present a fuller and more efficient team should be welcomed with open arms, especially when they have been placed 2nd and 3rd in accuracy and 3rd and 4th in style and overall at this years Nationals. It is especially mystifying when you consider the fact that Fran was last years ladies style champion and 2nd overall, retaining that British style position at the last World Meet, and has experience at four World Meets to date. Personally, I will only boast seven times ladies overall champion, (including the last two years) and attendance at five World Meets.

Is the council really acting in the best interests of the sport? We would like someone who is party to these decisions to offer a reasonable explanation as to why the offer to fund ourselves has been refused, when others who failed to meet the criteria are being substantially funded. I would be interested and appreciative of some feedback from the readers.

Dave Johnston ...

"up and coming competitors will think twice before dedicating their efforts to accuracy/style if this is an example of BPA loyalty"

After hosting the British National Championships five times at Bridlington, I feel quite pissed off as I prepare for the 1994 event in the knowledge that two of our top competitors at this stage intend not to enter the event.

We are trying hard to encourage more individuals and teams to enter the style and accuracy

disciplines only to hear of the decision made by the competitions committee over Ester Reynolds and Fran Shashkova not being permitted to enter the World Meet in China 1994.

When one looks at those two ladies past record, let alone the time, effort and money they have spent to achieve this standard, it leaves very little doubt that up and coming competitors will think twice before dedicating their efforts to accuracy/style if this is an example of BPA loyalty.

As a host or organiser of a British Nationals, part of the marketing advantages to the media, sponsors and the public is the attraction of top British competitors and in 1994 this is very important as we intend to stage the accuracy event into a public park to provide wider exposure for the discipline and the sport.

It is the duty of our elected committees to assist by encouraging participation. Otherwise they will find it difficult to find a venue for future events at "no cost to the Association".

If this decision regarding Esther and Fran is not overturned, we will miss them both at Bridlington. They will have my full support and I hope the support of the membership whom I hope will cast their vote more wisely at the next election for council. Send them to the World Meet (financed) or next years Ladies Champion could be a novice.

Chrissie Clements ...

"if you can't get an answer from the horses mouth, who can you get it from? Maybe I didn't have enough sugar lumps"

The Classics Nationals this year, though a two event competition, had minimum criteria for only one event – the less popular and less dominant style event. This seemed strange because as a nation we have never won any international medals for style, but have frequently done so for accuracy. As a result of these criteria only three men and two women qualified. In order to make up the men's team for the accuracy event at the World Meet the top three style competitors plus the next two overall were picked. A wise decision as otherwise the nation's number two accuracy competitor would have been left behind because his style time wasn't fast enough for him to compete in accuracy! I am in complete support that these two non-qualifiers should go to the World Meet, and go largely funded as the BPA agreed.

However, more curious than the criteria itself is that this same rule does not apply to the women.

Fran Shashkova and Esther Reynolds, both British Team members for over eight years, made an offer to the competitions committee that they would be prepared to fund not only their travel and entry to the World Meet but also a training camp prior to it. So how could the BPA, and we as a nation, lose. In fact, if they went to the World Meet they would be the only 1993 national female accuracy medal winners to attend. So it comes as a complete shock to me that they were flatly turned down. No real reason was offered. At the following council meeting it was felt necessary to discuss this in camera. Once again the answer

... Continued on page 10

Yorkshire Bitter can seriously improve your skydiving



From the photo archives of SP – Tandem master enjoys a swig while passenger enjoys the high.

On a rainy night last October I sat with two friends, Alison and Stuart, beside a warming log fire in their local pub. The conversation developed onto the tack of how long ago it was that we did something exciting at the weekend instead of eating, watching television and reading the Sunday papers. It was then Alison raised the point of this "Tandem skydiving thing". Several pints of finest Yorkshire bitter helped egos take control of vocal cords and soon Stuart and I were uttering strange sounds such as "sounds like a laugh" and "lets have a go".

The next day brought a mixture of good and bad news. The bad news, we both had hangovers; the good news, we had forgotten that there was such a thing as Tandem skydiving; bad news Alison announces that she has booked Stuart a Tandem skydive as his 40th birthday present; good news, my birthday was eleven months away; bad news, Alison had booked me in as well on the grounds that last night I had said what tremendous fun it would be.

The dreaded day was soon upon us and I was awake at six o'clock praying for rain, fog, hurricanes or indeed any other form of tempest that would keep the aircraft on the ground. The result was two pale and extremely apprehensive individuals arriving at a windless Langar under a blue sky. We booked in at the clubhouse with what seemed like hundreds of other people wanting to do all manner of things such as statics, squares and 4-ways. I had no idea what anybody was talking about but sat bemused as I realised that there

was apparently an entire section of society who were obsessed with the idea of jumping out of a perfectly sound aircraft before it was safely back on the runway.

Time for the briefing with my Tandem master, Chris Harrison. There did not seem to be much to it, all I had to do was arch and as Chris said "Relax and enjoy yourself, that's what I'll be doing". Relax? Enjoy? The man was clearly unbalanced but by now I was wearing the harness and we were next to jump, this was it! Previously the smallest aeroplane I had travelled in was a 747 and a very pleasant experience it had been. On the way to the

aircraft I tried to take my mind off the fact that I was not wearing anything remotely resembling a parachute by thinking about the amount of leg room the seats would have and which feature film they would show. My mouth could not have felt more dry if it had been full of sand and the world's largest butterfly had taken up residence in my stomach. I remember thinking that things could only get better when I saw the aircraft. It did not look like a 747; in fact the last time I had seen anything like this attempting to fly was when as a child I used to watch Fred Flintstone cartoons. Soon we were all aboard and the aircraft, which to me looked far too much like a transit van to get us off the ground, had climbed to 10,000ft.

We are in the door. I decide that I do not want to jump. We jump! I open my eyes and we are in the sky! Fear has been replaced by excitement, apprehension by exhilaration. I am skydiving and it is the most amazing sensation in the universe!

Stuart and I leave the DZ having had all our blood replaced by adrenaline and vowing to return. One AFF course later and I am ready to learn to skydive. A massive thank you to Chris Harrison for introducing me to skydiving, Dave Hickling for his help on the AFF course Dave Morris for giving me the confidence to do my first solo exit and Angela Hickling for piloting the aircraft.

Finally do spare a thought for those poor skydivers who can be spotted in the local after a hard days jumping. They are performing a vital marketing exercise for the greatest of all sports.

Blue skies

Richard Pentreath

30 YEARS OF RAPA RAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994

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16-WAY FORMATION (6 ROUNDS) & 8-WAY SPEED (6 ROUNDS) 23rd & 24th JULY.

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DETAILS: FROM, COMMANDANT, JSPC (L), BFPO 16, GPO LONDON

TWYN OTTER AND THREE TURBINE ISLANDERS!!!!!!

... continued from page 8

was 'No' and once again no reason seemed to be offered.

I have recently contacted John Horne – competitions committee chairman – and asked him directly if he could enlighten me, if you can't get an answer from the horses mouth who can you get it from? Well maybe I didn't have enough sugar lumps because I still haven't been told.

I previously wrote to council in October asking this question whilst voicing my support for the two ladies. I had no answer. Surely if the council and committee members are acting on behalf of the membership, then the membership should be kept informed. (*chairman of comps committee please note... ed*). So, through the channels of the mag I try my third method. It appears to me that either there is no reason or it is one which won't hold up if made public.

Minimum criteria in the past as well as the present have been used mainly as a guide line. In all disciplines in the past competitors have failed to meet the qualification and still had the BPA's blessing to attend. Why therefore are two experienced competitors being singled out. Any argument arising from this should be how much funding to allow them, not whether or not they should be allowed to go. Let Fran and Esther go to the World meet! At the very least tell us why under no circumstances will you allow them to participate?

Steve Eversfield ...

"I'm no feminist, but the women who failed to reach the set criteria should have at least received the same treatment as the men"

After nearly two years without jumping. I was persuaded to enter the Regional Accuracy meet at Eaglescott. Bad move, despite the fact that I had tried to convince myself that me and parachuting were finished, I enjoyed myself immensely. Friends and fellow competitors greeted me with "where have you been" and, after I landed on the pad on my first jump, Bob King, judge and probably the nicest guy I have ever had the privilege to meet in the sport, walked over, shook my hand and said "welcome back". I was hooked again.

Two rounds later and there I was back in the familiar position of watching a wind-sock position itself parallel to the horizon, and catching up on the news and gossip. Having been a member of the competitions committee for three years, and chairman for one, the subject that naturally caught my attention was the matter of team selection for the 1994 Classics World Meet.

Team selection has always been a problem for competition committees. In days gone by position in the Nationals rather than performance determined who went to the World Championships as the British Team. It has to be said that some of the teams and individuals that went to these World Championships, completely funded by the BPA were unworthy of the privilege.

Aware of the fact that funding the no-hopers was starving those with greater potential from receiving the backing they deserved, the competitions committee that I sat on introduced criteria that a team or individual had to meet in order to receive funding. Funding is the key word here. Teams and individuals that did not reach the set criteria were not denied the opportunity to attend the World Championships, the BPA just didn't give them any money – a prudent way to spend the limited funds available. To the best of my knowledge and understanding, the same policy has been in place ever since.

At this years Classic Nationals the criteria were just set for style, not accuracy. Come the end of the competition, only three men and two women had met the standard. At the subsequent Competitions Committee meeting it was decided that the men who finished 4th and 5th, but who didn't meet the criteria, should be funded, with the proviso that they pay their own style entry fee and training costs, while the women who finished 3rd, 4th and 5th should not receive any funding at all.

The ladies were upset but asked they receive the competitions committee's support to attend the World Championships at their own cost. The committee refused. At a subsequent council meeting, during which this matter was discussed "in camera" (why?), the decision was upheld. The two appellants would not be allowed to attend the World Championships under any circumstances. No valid reason for this has ever been given.

There is no precedent for this decision. It is more than debatable (and believe me, I'm no feminist) that the women who failed to reach the set criteria should have at least received the same treatment as the men, but to deny them the right to attend the World Championships is appalling.

It is interesting to note, and purely coincidental of course, that both of the men who didn't meet the criteria were in the military, and that both of the commissioned members of the Competitions Committee supported their inclusion in the team without reservation. In contrast, the two women are not in the military and received no backing whatsoever from these very same two committee members.

There is no inference of impropriety of bias on behalf of these two individuals although one of them does seem to have a very short memory. As pointed out earlier, the Red Devils had the BPAs backing in 1991. It's ironic that the Commanding Officer of this very same team, now a committee member, has not the magnanimity to grant the same privilege to others.

The Classic World Championships will not take place until May 1994. I urge all members to support a motion that will be made at the next AGM; that anyone who qualifies for a Nationals team, but does not meet the funding criteria, should have the right to attend the World Championships providing that it is at no cost to the Association. Esther and Fran have demonstrated their commitment by offering to dig deep, and beyond the normal range of their pockets, all they ask from the BPA is to wish them all the best. It's not too much to ask is it?

Katherine Andrewes ...

"Could we have a reply from a member of the competitions committee so we can judge whether the decision was in the interests of fair play"

I am normally very supportive of the elected men and women of the BPA council who work very hard on behalf of the membership and generally do a difficult job, with little thanks, but in our best interest.

However, my faith in this select body has been shaken over the last few months over the issue of selection of teams and individuals to represent us at the World Championships.

Selection criteria hopefully mean that we will not spend valuable funds sending people to championships who are not of a very high standard. This should ensure that there is sufficient money to send those competitors who are of the highest standard. I would not object to this if the rules were applied equally to all teams and individuals, but they are not.

In 1993, the 8-way CRW team did not meet the selection criteria but are being partly funded by

the BPA, partly funded by themselves, and will represent Britain at the 1994 World meet.

In 1993, two of the individual men in Style and Accuracy failed to meet the selection criteria but will represent Britain at the 1994 World Meet. In 1993, three of the individual women in Style and Accuracy failed to meet the selection criteria but are not being allowed to go to the World Meet even though they have volunteered to fund themselves.

I do not know why a different decision was made regarding the women as the matter was discussed in closed session at the last council meeting. As two of the women were on the British Team that came fourth at the World Meet in Sweden, and one of these women beat other individuals in accuracy who are being sent to the 1994 World Meet and in fact was the silver medalist at this years nationals, I am at a loss as to why they are not being allowed to represent us.

I would really like to know the reasons for this. Could we have a reply from a member of the competitions committee so we can judge whether the decision was in the interests of fair play and the competitors.

Rob Colpus ...

"if on some years we do not field potential medal winners at least we are sending the best available competitors we have and can work to improve standards for the future"

I have recently been disturbed to learn of the present constitution of the British Style and Accuracy team for China 1994.

As a past chairman of the Competitions Committee and as one who helped to first introduce the selection criteria, I can speak with some authority on its original purpose which was to select those competitors who would receive Sports Council funding. So that our funds are not wasted, only those who had proved themselves by attaining a worthy standard at their own expense were to be funded. It was always intended that a full delegation would be allowed to attend, although not all members would be funded. The constitution of this delegation would be arrived at from the Nationals' results, and then it would be decided from the minimum selection criteria which of these competitors, if any, would receive funding.

If those that failed to meet the minimum criteria were willing to fund themselves, then we saw no good reason why the BPA should object to this. But now it seems that the present competitions committee does see a good reason to object, although I did not hear it expressed at the meeting I attended, when this matter was discussed. The only objection I did hear was that if the next two competitors down the score board were allowed to attend, then a third person would also have to be given this option, and that this person was felt by some of the committee to be unsafe.

Well, that seems very strange logic to me! Surely, if a particular competitor is felt to be unsafe then it is a matter for the NCSO and the individual concerned. What has it got to do with other competitors? If a complete women's team, funded or not, is still not available after the above method of selection, then so be it. The female competitors can still enter as individuals, as will the single funded one we are already sending.

I have since been disappointed to learn that this decision by the competitions committee be upheld by the majority of members of Council at the meeting on 19th October 1993. Again, I have heard no reasonable objection expressed. I believe we should always field as many competitors as possible in world class events; it

can only be good for the BPA in the long run, and for the sport in general, and if on some years we do not field potential medal winners then at least we are sending the best available competitors we have at that time, and can still continue to work towards improving standards for the future. We gain nothing by turning away our members who are trying to spend their own money on our behalf. Rather than rejecting and discouraging them, surely they should be encouraged and welcomed by the sport's governing body.

Kevin Veitch ...

"I have tried very hard to steer away from the blindingly obvious difference that the two men are distinctly military and the two girls are definitely civilian"

With reference to the forthcoming World Classic Championships & British team selection, I find it highly commendable that the competitions committee found they had enough BPA money to largely fund two of the men who did not pass the style criteria, despite their shortcomings. Why then did they not fund the girls who also failed to meet the criteria. Is it simply a funding decision?

If the council makes a rule they should stick to it and not bend it for some and uphold it for others. The criteria were set to decide upon those competitors who were liable to receive funding. So why should the two men be receiving any funding at all? The girls were even willing to meet their own expenses for training, travel and entrance to the World Meet and yet they have still been knocked back by the competitions committee and by council. Well – that blows away the funding reason anyway.

Fran Shashkova and Esther Reynolds have proven ability, however, they both failed to demonstrate this to a very similar degree as the two men. I cannot, for the life of me, see the difference between these four individuals, well, not since sexual inequality has been phased out! I have tried very hard to steer away from the blindingly obvious difference that the two men are distinctly military and the two girls are definitely civilian but, in the absence of a reasonable explanation, it keeps returning. I'm sure the membership does not expect or want that sort of gulf in our sport.

Rules are rules. Fair play dictates that if Fran and Esther are refused permission to enter the World Meet, then the two men should most definitely also be refused permission to represent Great Britain.

Are we going to be given a reason that will withstand public scrutiny, or are we going to be forced to draw our own conclusions?

The case against:

Bob Card ...

"sadly as a team, they are simply not up to the standard required in order to represent the country at the World Championships next year"

In an effort to maintain at least a parity of performance, and hopefully establish a continued improvement in the performance standards of our competitors at world level, the competitions committee introduced minimum selection criteria. This has been successful, as has the idea of off year selection.

Minimum criteria for the "Classics" event were set

on the style discipline this year and the fact is that some competitors failed to meet this. This in itself did not rule out their attendance at the World Meet, however, it did mean that those competitors should not attract BPA funding.

The next question must therefore be, would a team that includes these individuals be good enough to go? In the case of the men, the competitions committee agreed that they are, but would not be funded in the style event.

The women's team were similarly considered. However, sadly as a team, they are simply not up to the standard required in order to represent the country at the World Championships next year.

The question then was who, if any, of these individuals merit consideration? Given the results of the national championships, and it is only on these results that consideration can be given, who met the minimum criteria? Only two did and they were duly selected to represent us. Subsequently, and for a most splendid reason, our national champion was forced to withdraw and thus the remaining one is to accompany the men as an individual entry.

The competitions committee have received a number of proposals all of which were aimed at getting the girls to the World Championships. One proposal involved a team with at least one member who was not even at the nationals, plus another who's standard at present is simply not good enough. To send such a team would make a mockery of our national championships and indeed render the nation superfluous. Bin the nationals and make up your own team – is this the way forward?

Another proposal was to send three individuals even though two failed to meet the minimum criteria. Again, why have a minimum criteria, or indeed any other set requirement for selection if we are going to ignore them as soon as they don't suit various individuals. It is true to say that we are talking here of two of our best female competitors of late. Never the less, on the day they failed to produce the goods.

Part of the aim of minimum criteria is to apply some pressure on competitors to train in preparation for the nationals; thus hopefully raising our standards annually. This they did not do and the reason may well have been because until this year they didn't need to train as there were rarely more than five contenders in the women's event and selection to the national team was only a matter of surviving the nationals.

Sadly this year they have been caught out. Bland offers to fund themselves and commit time and more money to a dedicated training camp before hand only serves to add fuel to discontent. The proposal is misleading, improbable and only submitted as weight to sway the decision of the competitions committee.

There has been a great deal of time, effort, thought and discussion devoted to this predicament by both the competitions committee and the council itself, and the decision has been taken. Various options have been applied in the past; we have sent an individual, indeed we sent six not so long ago. Our aim is to raise British standards by bringing about pre-competition training and inducing a competitive spirit between individuals. We must get away from automatic selection and entitlement by default. It is an honour for anyone to represent their country, an honour that must be earned and deserved.

SHOULD THE WOMEN BE ALLOWED TO GO? IF YOU HAVE STRONG VIEWS ABOUT THIS CONTROVERSY, OR ANY OF THE ISSUES IT RAISES, WRITE PHONE OR FAX SP NOW

Dougie Young ...

"The World Championships is not a skydiving holiday where another 'stamp in the passport' is the aim"

As Team Captain of the 1994 classic team I would like to explain why I do not think Esther and Fran should be selected for the above team. Classics team selection has often been a foregone conclusion because we have had few ladies competing some people have been automatically selected for being the only participants, simply entering the National Championships should not be a guaranteed ticket to the World Meet.

In my opinion, the knowledge they can just compete in the National Championships and be selected to represent the nation at the World Championships has led to a fall in standards.

When we send a team to the World Championships we must send them for the right reasons. Ultimately, I would like to take a team which is professional, dedicated, and above all, a team which wants to win and do their very best. No longer can the Association afford to send a team to the World Classic Championships 'just to take part'. We have men and women who, with the right frame of mind, dedication, professionalism and will to win, can compete at world-class level.

If Fran and Esther decide not to compete again, so be it. You haven't seen their names in the mag, because they are not amongst the top dogs. Some of our ladies were absent from the nationals for personal reasons, they will be back and along with the new blood out there should be encouraged.

The World Championships is not a skydiving holiday where another 'stamp in the passport' is the aim. The team we send to the World Meet in future must want to represent Great Britain for the right reasons.

Participating in this year's National Championships, Fran and Esther did not give the impression they were hoping to achieve a place to 'compete' but only to 'participate' in another trip to a World Meet at the BPA's expense. Along with two other women they have offered to fund their own training and trip to China. If they had put in the effort and trained prior to the Nationals it would have made all this discussion unnecessary. It will be a very sad day if we allow anyone to go to a World Championship just because they can afford it, it would also make a mockery of the Nationals.

One of the aims of the competitions committee in making this decision is to improve the standards of future British teams show competitors that just turning up is not good enough.

The setting of criteria is a separate issue which must be sorted out by the competitions committee. However, I feel that setting criteria has not helped in this situation. Future classics teams should be selected by the Committee on merit and past performance, a selection that should not be questioned. This would alleviate the problem of anyone turning up at the National championships assuming herself/himself a guaranteed 'right' to be on the British team.

The competitions committee made their selection for the right reasons, council were right to support them, I therefore support the decision not to send Esther and Fran to the 1994 World Championships in China.

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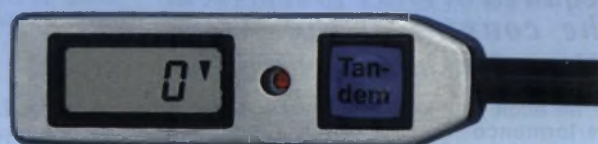
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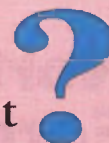
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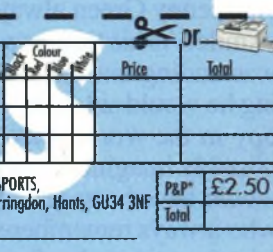
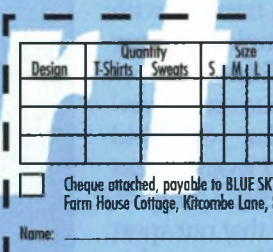
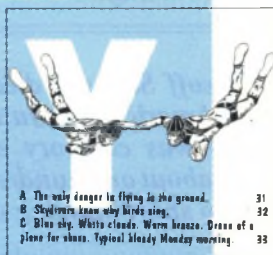
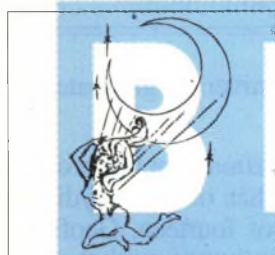
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Northern Regional Formation Skydiving Meet Hibaldstow, 9-10 Oct '93

Present: 5 4-way teams, 3 in Master category, 2 Intermediate plus one Judge, Roger Flinn, morally assisted by Sarah Williams, our late video camera operator.

Weather: Saturday morning totally clagged in with fog and forecast poor - wind and rain to increase. Sunday forecast rain.

Judging: This was a re-scheduled competition, its predecessor having been weathered out. It was also a competition which did not enhance the reputation of the Judges' organisation, for at 1830 hrs on Friday evening, the Chairperson of that organisation rang

up to tell the CCI that there would be no judges for that competition and it was too late to do anything about it. Fortunately the CCI was not beaten, and a quick phone call produced one judge - all that was necessary in the circumstances.

Jumping: No jumps were possible until mid to late Saturday afternoon, when

the competition started. The highlight of that day's competitive spirit was the team from the Royal Engineers attempting the first nocturnal 4-way competition - accidentally of course. Although the cameraman had the team in view all the way the video was to say the least a little dark. *Sport Parachutist* might have refused to publish a print for who wants to see a black rectangle! Sunday proved much better and jumping was possible all day. Despite this, round four could not be completed and so the competition was decided on the three completed rounds.

RMF

Master class	Rd	Rd 2	Rd3	Rd4	Total	Place
No Purchase Required	8	9	7	(3)	24	1
Ready on Time	5	5	3	-	13	2
Buckshot	3	4	3	-	10	3
Intermediate class						
Royal Engineers	1	2	3	-	6	1
No More Tears	1	1	2	(2)	4	2

Bionic Bunny

This is a poem that was written for Paul Parsons after his unfortunate accident at Halfpenny Green

One day on 'The Green' was a cute little chap, with his missus and kids all having a nap.

Yes, Thumper's a bunny lives down by the trees, does no harm to anyone he just wants some peace.

But every Saturday just after ten, thud!! thud!! splat!! they're at it again.

The jumpers arrived in their hoards and droves, and upset the peace of the critters in burrows.

With a twitch of his nose and his ears hung low, Thumper had lost his usual cool flow.

"Oh well, that's enough I'm fed up with this, either skydivers are ignorant or they're takin' the piss".

"I'll set about laying the ideal trap, I'll fuck up some fellow and stop all this crap".

So later that evening he planned his surprise, attached to a parachute a 'homing device'.

A transmitter installed in his very own home, to take over control of one flying dome.

The next day arrived and was met with such glee, by Freefaller Polly and a sneaky bunny.

Now it could have been Brett or it could have been Liz, it could have been Sparky or it could have been Kes.

It could have been Adam or it could have been Joe, that Thumper was calling from way down below.

It could have been Dick or it could have been me, but no it was Polly invited for tea.

Now seven plates later and thirty-eight screws, Polly's decided that rabbit will loose.

But Thumper has moved and left not a trace, which leaves unpretty Polly with egg on his face.

G Geoff Stringer died skydiving in America on June 27th 1993. Geoff was category eight and had done about one hundred jumps in his all too short jumping career.

Geoff was a popular member of Halfpenny Green always friendly with a smile. As his time as a student jumper was ending and his confidence growing he would sing very loud under canopy in the worst voice that you could possibly imagine. Geoff, I would guess would have been one of those jumpers who always remembered that our sport is supposed to be fun. However, his ability at relative work was quickly improving to the standard you would

Geoff Stringer



expect from a university graduate with a BSc.

Geoff's imagination was too broad to be limited to that of just skydiving. From the age of fourteen, Geoff had been an active volunteer with the Blue Bell Steam Railway, ultimately achieving every small boys ambition of driving a stream train. When not involved in either of these pastimes, Geoff would be off climbing or motor-cycling.

Geoff was a man who believed that this life is not a trial run. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

From all Geoff's friends at "The Green".

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Richard Toll takes his old school mate Carl Tyrell for a ride over Ipswich
Photo - Toby Stafford

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..... To the Espace Boogie

Some pictures by
Adrian Thornton



The 10th World Championships In Formation Skydiving

Every two years the *International Parachuting Committee (IPC)* of the *Federation Aeronautic Internationale (FAI)* are responsible for finding a venue to host *World Parachute Championships (WPC)* in *Formation Skydiving (FS)*. This year the venue chosen for the event was the *Skydive Arizona DZ* in *Eloy USA*.

From the moment Larry and Lilian Hill moved their DZ from Coolidge to Eloy, Arizona, four years ago, they had a dream to host a World Meet. With this in mind they began to set up a skydiving oasis in the middle of the Arizona desert, which they continued to develop over the last few years into the excellent facility that awaited the World's top teams as they arrived for the tenth WPC in FS in October this year.

The UK was represented in the four way event by the *Air Time* team comprising Pete Allum, Chris Lynch, Tony Uragallo, and Kevin Hardwick plus videographer Ian 'Mr Happy' Thomas, and in the eight way by *Mind Games* (Benchy Goodwin, Dave Smith, Craig Hill, Stuart Meacock, Burb Thompson, Darryl Moran, John McIver and George Pilkington plus videographer Steve 'Grinder' Johns). The British Delegation was rounded off by Judge Julie Allen,

Trainee Judge Jackie Glover, myself as Head of Delegation, plus supporters, Jennie Rogers, Dona Crum, Sarah Brearley, Louise Happy, Jackie Church and Elanor.

Both UK teams were chosen in the off year for FS at the 92 Nationals, but since then Air Time had to change it's line up due to the tragic death of Andy Woodmansey and serious injury of Kevin McCarthy earlier in the year. Mind Games also lost a founder member, Derro Armstrong, due to spinal injuries sustained in training earlier in the year.

World Skydiving Week

The Competition got under way after the official opening ceremonies and speeches were completed on the first Sunday, when the Governor of Arizona declared this World Skydiving Week. Because of the reliable Arizona weather, the Meet Director, Sherry Schrimsher, planned to run three rounds of each event each day, one discipline in the mornings and the other in the afternoons. Only one complete day was lost due to high winds.

As expected the standard of performance for both events was extremely high with many more teams scoring in the high teens than was the case two years

ago (although the winning eight way score was down on last year's world cup in Gap). From the start the two favourites in both events, the USA and France lived up to expectations with impressive performances.

Spectators, boogie jumpers and competitors alike, flooded around the many TV monitors to watch the live air-to-ground pictures of the teams performing in the sky above them.

Other TV monitors showed the computerised manifest with a digital countdown for teams on call. So everybody was kept fully aware of what was happening right now and what to expect next.

Innovations

The IPC FS sub-committee had arranged for two companies, incidentally both British, to set up and operate their live air-to-ground microwave video transmitter systems to test the systems and logistics involved with the aim of using live air-to-ground judging at future WPCs. This evaluation went very well, apart from a slight shortage of the small transmitters carried by the team videographers. However about 85% of all jumps were transmitted live to the ground throughout the competition. This was the first ever WPC to be judged exclusively from the team videographers air-to-air tapes. Past World Meets have all been judged using ground to air video.

Another new rule used for the first time at this WPC was the concept of conditional and unconditional rejudges. This idea was introduced this year by the IPC to prevent giving an advantage to a team by awarding them a rejudge when the teams videographer is too flat on the team for the grips to be judged (usually straight after the exit). A rejudge can be considered a practise jump and yields a statistical average of one and a half points improvement. The IPC wanted to go ahead with using the team's own videographers who are the most experienced at working with their teams, but were aware of the possibility of a partisan videographer deliberately securing a



The British delegation

rejump for his/her team, perhaps after a bad start. To solve this problem a conditional rejump system was introduced, where if the panel of judges are able to count the number of formations in working time, even if some are unjudgeable, they can still award a provisional score. The team then rejump, but cannot score any more points than they would have scored on the original dive had that been clearly judgeable. This system worked extremely well with a few teams in 4-way being awarded conditional rejump. In the case of video failure the tape (or what there was of it) was viewed by an official video review panel who also interviewed the videographer and inspected his/her equipment to satisfy themselves that the camera was not switched off deliberately to secure an unconditional rejump. Only two out of a total of nearly 400 dives suffered from video failure and this was due to hitting the camera on the floater bar when climbing out.

A few highlights

The Competition went ahead at a good pace with very few hold ups, organisation was very smooth and the flying of the Twin Otter pilots was consistent.

This was the first year since 1987 when the French 4-way team *Essonne* were actually in second place for a while. The American team *Deland Vertical Speed* certainly put on the pressure and displayed fast, smooth skydiving, but the immense competition experience of the French team pulled them through to end with a victorious average of 19.0 points.

The French 8-way *Haut Alpes* pushed the three times World Champions, the US *Golden Knights* to an amazingly close eventually losing by 168 to 169 points. Both teams suffered several busts which are now clearly evident using air-to-air judging. The US team Captain, J C Coffman was in tears after landing from round 10 when TV cameras tried to get his reactions to a hard fought victory. The Russian 8-way team which has held third place internationally for some years, again managed to take away the bronze medals after being pushed hard by a new and serious team from Norway, who incidentally lost their Team Captain only a few weeks before the meet, when a swimming accident left him paralysed.



The British 4-way team AirTime. Photo by Mike McGowan

In the 4-way event, 3rd place went to a nation never before in the medals at a World Meet – Denmark. Team *DK* showed a precise, fast and clean performance finishing with a 16.9 average. Both British teams qualified for the cut off to go into the semi-final rounds of each event. *AirTime's* final result of tenth place with an excellent 18 points on round 9, and an average of 13.3 (which included two busts) was a good result considering the teams limited training of 100 jumps with this line up.

This was the first ever World Championships for every member of *Mind Games*, but they handled the pressure well, and displayed some controlled skydiving throughout the meet. To emphasise the standard now required at WPC level, you need only look at the scores, where the top 19 teams in 4-way and 7 teams in 8-way averaged over 10 points per round. There were several busts this year in both 4 and 8-way. This was probably due to teams going faster than they would when judged on a ground to air system knowing that separation is easier for the judges to see. But of course the flip side is that it is also easier for the judges to see a missed grip or lack of simultaneous separation, and of course

the faster teams go the greater the chance for error.

World Boogie

Several other skydiving activities took place at Skydive Arizona during World Meet week. A 'World Boogie' was run simultaneously, plus a 20-way camp organised by long-time US Organiser, Roger Nelson. Guy Manos and 99 others attempted to crack the 100-way star record on the practise days with their final attempt at the opening ceremonies. Unfortunately Guy's unusual and high risk method didn't seem to yield fruit even after twenty odd attempts. The occasion of a US World Meet attracted one of the largest get-togethers of international skydivers I've ever seen. Apart from the World's top teams and their supporters, Skydive Arizona found itself host to hundreds of jumpers from the length and breadth of the USA and Canada, Europe and Asia. In addition to this, most major equipment manufacturers and suppliers were present with display stands and demo rigs.

One interesting story is connected with the (now defunct) *Mirror Image* team (world 8-way champions 77-81) who

Competitions Round Up

The silver medallists - French 8-way team Haut Alps
Photo by Patrice Girardin



during the World Meet week. One member of the team, Dave Sheldon, had suffered spinal injuries in 1977 and hadn't made a single skydive since then. There was some discussion whether he should do a short delay etc, but this was soon dismissed and Dave went up with the guys and did a 4-point 12-way on his first jump in sixteen years.

During this week Skydive Arizona resembled a small town, where skydiving was the only commerce. The Russian teams have not wasted any time in becoming capitalists; their tent resembled an Arabian bazaar with Soviet military memorabilia for sale. The Croatian 4-way Team managed to leave a war behind them in their home country to attend this WPC (when I last spoke to them earlier this year in Portugal, they weren't at all sure whether they would be able to get out at all).

Tenth and final round

On the last day of the meet when the top teams were in the air for their tenth and final round, the hangar was full to capacity, with everyone grouped around the central bank of video monitors to watch the live air-to-ground. The 8-way was particularly exciting with the USA and France only separated by one point. The French team jumped first and scored an excellent 18 points. As the *Golden Knights* aircraft ran in the tension in the air was tangi-

ble, if they scored a 17 then a jump off would be called for. Many wondered if this would be the first time in WPC history that the 8-way would go to someone other than the USA. However, the *Knights* pulled one out of the bag and mirrored the French with a superb 18 points, clinching once more the 8-way Gold. In the 4-way the French *Essonne* team had, by now, an unassailable lead, and only needed to cruise to win, but they and the Deland team both put in an excellent 19 points followed by an 18 from the Danes.

The unfortunate Russian 4-way team who were sitting in fourth place after round 9 had a disastrous round 10, where they did a total of 17 points in time, but were busted three times on the same formation which lost them 9 points total, thus dropping them three places to finish seventh. Their error was a misunderstanding of allowable grips on a side-body formation. These last rounds of the meet were jumped on the Friday afternoon and with the prize-giving and closing ceremonies arranged for the Sunday, competitors had to suffer three last nights of celebration, including a Halloween fancy dress ball with five harness container systems being given away free to the best costumes.

The only sour note was a complete over reaction by the security staff of the

Holiday Inn and the Casa Grande Police Department, when they descended on the competitors in force around the bar and pool area, threatening to arrest everyone for unlawful assembly, when they were merely in high spirits after the Meet and having a good time. They were certainly never given any reason to react in this way and displayed an unbelievable paranoia.

The closing ceremonies, conducted on the final Sunday, tended to get a bit mixed up, with teams being called on and off of the rostrum, which was a bit of an anti-climax, which was unfortunate when compared to the high energy organisation orchestrated by Bob Walker and his staff during the rest of the week. Every large sporting event to some extent has it's high and low points, but without a doubt the Tenth World Parachuting Championships in Formation Skydiving was in my experience one of the best ever organised for our Sport. Thank you Skydive Arizona.

Rob Colpus

The British 4-way formation skydiving team Air Time would like to thank the following for their help and support at the 1993 World Championships at Skydive Arizona, Eloy, USA.

Airtime Designs – for jumpsuits, canopies and funds.

Thomas Sports Equipment – for containers
Jim, Sian and Ginnie Brown – for major funding

Charles Ross at Calange Clothing – for uniforms
Derek and Pat at Sunpath – for funding and transport

Sarah Brearley – for funding and Kevins suit
Andy Grimwade, David Parker, Andy Ring – for funds

John LeBlanc – for Pete and Kevin's canopies
BPA Particularly **David Oddy** – for travel arrangements

Competitions Committee – for having faith in us
Caledonian Graphics – for T-shirts

Ian Thomas – for filming us
John Lemming and Laura – for the wheels and hospitality

Kai Wolfe – for the use of his vehicle and filming
Jim Hotze – for the full face helmets

Mark Kirby and Dan BC – for coaching
Mike McGowan and Theresa O'Reilly – for filming

Sunshine Factory – for gloves and T-shirts
Rob Colpus – for doing a fine job as head of delegation

Meathead – for the golf clubs

Gila – for the surfboards

Bob Walker – for organising the whole thing
Larry and Lil Hill (owners of skydive Arizona – for the \$11 training jumps and hosting the meet. And everyone who came out to cheer us on or sent cards, letters and faxes expressing their support

AirTime

Back at DeLand ready to start training, where only four months ago Chris and I had left with no thoughts for a future 4-way team.

It was Tony Uragallo who started the ball rolling, firing us up with the idea of competing at this years World Meet. Knowing that we were hopelessly undertrained in relation to most of the other teams entering, we attempted to fit as much as possible into the three weeks prior to the meet. The end result was approximately 100 jumps, 35 of which were at Skydive Deland and the rest in Eloy, Arizona. Once in Eloy, we took the draw from the UK Nationals, which were underway at Weston and staged a mini-meet with the other teams who were in training. Although being busted on three occasions our finished average over ten rounds was 13.2, which included a 23 on round 3. We also clocked a few more high scores on easy randoms during training ie; a 29, and some 25's with some easy blocks. However, in order to demonstrate consistency a lot more training is required and our lack of it showed at the actual meet.

The standard at this years World Meet was higher than ever before, with 14 teams in the 12-plus point average range. In 1991 we were able to come sixth with a 12.7 average, however, this year with a 13.3 average we managed joint 12th. All other teams in the top twelve had made hundreds of training jumps. The

most notable, apart from the medal winners, were teams like Finland and Sweden who, having shown little promise in previous years, ended up in the top quarter.

The fight for gold was again a two horse race between the USA and France. During the early rounds it looked as though the USA team from DeLand, Florida, might be a match for the French, however, the French demonstrated the talent that had won them the gold in the three previous World Meets, winning by 8 points. The bronze medal went to DK the national team from Denmark, who in two years had reached an incredible standard, this was due to a lot of personal commitment, backing from their government, private companies and the coaching of Jack Jefferies. The results of the World Meet again demonstrated that in order to win; jump numbers, time together and vast amounts of energy and desire are the ingredients required.

Air Time were placed in the top half with an average that was the highest ever by a British team in competition.

The British 8-way team *Mind Games*, who also had a substitution, improved on their Nationals result and made it through to the cut off. During the meet, Rob Colpus did a great job as head of delegation ensuring that all communications were passed to the teams and minimizing any hassles for the entire delegation, cheers Rob.

Larry, Lil Hill and Bob Walker of Skydive Arizona did an outstanding job turning a part of the Arizona desert into a hospitable and lush venue for the tenth World Meet.

Pete Allum

Air Time '93 was: Chris Lynch, Tony Uragallo, Kevin Hardwick, Ian Thomas and me Pete Allum.

Final results 4-way Formation Skydiving

Place	Country	Total	Average	Rounds
1	France	190	19	10
2	USA	182	18.2	10
3	Denmark	169	16.9	10
4	Finland	149	14.9	10
5	Sweden	148	14.8	10
6	Germany	145	14.5	10
7	Switzerland	144	14.4	10
8	Russia	136	15.1	9
9	Japan	125	13.9	9
10	Austria	124	13.8	9
Joint 12	UK	120	13.3	9

Final results 8-way Formation Skydiving

Place	Country	Total	Average	Rounds
1	USA	169	16.9	10
2	France	168	16.8	10
3	Russia	133	13.3	10
4	Norway	129	12.9	10
5	Germany	114	11.4	10
6	Switzerland	112	11.2	10
7	Australia	96	10.7	9
8	South Africa	84	9.3	9
9	UK	74	8.2	9
10	Japan	70	7.8	9

A FEW MEET FACTS

- The skydiving fleet consisted of 5 Twin Otters, 2 DC3s, 1 King Air and 1 Twin Beech.
- 2000 gallons of fuel were burnt each day.
- The most experienced skydiver competing was Russian Alexander Belaglazov with 10,100 jumps, followed by Erik Fradet of France with 10,000 jumps. Next was J C Coffmann of the Golden Knights with 9,100 and his team mate Paul Rafferty with 8,200. Phillipe Schorno and Didier Borgnon from the French team both had 8,000.
- The most experienced 8-way team was the Golden Knights with a combined total of 46701 jumps, then the Russians with 42200 and behind them, the French with 30100.
- In the 4-way the Russians had 24900, and the French 24000 with our own *Air Time* as the third most experienced with 20640.
- Tony Uragallo of *Air Time* deserves a special mention, this being his 6th world meet in FS. He competed in the first ever World Meet in RW (10 way speed) back in 1975. Tony

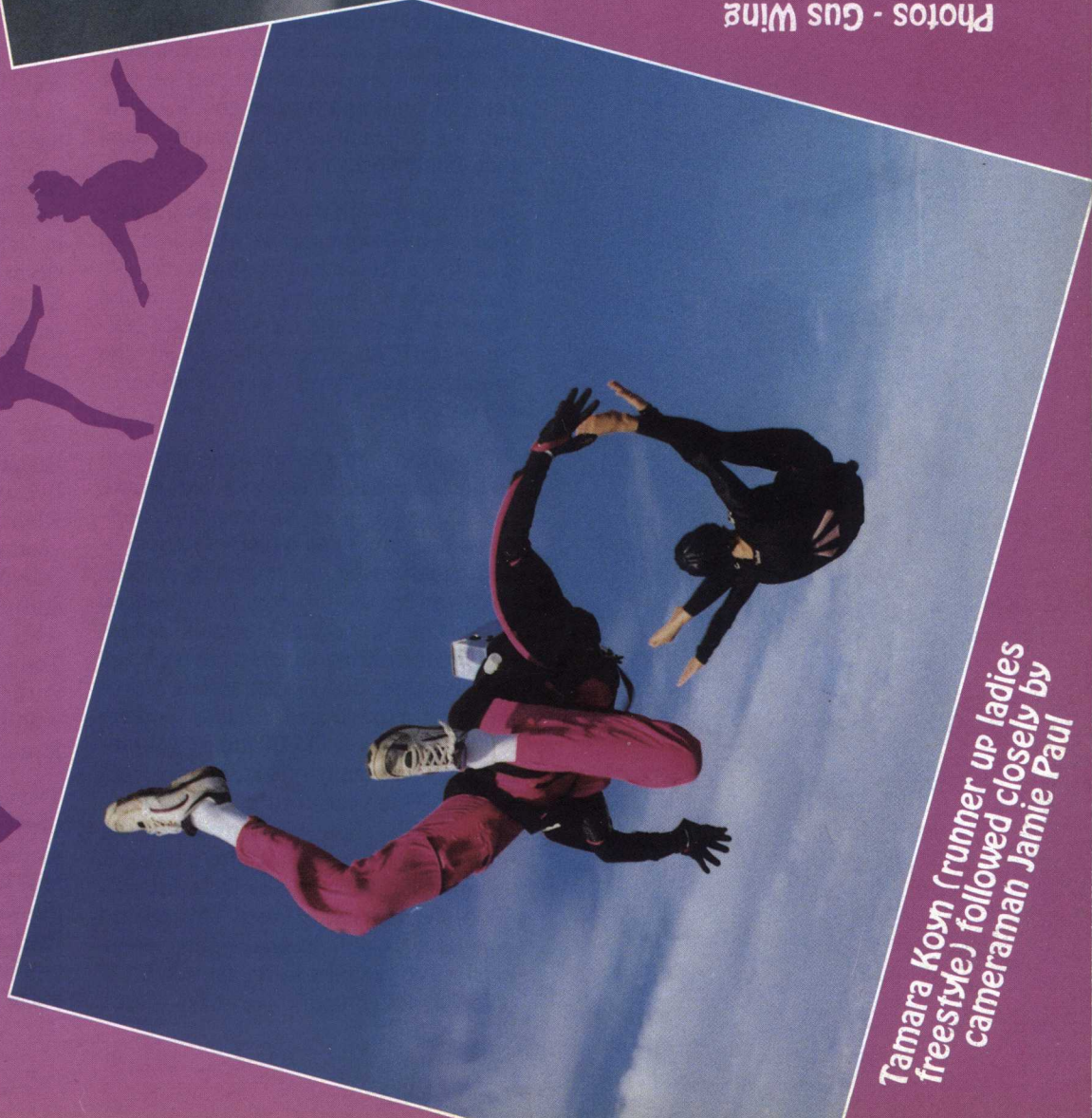
has also represented the UK in two Style and Accuracy World Meets and three FS World Cups. Tony started jumping at Thruxton in 1972.

- Luc Maisan of Belgium also has an impressive record with this being his eighth WPC in FS on the trot, every one since 1979. Luc started jumping in 1973.
- Another 'newcomer' to the sport was a supporting member of the French Delegation Monique Laroche Machavoire who won a gold medal at the first World Championships of Style and Accuracy in 1951. The amazing part is that she wasn't just watching from the sidelines in Arizona, but from under canopy, as she took part in the World Boogie. She has an amazing history within our Sport. In 1952 she used to jump with famed "Batman" Leo Valentin, they would normally open at about 800 feet or less, she averaged about 200 jumps a year back then, which was about all the body could stand before the advent of deployment sleeves. Monique also claimed the first World Altitude record for freefall, of 19000 feet in France in 1954. Nowadays she jumps at La Ferte Gauche near Paris.

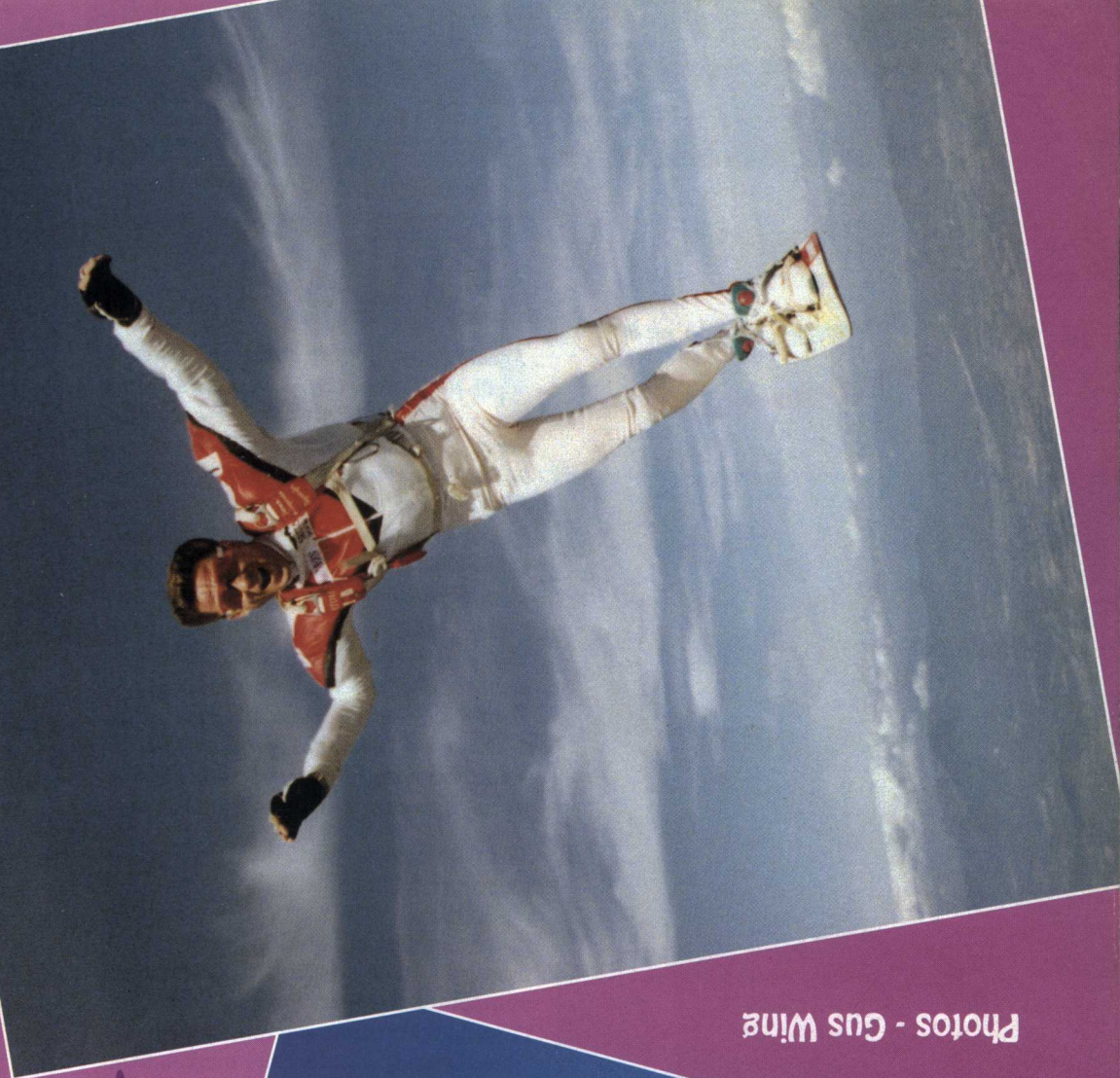
↑ The British 8-way team - A sub-terminal shot above Arizona during the FS World Meet

FROM THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

From the WFF World Meet - a happy Patrick de Gavardon



Tamara Koyu (runner up ladies freestyle) followed closely by cameraman Jamie Paul



Photos - Gus Wing



4th World Freestyle

Freestyle – for some skydivers a poor excuse for instability. For others it is a way of life and for them, Spain in October was the place to be. Ampuriabrava was the site of the 4th annual world championship in freestyle skydiving and also the very first world championship in the related discipline of sky-surfing. Nobody expected there to be as many as forty teams entering the competition, not even its organiser, and director of the World Freestyle Federation, Pete McKeeman, who has pumped all his resources and energy into giving freestylelists the accolade they deserve.

The whole event 'reeked' of professionalism, right from the huge marquee equipped with a dozen or so large-screen monitors, the colossal outdoor scoreboard, the vast array of 'freebies' each competitor received, the meal plans that ensured that no-one starved, down to the little things like individual medals from local sponsors and a evening of free food, alcohol and further goodies. Pete and his colleagues had certainly done their homework and it showed.

One thing though that cannot be guaranteed by any organiser is of course the weather and this event was no exception. Fortunately because of allotted 'weather' days, and the amazingly efficient staff at Ampuriabrava all the rounds of every event were completed, but only just!!

The competition was split into six separate categories – freestyle advanced, (men's and women's), freestyle intermediate, (men's and women's) and sky-surfing advanced and intermediate. The largest event by far being the advanced skysurfing, attracting 11 teams including of course the ever innovative Patrick de Gayardon. Eric Fradet who is one of the most experienced relative workers around, with over 11,000 jumps was present, as were many others, mainly from Europe. This year, for the first time, an intermediate class was introduced, for those who didn't fancy their chances against Olaf Zipster's or Dale Stuart's 2000-plus freestyle jumps! This proved popular and will hopefully encourage even more jumpers to try their hand at what is without doubt one of the sport's

fastest growing disciplines and certainly the most 'publicly viewable'.

Each team consisted of a performer and a camera flyer with the scores being divided up 75/25 respectively. The competition consisted of six rounds, two in which five compulsory moves were required and four which were open. The judges awarded one third of the total score to the compulsory round and two thirds to the open round. The judging panel, our own Dr Roger Flinn and many others, spent many hours painstakingly watching competitor's videos. As in most skydiving events they were the unsung heroes (see page 28).

The gold medal in the men's advanced freestyle went to the duo of Olaf Zipster and Mike Vail. Zipster is without doubt the most 'radical' and 'ballistic' freestyler to grace terminal airwaves, his moves have to be seen to be believed, Vail adds to the fun by throwing in barrel rolls and spins to further enhance the overall effect. The final result being a routine that is beyond a normal skydiver's comprehension.

Marco Manna and Bruno Brokken (last year's winners) performed flawlessly but could only manage to capture the silver medals. Long-time participant Scott Smith and Roland Barksdale pulled in third. Scotland's only freestyle pair Dave Drewette and his videoman Andy Hilton finished eight.

The women's advanced freestyle was basically a duel between two long-time freestylelists Dale Stuart and Tamara Koyn. Dale Stuart and her cameraflyer, veteran Ray Cottingham managed to secure the gold medal. Koyn and her cameraflyer Jamie Paul were placed second with Australian representatives, Ross Tomkins and Gary Cunningham coming third. The Japanese Chifumi Sakakibara with her British cameraman Redy Redfern came fourth.

The men's advanced skysurfing competition was won by the innovator and media star Patrick de Gayardon with Gus Wing behind the lens. The holder of the world's most skysurfing jumps Eric Fradet and his camera flyer Werner Noremberg came in second, and third place was awarded to the relatively in-



and Skysurfing Championships

experienced but very talented Rob Harris and Joe Jennings from the USA.

The gold medallists in the intermediate freestyle division were Renate Ostertun (Germany) and her cameraflyer Willy Boeykens (Belgium). Chris Gauge from Cornwall, England and his 'scratch' vidoeman Steffen Lipps won the men's gold medal. The intermediate skysurfing was won by four-time Dutch national 4-way champion Jan Beumer and Henny Wiggers. Chris Gauge and Steffen Lipps were placed fourth in this event.

The award ceremony was held on the Monday morning and the winners of the three advanced categories received their first place prize of a complete set of kit each, yes – new rig, main and reserve, kindly donated by Sunpath Products and Performance Designs, the other medallists also received skydiving accessories.

The event was a complete success, the best of it's kind so far. Surely though there must be more of us Brits out there! Come on guys and gals let's fly the flag

for our country, who knows you might even end up a gold medallist.

Chris Gauge

Chris Gauge skydives at the Cornwall Parachute Club where he tutors relative work, freestyle and skysurfing.



Dale Stuart, poised for gold in the ladies freestyle. Photo by Ray Cottingham.

Men's Advanced Freestyle						
Stg	Freestylist	Photographer	Country	Comp	Free	Total
1	Ola Zipser	Mike Vail	Germany/USA	x1	x2	254.7
2	Marco Manna	Bruno Brokken	Italy/Belgium	78.4	84.5	247.4
3	Scott Smith	Roland Barksdale	USA	78.2	78.6	235.4

Men's Intermediate Freestyle						
Stg	Freestylist	Photographer	Country	Comp	Free	Total
1	Chris Gauge	Steffen Lipps	England/Germany	63.8	60.3	184.4
2	Nathaniel Residori	Gilles Lengyel	France	62.9	56.4	175.7
3	Scott Merrilees	Mark Cootes	Australia	57.8	58.5	174.8

Women's Advanced Freestyle						
Stg	Freestylist	Photographer	Country	Comp	Free	Total
1	Dale Stuart	Ray Cottingham	USA	80.4	81.8	244.0
2	Tamara Koyn	Jamie Paul	USA	72.7	82.6	237.9
3	Rosalyn Tomkins	Gary Cunningham	Australia	70.7	74.6	219.9

Women's Intermediate Freestyle						
Stg	Freestylist	Photographer	Country	Comp	Free	Total
1	Renate Ostertun	Willy Boeykens	Germany/Belgium	69.3	74.5	218.3
2	Amy Baylie	Gary Haass	USA	73.9	71.9	217.7

Advanced Skysurfing						
Stg	Freestylist	Photographer	Country	Comp	Free	Total
1	Patrick de Gayardon	Gus Wing	France/USA	82.2	82.5	247.2
2	Eric Fradet	Werner Noremberg	France	75.3	75.0	225.3
3	Rob Harris	Joe Jennings	USA	70.5	75.6	221.7

Intermediate Skysurfing						
Stg	Freestylist	Photographer	Country	Comp	Free	Total
1	Jan Beumer	Henny Wiggers	Holland	72.8	68.2	209.2
2	Yves Rossy	Bertillon	Switz/France	70.2	68.7	207.6
3	Jean Turpault	Catherine Vallaud	France	57.0	59.0	175.0

Competitions Round Up

In the recent World Championships for Freestyle and Skysurfing held in Ampuriabrava, Spain from September 29 to October 3 1993, Chris Gauge, together with his cameraman, won the gold medal in the Intermediate Freestyle category. Chris also competed in the Intermediate Skysurfing, and only just failed to take a medal, coming fourth. Chris Gauge was not the only Briton competing, Dave Drewette and Andrew Hampton from Auchterarder (Strathallan!) competed in the Senior Freestyle event.

Olaf Zipser with his cameraman Mike Vail won the Senior men's competition with the most incredible display of controlled acrobatic freefall that many had ever seen. He was closely followed by Marco Manna and Bruno Brokken who won last year's championships. In total contrast was the pure grace of Dale Stuart with her cameraman Ray Cottingham, who won the Ladies' event. Tamara Koyn, last year's joint winner, and a lady well known for her perpetual smile, was placed second, with Ros Tomkins of Australia third.

Chris Gauge over Cornwall preparing for the World Meet. Photo by Martin Wright



A JUDGES VIEW



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W F F
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
EMPURIABRAVA ESPANA

The experience of the competitors varied considerably. Montserrat Mecho, aged 60, last competed internationally in 1960 when she represented Spain in Springboard Diving at the Olympic games. Eric Fradet of France has over 11,300 jumps to his credit. Scott Smith of the USA took part in the 200-way formation record, and most remarkably, one competitor had over 400 hours freefall time while only having about 400 jumps in his log-book. He had notched up that time in the wind tunnel in Zurich!

Freestyle and skysurfing are not yet formally recognised by the International Parachuting Commission, although there have been considerable moves in this direction and a working party was set up in Washington in 1992 to this end. The advent of freestyle is without doubt the greatest innovation to hit competitive sport

parachuting for many years. There are few who doubt, having seen it that it will replace traditional style before many years have elapsed.

At present all competition is run under the auspices of the World Freestyle Federation. Their meticulous planning cannot be faulted. Suffice it to say that they had obtained over \$30,000 worth of sponsorship and prizemoney – is this not the way forward?

The judging of these competitions is a major departure from the traditional objectivity of other parachuting disciplines, and contains a measure of artistic interpretation as well as technical assessment. For this reason the organisers had obtained, to quote from the official programme, "The most formally trained and diverse group of judges ever assembled". All of them were or are active parachutists, and included amongst others, Bernd Effing an Olympic Gymnast; Ernie Kirkham an international gymnastics judge; Ray Williams from Australia, an FAI and gymnastics judge; Norman Kent the incomparable freefall cameraman and one of the founders of Freestyle with his wife Deanna; and Roger Flinn from England, a very experienced FAI judge and nominated as the Chief Judge for the World Championships in Style and Accuracy to be held in China next year. The panel should also have included Eberhard Gienger, 36 times German gymnastic champion and judge at the 1988 and 1992 Olympic games, but he was undergoing the operative repair of a recent injury to his elbow sustained a week before the competition.

This was an outstanding competition in every way. Isn't it about time we had a National Competition?

RM Flinn



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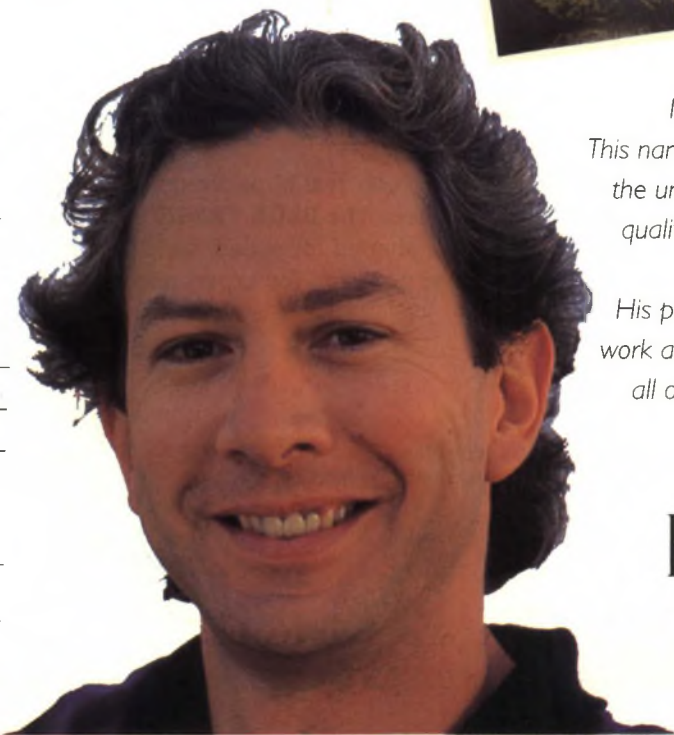
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Paul Dixon Memorial Meet

The Paul Dixon Memorial 16-way meet was held between four teams, in glorious weather, at Weston-on-the-Green on the 4th and 5th of September. Those of us who had nicknamed the DZ 'Weston-under-Water' at previous meets had to rethink!

The meet was to be held over six sequential rounds with just 45 seconds working time (rather than 50 seconds) and judging by air-to-air video. The second round was to be additionally scored as a speed round (time taken to build the first point) this score to be used as a tiebreaker in the event of a draw.

The competition was held out of two Islanders because the Antonov which was to be used for the meet had crash-landed in a field the week before. Jumping from the two aircraft was great fun and provided spectacular visuals from each plane. The speed round was to be no show and no grips, but for other rounds launches were allowed.

On the whole, the aircraft formation flying was excellent, with the Islanders in close proximity and a noticeable absence of rogue spots. A new pilot created a few problems on the Sunday morning when one team's floaters refused to jump from the trail plane – as they were directly overhead the lead plane! This situation was quickly sorted out with a short break until a new pilot arrived. The RAFSPA organisation was as efficient as ever, making for a hassle-free meet. The food at Weston is cheap and very cheerful and the facilities are good, with a large indoor packing area and 16 I-slides. These were a great help for some of the transitions and helped to get everyone to the dirt-dive on time, as no-one wanted to end up with the trolley that scraped instead of sliding.

The competition took off around 10am on the Saturday. *Another Planet*, a team captained by Darryl Moran, formed from *Mindgames* 8-way team, 0.25 4-way team and other friends from Sibson, quickly began to establish a lead. *Mindgames*, who were to represent Britain in this year's World Meet, practised their Islander launches from the lead plane, giving jumpers in the trail plane



Team: Another Planet – Don't forget the INTER, Dayne!! Photo by Steve Johns.

an easily visible target to head for immediately from exit.

Altogether the team was wearing 99lbs of lead, ie. an average of 6lbs each, with only two team members without weight! The faster fall rate enabled everyone to fly on a level without fear of going low, which made for smooth transitions. The skydives themselves clearly demonstrated the uplifting effect that having a trained team in the centre has on the general standard of skydiving. References, fall rate and set ups became more consistent, easier and more accurate. The *Mindgames* 8-way provided, as Hi Ho (Stuart Meacock) put it, 'a serious 16-way advantage'.

The dives themselves were both interesting and aesthetically pleasing; some easy formations, some very complicated ones and some 'boogie dives'. The speed round was loads of fun as eight skydivers from each aircraft exploded out of the Islander door like champagne corks. *Another Planet* did some excellent skydives, completing four or five points on each, scoring three or four in time. The army team *The Firm* did some good jumps but in no way could match it, *Another Planet* beat them by one clear point on each and every round (see scoresheet). For the second year, Sibson took the 'Dicko' 16-way trophy home.

Doctor Dribble successfully held off a challenge from *The Survivors* for third place, despite misreading one of the earlier

rounds and missing out an 'inter'. A request to the judges that the other three teams change their dirt dive was politely refused – but *Dr Dribble* should be commended anyway for initiative and staying power.

Many thanks to all involved with the RAF-SPA meet, especially Wayne Loxton (and his fan club), Lena Dixon, judges, cameramen, pilots, cooks, gofers, we look forward to coming back next year. *The Firm* has already challenged *Another Planet* to a rematch at another venue which should take place in early 1994.

Lesley Gale

Quotes of the meet

- 'If that skydive was a woman you'ditsoff!' - *No Knees*
- 'I was under canopy and felt like I'd had an orgasm' - *Lesley*
- 'I promise I'll be further away next time' - *Dodgy pilot*
- 'I promise I'll be nearer next time' - *Same pilot*
- 'I promise he won't fly next time' - *Wayne*
- 'It's not surprising the plane wasn't flying well, with Lesley, Crispy and a whole herd of elephants on the floater rail' - *Rhino*
- 'I wasn't really going to key that star, honest' - *Dazzle*
- 'Make sure it's me, not Crispy in the photos' - *Grant* (Grant shared a slot with Chris meacock, you can see Chris in the piccies wearing the blue javelin)
- 'I'm going to saw Grant's medal in half' - *Chris Meacock*, (Chris was in the pics but Grant got the medal!)
- 'Has anyone seen my tippex?' - *Chief Judge*
- 'I haven't got any hippy clothes' - *Charlie*

Team	Speed round/secs	Sequential							Position
		Rd 1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	
The Survivors	45	1	0	1	1	2	1	6	4th
The Firm	31.47	2	2	2	2	3	3	14	2nd
Another Planet	26.19	3	3	3	3	4	4	20	1st
Doctor Dribble	45	0	0	2	1	2	2	7	3rd

Getting it out:

Exit No Go: Shot of Team No Go over Cork by Steve Nolan



Helicopter exit: Army 16-way team at the 16-way competition, Bad Lippespringe, followed out by Mick Cooper. Photo Steve Munday



EQUIPMENT REVIEW

By Tim Moran

PARACHUTES
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**BT
PRO
SERIES**

"They're new" followed by "who makes 'em?" was typical of the comments and questions which bounced around our packing mat at this year's Moulin Boogie. The French National 4-way, Essonne, were flying a new canopy; knowing that they are sponsored by Parachutes de France, it was an even bet that this was our first sight of the new 'BT'.

Shortly after, at the Langar Boogie, PdF's Export Manager Arnold Collement was over to demo the PdF range. It didn't take me long to disconnect my 'BT 40' and attach a crisp, new, 'Pro 120' – two jumps convinced me; I had to have one.

I've been a loyal user of the BT's for the past four years. During this time I've used the 60, 50 & 40. "Yeah, I like them". When they were first introduced I believe the BTs were ahead of their time, their handling characteristics prompted comments such as 'twitchy', which I prefer to substitute with 'responsive'. The short flare stroke and light toggle pressure could be unsettling for some jumpers, but the canopy offered precision and ease of handling that has been difficult to equal. In some respects the similarly semi-elliptical South African 'Reflex' and 'Pin-Tail' paid PdF the highest complement – imitation.

True, early BT models with fluorescent colours faded rapidly, notably the turquoise. PdF quickly rectified that problem. The line re-

placement programme was also a pain though PdF didn't have an available alternative to kevlar at the time the BT was introduced. Derro Thomas and I put the thick end of 1,300 jumps on a faded turquoise '60' with no appreciable loss of performance or parting of kevlar. I never bothered switching to the replacement lines on any BT's and have experienced no problems with either the opening or handling characteristics though PdF insist that it's a worthwhile 'mod'.

The new 'Pro Series' has much in common with the 'BT' which PdF have not discontinued, but slotted into a logical range of canopies comprising the 'Merit', 'BT' & the new 'Pro Series'.

The material used continues to be PF 3000 zero-porosity fabric, which is easier to handle than the highly glazed US 'Zeepee' product. Canopy sections are individually cut at PdF's Cergy-Pontoise factory using a vacuum table and a laser cutting machine. Kits are shipped to PdF's own facility on the island of Mauritius for assembly. From my employment with one of the world's largest inspection companies, I know that Mauritius has a highly developed and technically competent textile industry.

Parachutes de France subscribe to the French Ministry of Defence

RAQ-2 (AQAP-4) quality assurance programme, arguably a more demanding qualification than the US TSO.

A 'finer' aerofoil section which is immediately apparent when flaking the nose, a fully elliptical planform and higher aspect ratio than the 'BT' combine to provide the experienced skydiver with a very lively, fast and responsive tool. It is therefore perhaps a canopy for jumpers with experience in flying zero-porosity models, who are looking for an 'added buzz'.

Deployments are consistent, though maybe a little too long if your pack-jobs screw the nose up tight. My openings have always been on heading.

Turns start and finish precisely – you really feel in command. Give it some toggle speed with an 90 or 180 and the strings really hum. PdF rate the 'Pro 120' at over 44 mph straight and level!! Loss of height with a toggle hook is not alarming and is comparable with the 'BT 40'. The 'Pro' planes out nicely and maintains a flat, very fast, toe dragging glide with just a little jumper input through the brakes. A little practise and it's easy to pick the canopy up at the end of the swoop to finish with 'cred'.

It's not necessary to yahoo the 'Pro' either. A straight in approach in virtually nil winds on the '120' gave me an acceptable landing despite being over the maximum suspended weight by at least 40lbs.

The 'Blue Track Pro Series' offers the upgrade BT owners are looking for. In fact I'll go further than that. The 'Pro' should be seriously considered by any jumper intending to purchase a replacement zero-porosity canopy. Product quality and price demands that. A leading UK supplier is quoting the 'Pro' at £136 and £161 under the Sabre and Nova, respectively. Delivery is quick as PdF can dispatch from stock through their distributors in a couple of days. Custom colours are not available.

Anyone wishing to try a 'Pro 120 or 140' should drop by Sibson and talk to George Pilkington or Tim Moran who'll be happy to put one on your back for a skydive or two.

The technical specifications for the 'Pro Series', with those for the BT's for comparison, are as follows:

	No. of cells	Surface area	Max. susp. wt	Pack volume	Susp. lines
Pro 100	9	100	65kg/143lb	263 ci	530 lbs Pe
Pro 120	9	120	80kg/176lb	314 ci	530 lbs Pe
Pro 140	9	140	95kg/209lb	340 ci	530 lbs Pe
BT 40	9	136	65kg/143lb	360 ci	530 lbs Pe
BT 50	9	150	75kg/165lb	375 ci	530 lbs Pe
BT 60	9	168	85kg/187lb	410 ci	530 lbs Pe



News from Rhine Army (JSPC (L))

This is just a short few lines to give an update on the Rhine Army Parachute Centre. The centre has undergone quite a few changes recently. Firstly we said good-bye to the CCI Jim Coffy who has moved into the civilian world and at present has taken up residence in Germany. He was shortly followed by Major Nick O'Brein who has moved on to JATE, a job that will see him travel to some of the nicer spots in the world. You might be asking what is JATE, Nick is telling no one but he claims its very hard work. We say a big thank you to Jim for all his efforts and to Nick who had to field many fast balls to allow JSPC to survive in the Options For Change climate. Many thanks Nick, from all jumpers this side of the water.

The new management now has Major Stewart McNeish as Commandant with WO2

Nick Harrison as CCI, we hope we can work for the centre and make it worthy of you paying us a visit. Next year sees the 30th anniversary of RAPA and we hope to hold a bumper championship. The Twin Otter is on line as are the three turbine islanders. A coach has been organised to run from Netheravon area and will allow UK jumpers to travel in comfort, no driving worries and we have the drop zone on line to provide camping facilities, bunk room facilities and three meals a day – so why give yourself the hassle of driving. The coach will remain with us and be available for visits should the weather let us down or to visit Paderborn Libin fest. So please do support us in 1994. We promise to give you a great week. To any teams out there if you would like to join us for your team training then we can offer great rates with a free slot for your video man and of course the bunk room and camping

sites are always available. I should mention we have a fantastic new shower, toilet block now in operation so the girls can shower without the boys giving assistance. Well this is all the news for now. We look forward to seeing many of you at RAPA 94 or out training with us in preparation for your 94 season.

One very last item the Easter Fun meet – 2,3,4 April. Come and have fun over Easter, rumour has it there is a lot of free beer to be drunk. Cheers for now, call us for any information – Nick Harrison would prefer calls between 0100 - 0300 hours – he is a dad now and is regularly up feeding the baby. Tim Andrewes take note.

Blue Skies to you all for 1994

Stewart McNeish

NB Ted Payne is not really Stewarts Dad he is his Grandad.

South Africa Scene

Summer has arrived in South Africa, although it never really went away! The few clubs that had fitted in-flight roll-up doors to their Cessna's for the chilly-at-altitude winter are packing them away.

Yes, this is it, Katie's (Assistant Editor) idea, my first contribution to SP since my fluke snap-shot won a photo competition in 1989. I hope to provide an overview of jumping here, including the odd politics in this and future articles. If more specific information is needed the writer can be contacted on +27 11 53 96 52 voice and fax.

The Parachute Association of South Africa (PASA) is the controlling body and has over 500 full members, jumping at 15 weekend clubs. The majority use Cessna's ranging from 182's, 205, 206 to 210's. Turbo 206's and 210's are used at three of the DZ's operating at a field elevation of 5,000ft. They manage 12,000ft AGL with 5+1 up with relative ease.

All clubs train students, solely on squares, static line and at some DZ's, AFF. Rounds disappeared about three years ago. AAD's

have been used by a few clubs, voluntarily, for a couple of years; it will be mandatory equipment for freefall students from April 1994 and all students including static line from April 1995. AFF has, of course, always had them. Because of cost, the FXC 12,000 is the most popular AAD, the Cypres close to double the price.

Although our locally produced skydiving gear is priced on a par with yours, imported stuff like alti's and AAD's suffer from an expensive exchange rate. Few jumpers can afford the luxury of an AAD (luxury?), but many would like to have one. No, we also won't forget Tom Piras, who was with us in December 1990 at the Mmabatho Boogie.

On the boogie scene, two are on the calendar for Christmas. Mmabatho is on again from the 16th Dec to 3rd Jan. Aircraft will be Antonov 12, 26 or 36. The Virginia Boogie, near Durban, is between 26th and 2nd Jan inclusive. Aircraft – either a Skyvan or Caravan and the DZ is the beach. BPA 'C' licence minimum at this event. Jump prices are R45-50 at both boogies. The Swiss Boogie, has in the past, provided a welcome boost to SA skydiving, laying on C130's for many years. However, that situation has now changed, along

with all the other changes in South Africa. The PASA AGM held, 6th August '93 unanimously resolved that we welcome all visiting jumpers to come and jump at any boogie or club at anytime, but that we could no longer sanction foreign groups to operate independently. This resolution will affect the Swiss Boogie operation in South Africa.

Shifting to another 'hot potato', a couple of DZ operators are disagreeing with PASA's Safety Committee resolution on mandatory AAD's. They cite doubtful merits of their use. The real reason for their protest is probably financial.

On to real skydiving, the competitive nature of our jumpers is still overwhelming. The National Championships normally sees at least 20 teams entering at three levels, Junior Intermediate and Senior 4-way and Senior 8-way. This from a member base of 500, is out of proportion to other countries.

Our judges are of world class standard, the Chief Judge is attending the World Meet this year on invitation. Finally for now, warmest greetings to all old and new friends.

Nigel Peart

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LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Struck for ideas for that last minute pressis? Take a look through these lists and there's sure to be something which will suit. How about something useful like gloves or goggles? Something fun like a designer T-shirt? Or how about a new video? Give Maggie a call as soon as possible to ensure delivery for Christmas!

JANUARY SALE - Saturday 22nd January 1994. Come along to the BPA AGM and **EVERYTHING** on the Sward Sports stall will be at **SALE price!!** Can you afford to miss the bargains? If you don't come you won't know what you're missing!

Maggie and Simon wish you a very safe and Happy Christmas

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Diary of Events 1993/4

Memorable
Dives

DATE EVENT LOCATION

December 1993

05 - 10 Sky-Eye Sequential Camp Zephyrhills, Florida, USA
11 - 03 Jan Christmas Boogie Zephyrhills, Florida, USA
25 - 26 Christmas Scrambles Zephyrhills, Florida, USA
13 - 17 Potential Riggers Course Curtis Rigging

January 1994

17 - 21 Jan Potential Riggers Course Netheravon
22 Jan BPA Annual General Meeting Leicester
28 - 02 Feb IPC Meeting India
31 - 04 Feb PI/Adv. Instructor Course Netheravon

February

04 - 05 BCPA AGM Ipswich
07 - 11 Exam/Pre-Adv. Instructor Course Netheravon

April

02 - 04 Easter Meet Bad Lippspringe, Germany
04 - 06 PI Course Bad Lippspringe, Germany
23 - 24 Northern Regional Classics Meet Bridlington
30 - 02 May 4 & 8-way FS Meet & Weston-on-the-Green
Central Regional 4-way FS Meet
30 - 02 May Southern Regional Canopy Formation Meet Netheravon

May

09 - 13 PI/Adv Instructor Course Wild Geese, N Ireland
16 - 20 Exam/Pre-Adv Instructor Course Wild Geese, N Ireland
28 - 30 Scrambles Meet Weston-on-the-Green
29 - 07 Jun Classics World Championships China

June

06 - 10 AFF Instructor Course Netheravon
11 - 12 Central Regional Classics Meet Weston-on-the-Green
11 - 12 16-way FS Competition Netheravon
18 - 19 Northern Regional Canopy Formation Meet Bridlington

Tt Events

DZ Guide

4 & 8-way
Blocks

Dudes n'
Doris's

DATE EVENT LOCATION

18 - 19 10-way Sequential Speed Meet Langar
25 - 26 20-way Sequential Speed Meet Langar
25 - 26 Northern Regional 4-way FS Meet Hibaldstow

July

02 - 10 Canopy Formation Sibson
National Championships
23 - 31 Canopy Formation
National Championships
24 - 25 8 & 16-way Competition Bridlington
26 - 30 RAPA Championships Bad Lippspringe, Germany
30 - 07 Aug Classics National Championships Bad Lippspringe, Germany
Bridlington

August

13 - 14 16-way FS Competition Netheravon
15 - 19 PI/Adv Instructor Course Headcom
20 - 31 Army Championships Netheravon
22 - 26 Exam/Pre-Adv Instructor Course Headcom
27 - 29 POPS Meet Langar
27 - 29 16-way FS Competition Weston-on-the-Green
Southern Regional 4-way FS Meet & Cornwall
8-way Speed Competition

September

03 - 04 Southern Regional Classics Meet Eaglescott
10 - 11 Central Regional Canopy Formation Meet

October

08 - 09 16-way FS Money Meet Netheravon
08 - 16 Canopy Formation
World Championships Kooralbyn, Australia

November 1994

07 - 11 PI/Adv Instructor Course Strathallan
14 - 18 Exam/Pre-Adv Instructor Course Strathallan

December 1993

24 Dec Big Sleigh Meet Wild Reindeer PC
25 Dec Santa Claus Chimney Base Jumping Northern Ireland
Competition Black Tights PC

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(h) 081 543 7772

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- Sandy can be contacted from late January at: 3 Coningham Road, London, W12 8BP, 081 749 4615. 'Prior to that at Skydive Arizona'.

Please send brief details plus a phone number and expect to be contacted the first week in February.

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RED DEVILS

The Red Devils competition team have had a busy and well travelled year with training and competing in Florida, Portugal, Arizona, France, Germany, Cyprus, Spain and Russia. Here are a few pictures of them at work and play:



(Above) A parachute display over Akrotiri hospital in Cyprus.



(Left) A 19-way sky-dive in Gap, France, with the national 4 and 8-way team.



The 4-way team with the Russian national team doing a friendly sky-dive over Pescov, Russia.

Photos and words by Dave Mitchell



NEW JUNIOR FS CATEGORY FOR REGIONALS



At the Competitions Committee meeting on the 16th November '93. It was decided to end the current **Senior** category in Formation Skydiving at our Regional Competitions and begin 1994 with a new **Junior** category.

Why end the Senior category you may ask? The main answer is that at the two competitions where both Senior and Master teams entered, Senior teams were beating Master teams using the same draw.

The idea of the Junior category is to encourage the newer members of our sport to start competing earlier.

To qualify for the Junior category the jump total of three team members combined must not exceed 400. No limit is applied to the fourth team member. All team members are to be category 10 holders. The criteria apply at the start of the first regional meet entered as a team.

The skydives will consist of three random points drawn from the Intermediate random dive pool and each meet will be held over four rounds.

All the standard 4-way rules are to apply apart from the bust factor. It is intended that if a team has a bust,

then they will only lose one point and continue scoring on the next correct formation shown. However, if a team deliberately misses out a formation they will lose all the points scored on that round.

After talking to jumpers on various drop zones around the country, I feel that this category will work and achieve its aim.

If anybody has any feedback or ideas, positive or negative, please do not hesitate to write or fax me via the BPA office.

Blue skies

Chris Allen

THE JOYS OF JUDGING

Getting up at an ungodly hour of the morning is not the most favoured pastime for anyone! Before a competition however, whether it be 5am or 5pm the dreaded judges will be there – setting up the dive sheets, preparing the pit, helping with the videos, checking batteries, checking stats, making sure we have enough score sheets or even getting the coffee – just so that the competition will run as smoothly as possible for your benefit.

So why become a judge? It beats me! The only thing I can say is that I love the job I do. When you hotshot (and not so hotshot) skydivers are getting your kicks doing your thing, we're here doing ours.

We get to meet all sorts and hear a variety of complaints and excuses. For instance, the formation skydivers; "I didn't know we mustn't split the pairs on an inter, why didn't someone say?", "What's a high grip, it's a grip isn't it?", "No it definitely wasn't me who took a wrong grip", "The judges are blind".

Or you Styliers, we have a few types here; the first is – "I'll go as fast as I can and then the judges will have a hard time scoring this". Another, "I'll just take my time and try to get everything exact", and, "What the heck, it's another skydive for my logbook isn't it".

Canopy formation, well, what can I say, so what if the rest of the world think we're nuts! Yet again we have a few types here – "This is where it's at", another "We are a professional team and we do it well", and "Let's try and get into that cloud over there because we've really screwed up this dive".

Accuracy – "OK, who moved the pit?", "Wow, I did it, I got my first 00", "I can't have missed, I never miss, the wind must be over", "The wind changed direction", "There were other canopies in the air and they ruined my concentration", "There was... there was..., there's got to be ground somewhere in the rules for me to get a rejump!", "Hitting a judge is grounds for a rejump" and of course, "I've trained and worked hard for this, I hope I do well".

At the end of the day, we all have our stories to tell, including the judges. So why don't some of you come and be entertained by us at the AGM. Anyone who is interested in becoming a judge may come and see what we do, and even if you are not you might just learn something. For instance, how many times have one of you 4-ways teams finished a dive and been overjoyed at what you did (you're now one of those skygods people keep talking about), only to find the judges have busted you. It might just improve your skydiving if you are aware of what we are looking for – forewarned is, after all, forearmed.

It may also help move the 'them and us' syndrome a little further towards the horizon where it belongs. We really are there on your side you know and there's nothing nicer than seeing competitors achieving their goal and knowing you are a part of it.

We need more good judges, one of them could well be you!

**Johanna Scott FAI Chairperson
Judges Sub Committee**

Chris Claridge Memorial Weekend South Cerney, 25-26th September 1993

About 40 jumpers assembled at the Silver Stars base in South Cerney for a memorable and moving weekend. Although it had been planned originally as a sort of mini-boogie by the Silver Stars, events moved on, and the majority were there to celebrate the life of Chris Claridge, who died this year while on a display with Dave Lewis's team ICARUS. Dave was the moving force, but one of the best things about the weekend was that it seemed to happen spontaneously, with no obvious organisation. This may have been supremely good work in advance by Dave and others, and undoubtedly that was much of it, but it flowed too from the genuine feeling of those who were there.

The main events were, first, the presence of two aircraft which many had not jumped before. Allan Edwards flew in his jet Ranger for the Saturday, and there was a new and very smart Antonov AN-2 biplane, as well as the club's resident C172. The chopper was very busy for most of the time it was there; the Antonov flew steadily, despite a swingeing £20 for 9,000ft – they use an awful lot of fuel. Many preferred to jump lower and save some cash, but there was a steady stream up to altitude and at least one good 6-way attempt which worked well considering the low experience level of some of the participants, and the fact that it was free-flow.

Running in parallel was the training, by Dave Lewis, of Chris's brother John and his son Marcus, for their first jump – the very first in Marcus's case although John

had some previous military jumps. The family was all there to watch this, including Chris's fiancée, who had everyone's sympathy and admiration; it couldn't have been easy.

Meanwhile, the day had brightened up very nicely; in fact it got quite hot on the ground, and everyone was happy except some early students who were winded out for most of the day. This was worrying, because everyone wanted John and Marcus to make their jumps, but the weather gods were cooperating that weekend, presumably recognising a good cause, and by around 6pm the wind had dropped away to give an absolutely perfect first-jump evening.

They jumped, after the rest of the students, shortly before last light. Almost the whole DZ, including Chris's family, was out on the field to watch the two aeroconicals open; the atmosphere was terrific and the cheers for two perfect jumps and landings tremendous. Both received their first jump certificates and VGATW critiques from Matt Patrick, and there was no doubt in anyone's mind that they had earned them. Both intend to keep on, though sadly we seemed to have used up our weather tokens on Saturday and there was no student jumping (and little experienced, for that matter) on Sunday. John has since been cleared for DP's.

Before the presentations came a little private ceremony which was the most moving thing I can remember in my skydiving career. In almost total silence, in the last light of day, the club aircraft flew a ruler

line across the airfield at 500ft while Dave Lewis and John Boxall, Chris's teammates on his last jump streamed his ashes across the sky. The was complete hush on the ground as the plane then climbed for Dave to jump directly over the crowd; John, still grounded by the injury he received at the time, escorted the plane and the urn back down.

The evening continued... I don't honestly remember very much after the first few pints, but it was centred around the barbecue that Chris himself originally built for the club.

A further demonstration of respect for Chris came unexpectedly to most of us the next morning. Dave introduced two representatives of the Model Aero Society which organised the event at which Chris died. On their own initiative, the day afterwards, these gentlemen organised a collection from every exhibitor and stand, raising nearly £750 which was handed over to Chris's family as a token of their sympathy; a generous gesture, and a useful one. The representatives, Derek Dixon and John Ashton, were warmly thanked by Chris's brother, and also received a ride up over the airfield on the only Antonov lift of that day.

Life goes on. With the weather now limiting jumping to Cat 10, the weekend closed suitably with a display jump by Icarus into a Teddy Bears' Picnic in Gloucester. Well, Dave was there and I was there, but the only other Icarus team-member present was Box, who couldn't jump. On that last Antonov lift a Silver Stars jumper known only as Weetabix (because I can't spell, or even pronounce his real name) gained his D-licence, and having landed in the pit on a brand new rig was invited to join us for the demo, which he did with considerable panache. I should add that the commentary was done by my own girlfriend Liz who had gained her Cat 8 the previous day – as I say, life goes on.

It was a very memorable weekend, and despite the sad cause of it, a very enjoyable one for all there. Thanks have to go again to the man at the centre, Dave Lewis, but also to Matt Patrick, the Silver Stars CCI, and all his team for their warm welcome and genuinely friendly atmosphere at the DZ – try it, they are looking for new faces. Wherever Chris Claridge is jumping now, he should be feeling good; we said farewell with pride, love, friendship and good companionship.

RIP

Chris Jones D8783



Dave Lewis (centre) with John and Marcus just before making their first jump



PARAGATORS

UMATILLA FLORIDA

All sports have their places of pilgrimage – every golfer wishes to play a round on the “Old Course” at St Andrews. There isn’t a “petrolhead” in the land who hasn’t yearned to climb the banking at Brooklands, and then, of course, there’s Wimbledon and the mystique of its Centre Court, for those fascinated by the sight of a small rubber ball being traded back and forth over a waist-high net.

As far as our young sport goes there is, perhaps, no such obvious Mecca, but I think I can make a good case for one drop zone. Based in central Florida and known, almost poetically, as Paragators, this DZ has been under



The ladies of Paragators

the personal supervision of Jimmy Godwin (D-Licence 126) since 1957. But before I tell you why it deserves such reverence, I wish to air a little grievance...

It has always struck me as odd that even prominent and successful Drop Zones, like our own Headcorn, provide no rigging services. At Paragators the rigging-loft is a thing of beauty – almost a holy place. With shoes to be removed and smoking materials confiscated it puts you more in mind of a mosque than the moth-eaten Nissen huts which pass for rigging-lofts in this country. It is here the Jimmy Godwin works his magic. In my case he re-routed the cabling of my left-sided cut-away pad and re-positioned it on the, more normal, right-side, all in a matter of hours – and he charged the princely sum of £20 for the work. He is Florida’s only Master Rigger/Examiner.

The student operation, trading as “Sky-world”, is administered by an adorable young couple, namely, Tom Shelburne, the archetypal all-American boy with his rangy, square-jawed good looks and reassuringly firm hand-shake (usually offered in conjunction with an execrable joke) and Susan Goodnight, (I kid you not), his pretty, petite and oh-so-competent Puerto Rican partner – to hear them bicker is to recognise true love. Together they have attracted to the post of CCI “Rusty” Vest ex- “Golden Knight” and thorough-going gentleman. This man is totally devoid of any boastfulness about his achievements in our sport (World and US National Champion) and comes across as a scholarly, almost Jesuit-like figure who approaches instruction in the calmest and most analytical way imaginable. He has rejected totally the gung-ho, “Go-for-It” style with which we are all so depressingly familiar and

replaced it with a thoughtfulness which emphasises the fact that 99% of a good dive is achieved in the mind and that, therefore, if the mind-set is correct, the body will respond and fly whatever the physique of the jumper – press-ups, physical jerks and the like have no place in the process.

“Rusty” is backed up by five other instructors of like-mind, some of whom are alumni of the late Tommy Piras’s “Skydive University”. These men, Paul McGreevy and Riccardo Patten in my case, are daily exploring the limits of skydiving tuition and their techniques, both in air work and ground preparation, have ratcheted up the sophistication of parachuting instruction by several notches. They also happen to be great blokes.

Students are equipped with the latest Mike “Michigan” Sandberg jumpsuits (in all sizes), “Vector” – contained “Manta” canopies, all Cypres-rigged. Paragators manifest area is the only one I know of where it is impossible to tell apart the student from the skygod without close examination of the gear.

On the flight-line there is a choice of three “Cessnas” (one wide-bodied) and, at peak times, a “Twin Otter”, all often piloted by Jimmy, who just can’t help himself going that 500 feet higher. The fully-carpeted and ventilated hangar also holds one final, little secret that brought an idiotic, “only-in-America” smile to my face – a six-seat, “Surrey-with-a-fringe-on-top” golf buggy! This super, little vehicle pulls up right by your landing position on the DZ, ready to whisk you back to the club-house, thus saving you a “yomp” of at least three hundred yards!

The “apres-jump” scene is pretty-damned civilised, partly attributable to the patio. This

has the look of a cafe in San Tropez, sporting, as it does, round, four-place tables, all sprouting adjustable parasols surrounded by button-upholstered arm chairs. Sitting here you have direct sight of the Drop Zone while you sip your diet coke. Indoors there is an air-conditioned lounge where you can view skydiving videos of either the educational or pornographic variety. (I caught up with the 200-way at Myrtle Beach, organised by Guy Manos, Jimmy’s son-in-law.) Back-copies of “Parachutist”, “Skydiving” and “Chuting Star” (not, sadly, “Sport Para-

chutist”) are also there to be browsed. Food can be ordered in at your request from local snack and sandwich outlets, and come Friday, there is a barbecue on the aforementioned patio.

Student-training is centred around AFF and no traditional static-line jumping is offered, although “Rusty” is considering the introduction of a technique called “Instructor Assisted Deployment”. This entails the pilot-chute’s bridle-cord being held and then released by the jump-master on the student’s exit – or something like that. Apparently it works well in Canada.

Observer rides and Tandem jumps are, of course, available, and “Rusty”, ever eager to innovate and improve upon the current AFF progression system, is thinking about prefacing AFF level one with a familiarising Tandem ride in an effort to reduce the fear of sensory overload” felt by the first-time AFF student. It sounds like a good idea to me and can, of course, be ordered up now by the student, before the AFF course proper begins.

This place, “Paragators”, and these people make you feel so special that you start pondering upon the arduous prospect of acquiring a “Green Card” in order to stay longer (NB Getting a Green Card is a great deal more difficult than skydiving!)

Go, join an elite, become a Paragator.

Mark Lobanov-Rostovsky

Details

Paragators
480 Skyline Drive, Umatilla
Florida 32764, USA
Tel: 010 1 904 669 3339
Fax: 010 1 904 669 9166

1993-94 Skydive City Calendar of Events

November 5-7: Strong Enterprises Tandem Certification Course

Hosted by Strong Enterprises.
Preregistration required; call us today.

November 12-13: 4-Way & 8-Way Meet

Train for this month's Thanksgiving Competition.
Open and intermediate classes.
FAI rules. Seminar Saturday night.

November 19-28: Thanksgiving Meet

November 19: 8-way practice
November 20-21:
8-Way Competition
November 22:
16-way practice
November 23: 16-way
competition
November 24:
20-way practice
November 25:
20-way competition &
Turkey Dinner
November 26-27:
10-way practice
November 27: 10-way
competition,
seminar and
party



February 5-6: 20-Way Meet

Come and challenge the Skydive City team! Try to take the trophy!

February 11-14: Valentine's Day 4-Way Meet

Competition, coaching and seminars.

February 25-27: . . . Vector Tandem Certification Course

Hosted by the Relative Workshop. Preregistration required.

March 5-6: 4-Way & 8-Way RW Meet

Open and intermediate classes. FAI rules. Seminar Saturday night.

March 12-13: Strong Tandem Certification Course

Hosted by
Strong Enterprises.
Preregistration required.

March 19-April 9: Easter Boogie, Skydive City Style

20-way sequential, 40-way speed

April 2: Easter Cookout and Party

Seminars, prizes, and large loads,
Easter egg hunt, cross training.

April 16-17: Second Annual Mayor's Cup

8-way sequential RW meet

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Bill Richards	Henri Pohjolainen	Jack Jefferies
Mike Lewis	Norman Kent	Mark Hewitt

*More speakers will be added as we get confirmation

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December 3-5: . . . Vector Tandem Certification Course

Hosted by the Relative Workshop. Preregistration required.

December 11-12: 4-Way & 8-Way Meet

Open and intermediate classes. FAI rules. Seminar Saturday night

December 15-Jan. 9 . . . Christmas & New Year's Boogie

- Christmas 10-way Scrambles—Everyone wins!
- Star of David competition • Christmas star dives
- 18-way sequential • Christmas & New Year's parties

January 14-16 Large Sequential Camp

January 22-23 4-Way & 8-Way RW Meet

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Skydive in Chile

In October I was fortunate enough to be sent to a meeting in Santiago, Chile. Although I am only Cat.7, I thought it worthwhile getting an FAI licence just in case I got anywhere near a DZ and had the opportunity to jump.

When I arrived in Santiago, I scoured the local phone book and contacted a club, the *Escorpiones*, who invited me along to join them for an evening. They welcomed me with open arms (literally – the Chileans are very friendly people) and I explained that while I was still a student, I would like to do a jump if possible. One of the instructors had a ripcord rig which he said I could hire, and I arranged to contact them towards the end of my holiday with the aim of jumping on my last day there.

The best laid plans of mice and men followed the usual law of nature (commonly known as Sod's) and I woke up on the last day of my holiday with no agreed plans – just some frantic Spanglo messages left by me in a desperate attempt to contact the English speaking instructor, Ivan. My attempts paid off, because Ivan turned up at the hostel I was staying at to escort me to a drop zone. It turned out that the ripcord rig had not materialised, but Ivan kindly offered to lend me his own kit – a COE-D 210 in a Wonderhog, with throwaway. It took about an hour and a half to reach the DZ, which was on the coast. My logbook and B licence were scrutinized by the manager of the aerodrome and I was given permission to jump. I was a little nervous, as I'd never jumped anywhere other than Headcorn, there was no aerial photo. I'd never jumped a throwaway before, and it was several weeks since my last jump. It could all so easily have read "The student, who was unfamiliar with the equipment...", but I was given a sound briefing and drilled so thoroughly in both deployment and cutaway and reserve deployment procedures that I could have been at Headcorn!

The DZ is located on the coast, with the snow covered Andes in the distance – a beautiful location. The weather was gloriously sunny, the sky cloudless, with the winds at about 15 knots. A small Cessna,

the "Firebird" took off with four jumpers just as we arrived, and I watched with amazement as they landed crossing the runway at about 50 feet – no restrictions due to the minimal air traffic using the DZ. The winds then picked up, gusting 20, and the Firebird was flown away and replaced with a Cessna 206, which could carry 5 jumpers. I spent the afternoon talking to the dozen or so members present, hearing horrifying tales such as Capewells bursting open on one student's second static line jump. There are 200 skydivers in Chile, with 32 belonging to the *Escorpiones*. The club has no square student kit, only three round rigs, and there are only two tandem rigs in the whole country. Students generally get onto freefall on their sixth jump and are classified as non-students after 25 jumps when they can get their B licence (hence their treatment of me as a non-student). Club membership costs \$100 p.a. with altitude jumps \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Ivan asked if I'd like to do a 3-way, so I explained that while I would love to, I had not even done tracking, let alone relative work. They decided that this was not a problem and that Ivan and another experienced skydiver, Mauricio, would do a 3-way, with me just aiming to get stable and them docking on me, forming a star then a line, turning to the Pacific Ocean and then waving off at 4,000, with me pulling at

3,500. They said that if I didn't get stable or had problems then they would stay away or track away from me and we dirt dived the whole thing a few times.

At 5 o'clock I was told to get ready, so I donned my borrowed kit. I had to sit in a most extraordinary position in the plane, next to the pilot's seat with my back to the fuselage, one leg in front of the pilot's seat and one leg behind. The pilot, Alfredo, is "Mr D1" in Chile and I saw his licence (acquired in 1972) to prove it. We got to 9,500 feet and the jump went as planned. I did one of my usual unstylish exits, got stable and then experienced for the first time the thrill of being with one and then two other people in freefall – wonderful. We formed a star, then a line, turned round as planned then to my surprise they formed a star again, both gave me a kiss and then waved off. I pulled at 3,500 (no problems remembering to throwaway, thank heavens!) and landed spot on the DZ.

All in all it was a truly memorable jump and a fantastic experience – I would wholeheartedly recommend skydiving in Chile. I would like to say a huge thank you to the *Escorpiones*, especially Ivan, and hope that they may come to Headcorn to jump before too long.

Ruth Cooper B10495



A few members of the Escorpiones with the Firebird



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St Merryn

Cornwall

Tel: 0841 540691

Devon and Somerset Parachute School

Part time club based at Dunkswell Airfield. Running 1st Jump Static Line Courses, Tandem, AFF Courses with very experienced instructors who have been running AFF at Dunkswell for 5 years. Student Radio's, Reserves with AADs. Local Accommodation available. Meals available on Devon as well as a Bar.

Devon & Somerset Parachute School

19 Azalea Close

Highfield

Dunkswell

Nr Honiton

Devon

Tel: 0404 891690

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 GO Aeroconicals. RW, CRW, Style and Accuracy pit. All levels and disciplines catered for, student square or round courses, Cessna 180 with in-flight door. Canteen on site, good range of local beer, food, B&B. Tents and caravans on the DZ. If it is windy, you can always go surfing!

Dave Tylcoat

Eaglescott Parachute Centre

Eaglescott Airfield

Ashreigney

Chumleigh

Devon EX18 7PH

Tel: 0769 60726/0769 3552

Fife Parachute Centre

Open Wednesday to Sunday 9am to 7 pm (inclusive). Friendly fun centre with emphasis on safety. Student radios and AAD's excellent student progression. Tandem, Rounds, WARP, CRW, Accuracy. The only centre in Scotland to offer RAP's and AFF. Islander (in-flight door) always available, unrestricted altitude. Canteen, dormitories, hot showers, toilets on airfield, everyone welcome.

Fife Parachute Centre

Errol Airfield

Grange

Perthshire PH2 7TB

Tel: 0821 642673

Headcorn Parachute Centre

Open daily 9am to dusk. Two Islanders, accuracy pit and pad, progression weeks, competitions, organised jollies, Tandem and AFF, Raps, Rounds and WARP instruction. Free accommodation, cafeteria, parachute shop for all your parachuting needs.

Headcorn Aerodrome

Headcorn

Kent TN27 9HX

Tel: 0622 890862

Fax: 0622 890641

Ipswich Parachute Centre

Open 8.30am until dark 6 days (closed Tuesdays). Pilatus Porter and Islander 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

Fax: 0473 271055

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

PO Box 18

Goring on Thames

Reading RG8 9EW

Tel: Drop Zone 0249 651909

Tel: Weekends 0860 559112

Merlin Parachute Centre

Open weekends and Bank holidays 9am till dark. Static Line Round parachuting courses every Saturday, Tandem & AFF by arrangement, CRW & Formation skydiving (coaching available, accuracy pit, BN Islander with in-flight door, friendly atmosphere, bring two passport photos for camp pass. Canteen facilities, indoor packing, camping and B&B close to airfield at local pub.

Merlin Parachute Centre

Alanbrook Bks

Topcliffe, Near Thirsk

North Yorkshire

Tel: Weekdays 0845 524713

Tel: Weekends 0748 875367

Midland Parachute Centre

Open every weekend 9am to 9pm. Static Line, Tandem and WARP. Canteen open during jumping hours serving snacks, drinks and lunches. Free bunk-house accommodation. Many local B&B's, tents but no caravans.

Midland Parachute Centre

The Control Tower

Windrush Camp

Nr Burford

Oxfordshire, OX18 4TW

Tel: Weekends 0451 844422 or 844449

Tel/Fax: Weekdays 0543 683161

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

Open every weekend and midweek by arrangement during B.S.T. friendly atmosphere, visitors welcome, good local pub. Hinton-in-the-Hedges Airfield situated 1 mile off A422 between Banbury and Brackley. 'First Jump' Static-line courses, Tandem, Free-fall Progression, kit hire, student radios, Cessnas 182 and 206 aircraft.

Contact: Mike Bolton, Chief Instructor

Oxon & Northants Parachute Centre

Hinton-in-the-Hedges Airfield

Steane, Nr Brackley

Northants NN13 5NS

Tel: Office 0384 393373

Tel: Mobile 0850 762349

Paraclan Parachute Centre

Open all year round, weekends 0900-2100, mid week by arrangement during BST. S/L Rounds, Tandem, WARP, CRW, Formation, Style, Accuracy, Para Demos. Toilets, canteen, parking, B/B and Pubs nearby. Aircraft Cessna 207, BN Islander.

Contact: Ron Groat

Kinnell Airfield

Frickheim

Angus

Scotland DD11 4XX

Tel: 0241 828999

Peterborough Parachute Centre

Skyvan and Islander, AFF, WARP, Tandem. Bunkhouse accommodation, free camping, showers, bar, food. Unrestricted altitude. Twenty years experience.

Peterborough Parachute Centre

Sibson Airfield

Wansford

Peterborough PE8 6NE

Tel: 0832 280490

Fax: 0832 280409

Peterlee

Open 8.30am to 8.30 pm. Basic S/L courses, progression, Raps, WARP, rigging, displays. On site conveniences.

The Airfield

Shotton Colliery

Peterlee

Co Durham DH6 2ND

Tel: 091 5171234

Fax: 091 3865315

Scottish Parachute Club

Open 9am to 9pm weekends and public holidays. Over thirty years of skydiving in Scotland. S/L Round and Tandem courses, WARP, CRW, FS, Style and Accuracy coaching with video. Two Cessna 206's, artificial pit and electronic pad, cheap jump prices, shop, excellent student progression. Canteen, TV room, B&B and camping in local town.

Scottish Parachute Club

Strathallan Airfield

Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire

Perthshire PH3 1LA

Tel: Weekends 0764 662572

Tel: Midweek 0764 663430

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

Open weekends and some midweek. S/L Round Tandem, RW and CRW instruction, WARP instruction, lecture rooms, packing facilities, indoor training and B&B nearby.

Stirling Parachute Centre
Thornhill
Nr Stirling
Scotland FK8 3QT
Tel: 0786 870788
Fax: 0786 870748

Target Skysports Parachute Club

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank holidays, also weekdays by arrangement. Static line, WARP, RW and CRW, Tandem and AFF, Radio Helmets, AAD's student and experienced kit hire. Cessna 206 in-flight door, Cherokee 6 and Piper Lance. Competitive jump prices – everyone welcome, unrestricted altitude. Cafe, toilets and showers. Accommodation: caravans and camping.

Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield
Hibaldstow
Brigg
South Humberside
Tel: Anyday 0532 505600
Tel: Drop Zone 0652 648837
Fax: 0532 571071

Wild Geese Ireland

Open 7 days a week – 8am till dark. S/L round, S/L square courses daily, tandems, training to Cat 10, CRW, display team, kit hire, AAD's radios, large accuracy pit with competition pad. Cessna 206, Pilatus Porter. Accommodation for 36, camping welcome, hot showers, full catering, games room.

Contact: Maggie Penny
Wild Geese Skydiving Centre
Movenis Airfield
116 Carrowreagh Road
Garvagh, Coleraine
Co Londonderry
N Ireland BT51 5LQ
Tel: Drop Zone 02665 58609
Fax: Drop Zone 02665 57050

West Wilts Parachute Club

Ex Badminton Parachute Club

Correspondence Address:
Contact: John Davis
24 Turners Lane
Crudwell
Malmesbury
Wilts SN16 9EN
Tel: 0666 577756

OTHER ORGANISATIONS ASSOCIATED TO THE BPA

British Collegiate Parachute Assoc

Affiliations now due for 1992/93

Anglia Polytechnic	Manchester Metropolitan University
Bournemouth University	Nottingham University
Central Lancashire University	Oxford
East Anglia University	Queens University Belfast
Glasgow University	Salford University
Hallam University Sheffield	Southampton University
Hull University	South Bank University
Leeds University Union SPC	St Andrews University

BCPA C/O Douglas McLelland
TR 519 Great Western Road
Glasgow G12 8HN Tel: 041 357 4453
Douglas McLelland Chairman 1993/4

The Free Fall Company

Peter Allum and Kevin McCarthy run the the AFF School, they also offer FS coaching – one to one, 4-way, 8-way. Trips to Gap (S France) can be organised. See Peterborough Parachute Centre.

The Free Fall Company
Sibson Airfield,
Wansford
Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 0832 280055
Fax: 0832 280409

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

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.

Kevin McPhillips (Secretary, SSPA)
1B Rosebery Crescent
Edinburgh EH12 5JP

Slipstream Adventures

Run by Chris Lynch (current National Formation Skydiving Champion) as part of the Headcorn Parachute Club. We are the UK's longest running AFF school and have 14 rigs at our disposal. We offer expert instruction from expert skydivers at all levels.

Slipstream Adventures
Headcorn Aerodrome
Headcorn
Kent TN27 9HX
Tel: 0622 890862
Fax: 0622 890641

Southern Skydivers

Complete range of skydiving training: AFF Tandem, RAPS, Progression training. Operating out of Poole Dorset, and jumping with the APA facilities of one of the largest, safest and obstacle free drop zones in the UK.

Contact: Bob Scoular
Tel: 0202 672408

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

POPS UK

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

Flying Tigers Airsports

RAPS, AFF & TANDEM.

Kevin McIlwee
Flying Tigers Airsports
6 St Hildas Court
Palmyra Road
St Helier
Jersey JE2 3YT
Tel/Fax: 0534 880140
Tel: Cellnet 0850 272141

OTHER AFFILIATED CLUBS/CENTRES

Army Parachute Assoc

The Commandant, JSPC
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury
Wilts. SP4 9SF
Tel: Bulford Camp 0980 33371
Tel: ext Commandant 8252
Chief Instructor 8229
Staff 8277

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

N.I.S.F.F.C.
Shackleton Barracks
BFPO 802
Tel: Civil 0504 49972
Tel: Military – Limavady 36472
Mobile: 0831 569 605

Silver Stars Parachute Team

Duke of Gloucester Barracks
South Cerney
Cirencester
Gloucester GL5 5RD
Tel: 0285 861344/0285 860551 x8259

Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Club (CCSPC)

Contact: Club CCI
CJSATC Pergamos Camp, BFPO 58
Tel From the UK:
Office 010 357 47 44337
Drop Zone 010 357 47 44245

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

RAFSPA

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

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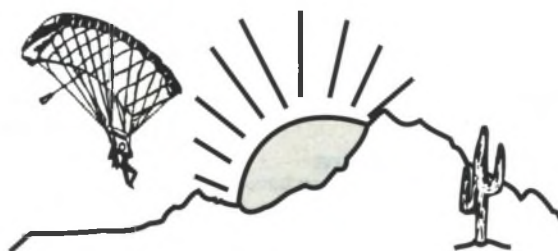
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THE AIRCRAFT

Type	Time to 4,000m	Passengers
Super Otter	10 minutes	22
King Air	8 minutes	14
Twin Otter	15 minutes	22
DC-3	20 minutes	40

THE PRICE

\$16 TO 4,000m Current fall 1993 price. Competitive rates for groups, teams and students. Prices subject to change.

THE FACILITIES

Bunkhouse, cafe, indoor packing, swimming pool, camping, showers and laundry, caravan hookups, conference and class rooms, video rooms with PAL and SECAM, equipment store, complete rigging services, team rooms, free creepers (l-slides), coaches, student training, group rates. European gear OK.

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Nov 12-21	Canadian Invasion.	Mar 31-Apr 4	Easter Boogie.
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Dec 24-Jan 3	Holiday Boogie.		

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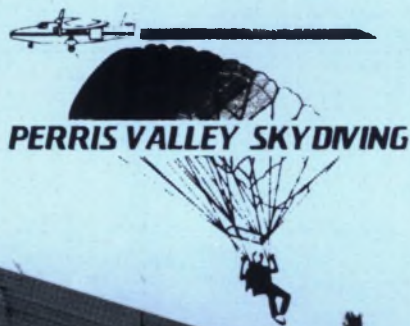


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