



SPORT

PARACHUTIST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

October/November 1997

Regulars:

Dive of the Month

People in the Sport: Bill Hazlett

Features:

Classics Nationals

FS Nationals

Fun Flying

SEBASTIAN
SKYDIVE

Success:

Another Planet

win European Cup



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SPORT PARACHUTIST

Journal of the British Parachute Association

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SUPPORTED BY



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Cover Photo: British 4-way team *Sebastian XL* taken by Keith Larrett. As we went to press, all our National Teams were leaving for the World Meet, we wish them the best.

NOTE: Some of the photos contained in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets, in which case they were jumping abroad. In the UK it is mandatory to wear a helmet for obvious safety reasons.

The information in this magazine was, to the best of our ability correct at the time of going to press. Reproduction, printing and despatch takes a total of 3 1/2 weeks so some information may be out of date or superseded.

The British Parachute Association would like to record and express their deepest sorrow upon hearing of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In an organisation the majority of whose members are young people, the sense of loss is very great indeed. The appeal of the Princess to the aspirations of youth and the example she gave of concern for the plight of others will be a continual source of inspiration to all of us.

Ed Speak



The success story of this issue has to be *Another Planet's* victory in Europe, check it out (page 16). Well done you hot aliens! We have reports from the FS Nationals and the Classics Nats, though not the CF as no-one sent a write-up (their loss). There's a lively article on fun flying by World Champion Dale Stuart which I hope you'll enjoy.

I wish the magazine was twice as long and then we would be able to include all the other newsworthy stuff. My apologies to those of you whose meets, events or successes have not been recorded in this mag. This is just a question of space.

Please keep sending in your contributions, you will be lucky sooner or later! Use first class post and follow the deadlines below. It's no use if it's too late.

Keep smiling!

Lesley

Diary



Date	Event	Location	Contact
October			
3-5	FS/Freestyle Training	Ampuriabrava	00 34 72 450111
5-6	8-way Speed	Sibson	01832 280490
11-12	16-way Meet	Netheravon	01980 678277
23	STC Meeting	BPA offices, Leicester	BPA 01162 785 271
25-26	10-way Halloween Speed	Hibaldstow	0113 250 5600
27-31	RW Course	Train in Spain	00 49 7541 28158
28	Council Meeting	BPA offices, Leicester	BPA 01162 785 271
24-Nov 2	Halloween Boogie	Skydive Arizona	00 1520 466 3753
November			
1-9	Kenya Boogie	Malindi, Kenya	00 254 288 4258
2-8	Cyprus Championships	Cyprus	00 357 4 744337
10-14	Riggers BR & Exam course	Netheravon	BPA 01162 785 271
10-14	BI/Advanced Instructor course	Silver Stars	BPA 01162 785 271
10-16	Freefly Festival	Skydive Arizona	00 1520 466 3753
11-17	FS/Freestyle Training	Ampuriabrava	00 34 72 450111
13-17	South of the Border Boogie	Mexico	001 520 421 2320
17-21	Exam/pre-Advanced Instructor course	Silver Stars	BPA 01162 785 271
17-21	RW Course	Train in Spain	00 49 7541 28158
December			
1-14	Skills Camp	Skydive Sebastian	01733 755860
9	EGM	BPA Offices, Leicester	BPA 0116 278 5271
January 1998			
24	AGM	Posthouse Hotel, Coventry	01203 613261
February			
5-22	Exotic Sky Adventures Boogie	Thailand	01252 712284

Did you know . . .

. . . that *Another Planet* set a new British record of 8 points 16-way in 50 seconds working time? The record was set on 30 August at Weston on the Green.

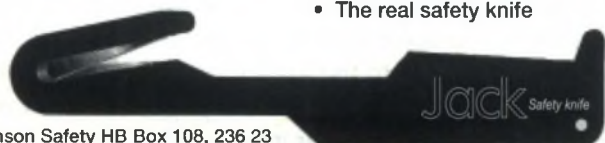
SPORT PARACHUTIST	Copy Deadline	News and Snippets	Stop Press and Latest Diary	To Reader
<i>For:</i>	<i>Long articles & photos Dive Dr, Dive of Month</i>	<i>News items and Snippets with photos</i>	<i>Late news and dates, WoTS info</i>	
DECEMBER	Tues 14 October	Mon 3 November	Thurs 6 November	Sat 6 December
FEBRUARY	Tues 16 December	Mon 12 January	Thurs 15 January	Sat 10 February
APRIL	Tues 17 February	Mon 2 March	Thurs 5 March	Sat 4 April

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SKILLS CAMP

British 4-way team *Sebastian XL* is running an FS skills camp in Sebastian, during 1-14 December. Whether your aim is to do one-on-one, to improve skills in small groups or to form an FS team, this camp will cater for all. Last year's event was very successful, the 8-way team selected went on to place second in senior 8-way at the Nationals! And is continuing on to greater heights next year.

Coaching will be from your National 4-way team *XL*, they offer you a fun learning environment with Sebastian's legendary facilities. Call Pete Allum on 001 561 388 5672, fax 001 561 388 2105,

What's On

telephone UK co-ordinator
Lesley Gale on 01733 755 860,
email:
pete_allum@compuserve.com

CYPRUS NATIONALS

The annual Cyprus Championships will take place on Sun 2 November through to Sat 8 November. Events will be as follows: individual and team accuracy, individual style, novice square accuracy (sorry, no rounds) and 4-way FS. All over six rounds (other than the style which is over four). For details contact Cyprus PC on 00357 4 744 337 or 744 245, fax 744 180.

EXOTIC SKY ADVENTURES

For those of you inspired by the Madagascar Boogie pics in June's SP, there will be another Tropical Boogie in Thailand, with all the excitement the name suggests. Dates are 5-7

February to 21/22 Feb. The boogies aim to offer quality skydives in exotic locations where there is plenty to do and see as well as jumping. ESA Boogies are ideal to take your non-jumping partner.

Exotic Sky Adventures uses major load organisers such as Alexis Perry, Herman Landsman, Jeff Ronzevalle, Mike Bouman, Derek Thomas, with Darryl Moran as the new addition to the team from the UK. Those of you who enjoyed Darryl's dives at Vichy are invited to continue the fun in Thailand and do some more hot stuff. All loads will be

Did you know...

... that Patrick de Gayardon achieved a lifetime ambition on 29 July when he exited a Porter, went into freefall and got back into the same aircraft?

videod by legendary cameraflyers like Bruno Brokken and Gaby Meis so you can some home with some cracking shots for the wall. A

package price of around \$2300 will include travel, accommodation at a luxury hotel (on the beach!), breakfast and most dinners, 15 skydives with organising and video, parties, exotic jump-ins and a daily sunset beach jump back

to the hotel. Call Darryl on 01252 712284 or email: emdazzle@aol.com for details.

FREELY FESTIVAL

A freely festival will be held at Skydive Arizona from November 10-16, run by Charles Bryan. Events include freely organising, speed trials (to try and break the record of 321mph) and a canopy landings competition where swoops will be judged on speed, distance and form. Call Johanna Faust on 001 520 466 3753, fax 466 4720, email: skyaz@aol.com

HIBBLE HALLOWEEN

The annual 10-way speed Halloween meet will take place at Hibaldstow on October 25/26 out of their two Dorniers. As usual the bar will be 'open all hours' and, as Target Skysports' last meet of the season, everyone will be there and the party will be wild. If you've been to Hibaldstow for a Nationals this year (who hasn't?) you know you'll be made extra welcome by all the staff. If you can jump you will, if you can't you will drink. Hire caravans at very reasonable prices. Call Helen on 0113 250 5600 for details or just turn up for a seriously LARGE party.

After the

1992 Zanzibar Boogie
1993 Malaysia Langkawi Boogie
1994 Malaysia Skydive Safari
1995 Indonesia Beach Boogie
1996 Cuba Boogie
1997 Madagascar Boogie

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presents the

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Skydiving in Hua Hin.

Price Total package price around \$2300** US dollars (exact price not determined yet). Deposit £100.

*Some evening the participants will be on their own.
**Previous customers are entitled to discounts (Cuba/Madagascar participants).

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E-mail: emdazzle@aol.com

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News



WORLD RECORD

A new world record for consecutive landings on a dead centre of 3cm has been set by Serguei Vertiprakhov in Kolomna, Russia. Serguei landed 14 times consecutively on the DC at the Russian National Championships for Freefall Style and Accuracy, during 23 - 27 August 1997. The previous record was six consecutive landings on the dead center, set by Paolo Filippini on 22 September 1996. The record has yet to be ratified.

CYPRES THEFTS

Have you been offered a CYPRES in suspicious circumstances – or know of anyone who has? We are repeatedly hearing of units which have been stolen. The BPA, Sport Parachutist and Airtec have a list of the serial numbers of reported stolen units. Please keep your eyes and ears open and let us know immediately if you have any information or would like to verify any numbers. Contact Airtec, tel 0049 2953 8010, fax 0049 2953 129, email: airtecgmbh@aol.com

EXPRESS MEDICALS

POPS and other skydivers needing medicals may be interested in the services of a company claiming to provide parachute medicals at £30

compared to the BMA rate of £55.50. Call Express Medicals on 0171 394 1788, fax 0171 394 1614, email: Anatomicus@msn.com

PERSONAL ACCIDENT

Skydivers wanting personal accident insurance which includes cover for skydiving may be interested in cover provided by the Combined Insurance Company of America. Call Vic Herman on 0956 678 461 or 01344 426 530.

SPORTS CONVENTIONS

The English Sports Council is running a series of regional sports conventions which are open to all, free of charge. The seminars are especially relevant to those organisations putting in bids for Lottery Sports Funds. Call 0171 273 1589 or fax 0171 383 0273 for details of the events.

CHEAP TRAVEL

Teams crossing the channel in search of competitions can get cheap travel rates from RB Sport & Travel, tel 01304 216194.

200 YEARS OF SKYDIVING

You may be aware that the first documented parachute jump was made from the Montgolfier brothers balloon on 22 October 1797 by Jacques Gerni.

XLent Adventures

British National 4-way team *Sebastian XL* recently attended the World Games at Lahti, Finland, an invitational only event. The World Games was host not only to skydiving but to a multitude of sports including such things as Life-saving, Water-skiing, Field Archery, Karate, Tumbling, Trampolining, and Ballroom Dancing. The object of the exercise was to present the 30 or so demonstration sports to the Olympic Committee.

The site for the skydiving was a horse race track just outside Lahti. The meet aircraft was an MI-8 helicopter provided and staffed by the Finnish Army. The skydiving events were run in three days with fantastic summer weather throughout. The Formation Skydiving event was run on the Olympic event principle first tried in Spain at the World Cup in '94. The team exit the aircraft in a star and hold it for up to five seconds. The stopwatch starts after five seconds or when the star is broken and working time is just twenty-five seconds. In Finland, due to an altitude problem, the working time was further cut to fifteen seconds!

As Toby Stafford reported "This proved to be most

entertaining as this really had become a sprint (or complete mad panic) event. We certainly enjoyed it, even if it did take the whole canopy ride to get your breath back." Due to the working time, the scores for each round were very close. In fact the outcome of second and third place was eventually decided after the jump off, by the team that got to the ninth point first! The final results had *Airspeed* (USA) in a commanding lead with *Mauberge* (France) in second and *Equinimity* (South Africa) in third. In fourth place about six points behind was the Russian team, in fifth *Sebastian XL* (UK) and the Finnish team in sixth.

Toby commented: "For *Sebastian XL* we started the meet feeling not too serious as the meet was such a departure from what we normally train for. As the competition progressed and we had a real shot at third place our attitude changed. We were 'Mad for it' as Liam Gallagher would say. Unfortunately this didn't quite have the desired effect on our performance (funny that) but, needless to say, we learnt from the experience and will take this awareness to the World Meet."

	scores										tot	ave
1 USA	8	11	12	12	9	8	10	9	8	9	96	9,60
2 France	8	10	10	11	9	8	9	10	6	9	97	8,82
2 South Africa	7	9	10	11	9	8	9	10	8	9	97	8,82
4 Russia	7	9	9	10	9	7	9	10	7	5	82	8,20
5 United Kingdom	8	10	11	9	8	8	6	7	6	7	80	8,00
6 Finland	6	8	8	8	7	6	7	8	7	6	71	7,10

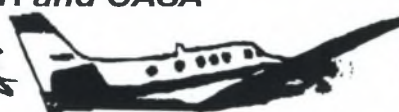
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1997-98

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Good Vibes!
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BASIC INSTRUCTOR COURSE

October 25th-26th

Halloween Bash!

October 25th-26th

Major costume party and massive Bar-B-Q Saturday night!

AFF PRE-COURSE

November 3rd-7th

AFF CERTIFICATION COURSE

November 8th-16th

OUR FAMOUS TURKEY BOOGIE!

November 15th-30th

SKILLS, DRILLS & THRILLS

RW Seminar - December 6th-10th

4-WAY MEET (Handicap Scoring)
December 13th-14th

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S BOOGIE

December 13th-January 4th
with Scrambles Meet
December 27th-28th

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Council Matters



We urge any and all of you to stand for Council next year and take an involvement in how our sport is governed (nomination form enclosed). You **can** affect what goes on. Remember, if you don't stand you can't blame the government!

The office photocopier is about to be replaced, offers for the fully serviced old one to the BPA office.

DEVELOPMENT

The Development Plan is being drafted now, for submission in 18 months time (this is the document which says how we intend to spend the grant that the Sports Council give us); comments to the Development Committee. Although at time of writing there has been no grant this year, the Sports Council say this is an oversight and some

money will be found: the committee meanwhile are looking at other income generation projects in case we lose the annual £93,000 we have been getting.

COMPETITIONS

The Classics teams will have an official manager to help out at the World Championships next year: Jack Fowler. There is a serious shortage of judges; ideas for how more can be recruited to John Saunders at the BPA please.

THREAT TO SKYDIVING

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has published a draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Airfields. Not a problem, and far too many long words, you might think, if you don't live in South Cambridgeshire.

WRONG!!! DEAD WRONG!!! If this policy goes unchallenged and is eventually adopted by a District Council, it could

become the standard approach nationwide.

Some of the changes proposed include extreme limitations on take-offs, after 14.00 on Sundays and public holidays and after 18.30 on all other days, and a ban of all aircraft with an engine power exceeding 250hp. There are other restrictions and requirements relating to noise, taxiing, lighting, and the general impact that an airfield has on the environment. Combined with our own weather restrictions, this policy has the potential, if it goes country wide, to **kill off** most of the parachuting operations in England.

The Popular Flying Association (PFA) has been addressing this problem head-on for some time. They have presented a formal objection to SCDC, which has also received over 1,000 other objections. The PFA campaign continues. They have now had legal advice that the SPG is both unlawful and objectionable. The two weak links in the document seem to be the SCDC's attempts to control the flight path of aircraft (something beyond their legal control), and some basic flaws in the SPG's aircraft noise policy.

Your BPA Council has been aware of the situation for some

time, and John Lines, Vice Chairman of the Royal Aero Club, has been in talks with the PFA. Council has decided to support the PFA and pursue this through the Drop Zone Defence Fund committee if necessary. Unfortunately as we close for press, John Lines has resigned as Chairman of the DZDF, from the Royal Aero Club and as Vice President of the BPA. Graham Liggins has also resigned from Council and from the Drop Zone Defence Fund (DZDF). (Both due to the pressure of work.) The DZDF is looking for a new Chairman, anyone interested, contact the BPA office.

What can you do to help?

* Get a copy of *Small Airfields Supplementary Planning Guidance*, direct from South Cambs District Council, 9-11 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1PB. Then object to it in writing.

* Invest some jump money in the DZDF, today.

* Pledge some jump money to assist the PFA in their legal challenge. Pledge forms available by sending an A4 S.A.E. to Martin Ott, Cambridge P.F.A. Strut, The Elms, Cutlers Green, Thaxted, Essex CM6 2QA

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Photo by Keith Larrett

New Ratings

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Basic Instructor (BI) Darren Bell Kate Stephens Dave Tyler Phil Collett Loz Cross Lee Harrison Craig Hughes Barry Buck	Tandem BI Bill Sharpies Danny Smith Ricardo Capanni Carl Scarisbrick	Approved Instructor Chris Adams Mike Cable Chris Jones Martin Gilbert Andy Godwin Paul Hunt Iain MacDonald

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THE THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Association
to be held at

The Forte Posthouse Hotel
Hinckley Road, Walsgrave, Coventry

Tel: 01203 613261

on

Saturday 24 January 1998
at 10.30am

AGENDA

1. To consider, and adopt if approved, the Report of the Council.
2. To discuss any items of Special Business.
3. To fix subscriptions payable by non-provisional members for the 12 months commencing 1 April 1998.
4. To close the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

Other items of business

- (a) To announce the election results for the 1998 Council of the BPA.
- (b) To present various annual awards.

Note: Members are reminded that under Article 31 of the Articles of Association, only such business as is notified to the BPA, in writing, at least **40 days** prior to the date of the meeting (ie **by midnight on Monday 15 December 1997**) can be included under Item 2 (Special Business).

Events following the AGM

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2 - 5.30pm | – Variety of talks, seminars and presentations, |
| 8.00pm | – Annual Dinner (book tickets in advance) |
| 10.00pm | – Disco (free to all members) |

Where does your money go?

For the benefit of new and current members of the Association your attention is drawn to the BPA's Annual Accounts for the 12 months to 30 June 1997, included with this issue as an insert.

EGM

You will notice that the Accounts were approved by Council at their meeting on 16 September and signed, on their behalf, by the Chairman and Treasurer. A large proportion of the income that the Association receives comes from *your* membership subscriptions, and *all* members have a right to approve or to question how that money is spent.

You have an opportunity to do this at an Extraordinary General Meeting on Tuesday 9 December (see details below). This precedes a regular meeting of the BPA Council. The EGM is a *members* meeting held annually. Its purpose is for you, having studied the Accounts, to raise and discuss any points you may feel need some explanation and then for you to exercise your vote for their approval – or otherwise!

AGM

The Annual General Meeting (see left) is an opportunity to get together with other skydivers over the winter, catch up with news and share ideas. Anyone wanting to suggest items for discussion or to volunteer to run seminars, contact David Oddy at the BPA office.

We have reserved all 147 twin/double rooms in the hotel for the Saturday night and 60 rooms for the Friday evening. The cost will be £46 per night for room only. At £23 per person, it still represents good value. Book your room well in advance. Just 'phone the hotel on 01203 613261 and tell them that you are a BPA member. Further details in the December issue.



Notice is hereby
given that an
**Extraordinary
General Meeting**
will be held at
the offices of the
**British Parachute
Association Ltd**
5 Wharf Way,
Glen Parva,
Leicester
LE2 9TF
on
Tuesday 9
December 1997
at 6.30pm

For and on behalf of the
Council of the BPA
Tony Butler - Technical Officer

AGENDA

1. To receive, and adopt if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and the Report of the Auditors for the period 30 June 1996 to 30 June 1997.
2. To confirm the re-appointment of the Auditors and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing financial year.
3. To set the Provisional Membership Subscription for the 12 months commencing 1 April 1998.

POPS CORNER

Parachutists Over Phorty
Society



UK Meets for 1998

By the time you read this article, we will have had our last meet of the year, at Border (report in next Mag). So now it is time to think about where to hold next year's meets – any suggestions, invitations from members or clubs would be very welcome.

After speaking to some of our European counterparts, at the World Meet, I would like to propose that we have one of our weekend meets at a DZ in the South of UK, at the end

of June. Once our meet is completed, all the members that want to could then travel to Moorsele in Belgium to meet up with other European POPS for a mini European Meet/Boogie for the rest of the week. Michel Van Biers, from Moorsele, Belgium, has said that if enough people are interested, he will be able to get a large aircraft for the week. Let me know if you think its a good idea and if you want to go.

POPS World Meet 1999

Various invitations have been sent to Alicia Moorhead (International TOP POP) of where to hold the next World Meet. So far, no venue has been decided upon. Alicia has had some suggestions about the meet's format, including having practised 4-way FS teams from each participating country. This may turn the event into a more serious competition with countries competing against each other, which is something I and many other members would not want. POPS is about friendship, enjoyment and fun; socialising as well as parachuting with many other nationalities of different experience levels. Safety is also paramount, we all know our bones get a little more brittle the more mature we get, as some of our members know to their cost. At the last World Meet the worst injury was a badly grazed knee. If people want serious competition there are plenty of events

nationally and world-wide they can enter. Comments and/or input to me please.

Best Wishes Hetty

As many of you will probably know by now, Hetty Best was taken seriously ill with Legionnaire's Disease when she and Peter arrived back in England after spending an extra week in Jordan. After quite a few weeks in hospital, most of it in intensive care, she is now recovering at home. I know everyone sends best wishes to Hetty and we hope to see her at the AGM. I'm glad you're a tough old bird Hetty.

Christmas is Coming

I've a 'few' POPS Christmas cards for sale, at a reasonable price. Contact me if you want any. Proceeds to POPS funds.

New Members

Ron Rodger, who qualified Cat 10 in 1996 aged 66, you're never too old!
Audrey Jackman – TOP POP NZ
Brad Reader • Eric Riddel • Brenda Grant

Last but not Least

Apologies to Inger Allum for not mentioning that it was she who took the two main photos used with my Jordan article in the last Mag. Great photos as usual Inger, many thanks.

Sue Hill Hon Sec/Treasurer



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Jan/feb 1998

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SKYDIVE CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

25-26 - 4-Way Money Meet (Sunday) - \$60 registration per team, Open and Intermediate 4 Way Teams
31 - Friday Night Halloween party with prizes and magic show

NOVEMBER

22-Dec 7 - What else? The Thanksgiving Boogie and Turkey Meet 8-Way, 16-Way, Haagen-Daas Cra-Z-Ways
22-23 - 8-Way Sequential Competition
27th - 10-Way Speed Competition
29-30 - 16-Way Sequential
Don't Miss the Best Boogie of All!

DECEMBER

20-Jan 4 - Z-Hills Christmas Bash
20-21 - 4-Way Money Meet (Sunday) - \$60 registration per team, Open and Intermediate 4-Way Teams/Free-Fly Fest with Z-Tribe
Haagen-Daas Cra-Z-Ways
All Javelin Invitational Sequential, building bigger and bigger all week long
Guy Wright Load Organizer

JANUARY/98

24-25 - 4-Way Money Meet (Sunday) - \$60 registration per team, Open and Intermediate 4-Way Teams

FEBRUARY/98

7-13 - AFF Pre-Course Come and Practice your skills!
14-22 - AFF Certification Course - Don Yahrling and USPA hosting
14-15 - Z-Games Free-Fly competition open/intermediate

MARCH/98

11-15 - Z-Quential, The World Record 4-Point 100 Way Dive with Roger Ponce, Carl Daugherty and Roger Nelson (invitational only). Aircraft by Freefall Express, be sure to be part of the World's best as they complete the largest sequential dive in the world today!

APRIL/98

Mar 28-April 12 - The Annual Easter Boogie at Z-Hills. If it is anything like 1997, you won't want to miss it! Cast of Organizers, competitions, your blast into summer! Easter is much later next year - so make those travel plans early enough to get those spring flight savings.

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WORLD AIR GAMES

We would like to wish the British Teams success in the World Meet, which is fast approaching as I write Wots but will be ALL OVER by the time you are reading this. *Sebastian XL* are our hope for the 4 way FS, they are the best chance of a Podium we have had in this event for a long time. The guys were lying 3rd in Finland a month ago, at round 7, but a small hiccup put them down a couple of places. It feels to Wots that the whole British skydiving community is behind our national team, *XL*. The guys know this and in Pete Allum's words "We will take all your support and turn it into positive energy for us to use in Turkey. Thanks." The *British 9* (army team) will represent us in the 8-way FS Event, best of luck to you guys who have been training hard since the Brit Nats. The training is over now Boys & Sarah, so DO YOUR THING! Team *PlayStation* for the Skysurfing Event – Feel the Steel! Goody and Ann Beckitt are the Freestyle team and we wish them all the best.

PLAY STATION SIXTH

Mike Frost and Andy Ford (Brit Nat Champs) went down to the ESPN Pro Tour in Amfing Germany, to compete in the sky surfing event. The boys are sponsored by Sony PlayStation, Animal, Time-Out!! and others. This time the competition was very hot. Team *PlayStation* achieved their highest place ever, sixth! (At the start of the round they were in seventh, but pulled a 'smokin' dive out of the bag and moved up a place! Narrrce!) They were the best team of the 'Non Professionals', truly a great achievement for a British Team.

THE KING PILES IN

Rickster Powell, the King of the Swoop, was badly hurt during the Swiss National Championships in August. 'Rickets' was playing hard, swooping some trees. He made a 360° front riser hook but he was a few inches out and one side of his canopy hit a tree. OW! He's now recovering from

several fractures to his hips and some other broken bones. Friends have spoken to him in hospital and, at the time of writing, he was hoping to be in Turkey for the World Meet! We think NOT! Rickster has over 15,000 jumps. Wots has known him since '89 and he does 1,000+ jumps a year. He is in our opinion the very best swooper. He is now going to have a long lay off. So the next time you swoop, remember the consequences of a mistake, don't go to the edge, its a dangerous, painful place!

NEW BRITISH RECORD

The Dicko 16-way competition, held at Weston must be the UK's favourite. This year, a great turn-out of six teams, including the infamous *White Stilettos* all girls 16-way. The weather dawned rogue on Saturday morning but at about 4pm, the skies cleared and we started to jump. Weston pulled in a second Skyvan and things really started to rock. *Another Planet* opened the book with a 6 in time. We managed to get the second jump done that night, and, climbing in the Van with *Another Planet*, it really felt like this one would be special. Dazzle said "If we don't rush, we could score lots on this one." We didn't rush, we built the ninth point and then it was Time To Go. The judges scored *Another Planet* 8. This is a new British Record! Narrrce! We won the meet for the fifth time running, this is always a special competition for us because of Dicko. *The Firm* did really well too, scoring a 5 and a 3 with a bust (we won't say nuthin' Chopper!) and the general standard of 16-way seemed really high indeed. Well done to ALL the teams.

Sebastian XL were on the DZ, cracking in a final bit of training before the World Meet. A raffle was held to raise some dosh for the boys. Prizes donated by various, Symbi, C&G, WoTG, and *XL*. The first guy to win pulled out of the 'Jelly filled vat' with his teeth, the star prize on a ping pong ball, a skydive with *Sebastian XL*. This dude Geoff was the perfect person to win,

he had 38 jumps and was Cat 9. The guys took him up, and from the look of the video Geoff did Great. Nice one! In all, £500 was raised.

Next time Weston, can we have that mad woman's brother's wicked band back please, we are competitors, but we also wanna PARTY! Thanks for a good time and thanks for getting in the other Van, without which there would have been no meet. Goodbye to Dave Woods, you've been a great CCI and good luck to Nigel Rogoff, your successor!

SYMBI FREEFLY

Symbiosis have reacted to the demand for Freeflying, and have created a new suit specially designed for the job, looking very cool indeed. They use heavy material such as corduroy which gives a great range of fall rate. Tried and tested by Alex and Stuart Meacock, some of the best FF'ers in the country. These suits are, as Rob's advert used to say, 'The Dog's'. The price is a snip at £125, including all the options. In a Symbi Suit, you always look Good! Call 01622 890967 NOW to suit yourself out!!

WORLD FREEFALL CONVENTION

This years freefall convention in Quincy was bigger than ever. The plane line up was: 5 Twin Otters, a Van, Casa, DC3, Super Constellation, 727 Jet, Pitts Special, Bell Huey Heli, WW2 War Bird, Tri Motor, Martin 404 and a couple of balloons. 4,000+ skydivers and about 50 acres of RV's, tents and stalls. We are talking one Massive Boogie. By Wednesday night we had done over 29,000 skydives. The Grim Reaper was in town on Sunday, two deaths and lots of serious injuries. It was low pull city. Gerrard from Airtec did a good trade in replacement cutters

(14, two were live saves from people who had got carried away and pulled too low!) One Brit went off to jump the helicopter and, coz its just a fun one from 5,000', he only took goggles and alti, leaving his fridge and Time-Out!! behind. Having too much fun, the first time he looked at his alti it was 900ft. He threw his main (NO, Chris, pull your reserve at this height). Sure enuff, the Cypres also did its job, firing the reserve as well. Chris was able to land both the canopies safely – he was lucky! The total cost of this jump was \$300+. Quincy is an experience. You must make your own rules here to stay safe. But it is one hell of a party. The vibes are great and you should go at least once. Check out the web site for next year's details: <http://www.coolingroovy.com> and go to 'Links' and you will be there. Do it Now!

HIBBLE BIBBLE

Let's all meet up again at Hibble for their Halloween Bash, the weekend of 25/26 October. Good Vibes, 10-way speed meet, all night bar, what more do you need? Current British freestyle champions Ann and Goody will be fresh back from the World Meet and are available to coach this or other weekends, call Hibble to arrange.

PS Apologies Nicky, sorry, you too are a BABE!

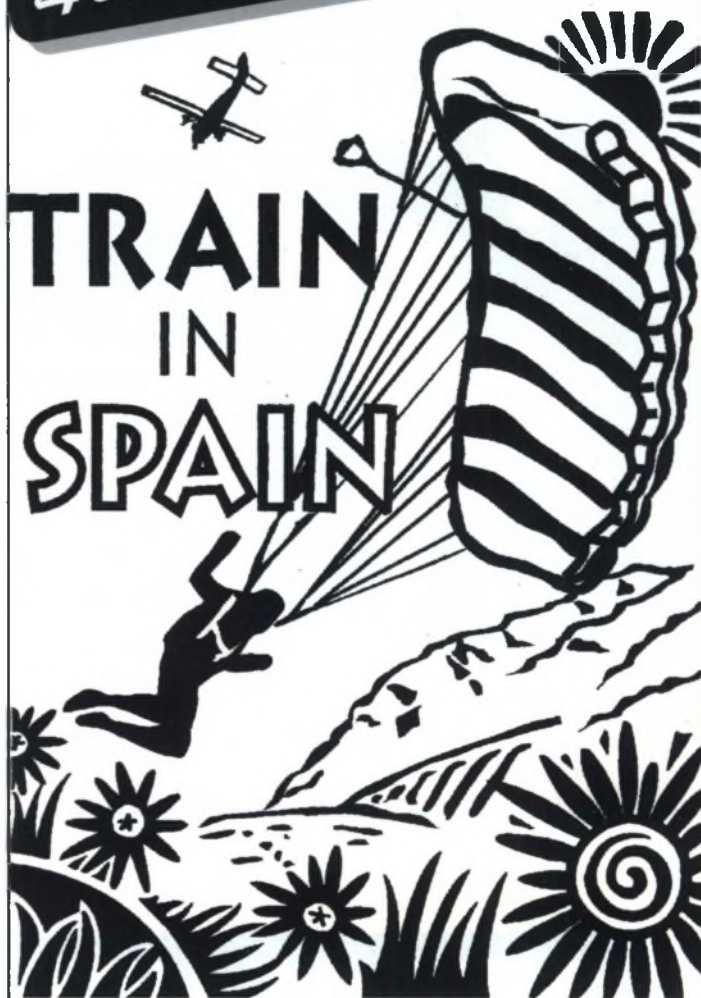
George Pilkington

ADDENDUM

From the Ed...
Do you remember George's story about Al asking Dan BC "Are you from Airspeed or just wearing the jacket?" Well, George was heard to say to Chris Akabussi "Have you been to the Olympics then?"

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PERRIS VALLEY SKYDIVING



PHOTO BY VIC PAPPADATO

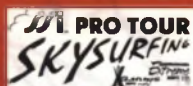


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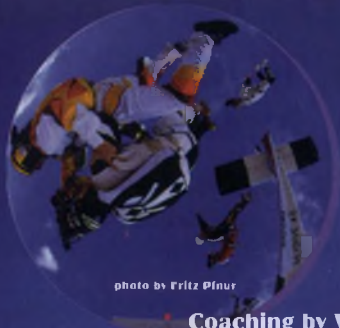


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Sept 20-21 ————— Bounce Back Boogie
Oct 24 - Nov 2 ————— Halloween Boogie
Nov 10-16 ————— Free Fly Festival
Nov 27-30 ————— Thanksgiving Boogie
Dec 20 - Jan 4 ————— Holiday Boogie
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Recently more and more people have started to suspect that all is not ideal in the cutaway world...

We all want to jump the latest gear. Rigs are getting lighter as canopies are getting smaller. But, as canopies get smaller, they increase the load on our now more delicate cutaway system. The sport is reporting more and more hard cutaways. Have we gone too far? Are we all victims of fashion? **Kit News** investigates with this special report, compiled by ghost writer Lesley Gale (Rob Colpus was busy). We canvassed informed opinion to find different views on a range of factors contributing to the problem...

KIT NEWS

SPECIAL

Falling for Fashion

Reversed and Mini Risers

When ZP canopies were first released, some mini risers were stretching or even breaking with occasional severe openings. Reversed mini risers were introduced because they are considered stronger than risers of the same width as they have no grommet through the main webbing. Some people think they look better and most people choose them because they are currently fashionable. There are differing opinions on their merits:

"Reversed risers are dumb. I don't care who made them. You must be in a near vertical body position to provide ring clearance for tumbling on release." **John Sherman,**
designer of the Racer and founder of Jump Shack

"The reversed 3- ring release is a very sensible item and it

must be manufactured with great care. When we decided to go for it we first made several prototypes and then tried them on the market for more than a year."

Dominique Marcu, President, Parachutes de France

The intolerance of reversed risers to variations in manufacturing specification appears to be the main cause in the tide of problems which were found with Thomas Sports Equipment (TSE) Type 17 risers this year which were eventually grounded. To quote from a BPA Safety Notice (2/97) "Following Safety Notice 1/97 a considerable amount of testing took place on Type 17 Reversed Risers. What these tests highlighted was not one single problem but combinations of faults. Therefore the only way of eliminating this problem was to discontinue their use."

Following service bulletin 197/TSE issued by Thomas Sports Equipment, **Bill Sharp**, advanced rigger/examiner at RAPA, carried out tests on a range of different risers with combinations of mini-rings and soft housings. He has written a full report on his findings – which are basically that there is too much variation in the relationship of the lengths of riser/mini-3-ring components. "What we found was that the TSE Reversed Risers had a geometry problem... As a general rule, if the riser geometry is correct, any container can be fitted to the good riser and the cutaway will be successful and easy. If the riser geometry is not correct, then any container fitted to the bad riser will either have a very hard cutaway or be unable to cut away at all."

Almost everyone with a problem has now had their risers replaced. **Chris Thomas** of TSE said "We are currently carrying out a period of intensive tests, both on our risers and those of other manufacturers. There are many factors at work here, far more than anyone first thought, so this is a complicated process. When we have finished the tests we will know much more and be happy to share that information but, at the moment it is too early to jump to any conclusions. We felt that the best thing to do in the circumstances was to replace everyone's risers quickly so they can all carry on jumping whilst we investigate further."

The stretching of mini risers is still under investigation by many manufacturers : "Another area that needs to be addressed is the mini riser breakage era of a few years ago. The PIA and several manufacturers developed and tested a newer reinforced riser design that has eliminated the breakage problem. A lot of that can also be credited to education. If you're over 200lbs and jump a small ZP canopy with microlines, you don't want to jump mini risers. Today virtually all manufacturers build reinforced mini risers."

Sandy Reid, Rigging Innovations

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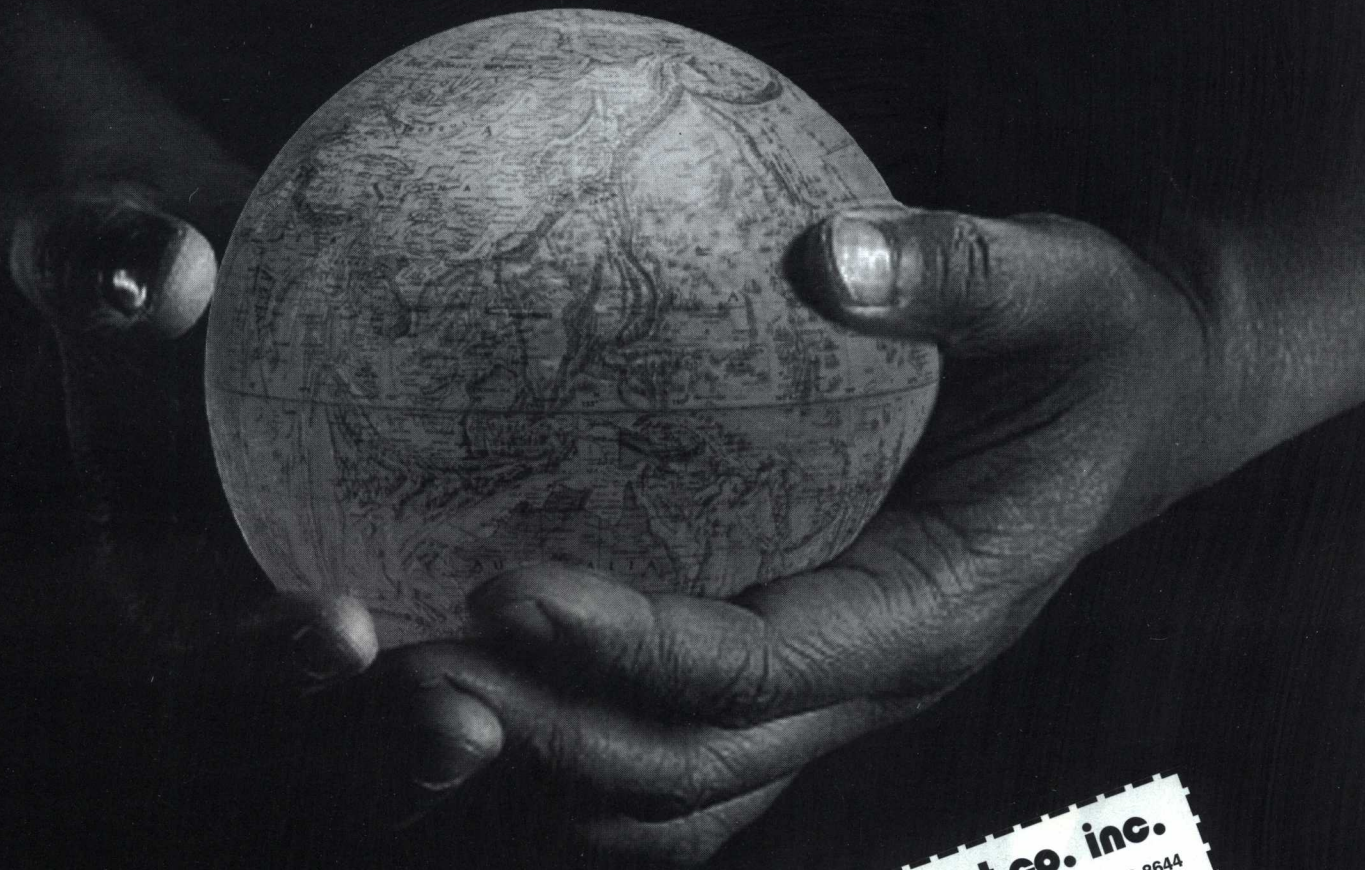
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"We have done a great deal of testing on the hard cutaway problem. Generally what we have found is that there are many factors which can increase the pull force required to activate the mini 3-ring release. As with most things, it is usually a combination of factors which leads to a problem. Some of the major things which come to mind are risers that have stretched out or were manufactured out of tolerance from Bill Booth's technical drawings, twisted risers during a fast, spinning malfunction which can fingertrap the long end of the release cable, or simply the overload factor with larger and larger people jumping smaller and smaller canopies." **Jake Brake, General Manager, SunPath**

Soft Housings

"I believe that there is a certain point where, if enough poundage goes onto the yellow cable/loop area of the 3-ring riser, then the soft housing starts to constrict, adding extra poundage to the pull. We found a force of as little as 10-15lbs by the loop pulling on the yellow cable was enough to start the soft housings constricting and then that made a cutaway impossible for a jumper."

Bill Sharp

Introduced as a fashion item, the argument of weight reduction seems dubious in relative terms. Initially, many rig manufacturers responded to demand and issued soft housings as standard. With more time in the field, the trend has been reversing so that

now soft housings are an option only on the majority of harness/containers. Many people who bought soft housings have had hard housings fitted retrospectively. Not all 'soft housings' are the same design, some have more problems than others.

"Soft housings can have an effect on the pull forces even if the risers are made correctly. However our 'soft housings' have dedicated channels and are lined with Teflon. With the introduction of the Talon 2 at the beginning of 1997, we went to what we call a hybrid housing with a metal housing around the neck portion of the still use the soft endings. This results in the same pull forces as the full metal housings."

Sandy Reid

Mini 3-rings

Mini 3-rings are another fashion item. The argument that it reduces the weight of the rig does not stand up if you compare the reduction with the overall weight of the rig and canopies. Moreover, many people who have mini 3-rings wear weight anyway! We quote from an article on the 3-ring by **John Sherman** which can be found on www.jumpshack.com/the3ring.htm

"The 3-Ring Release was designed by Bill Booth in the mid 1970's. It was designed using what is now known as the 'large set of rings.' This large set was touted as having a more than a 200 to 1 mechanical advantage, [ie it divides the force which would be necessary for a direct pull by 200]. The introduction of a fourth ring, smaller than the smallest ring of the original set, propagated the mini ring set in common use today. The mini ring set employs the 'original middle' ring size as the base ring. This mini ring set has a mechanical advantage of approximately 60 to 1. Both the large and the small sets are sensitive to manufacturing tolerances, and the mechanical advantage produced by either set can vary. The tolerances of the small set are critical, whereas the large set has capacity to spare. A change of as little as 0.03 inches in

the relationship of the rings to each other can reduce the ratio by 50% on the small set.

"So why is this important? Let us say you are in a high speed, spinning malfunction and you have to cutaway. You have a mini ring set on your risers and they are manufactured poorly, and only have a mechanical advantage of 12 to 1. You weigh 200lb. with gear and are spinning so fast that you are pulling about 3 G's, which results in a load of 600lb on your risers. The load on your yellow cable at the loop is therefore fifty pounds. The yellow cable will pull through the grommet at sixty pounds. **Unless your cable is well oiled and you are very strong, you won't be able to cut away. Believe me, I have been there.**"

The manufacture of the mini 3-ring must be within strictly defined limits or some mechanical advantage may be lost. This can be a factor contributing to a hard pull. There is nothing wrong with mini rings if they are made correctly. But is there any advantage? Only looking cool!

"I can't see the point in having mini rings. The next rig I have will be with standard 3-rings and that will eliminate the worry of a hard cutaway."

Rob Colpus

"What became increasingly apparent was that the weight suspended from certain risers played a critical part in a person's ability to cut away." **Bill Sharp**

Weight

We suggest that you pay attention to manufacturer's wing loading tables. If

you are at the top of the range, make sure the rest of your equipment is going to help, rather than hinder the cutaway situation.

Choice of Canopy

"With the trend to smaller and more radical canopies, the forces experienced have gone up in the malfunction mode. This is particularly true of the small, elliptical ZP canopies which tend to be very violent when they mal." **Sandy Reid**

A rotating malfunction situation

or similar on a high performance canopy will increase the force required to cut away. This is a factor to consider when you choose equipment. If you really want a tiny canopy, make sure everything else on your system is designed for an easy cutaway. If you do have a rotating malfunction, don't waste any time in cutting away as the force increases very quickly.

Summary

Make a realistic assessment of your choice of equipment bearing in mind the above factors. None of these items are inherently unsafe, it is a combination of them which may (and only may) cause a problem. Ask yourself how much fashion has dictated your choices and make any changes you may feel necessary. Seek advice from manufacturers, instructors, riggers. We would agree wholeheartedly with **Bill Sharp**:

"The cutaway drill should not be a test of strength where only the strong survive."

British team Another Planet beat five other nations to win the recent European Cup in 16-way, which was held during 14-17 August at La Ferte Gaucher, France

The Aircraft

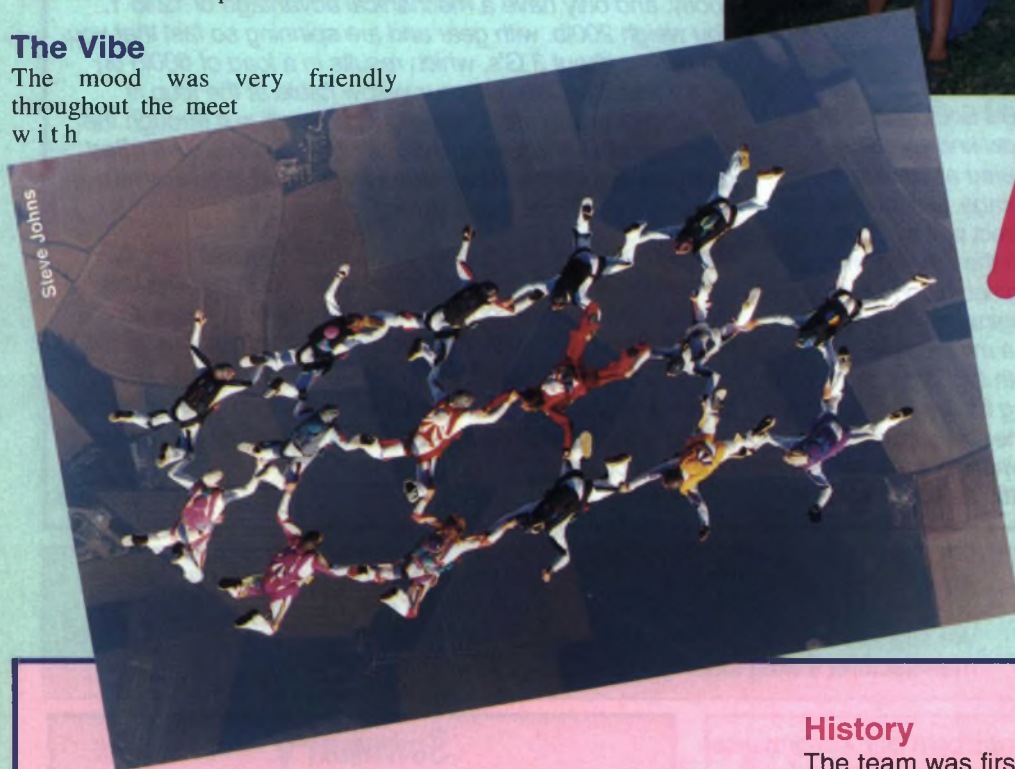
There were fifteen 16-way teams registered for the ten round meet, which had to be completed in three days. You can imagine the aircraft capacity which was needed! The competition was run out of a Casa, super Casa, Skyvan and a Twin Otter; the different exits proving an interesting test of talent. Clearly every team had to do a particular round from the same aircraft, so each team leader received a complicated schedule showing which jumps were to be done in what order (round 3 out of the Otter, followed by round 1 from the Super Casa, then round 5 from the Van!). It was all fairly confusing to keep track of the meet as scores were being posted in a checkerboard fashion rather than from left to right. This just added to the excitement as the competition began to take shape.

The DZ

La Ferte Gaucher is situated just the other side of Paris and is well laid out with a large landing area, excellent restaurant and quality creeping pad. It has a series of colourful round canopies on may-poles which provide shady areas for packing and give a festive, carnival atmosphere. It was scorching hot which does help that holiday feeling – although the long walk to the emplaning point in the blazing sun carrying rigs and weight-belts prompted some comments about Japanese endurance tests!

The Vibe

The mood was very friendly throughout the meet with



Another Euro Cham

Another Planet



Skydiving Team

Approach

Team members take personal responsibility for their own slot, everyone working out their own quadrant's mechanics where necessary. It was noticeable at the European Cup that *Another Planet* made minimum work out of the dirt-dives; most other

History

The team was first formed by captain Darryl Moran and 'lieutenant' Dave Smith four years ago. The core personnel have remained the same with only small changes. Most of the team members, including cameraman Steve Johns, come from a competition background with a stack of medals and World Meet performances to their credit. The average number of jumps is 2,300 and the average age is 36. The training the jumpers have done in 4 and 8-way provides a solid grounding for transitions and piece flying.



Adrian Thornton

all the teams cheering each other on. Everyone's skydives were shown on a giant video screen during dinner and were applauded in high spirits, giving an electric atmosphere. It was fantastic to hear everyone clapping good skydives – especially when they were your own! No-one was booed and teams would sing their chosen anthem as their own skydive was featured.

The Judging

The meet was primarily judged by British judges Amanda Kenny, Dona Crum and H (Bob Hyatt, ex-competitor). The event used the new IPC 16-way dive pool. Judging rules were the same as 4/8-way other than the fact that total separation is not required between points. This rule proved essential for judging purposes and provided an interesting range of methods between points where sometimes grips were intentionally retained. The judges reported that viewing the videos only twice at normal speed was difficult as there are so many more grips to be looked for. The judges will probably recommend to IPC that either slow-mo or freeze frame is allowed. They also felt that a two point bust was too severe for the current standard of 16-way. It was suggested that, for national and regional competitions, there is no penalty for busting (other than not scoring that point). This system worked well at the recent 'Dicko' 16-way meet at Weston on the Green.

The Competition

The standard of jumping seemed generally higher than last year with lots of quality skydives. The favourites to win the meet were last year's gold medallists, the *Fantastic 16* German team. *Another Planet* took the silver last year, 7 points behind the *Fantastic* and most people thought the gap was too wide to bridge. But the Planeteteers were on a mission to win the Cup. In 1996, as we congratulated the *Fantastic*, we had thrown down the gauntlet of "Next year!..." *Another Planet* returned in '97 with a stronger team who had trained on the IPC blocks.

For some years we had been the unrivalled top 16-way team in Britain. It would have been easy to rest on our laurels and get complacent. But during our

Another Planet pean pions



Steve Johns

teams were spending an age at the creeper pad. Darryl leads not with an iron hand but by taking input from team members and arbitrating decisions where needed. Team members have total respect for and confidence in each other. No one person is any more or any less important than everyone else, so the Planeteteers operate as an autonomous collective. They also share a healthy sense of humour; Monty Python is continually quoted and the endless banter keeps everyone smiling. The team vibe is always good and this carries *Another Planet* through any problems. It is how a team pulls together under stress which determines if they are a good team or a great team. When the Planeteteers are competing, they use the pressure to focus harder on the skydive and hence tend to produce team bests in competition.

Deal-with-it-cards

16-way calls for a greater range of personal talent than any other FS discipline because the jumps are more varied. The exit will naturally vary from jump to jump – and there are more things which can go wrong! The experience of team members means they are each capable of dealing with non ideal situations such as a bad exit, a slow falling formation or a gnarly block move. As George Pilkington put it, "Everyone has a whole pack of deal-with-it cards!"



Adrian Thornton



Adrian Thornton

training, team captain Darryl Moran repeatedly stressed "We are not just a big fish in a small pond: we are training for Europe." So we were truly fired up as the challenge of the European Cup gave us an incentive to improve.

From the posting of the first scores, it was clear that it would be a tight contest. We knew that the *Fantastic 16* were a 'hot' team of strong skydivers. A two horse race for the gold commenced, neck and neck all the way. By the last day the excitement was high and the atmosphere went ballistic. Other teams were lining the path to the emplaning point; cheering, waving and singing. We were



Adrian Thornton

blown away by the support from the locals and the British jumpers who were there. Particularly the *British Nine* 8-way team and Steve Watson who carried our windblades out with us to the Otter – and then ran along the runway waving the blades as we took off! With that kind of encouragement, how could we let them down?

We went into the final round knowing we needed a good dive to win but trying not to think about the score, just focusing on doing our best. But we all knew a mistake in that crucial 50 seconds could blow everything. There were two heart-stopping moments in that last skydive but we threw some deal-with-it cards (see box) and finished in style with a 5, two points ahead of the *Fantastic 16*. *Another Planet* averaged 5 (improved by 1.3 from last year) and showed good consistency with seven out of ten jumps scoring 5. Consistency counts for a lot in skydiving.

The *Fantastic 16* met *Another Planet* when we landed after the last jump to congratulate us, cheered us in the prizegiving and as we left, said to us in a whisper "Next year!..." We look forward to the rematch, *Fantastic!*

The bronze medal was also closely contested all the way and went eventually to the French *Espace Boogie, Tallard team*. Just behind them were the Swiss managed *Bullriders* who did some lovely skydives and had greatly improved from '96. Last year's bronze medallists *Ville de Paris* did not perform as well, finishing up fifth with a lower average. Jeff Ronzevalle's *Performance 16* were in sixth place

Another Planet Competition History

Place	Event	Date	Country	Position	Average	Aircraft
Langar	20-way	July 1993	UK	Gold	4.3	Skyvan
Weston	16-way	Sept 1993	UK	Gold	3.3*	2 Islanders
Sibson	12-way	Aug 1994	UK	Gold	4.5	Turbolet
Weston	16-way	Sept 1994	UK	Gold	2.0*	Turbolet
Langar	20-way	July 1995	UK	Gold	2.5*	Skyvan
Weston	16-way	Sept 1995	UK	Gold	3.4	Skyvan
Sibson	16-way	June 1996	UK	Gold	4.4	Turbolet
La Ferte	16-way	Aug 1996	France	Silver	3.7	Various
Weston	16-way	Sept 1996	UK	Gold	5.8	Skyvan
Sibson	16-way	June 1997	UK	Gold	4.7	Turbolet
La Ferte	16-way	Aug 1997	France	Gold	5.0	Various
Weston	16-way	Aug 1997	UK	Gold	7.0	Skyvan

* 45 seconds working time, all others scored over 50 seconds

Training

In 1996, Darryl wanted to improve scores through training, so the team completed a 23 jump training camp at the Peterborough Parachute Centre. This was fairly low key with short, casual debriefs. The Planeteers are all of a standard to debrief and improve their own performance, they chiefly needed experience in their slot and familiarity with the formations. The training paid off with significantly improved scores and team members each honing their own slot. This year, the team did another week's training, again at PPC blessed by glorious weather, this time using the new IPC blocks. Training from Sibson's Turbolet proved to be excellent practice as the exit is quite strung out, meaning the divers have to work especially hard for a quick first point. The team was usually achieving an 18-20 second first point out of the Let. So when *Another Planet* enters meets where an easier aircraft is used, the build to the first point is rapid. At the European Cup *Another Planet* were building the fastest first formations of the meet. Their quickest (out of the Skyvan) was 13 seconds!



Another Planet thanks Peterborough Parachute Centre and Birdland Bar for their support



European Cup Results					
Rank	Team	Country	Total	Average (*)	
1	Another Planet	UK	50	5.0	(3.7)
2	Fantastic 16	Germany	48	4.8	(4.4)
3	Esp Boogie Tallard	France	38	3.8	-
4	Bullriders	Switzerland	37	3.7	(3.1)
5	Ville de Paris	France	35	3.5	(3.6)
6	Performance 16	France	32	3.2	(2.1)
7	Carpe Diem	Germany	28	2.8	(2.5)
8	Team O Funten	Germany	28	2.8	(2.3)
9	Alex Team	Germany	23	2.3	(1.2)
10	Les Parrots	France	22	2.2	(2.8)
11	Armée de L'Air	France	21	2.1	-
12	Hot and Sticky	Holland	10	1.0	-
13	Les Derangeants	France	08	0.8	(1.4)
14	Team Unitalk	Denmark	07	0.7	-
15	Space Girls	Mixed Europe	02	0.2	-

(*) Last year's average

Belgium. *Team Martin* launched every exit from a Twin Otter and averaged 7.3 points!! This is a very exciting time in 16-way.

BPA Competitions Committee Chairman Chris Allen, commented "Another Planet are one of Britain's best hopes for a medal in international competition", which is an interesting thought. The new Sports Council's sole goal for funding is to secure world medals for Britain. Of course we realise that *Another Planet* would have to train hard to compete at a higher level. However, we have the talent, we have competition experience and we function well as a team. *Another Planet* have smashed British records in 16-way and are skydiving at an average which would not have seemed possible in the UK three years ago. We have won a gold in a major European competition. To date, no-one has really pushed the limits in 16-way as it has never been a recognised discipline. So the thought of training for the first World Cup is inspiring as we would be breaking new ground in the sport.

We think *Another Planet* could go into orbit!



having improved their average from last year by an impressive 1.1 points.

The Future

It is hoped that 1998 will include the first World Cup in 16-way, possibly at La Ferte, or Vichy, which will provide a testing ground for the rules before a full World Championship is run in 1999. It is easy to see what a mixing of talents from countries this would create and what a raise in standards would happen. We have just had reports back from the Open Swedish Nationals in 16-way where the winning team, led by Rickard Janz, was formed

from the Swedish Project 8-way team and the

Swedish 8-way team in Gap and



Lesley Gale

Achievements

The team's competition performance to date is inspirational (see table above left), they have won every meet entered, bar one. If you consider that the working time of 50 seconds for 16-way is the same as 8-way and that the exits are free flown (not launched), it is impressive that recent Planeteer averages are similar to silver medallist 8-way teams in the past five years. Last year, during the 'Dicko' 16-way meet at Weston on the Green, the team set two new British Records in one day; a 6 and a 7. This year, *Another Planet* broke their own record with a new score of 8 points, the team also did a ninth point out of working time. *Another Planet* has never been defeated in the UK.

Rodeo Dives

Rodeo dives involve two jumpers - a 'horse' and a 'cowboy'. As you can imagine, the cowboy rides on the back of the horse, with their legs around the other person's waist or hips, for the basic rodeo position.



Standard Rodeo

In the standard rodeo position, the horse is belly-to-earth, with the cowboy sitting on the horse's back holding onto their shoulders, or sitting up with arms out to help with the balance. You can launch the rodeo from the aircraft, with the cowboy getting onto the back of the horse just before or immediately after leaving the aircraft. Or the cowboy can 'mount'

during flight by flying up to the side of the horse, reaching over and taking hold of both shoulders of the horse, then popping up slightly while swinging one leg over into a sitting position on (or just below) the rig of the horse. Once mounted, the cowboy should keep their legs tucked up to keep them from catching air. The horse, meanwhile, keeps a wide base for stability, with arms and legs spread out when the cowboy is mounted.

Standup Rodeo



From the standard rodeo position, the horse can push their legs down into a stand-up (or even a kneeling) position, straightening the torso to the vertical position. The cowboy keeps their legs locked around the horse, and leans back slightly to help the horse get vertical. The cowboy will end up in a sitting or reclined position and will find it easy to let go and use their arms to balance on the air.

Fun F

What is Fun Flying? Fun flying is easier to describe in terms of what it is *not* than what it *is*. It's almost anything you can imagine that's *not* highly structured, competitive, and or primarily on your belly turning points. It includes non-competitive aspects of freestyle, freeflying, sitflying; knee flying and it can be solo, with a partner or with a small group. Performance is not the criteria for success - having fun is the goal. Let yourself experiment and be spontaneous without seeking perfection. It may be as

Rodeo Loops

With some simple coordination, your cowboy/horse pair can do front-loops and back-loops.



together. Both of you should be able to do front and back tuck loops by yourselves before trying them together in a rodeo. In both directions, the cowboy keeps their legs locked around the horse and keeps holding onto the shoulder grips or shoulder harness of the horse all the way around the loop. The cowboy should keep their chest close to the horse's back once the loops are initiated so you can loop together more smoothly.

For back-loops, the horse gives a signal for the cowboy to push up and lean back, helping to pull

lying

simple as trying a new body position by yourself or it may be a coordinated 4-way double rodeo.

So, if it's that vague, how do you figure out where to start? Here, World Freestyle Champion Dale Stuart gives suggestions for new things you can try with your skydives to maximize your fun factor. These are simply ideas to get you started and keep you laughing. You'll soon see that fun flying is unlimited and just waiting for you to explore on your own.

the horse's shoulders upwards, while the horse tucks their legs under and pushes with their arms to go over backwards in a semi-tuck position. To stop the loop, the horse spreads their legs back out when coming around to the horizontal position and the cowboy returns to the original position with their chest close to the horse's shoulders.

For front-loops, the horse gives a signal for the cowboy to lean forward and tuck their head down into the wind, while the horse bends the torso downward, pushing against the wind with the legs – then bringing the knees in after the loop is started to get their legs past the wind on the

downward side and return to a horizontal position.

After the loops start, the cowboy hangs on for the ride! To stop the loop, the horse stretches his/her arms out in front and grabs air as their torso comes downward towards the horizontal point, keeping legs bent to minimize the air force on them.

Rodeo Rolodex

This move looks amazing on video! In this sequence, the cowboy and the horse start in the basic rodeo position, and then exchange positions.

For a backward rolodex, the cowboy gives the horse the signal (by kicking lightly with the legs) and then arches backward between the legs of the horse to execute a $\frac{3}{4}$ back-loop, finishing in a horizontal position to become the new horse. The former horse meanwhile pushes up slightly from the horizontal to a vertical position, keeping their legs apart while the former cowboy is back-looping between them. As soon as the new cowboy can see the new horse rotating up from below them, toward horizontal, the new cowboy closes their legs around the new horse into the new rodeo position.

For a forward rolodex, the horse now gives the signal and then bends their torso downward into a $\frac{3}{4}$ front straddle loop. The former horse spreads their legs as they come over the top and brings them downward around the torso of the former cowboy; then anchors their legs around the waist of the new horse while finishing the rotation in the sitting position on the back of the new horse. The former cowboy meanwhile simply leans forward into a horizontal position and keeps their legs wide apart so the new cowboy can loop up between them. Both cowboy and horse should perform their actions gently, since too much momentum will cause you to overshoot the new rodeo position.



"Body"

Body surfing involves one person - the surfer - standing (or balancing in some other position) entirely on the body (the back or belly) of another person - the platform - who

Standup Surfing

If you can hold a stand-up position by yourself, then you can try it on someone's back (or belly). The trickiest part of stand-up surfing is simply getting onto the platform! You have to have your foot (or feet) on the centre of the platform's rig or torso in order to keep from tipping the platform over to the side. One way to mount is to set up on the same heading as the platform, both of you belly-down, about three feet above and just behind the spread legs of the platform, and then give a gentle push forward to plant your foot (or feet) on the platform's rig as you enter their burble. Then keep your feet glued in place as you use your arms and upper body to fly and balance. The further you fall over, the more support you'll get from the air and the easier it will be to return to an upright position, so don't give up if you start to fall off. Just keep your feet in place and push on the air with your arms to get back up.

Ferris Wheel

A ferris wheel is an end-over-end linked 2-way loop with your heads facing towards each other. You can both be facing the same direction or one of you can be rolled over to face the opposite direction. The easiest one to set up has you both facing the same direction, such that one of you will be travelling forwards around the loops and the other backwards. Start by facing each other, belly to earth, then one person takes a tight grip with both hands on the shoulder harness of the other. The other person can keep their hands out to the side to help resist any twisting action.

To start the loops, the person who will be the forward traveller tucks their legs and then extends them downward into a stand-up position while the backward traveller pushes upward towards the head-down position. Once the forward traveller reaches the stand-up, they keep their body and legs straight and lean back as if to perform a layout back-loop (which they actually will be doing). The backwards traveller loops forward out of the head-down position, and brings their legs down from in front of them into a stand-up. At that point they straighten their legs and torso and lean forward as if to perform a front layout loop (which they will actually be doing).

Once a little momentum gets going, it will be natural to perform the looping action, but it's important to think of getting your legs down into the stand-up each time you go around. This will keep you from "stalling" as you come down into the wind, and will keep you stretched out across from your partner. Make sure you hold on tight, since a lot of centrifugal force can develop - as you'll discover if you let go!

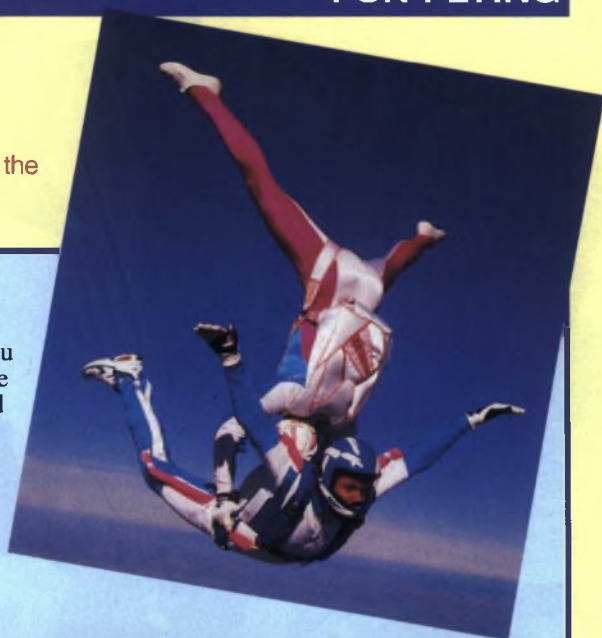
Surfing

remains in a horizontal position. Despite being mostly in the "burble" of the platform, the surfer can fly and hold interesting poses on top of the platform with a little practice.

Headstand Surfing

If you have the feel for holding a straddle headstand by yourself in the air, then you can do it on your partner. Mounting is easy, since you can get your grips before pushing up into position. Simply fly up (on your belly) behind your platform and reach over their legs to get hold of the leg straps or the main harness close to where they attach to the side of the rig. Then plant your head on the centre of your platform's rig while pushing up with your legs into the headstand position. Keep your legs wide apart for stability; you can also push or pull with your arms to help with balance.

Dale Stuart



The double delta involves two people linked as in a 2-way cat, but flying head-down, one directly above the other. If you and your partner can hold a straddle headstand position by yourselves, then you can try the double delta. The person who will be on top (the 'tail') takes grips on the leg straps of the 'point' and gives the signal (starting from belly-down) for the point to bend down into the headstand. The tail also simultaneously pushes over into a headstand – but must do it very gently since there will already be a whipping effect pulling the tail over as the point starts diving. Once vertical, both of you must actively fly to maintain the head-down position.



Photos:

Photos show Dale Stuart and Michelle Tang above Skydive Arizona and were taken by Ray Cottingham, except the ones showing a which were taken by Greg Gasson



FS Nationals

No Purchase Required by



Apeak by Chris Bowman



Quickling by Gustavo Cabana



Team Vite by Ian Brown



1
British Format
Senior 4-way, Gold: Sebastian XL



1
Intermediate 8-way, Gold: Koshier



Intermediate 8-way, Bronze: 4X

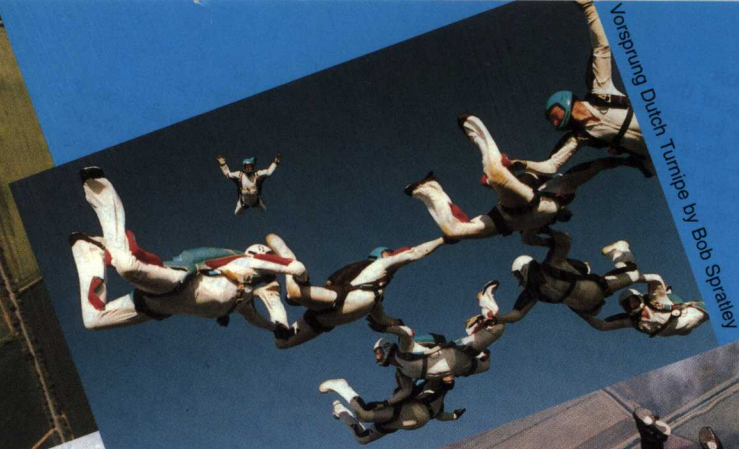
The first day of the FS Nationals was perfect jumping weather with pure blue skies and hot sunshine. This continued for much of the whole weekend to celebrate

Target Skysports again made an effort to make the Nationals feel like a real event, laying on fireworks, a closing party and podiums for the prizegiving. The year which made a great deal of difference to the comfort of the competitors. Accommodation was provided for many teams in motels on the DZ at budget prices.

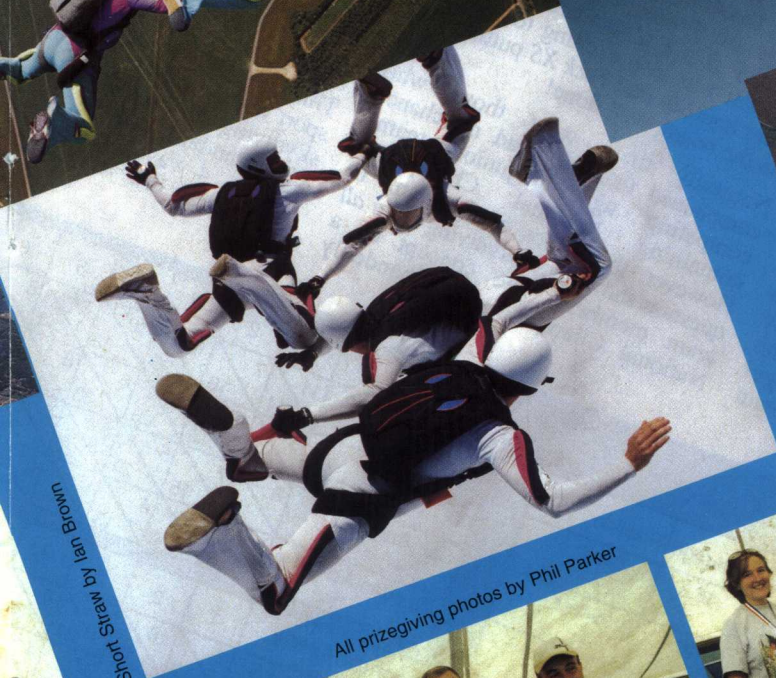
Organisation
All competitors felt that they had learnt from the event



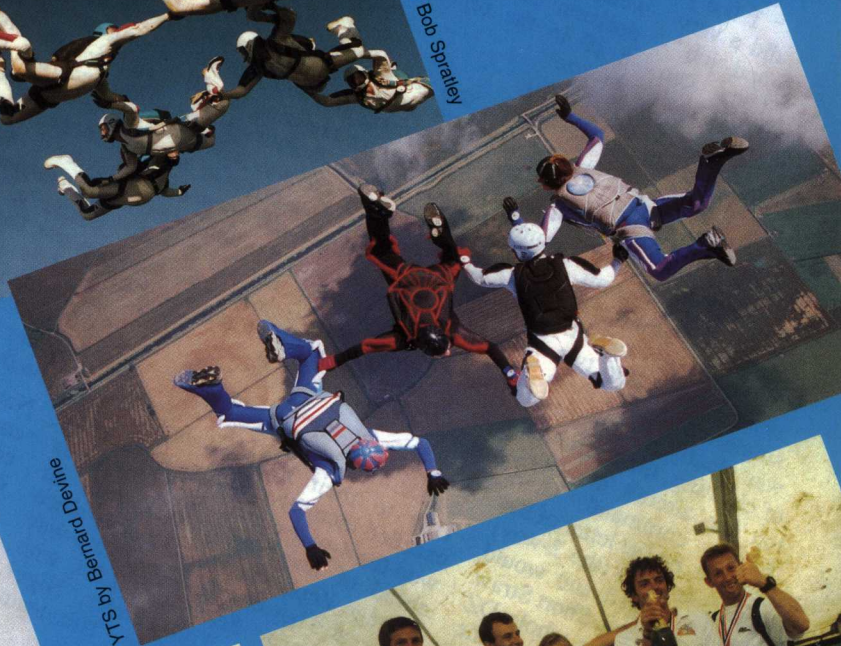
by Bob Spratley



Norwegian Dutch Tumple by Bob Spratley



Sport Staw by Ian Brown



YTs by Bernard Devine



All prizegiving photos by Phil Parker



Intermediate 4-way, Bronze: Spin Echo



Intermediate 4-way, Gold: Time Flies

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week

the showers
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ommodation
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that Target had
ast year and the
was better
organised. Run
by

ever cheerful Trevor Dobson as Meet Director, this was a very friendly Nationals which seemed appropriate for the 'off-year' where there is no selection for the World Meet. Team Captains were consulted over most decisions, so the meet really was run as the competitors wanted. Skydivers who were not needed for the time being were stood down which gave a welcome break.

The manifesters, Annette Houliker and Kim Newton, had a logistical nightmare because every single event and the *British Nine* only attended the Nationals for the first day and half of the meet. They made the decision to jump the *British Nine* and *Sebastian XL* all of the first Saturday on short calls in order to get as many rounds as possible out of the way. They succeeded in completing eight rounds of the meet for these teams, scores were posted straight away. This did mean that some people frustrated a

not jumping at all for the first weekend and also that the competition progressed in a piecemeal fashion. But it was difficult to see any other practical solution in the circumstances.

OmniScore

The event used Omniscore, a computerised judging system which allows spectators and competitors to be able to see each video being judged. It displays the required formations and you can see the judges adding up the scores electronically as the video is played. This really adds to the feeling of excitement and involvement with the meet.

Target Skysports had installed an impressive video/TV system which allowed spectators to watch dives simultaneously in the bar, café and creeper area on DZTV. Omniscore representative Danny Page said the system was one of the best he had used. We would like to thank Mark Pritchard, his firm Intervention Express and Philips Components for their assistance in loaning the monitors and video equipment which contributed greatly to the Nationals. We would also like to thank Danny Page for bringing the Omniscore system over

and Chris Allen, Competitions Committee Chairman, for arranging it. If there was one thing all the teams agreed on, it was that they liked the Omniscore. It was rated as "smashing, super, excellent, fantastic, etc." and the judges were thanked for showing may competitors how to use the system. This gave competitors an insight into the judges' difficult task and many said they had not appreciated the complexities before.

The Judges

The event judge was Kate Charters, assisted by Bob Charters, Jo Scott, Jackie Glover and Carla Cole. What did the competitors think of the judges? "Excellent, they seem to get better and better and have a nice, friendly approach to the competitors." "Totally in tune with the competitors, easy to get

on with a loophole in the rules and awarded a rejump on the grounds that parts of the 2-way video were not judgeable due to weather conditions. This was a popular decision; Short Straw went on to score a 10 in the rejump and to win the bronze!

Results

An interesting judging problem arose when Short Straw elected not to carry out a 4-way jump because of cloud and two left as a 2-way (which was videoed) and two singles. Although there was clearly no intention of cheating, the team had left the aircraft after the 'Exit' command and therefore, by the letter of the rules, their jump (the 2-way) should be judged and would have scored a zero. Short Straw put in a protest, the whole DZ became immersed in the controversy and there was a meeting of the jury. It was clear that the general feeling was that no one wanted the team to receive a zero. After three hours, the jury found

British Teams Sebastian XL

True to their name, Sebastian XL excelled themselves at this meet. They won the 4-way convincingly, 59 points ahead of the nearest rival, with an average improved by 1.3 points since last year. They entered the senior 8-way competition as Sebastian XLR8, with Derro Thomas, Tim Homer, Nigel Rogoff and Jason Grimes. This team

won with a superb average of 9.2, hats off to you for some truly charging skydives.

All of Sebastian XL jumped with novice doing junior and intermediate 4-way and 8-way. These teams; *Time Flies*, *Nip and Tuck* XS and *How Bizarre!* had produced some controlled, steady skydives enormously improved from the standard of the old intermediate category. It was great to see novice teams launching most or all of the first points of 4-way, especially as the Dornier is not a standard aircraft for exits. It was also exciting to see *Time Flies* and *Nip and Tuck* XS putting 10's on the board, well done!

Naturally there were those who complained that they had no chance competing against junior teams containing National Champions. However, the videos of the teams in question show good skydiving from all team members. The concept of a National Champion single-handedly

making formations and block moves by flying the other three people around the sky is more than ridiculous!

The vast majority of competitors, judges and staff heaped enormous praise on Sebastian XL for sharing their considerable knowledge of the sport. Pete, Toby, John and Chris have passed on far more than just freefall skills; also their latest techniques for stretching, meditating, dirt-diving, debriefing, nutrition and mental preparation. This will filter through the sport and benefit British skydiving as a whole. The standard of this year's 4-way was higher than last year

FS National Results

Senior 4-way	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Average	Position
Sebastian XL	15	15	19*	15	49	63	78	19	16	163	163	16.3	1 Gold
No Purchase Required	11	13	24	34	9	44	51	12	54	104	104	10.4	2 Silver
Short Straw	10	9*	19	28	37	6*	42	9	64	92	92	9.2	3 Bronze
Brake	8	8	17	8	34	40	6*	11	49	89	89	8.9	4
Air Ecosse	9	10	19	27	8	35	7*	40	52	71	71	7.1	5
Quick Silva	6*	9	9	24	33	9	37	44	6*	58	58	5.8	6
4-Pak	9	6	15	8	21	6*	7*	36	47	53	53	5.3	7
Touch 'n Go	8	7	13	8	23	29	4	31	40	48	48	4.8	8
The Goodys	7	7	13	7	20	27	7	27	31	40	40	4.0	9

Inter 4-way	1	2	3	4	5	6
Time Flies	11	7	10	10	6*	8
Army Red	9	9	18	7	25	8
Spin Echo	8	7	15	5	20	7
Clachan Achain	5	4	9	13	6	5

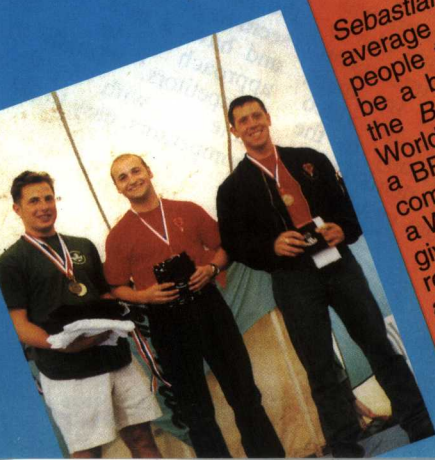
Junior 4-way	1	2	3	4	5	6
Nip and Tuck XS	7	7	10	9	8	3
How Bizarre	9	5	17	3*	26	4*
Army Blue	4*	4	14	7	17	15
YTS	4	3	8	4	4	1
Dyslexic Skydogs	2	2	2	1	4	1

British Team Selection - Discussion

Sebastian XLR8's impressive average of 9.2 prompted many people to suggest they would be a better 8-way team than the British 9 to send to the World Meet in Turkey. There is a BPA rule to say you cannot compete in both 4 and 8-way at a World Meet; the idea being to give more people a chance to represent their country and to allow teams to focus on one event. So this rule eliminates XLR8. So does the current system of off-year selection which was brought in to allow

the British teams time to train and seek sponsorship before the World Meet. But there are many who feel that if the National team does not win and reach the selection criteria during the off-year, they should have their funding cut - or the team which has out-performed them should go instead. There are also some who feel that on-year selection would be a better system. Discussions with previous British teams reveal divided opinions on all the above

areas. By far the most universally agreed on area of British team selection was that the BPA should organise a squad system to train and select National teams. The topic of British team selection will always be controversial. Anyone who has strong opinions on this matter, please **stand for Council** (nomination forms enclosed in this magazine) and then you can affect the decisions made by Competitions Committee.





The judges: Bob Charters, Jo Scott, Carla Cole, Jackie Glover and Kate Charters, who shared an approachable attitude and a good sense of humour

	7	8	Total	Average	Position
Sebastian XLR8	68	68	68	8.5	1 Gold
Team Vibe	52	58	64	8.0	2 Silver
RZ	50	57	64	6.5	3 Bronze
Vorsprung Dutch	5	5	52	6.5	3 Bronze
Turnipe	4	39	6	5.9	4
British 9	24	32	38	47	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Average	Position
Sebastian XLR8	8	4*	11	9	32	42	53	62	71	81	92	9.2	1 Gold
Team Vibe	6	6	5	11	18	4	22	29	34	39	47	5.7	2 Silver (Open)
RZ	4	4	5	9	14	17	5	22	28	31	39	5.4	3 Silver
Vorsprung Dutch	5	5	6	11	15	20	25	33	7	41	46	5.3	4 Bronze
Turnipe	5	5	10	15	7	22	24	33	40	7	47	5.9*	5
British 9	5	5	10	15	7	22	24	33	40	7	47		

* = averaged over all completed rounds

	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average	Position
Kosher	2	4	5	6	2	19	2.4	1 Gold
Army White	5	4	6	4	17	18	2.3	2 Silver
4X	3	2	3	8	12	14	1.8	3 Bronze



Senior 8-way, Gold: Sebastian XLR8



Senior 8-way, Bronze: Vorsprung Dutch Turnipe



Senior 8-way, Silver (open): Team Vibe

and this was especially true of the junior and intermediate categories. Much of the credit for this belongs to Sebastian XL, for coaching, giving advice and providing an inspiration.

The British 9

It has to be said that the British 9, the current British team had a bad meet. "disappointed" at their

average of 5.9 (over eight rounds), 2.3 points lower than last year and a long way from their 'dream average' of 10 points. The British 9 had the difficult task of doing eight competition jumps in one day (normally six is a maximum). Only one of their launches was successful; the Dornier exit is problematic and the team had not trained it this year. Most competitors know what it is like to have a bad day. It must be especially difficult if that day is the only one you are scored on. And very hard to get the meet back on track without being able to 'sleep overnight.

Since off-year selection began, there has always been controversy over whether the National teams should attend the following year's Nationals. There are those who feel that they should attend to gain competition experience, share knowledge and provide an example. Equally there are others who feel this should be the team's decision, they may need to use their limited resources on training. The Competitions Committee made a classic compromise by making the teams attend the first weekend only which, on the face of it, pleases no-one! This put the British Nine in an awkward position when they did just that, only to receive a bunch of flack from those who felt they should have been there for the whole week. But, all credit to the team for competing when there was no rule to say they should. And, all credit to the Committee, the British Nine did gain competition experience from the meet. Mark Davis, their captain, said "we learnt much from the Nationals and went away a stronger team through analysis of our mistakes." This, after all, is what competition experience is all about.

World Meet

Both teams are doing further training before the world meet; we wish them the best of British luck.

Lesley Gale



PEOPLE IN THE SPORT

Bill Hazlett

Bill Hazlett started skydiving in 1979 and, just four years later, he was invited to join the successful *Budweiser* CF competition team which won the US Nationals that year. Between 1984 and 1994, Bill Hazlett won thirteen gold medals at the US Nationals and consecutive appointments to the United States Parachute Team. No US skydiving competitor has ever won as many medals or been appointed to as many consecutive US Teams.

In 1986, Hazlett became the Director of Research and Development for Precision Aerodynamics and designed the Super Raven series, the Falcon series, and the Interceptor series of canopies.

In March 1989, Hazlett left Precision Aerodynamics and began work on prototypes for the AR-7 series competition CF (then CRW) canopies. The first AR-7 canopies were built for the 1990 United States CRW team which won the World Championships held at Chiang Mai, Thailand, by an overwhelming margin. A deluge of orders from national teams around the world launched Bill Hazlett's new business, formed in November 1990: Aerodyne Research Corporation. Two years later at the 1992 World Championships of CRW held in Anyang, China, AR-7's were used by the winners in all three events. This feat had never before been accomplished and helped to solidify the AR-7's market dominance.

In August 1994, Aerodyne Research Corporation introduced the Triathlon series. The Triathlon was designed to replace both the AR-7 and AR-11 series with a single, multi-purpose parachute. Sales to date have doubled each consecutive year. The Triathlon has proven to be a dream product.

Hazlett's record of success is unrivalled by any other canopy designer with over 37 parachute models currently in production, 11 years of full time research and development, 13 US national competition titles, 7 world titles and in excess of 7,000 jumps with weeks of canopy hang time.

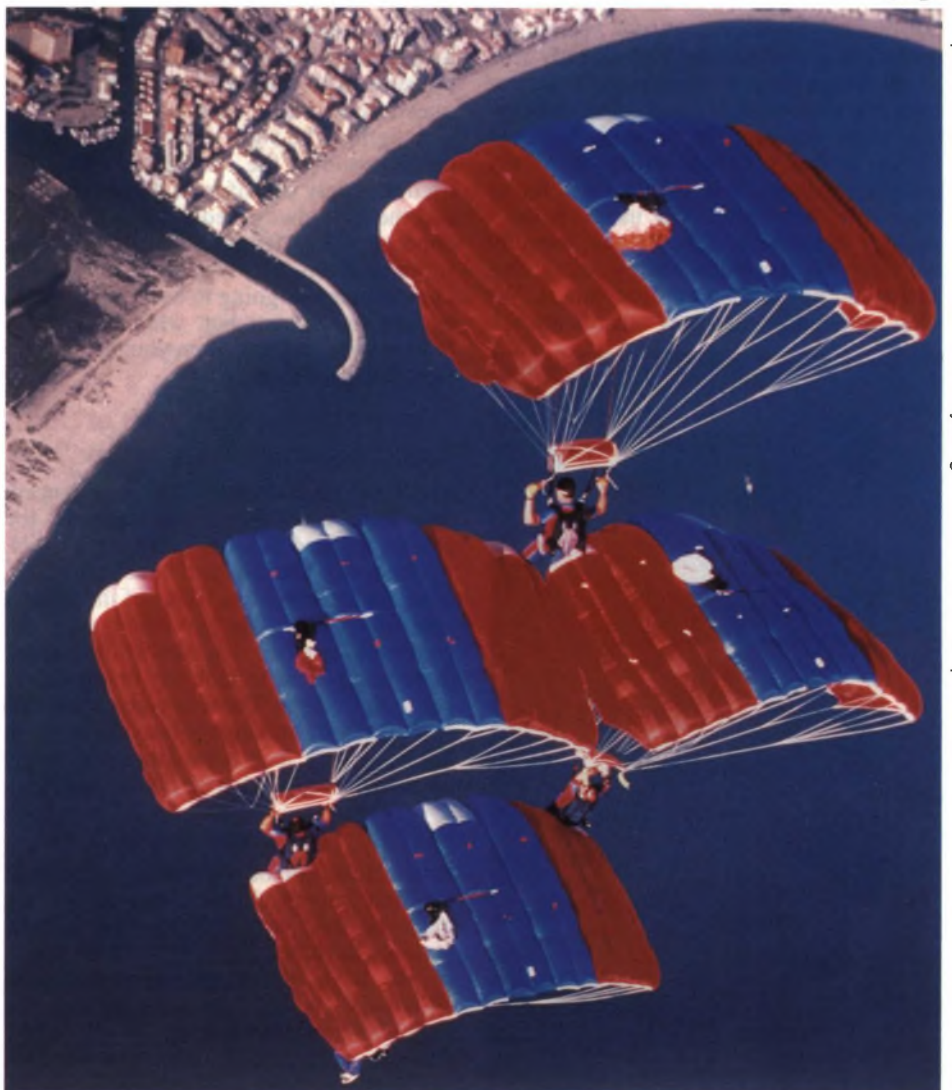


How did you get into designing canopies?

The initial interest came during my early competition days. We were always modifying the gear to improve performance. I began to design

parachutes by building fairly radical quarter scale models to test design and construction ideas. I took a few early models to my favourite rigger, Henri Pohjalainen, of the Sunshine Factory. He said I needed to talk to Mike Furry of the then Django Parachute Company. At that time most parachutes were just copies of copies with slight variations. Mike said he could tell me how to do things his way but that would cheat me of using my own instincts and innovation to teach myself – and in the process maybe I would come up with a better approach. In later years I have found that to be excellent counsel.

I next met George Galloway of Precision Aerodynamics in Oklahoma, 1986 and asked him many questions about parachute design. I returned home to Tampa, Florida to find a letter from the FAA notifying me that I had been accepted to Air Traffic Control school and was to report immediately. On the same day I received an unexpected phone call from George Galloway who offered me a job at Precision. I had a quick and monumental decision to make; either take the sure bet job with the Government or take a big risk by moving to Tennessee. Well, I am somewhat of



CF photos in this article show Bill and the US skydiving team in action over Amputrabava

 a Type A personality so I chose the adventurous route. George took me under his wing, I learned a great deal from him and owe him so much. Indirectly, George has helped me to win World Championships, to learn the parachute business and most importantly to meet my wife who is the mother of my wonderful son.

How did you arrive at the AR-7 canopy design?

The predecessor to the AR-7 was actually a design I made for the Indonesian Army team a year earlier. While training them in Perris Valley, one of their members was nearly strangled to death during a canopy wrap because the risers would not release on the old gear they were using. That experience had a profound influence on my thinking about parachute equipment. I designed and built special canopies small enough for their light weight and arranged for new, properly fitting rigs and reserves. I asked the *Quantum Leap* team, who I was also training, to evaluate the canopies for me because of their light weights – ultimately that led to the AR-7.

What do you get out of running your own company?

Lots more headaches and ulcers!

Seriously, I have always been an excruciating perfectionist and the only way to get things done to my standards was to form my own company and select only the best team members for the staff. Business for me is just a natural extension of my competition years. It is really a lot of fun to work for Aerodyne. We use the team analogy a lot here. We see our monthly number of Triathlon sales as being analogous to points scored on jumps. We keep score and, when new records are set,



we all get that same rush as breaking new ground on a competition team.

Why were you working on the 7-cell Triathlon when the other manufacturers were designing 9-cells?

I have never identified with the Lemming Syndrome. I know from experience that to be successful in any endeavour means questioning the existing models or paradigms. The right choice is frequently the opposite of the established ideal. We tried a variety of different design theories and the trail always led back to the 7-cell concept. The Triathlon prototype was superior from the very first jump. We knew that it was going to be tough to swim against the current but, when you really believe in something, then you just have to fight the good fight.

How much do you look at other manufacturer's parachutes?

The Triathlon is a completely new concept that flew squarely in the face of the established leaders upon its release in 1994. As such, we certainly could not look to any other manufacturer for tricks of the trade. I approach canopy design much as I did competition: when you are in first place there is nowhere to look for improvement but straight ahead. Those manufacturers that specialise in imitation always come up losers. I think it is a lot more fun to get creative than to just knock off the other guy.

Will you ever make ellipticals?

Bruce Hunt, one of our design sages, built the first known elliptical parachute way back in the early 1980's and several variants have been built here since then – so we have plenty of experience with ellipticals. To date, we have rejected the elliptical concept because of the safety considerations and the questionable

performance increase. For a real eye-opener, take two jumpers of the same weight and put one on a Stiletto and one on a Triathlon of the same size and fly the canopies side by side. You will see that the Triathlon has slightly more forward speed and a better glide. What does that tell you? "Elliptical" has become synonymous with "cool" in this sport. You must ask yourself if paying that price to be cool is worth the trade-offs.

Could manufacturers give more accurate wing loading figures?

It is nearly impossible to make a blanket assessment of the abilities and needs of so many diverse individuals. Each jumper presents a unique combination of requirements for optimum canopy loading. How many jumps does that individual have? Where do they jump, at high or low altitude? Do they have any previous injuries? I think you get the point.

We create our wing loading tables to serve approximately 70-80% of the jumpers. There are 10-15% of jumpers who fall on the more conservative side (for example, an elderly jumper with a history of injuries) and 10-15% who fall on the higher performance side (for example, teams or highly experienced jumpers who choose race car performance as a matter of taste). It is important to allow the jumper to try the canopy and find out what is right for them.

Will the trend to smaller canopies continue?

All things in this sport, as in life, come in cycles. I can tell you that in the last year we have seen a huge shift away from tiny, dangerous parachutes toward more conservative wing loading. So many



people have been seriously injured or killed while landing that the momentum has finally begun to shift. Unfortunately, skydiving is an image sport and most people want to be perceived as "cool". We are all seeing the disastrous consequences of this desire. Now, thankfully, those loud-mouthed DZ bullies that try to bash impressionable young jumpers into tempting the Reaper have finally been discredited. This is a happy development for me because it tears my heart out to read about the young father who hook turns himself to death in front of his onlooking family. It is such a senseless waste. The Triathlon is my attempt to bring a little sanity back into manufacturing. I am gratified to see other manufacturers beginning to follow our lead.

What are your views on the fall in popularity of CF?

Most of the senior staff at AR come from a competition CF background and so our hearts have always been with this area. We feel we have done a lot for the future of CF by reintroducing the high-performance 7-cell concept. We realised, long ago, that the 9-cell and radical ellipticals were rapidly taking away the opportunity for new jumpers to become easily exposed to CF because their personal canopies were unsuitable. We have stealthily brought back CF-ready canopies to the mainstream, so the future of that event now looks much brighter than it did a few years ago.

How did you see SkyTribe develop through your coaching?

SkyTribe are one of my favourite CF teams of all time. I just get a grin thinking about the constant stream of practical jokes and wisecracks from those guys. I am very proud to have been their coach and see the amazing development borne by their very hard work to become a team of international calibre. I never had any doubt that they would win the Nationals and set British records. *SkyTribe* team members ask questions and put the answers to good use. Not all teams have that attribute.

My heritage is one of mainly English descent and as such I feel closely tied to the country. I remember having a talk with the team about confidence in their abilities and I reminded them that their ancestors established the greatest empire ever known. The English people are proud conquerors and excellent warriors and that it was their destiny to duplicate that legacy. I saw the lights come on in their eyes and knew then they were going to be tough to beat. If *SkyTribe* continues to practice hard and to believe in themselves, they have all the tools to become World Champions.

Are mental or technical skills more important?

Both are equally important. You can have all the technical talent and ability in the



world but if you lack confidence and discipline, then it is impossible to excel.

What are the secrets of success when competing?

Spend some real time setting a real goal. Identify who the real expert is in a field; seek that person's advice to attain your goal; ignore conflicting advice from lessors. It will not be easy to find that real expert. Usually the first name that comes to mind is not really the one. When you finally find that wise sage and he/she speaks, listen to their every word. Try to build on their experience. Learn from their mistakes – without repeating them. Always strive for perfection, every day, every jump. Never hold back during training – competition jumps should be no different from training jumps. Retain your honour. Winning, using deceit or cheating, is hollow and pointless. Keep a light heart and enjoy every second of the journey.

What goals do you still have within skydiving?

I used to say when I was younger that I would live my life and get some real experience and when I am older and wiser, try to give some of that wisdom back to the next generation after me. I sense my role as changing toward that direction.

Who do you admire in the sport?

Wow, where do I start? Really, I admire anyone who has ever had the courage and the personal conviction to strap on a rig and make a jump. If you think about it, skydivers are all unique in that they each made that courageous decision to risk it all – to explore the rich experience of what being alive is all about.

**Bill Hazlett was talking to
Spotty Bowles**



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Classics Nationals

The British Style and Accuracy Nationals were held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow between 16 - 22 August 1997, in conjunction with the CF Nationals. It was a selection Nationals for both disciplines to choose the British Teams for next year's World Championships, so a lot was at stake



Silver Stars: back row – Alistair Macartney, Tony Hodson, Carl Williams, Terry Kelly, Jay 'Trapper' Trainell; front row – David Hix, Gareth Leonard, Craig Garbutt

Both these Nationals were due to be held at Netheravon but, due to unforeseen circumstances, Netheravon pulled out at short notice. Steve Swallow stepped in and submitted a very reasonable bid to host the Nationals. Therefore I would like to express a big 'Thank you' to Steve and Target Skysports on behalf of Competitions Committee, Council and all of the competitors. Steve had never hosted a Classics or CF Nationals before so, with little time to prepare, it was a brave decision, which could have gone horribly wrong. As you will read, in fact, the meet was a superb success. Well done everyone at Target, you have now hosted **all** the Nationals in one year at your DZ without any serious hitches, no mean achievement.

The Teams

So on to the competition. By Saturday

morning the teams had all been sorted and the draw made. The other competitors paid a great compliment to the Philishave team *H Troop* by calling their teams; *Silly Shave* (Tim and Kath Andrewes, Dave Ruffell and Brian and Helen

H Troop; much to the relief of the manifestor Kim. We also had five intermediates and four novices enter.

By the end of Sunday night six rounds of Accuracy were complete and one round of Style; a pattern was beginning to emerge. In the team event *H Troop* were leading closely followed by *Silly Shave* and *Willy Shave*. *Silver Stars* were somewhat off the pole but this was made up for by Carl

Williams who was only on 9cm, 1cm behind the leader Dave Ballard after six rounds. This is a very high standard of jumping when you consider the new size disc is **only 3cms**. Believe me this is a very small target!

The intermediate competition had also captured everyone's attention with the emergence of a new star. Daniel Ng (pronounced Nug) who was on a total of 40cms after six rounds – some 9 metres



Novice Accuracy Champion
David Hix



Intermediate Overall Champion
Pauline Chandler



Intermediate Accuracy Champion
Daniel Ng

Shaw); *Willy Shave* (Esther Reynolds, Ian Marshall, Nicky Johnston, Ian Markham and Glen Stephenson) and *Wanna Shave* (the *Silver Stars* team, who later reverted to their original name). However the Philishave team's name is actually



Womens Overall Champion: Esther Reynolds



Mens Accuracy: Tim Andrewes (2nd), Carl Williams (1st), Dave Ballard (3rd)

ahead of his nearest challengers Michael Cain and Pauline Chandler. Indeed, Daniel was performing better than some seniors at this stage.

Female Accuracy

In the female competition those old campaigners Esther Reynolds and Cheryl Smyth were battling it out with 11cms and 17cms respectively, again a very high standard of scoring.

Tuesday night saw the competition complete and four rounds of Style. On route to this, round 7 proved to be the turning point of the competition. Not to put too fine a point on it, *H Troop* had an absolute disaster with four members scoring 14cms or more. They did not recover from this in the team event and it completely changed the face of the individual event, both in the male and female competitions. So, by the end of round 8 in the team event, *Silly Shave* had totalled 1.25 metres with *H Troop* on 1.35

Accuracy

metres and *Willy Shave* on 1.61 metres. *Silver Stars* came fourth with 2.63 metres.

The final and semi-final made no significant changes to the individual placings after the round 7 shuffle. So, in the female event, Esther Reynolds came first with a total of 21cms over the ten rounds. Superb scoring on the 3cm disc and placing her second when combined with the men. Well done indeed Esther. Second came Kath Andrewes with 44cms,

narrowly beating Cheryl Smyth into third with her 45cms; it can't get much closer than that!

Male Accuracy

In the men's competition Dave Ballard maintained his third place after the 'Round 7 shuffle', with a total of 26cms. I must make special mention of the second place 'old campaigner' Tim Andrewes whose total of 23cms demonstrated a consistency in jumping that competitors fifteen years his junior were in awe of. Well done Tim, I don't know how you or indeed Jeff Chandler (fifth on 33cms) keep pulling these results out of the bag.

So to the winner, Carl Williams, whose total over the ten rounds was only 15cms, which included four discs. If the competition had been on the old 5cm disc pad this would have been a total of 3cm over ten rounds, quite incredible!! To put it in perspective only six other

"More important than the competition for me was the way in which I was made welcome by Hibladstow DZ, the experienced competitors and the judges. As a novice I had expected to be treated as somewhat of a second class citizen. This could not have been further from the truth."

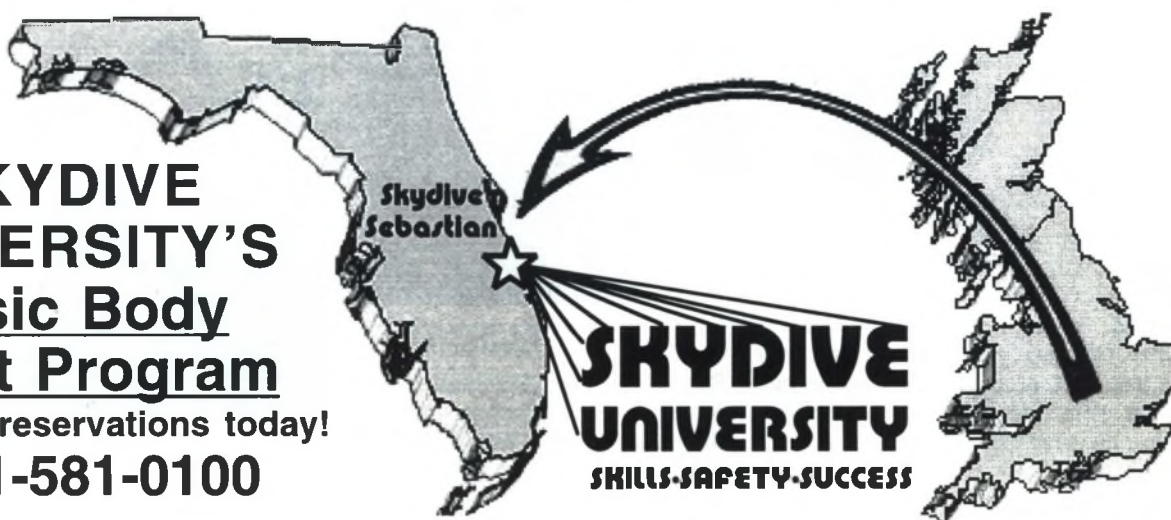
"I would find it difficult to believe that there is another sport where a newcomer is treated so well. So, if you're new to skydiving like me, I can promise that if you turn up at the Nationals next year you will come away with a stack of great memories, new friends and useful tips"

David Hix, Novice Champion

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competitors scored discs and only one each.

Before I move on to the Style I would like to make a special mention of Dave Ruffell and Ian Marshall who, along with Brain Shaw and myself, made up the lift for the semi-final and final. With little or no training both turned out creditable performances, on borrowed canopies, for two old timers in the sport. With a little training I believe Ian and Dave could be up there with Tim and Jeff; now that would be a strong POPS teams! Hope to see you both again soon on those Foils.

The Judges

By midday on Wednesday, the Style was complete and so began a marathon five hour judging stint in the black hole, to be able to call the meet and give the prizes out that evening. I think it is appropriate, at this stage to praise the judges. As the temperatures outside soared to a sticky, humid high of 80°+ they stuck doggedly to their task. All emerged with square eyes at 5pm, tired and sweaty.

I would like to thank them all, not just for their super-human efforts on Wednesday, but for the whole meet:- Jo Scott for her calmness and impartiality; Jimmy Frith for his hard work and superb sense of humour; Prof Makepeace for his technical expertise; Uncle Bob King who is one of the nicest people in our sport; and Chief Judge John (the fat controller) Hitchen, whose drive, direction and co-ordination skills kept the whole team motivated.

Style

The Style results published showed a comfortable win for Debbie Curtis in the female event despite a bad round 1, well done Debbie. Cheryl Smyth took silver and Esther Reynolds the bronze. (The old campaigners struck again.)

In the men's event, third went to Jeff Chandler (current POPS World Champion) and Dave Ballard was beaten into second place by the narrowest of margins, 0.13 of a second. Hard luck Dave, you had a very unlucky meet. So it was that Carl Williams also won the men's Style. Results speak for themselves and to achieve a double first place in the classics is a superb achievement. Well done Carl, you have an immense natural skill and talent and with relative youth on your side it bodes well for the future.

British Team

So the British Team selected for the World Meet is Cheryl Smyth, Esther

Did you know . . .

. . . that the French 4-way team *Mauberge* recently established a new World Record score of 36 points in 35 seconds working time? The record used the French rules of starting working time within five seconds of leaving the aircraft when the launched formation is broken.

Reynolds, Debbie Curtis, Helen Shaw, Kath Andrewes, Tim Andrewes, Dave Ballard, Nicky Johnston, Jeff Chandler and Carl Williams. Should the above accept the offer, they all met the criteria for funding in the Accuracy. But none met it for Style! Have we set it too high? Perhaps we should look at this again in Competitions Committee before the next selection Nationals in two years time. I would value the readers' comments please. Write to me at the BPA office.

Prizegiving

We had a combined prizegiving with the CF, Lofty doing the honours. Eddie Carroll of *Cross Keys Crew* kept us all amused, as he did all week. I personally enjoy very much combining our Nationals, I hope it continues in the future. From all of us, well done McGuinness, Spotty, Roger and Eddie the Clown. The prizegiving went without a hitch despite Lofty giving the team Cup to *H Troop* by mistake (nice slip Lofty; Kath your face was a picture).

Special Mention

I feel I must mention three special ladies and one special geezer. Trevor Dobson is without doubt a superb CCI and Meet Director. I have known many people over the years go through severe personality changes when taking on the responsibility of CCI. Trevor's helpful, easy-going calm approach was appreciated by all.

To the manifestor, Kim Newton, stuck in that caravan all day on the five hottest days of the year and managing to keep the competitors happy while maintaining Target's commercial programme. An impressive achievement.

Finally to Esther Reynolds and Cheryl Smyth, both of whom have undergone major surgery in the last few years that would have seen the end of most people's parachuting, let alone competing at the highest level. They are an example to their male and female colleagues alike and will form the backbone of the British Team. But I would say that wouldn't I!

John Smyth

Competitor and
Competitions Committee
Member

ACCURACY RESULTS

	TOTAL	PLACE
SENIOR - MALE (metres)		
Carl Williams	0.15	1
Tim Andrewes	0.23	2
Dave Ballard	0.26	3
Nicky Johnston	0.28	4
Jeff Chandler	0.33	5
Brian Shaw	0.40	6
Dave Ruffle	0.67	7
Ian Marshall	0.75	8
John Smyth	0.89	9
Tony Hodson	0.98	10
Ian Markham	1.05	11
Jay Traisnel	1.18	12
Simon Nath	1.24	13
Glenn Stephensen	1.30	14
Alastair Macartney	1.57	15

SENIOR - FEMALE

Esther Reynolds	0.21	1
Katherine Andrewes	0.44	2
Cheryl Smyth	0.45	3
Debbie Curtis	0.66	4
Helen Shaw	0.85	5
Julie Ballard	1.04	6

INTERMEDIATE

Daniel Ng	1.40	1
Michael Cain	9.36	2
Pauline Chandler	10.90	3
Gareth Leonard	18.48	4
Mick Morgan	33.72	5

NOVICE

David Hix	73.84	1
Steve Leighton	97.32	2
Craig Garbutt	158.10	3
Terry Kelly	176.83	4

STYLE RESULTS

	TOTAL	PLACE
SENIOR - MALE (seconds)		
Carl Williams	47.79	1
Dave Ballard	47.92	2
Jeff Chandler	48.87	3
Tim Andrewes	57.33	4
Alastair Macartney	60.55	5
Jay Traisnel	70.04	6
Brian Shaw	74.21	7
Tony Hodson	77.47	8
Glenn Stephenson	80.00	9

SENIOR - FEMALE

Debbie Curtis	51.18	1
Cheryl Smyth	53.73	2
Esther Reynolds	57.15	3
Katherine Andrewes	57.54	4
Julie Ballard	74.02	5
Helen Shaw	77.33	6

INTERMEDIATE

Pauline Chandler	28.78	1
Gareth Leonard	32.36	2
Michael Cain	38.12	3
Mick Morgan	withdrew	4

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REFLEX™ Features

Main Container

- Fully lined container
- Velcro free riser covers
- Unique "Sharks fin" main closure tongue
- Stainless Steel Mini 3-Rings (Optional)
- Main Deployment options:
 - Integrated BOC pocket,
 - TOP Leg strap
 - Pull-out
- 28" ZP pilot chute
 - Standard, Hill-line or Bungee
- Hockey Handle
- Custom Colors
- Main deployment bag
- Riser types
 - 1¾" Regular risers
 - 1" Regular risers
 - 1" Integrity riser
- Weight pockets (Optional)

Reserve Container

- Stainless steel ripcord handle
- 30" ZP Primary pilot chute
- Fully lined container
- Pack tray riser covers
- Reserve toggles
- Stainless steel ripcord assy.
- Approved under TSO C93d
- Single pin closure
- External pilot chute
- Molar style freebag
- Cypress Ready
- CATAPULT™ equipped
- Rigger Friendly
- RSL is standard

Harness

- Articulated or Standard
- Mini or Large rings
- Thread thru or B12
- Cutaway handle
- Deluxe leg pods
 - Standard or Narrow

Fliteline Systems, REFLEX and CATAPULT are all trademarks of Fliteline Systems, Inc.

MAX OPERATING LOAD 275LB AT 10KTS

WARNING

CONNECT THE PILOT CHUTE

30" ZP PRIMARY RESERVE PILOT CHUTE WITH 100' LEAD HIGH TENSION STRINGS

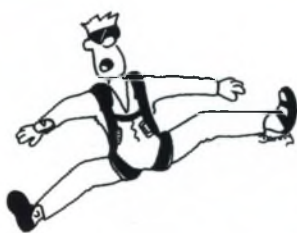
CATAPULT™

Fliteline Systems INC.

570 Central Avenue, Suite I-1
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530-2741

You have the Training, You have experience and now all you need is **REFLEX™** the modern, state of the art parachute harness/container system employing an advanced reserve deployment technology called **CATAPULT™**. This system significantly increases the effectiveness of the reserve deployment in the event of a "horseshoe" type malfunction involving the primary reserve pilot chute. For more information about about the Reflex Harness/Container system, contact your nearest Reflex dealer or Fliteline Systems direct.

4-6 Week Delivery!



Dive of the Month



Jim Stevenson

This issue's **Dive of the Month** is an old favourite from Rob Colpus. Further contributions to this column are welcome, the aims are originality and fun. Send to Sport Parachutist, 3 Burton Street, Peterborough PE1 5HA – or email: sportpara@aol.com

A Day at the Races

Forget competition, forget points, forget block moves, this is a skydive for pure fun! The idea is for two skydivers to be 'markers' and set up a 'racetrack' in mid air, around which everyone else will race. There is no prize for any winner, just a lot of laughs to be had.

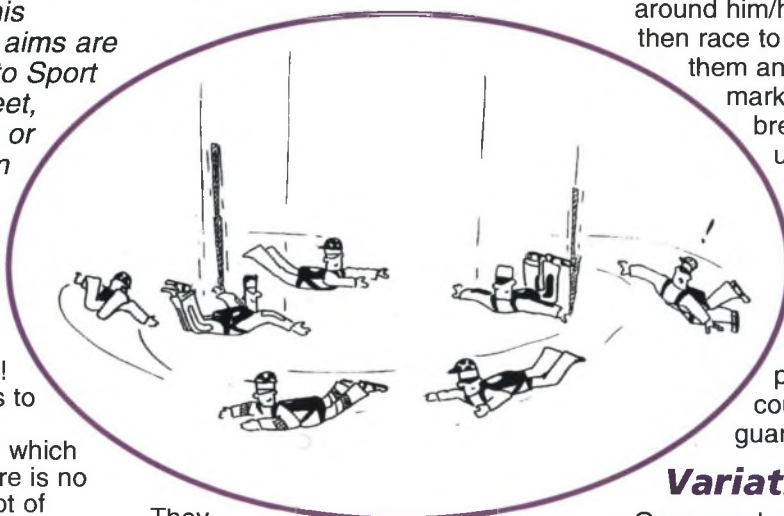
The skydive works for any number of people from six upwards. It is a great dive to do in a speed meet, always a good contender for the 'best second point' award.

The markers take up streamers tied in a slack loop around the fingers of the left hand (but **not** the thumb) and S-folded into the closed fist. The streamers can be released by just opening the fingers when required.

Puzzle

The first point is anything to get everyone into the same piece of sky to start with, be as creative as you like!

Then the two 'markers' back out of the formation till about 20 feet apart.



They start the 'race' by firing the ends of the streamers into the air. The 'cars'

(ie, everyone else) start flying towards their nearest marker, circle around him/her in a hairpin bend, then race to the next marker, around them and forward to the first marker again. Continue until break-off or until you go unstable because you are laughing so much.

Agree a direction of travel, eg clockwise. Just as around a racetrack, you can cut the corner if your skill permits or take a wide course for a more guaranteed route.

Variations

Once you have the concept, you can do anything with it that you like. For example, you can set up a more

circular track using three or even four markers. (see photo below.) People can race in a head-down position and/or sit fly alongside the flat flyers.

Safety First

It is best for the markers to release their streamers before dumping. Make sure they are made of something suitable, eg kite tails, crepe paper which can be safely released.



Gabby Meis

The photo above was taken at Exotic Sky Adventure's boogie in Madagascar. Next year's venue is Thailand, during February. For details, contact Darryl Moran on 01252 712284

Illustration: Danny Crossman

SKY SCIENCE

Welcome to Sky Science, this is a company that was started in March 1994 to provide a one stop source for all your parachute equipment, here is a brief resume of my qualifications.

BPA Advanced Rigger / Examiner, Instructor, Tandem Instructor, AFF Instructor and Relative Work Coach. I have worked as a full time rigger for over 11 years.

I have specialised in parachute equipment, not only with my BPA qualifications but also working with major canopy and container manufacturers. My aim is to give you the best service possible. If I can be of any assistance at all, then please give me a call.

Allan Hewitt

Shop

Since the beginning of April 1997 we have been running the drop zone shop on behalf of the APA. We have a large stock of all types of accessories, and we aim to increase this on a weekly basis. If you can not see what you want please let us know and we will order it.

Open every weekend



Rigging Work

We operate a full time rigging workshop to take care of all your service and repair work. We have the knowledge, the experience, the tools and we are current in all aspects of rigging work. Trying to go that extra mile to insure that your equipment gets the best service available and sound advice when needed. We deal with all types of work, from basic velcro replacement to major repairs.



Left: Complete harness replacement
Below: Reserve tray replacement



New Equipment

We have a large product range to choose from, as we are dealers for all the major canopy and container manufacturers world wide. As professionals we pride ourselves on doing business with integrity, we want to provide you with the absolute best equipment for your given skill level, type of jumping and of course budget.

We are not high pressure sales people, we believe in giving you the information necessary to make an educated decision on what gear is best suited to you. Compare our prices, including prices quoted from abroad even when you think your getting a good deal, and find out how much of a good deal you can really get.

Our after sales service is just as important as the sale itself, we aim to prevent any after sale problems based on experience, we can prevent the pit falls before they occur.

Work with us and I am sure we can provide the best real deal available. Visit our shop and ask for a price list.

Used Equipment

We have a stock of used gear for sale and each one will undergo a thorough inspection before we sell it.

Buying used gear and not knowing the pitfalls has proven to be expensive for many skydivers, now you can buy used gear with confidence and have peace of mind.

Pick up a used kit stock list from the shop.

Reserve Repacks

Parachute equipment has become more sophisticated in both the technical and cosmetic sense, reserve packing has become more specialised, the inspection of your reserve and container requires a considerable level of background knowledge and experience. It is essential that reserve packers stay current and up to date. We are very current, with over 300 reserves packed each year, all are checked against over 900 safety notices that we hold on file.

Book your next reserve repack with Sky Science.

Everything you need from one UK Source!



Custom Equipment

We can supply custom equipment with canopy artwork supplied, giant display flags, free-fall flags and much more for all your sponsorship deals.

Contact us for more information to impress your potential sponsor.

Design Work

We can help design, build and test all types of equipment whether its for a particular job or to assist with instructional techniques.

Now stocking
Symbiosis Suits -

**TOP SUITS
TOP PRICES!**

SKY SCIENCE



Jumpsuits

Tony Suit, the worlds no. 1 Jumpsuit

For 17 years, the undisputed leading innovators in our sport.

Wear an original. Go Fly!

Visit our shop and check out the stock jumpsuits or pick up the custom colour order details and get helpful advice on the type of suit that's best for you.

The most advanced AAD technology on this planet



During the 4 year development of CYPRES, many theoretical extreme freefall maneuvers were considered. Today these maneuvers are reality - for Sean, Omar - and CYPRES.

Sean MacCormac & Omar Alhegelan
Live jump during Space Shuttle Columbia
launch on April 4, 1997
Photo by Brian Erler

AIRTEC

Mittelstrasse 69
D-33181 Wünnenberg

Tel. +49 2953 8010
Fax +49 2953 1293



Freeflight University & Surf Flite Training Center at Skydive Space Center train with CYPRES.

Equipment, Incident & Confidential Reports

UNWANTED AAD FIRES

Description: There have been several reports throughout the season of Automatic Activation Devices (AADs) firing. One was sent back to the manufacturer following a fault on the ground. It was found to be a unique error, ie, the only time the error had ever occurred. One fired whilst the main (square) canopy was in the second of two 360° turns. Another fired at altitude whilst the jumper was at terminal velocity, several thousand feet too high.



Conclusions: There are no patterns and trends in these reports as such, other than the fact that no one was injured as a result of the firings and that in all cases the units were returned to either manufacturers or maintenance facilities for inspection.

Recommendations: It is important to remember some key points about AAD operation. First and foremost they are a back-up only. Just like airbags and safety belts, from time to time they will not perform as expected. The manufacturers must be informed of any situation where their product does something unexpected, so that they can spot any patterns of events which could indicate something more serious.

Secondly, AADs must be handled as per their operating instructions. For example all FXCs in this country should be 'J' modified by now. If they aren't, you're breaking regulations. The student Cypres has two firing descent rates, one of them is 43 feet per

second (the other is 115 feet per second). The Cypres doesn't know that you've put it in a student piggyback system. It will just do its job if you descend faster than that rate through the firing altitude. Even a docile student square can exceed 43 feet per second after a couple of turns. All of this information can be found in the users manual. The axiom RTFM (Read the Manual) applies here.

UNWANTED OPENINGS

Description: We have had a couple of reports of mains prematurely deploying during sit flying. The situations seem to be caused by the bridle line flapping and pulling the pin. One report was on a ROL (Rear of Legstrap) system and the other was on a BOC (the BOC had previously been converted from a pullout).

Conclusions: Both the above jumpers were lucky, either one could have turned in to a horseshoe type malfunction or even worse they could have deployed while the jumper was back to earth during a freestyle movement.

Recommendations: Have a rigger inspect your system and let him know you are doing freestyle or freeflying, a system which is acceptable for use during stable flight (face to earth) may require modifying to be appropriate for this type of discipline. Pay particular attention to deployment systems converted from the initial manufacturers set-up. Experienced freeflyers suggest it is unwise to sit or free fly with a legstrap throwaway.

ODD LENGTH LINES

Description: After nearly a year of use a jumper decided to query a problem with the main at the next repack. He asked a rigger to see if he could see anything wrong with the canopy, as it had always been very hard to pack. There did not appear to be anything wrong with its performance. The rigger instantly saw the problem. One C line was a

"staggering" 27 inches longer than the others. On another occasion the lines attached to the canopy had no stitching on them and over a period of time the lines gradually became longer as they slipped out of the finger trapping causing the canopy to have a bad line trim.

Conclusions: The first canopy must have been very hard to pack, and would almost certainly have flown with one line trailing slack all the time. The second canopy was a company test canopy and was not inspected and cleared to be used. It is remarkable that these incidents did not become malfunction reports and the question which begs to be answered is - Who rigged these canopies up in the first place?

Recommendations: When assembling a piece of kit remember that the inspection is just as important as the correct assembly, this does not just mean just attaching the canopy to risers and saying it's good to go. When you first examine a canopy, inspect it for any manufacturing faults and after that it's just a matter of concentrating on the general wear and tear and any accidental damage.

Are you sure **your** system has been assembled and inspected correctly?

PILOT CHUTES IN TOW

Description: We have had a few reports of pilot chutes in tow this month and all resulted in cutaways.



Conclusions: Two of the jumpers believe that the pilot chute was restricted from deploying due to either the bridle line being caught on one of the main container side flaps or part of the bridle wrapping around the pilot chute material during the deployment, both these were on throwaway systems. Two more jumpers believed that their pullout deployment pilot chutes had been caught in the burble when releasing. One of these had a length of bridle line that when

the base mounted pin pull was pulled straight out as far as the arm could reach, the actual pilot chute did not come past the body frame. Two of these reports also had very worn pilot chutes.

Recommendations: The problem with these types of incidents is that there are many varied solutions. Aim to prevent this type of malfunction by paying attention to the pilot chute age, condition and the correct routing of the bridle line. Discuss the methods used for packing the pilot chutes with as many jumpers as you can, you may find that some make more sense than others.

PATCHES R US

Description: During a routine reserve inspection and repack, a rigger found a damaged reserve pilot chute that had been repaired with ripstop sticky tape (two patches), a damaged free bag which had also been repaired with ripstop sticky tape (three patches) and the canopy itself was also damaged and repaired with ripstop sticky tape (one patch). This system was converted from a round reserve to a square reserve. However, there is no record of who had done the work.

Conclusion: All this damage was probably caused by bad packing techniques and the repairs were certainly not acceptable. This was the first time the owner had it repacked by a rigger as he normally does the repacks himself; the repairs have been on the system since he first started packing it.

Recommendations: This situation may have been acceptable many years ago; however the sport is progressing very fast and keeping up to date is a full time task. Consulting a rigger every now and then may be the answer here.

Allan Hewitt

Confidential Reporting

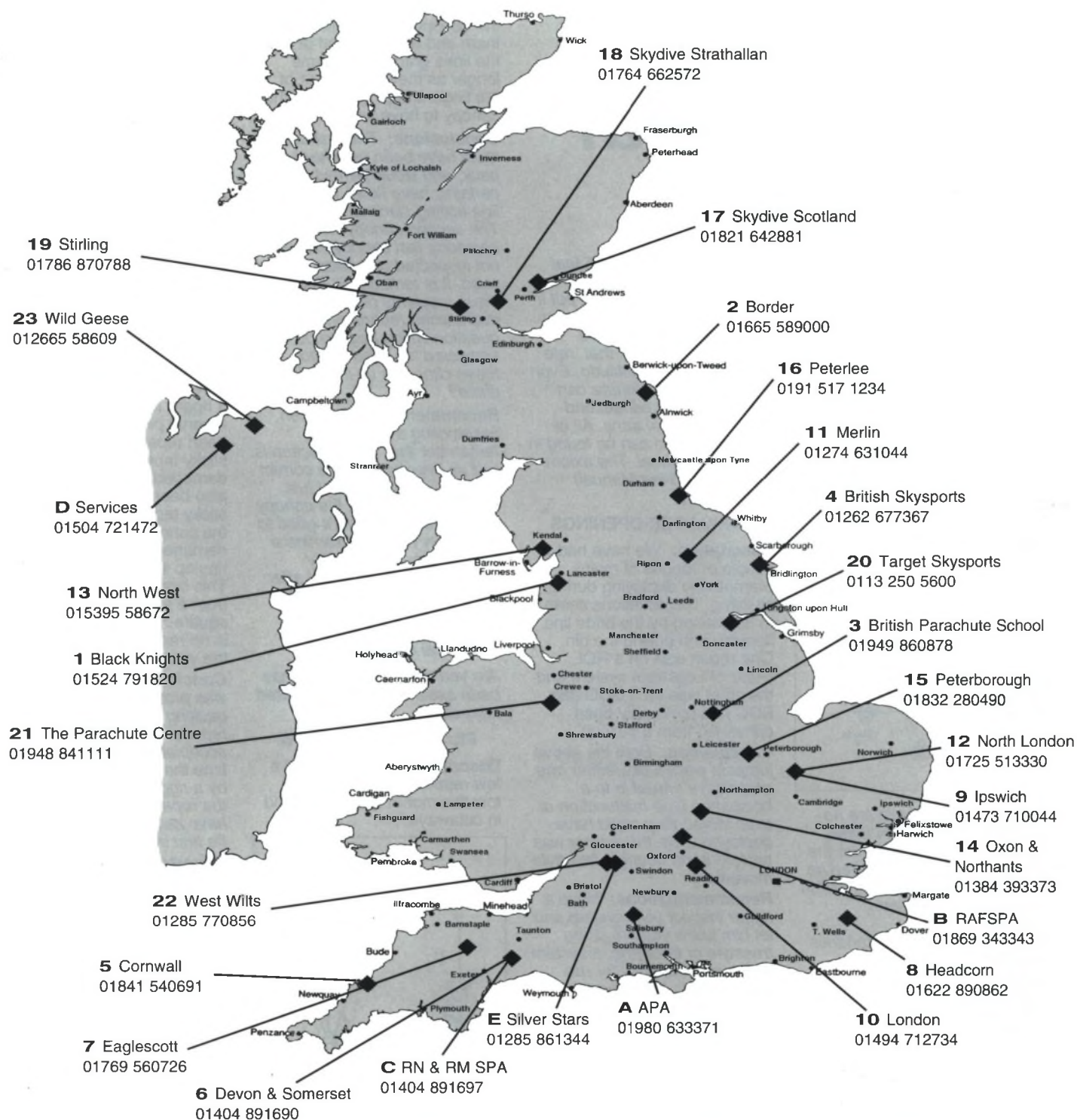
If you have any safety related occurrences you would like to report IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE, write to:

Confidential Report,
Allan Hewitt,
103 Grosvenor Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 3EE.

Tel: 01252 27412
Fax: 01252 350 377

E-mail:
100770.402@compuserve.com

BPA AFFILIATED DROP ZONES



The map shows **BPA Affiliated drop zones** in the UK which are all run under the BPA Operations Manual. Numbers 1 - 24 refer to civilian BPA Affiliated drop zones (listed to the right). Letters A - F refer to military BPA Affiliated drop zones (listed overleaf).

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- opening hours
- First jump courses offered**
- static line round courses
- RAPS courses (square parachutes)
- AFF** - AFF courses
- tandem
- Skydiving offered**
- aircraft type

- LO** - load organisers
- FS** - formation skydiving coaching
- CF** - canopy formation coaching
- FF** - freeflying coaching
- AC** - accuracy coaching
- WP** - WARP coaching
- SU** - Skydive U coaching
- Facilities available on the drop zone**
- rigging facilities
- video room

- parachute equipment shop
- canteen
- evening food
- bar
- bunkhouse
- camping welcome
- caravans welcome
- showers

1 Black Knights Parachute Centre
Patty's Farm, Hilliam Lane,
Cockerham, Nr Lancaster
Tel: W/end 01524 791820 or 0151 924 5560
Weekends, bank holidays 8am - 8pm

Cessna 182
CF AC WP < > < > < > < >

2 Border Parachute Centre
Brunton Airfield, Chathill,
Northumberland NE67 5ER
Tel: 01665 589000 Fax: 01665 721053
B&B, camping, bars locally. Beach jumps and barbecues
in summer. Scenic views!
Fri pm, weekends 9am - dark, weekdays by arrangement
AFF
Cessna 207 & 206, Islander on call
FS AC WP < > < >

3 British Parachute Schools
The Control Tower, Langar Airfield,
Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY
Tel/Fax: 01949 860878/860882
Friendly helpful staff. We are here to help you skydive.
Turbines go to 13,000 ft!
Every day 9am to 10pm (or dark), 10am start Sunday
AFF
Porter, Islander & Cessna 206, Turbolet (summer)
LO FS FF WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

4 British Skysports, Bridlington
East Leys Farm, Grindale, Bridlington,
East Yorkshire YO16 4YB
Tel: 01262 677367 / 0836 276188
Fax: 01262 401871
Small friendly club atmosphere. Visitors and spectators
welcome.
Every day 8am - 8pm
AFF
Cessna 206, Islander
LO FS CF AC WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

5 Cornwall Parachute Club
Frans Ranch, Old Naval Airfield,
St Merryn, Cornwall
Tel: 01841 540691
Weekend 8am - dark, Wed & Fri (summer)
Cessna 182
FS WP SU < > < >

6 Devon & Somerset Parachute School
30 Tower Way, Highfield,
Dunkeswell, Nr Honiton, Devon
Tel: 01404 891690
Local accommodation available
9am - dark, Wed - Sun
AFF
< > < >

7 Eaglescott Parachute Centre
Eaglescott Airfield, Ashreigney,
Chumleigh, Devon EX18 7PH
Tel: 01769 560726 / 01769 520552
Fax: 01769 560726
Weekends 9am - 9pm. Friday courses available
Cessna 180
FS AC WP < > < > < > < >

8 Headcorn Parachute Centre
Headcorn Aerodrome,
Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX
Tel: 01622 890862 Fax: 01622 890641
Progression weeks, competitions, organised jollies.
Every day 9am - dark
2 x Islanders
AFF
AC WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

9 Ipswich Parachute Centre
Ipswich Airport, Nacton Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QF
Tel: 01473 710044 Fax: 01473 271055
Currently operating out of North London Parachute
Centre. Excellent rigging facility still open.

10 London Parachute School
53 Columbine Road, Widmer End,
High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6BS
Tel/Fax: 01494 712734
Small but friendly club. Catering for complete begin-
ners to experienced skydivers.
Weekends 8am - dark
Islander, Cessna 206
WP < > < >

11 Merlin Parachute Centre
Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe,
Near Thirsk, North Yorkshire
Tel: Weekdays 01274 631044
Any day 01748 875367
Friendly atmosphere, bring two passport photos for
camp pass. Camping, B&B close to airfield at local
pub.
Weekends and bank holidays 9am - dark
AFF
Islander
FS CF AC < >

12 North London Parachute Centre Ltd
Chatteris Airfield, Manea
March Cambs PE15 0EA
Tel: Office 01725 513330
Airfield 01354 740810
Fax: 01725 510690
Airfield is owned by the parachute centre. Large indoor
packing area. Unrestricted altitude, full planning
permission.
Fri pm, weekends 9am - 8.30pm, weekdays by arrangement
AFF
Islander
LO FS CF WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

13 North West Parachute Centre
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh,
Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
Tel: Airfield 015395 58672/58555
Weekdays 01772 720848
fabulous lakeland scenery, visitors welcome.
Weekends and bank holidays
Islander
LO FS CF AC WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

14 Oxon & Northants Parachute Centre
Hinton-in-the-Hedges Airfield, Steane,
Nr Brackley, Northants NN13 5NS
Tel: 01384 393373 Mobile: 0850 762349
Friendly atmosphere, visitors welcome, good local pub.
Weekends, midweek by arrangement during summer.
Cessna 182 and 206

15 Peterborough Parachute Centre
Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280490 Fax: 01832 280409
Birdland Bar: 01832 280404
PPC boasts 27 years of experience in running a safe,
fun drop zone. Skydive Sibson!
8am - 8pm, Tue - Sun(summer), Wed - Sun(winter)
AFF
Islander, Cessna 206, Turbolet (summer)
LO FS FF WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

16 Peterlee Parachute Centre
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery,
Peterlee, Co Durham DH6 2NF
Tel: DZ 0191 517 1234

Tel/Fax: Office 0191 386 5261
E-mail: skydiveamy@aol.com
www.members.aol.com/skydiveamy/index.htm
AFF, tandem and video available through Skydive
Academy Ltd. B&B locally from £12.50.
Every day 8.30am to 8.30 pm (phone Mon,Tue,Thur)
AFF
Cessna 182
FS CF WP < > < > < > < >

17 Skydive Scotland
The Parachute Centre,
Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol PH2 7TB
Tel: 01821 642673
Fax: 01821 642004
Friendly, fun centre with emphasis on safety.
Fri - Sun
AFF
Islander, Cessna 207
CF WP AC < > < > < > < >

18 Skydive Strathallian
Strathallian Airfield,
Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA
Tel: Mobile 0374 686161
Weekend 01764 662572
A club run by the members for the members with the
lowest possible costs.
Fri 5pm - 9pm, weekends 9am - 9p
AFF
Islander, 2 x Cessna 206
FS WP < > < > < > < >

19 Stirling Parachute Centre
Thornhill, Nr Stirling,
Scotland FK8 3QT
Tel: 01786 870788 Fax: 01786 870748
E-mail: parajump@aol.com
Weekends 9.30am - 9pm, sometimes midweek
PA-32, Cherokee 6
LO FS CF WP < > < > < > < >

20 Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, North Lincolnshire
Tel: 0113 250 5600 or 01652 648837 DZ
Fax: 0113 250 5600
Competitive jump prices, unrestricted altitude, friendly
atmosphere, everyone welcome.
9am - 9pm every day (summer), Wed - Sun (winter)
AFF
2 x Dornier, Cessna 206
LO FS WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

21 The Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch,
Shropshire SY13 2HA
Tel: 01948 841111 Fax: 01948 840638
E-mail: skydive@tilstock.demon.co.uk
www.tilstock.demon.co.uk
Friendly atmosphere, everybody is welcome. No
Sunday operation due to local planning restrictions.
Sat 8.30am - dark, Fri 2pm - dark (summer)
AFF
2 x Cessna 206
LO FS CF AC WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

22 West Wilts Parachute Club
Kemble Airfield,
Cirencester, Gloucester GL7 6BA
Tel: 01285 770856

23 Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road,
Garvagh, Coleraine,
Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
Tel: 012665 58609 Fax: 012665 57050
Every day 8am - dark
Cessna 206, Porter
CF WP < > < > < > < > < > < >

BPA ORGANISATIONS

AFFILIATED MILITARY DROP ZONES

A ARMY PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

The Commandant, JSPC
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury
Wilts. SP4 9SF
Tel: Bulford Camp 01980 633371
Tel: ext Commandant 8245
Chief Instructor 8229 Staff 8277

B RAFSPA & RAFSPA Hawks Parachute Team

JSPC (W) RAF Weston-on-the-Green,
Nr Bicester, Oxon OX6 8TQ
Tel: 01869 343343/343201
Fax: 01869 343676

C RN & RM SPA

Dunkeswell Airfield,
Dunkeswell,
Honiton, Devon
Tel: 01404 891697/891716

D SERVICES PARACHUTE CENTRE

Shackleton Barracks,
BFPO 802,
Tel: 01504 - 721472 Fax: 01504 - 721342
Mobile: 0802 - 328755
E-mail: SPC NI@aol.com

E SILVER STARS PARACHUTE TEAM

Duke of Gloucester Barracks,
South Cerney,
Cirencester, Gloucester GL5 5RD
Tel: 01285 861344
01285 860551 x8259

FOREIGN MILITARY AFFILIATED DROP ZONES

CYPRUS COMBINED SERVICES PARACHUTE CLUB (CCSPC)

Contact: Club CCI,
CJSATC Pergamos Camp, BFPO 58
Tel (from the UK):
Office 00 357 47 44337
Drop Zone 00 357 47 44245

HONG KONG PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

c/o JSPC (HK),
Borneo Lines, Shek Kong, BFPO 1
Hong Kong,
CCI: Mr. Gary Lai
Tel: 00 852 2488 5447
Fax: 00 852 2488 9341

RAPA JSPC(L)

(Rhine Army Parachute Association)
Flugplatz, 33175 Bad Lippspringe,
Germany, British Forces Post Office 16
Tel: 00 49 5254 98 2378 or 98 2740
Fax: 00 49 5254 98 2740

ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

The organisations listed below, when operating at a BPA Affiliated Centre, are run under the requirements of the BPA operations manual. The BPA takes no responsibility for training or advice given by those organisations when operating at non affiliated centres.

AIRWAVES

43 Baldwyns Road,
Bexley, Kent DA5 2AB
Tel/Fax: 01322 557375 Mobile: 0802 472566
E-mail: src13xxi@airwaves.source.co.uk
Operated by Rod Bartholomew with 17 years experience
BPA AFF, RAPS, tandem and FS instructor/coach rated.
Offers professional/personal skydiving package holidays at
the best Florida (Sebastian), French (Soulac + La Roche)
and UK drop zones using highest quality equipment. RAPS
progression and course conversions available at our French
resorts. Individuals, groups and families welcome.

BRITISH COLLEGIATE PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION

c/o Jason Brister - Chairman,
77 Trafford Road, Eccles,
Salford, Greater Manchester M30 0JT
Tel: 0161 707 0583/0973 378024
E-mail: jason@bcpa.u-net.com
Affiliations: Bristol University, Exeter University, Lancaster
University, Loughborough University, Newcastle University,
Nottingham University, University College of St. Martin,
University of East Anglia, University of Plymouth, University
of Portsmouth, University of Sheffield, University of St.
Andrews, University of Surrey, University of Sussex,
University West of England, Warwick University.

COTSWOLD SKYDIVING CENTRE

Hangar SE15, Gloucester Airport,
Staverton, Gloucester GL51 5SR
Tel: 01452 713410 Mobile: 0468 887277
Fax: 01452 854029
Static line, RAPS courses arranged. Come train and
jump in the Gloucestershire countryside. A smile and a
warm welcome awaits you.

EAST COAST PARACHUTE CENTRE

8 Burns Crescent,
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0TS
Tel: 01245 268772
Currently sharing facilities with the London Parachute
School at Lewknor drop zone.

THE FREE-FALL COMPANY

Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280055 Fax: 01832 280409
Mobile: 0468 278663
E-mail: freefalluk@aol.com
http://members.aol.com/freefalluk
Operated by Kevin McCarthy, National Champion with
over 4,500 jumps, 15 years experience. Probably the largest
AFF school in the UK. State of the art equipment and
professional, personalised training gives you safe, rapid
progression to Category 10 and beyond! Courses available
all year, in the UK or the Costa Brava. Flexible payment to
suit YOU!

MANCHESTER PARACHUTE SCHOOL

23 Heywood Gardens,
Prestwich, Manchester M25 1FW
Contact: Chris Miller
Tel: 0161 798 6895 Mobile: 0370 575621
E-mail: chris.miller@zetnet.co.uk
Based in Stockport, Manchester with 2,000 sq ft of full
time, fully equipped premises for the teaching of RAPS
courses (Ram Air Progression System). We also offer
tandem jumps and AFF courses. Train weekdays or
midweek evenings, jump at weekend. Presently running in
conjunction with Target Skysports, Hibaldstow.

NATURAL BORN THRILLERS

10 Wetherby Gardens, Charlton,
Andover, Hants SP10 4DH
Contact: David Cassidy
Tel/Fax: 01264 335636 Mobile: 0410 907512
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Letters



SQUARE ON SQUARE

Dear Lesley

I thought you'd like to know about what happened to me during my first boogie in the Czech Republic.

Having dumped at 2,500ft as usual, I was quite happily coming down when suddenly at about 600ft the reserve popped! By the time I'd felt it and looked up, the reserve canopy was fully inflated right behind the main. As I was so low and felt comfortable with it I decided not to cut away and risk them getting tangled. As I was over the centre of the DZ there was no need to steer anyway, so I landed them without flaring. I also didn't touch the reserve steering

toggles. I had a pretty soft landing considering.

I'd like to say thanks because, due to the article on this subject in the last BPA Magazine, I knew what to do and what not to do.

The verdict was that the pin must have got knocked in the plane, so I'm now extra cautious about getting checked and rechecked in the plane before exiting!

I'd just like to add what an excellent time I had at the Czech Boogie in the beautiful Karlovy Vary. Lots of skydiving and very cheap beer! I'm sure everyone who was there would agree with me!

Yours faithfully,
Susie Hayne
B11207

I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT

Dear Editor,

Rack up another one for Cypres. Being an accomplished and experienced skydiver I know the value of having a Cypres. Unfortunately it is not always easy to explain this importance to everyone else. However, the other day I witnessed something I had never seen before in my tenure in the sport which I think should help in raising this awareness level.

It started off with an attempted 20-way from formation Cessna Caravans. At break-off time two local skydivers started to track off in the same direction. The lower of the two pulled and the other skydiver proceeded to go through his lines. The collision rendered the lower guy unconscious and spinning under a parachute connected only by his right risers. Both of the left sets of lines had been severed all the way through! Those of us on the ground started yelling for him to "CUT AWAY, CUT AWAY, CUT AWAY!", not knowing that he was unable to hear our pleas. As we watched

him fall toward the ground under a streamering jumble of lines and fabric, my heart fell to my stomach as I thought all hope was lost.

As I was about to turn away, **BANG!**, out came his reserve parachute. It cleared the streamering main and bloomed into a wonderful flower of life that slowed his descent to the ground. I've heard stories like this before, but I never would have believed it if I didn't see it with my own eyes.

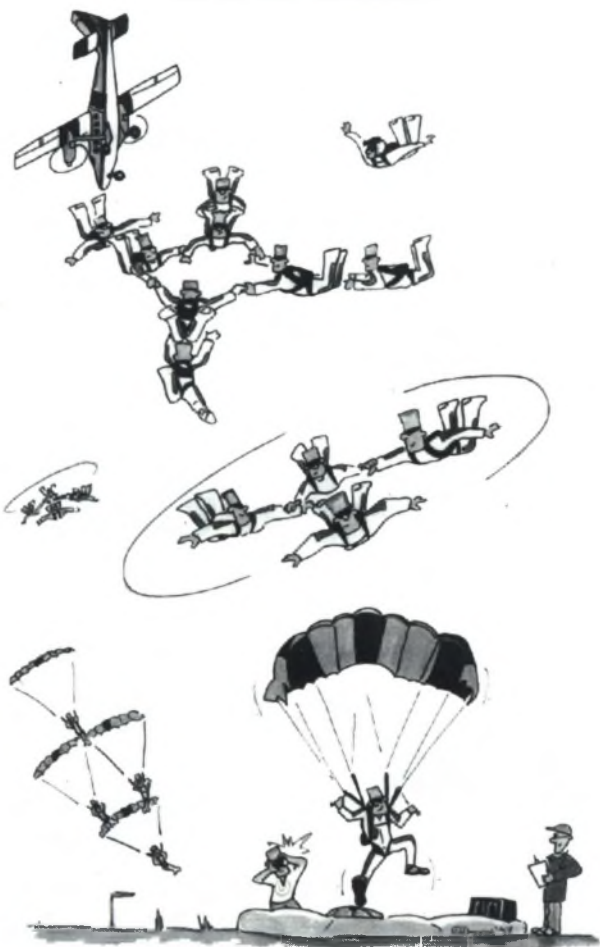
Fortunately for this local jumper and friend he had bought a Cypres only four weeks prior to this mishap. Without it, this day would have surely resulted in another tragedy.

This incident only reinforces my strong trust and faith in Cypres. I strongly advocate the use of one for everyone – after all, isn't your life worth it, no matter what the cost?

Best Regards and Happy Landings,

Omar Alhegellan
1996 Freestyle World Cup
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Going, Going - Gong! Gong! Gong!



Danny Crossman

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NOTE:

We recommend that all readers purchasing parachute equipment (old and new) take advice from a BPA Instructor or Rigger

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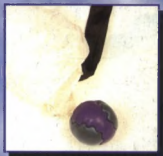
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