

skydive

The Mag

October 2003



VMax World Champions

The British Parachute
Association Magazine



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 21-30 - Thanksgiving Boogie (35th anniversary) & Turkey Meet
Derek Thomas is organizing for the whole week & captaining teams in the competition events.
- 21-23 - Boxman & Derek Thomas Big Way Camp for 140 Ways in April '04. FMI: boxorg@aol.com
- 27th - 10 Way Speed, traditional Thanksgiving dinner
- 27th - Freefly four way speed practice day hosted by Colon & Total Body Pilot. FMI: www.totalbodypilot.com or totalbp@hotmail.com
- 28th - (Fri) 8 Way FS Meet
- 29th - (Sat) 16 Way FS Meet, party night, band & dinner
- 29-30 - Freefly Four way Speed "Scrambles" competition
4 Rds. Saturday, 4 Rds. Sunday. \$30.00 registration fee goes toward prize money. That's \$120.00/team.
- 24-25 - USPA Coach Course - limited seats but a few slots are available if you contact Bram Clement at bramclement@earthlink.net
- 26-30 - AFF Certification Pre-Course - get ramped up for the USPA AFF Certification Course next week
FMI: bramclement@earthlink.net

DECEMBER

- 1-8 - USPA AFF Certification Course. Get your Instructor rating in time for next season. A truly great Instructor program for aspiring staff members bramclement@earthlink.net
- 15-19 - Strong Tandem Certification Course
FMI: jc@tandeminstructors.com
- 19-Jan 4 - Christmas Boogie & New Year's Bash
- 25th - Tracking Competition. Birdman Suit, Birdman Pantz, "normal" skydiver classes. \$50.00 Reg. Fee goes toward the prize money.
Hosted by Colon & Total Body Pilot
- 25th - (Thurs) Christmas dinner
- 25-28 - HEAD DOWN BIG WAYS! Organized by Pip Redvers/Total Body Pilot Freefly School
FMI: freefly@skydivcity.com
- 31st - (Wed) New Year's Eve Midnight jumps.
The usual party, music, debauchery, nekkidness - Oh yeah - & SKYDIVING!

JANUARY '04

- 1st - New Years Day "Hang-over Hybrids" Freeflyers & Flat Flyers starting the year off right, "IN FREE-FALL"....starts at 12:00 (lunchtime)
- 17-24 - Dave Ruckert will be organizing All-Cessna 100 Ways (27 aircraft). We need airplanes & skydivers
FMI: Dave Ruckert. Phone: +61 (2) 98693747
E-mail: rucker@ozemail.com.au & web at http://www.digitalskydive.com/ruckert/

For the spring calendar, please visit us at
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The Mag

Out on the sixteenth of every other month



editorial

What an incredible World Championships! I went along to support, get a piece of the action and source material so we could cover the meet quickly for you. Colin was there as cameraman for VNE and also constantly taking shots of the terrific atmosphere with our Olympus digital camera - this has added tremendously to give you, we hope, a real flavour of the excitement. Check out pages 30-41 for all the World Meet news, less than a month after its completion.

It was so fantastic to see VMax's battle for the top... and what a fight it was! Cut, parry and thrust with the Norwegians, who wanted the title as badly as VMax did. Our chicks had trained hard, for a solid six weeks before the World Meet to consolidate their tunnel time and three training camps held earlier this year. But it's not how good you are in training, it's how you do at the meet that counts. VMax showed mettle, guts and steely nerves turning the battlefield round halfway through with a new women's world record and galloping hard onward to a well-deserved victory.

It was gutting to see Sebastian XL just miss the bronze by a single point but still immensely satisfying to see how close they were. Medals or no medals, what difference does a point make? They are still a leading light in 4-way and most of us recognise the hugely positive effect they have had on British FS, this will continue for many years. We still love you XL! In 8-way VNE too did us proud coming fifth with yet another British record average.

Britain has been unusually blessed with perfect skydiving weather this summer and we have really made the most of it. Read all about the FS and Artistic Nationals, *Team Extreme* at Netheravon and the NorthWest SkyFest. Eye candy is provided by Willy and Wendy's Espace Boogie shots and we have an exceptionally visually exciting Club News showing how much fun you've all been having. That stuffs this issue full to bursting so you'll have to wait until December for the next For Starters article on gear, another flight test from Al Macartney and the second stop in the UK swoop tour.

Sorry we just couldn't find any space for the above this time... but we'll just do our best to make sure they're worth waiting for!

Lesley

deadlines

Issue	To Reader	Copy Deadline
December	16 December	6 November
February	16 February	6 January
April	16 April	6 May
● out on the 16 th of every other month		
● copy deadline is the 6 th of the month before		

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October 2003

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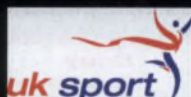


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The Mag

Out on the
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NOTE: Some of the photos in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets or altimeters, or otherwise not obeying the BPA Operations Manual, in which case they were taken abroad. In the UK it is mandatory to wear a helmet and alti for obvious safety reasons.

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The information in this magazine was, to the best of our ability, correct at the time of going to press. Reproduction, printing and mailing take a total of three weeks so some information may be out of date, or superseded.



Photo by Wendy Smith taken at the Espace Boogie – full story, page 8

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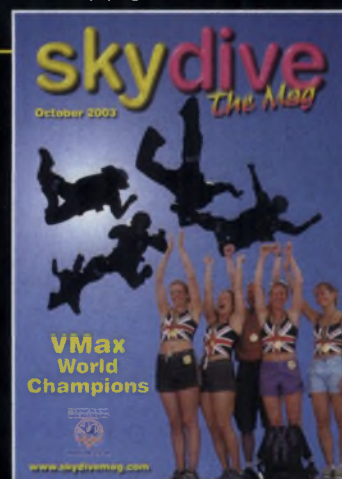
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Podium – Colin Bridges (Olympus Digital)

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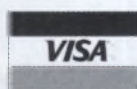
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This year's Espace Boogie returned to Charmel Airport, Vichy. Yahoo! The best jump aircraft in the world, the Antonov 72 jet, was back!

The AN72 is probably the finest jumpship in existence. Fast to altitude, fast back on the ground. Massive tailgate, with a slipstream that is soft and forgiving. The angle for FS is perfect, better than the harsh hit from a Herc.

The campsite was moved this year to behind the airport buildings and the usual big top tent was erected for us to party in.

All the usual reprobates were in residence. Formation Skydiving is still alive and kicking in the boogie circuit. Patrick Passe, Dave Morris, Milky Bear and Dario were turning and burning some wicked stuff over the DZ. Milko, the boogie taskmaster had his mob doing up to 10 jumps a day... hard core is not a big enough word! The skydives that I saw over the DZ were superb. All the flat flyers were having great fun doing 8-ways to 60-ways; it was just like old times!

Freeflying was as usual abundant at the Espace. Marco and Gi, Tazio, Fred Fugen, Arno, Eli Thompson and others were the load organisers, and as usual were often seen running to the plane for another hit of the 'drug of choice'. Lucky devils!

Most of the skydiving I did was with Marco doing Atmonauti. I'm sure that you know what this is by now. Atmonauti is the new tracking. I was having a great time. 18-ways to 24-ways, blasting across the sky, lying on my back filming the guys and girls just above me. When the evening movie came, there I was, all over it. Yes I thought, I'm cool now, I'm all over the video. Later in the week, Gi took a chick load to do Atmonauti, they came down pumped from the jump, having found the angle and loving it. Then to my disgust they tell me that Atmonauti is EASY, anyone can do it, ANYONE! And I thought it was hard, I thought I was goood...



Espace Boogie





Espace Boogie



Photos: Freefly/Atmonauti by Wendy Smith, others by Willy Boeykens

If you have not tried it yet, do so. It's very cool, easy for flat flyers, easy for freeflyers, and SO much fun. It's my skydiving of choice now. If it's on the DZ, then I am doing it in front of anything else. You get more freefall time, 70 seconds from exit to break-off, the position is relaxed, way cool, check it out at Langar with me, any time.

The star of the Espace Boogie this year was without doubt Alistair Hodgson. I'm sure that you all know Al, in case you don't, he is the first double amputee to start skydiving. Al now has 900 odd jumps, is freeflying hard and just WON the freefly B event at the British Nationals, with his mate Swifty, also an amputee, who Al taught to fly.

Al was jumping with ALL the cool and groovies, in fact they were queuing up for it! The DZ staff looked after him, picking Al up on the zone and driving him back to the packing area. Marco took Al on an 18-way atmonauti which Al lead superbly. Atmonauti is his stable position. Al was THE star of the nightly video; 'all over it' would be an understatement. Alistair, you are a star buddy and an inspiration. A legend.

The Grim Reaper passed over the boogie and trailed his fingers through the Espace waters to see if he could catch anyone. In the space of an hour we saw a low pull, Carlos chopped his Velocity right over the campsite (much to our delight). And then a chick from Pastie's load had a pilot chute with a knot in it, so it towed. She took a little time to deal with this. Just when the thought she was going in crossed my mind, up came the reserve. Now I don't know if it was a Cypres fire or not (It was - Ed), but if not, then my Cypres is going back to the factory to have the deployment altitude moved UP, coz, its too LOW! Nice one guys, and Reaper, come and have a go when you think you're 'ard enough!

All in all a wicked time as usual, but next year Joel, can we have more PARTIES PLEASE!! To all the Espace staff and the jumpers, thanks again for a very wonderful time. 11,300 jumps and only four minor injuries. Top banana!

George Pilkington
pilkingtongeorg@aol.com





Espace Boogie

Total jumps: 11,300
Antonov 72 lifts: 150
Skyvan lifts: 16
Participants: 623
Non skydivers: 132
Tandem students: 137
Nations: 30
Injuries (all minor): 4
Cypres fire: 1

FS Organisers:

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£8.00	Tube Stoos - Microline/standard/tandem
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or Zak Knife and pouch

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Ooops!

We apologise to Esther Reynolds for a mistake last issue. Esther is in fact women's overall classics champion, not joint as published.



Esther Reynolds by Dave Waterman

Tomb Raider 2



Weston's own Amanda Kemp recently donned a black wig, safari suit, gun belts and those boots, to play Lara Croft in the new movie. Stunt double for Angelina Jolie, Amanda dressed for the part and made some jumps in Kenya swooping in low over trees and landing next to the now famous Landrover.

BPA Card

For all those of you who don't already hold a BPA Mastercard, here's a reminder that the Bank of Scotland have a specially designed card just for BPA members. Each time you use it a contribution will go directly to BPA coffers.

08457 801 801

www.bankofscotland.co.uk



Man Flies Channel



Thursday 31 July 2003, ninety-four years after Louis Bleriot first flew a plane over the Channel, Austrian Felix Baumgartner successfully completed the first unpowered crossing of the Channel. Exiting at around 30,000ft over Dover and using his rigid wing Felix made the crossing in just over 6 minutes.

sarah.christofi@uk.redbull.com

Tunnel Gets Green Light

Planning permission has been granted for the proposed vertical SkyVenture wind tunnel next to Xscape in Milton Keynes. The project requires £3.85 million with £2.9 million already secured. Private investors are still welcome and may qualify for EIS tax relief.

www.skyventure.co.uk
sward@skyventure.co.uk



SkyVenture UK, artist's impression



XLent Coaching

XL are back in action after the World Meet, running tunnel and XL Challenge camps, see diary for dates. "Our tunnel camps have a maximum of 12 people and are structured to your level of flying, if you have no jumps or 10,000." said Pete Allum. "The XL Challenges are the quickest way to learn more about 4-way FS, you will do 2-on-2 with XL for five days and also 30 minutes of tunnel time."

www.sebastianxl.org

Tunnel camps: thomas@sebastianxl.org
XL Challenge: peteallum@aol.com

www.skydivemag.com
JMs Newsround Online

Further details on the above plus:

Flyboyz Film Festival
Babylon in the Movies
Wright Brothers Book
SkyVenture Orlando Refit

Reviews

Crosswind DVD

Reviewed by Chris Hollis
Summary Good stocking filler for a freefly or extreme canopy nut (with a DVD player!)
Running time 92 mins
Cost £34
Content 8/10
VFM 9/10



Crosswind on DVD is the latest offering of French skydiving cinematographer Patrick Passe. Originally made in 2001, the movie on DVD includes extras such as 40 minutes of new footage and, rather bizarrely, a short trailer about a French aerobatic display team. The breathtaking footage includes all elements of skydiving. Highlights include some great shots of the Flyboyz, Olav Zipser carving through a 10-way star, and some incredible canopy handling under bridges and through ravines.

Some of the scenes become a bit repetitive and the occasional voiceover is sometimes off-putting. French translated into English invariably leads to some unwittingly cringe-inducing comments, like 'A paradise where a powerful blast rises from the earth'. The extra DVD footage is more of the same scenes, except the freeflyers sometimes miss the skyball and the base jumper gets a 180 on opening. The DVD only costs £5 more than the video so this format offers better value for money for the picture quality and scene selection ability associated with DVD's.

The Kit Store 01622 890967
www.thekitstoreltd.co.uk

Eyes In The Sky

Reviewed by Chris Hollis
Summary A picture book for adults on rainy days (ideal for British winters then!)
Cost £32
Content 9/10
VFM 8/10

Eyes in the Sky is a collection of 200+ photographs from the film-making team of Patrick Passe and Wendy Smith. Capturing 15 years of skydiving photography, the book presents images ranging from the French 4-way team of the late 80's right up to the freeflyers of today. French and English accompany each photo and each chapter is also explained in two languages. The photos

really need no text as sometimes the picture alone tells you all you need to know and, as per the video, the English text seems rather flowery and pretentious once translated from French.

If you are familiar with the videos of Monsieur Passe, then the photos will seem familiar, with many stills taken during the making of his movies. Beautifully shot and varied though they are, I'm not sure whether a collection of skydiving photographs is worth adding to your library. A good coffee-table book – but who has coffee tables any more?

The Kit Store 01622 890967
www.thekitstoreltd.co.uk



Out Of The Blue DVD

Reviewed by Al Macartney
Summary Definitely one for your Christmas list
Running time 30 mins
Cost \$34.74 inc shipping
Content 9/10
VFM 9/10

The first skydiving DVD on canopy piloting released by Team Extreme is jam packed full of excitement. It breaks

down into the movie, pilot profiles and two documentaries, one on their France Expedition exploring Europe's highest peaks; and the second on the 46 square feet canopy project.

The movie includes canopy formations, intentional cutaways, freeflying, landing on boats, motor bikes, jet skis, quad bikes and trucks, blade running, snowboarding, skiing, direct bag deployments, aerial exploration, parascending, base jumping, the Pro Swooping Tour, long boards, rope swinging, kiting, pigeon dancing and even some of our own BPA members. Designed for the uninformed spectator and skydiver alike this DVD will keep all viewers excited for the entire time. It is loaded with classic one-liners such as "That was intense", "Do not try this at home", "This is not safe at all", and "We're stupid. We almost killed ourselves". Cheesy but accurate.

Team Extreme push extreme canopy flight to the limits. "We're not just opening our parachutes and flying over the mountain, we're flying with the mountain. If you have the skill you can make the right inputs as a pilot... fly the canopy and match it with the slope of the mountain. It's taking this wing as a tool and using it for exploration."

www.icaruscanopies.com



ESA Thai Sky Festival

ESA Ecuador Boogie



Once again the guys from Exotic Sky Adventures are returning to Thailand, on 5-20 March 2004. This boogie has all the excellent features you've come to expect from ESA with a C-130 Hercules, load organising and much more.
www.exoticskyadventures.nl

Argentina Boogie

A boogie will take place at Corrientes, Argentina, 12-21 Dec 2003. Jumpships will be a C-130 and a Casa. World class load organisers in FS (Golden Knights) and freefly will be on hand. A 13,000ft jump over the Iguazu Falls and a speedboat ride are included.

egsky@aol.com
www.skydive-yacare.com.ar

Stop Press!

Congratulations to Heath Richardson who has just become the 1st World Champion in Canopy Piloting held at Perris Valley. Heath won overall by winning the speed event and coming second in the distance event, on his Velocity.





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British Parachute Association Ltd



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at The Hanover International Hotel, Hinckley, Leics. on Saturday 24 January 2004 at 10.30.

Agenda

1. To receive and adopt, if approved, the report of the Chairman of Council.
2. To consider any items of Special Business*.
3. To set subscriptions payable by non-provisional Members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2004.
4. To close the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.

Other items of business

- a) To announce the result of the election for the 2004 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 (by midnight on Monday 15 December 2003) can be included under agenda item 2, Special Business.*

Issued for and on behalf of the Council of the British Parachute Association Ltd.
dated 1 September 2003.

British Parachute Association Ltd



Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association will be held at the BPA Offices, 5 Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester on Tuesday 2 December 2003 at 18.30.

Agenda

1. To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Accounts of the Association and the Report of the Auditors for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.
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 beginning 1 April 2004.

Issued for and on behalf of the Council of the British Parachute Association Ltd.
dated 1 September 2003

New Ratings

Advanced Instructor

Ray Armstrong
Dave Skinner

Tandem Instructor

Michael Harrison
Paul Kendall
David West
Vernon Metcalfe
Mark Bayada

CSBI

Madeleine Moore
Jon Mart
Tim Barnard
Mike Carruthers
Mike Evans
David Fish

CS Instructor

Dave Walker
Oliver Neuberger
Billy Steele
Chris Gilmore
James Swallow
Sylviane Herrick
Stuart Miller-Hall
Noah Stephenson
Marcus Orme
Billy Blanchard
Michael Harrower

AFF Instructor

Mark Maynard
Toby Goodchild

Tandem BI

Brendan O'Rafferty

BPA

Matters

by Martin Shuttleworth BPA Office



Simon Ward

The AGM will again be held at the four star Hanover International Hotel in Hinckley, Leicestershire. Overnight accommodation is available at special rates – less than last year! – including breakfast and overnight car parking:

Fri 23 January £62.50 double/twin;
£42.50 for single occupancy
Sat 24 January £77.50 double/twin;
£62.50 for single occupancy

Book with the hotel on **08457 444 123**

(The magic word 'BPA' gets you the special rates.)

Tickets for the popular Saturday night dinner dance are available from Sue Waterfield at the BPA Office, price £22.

Bookings are being taken for the exhibition of services, equipment, skydive clothing, etc on BPA AGM day. Exhibition space is FREE! But you must reserve it in advance, contact Martin Shuttleworth at the BPA. If you have suggestions for seminars you'd like to throw into the pot, e-mail Martin: martin@bpa.org.uk



Simon Ward

Join Council!

Could your knowledge help our sport? Stand for election to next year's Council. Every BPA member is eligible. Nomination forms may be downloaded from the BPA website and are available from the BPA Office or your local DZ. Forms must be returned to the BPA Office by **noon on Friday 31 October 2003**. Start lobbying now!



Classics Nationals Dates

Next year's Classics Nationals will be held at Bridlington, from Tues 15 to Sun 20 June. They will be Selection Nationals for the non-funded world meets in 2004 and 2005, bringing Classics into line with other disciplines in having off-year selection.

The 2004 World Parachuting Championships in Freefall Style and Accuracy Landings will be held at Rijeka, Croatia, 18-24 September. The 2005 World Championships/Cup in Style & Accuracy has yet to be decided by IPC.

If you wish to be considered for the UK National Team for '04 and/or '05, you must enter the 2004 Nationals. Competitions Committee has pulled out all the stops to sort this out early, so make it the first date in your new 2004 diary!

Money Money

The BPA's annual accounts are enclosed with this magazine, as an insert with the Council and STC minutes. This year we have included pie charts to help the digest the figures. The accounts show how your subscription money has been spent. Please take the time to read them before throwing the insert away!

Insurance Increase

To date, our third party insurance increases have remained at the lower end of the post September 11 range compared with other insurances. But now a significant increase on our premiums in April 2004 looks almost inevitable, probably 30-100+%. The amount will depend on the outcome of pending claims, any precedents they may set, and on variations to the policy to help contain a potentially spiralling premium.

Stay Safe

A new BPA safety poster **Corners Can Kill** has recently been sent to clubs and centres, and additional copies are available from the BPA Office. The poster has been produced by the STC Working Party into Canopy Handling chaired by John Horne.

A section on canopy handling has been added to the BPA website. Go to the homepage and click on the green Stay safe button. It will be of interest to all skydivers, especially instructors. Stay out of the corner!



www.bpa.org.uk

Letter from Humberside Police to all BPA Members

HUMBERSIDE POLICE

C Division Headquarters
Sessions House
New Walk
Beverley HU17 7AF

Our Ref: C/CLA/SAM

2 September 2003

This matter is being dealt with by:
Detective Superintendent Andrews

Tel No: (01724) 274264
Facsimile: (01724) 282855

Dear Association Member

Re: The murder of Stephen Paul Hilder

I am writing to ask for your assistance in helping me to trace the murderer of Stephen Paul Hilder who died about 2.45pm on Friday 4 July 2003 at Hibaldstow, North Lincolnshire.

Stephen had jumped from an aircraft at 13,000 feet whilst taking part in some skydiving championships. His parachute equipment had been deliberately tampered with which resulted in the main and reserve parachutes failing.

This was a wicked crime and the tragic waste of a young man who was loved by his family and had a bright future ahead of him. As you can imagine Stephen's family and friends are devastated by their loss and they have given their full support to this Appeal.

This investigation is progressing well and we do know that Stephen's parachute was tampered with sometime between 12 noon on Wednesday 2 July and 2.45pm on Friday 4 July 2003. I am satisfied that whoever committed this act had some knowledge of skydiving.

Despite the progress of the Enquiry we still do not know why anyone would wish to harm Stephen. He appeared to be a popular and well liked young man, although some people have told us that on occasions he was disliked by skydiving colleagues. Do you know anything about this or any possible motive no matter how remote as to why anyone would want to harm Stephen? If you do then please contact me as a matter of urgency.

The support that we have received from the skydiving community has been tremendous, however we know that for a variety of reasons some of the people that we have seen have withheld information from us. My sole aim is to find Stephen's killer and I am not interested in prosecuting people for minor offences or unnecessarily enquiring into people's private lives.

Do you know if Stephen had a secret life? You can rest assured that any information you give us will be treated sensitively and in the strictest of confidence. However, it is absolutely vital that we receive any information, however small, which may assist us to detect this murder.

In my professional experience murderers usually confess their crimes to a third party, sometimes a family member or a close friend. Murderers often begin to act strangely after they have committed their crime. Do you know someone who falls into these categories? If you do please contact me immediately.

I believe the answer to Stephen's murder lies within the skydiving community and if you know who killed Stephen I ask you to examine your conscience and think about the terrible way in which he died and how his family must be feeling. I cannot be sure that the person responsible will not kill again. If you know who murdered Stephen you MUST come forward to speak to me. We can meet at a time and place which suits you and you will receive sensitive treatment. Please come forward!

The Enquiry Team is attempting to build up a minute by minute account of what occurred during collegiate week (30 June to 4 July 2003) at the Hibaldstow Skydiving Centre. Can you assist with any of the following:-

1. Were you present during that week and if you were and have not yet been contacted by the police, please speak to us.
2. I am particularly interested in the period of time 12 noon Wednesday 2 July 2003 to 2.45pm Friday 4 July 2003. We need to establish a very detailed picture of who was present at Hibaldstow during that time and particularly the movements of Stephen and the location of his rig. Are you able to assist me with that?
3. Have you any knowledge of any disputes, no matter how small, which might have involved Stephen during the collegiate week or indeed any time before then. If yes then please give me details.
4. Has your rig ever been tampered with and if it has please provide me with details of when the damage occurred and what it was.
5. Do you have suspicions as to who killed Stephen?

You can contact the Enquiry Team by the following methods:-

E-mail: hilder.incident@humberside.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: Murder Incident Room, Scunthorpe Police Station. 01724 274264.

By letter: Murder Incident Room, Scunthorpe Police Station, Laneham Street, Scunthorpe, DN15 6QB.

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this letter. The Enquiry Team are absolutely determined to catch the person responsible for murdering Stephen and I am confident that we will. Your help will be invaluable in achieving this.

Yours sincerely



Colin Andrews
Detective Superintendent

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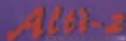
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Icarus Pro Swoop Tour

Simon Ward Reports

Four of the best canopy pilots in the world right there on Salisbury Plain at the disposal of any Netheravon jumper for the weekend of 4-6 July

Jim Slaton, Clint Clawson, Luigi Canni and JC Colclasure have this roadshow down to a fine art and provide a top quality mixture of teaching and demos of extreme canopy flying to anyone who wants to learn and marvel.

The format is simple; classroom info in the evenings, 1-on-1 coaching for those who want it, individual feedback throughout and a variety of demos. The event was fully supported by Icarus who arrived with a van-load of demo canopies; they in turn were supported by their main UK dealers DZ Sports and Point Zero.

There is not a jumper in the UK that wouldn't have learned plenty that weekend and the weather gave a superb opportunity to anyone of the 53 registered participants to make the most of it. The lingering cloudbase at 4,500 feet for two days took away the need to decide between high or low loads. Netheravon flew three aircraft on quick lifts almost constantly.

The evening seminars saw awe-inspiring video of the team flying through some amazing mountainous regions, making precision landings in tight areas, performing numerous stunts and team swooping in many variations. These inspirational images were followed by well rehearsed presentations packed with useful technical and creative information leaving the audience hungry to put their new-found canopy knowledge into practice.

The team jumped as often as they could, normally in pairs and always impressively. JC landed along the road just nipping between two trees onto the grass when the audience was convinced that only a pair of roller skates would save him! Synchronised swoop landings became commonplace and landing on the back of a motorbike caused much applause.

On the Friday a dusk jump was made into Stonehenge by the team and friends. Well you know how much the Americans love anything older than the Boston Tea Party! The jump took 20 minutes but the photo session around the stones went on far longer!

I'd love to tell you more about the weekend but it all went a bit black for me at 9.30am Sunday morning when, after my 18th jump of the weekend, one of those wishing to put all this new found knowledge into practice decided I was the landing area!

What I can tell you is that many people at all levels learned a lot more about their canopy, technical detail, setting up and how to land on small, fast canopies. This should make the DZ a safer place – but it can have the opposite effect if everyone decides to practice without some sort of additional communication and guidelines. If there's a canopy school, seminar or roadshow happening near you, please visit. Take your CCI if they've never been. Make the DZ an even more fun place but keep it safe.

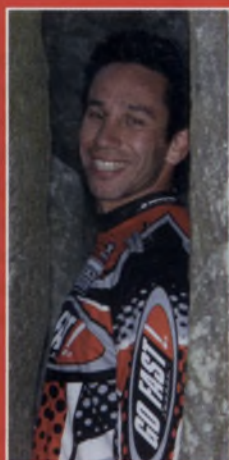
Thanks to The Icarus Pro Swoop Team, Icarus Canopies, the APA at Netheravon and all those involved in a great learning weekend.

Simon Ward
sward@pobox.com





Clint Clawson



Luigi Canni



Jim Slaton



JC Colclasure



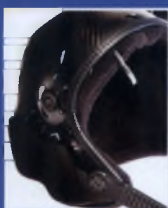
Kit News



by Rob Colpus

2K or not 2K

2K Composites have informed us of a couple of new developments. Their FF2 camera helmet now comes equipped with a small compartment for fitting the popular Cameye 2 camera switch and multi LED unit.



Launched off the back of a custom helmet they've just made for a film company, and targeted at the 'professional' cameraflyer, 2K now also have a specialist camera helmet on their list. The 2Kers reckon the nearest equivalent on the market to their new baby, which at time of going to press has no name, is Bonehead's Flat-Top series.



Another nice little addition to their portfolio is a new cutaway system comprising a 2-ring circus system integrated onto a ratchet chin cup, which retails at around £70.

2K 01280 823796

www.2kcomposites.com

Bushman of the...

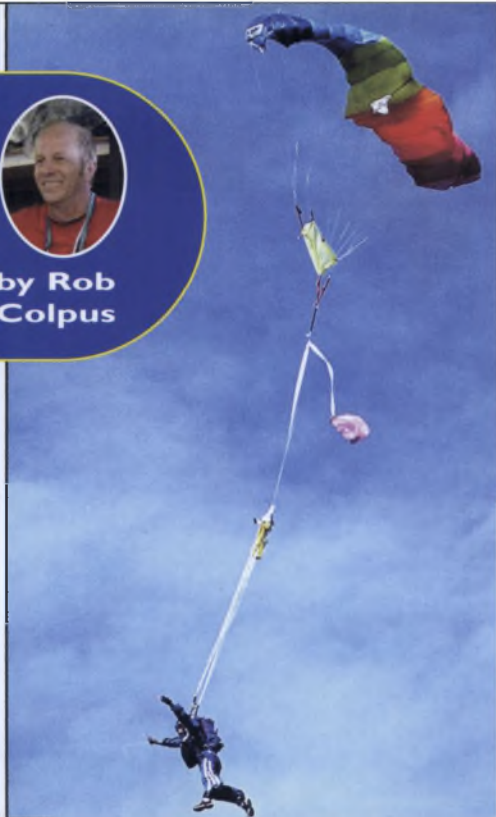
Edward Anderson, better known to everyone within the parachute industry as 'Bushman', has left his post as Marketing Director for Performance Designs after many years faithfully representing the Florida-based canopy manufacturer worldwide.



It came as a bit of a shock to many to learn that he'd changed ship in midstream to take the post of Chief of Operations for Aerodyne Research Inc, a company which aggressively launched itself into the market earlier this year as a direct competitor to PD and others at the top end of the sport parachute market, as reported in April's Kit News. Aerodyne were quick to tell us that Bushman will manage the North and South American sales operations and head worldwide marketing for the company.

Aerodyne 0033 1 30 30 89 85

www.aerodyne-int.com



Skyhooked

The Relative Workshop (RW) seem to be pretty happy with the performance of their new Skyhook reserve static line (RSL) system introduced earlier this year as an option on their Vector range of harness/containers. A normal RSL automatically pulls the reserve ripcord pin following a cutaway, the Skyhook RSL goes two steps further. It automatically releases the non-RSL riser in case the RSL riser was released prematurely by itself. (It could spoil your day if your reserve deployed with half your main still attached.) It then uses the departing malfunctioned main canopy as a huge pilot chute to deploy the reserve canopy faster than any other comparable method; RW claim three to four times faster than a pilot chute can do it alone. This means that the average sport reserve will be open in 75 to 80 feet after a cutaway.

RW also claim that the Skyhook opens your reserve so quickly there is no time to get entangled with a deploying reserve if you've just cut away from a spinning pocket rocket – an argument always used against normal RSLs. But what about a main total malfunction I hear you shout? Well they've thought of that too – If the main is still in its container when the reserve ripcord is pulled (or the AAD fires), the Skyhook automatically releases, allowing the reserve pilot chute to deploy the reserve normally. The jury's still out in the case of a horseshoe mal because the reserve will still deploy from its freebag when the risers stop pulling and the reserve pilot chute takes over. RW insist that the Skyhook does not make the situation any worse than a conventional system. Although in the case of a conventional system no part of the main is actually attached to the reserve... umm... food for thought.

So what does this thing look like then? The Skyhook's key component is a small aluminium fitting sewn to the reserve bridle about five feet below the pilot chute. A six inch lanyard with a loop at its end extends from the RSL lanyard and is slipped into a slot on the Alu fitting. The pilot chute is then compressed on top of the fitting. If the risers via the RSL lift the reserve bag then the fitting stays hooked up, whereas if the reserve pilot chute pulls the bag then the fitting detaches itself, as in a total malfunction.

Of course the argument over whether to have any form of RSL at all will no doubt continue to rage on. One could ask the question: why the rush anyway? Of course if you find yourself cutting away under AAD height, let's say below 700 feet, then the Skyhook comes into its own. But if you're cutting away, as is more likely, at 2,000 ft then perhaps getting stable before deploying your reserve is the best option. After all, aren't we always taught that a parachute opens better from a stable platform? With that AAD 'safety net' down there at 800ft, what's the hurry?

Relative Workshop 001 386 756 7589

www.relativeworkshop.com

Cypres glitch

Cypres AAD manufacturers, Airtec, recently announced that they had received a few reports from the field, of Cypres units displaying a totally blank screen after a jump, although the unit was on and functioning normally. After investigating the problem the Airtec boffins discovered that the reason for the hiccup was electrostatic. Apparently electrostatic interference influenced a small processor located in the control unit. The only job of this component is to generate the figures on the display. In all these cases, the Cypres was, in fact, on and operating properly, only the display was blank.

This can easily be checked. First the unit has to be switched off by the normal 4 clicks / 3 red lights, confirming that it is in fact really on. Then do the normal switch-on procedure, and the display will be back to normal.



After a bit more research the Airtecians found a solution to avoid this problem in the future. All units being produced from now and on will have this update; all previous units will automatically be updated during their scheduled maintenance. Airtec went on to state that if any jumper should discover this effect on his or her unit and does not want to wait until the first maintenance is due, then send it back to Germany via their Cypres dealer. Shipping and the update will be free of charge. Airtec apologise for any inconvenience.

Airtec 0049 2953 9899 47

e-mail service@cypres.cc

Les Altis

A new player has entered town in the altimeter market. Peak Aero Ltd are offering a range of four French made wrist-mount altis not dissimilar to the *Altimaster* and *Eureka* range. All four models from Falgayras in France are available in metres or feet, have a clear, easy to read face from 0 to 12000 feet, and a standard finger ring and velcro wrist-strap type mount. The basic model which retails at a very competitive price sports a polycarbonate body while the other three models have aluminium bodies. All four altimeters are available in a number of colours while the wrist-strap webbing is available in four colours.



Peak Aero 01509 210463
Falgayras www.falgayras.com

Big Techno

Parachutes de France have recently issued a mandatory service bulletin relating to their *Techno 240* reserve canopy. The French company have stated in their bulletin that the maximum operating conditions, ie 130 kg for maximum operating weight and 150 kt or 240 km/h for maximum pack opening speed, as defined in the current applicable regulations, are suddenly no longer achieved by the largest model in the Techno range of reserves.

The bulletin goes on to say that the Techno 240's operational limitations have been reduced to 100 kg for maximum operating weight (total weight of individual and his/her equipment, including parachute assembly), and set to 130 kt for maximum pack opening speed (allows maximum vertical descent rates for the face to earth position but prohibits free fly head down positions), until corrective action is taken to restore the maximum operating conditions. The corrective action consists of replacing steering lines and slider with a kit which will be supplied by PdeF. No other sizes in the Techno reserve range are affected.

PdeF 0033 1 34 32 77 77



Iconic

Aerodyne's promised harness/container system, the *Icon*, is now finally on the road with the recent acquisition of its FAA TSO C23d. The American TSO C23d is the latest and most difficult to obtain, testing and control qualification which harness/containers manufactures must pass to be able to make and market rigs within the USA and many other countries which have adopted the US system.

The *Icon*, which in appearance is similar to the *Vector* and other single external reserve pin type containers with tucked main and reserve pin protector flaps, unusually features a hip ringed harness and stainless steel as standard.

Aerodyne 0033 130 30 89 85
www.aerodyne-int.com

Microcam

Mike Swain, a skydiving cameraman from Colorado, trading as Skyhi Visual Productions, has developed what he calls the *SportsCam* extreme sports video system. The weight and bulk of the video camera has been removed from the jumper's head and dumped in a specially designed body pouch. All that remains on the jumper's head is a miniature remote video head (RVH) which functions as a remote lens.

The RVH is a miniature video camera attached to a universal helmet mount on the helmet. It is connected to the camera body pouch via a cable which is routed through the jumpsuit.



The system still uses a Sony video camcorder but this is stowed in the body pouch. The video camcorder must be a Sony, the only manufacturer which includes a LANC jack as a standard feature on almost all of its models as well as an AV jack.

Swain claims that the result is a system which removes the discomfort

of weight and the risk of whiplash type neck injuries and dangerous camera/parachute entanglements without a loss of quality.

The camera body pouch contains and protects the video camcorder and is attached at the waist to the parachute harness with special harness straps and acts as a control centre to power up and down the camcorder. LED lights indicate the camera status at all times. The camcorder can be used as a normal hand-held camera outside the pouch and then stowed in the pouch for freefall. The pouch also contains the

Rift web



Sunpath Inc issued a service bulletin in July that relates to all adjustable main lift web harnesses on *Javelins* and *Javelin Odyssey* harness/container systems. The main lift web is the section of the harness webbing which runs from the 3-ring system to the leg strap junction.

The bulletin follows an incident where the adjustable buckle at the leg strap junction end of the main lift web on a *Student Javelin* sheared through the webbing to which it was sewn. The sewing below the break showed no signs of failure or stress. The adjustable main lift web set-up is normally only found on student equipment, so that the harness may be adjusted to fit various sizes of user. Adjustable main lift webs have been in use now for several decades and no real reason has been given for the failure of this particular harness.

Sunpath insist that all *Javelins* fitted with an adjustable main lift web buckle must be inspected carefully for any wear and tear. If the webbing shows any sign of fraying or abrasion that appears inconsistent with 'normal wear' the rig should be grounded immediately and Sunpath must be notified.

Sunpath 001 813 782 9242
info@sunpath.com
www.sunpath.com



12 volt battery pack for the RVH which, again, reduces the weight on the helmet.

The *SportsCam* video system comes with a manual and 30 day money back guarantee and retails for around \$900 (not including the Sony of course).

www.skyhivisuals.tripod.com/sportcam.htm
001 303 837 1253

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World Championships

This year, for the first time, all parachuting disciplines competed together at the Gap Tallard DZ, set on the edge of the French Alps. This first complete World Parachuting Championships or Mondial (one world) was the stage for all the UK's top teams to compete against the best skydivers out there. In excess of one thousand competitors representing over thirty countries descended on this stunningly beautiful area of French countryside. The cream of skydivers with one goal in mind – to compete to the best of their ability.

The organisers did a fantastic job turning the site from a normal drop zone to a showcase spectacle of skydiving in a two week period. The DZ was well laid out with spectator seating, giant TV screens, bars and coffee shops all looking out onto the landing area and marquee camp of the competitors.

Canopy Formation

The organisers had decided to form a three-person jury to deal with any disputes. When one of these 'three wise men' dropped out, IPC asked UK's Head of Delegation John Hitchen to step into his shoes. So John Smyth, attending as FS Team Manager took over as Head of Delegation for the Brits.

Saturday 6 September saw a grand opening ceremony with a sea of national flags and parading delegations.

8-way Speed

Four teams entered with the front runners putting in very speedy times. The British, represented by *Hinton-8*, were never in contention for a medal but set ourselves some goals to which were mostly achieved, we built all except the box. We completed an octoplane in the 105.75 seconds, the other completed formations were all just outside the timescale (120 seconds) except the fifth round kite which wrapped! Ian Marshall and Paul Yeoman ended up on reserves after a tense moment when Alan Fielding had to slice Paul's canopy to bits to free his foot from it.

At this point the Landrover kindly lent to the British delegation came into its own. We needed to find Ian Marshall's cutaway main canopy

quickly in order to jump the next round. An extensive search located the missing canopy well off-road – this wouldn't have been possible without the Landrover. A quick repack later and Hinton-8 were back in business.

The first rounds scores suggested it was anyone's game but then the Russian team zapped on the second round due to a video bust. Two rounds later, the Americans had a wrap on an octoplane and took a zap too! These combined busts (scoring 120 seconds) decided the meet as in the end the French won by a lead of over 40 seconds. The Russians did a storming last round but didn't quite catch USA in silver and had to settle for bronze, less than three seconds behind the US.

4-way Rotations

This competition was contested by ten teams going at it hammer and tongs to rotate quickest. *Team Focus* seemed unphased by their wrap during the





The UK Delegation

official training jump where ballistic Biff arrived on a hillside in a cloud of dust with Scotty's canopy wrapped around his foot. He was closely followed down by Clive who enquired "Biff are you OK?" The reply "Wow we were really humming there weren't we?" epitomises the rush felt by most in rotations.

The Russians were in their own class, the only team to score 20 rotations in time – and they did four 20 point rounds and two 21 pointers, winning with a nice 13 point lead. America just beat Sweden to the silver medal by 2 points.

4-way Sequential

Six teams battled out this event, technically the most difficult of the CF disciplines. The Belgium team treated it light-heartedly, coached by Alan Fielding. They dirt-dived 4 or 5 points a round, achieving their goal. The go-for-it French team were scoring 12 points a round, winning every round and finishing 12 points ahead. The competition was really tight for second place, ending in a draw between America and Russia with the silver going to USA on a technicality.

CF 8-way Speed

	Total
1 France	-236.97
2 Russia	-363.61
3 USA	-361.23
4 UK	-825.75
4 nations entered, doing 7 rounds	

CF 4-way Rotations

	Total	Avg
1 Russia	141	20.14
2 USA	128	18.29
3 Sweden	126	18.00
4 France	118	16.86
10 nations entered, doing 8 rounds		

CF 4-way Sequential

	Total	Avg
1 France	71	10.14
2 USA	59	8.43
3 Russia	59	8.43
4 Netherlands	26	
6 nations entered, doing 8 rounds		

Impeccable Organisation

This competition must have been a logistical nightmare – to include all skydiving disciplines in one place at the same time had to give the administrators a 'morning-after' headache. The organisation was impeccable, everything clicked into place like a well-oiled machine. With such a smooth operation it was hardly surprising that a friendly atmosphere permeated the DZ. The food wasn't the best I've ever had but when cooking for over a thousand people from a variety of countries it isn't possible to please everyone. Overall, the Mondial 2003 World Championships were a resounding success. Everyone I spoke to said how much they enjoyed themselves and many new friendships were cemented.

Carl Blair
Hinton-8



Artistic Events

Seven days, 116 vertical technicians, 325 choreographed performances on a breathtaking stage and now I'm back in my office, gazing out of the window, wondering whether it was a dream. The Artistics World Cup showcased exciting routines, had a superb standard particularly in freefly and was full of controversy and drama.

Female Freestyle

In the first of the dramas, Italy 2's Gigliola Borgnis and Marco Tiezzi (Frick Atmonauti) led France 1's Emanuelle Celicout and Alex March through rounds 1-4 but scored an unexpected 6.9 on compulsory round 5 leaving them trailing gold by 0.8. In disagreement with the score and after discussions with the judging panel, Gi and Marco made the ultimate competitor's sacrifice in protest to what they saw as biased judging – they pulled out of round 6, taking a 0 and thus stepped off the podium. They still managed sixth returning for a spectacular round 7 with a feet-first atmonauti exit! France 2 (Elodie Grietens and videoman Julien Gebel) took second with their technically sound routines and showed innovative use of ribbons during a head-down carve. Newly-weds Yoko Okazaki and Axel Zohmann from Japan finished in third and BPA members Kerry Short & Matthew O'Riordan (Freefly Wiggaz) placed fifth for South Africa.

Male Freestyle

We said goodbye to Australia's Ashley Crick and Jonathan King as they bowed out of competitive freestyle. With just limited last-minute training they produced a glowing silver medal performance, a testimony to the impact they've made on our sport. Gold went to Danish team Nils Predstrup and Martin Kristensen whose sequences most of us would consider inconceivable; their combination of carves and head-down helicopters left me speechless! Rumour has it they will try their hand at freefly next year. Adding another medal to the French collection were Robin Dubuisson and videoman Sam Dycke in third with a very fluid, signature-French style.

Freefly

USA's *Alchemy* (Rook Nelson, Mike Swanson, 'Alaska Jon' Devore) led from the starting blocks ahead of European favourites, France 1 *Babylon* (Stéphane Fardel, Frédéric Fugen, Loïc Jean-Albert). *Babylon* then produced a magnificent compulsory round 2, scoring 8, whilst the Americans fumbled on the tracking compulsory by heading off in opposite directions, and dropped to second place with a 6.3.

France 2, brothers Ludovic and Alexandre Voisin, started well with a 7.6. Later on in the meet it was discovered that they were using a 'camera trick' and were heavily penalised when their round 1 score was dropped to a 5. Cameraman Pascal Lenoir had mounted the camera on a motorised swivel device and, rotating the image 360 degrees via remote control, simulated a full 360 degree barrel roll transition. The trick was used repeatedly throughout their free round and after a while began to look mechanical. The team protested on the grounds that competition rules did not specify that image

manipulation during freefall was illegal. Their protest was upheld and they were re-awarded their 7.6.

An open forum was held for competitors to discuss artistics issues. The camera trick issue was voted on and vetoed for future events. The team nonetheless continued to use the camera effect for the duration of the competition.

The forum also housed a heated discussion as to whether the speed round should remain. Most competitors believe it necessitates its own event, judged like FS with scores reflecting points completed. But the discipline is not considered to be developed enough, nor are there enough teams to warrant this. The speed round will thus remain as freefly round 5 although a look may be taken at the maths used to integrate the score with the other six artistic rounds.

Alchemy produced a blistering speed round, clocking up 14 with one bust, giving them a score of 1.2 (0.1 scored for each point, minus 0.1 for a bust). *Babylon* completed 11 but suffered five busts and scored 0.1 shifting them back to second place, 0.2 behind *Alchemy*. France 2 allegedly protested the speed round by flying the first point (foot to foot) from exit to break-off (a feat in itself). Ironically, they equalled *Babylon*'s 0.1. Finally, *Alchemy* took gold, *Babylon* silver and France 3 bronze.

Female Skysurf

Russian Maria Ryabikova thought her chances were over when her videoman Vasily Rodin lost his helmet in training during a hard opening. Thinking quickly, he spiralled down chasing it until he was so dizzy he almost injured himself on landing. They salvaged the helmet, replaced the camera and went on to win ahead of France's Blandine Perroud & Cyril Lancry and Switzerland's Nicole Roth & Giuliano Jezzi.

Male Skysurf

Old favourites Vaaleriy Rosov, Stefan Klaus and Eric Fradet proved they're still dominating the podium. Vaaleriy took gold with cameraflyer Igor Kalinin, Stefan teamed up with Babylon's Rolf Kuratle (Kuri to most of us) for silver and Eric, with Loïc Jean-Albert, took the bronze.

Kerry Short, South African Freestyle team
kerry.short@freshfields.com



World Freefly Champions *Alchemy*, by Francisco Neri



Kerry Short & Matthew O'Riordan



Freestyle Female

1 France	56.9
2 France	53.2
3 Japan	52.7
14 teams, 7 rounds	

Freestyle Male

1 Denmark	59.4
2 Austria	51.7
3 France	48.2
8 teams, 7 rounds	

Freefly

1 USA	51.6
2 France	51.0
3 France	46.8
14 teams, 7 rounds	

Skysurf Female

1 Russia	50.1
2 France	46.4
3 Switzerland	41.8
5 teams, 7 rounds	

Skysurf Male

1 Russia	59.0
2 Switzerland	58.3
3 France	55.7
10 teams, 7 rounds	



Men's Freestyle



Women's Freestyle

Classics

Most of the Brit team travelled together in Robin's infamous horsebox. This made for some good team bonding and was quite exciting in a 'Cliff Richard – Summer Holiday' kind of way. (It kind of lost its appeal on the way back though!)

Training

We arrived three days ahead of the competition to do some training and accustom ourselves to the peculiarities of the local conditions. The accuracy area was off the drop zone in a field at the foot of a steep hill. The local conditions were such that in the early morning there was little or no wind but some weird thermals. The wind gradually picked up through the morning and began to change direction about 11am. This made things interesting, as no two canopies seemed to make their final approach in the same direction around this time. There were some odd downdrafts to contend with when approaching over the hill and the 2,000 feet altitude of the landing site caused very fast final approaches with little time over the pad for foot placement. This was where the skill of the eastern bloc countries shone.

Isolation

As the classics 'drop zone' was isolated from the rest of the disciplines, communication was sometimes difficult. There were hardly any facilities for us except for one toilet that all the nations shared. Apparently it was not in the rules to provide toilet paper or mats to pack on but the Americans provided toilet paper, the horsebox provided coffee and tea to any nationality who happened to be around when we were brewing up and Steve Saunders and Hinton-8 CRW team sent over their own packing mats for us to use after dropping in and seeing our site. Thanks guys!

Competition

The first day of competition saw the women complete four rounds of accuracy and the men a couple of rounds of style. The style boarded at the airfield and dropped into a grass area about 15 kms away in Gap town. The next morning the women did a couple of rounds of style and the men began accuracy. As there were only 13 women's teams compared with 29 men's teams the women got through a lot faster, giving us the next day off. The Brit



Geordie Page, Robin Mills,
Glenn Stephenson, Jeff Chandler



Liz Danby, Fran Shashkova-Richards
and Esther Reynolds.

classics girls got up at 6.30 anyway to come down and support the guys, along with Gail Stephenson, John Hitchen and Annette Williamson who took up residence next to the accuracy tuffet to cheer the Brits on. It was newly-reborn stomper Kevin McCarthy who did best of the Brits; it was a shame he was ill (vomiting just after landing on one round) or he may well have made the semi-finals.

Game Over

By Thursday lunchtime the meet was over for the British classics competitors. That left us with a few spare days before the closing ceremonies. A couple of our chaps went off sightseeing whilst the rest of us continued to rise early in order to watch and learn from the best of the best in accuracy at the semis and finals, which had now been moved over to the main drop zone.

British Pride

It was great for us to now have access to our other teams, support them on their way to boarding and share the excitement of the live judging. Although classics are far removed from FS, we were still mightily proud of VMax, XL and our other teams, and our happiest congratulations go to VMax.

And Finally

Thanks to Ex-Gear and Narked for clothing us, Gath for their custom-sprayed helmets and my classics 'teamies' for being the most fun!

Fran Shashkova-Richards, Brit Classics Team
skytrack@btinternet.com

Accuracy Male

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1 Slovenia | Karun Roman |
| 2 France | Philippe Valois |
| 3 Sweden | Asikainen Reijo |

Style Male

- | |
|-----------|
| 1 Germany |
| 2 Austria |
| 3 France |

Overall Male

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1 France | Philippe Valois |
| 2 Czech | Gecnuk Jiri |
| 3 Germany | Pflueger Marco |



Accuracy Female

- | | |
|----------|---------------------|
| 1 Russia | Lioudmila Zinchenko |
| 2 France | Valérie Vanhove |
| 3 China | Keging Wang |

Style Female

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 1 Russia | Klenina Svetlana |
| 2 Slovenia | Avbelja Irena |
| 3 Russia | Zintchenko Lioudmila |

Overall Female

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 1 Russia | Zintchenko Lioudmila |
| 2 Slovenia | Avbelja Irena |
| 3 USA | Feldt Elisa |

Team Accuracy

Male

- | |
|------------|
| 1 Slovenia |
| 2 Russia |
| 3 Czech |

Team Accuracy

Female

- | |
|----------|
| 1 China |
| 2 Russia |
| 3 USA |



Liz Danby



Jeff Chandler

Formation Skydiving

The vibe was running high and the slick organisation allowed for the biggest delegations to be neighboured up, putting the UK adjacent to medal contenders France, Russia and USA. It was all very exciting!

Sunday 7 September

The practice day went well for VNE posting the highest score of the 8-way FS teams with a storming 18-point dive. VMax and XL also had time to keep the engines running after their long training build-up in Italy, smiles all round. The draw for FS gave the usual hand-rubbing excitement with some fast rounds in an otherwise steady draw for both FS disciplines. The draw for 4 and 8 was done as one under the new dive pool structure of 16 randoms and 22 blocks for both. With the draw complete at a pleasant 2pm, the typical manic dash for walking and creeping began until the opening ceremony kicked in at 4.30pm. After many many flags, a few brief speeches and a few very long ones, the World Championships were declared open.

Monday

The organisers had formatted the days to be in two halves with 8-way in the mornings and 4-way (open and female) in the afternoons. The 8-way teams were up early along with CF and Classics competitors. Round 1 was not a great start and VNE resolved to let that be the only weak round. A strong comeback in round 2 put the 'mojo' back in the team and bottom lips were tucked away.

FS 4 then kicked off with XL and VMax battling it out against the best of the world. The judges had pre-warned of enforcement of technical rules governing the illegal crossing of sub-groups' centrepieces and the outdoor screens gave all the viewing audience a roller-coaster ride as top teams came under the cosh for infringements. The complexity of the rule led to some loud gasps when scores were posted with busts dotted around the scoresheets. Round 1 finished with France trailing USA's *Golden Knights* by one point with Belgium and Russia tied in third. The weather gods then called it a day.

Tuesday

Day 2 saw VNE kick into gear and equal the recently set British record (which was nice) and pull vital points and positions back in. The Aussies were next in our sights.

The army of supporters from the UK were in outstanding form, waving all our teams out to the aircraft with a multitude of flags and banners. John Smyth also did a great impression of Chitty-Chitty's child-catcher, scaring the hordes of unruly nippers off the climbing frame (better known as a mock-up). VMax headed out for round 1 and, although subject to a bust, still came in joint number 1 with France, Italy and Norway. The day finished on round 3 with the Norgie girls in the lead ahead of VMax. In the open 4-way, France were clear leaders from USA with Italy in third marginally ahead of Norway and our own XL.



The next few days saw some real drama highs and lows as positions changed time and again but the tension of the meet was punctuated by some classic British humour. The duck pond was a source of confusion for most other nations but the CF teams did a great job of adding some decoration. The VIP seating area with bunting, tables and a sunshade looked great before the planning permission was revoked and all bar the shrubbery were returned (that was donated to the *Knights* who say "Ni"). The optimism of other nations remained high with one team being heard to say "Hey, we're only five plane crashes away from a gold!".

Wednesday

By the middle of the competition, the Norgie girls looked unstoppable, dominating in the first five rounds. Starting round 6 from two points behind, VMax kicked it up a notch to score a women's world record 28 and take the lead for the first time, switching positions with Norway, now trailing by two points. In the open 4-way event, XL had also moved into fourth place, on the tails of the *Norgies* and looking good.

Thursday

The battle at the top of all three disciplines was hotting up – 8-way had USA (*Airspeed*) and Russia ahead of France, who were well in the lead for 4-way. USA's *Golden Knights* were on a mission to catch an outstanding French team.

Friday – Semi-finals

This saw the top eight teams enter the semi-finals (round 9) which was also served as the cut for the top four teams to go into the final round 10.



4-Way Open

	Avg
1 France	22.90
2 USA	21.40
3 Norway	20.60
4 UK	20.50
5 Italy	20.33
22 nations entered	

FS 4-Way Female

	Avg
1 UK	16.50
2 Norway	16.20
3 US	15.30
4 Italy	14.80
5 France	13.10
8 nations entered	

FS 8-Way Open

	Avg
1 Russia	20.09
2 USA	20.09
3 France	19.30
4 Italy	14.40
5 UK	13.67
8 nations entered	





Sebastian XL

An emotional send-off for all the teams was followed by a frantic dash to the landing area gate to welcome them back and rush off to the screens to find out the scores...

VNE had a great go-get-'em pep-talk from team captain and Cornish legend Pooky and cranked out another storming round. We finished the meet at round 9 in fifth place five points ahead of Australia, not bad when we were five points behind after round 1. The confirmation of the cut was the cue for the 8-way party to begin (with the 4-way teams begging to be left undisturbed before the round 10 finals in the morning).

Saturday - Finals

Fortunes were mixed going into round 10. In 4-way, VMax had a six point cushion going into the final and XL were tied in joint third with Norway. The 8-way teams that took off included an excellent Italian team who had attained an impressive fourth place. The judging was live in front of a massed audience of locals and skydivers. The atmosphere was electric and a tied score in 8-way at round 10 between Russia and USA saw them head for the creepers to prepare the round 11 jump-off. VMax and XL were waved off by a now huge following and again the UK delegation and supporters waited eagerly. Both teams were met on landing and escorted to the screens. Norway girls were up first and scored a massive 18, leaving VMax needing 13 to win... when the score was posted as a safe 15 the Brits went POP! The

VMax chicks, all wearing sexy Union Flag sports tops, went wild. Champagne flowed and so did the tears (including the boys!).

XL up next was a real heart-stopper. The team posted 19 points, leaving the *Norgies* needing a tough 20+ to win bronze. The *Norgies* 20th came just before the freeze-frame and, when confirmed, the Brits acknowledged a moment of sadness as their hearts went out to XL. The French 4-way team were crowned champions with a 22.9 average followed by USA 4 (*Golden Knights*).

Next up was the battle of the superpowers in the 8-way jump-off. *Airspeed* (USA) needed to beat the Russian score to win. A draw would see Russia win on the highest-score-in-a-round rule (a 26 in time). USA scored a 15 and then Russia started real slowly then kicked it up to get the 15th point and retain the world title.

The medal ceremony was emotional as ever, with huge cheers as VMax took the gold for the third time in five years. The party in the evening saw a huge turnout as all celebrated. The fantastic result of the British FS delegation was well toasted, with all teams in the world's top five. It's interesting that VMax would have come seventh in the open competition (they use the same draw), only just behind the professional and semi-professional teams.

Thanks have to go out to so many people. Coaching from Dan BC, Solly Williams and Manu Ars has led all the teams to where they are now. Support from such a massive crowd of British skydivers was crucial for all the teams. Above all, support from the BPA and not least John Smyth has been fantastic. I could go on and on but you may get bored...

Andy Scott, VNE
andrew.scott@orange.co.uk

Did you know?...

This is the first time UK has won a gold medal in FS at a World Championships (VMax's other two golds were at World Cups in '99 and '02). Previous UK World FS Championship medals were 1981 (4-way bronze, *Symbiosis*) & 1979 (4-way silver, *Symbiosis*).

Photos:

Willy Boeykens

Patrick Passe - Mondial 2003

Wendy Smith - Mondial 2003

Jean Pierre Roy - Mondial 2003

Colin Bridges - Olympus digital

Andy Ford

Will Powell

Darren Birkin

Fran Shashkova-Richards

"What an emotional World Meet it was! Tears of joy as VMax won were closely followed by tears of sadness for XL missing out on the medals by just one point."



John Smyth



4-way podia



"John Smyth did an outstanding job as delegation minder, his constant attention to the wishes of every individual meant we were all able to focus on our events. The sight of him striding across the DZ would mean another potential hassle was over and a solution was about to be explained."

"We were naturally disappointed with missing out by only one point (again!) for a bronze, however we put 100% into the meet and did some of the best jumps of our life... XL would also like to congratulate VMax for their gold medal, it was quite a battle with the Norgie girls! The standard of the open event was incredible, the top five teams averaged over 20 and the next three were very close behind. FS is alive and kicking!"

Pete Allum



Russia



VMax - World



Champions 2003



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North West *Sky Fest*



Wow, what a week! It has to have been the best Sky Fest to date. We had the Let 410, we had top level coaches and most of all we had the weather! The heatwave across the UK was timed perfectly for ten days in August and NWPC was full of people eager to jump the skies and admire our fantastic views. With barbecues on the beach and jumps aplenty, so much happened at this year's SkyFest, where do I begin?!



XL Coaching Roadshow

Steve, Rob, John and Thomas from XL came to the NorthWest Para Centre for six days to coach many of us in 4-way, 8-way and one on one. The places we advertised were a sell out so we had plenty of groups for XL to work with. 23 people came for coaching, many visiting. Some of us have had XL coaching us before so we knew the standard was good (I mean, they are the British team after all!) and our expectations were definitely met. There were a few jumpers who had never had coaching before and were really impressed. John McIver has visited quite a bit over the last two years and it was good to see him back. Hopefully they'll all return next year. I, Jan and Kay would like to thank the XL lads for their assistance in the making of our training video, much to everyone's amusement and gratefully received for Stars in Their Eyes.



Quiz Nite

The annual Dennis Buchanan Quiz was held in the packing shed. The place was packed and then by some kind force of nature, the power went! Yep, the Leccy in the whole village had gone! Never fear though, we had generators at the ready and lights soon returned. We all got sloshed and tried not to cheat at the quiz. So everybody, who is the BPA Treasurer? You should all know that one by now, sneaking off and reading the Mag... I don't know!

Speed Competition

We held speed comps on two different days and the winners were *Round the Bend*, ahead of *Off the Edge* and *Up the Spout*. The latter team had to quit before the final round due to injury and because John Howard had to go home for his tea!

Brit Chicks Weekend

Lesley Gale came along to coach us chicks on big-ways as part of the run-up to the *Brit Chicks* challenge of a 60-way women's FS record next year. Unfortunately Kate Stephens was poorly so couldn't attend.

Lesley's aim was to work at core skills, enjoy good quality skydives and have some fun! We all met up on the Saturday morning and introduced ourselves. Being a Brit Chick from last year it was good to see some familiar faces, as well as the new chicks that came from far and wide. No sooner had we filled our registration forms in than Lesley had us dirtdiving and in the air. We had Johnny as our cameraman and we were ready to roll!

We built 14 and 15-way formations for most of the weekend and on our first jump broke the Cark women's formation record by building a complete 15-way. It was good to see Lesley at NWPC as well as great to see so many chicks wanting to take part in the big stuff. Chicks Rock!

Achievements

This year we broke our own NWPC formation record at the start of the week with formation loads building 21 and 22-ways! The formation flying was amazing, Mick Carruthers in the Islander and Jan De Hoog the Let pilot worked really well together. By the end of the week we had done four formation loads.

Another one for the record books was a jump some of our more 'mature' skydivers made. It was a memorable 5-way with a lot of history! The skydivers involved were George McGuiness, Keith Toyer, Brian Laithwaite, Steve Nolan and Brian Shaw, who hadn't done any FS for years except his wife Helen's 1,200th this week. They were all past or present instructors with one current CCI, two ex CCIs, total age 274, total time in the sport 143 years with a staggering total number of jumps of 15,037. And they turned points too! Good one. Some called at Fossil Formation or Dinosaur Dive, Brian Laithwaite however labelled it the Old Farts Skydive.

One of our students, Paul Harling deserves a mention, he lost his trainer over the skies of NWPC, and then threw his other in the bin... only for the lost one to be returned to him the next day when it was found next to a chopped canopy! Paul promptly returned to the bin and brushed the curry sauce of his other trainer, voila the pair reunited!

The achievements list is endless. So many people graduated AFF, got their first freefalls in and achieved milestones with jump numbers, see Club News.

Stars in Their Eyes

Stars in their Eyes concluded our week on Saturday evening. We had five acts, including Duncan, John and Mike H wearing skirts! Our very own Top Gun boys sang to Lesley whilst Duncan Stott and John Willi walked off with the award for their rendition of the Cheeky Girls! The night was the best. After the show had finished we all boogied on down and partied till we could party no more. This was the final Stars as Anthony Jenkins (Matthew Kelly impersonator) is bidding the UK farewell and leaving us for Oz at the end of the year. All the best Anthony, thanks for your help and good luck with the job. Like Mick C said, if you want to fly back for next year for the SkyFest, 200 jump tickets should cover it!

Until Next Year..

We jumped, we played rounders, the kids had water fights and Sam can now say "two and a half". It was a great laugh and we were all worn out as a result. Everyone at Cark really did work their socks off and Jan put a lot of flying hours in and is now in need of a rest. Many thanks to all who came along and made this year's SkyFest a success. We had 160 lifts and made



Photo's: Peter Hughes and John Williamson



2,460 descents. Great vibes, top people, next year's Sky fest will have a lot to live up to! Oh and Lesley "You've lost that lovin' feelin' .. wo wo wo" ..

Our last jump of the Cark week was a complete 20-way formation load, 11 chicks and 9 fellas (hey Lesley, check that for a ratio!)

It was a smashing jump to end the week on. I can't wait to see this year's vid!
See you all next year.

Michelle Meakins

shellm1@yahoo.com



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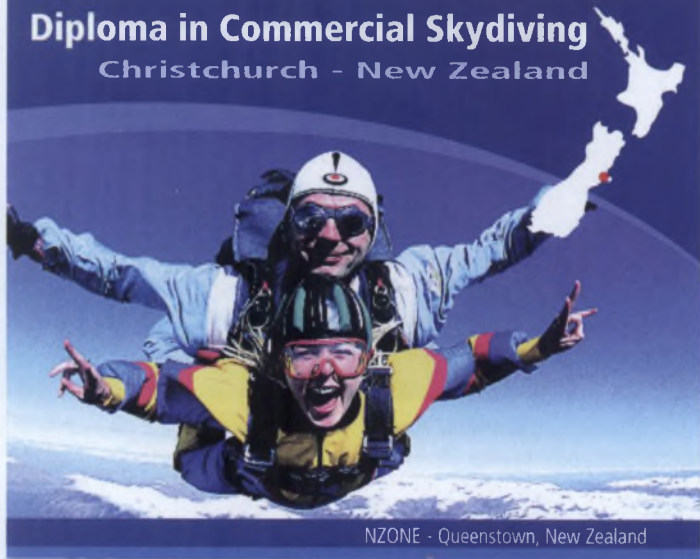
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Nationals

4-way FS

Lift 1, wheels off at 7am? You'd better believe it! With a record 47 teams competing and a hectic schedule ahead, this year's 4-way FS Nationals started at an hour that'd have most jumpers quaking in their duvets.

The two turbine Dornier G-92's made light work of the climb to altitude and, operating concurrently, these impressive jumpships soon started to get through the huge manifest.

The standard of jumping has rocketed in the last few years. Wind tunnels and world class coaching have made their impression on our sport. The top teams in each category all broke the record for the most points per round. The junior event proved to be the most popular with some excellent skydiving being displayed by gifted teams.

At the end of Saturday most teams were over halfway through thanks to the efficient Hibaldstow operation and some luck with the weather. Saturday night saw a few beers being sunk by those not breaking records – and some that were! Sunday didn't start quite so early due to bad weather. Once under way, the Dorniers were back in business ensuring a finish was in sight by the end of day two. 2,016 competition skydives on 134 lifts in two days. Not bad for the UK!

As the dust settled, the senior event proved to run true to form with *Sebastian XL* clear winners 50 points ahead! The Florida based team showed everyone a world class performance, followed by the girls of *VMax* proving once again that 'Chicks Rock!' Bronze went to a 'scratch' team consisting mostly of *VNE*, the Brit 8-way team. Out of the medals, the standard was impressively high with exceptional performances by the chasing pack, notably fourth placers *Jinx*.

Intermediate gold medallists *V2* led from start to finish. Their hard training schedule paid dividends as their smooth skydives left the rest of the field way behind. Silver went to *US UK*, and *Orbital* pipped *South Parc* for bronze in the last round.

Junior honours went to *Mission Impossible*, followed by *Eclipse* and then *Beaver*. The standard in the junior event was the most impressive it's ever been and this popular entry level competition showed that interest in FS is still growing. The end of competition party was an excellent time to have fun as most had the next day booked off anyway – and party hard we did!

After recent horrific events at Hibaldstow, it was a shame the media didn't hang around to record our sport at its very best. Which other sport can you think of where champions advise beginners on technique... in the middle of an event? Old friends are reunited, new ones are made and inter-team banter makes for a fun atmosphere. Let's hope the surge in interest continues.

Many thanks to hard-working judges Kate, Karla, Sue & Liz and of course to all at Target and the BPA who put a lot of effort into making the Nationals the success they are.

Get a team, get in the air, and see you next year!

Chris Hollis
hollisc@tint.com



British Records

Senior	Sebastian XL	34
Senior women's	VMax	27
Intermediate	V2	19
Junior	Mission Impossible	19





V2, Intermediate Gold



Mission Impossible, Junior Gold



US UK, Intermediate Silver



Eclipse, Junior Silver



Orbital, Intermediate Bronze



Team Beaver, Junior Bronze



Dysfunctional Psychedelic Waltons, Senior Bronze

4-way Results

Full scores: www.bpa.org.uk

Senior	Ave
1 Sebastian XL	20.60
2 VMax	15.60
3 Dysfunctional	13.20
4 Jinx	12.70
5 Red Devils	12.11
6 SAC	11.78
7 UBI	11.50
8 X Trix	8.75
9 Groundrush	7.38
10 Practical Magic	6.88
11 Brown Warriors	5.13

Intermediate	Ave
1 V2	13.38
2 US UK	9.38
3 Orbital	7.63
4 South Parc	7.13
5 Factor X	6.38
6 Bizkits	6.25
7 S-Sense	6.00
7 Boolean	6.00
9 Indecisive	5.25
10 Dillusion	4.50
11 S-Cubed	3.63
12 Guys and Girls	3.38

Junior	Ave
1 Mission Impossible	13.50
2 Eclipse	12.25
3 Beaver	12.13
4 Weston 4Play	12.00
5 Evolution	11.25
6 Damn Zebra	10.63
7 Airworx	9.88
8 Domestic Violence	7.88
9 Quake	7.38
10 On The Edge	7.13
11 Chatterbox-Lapalisse	7.00
12 Das Bomb	6.50
13 Royal Engineers	5.88
14 Charisma	4.75
15 Whatever	4.63
15 Aspect	4.63
17 Super Yankee	4.38
18 Work in Progress	3.36
19 Practical Joke	3.50
20 Sigma 4	3.38
20 Thin Ice	3.38
22 Better than Barbie	3.13
23 Funnel of Lurve	2.88
24 Get A Grip	0.75

VMax & Sebastian XL, Senior Silver & Gold



Nationals

The impossible happened. Two glorious Nationals weekends on the trot. First the 4-way and then the 8-way were done and dusted in a weekend. Unbelievably, this included the artistic events Nationals run alongside the 8-way – this splendidly sociable idea worked very well.

Attendance was up from 2002 with three senior teams, four intermediates and seven speed. Perhaps this was partly due to 8-way being included on the regional circuit this year where British team VNE has coached on a reduced dive pool. This gave some rounds a cosy familiar feeling making more complex rounds less intimidating.

In seniors VNE understandably dominated. This is their fourth year as National Champions and they have 800+ jumps together plus a bunch of tunnel time. This non-professional team has invested so much time, effort and – let's face it – cash, that they have consistently pushed their own standard. In 2000 VNE won for the first time with a 9.2 average, increasing to a British record average of 12 in 2001 and 12.5 in 2002. This year they set a blistering 13.4 with what they said was a slow draw (no-one else knew the difference). Team members also found time to coach other teams, with Pooky doing most of the honours in seniors and Stumpy coaxing a great performance out of *International Space Kettle* in intermediate.

For VNE the draw may not have been the kindest... but the rest of the seniors were grateful for the lack of slot-switchers as Andy Pook, the Sultan of Swing, came up with some cute moves to get 'back to the top'. This fitted the relaxed approach of *Om* who cruised into silver medal position and a 6.6 average with probably more effort from coach Pooky than any team member! Langan-based bronze medallists *Box of Frogs* have bettered their average each year, from 3.9 in 2001 to 4.8 in 2002 and now 5.5! Each Nationals they close the gap on *Om*, what will happen in 2004?

In the intermediate event, *International Space Kettle* succeeded in their Quest for gold, ending with a scorching final round. The Netheravon team *Tequila* (I like them already!) brought great vibes and good skills to the silver medal position. *Scratch 8* won the bronze, doing fabulously considering they were just a 2-way on Friday afternoon.

In fourth position were *XLR8* who were either lucky or unlucky depending what way you looked at it. Team member Sonny Ford had a low cutaway and reserve deployment and hit the ground at line stretch on his reserve. We feared the worst but he escaped with various broken bones which will hopefully all heal in time. *XLR8* withdrew but were happy they were only temporarily down to a 7-way.

The no-show speed event proved popular and was called after two rounds on Sunday so we could grab the gongs, blitz the bar and take full advantage of Monday off. There is no UK drop zone which resembles a nightclub as much as Hibble so we forced ourselves to have a token boogie and continued till dawn out of politeness.

Thanks to meet director John Smyth, judges Kate, Karla & Liz plus the sensational Swallows and staff at Target Skysports for a cracking competition. Completing three high attendance FS Nationals in four days was down to fast planes, slick operation and great teamwork.

Lesley Gale
lesley@skydivemag.com



Om, Senior Silver



Box of Frogs, Senior Bronze



International Space Kettle, Intermediate Gold



Team Tequila, Intermediate Silver



Scratch 8, Intermediate Bronze





VNE, Senior Gold



Box of Frogs



International Space Kettle

8-way Results

Senior Sequential	Ave
1 VNE	13.4
2 Om	6.6
3 Box of Frogs	5.5

Intermediate Sequential	
1 International Space Kettle	3.8
2 Tequila	1.6
3 Scratch 8	1.0
4 XLR8 (withdrew)	0.7

Speed (times in secs over 2 rounds)	
1 Om	27
2 Box of Frogs	31
3 Tequila	43
4 More Tea Vicar	47
5 Welcome To Target	59
6 Target*	77
7 Mayhem*	94

* = 50 secs awarded for a round which built to 7

British Record

VNE - 18 points



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Nationals

2-4 August saw the Artistic Nationals held at one of our biggest freefly DZs, Target Skysports. It was going to be an exciting weekend with top level freeflyers, freestylers and skysurfers plus some Nationals virgins keen for a taste of competition.

Each discipline has an A class (senior) and a B class (junior). B teams must have one FF1 jumper (ie, who hasn't yet obtained their FF2). Class A do compulsory rounds and free rounds whilst class B only do free rounds. The compulsory routines are drawn from a dive pool just like FS.

Freefly

Free rounds are judged on two equally weighted elements.

Technicality, – difficulty; ability to move vertically, horizontally and rotate in any orientation; precision; control; teamwork.

Presentation – visual excitement; does it hold the viewer's attention? Originality of the moves; creative choreography; composition; teamwork.

All eyes were on *Sebastian-Headcorn Free Jive*, last year's National Champions. Their bar tape was watched in amazement at how good they are, clearly in a different league with international medal potential as yet unfulfilled. Another attention-grabber were the *Lost Boys*. Al has 900+ skydives whilst Swifty has 180. Al brought Swifty, a friend for 11 years, into skydiving and has been a great coach all the way up to FF1. The boys

share a passion for freeflying and fly extremely well together; watching their footage it's easy to forget they are both double



amputees. The scoring system for them is exactly the same as for everyone else, there was no bias and they worked extremely hard to win, maintaining a lead throughout. The *Lost Boys* are an amazing inspiration, really something special.

Skysurf

Free rounds are scored on four equal elements.

Difficulty: skills, styles, moves and transitions of both performer and videographer.

Execution: is the routine performed flawlessly or with mistakes?

Artistic: showing a definite beginning; making the most of the working time; variety of skills; creativity; interactivity with camera; pleasing to watch.

Camera: smooth, stable image; performers always in frame; different camera angles; paying attention to the sun; interactivity; and originality.

Airwave scored a bronze in 2002 and in a year have progressed to gold! Hopefully some of the B category teams will enter A class next year and give *Airwave* some competition. Bullet Surf, skysurf B winners, go on, get things hotting up!

Freestyle

Free rounds are scored as in skysurf. I tried my luck with Rob Silver, we surprised ourselves in class B by winning! Rob also jumped with Chris Lynch in freestyle A as *Style Jiver*. They stayed in the lead though *Tumbleweed Freestyle* beat them in round 5 compulsories, nice one Debs!

Summary

The competition had a good vibe and ran flawlessly alongside the 8-way. The Sunday evening award ceremony had everything; champagne, medals, flowers, a host of trophies and an extremely lively atmosphere. The buzz carried on through the night as the bar opened, music came on, team videos went up and everyone partied the night away. When I went to sleep at 9am there were still people up having a good time! Special thanks to the Targeteers who worked hard to make it a success, to judges Igor and Sue and everyone involved.

Nigel Holland
hollandnigel@aol.com



British Record
Sebastian-Headcorn Free Jive – 8.1



Robbie Powell by Gary Dawes



The Lost Boys by Steve Newman

Artistic Results

Freestyle A

- 1 Style Jiver
- 2 Tumbleweed Style

Freestyle B

- 1 Showtime
- 2 Bullet Style
- 3 Let Off Some Steam Bennett

Freefly A

- 1 Free Jive
- 2 Oh Boy
- 3 Advance Rapide

Freefly B

- 1 Lost Boys
- 2 Bunch of Muppets
- 3 Sx2

Skysurf A

- 1 Airwave

Skysurf B

- 1 Bullet Surf
- 2 Dude Where's My Board
- 3 Board Stupid



Sebastian-Headcorn Free Jive, Freefly A Gold



Oh Boy, Freefly A Silver



Advance Rapide, Freefly A Bronze



Tumbleweed Style, Freestyle A Silver



Dude Where's My Board, Skysurf B Silver



Airwave,
Skysurf A
Gold



Lost Boys, Freefly B Gold



Board Stupid, Skysurf B Bronze



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Leo Baker

Anyone who didn't know Leo well could be forgiven for thinking she was absolutely bonkers. From her enthusiastic "HEY! – Join the skydiving club" table-dance at our university Freshers' Fayre to her rendition of Material Girl whilst dressed as Princess Jasmine at a Christmas party, she was always the one to dive headfirst into anything and everything. To call her hyperactive would be an understatement.

However, she did frequently slow down enough to have a deep understanding of people and their feelings – she was a fabulous friend to have.

She was extremely diverse, the kind of person who could speak five languages but would never tell you. You'd call her at short notice to invite her out for a drink and might get the response "Oh I'd love to but we're rehearsing for a German play" or something equally random. She grew up in Thailand, France, Germany & Bristol – and it showed. She packed so much into her life and did more in her 20 years than most manage in 60.

Leo went all the way through to Cat 8 on RAPS and, being the kind of person who naturally laid her emotions open for all to see, we all went through it with her! As a new experienced jumper, she won the FS 3-way event at the BCPA Southernns. This wouldn't have been the last competition she would have won. Her safe progression through the sport was an excellent example to up-and-coming students.

Leo joined Bristol Uni skydiving club in 2001 during her first year, progressed to Cat 8 and then spent a year as our social secretary. She was on holiday in June with other Bristol jumpers before she was due to start another year on the committee, this time in charge of student progression. The unthinkable happened during this holiday – she had a canopy collision and died from her injuries.



I have so many memories of Leo that it's impossible to pick just one to sum her up. Maybe it would be the mental image of her face on her first tube, the way she screamed in glee at the way the earth seemed to revolve around her. Or maybe it would have to be one of her many nights out as our social sec, leading the pub crawl from the front, marching into the club and bopping the night away in a frappe hat.

The world needs more Leos in it, not less. Let's remember her by living it up like she did and being excellent to each other.

Liz Ashley

Steve Hilder

Steve started jumping in November 2001 with Bristol University Parachute Club. After doing a number of static line jumps he went to South Africa to complete AFF. He spent almost every weekend at Netheravon, where he was well known and always involved in drop zone activities.

After spending a year at Bristol University he moved to the Royal Military College of Science, where he helped set up the skydiving club. Steve spent time organising training courses and laying the groundwork for the club to continue to develop.

Steve was a conservative and safety conscious skydiver with just over 200 jumps; keen on developing his FS skills he competed in BCPA and BPA competitions. Steve was planning to focus on 4-way camera work. He had recently spent time learning to sit-fly and was close to gaining his FF1. Steve took a keen interest in the ParaYouth initiative and gave his time and effort to help make it a success. He hoped to attend a Basic Instructor course later in the year.

When not at the DZ, he was particularly keen on acting, winning a Best Newcomer award for a role he recently played. Steve also enjoyed skiing and music. With a long-term interest in the military Steve was destined to become a commissioned officer after leaving RMCS.

Steve was killed on 4th July. We had just finished the first round of the BCPA National Championships FS competition. After an unusually tumultuous exit, the formation settled and we began turning points faster than ever before. Steve was a team-mate, colleague and friend; he will be greatly missed.

Dave Mason
& Adrian Blair



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Club News

With summer drawing to a close, everyone seems to have been jumping their booties off. So to allow us to include more of your goings-on and pictures we have made some changes to Club News, the lists of achievements was beginning to take over from Club News itself. So we are reducing these to those extra special moments we all aspire to.

Jumps numbers will now be the milestones of 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and multiples of. Others to submit will be first freefall (of course!), AFF graduate, Cat 8, FS1, FF1 and the other grading system qualifications. We will be dropping time in freefall as this is becoming less of a standard these days in our rapidly-changing sport where freeflying, birdman and the like have made these times so varied. Your club reps will have full details of what's in or not.

We hope you can see the extra space generated has been put to good use with more large sexy photos and extra news from each club with still a healthy list of beer-buying achievements.

Here's wishing you all a good couple of months despite the oncoming cold – get the thermals dug out of the cupboard, call the Kit Store for those snugly warm gloves and have some great jumps.

Colin



PETERLEE

Achievements

1st Freefall
Nick Graham
Paul Law
Rachael Duncan
Eleanor Cawston
Wayne Wilson
Siobhan Gillespie
David Hamilton
Alan Jackson
Andy Harris
Karl Hearfield
IC1, FS1
Tom Gracutt
George Impey

FS1, 100 jumps
Ross Sibbald
Graduated AFF
Gary Wishart
Stu Ferguson
J Lee Gibbons
Paul Douthwaite
IC1
Nick Brown
Lindsay Widdall
James Shotton
Dave Leonard
Eleanor Cawston
Dave Scorer

Jump Numbers

100
Paul McCormick
Giles Barnett
Nick Brown
Richard Head
Kev Dynan
Andy Howe
500
Mal Richardson

John Williamson

This summer has really been great. Our Turbolet has had a huge impact on the place and on the amount of jumping. Some of the credit cards out there must be screaming for mercy!

There's been a massive amount of progression this year, especially from the Uni students. Long may this continue as it means plenty of money behind the bar!



Chris Beattie

We'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in the coaching weekends including Chris Lynch, Dave Ruffell from the Sunshine Factory, Mark Calland speed diver, VMax & VNE. Thanks also to everyone who came along and had fun at the Great Northeastern Collegiates – who'd have thought we'd see Ian Rosenvinge on a bucking bronco?!

Jane Robertson

HEADCORN

Farewell to our fantastic Islander pilot Roger, who has left to train to fly a jet plane for a commercial airline. The upside is we've had Alex back which is just great. A warm welcome to Jan and Jon who have moved into a palatial residence on the east side of the grass terrace. Its been a busy summer - 107 consecutive day's skydiving as this goes to press - and a fun one for most people, with helicopter and water jumps, Mel keeping the boys entertained with topless antics, Baz and Robbo keeping the girls entertained with bottomless antics, plus club and national competitions. We had five Headcorn teams at the 4-way Nationals, way to go!

Ruth Cooper

Headcorn's 22nd annual Launch and Accuracy competition saw 16 teams register. In the first round Jane Buckle dropped her big one, Chris Lynch looked on form and Pete Sizer finished the round off with the first of two discs. We had to lower the exit altitude to 4,500 feet for the fourth and final round where the senior launch 'icepick' caught a few teams out. Everything was in the bag by 6pm with just the party to look forward to. Sixteen teams, four rounds, no malfunctions, no rejets, no protests and no injuries (well no serious ones anyway, though we're hoping Chris Carroll is back on form soon), just lots of good vibes.

Chris Lynch successfully defended his title using his own brand of swoop accuracy - very impressive! Worth a mention are the intermediate silver and bronze medallists were scratch teams. The second and third place individuals both had less than 100 jumps, well done! The wooden spoon went to Justin - if you were there you know why! The party was excellent with music provided by Al Redler and his Glam Rock Band. Sunday proved to be a rather slow day, something to do with the night before perhaps?

Results

Team				Individual
(4 rounds)				
Senior				
1	Get a Lift	1	Chris Lynch	0.34
2	Why Us	2	Peter Sizer	0.67
3	Zygos	3	Jane Buckle	1.75
Intermediate				
1	Airworks	1	Jay Applebee	12.15
2	Miraculous	2	Richard Cole	15.51
3	No Chance	3	Liam Guy	17.26

Jane Buckle

Achievements

1 st Freefall	Tero Potila Kirsty Robinson Phil Pottle Andy Vallintine Craig Fagg David Murray
FF1, 600 jumps	Louise Hawkins
FS1	Jason Parry Steve Langley

Jump Numbers

200	Dan Rofe Michelle Theobald Peter Davis Tilly Attlewill
300	Steph Lawlor
600	Graham Stone
5,000	Andy Ring



Steve Such



Dan Rofe



Scott and Lisa MacDonald by James Stevenson

STRATHALLAN

Our freely school is running at full strength with club coach Russell Hollingworth. Jumpers are queuing up to improve their skills. The rumours are true. G-STAT is no more after its recent crash. At least it saves us the bother of a new paint job! Our aircraft line has an Islander to complement our other 206 - Golf Echo. The Islander came in handy allowing us to take more jumpers into our demo at the Blairgowrie Highland Games.

The club's annual student progression week was the best yet with a heatwave hitting just at the right time bringing out many old faces. Life member Rob Noble-Nesbitt was even seen to be enjoying himself working hard dispatching students. August saw a vast amount of progression with our RAPS students completing just over 240 descents, the largest in a month for a long time. Club instructor Iain Anderson returned from Germany & the Gulf. Club chef KB put on an Alvor style Chicken Big Pan Doo to thank the regulars for helping out with yet another Skyline tandem event. We managed all 35 students who turned up despite the efforts from the weather to keep us on the ground.

Joolie's birthday party went ahead with people jumping in fancy dress then partying the night away. Even an injured ankle didn't stop Joolie from enjoying it. A new record has been set for the fastest climb of the Farr Wall when Dangerous Dave took just 17 seconds. Our next event will be our bonfire & fireworks display on 8 November with the usual feast, booze and of course disco & karaoke

Andy Frew

Achievements

1 st Freefall	Andrew Coulton Scott Mackenzie Lorena Sanchez Chris Miller Vulker Gulde Bernie Carroll Michael Dziennik
IC1	Dave Broadley Ray MacDonald Andy Morgan Paul Paterson
IS1	Chris Reeves
FF1	Nick Owen
Cat 8, 50 jumps	RoseAnn Gross
Cat 8	Paul Murphy Emily Christie Arthur Agnew

Jump Numbers

100	Kenny Shaw
200	Jeff Simpson Andy Morgan
500	Harry Saunders
800	Andy Frew



Peter Hughes

CARK

Achievements

1st Freefall	Gail Hogan Danny Hogan Nick Barnett
AFF Graduates	Maddy West Jim Smith Brendan Roche
1 hr Freefall Cat 8	Marcus Barrington Matt Jagger James Batchelor Brendan Cassidy

Jump Numbers

50	Trish Hayton Simon Mitchell
100	Steven Edge
300	Karen Bain Rachel Stott Ellen Nath
500	Kay Carruthers Duncan Stott Carol Sutton Rob Frost
600	Michelle Meakins
800	Jan Fallon
900	John Howard
1,000	Andy Brass Darren Baillie Duncan Haynes
2,000	Mick Carruthers



Peter Hughes

Cark's Drop and Pop 2003

There was a good turnout for the pre-cat 8 competition with 14 people entering for the challenge. Well done to everyone who had a go.

Results

1	Benny Holt	16:14sec
2	Maddy West	20:09sec
3	Paul Palmer	20:66sec

Thank you to the sponsor DZsports.com for supplying the prizes. A special mention must go to Trish Hayton for still having a go after landing a little way from the cross! Thanks to Cark for all their help.

Simon Mitchell

Another wedding saw Gaz and Ali tying the knot in Zell Am See, Austria. They celebrated with their friends back in the UK with a reception and a party. Ali's dress was gorgeous and Gaz scrubbed up very nicely! Congratulations, we wish you a happy future together.

Birthday wishes go out to Kay C who celebrated her 40th birthday at NWPC. There was a big party in a marquee with a buffet which Roy and Jenny organised. More congratulations to another happy couple, Jane and Jason Keith on the birth of their baby boy Josh Ryhs. The proud parents are over the moon. Jason was laid up in hospital himself at the time with a broken leg and consequently had to be wheeled down to the labour room!

If you want to read about our sensational SkyFest, see pages 44-45. On 17-19 October the Let 410 is returning, we'll all get to say hi to Jan again! There is going to be a 10-way speed competition, so come along, jump the Let and enter the comp! The Christmas Do is at the Grange Hotel on Sat 29 November, only £56 for bed, breakfast and Christmas meal.

Michelle Meakins



Steve Scott



TARGET

We have said bon voyage to Liam (now fondly known as Buzz), Sally, Noel and Liz who are moving to New Zealand. Liam & Sally left early September for a year in the sun (again!). Noel and Liz left early October for Liz's year long job contract, so as you can imagine Noel's gonna take advantage of the weather and jump his socks off. Those left behind look forward to a chilly winter full of parties and neck warmers!

Welcome back to all the uni students eager to get their IC1 and Cat 8's. We've been home to some big-ways recently including a 23-way organised by XL. An ideal place to do some even larger big-ways is in Portugal at Christmas with 2 G92s. From the last two years it's sure to be an excellent party and skydiving holiday.

Hannah Swallow



Target photos: Mike Carpenter

Achievements

1st Freefall	Matt Evans-Smith, Kay Holford Star Thomas
Graduated AFF	Liz Russell, Nige Haslam
IC1	Oli Pitchers, Lucy Herrett
Cat 8	Robie Basak, Alex Allen Jon Maslen, Allie Hardman Mike McAuley
FS1	Trish McDonagh Craig Le Roux Nick Salmon, Lorraine Blacker Blair Stent
FF1	Andy Jessop
SS2	Robbie Powell

Jump Numbers

200	Dave Butterell
400	Derek Kent
1,000	Simon Brentford



The Armed Forces Parachute Championships at the end of August welcomed around thirty 4-way teams, numerous accuracy competitors and a smattering of style and CF. The pit became quite crowded on the low cloudbase days as the swoopers entertained everybody. Steve Jelf found out the tuffet is harder than it looks – best wishes for a speedy recovery mate. The second weekend saw swooping competitions and 8-way no show speed from the Islander which resulted in a few trampling injuries and minor damage to the aircraft door-frame (Rachael?!). Entertaining footage was viewed on the new all-singing big screen – there's no hiding now!

Results

8-way

1 Elsinore NRA 2 WADGAS 3 Team Tequila

Swoop

1 Chris Lynch 2 Tim Carter 3 Chris Guntrip

4-way

Junior	1 REME Red	2 Red Devils	3 RLC Red
Inter	1 Boolean	2 Red Devils	3 Mismanaged
Senior	1 JSPC(N)	2 Minus V2	3 Silver Eagles

Mike Smith won the overall best competitor prize – and also won the senior accuracy on his Icarus! Not bad for quite possibly the oldest git, I mean, competitor. One of the high points of the weekend was the Billy Beans Steele weigh-in, extensively promoted by Arron 'Max Clifford' Hearsum. Trudie Austin won with the closest guess, her prize being a curry night out with Billy. If there's any cash left, around £500 will go to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Fund.

The weekend ended with a fantastic beach babes and bums themed foam party with a mass of questionable fancy dress, especially on the blokes. Thanks to Paul Nealis for providing the disco and the foam – the carpet's come up a treat! Also to Smudge for leaving his mark on just about everyone using brown body paint – indelible!

Special mentions to Nige Jackson and Nick O'Brien for clocking up 10,000 flying hours – thanks for all the skydiver driving guys, we do appreciate you! Farewell to Echo Delta – the Freds' Islander which is off to Australia, but not before leaving tyre marks on the tower!

It's nice to see Bob Soutar visiting us regularly again, along with Tess. And well done to Steph 'make-up' Boardman and Allie Davis who have now completed their first static line jump at South Cerney, raising loads of cash for Marie Curie Cancer Care. If anyone sees Ginge 'back to front' Livermore, could they return him please? He was last seen disappearing into the distance with Lee King in hot pursuit!

Kath Salisbury



Mike Smith, best competitor,
by Simon Ward

Achievements

FS1	Wayne Clarke
	Anton Gething
FS1, 50 jumps	Debbie Lamsley
FS1, 100 jumps	Jeff Cook

Jump Numbers

50	Dave Cockle
200	Hazel Reed
300	Shane Cook
	Russ George
	Steve Woolley
400	Andy Edmonds
500	Stephen Reynolds
	Lee King
	Del Derrick
800	Billy Steele

BORDER



Both photos show Dave Gillan by Bryn Chaffe

Two successful student progression weeks resulted in bulk Category 8's as well as warp training. 18 nurses from Edinburgh Sick Children's hospital joined us to do tandems for the adolescent cancer unit – kindly talked around by David McGuinness. We got all done in one day which was no mean feat with only two tandem instructors and a 206!

Pilot Ian Bottomley surpassed himself with another incident, this time involving an oil cap – you'd think he'd know better after receiving the dipstick award at last year's Christmas party. Keep it up Ian and you'll get a plaque this year with more parts glued to it than actually feature on the aircraft itself!

Laura Johnson



Achievements

Cat 8	Eoin Muir, Bob & Steve
50 jumps	Eoin Muir
FS1	Phil Black
	Scott Shearer
IC1	Geraldine McGuinness
700 jumps	Ed Murdoch

CHATTERIS

The summer has been busy, busy, busy, with lots of student progression, and many achievements. The new hangar is almost complete; it will house the Nomad by night and provide extra packing area through the day. Goodbye to Ron who has flown back to his winter home of Australia, this time for good to start his own skydive holiday company. We wish him luck with his new venture.

Achievements

1st Freefall	Roy Stapleton
	Shane Pettingill
	George Lush
	Sarah Allen
Cat 8	Michael Andrews
	Phil Church
	Nathaniel Wheatley
	Quasim Ahmed
	Roy Stapleton
	Shane Loates
	Jason Wooton

Cat 8	Dean Kay
	Paul Rogers
	Tyronne Jones
	Chris Moore
	Dave Britton
	Jason Binnie
FS1	Kay Williams
	Jason Kierman
	Shelagh Davies
	Matt Baker
CF1,	
100 jumps	Martin Pitts

Jump Numbers

100	Karl Chapman
200	Gary Hewstone
500	Chris Bowley
600	Gerwyn Watkins
	Lloyd Quenby
	Jo Brookbanks
1,000	John Stevens
2,000	Ron Perry
4,000	Bernie Parker

BRIDLINGTON

Achievements

1st Freefall	Rob Nelson
	James Birchall
	Kay Holford
FS1, IC1, 100 jumps	Jim Bellew
FS1	Paul Scott
	Janet Mackintosh
	Mike Burton

Jump Numbers

50	Bryan Fisher
200	Lara Walker
300	Simon Cathrine
500	Mick Dawn
1,000	Phil Lyall

The Brid Chicks Langar hen weekend was literally a scorcher – wall to wall blue and record-breaking temperatures.

You'd think we'd be pleased but in typical Brit style we were all complaining it was too hot! Lara Jordan was celebrating her forthcoming wedding to Dave Walker while I was joint bride-to-be with my wedding to Andy Pollitt not long after that. Cat Swift would have been there too but her wedding to Clive Bailey is a short notice affair and she was too busy planning. A big thank you to Langar for making us feel welcome and looking after us. The boys left behind at Brid amused themselves the night before Dave Walker's big day by shaving his wedding tackle as naked as the day he was born. Happy scratching Dave!

Dave and Lara's wedding hit the headlines when the groom, best man and ushers all arrived at the wedding from 5,000ft. Another team of guests also jumped into the reception later that evening. All went well specially when Dave Hat Saville became very friendly with a nearby prickly hedge on landing. The star of the night had to be normally quiet and refined Aine Harris who, in her drunken state, decided that everyone in trousers should have them pulled up to the knees, the reason for this is still unclear.

Our progression week had plenty of jumping as you can see from the achievements. It came to a tragic end when one of our intermediate jumpers, Grant Hagar, was involved in an accident on Friday 22 August and died later in hospital. Everyone was devastated and would like to send their heartfelt sympathy to Grant's family.

Tracy Bartley





Andy Ford

It's been a busy summer, so busy we had to postpone the Scrambles to October. We hosted a Cystic Fibrosis Trust tandem event, completing 255 tandem jumps on the Saturday alone; a great success, thanks to club members and visiting tandem instructors, raising over £100,000 for the Trust and attracting positive local media attention (which every DZ needs).

The social event of the year, the annual Summer Ball on the August bank holiday just gets bigger and better. *Grounded* and DJ Robbie kept us dancing till the early hours, the quantity of champagne hit record levels, and the number of gorgeously turned out boys 'n' girls was a joy to behold. A huge thanks to everyone who helped to make the Ball

happen. Strangely, the next day the manifest board was a blank.

Congratulations to Barry Kruger & Maria, married on 1 August and Les Parren & Denise, married on 19 September. Welcome to Ella Rose, born to Pollyanna Lenkie and her partner Sean on 24 August. After 16 years in the UK, Pollyanna and Sean returned to Pollyanna's native Australia last October; the distance prevented Aunt Sarah Farouqui from attending the birth; instead she was on the phone for the entire event (hopefully not a video phone!). See you at the end of season fireworks and party on Saturday 8 November.

Bev Ford

Paul Floyd by Andy Ford



WESTON

Achievements

FS1	Louise Wyper
FS1, 100 jumps	Jenny Barquet
Cat 8	Jonathan Birkett
	'Ricky' Butcher
	Mike Pollard
	Maren McGuigan
	Alison McGregor

Jump Numbers

100	John Doyle
200	Nick Whiteley
	Lindsey Ashwood
400	Claire Skiba
	Phil Hartree
500	Lottie Capanni
4,000	Dave Stephens

What a fantastic, mad summer! The August open week had plenty of people keeping G-BKPC busy. As the sun set over Morecambe Bay, the barbies fired up and everyone enjoyed a chilled beer, the good vibes continuing late into the evenings. The atmosphere on the DZ was the best I have ever known and it will only get better! This summer saw the highest number of students coming back after their first RAPS jump. Watch out WARP instructors, you're going to be busy!

Freefall student Bryan Van Den Heever, a commercial artist, has created the most awesome skydiving mural covering the entire DZ building – tres cool! Runway work is progressing nicely. Chris Taylor, his sons Greg, Eddie and gazillions of helpers have all contributed. The refurbishment of the toilets and showers has been done by Ian Lambert, Mark Backhouse, Dave Gaskell and numerous assistants. We've also removed the shower pay meters, so enjoy the hot water on us! A small thanks to all who gave up their time, it's great to see such a sense of community on the DZ.

Congratulations to Sara Payne and Steve Cooper who tied the knot in August. BKPC regulars made an evening jump into the reception to deliver flowers, chocolates and champagne to the happy couple. How did those guys keep a bunch of roses in one piece in freefall?

Those of you who thought we'd been playing with our ACME BPA instructor genetic cloning kits, don't worry – it's just the new staff uniform

that makes them all look alike. Smart as they look, one shirt each to last the weekend could get a bit whiffy so more are on the way!

We're holding a Halloween fancy dress & bonfire party on 1 November. The Christmas bash is on Friday 5 December at Thurnham Mill Hotel with meal, awards and entertainment till late, accommodation available. Places were at a premium last year so see Jeff now. Rumours of a DZ year review film by Rob McVey are circling – any footage you have must be shared!

Jeff Illidge



BLACK KNIGHTS

Achievements

1st freefall	James Arkwright, Elliot Burgess, John Feeney, Jo Gilman, Greg Taylor, Paul Terras
Cat 8	Mike Crossley
IC1	David Lee
IC1, FS1, 100 jumps	Mark Backhouse
	Neil Henshall
	Ian Lambert

Jump Numbers

50	James Ackland
100	Ben Griffiths
200	Mike Ferguson
800	Kev Johnstone

Jeff Illidge





LANGAR

Dylis Price's 1,000th jump by Tony Danbury

Achievements

FS1	Emma Pilkington Harriet Bowden Amanda Higgins Andrew Donovan
FF1	Lisa James Amanda Higgins Kris Ridley
FF2	Keith Thomson Tom Hartland
1st Freefall	Pete Bacon Graham Mille Richard Taylor

Jump Numbers

100	Jo Hawley Paul Monaghan Andy Corry Gary Lane
200	Steve Simmons
300	Andy Blevin
500	Katie Woods
700	Ivor Flowers Sylv Radcliffe
800	Elaine Curtis
900	Bill Miller Al Hodgson
1,000	Glen Burchill
4,000	Phil Curtis

Good attendance at the central 4-way FS regionals of 16 teams; 8 junior, 6 intermediates, 2 senior. Junior gold and silver went to *Evolution* (46 total) and *Team Beaver* (44 total) respectively. *Beaver* lead by just one point on round three, *Evolution* pulled ahead on the last round for an exciting finish. Junior bronze went to *On The Edge* with a creditable 27. The intermediate gold and silver were also closely fought with a draw on 59 points between *Elevation* and *USUK* with again only one point between them on the penultimate round. *Elevation* took first place based on their better first round. At 53 points *South Parc* were not far behind for the bronze. In the seniors, *Born To Be Child* secured first place by a good margin over *I Am A Horse* – but then they had rather a lot of experience!

Langar's coveted annual Wooden Spoon for last place in the juniors, was won last year by *At Least They Pulled*, who were unfortunately somewhat better this year – the award was decisively won this time by *Carnage* (Caroline Guest, Clare Wilson, Helena Stone and Cheryl Marks). The Spoon was inaugurated for *Handbags @ Dawn*, whose members, very few years later, are all hot skydivers – so we're looking for great things from this latest lot!

Young Dylis Price, OBE, 71 this year, celebrated her 1,000th jump with a 14-way – quite a change for a dedicated freestylis! Mark Weaver's group of CRW jumpers finally built not only a 9-way diamond but added a stinger to make it a 10-way. The whole thing happened quickly and cleanly on their very first attempt – the training efforts of Mark and his team paid off handsomely. Congratulations to Bullet Freefly School members, who brought back three medals from the Artistic Nationals!

Mike 'Mostyn' Outen has left us to join the Royal Horse Artillery; we wish him luck in his career and look forward to seeing him if he ever gets any leave!

Tony Danbury



South Parc by Tony Danbury



Mike Outen by Simon Ward

Aileen Dowling gains her FS1



ST ANDREWS

Sigma 4 returned from Texel to the FS Nationals, where they did exceptionally well for the team's first time together and with some competition virgins. To top off Graeme Mackay proved to Alan his new FS skills and was awarded FS coach.

Instructor Andrew Hilton cycled the amateur stage of the Tour De France, L'Etape Du Tour, taking 8 hours to ride 125 very hard and mountainous miles in the Pyrenees. Perhaps he'll get back to the centre now instead of disappearing on his bike for weeks on end. I doubt it!

Freddy McD, Darren R, Dave D and Andrew & Gill H made the DZ proud recently by completing the Glasgow half marathon. Freddy and Darren have been regularly running on Saturday nights after jumping it looks like all that hard work paid off, well done guys!

Gordon Morison

Achievements

1st Freefall	Lee-ona Young Bill Hughes
FS1	Andrew Hutchison Tom Gold Ally Milne
FS1, IC1	Aileen Dowling
Graduated AFF	Tom Fletcher
50 Jumps	Ewan Cowie
50 Jumps, Cat 8	Bill Hughes



Nigel Holland

SIBSON



Sarah Hall by
Stuart Meacock

Fab weather, quality FS and freefly organising plus the Turbolet and SkyVan have meant a positively peachy July and August. Great to see Rhino back organising some funky FS, plus thanks again to Ash, Mark and Brian for their continued superb FF coaching. Massive amounts of student progression plus lots of midweek skydiving have left lots of Sibson customers totally jumped out! 8-10 jumps a day was the norm for some. Stuart being Stuart managed a record-breaking 17 in a day!

The PD, XL and artistic coaching roadshows were well attended. Kenny Primrose set his own record on his 100th jump, his first from a Skyvan, his second broken femur (same leg) and his first helicopter ride. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Sibson's Freefly Festival was combined with the 1st Lancaster Boogie [that is Grant Lancaster] to excellent effect, with a few combined flat and FS dives. The impromptu August bank holiday Hit 'n' Rock meet focussed a few minds on the benefits of packing for a sub-terminal opening. Special mention to Derek King who demonstrated total commitment by cutting away after landing to reduce his time!

Ronnie O'Brien and Giles Owen gave wingsuit flying a go, Ronnie loved it. Congratulations to our 4-way teams for their performance at Nationals, *Mission Impossible* won the juniors whilst in intermediates, *South Parc* were 4th and *Bizkits* 6th.

The father and son team John and Stuart Parker graduated Category 8. John, the dad ensured he got in first by withholding funds from Stuart so he was literally



Newly-wed Giles Owen by Mark Harris

grounded until his dad had completed, nice one John! Happy Birthday to John Meacock, we celebrated his 65th birthday in serious style, the wine fountain that dispensed chilled white all night claimed more than a couple of victims! A temporary cheerybye to Ryan Jackson who has gone to New Zealand and to Olli Denham who is off to Australia, have a great time guys. Wedding congratulations go to Steve and Erica Hillyer and Giles and Mary Owen.

Lizzie Harris

PS Anyone know the rules of Cumberland wrestling?

Achievements

1st Freefall	Andy Goldsmith
	Maurice Hall
FS1	Andrew Mansfield
FF1	Ed Ashby
	Daniel Ferreira
	Stuart Mayne

Jump Numbers

50	Stuart Parker
100	Claire Butler
	Cheryl Marks
	Kenny Primrose
200	Dean Shortt
	Karen Stryczek
	James Alford
300	Michael Wilson-Roberts
	Stuart Wilson
	Cat Hardesty
	Caroline Allen
500	Matt Robinson
700	David Fish
900	Jules Houlst
1,000	Sarah Hall

Derek King by Stuart Meacock



HINTON



Catherine Glenister
& Richard Orford
by Rob Stevenson

Achievements

IC1	Frank Bester
FS1	Stuart Livett, Dylan Griffith-Jones Bruce Dylan
Cat 8	John Friel, Duncan Humphreys Tony Alderman, Brian Cumming

Jump Numbers

100	Philippa Pickering
200	Frank Bester, Luke Ingram Sam Matthews
300	Mike Beeden
400	Maria Russell, Carl Blair
1,000	Alex Waller
8,000	Dave Emerson

Hinton was closed for the Grand Prix weekend so many of the regulars went on an adventure to Texel in Tigs's Islander where the local brew claimed a lot of victims. Marshall developed an inability to use his legs, a chicken turned into a speckled hen and Mike Pera even forgot what country he was in! He mistook Holland for Norway (not too much difference in the landscape, Mike!). Steve Park also learned what ultimate pain was on the bucking bronco. (See the video, he's not happy).

We said a fond farewell to Gus, who has gone home to native New Zealand. His replacement, Duncan, is learning the ropes of DZ life, has got his Cat 8 and is becoming a bit of a jumphog. August bank holiday saw the big birthday party. Lots of regulars

who have been away doing team stuff came back and we drank the bar dry. Ian was the only person brave/stupid enough to go in the love sack and change clothes with a girl half his size. Not a pretty sight for those who could still focus! The dancing went on till the sun came up and then I think the term 'quiet' could be used for the state of the DZ on Sunday.

Dave Emerson completed his 8,000th jump with an excellent invitation load where combined jump numbers were over 39,000. That's over half a million pounds in jump tickets!

Caroline White

SILVER STARS



With the centre seriously busy with loads of students and our fair share of displays, we decided to have some time ourselves! With help and coaching from Dave Tyler and Alastair Macartney we organised a tunnel trip to Paris. It was a big success, six of us throwing ourselves into the tunnel some for the first time. It is an amazing tool and a big eye-opener. After spending the first few sessions bouncing off the nets we managed to fly some decent points and much was learned. We've also run a CF weekend and a FS weekend where everyone learned lots and some gained qualifications. The team did well again in the Armies, good to see as we have a lot of new members, well done guys!

Stuart Miller-Hall

Achievements

1st Freefall	John Slanney
IC1, FS1	Olley Castledine
CF1	Dave Lewis Paul Kendal Garath Leodard

Jump Numbers

200	Smitty
300	Ray Brewer Kolio
400	Stuart Miller-Hall
500	Big Al Gary Stevens
4,000	Alastair Macartney
6,000	Carl Williams

PARAGON

It won't be too long before the birds start heading south for the winter so Paragon's annual pilgrimage to Empuria can't be far off. As I write this, the usual suspects are preparing kit, training hard and cornering the world market in mosquito repellent. By the time this is in print, it'll all be over and no doubt they'll have had a ball which is fine by me 'cos I can't go this year (mumble, grunt, mumble).

Big changes in the air as Tom Boyle acquires another aircraft. The 172 will be a welcome addition to the trusty 182 as the DZ has been getting steadily busier over the summer. Congratulations to pilot Stuart Pole who landed a job with an airline, well done Stuart and thanks for

your help. We welcome new pilots John and Dave into the fold. We bade a fond farewell to Emma who headed off to practice her medical skills in pastures new - Manchester. It didn't take long for her to visit us again. I'm not so sure about her falling asleep as soon as she got here though!

A word of gratitude to Alice whose efforts in the packing shed have been nothing short of miraculous. Billy's having a whip-round to pay for your knee joint replacements.

Bob Henderson & Lynsey McLagan

Achievements

1st Freefall	Janet Chusainow, Alex McMullen
100 Jumps	Steve Henderson (finally!)

WILD GEESSE



Photos: John McCourt



It's been a busy couple of months with lots of visitors. Friends from Peterlee, Bridlington & Team Pumpkin had a ball at the centre. Andy Smith from Peterlee has been trying for the past four years to talk his wife June into doing a tandem so he was amazed when visiting the Geese she finally agreed. After the jump I asked her why she had changed her mind and she said it was due to the friendly atmosphere, first class equipment and super aircraft at the Geese. So, if you want to join the crack

grab a cheap flight and we will pick up from the local airport or ferry terminal.

Well done to the two FS teams that attended the Nationals; *Practical Magic* (senior) & *Practical Joke* (junior). Congratulations to Gary and Susie Smith on the birth of their son.

John McCourt

Achievements

1 st Freefall	Arthur Magil
Cat 8	Rachel Wilson

ROYAL ARTILLERY

It's been non-stop since team training in Perris Valley back in March where we welcomed three new members. The team has completed over 80 displays this year, including quite a few balloon jumps. Highlights of the year include water demos into Hyde Park London for Red Bull's Flugtag event, getting in the Guinness Book of Records and the first female on a team display. Possible events next year include the Carling Cup Final into the Millennium Stadium! See www.skydivegunners.co.uk

Achievements Jeff Montgomery 1,000 jumps



Steve Hughes

This section is non BPA Affiliated centres

RED DEVILS

The season is as busy as ever and we still have a few more manic weekends of displays around the country. In the coming months the team members spread to the four corners of the earth including some to Cyprus to give Dave Wood and Co a hand, team selection in Spain and a few more jumping alongside the Golden Knights and the Leap Frogs.



Adele Murray

Jump Numbers

200	Tim De Souza
1,000	Richie Allaway

PUMPKINS

A small (but beautifully formed) group of TP went to Wild Geese for the August bank holiday weekend, organised by Dom Taylor. They were fabulously looked after by Maggie and crew despite littering the Irish countryside with all manner of inflatable wildlife. Big thanks to pilot Drew and loadmaster Toxic for such excellent spotting. Alex Waller, one of the early TP, has done 1,000 jumps since his course three years ago! Alex, a BI and freefly coach at Hinton, is moving to NZ soon and will be sadly missed.

Martin Williams

Achievements

FF1	Steve Tiller
Cat 8	Tom Merryfield, Craig Burgess
50 jumps	Richard Churchill Coleman
200 jumps	Stu Carter



Stuart Carter

Steve Langley

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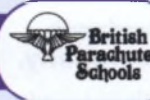
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BPA Associated Organisations

The following organisations are run under the BPA Operations Manual when operating at BPA Affiliated Centres. The BPA takes no responsibility for training or advice when these organisations operate at other centres.

Active Skydiving

Active Skydiving

Active Skydiving

Glenoglynn, St Fillans, Perthshire PH6 2ND
Tel/Fax: 01764 685316
 Mobile: 07803 041348
scotty@activeskydiving.com
www.activeskydiving.com
Contact: Scotty Milne
Courses: AFF
Location: Spain, USA

The Freefall Company



FreeFall Company

The Coach House, West St, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7RL
Tel: (Spain) 00 34 972 45 45 63
kevin@freefallco.com
www.freefallco.com
Contact: Kevin McCarthy
Courses: AFF
Location: Spain

Red Devils



Red Devils

Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678211 or 300 / 212
 Fax: 01980 678349
reddevils@reddevilsonline.com
www.reddevilsonline.com
 Displays, tandem
Contact: Edward Paxton
Courses: Tandem
Location: UK (Netheravon)

Overseas Associated DZs

The BPA takes no responsibility for training or advice given by these drop zones as they do not necessarily operate under the BPA Operations Manual.

SPAIN

CPCB (Centro de Paracaidismo Costa Brava)
 PO Box 194, 17487 Empuriabrava, Spain
Tel: 0034 972 450 111
 Fax: 0034 972 450 749
cpcb@gna.es
www.skyrats.com

Skydive Spain

La Juliana Aerodrome, Bullolus DLM, Seville, Spain
Tel: 0034 954 153 287
 Fax: 0034 678 849 554
allan@skyscience.co.uk

USA

Florida Skydiving Centre

440 South Airport Road, Lake Wales, FL 33859, USA
Tel: 001 863 678 1003
 Fax: 001 863 678 1409
info@skydivelakewales.com

Freefall Adventures, Florida

400 West Airport Drive, Sebastian, FL 32958, USA
Tel: 001 772 388 0550
 Fax: 001 772 581 4468
skydivemik@aol.com
www.ffadventures.com

Perris Valley Skydiving

2091 Goetz Road, Perris, CA 92570, USA
Tel: 001 909 657 3904
 Fax: 001 909 657 6178
office@skydiveperris.com
www.skydiveperris.com

Skydive Elsinore

20701 Cereal Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530, USA
Tel: 001 909 245 9939
 Fax: 001 909 245 3661
skydive@skydiveelsinore.com
www.skydiveelsinore.com

Skydive Sebastian

400 West Airport Drive, Sebastian, FL 32958, USA
Tel: 001 772 388 5672
 Fax: 001 772 388 2105
info@skydivesebastian.com
www.skydivesebastian.com

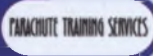
Airwaves



Airwaves International Skydiving School

78 High Street, Bexley, Kent DA5 1LB
Tel: 01322 557375
 Mobile: 07802 472 566
 France: 00 33 (0) 619 605 997
skydive@air-waves.co.uk
www.air-waves.co.uk
Contact: Rod Bartholomew
Courses: AFF, RAPS, progression, tandem
Location: France, USA

Parachute Training Services



Parachute Training Services

11 Godwyn Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1BU
Tel/Fax: 01235 529570
doug@paratrg.demon.co.uk
www.paratrg.demon.co.uk
Contact: Doug Peacock
Courses: RAPS, progression courses
Location: UK (Hinton Skydiving Centre)

Skydive Academy

Skydive Academy

Peterlee Parachute Centre, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH
Tel/Fax: 0191 386 5261
skydiveacademy@aol.com
<http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy>
Contact: Ian Rosenvinge
Courses: AFF
Location: UK (Peterlee) & abroad

Dave Morris Action Sports

David Morris Action Sports

2 Daleside, Cotgrave, Nottingham NG12 3QA
Tel/Fax: 0115 989 2050
 Mobile: 0777 498 6600
dave@daleside2.demon.co.uk
www.daleside2.demon.co.uk
Contact: Dave Morris
Courses: AFF, tandem
Location: UK (Langar), Spain, France

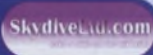
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Tel: 01980 621363
 Fax: 01980 620609
 Mobile: 07971 665815
aff@phdskydiving.co.uk
www.phdskydiving.co.uk
Contact: Martin Williams
Courses: AFF, Skydive U
Location: UK (Netheravon), Spain, USA

Skydive Limited



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Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280066
 Fax: 01832 280067
 Mobile: 0785 000 7178
chris@skydiveltd.com
www.skydiveltd.com
Contact: Chris Allen
Courses: AFF, Skydive U, tandem
Location: UK (Peterborough) & abroad

East Coast

East Coast Parachute Centre

8 Burns Crescent, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0TS
Tel: 01245 268772
slattery@blueyonder.co.uk
Contact: Val Slattery
Courses: RAPS, progression, AFF, tandem
Location: UK (London Parachute School)

Pops UK



Pops UK

21 Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4ES
Tel: 0117 973 8341
www.thepops.org
Contact: Niels Hansen, Top POP
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BCPA



British Collegiate Parachute Association

12 Abberton Road, Manchester M20 1HU
www.bcpa.org.uk
chairman@bcpa.org.uk
Contact: Lorraine Blacker, BCPA Chairman
The BCPA aims to promote skydiving at collegiate level. We hold events for our 41 affiliated university clubs and help to set up and run these. We provide a community where university skydivers can find like-minded people to jump and socialise with.

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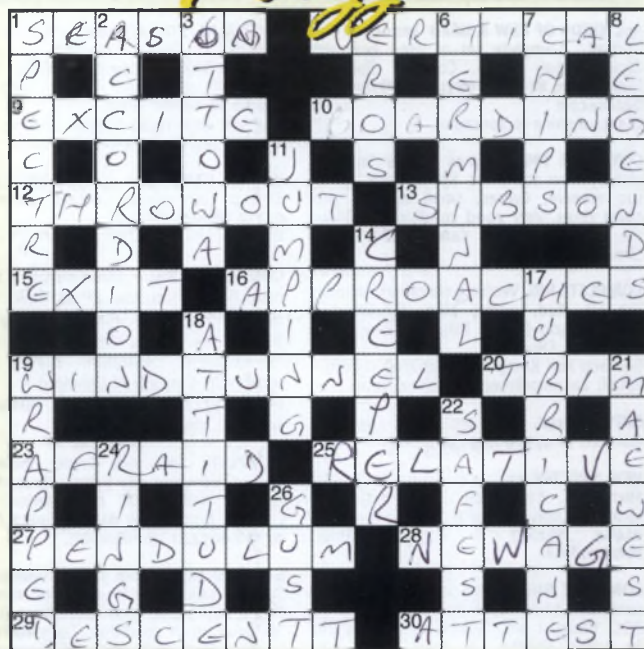
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ROB COLPUS

Puzzle



A skydiving related crossword with two sets of clues giving the same answers; use the main or the reserve!

Main (Cryptic)

Across

1. Spice up the summer perhaps (6)
4. Vera, having internal spasm, left standing (8)
9. Ninety-one in French summer thrill (6)
10. Staying at school and getting on (8)
12. Eject ticket seller having hot argument (5,3)
13. Boss in formation here? (6)
15. Trixie ignoring religious instruction and turning to go (4)
16. Comes close to landing approved fish (10)
19. Turn to channel crossing for place to practice skydiving (4,6)
20. Cut lip on piece of toast (4)
23. Help after a father becomes nervous (6)
25. Type of work concerning drip in late housing (8)
27. Bob; the lowest flyer in a canopy formation (8)
28. Modern trend of north-eastern earnings (3,3)
29. Delaware's currency's downward movements (8)
30. Give proof of watching the Ashes perhaps (6)

Down

1. This spirit is found in a container (7)
2. Agree with one on musical instrument (9)
3. Old steam engineer returns to a Canadian city (6)
5. Love god is sore after a tumble (4)
6. Limiting content of strict ERM in Albania (8)
7. Church ISP ordered computer parts (5)
8. Tales of parachutes for feet! (7)
11. Starting skydiving (7)
14. Indian agent returns climbing plant (7)
17. Raunchier dancing, it's a blast! (9)
18. Tied taut; knotted into position (8)
19. Parcelled up wife and sang (7)
21. Lifejacket malfunction (3,4)
22. Least dangerous way to get under anti-theft device (6)
24. Reverberates in sporting venues (5)
26. Strong breath concealed by asparagus tips (4)

by **Paul Booner**

Reserve

Across

1. Time of year
4. Upright
9. Stimulate
10. Emplaning
12. Deployment method (5-3)
13. Peterborough DZ
15. Launch
16. Pre-landing flights
19. Skydiving simulator (4,6)
20. Adjust for even flight
23. Scared
25. Kinsman or kinswoman
27. Clock regulator
28. Freeflyng, freestyle etc (3,3)
29. Earthbound motions
30. Give evidence

Down

1. Ghost; PD canopy
2. Formation; instrument
3. City in Canada (Ontario)
5. Greek cupid
6. Incurable
7. French-fries
8. Myths; PDF containers
11. _____ beans; _____ jacks
14. Skydiving simulator
17. Typhoon
18. Angle to airflow
19. Enveloped in canopy
21. Round malfunction; Actress (3,4)
22. Most secure
24. Encircles
26. Sudden wind

18. Attitude, 19. Wrapped, 21. Mae West, 22. Safest, 24. Rings, 26. Gust
1. Spectre, 2. Accordion, 3. Ottawa, 5. Eros, 6. Terminal, 7. Chaps, 8. Legends, 11. Jumping, 14. Creeping, 16. Jumping, 17. Hurricane,
DOWN
1. Season, 4. Vertical, 9. Excite, 10. Boarding, 12. Throw-out, 13. Sison, 15. Exit, 16. Approaches, 19. Wind tunnel,
20. Trism, 23. Afloat, 25. Relative, 27. Pendulum, 28. New age, 29. Descents, 30. Ateist

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

18-19 10-way Cork Speed Meet
NWPC 01539 558 672
www.skydive-northwest.com

16-26 Kenya Safari Beach Boogie
Geoff Wood 01295 812 300
reallynicebloke@msn.com

21 BPA Council Meeting
skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

23-2 Nov Flying Convention
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

25-26 Halloween 10-way Speed
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

31-Nov 9 Flyboyz Film Festival
Perris Valley, California 001 909 657 3904
www.skydiveperris.com eli@flyboyz.com

NOVEMBER

1-3 Halloween Party
Black Knights 01524 791 820

3-7 Learning Curve Camp
Ramblers PC, 0061 917 3399 6400
SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

3-7 Riggers Course
RAPA skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

5-20 XSC Team Mong Boogie
Florida Skydiving Centre www.xscskydiving.com

8 Weston End of Season Party
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

8 Strathallan Fireworks Party
Strathallan 07774 686 161

8 Hinton Fireworks Party
Hinton 01295 812 300

8 Langar Fireworks Party
Langar 01949 860 878

8-11 3-way Scrambles
Brienne le Château, France 0033 66 108 5555

9-10 XL Tunnel Camp
SkyVenture Orlando thomas@sebastianxl.org

10-14 Instructor Course
Headcorn trudy@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

12-16 XL Skills Camp
Florida pete_allum@aol.com

17-21 Instructor Course
Headcorn trudy@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

21-30 Z Hills Thanksgiving Boogie
Skydive City, 001 813 783 9399
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com

21 SkyVenture Challenge
SkyVenture, Orlando, FL www.skyventure.com

22 Langar Annual Dinner
Canalhouse Langar 01949 860 878

26-30 Women's Freely World Record Attempt
Skydive Arizona, www.skydiveaz.com
Eloy, USA sugargliderzfreely@hotmail.com

29 Carik Christmas Dinner
NWPC 01539 558 672

DECEMBER

2 EGM & BPA Council Meeting
BPA skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

4 STC Meeting
BPA skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

5 Black Knights Dinner Dance
Black Knights 01524 791 820

12-21 Argentina Boogie (Hercules)
Corrientes egsky@aol.com

13 Tilstock Christmas Do
Tilstock 01948 841 111

13 Wild Geese Christmas Dinner
Wild Geese 028 2955 860

13 Target Christmas Party
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600

14-15 XL Tunnel Camp
SkyVenture Florida thomas@sebastianxl.org

17-22 XL Challenge
Florida pete_allum@aol.com

19-Jan 4 Z Hills Christmas Boogie
Skydive City, 001 813 783 9399
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com

20-Jan 4 Empuriabrava Christmas Boogie
CPCB, Empuriabrava, 0034 972 450 111
Spain www.skyrats.com cpcb@gna.es

20-Jan 4 Algarve Winter Boogie
Algarve info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydive-algarve.com

20-Jan 4 Eloy Christmas Boogie
Skydive Arizona 001 520 466 3753
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

20-Jan 1 Holiday Boogie Package
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